

Walter Breen's Encyclopedia  
of  
U.S. and Colonial  
Proof Coins  
1722 - 1977

"A COINER'S CAVIAR"  
Walter Breen's Encyclopedia  
of U.S. and Colonial Proof Coins  
1722 — 1977

*By Walter Breen*

*containing. . .*

THE PROOFING PROCESS: Colonial and United States  
U.S. PRESENTATION AND PROOF COINS: Overview  
PRESENTATION COINS AND SETS 1792-1816  
OLD TENOR PROOFS 1817-33  
DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER V.I.P. COINS AND SETS 1834-39  
"MASTER" COINS AND SETS 1840-57  
PUBLICLY SOLD PROOF COINS AND SETS 1858-1889  
THE STEREOTYPE YEARS: 1890-1906  
NEW DESIGNS AND EXPERIMENTAL FINISHES 1907-16  
THE CLANDESTINE YEARS: 1917-35  
BRILLIANT PROOFS MAKE A COMEBACK: 1936-64  
AFTERMATH: "Special Mint Sets" and San Francisco Proofs 1965—?  
BRANCH MINT PROOFS 1838—?  
CAVIAR: Confederate and San Francisco Mintmasters' Provisionals  
THE 1856 FLYING EAGLE CENTS  
RESTRIKES AND FANTASY PIECES  
VALUATION GUIDE  
GLOSSARY  
SOURCES AND ABBREVIATIONS  
INVESTING IN PROOF COINS

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This book is dedicated to  
the late Wayte Raymond, patron and  
mentor, for starting it all, for publishing my earlier  
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**Arlene Kole**, Editor of Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins, 1722-1977* is a native New Yorker. She holds a B.A. in Social Science and an M.A. in English from the City University of New York. She has been an adjunct lecturer at Queens College and has served as the Director of the Center For Performing Arts in New York City. Currently, she is a free-lance writer and editor. She recently edited *Monographs On Rare Coins For Investment Capital*, her first association with First Coinvestors, Inc. and with Walter Breen.

## TO THE READER

Please don't skip any of the following even if you've been around proof coins for forty years. I'm still learning about proof coins; you can too.

These days even the neophyte with only the briefest acquaintance with American coins as collectors' items will sooner or later encounter proof coins, whether as offered to the general public by the San Francisco Mint, or as offered to collectors by coin dealers. And sooner or later, as you delve more deeply into the subject than the blue book or the red book or the grey sheet or the trends pages permit, or as what Dr. Sheldon used to call the collecting bug bites a little harder, you will come across borderline cases, claims of extreme rarity, proofs not listed in the usual reference books, coins which present frank puzzles. And that is partly what this book is about.

And though there is no way to become expert overnight in even so well explored a field as United States numismatics, there is a way to raise your own level of knowledge from that of neophyte and swindlers' mark to — at least — informed amateur. And this is to read before you buy. What to read? That depends on the series. If you're interested in colonial coins, the Crosby book and the back files of *Colonial Newsletter* are absolutely essential. If it's large cents, obtain copies of the Sheldon and Newcomb books and join Early American Coppers, Inc., afterwards ordering back files of their publication *Penny Wise*. If you plan to specialize in earlier silver coins, the Bolender and Overton and Browning and Valentine books are for you, along with the Liberty Seated Collectors' Club. For gold, there is little available but my own monographs, to date, and these are being revised.

Unfortunately for simplicity and instant expertise, most of the above references ignore proof coins, or at best mention that proofs exist — without telling how or why they were made, how to identify real ones, how scarce they are, etc.

So what do you do about proof coins, especially the earlier ones, where the various guidebooks have little or nothing to say? Must you believe dealers' pitches in pricelists and auction catalogues? No matter how flashy and elaborate the presentation, how can you tell if the dealer knows what he is talking about? And where did all these people get their information?

Here is where the present book comes in. If you now own, or have ever owned, or ever expect to own, a proof coin of any kind — aside from the plastic-enveloped offerings from San Francisco each year — herein you will find information which will help you understand

- what have you
- how it was made
- why it was made — for what occasions
- when it was made
- what "proof" means — why it isn't (unlike what many dealers would like you to believe) a mere super-uncirculated grade
- how many were made
- how rare is it
- what it has sold for in the past
- is it in any way different from and /or more valuable than others of its kind
- has it any unusual history
- is it a good investment
- how you should — and shouldn't — take care of it

This book attempts to answer all these and probably dozens of other questions you might have. And if I've forgotten something, or if there is something you need to know on the subject and it's not in here, feel free to write me at FCI.

In addition, there is the sheer delight, the glamor of legendary, fantastic, incredible coins, museum pieces, breathtakingly beautiful specimens, which I have seen, whose stories I have heard, and which I would love to share with you, if only by descriptions and — sometimes — photographic record. There is also the frequently chucklesome story of skulduggery at the mint during the period 1858-1909 or thereabouts, imparting levity to what might otherwise have remained a fairly dull and stereotyped period of American numismatics.

These are the WHY of this book. The HOW follows.

We begin with an overview of minting processes, with special reference to how special mintages, made more like medals than like production coins, and later to be called presentation coins, master coins, or proof coins, were and are made, and how the techniques devised for them in France and England filtered back to the United States. (I have long believed that it is as essential to know how coins are made, if you are going to study them at all, as it is for a doctor to know how the human body is put together before he starts prescribing for it.)

The surviving presentation and proof coins of these earlier periods — fortunately not all of them are museum pieces — reflect changes in minting technology: in more than one sense, they exemplify the 1975 National Coin Week phrase "History in your Hands" — history of man's developing mastery of a medium, history of the occasions for which the things were made.

## To the Reader

A byproduct of this study, then, is ways to tell — most of the time, anyway — whether or not the shiny coin in your collection was, or could have been, made as a proof. In some dates of 19th century U.S. issues, the decision can mean several thousand dollars' difference in potential resale value.

Illustrative of the historical survey which begins this book is a detailed listing of all the different kinds of Colonial and U.S. presentation, master, and proof coins and sets known to me, by date, from the beginnings under Sir Isaac Newton (the mathematician and physicist and astrologer, who spent his last years as Master of the Mint) on behalf of William Wood of Wolverhampton, through the contributions of Matthew Boulton, (partner of James Watt of steam-engine fame, and possibly the greatest innovator in minting technology since Leonardo da Vinci), through the United States mint's attempts to perfect these processes, even unto their present stupefying mediocrity. As this book is a *corpus* rather than a mere survey, completeness is attempted, though there are a few private collections and estates to which I have not had access, so that a few gaps still exist — to be closed in future editions, one hopes.

**Preservation and Values.** In proof coins, more than in any other kind, value differs according to condition, and the difference may be a factor of more than 100% between one of the usually found cleaned examples and a perfect pristine gem, kept well wrapped in a dry place. Though proof coins do not normally get into circulation (so that wear is not an expected factor here), still they are subject to other vicissitudes, all of which affect value adversely.

In particular, the heavier coins (silver dollars, trade dollars, eagles and double eagles most of all) often fell out of the mint wrappers, or the cellophane envelopes collectors once favored, as these dried and split up, jangling against their neighbors, giving and receiving nicks and scratches. Owing to the brilliant mirror surfaces, these nicks ("contact marks") are more noticeable than they would be on ordinary production coins or business strikes of the same denominations and types. A proof coin on which contact marks are really noticeable might bring half or less than half the figure commanded by a perfect proof coin of the same denomination, date and type.

Also, proof coins of all denominations kept for long in the original mint wrappers (which were cheap sulfite paper never intended for longterm preservation) tarnished, and the longer they stayed in contact with such paper, the more deeply they tarnished. The luckier coins acquired a fairly stable bluish tone, which protected them to some extent against further oxidation reactions. Copper and bronze coins sometimes acquired a variety of rainbow tints, mostly favoring the cooler end of the spectrum. But the unluckier coins in all denominations developed

spots or stains, and their later owners usually cleaned them. Some misguided souls used silver polishes developed originally for tableware (the pink ones include jeweler's rouge, which is powdered iron oxide better known as rust and whose action is scrubbing or abrasion), or other abrasives such as salt wetted with vinegar, or baking soda pastes. Use of any of these home remedies is a cure worse than the disease; all leave indelible "hairlines" or hairmarks" (sometimes in old catalogues called "haymarks" for no imaginable reason), which are microscopic superficial scratches, by the thousands, rendered visible to the naked eye by tilting the coin from side to side in a good light. Later blue toning sometimes has mercifully obscured these, though nothing will render them permanently invisible; and dipping, no matter in what, will make them once again mercilessly obvious. Repeated use of these cleaning agents destroys the mirrorlike quality of fields which had been a hallmark of the old style of brilliant proofs even as of the current San Francisco output.

You might think, however, that perhaps tarnish can safely be removed in other ways. However, if any of the commercial cleaning methods demands rubbing with any kind of cloth, the answer is a loud NO for the same reason as above — even the softest cloth in the world can leave hairlines.

How about commercial solutions or "dips"? The answer is a *very* cautious "It depends." In particular, it depends on what active ingredients give the dips their effect, and these are not always listed on the label. Formerly, cyanide was one of the most popular, though among coin collectors the stuff began to lose a little of its reputation after 1916, when the illustrious J. Sanford Saltus picked up the wrong water glass while cleaning coins, and died a few seconds later, possibly without realizing that he had made a mistake. Cyanide lost the rest of its reputation a few decades later, after collectors heard that it acts by dissolving away the top layer of metal from the coins, dulling proofs with even brief use.

The dips that consist primarily of detergent mixtures may be safe for gold or nickel, but the effect on silver is likely to be an unnatural white color, and the effect on copper is an equally unnatural pale pink, which quickly retarnishes, depending on (among other things) how acid or alkaline they are, and how carelessly — if at all — they were rinsed off.

Those that derive their punch from thiourea require the same comment only more so, the color imparted to silver often being yellow or even chalky, and that imparted to copper or bronze looking like the bottom of a copper pot which has been scrubbed to remove burnt-on spills. Thiourea dips keep on working indefinitely long unless they are *completely* rinsed off, and they activate metal surfaces (as does cyanide), accelerating further tarnishing.

What is left? For gold or nickel proofs, get a covered dish of ammonia (either clear or cloudy will do — the cloudiness is from a detergent), put the coin in a tea strainer, dip it for a couple of seconds only, rinse immediately in hot running water, smell to make sure the last traces of ammonia are gone, air-dry; repeat only once if necessary. Whatever is unaffected by the ammonia dip will probably yield to a dip in methyl ethyl ketone (MEK).

Silver proofs may be given the MEK treatment. Ammonia is not recommended except in the emergency of black stains, against which it may not work anyway; the reason is that ammonia forms soluble complexes with the cuprous or cupric ions in the tarnished alloy, so that repeated ammonia dips leave an unnaturally white surface which under a microscope shows thousands of minute rough streaks — irreversible damage. The stable golden and bluish tones should be left strictly alone, as they protect the coin against further atmospheric attack in the absence of grease or moisture.

We have as yet had no opportunity to test either the ultrasonic bath or the magnesium plate; these will be discussed in future editions.

There is no way for any amateur safely to remove spots or stains from copper proofs. Dulling is often associated with thin greasy films on copper or bronze; this will yield to MEK though with a certain risk of imparting a bluish color. A safer procedure is CARE, either as a dip (freshly poured only) or applied with a Q-tip and the excess removed the same way, using extreme care not to leave lint. Old CARE — even after only 5 to 10 minutes' exposure to air in a dish — is not to be used, as the essential solvent has by then mostly evaporated, leaving mostly silicone, which has no effect except to retard access of atmospheric contaminants. Unfortunately, the stuff becomes sticky as it progressively dries, attracting lint.

If the above sounds a little intimidating, it is meant to; the only safe procedure for the beginner is to *leave cleaning and restoration to experts*. And some stains will deter even experts. The reason we do not recommend experimentation is that mistakes can be too costly even if you are not using cyanide. Beauty emphatically is skin deep on proof coins, and once it is gone, it does not come back.

**Investment.** As I write this the market is in a state of confusion, the most recent auctions containing important offerings of proof coins failed to show any trend either up or down; within the same series, some coins brought world's record highs, other of the same quality sagged and slumped unpredictably. At present some gold proofs can be obtained less expensively than their twin sisters could be in 1974, which was one of the regular 10-year peaks (years ending in 4 have long been notorious for brief peaks in coin prices), but others have gone into orbit, and there is not emergent

pattern.

On the other hand, I am inclined to believe that — brief fluctuations aside — proof coins of any metal, for which either low mintage or high meltage can be proved, will be on a longterm upward trend as long as people collect U.S. coins at all, especially as long as early proofs continue to remain the caviar and truffles and peacock's tongues of the series. I refuse to believe for a moment that interest could permanently disappear in a coin of which only a dozen are known, though the amount of market interest (the number of collectors, and their enthusiasm at any one time) will of course fluctuate with such factors as the momentary state of the stockmarket, the state of the economy generally, the number of specialists around at the time, the amount and type of publicity, the frequency with which any individual coin has been making the rounds among dealers, and for all I know the phase of the moon.

There is no way to Get Rich Quick in this field — otherwise instead of writing this book I would have been stashing every spare cent since 1950 into coins of this kind, and cashing in since 1974 — but there *is* a way to manage your collection rationally so that at the very worst the possessions which gave you a lot of fun over the years will have cost you little or nothing, but more likely you will have made more than you put in (including the cost of this and your other reference books), and quite possibly you will have made a tidy profit. The way is to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the rarity levels herein, with the price histories, and with the difference between ordinary cleaned proofs and the really pristine ones (which are the real blue chips), and be guided accordingly. *As more people do this, the difference in price levels will become greater and greater, both proportionately and absolutely, to the benefit of those who were discriminating as to quality from the very outset.*

There is, of course, no way to seek completeness in this field. Despite the fame of the Louis Eliasberg collection, even he never managed completeness of date-mintmark combinations: he never owned an 1841 0 half eagle, a strawberry leaf cent, or an 1861 Paquet twenty, even aside from some overdates or certain of the restrike half-cents; and no other collection is anywhere close, even the Smithsonian's being weak in mintmarked silver coins. However, you can try for completeness in a given date (like Harry Boesel on 1873) or denomination, or for either first or last years for a given design, or you name it. Even brief issues like the capped bust half dimes 1829-37 will make very impressive displays, and they are as of this writing still undervalued compared to dimes or quarters of the same period. Smaller coins like trimes, nickel 3¢ pieces, or half dimes, have long been neglected compared to their larger brethren. I have



## To the Reader

the distinct impression that a collection organized around a theme or specialty is likely to perform better at auction than a collection of more haphazard kind in which a few rarities are imbedded; and certainly it will win more exhibit prizes at major conventions. Proofs with which original cases or mint wrappers or mint transmittal envelopes are included have a historical interest far in excess of their counterparts lacking such papers, and this too is likely to show up in the prices realized at auction. This is notoriously true of the 1938 Jefferson nickels on original presentation cards (150 made) or of the 1903 Jefferson or McKinley dollars in original frames signed by mint officials testifying to their being among the first 100

struck. In addition, coins provably traceable back to famous collections of the past, especially retaining the original papers and/or envelopes, acquire what Dr. Sheldon used to call "pedigree premium." Your own imagination and common sense can now probably enable you to figure out similar factors which can override the law of supply and demand, causing individual coins to perform better, or at least to show higher potential, than their sisters without such factors.

Happy hunting!

Walter Breen  
Albertson, N.Y.  
April, 1977

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# I.

## THE PROOFING PROCESS: AMERICAN COLONIAL PROOFS AND THEIR ANTECEDENTS

Though a great deal has been written about minting processes old and new, some of the biggest remaining gaps in our knowledge of them are connected with the various ways in which the special mintages called "master coins" or "proofs" have been made over the centuries, why changes in finish have occurred, or indeed just when such coins started to be made and why. I hope to be able to throw a little light on all these questions, though the full answers are not yet available.

Any such study, even though emphasizing principally American Colonial, U.S., and Canadian coins, cannot be limited to them, because our mint personnel obtained their knowledge of minting processes (including those connected with proofing) from other sources, primarily the Royal British Mint on Tower Hill, London, and later on Boulton & Watt's Soho Mint near Birmingham, England — and more recently from other European sources. It was for just such reasons, for instance, that in the 1830's the Philadelphia Mint financed a transatlantic trip for Franklin Peale during which he visited all the principal European mints. This is why I shall go to what might seem unusual length tracing changing methods of making proof coins in Britain. But there are even more obvious reasons: some Colonial and early U.S. proofs — now hardly ever obtainable for study — were made by methods virtually identical to those used on the far less rare or costly British proofs, and study of the latter makes recognition and understanding of the former far more easy. And most Colonial proofs were made at the Tower Hill mint, (e.g. the 1773 Virginia "Penny", 1774 Virginia Shilling), or under supervision of British mint officials

elsewhere in London or Bristol (including all the Rosa Americana and Wood's Coinage proofs), or at the Boulton & Watt mint (the 1796 Kentucky Myddelton patterns). Furthermore, the remark holds for both pre-decimal and decimal series Canadian proofs; all of the decimal ones until the beginning of the 20th century were in fact made in London.

Since the term "proof" has shifted its meaning, even as the coins so designated have changed in function over the decades and centuries, this study has to pay some attention to the shifting meanings and purposes. The very term "proof" seems to have been of British origin, analogous at the start to its use in graphic arts (i.e. preliminary trial, as of an engraving plate), and may at inception have meant something very much akin to an artist's proof piece — something struck from master dies ordinarily used only for making hubs, and too precious to be risked directly on production coinages where breakage would necessitate an immediate halt and perhaps weeks of delay while another such die was being perfected.

Later on, and most familiarly, the name "proof" began to be applied to various kinds of special "polished-up portraits of the coinages" (Sheldon's term), presentation pieces remotely like business strikes in appearance or finish, though of normal designs, and made by different processes primarily intended for medals and calculated to show off what splendid results moneyers could achieve if they paid particular attention to each individual piece, principally in improved relief detail. This usage seems to have been introduced to American numismatics in 1858 by James Ross Snowden; the *Oxford English Dictionary* does not record the term in this sense

## Proofing Process: Overview

(#14) before 1901!

More recently, of course, the name "proof" has become merely a technical term for a kind of mass-production coins with unusually shiny surfaces, things of curiosity value, little if at all more attractive than the regular coinage, intended less for display or presentation purposes than for sale to investors — often enough (through the 1950's) being bought, sold and traded in quantity in mint sealed boxes without even having been looked at. Together with this deterioration in meaning and function has come similar deterioration in appearance of the coins, enormous quantity and stereotypy, and great overvaluation as well.

### BEGINNINGS

Nothing comparable to proofs seems to have been known in antiquity, though Greek technology permitted the striking of coins in far higher relief than is practicable today, and Greek celators created individual dies of artistic merit ranging from fairly good to extraordinary. Why nobody thought of polishing dies or blanks is unknown; probably this refinement was thought unnecessary, the high relief affording ample contrast between devices and fields.

In later centuries, until the Renaissance, despite excellence of design and execution of some dies, such characteristic features of later proofs as high relief and unusually sharp striking remained impossible while moneyers used the ancient hammer method of striking. Even several blows from the largest sledge-hammers hardly sufficed to bring up designs in more than slight relief without very marked danger of shattering the dies. Multiple strikings (as nearly always on multiple thalers and other very large coins) usually tended to impair the general appearance of the coins because successive blows imparted confusing or mutually oblitative extra lines to each letter or design element. This is easily enough understood: after all, planchets — not being confined by collars — spread out from each successive blow, often irregularly to the point of no longer being round.

It follows, then, that we need not seek a beginning to the proofing process earlier than the 15th century, when Italian and French medallists began experimenting with "Coyning Engines" (as their British successors called the apparatus) ancestral to the 18th Century screw-press and on the same principle. The advantages these rotating pile-drivers had over the hammer method were largely those of producing a more vivid impression from dies in higher relief; the Italian medallists who invented the screw press did so in frank efforts to make medals in the manner of Roman coins. An immediate by-product of this technological innovation was that dies could be hubbed, saving a great deal of time and handwork. Placing a die blank in the press opposite a carved

and hardened relief model or hub meant that one could immediately impart devices to a working die which might otherwise have taken weeks of the most eye-taxing labor; further, one could multiply similar dies and accommodate even the largest coinages, insuring meanwhile against delays due to die breakage.

I have not been able to learn who introduced the practice of polishing dies and blanks and making multiple impressions to bring out details in unusual clarity. Some sort of special proofing treatment dates back to the early 1660's; earlier coins alleged to show it are very equivocal, even British experts sometimes being unable to ascertain for certain whether the pieces in question were made by these medallic processes. Had they been in France in the 1500's, most probably the French fugitive Eloye Mestrell would have produced some pieces by them during his own ill-fated experiments in the Tower Mint — as gifts to the British monarch, showing that whether or not his coinages were slower than those of the regular moneyers they nevertheless showed designs of unusual merit, clarity and vividness. No such pieces seem to be known.

Seaby's monograph, *English Silver Coins*, lists only two pieces prior to 1662 with any claim to proof status, and about both there is doubt. One of these is ESC 427, a 1651 Commonwealth half-crown, with footnote (p. 47) "May be just an exceptionally well struck ordinary coin." The other is a 1658 Cromwell half-crown struck in gold, from dies by the illustrious Thomas Simon, ESC 447a. Now Seaby generally refers to off-metal impressions (favor coins, *pieces de caprice*, and the like) as "proofs," without any remark on their method of manufacture; this may be mere linguistic usage, following OED, but if so it is confusing indeed. Never having seen the gold Cromwell piece in question, I cannot say if it was made by processes comparable to those used on later British proofs.

What is definitely established, however, is that beginning with an order by Charles II in 1662, machine-made coins (i.e. those struck in screw presses) gradually superseded those made by hammer; and in the same year proof crowns began to appear. ESC 16 and 21 are two varieties of 1662 crowns of Charles II, with and without rose below bust; and there exist similar coins dated 1663 and after. As one would expect, the half-crown of 1663 also comes in proof (ESC 458), and a single copper shilling of the same year is recorded (ESC 1022A). For some reason, the smaller denominations followed only later on. Peck (*British Museum Catalogue*) shows copper and silver proof halfpence of 1672-73 (Nos. 508-9, 514-15), differing from the circulating issue only in having plain linear inner circle instead of the regular toothed borders. And the smaller silver coins began to appear in proof only in later reigns, the Maundy

coins starting as late as 1763 (ESC 2412A, unique?).

Which brings up a curious point about British proofs. From the 1670's on, until well into the reign of Queen Victoria, proofs were almost invariably struck from dies differing in some immediately noticeable way from regular issues. The linear inner circle replacing toothed borders, or a different style of branch in Britannia's hand, or a different portrait punch from any regularly in use, or the like, are consistent features of such proofs, enabling recognition of them even when they have been recovered from circulation in worn state. Differences of this kind or degree in American coins would automatically characterize them as patterns. Even ESC and Peck complain on occasion that it is difficult to tell whether a given coin was intended only as a proof or actually as a pattern. In the same way, proofs were often struck on very thick planchets (pieforts), broader than normal, or with edges differing from normal — reeded (the British term is "grained") on copper coins, plain on silver, etc. Not meant to circulate, they were apparently exempt from normal rules for weight, alloy and other physical characteristics of business strikes; and there is no evidence that they were ever in the earlier years subjected to the Trial of the Pyx.

Only one coin of the 1600's normally associated with the American colonies would be described even by British cataloguers as occurring in proof. This is the Lord Baltimore Shilling in copper, Scott C27, from different dies from the regular issue. I am not sure it could be called a proof in any normal sense. Though better struck than the normal shillings, it is by no means comparable to the Tower Mint proof crowns of Charles II, which it antedates by some four years. This is from the dies without colon after MARIAE, with V touching base point of shield. A silver specimen is in ANS, ex Homer K. Downing, and at least five copper impressions are known. Copper strikes exist also of the sixpence but these too are not especially superior to the regular silver ones. In the same way, the "Mark Newby" or "St. Patrick" farthings in silver and gold are not enough superior in fabric to the regular copper ones to merit the title of proofs, though one guesses that British cataloguers would tend to call them proofs merely because of the unusual metal.

## WILLIAM WOOD'S PROOFS

Beginning in the early Eighteenth Century, British moneyers made a more consistent effort to differentiate proofs from business strikes. Their results are visible to some extent on the pattern halfpence and farthings of Queen Anne, and to a much greater extent on the proof 1717 and 1729 coppers of George I and II, as well as silver and gold proofs of the period. Portrait punches may or may not differ from those on regular coins, but the planchets are generally sufficiently broader than the regular ones

to render visible the entire border dentilation or oval ornamentation, whether or not it enclosed linear circles. In addition, planchets were polished to a mirrorlike gloss before striking, and the working dies used were likewise burnished, though neither practice was too consistent even on frankly pattern issues. If such burnishing of dies and blanks was in use anywhere before, I have been unable to learn of it; at any rate, it was not earlier known in Britain, and may well have been invented there. The earliest specimens I have seen showing this process in a high degree of perfection are pattern halfpence and farthings of Queen Anne, 1713-14, and not all of those show it.

Moreover, beginning in the same period, copper proofs often show file marks on the edges, where some irregularity or other had to be removed and the blanks given a proper roundness. This does not constitute damage to the coin, as these edge file marks were definitely inflicted in the Mint and most probably on the blanks before striking. As the moneyers were supposed to use only rolled blanks for copper coins, never cast blanks (though in practice cast blanks were common anyway), just what irregularities the edge filing was intended to correct cannot now be ascertained with certainty. My own guesses: (1) either the common rounded edges on cast blanks (like the edges of cookies) were believed unsatisfactory or proofs, or (2) some irregularities associated with punching blanks out of the rolled copper strips had to be removed.

During the same period, Mint workmen under the illustrious Sir Isaac Newton, F.R.S. (Master of the Royal Mint from Christmas 1699 until his death in 1727), supervised manufacture of William Wood's Irish and American contract coinages in Wood's two factories at Seven Dials (London) and Bristol. One of the Royal Mint engravers, probably John Croker, seems to have furnished the various portrait puncheons of King George I used on these coins, as well as the double rose and crown puncheons for the ROSA AMERICANA coinages and the various seated figure puncheons for Wood's Irish or HIBERNIA pieces. The common remark that the dies were "made" by Messrs. Lammas, Standbroke and Harold probably means at most that these individuals forged, turned and hardened the cylinders, or punched the necessary legends into them after the major devices were hubbed in. It certainly does not mean that they created the portrait puncheons. Methods of manufacturing coins then in use at the Royal Mint on Tower Hill were imparted by the officials and workmen to Wood's employees in order to insure that the terms of the Royal Warrants would be faithfully carried out.

Not surprisingly, proofs of regular type, patterns in proof, and some few *pieces de caprice* appeared from Wood's mints. And these proofs — now among the most highly prized of American Colonials — bear

every earmark of having been made by the same processes in use at the Tower Hill mint. For convenience of reference I enumerate them, beginning with Wood's ROSA AMERICANA coins:

1. (1722) **Undated Twopence. Motto not on label;** "very fine dies", Scott C60. Bath metal (the usual brassy alloy of ROSA AMERICANA coins), broad flan, perfectly struck in high relief, altogether unlike the doublestruck freak illustrated in the Standard Catalogue, the other one on a lightweight penny planchet, or the enormous rude copper one usually called the "Iron Rosa Americana," all of which have the same reverse and a similar obv. to the present pattern. Two known: F.C.C. Boyd estate, Norweb collection.

2. **1722 Penny. The GEORGIUS / VTILE** piece, Nelson 4, Scott C63, seems to have originated as a proof to judge by its unusually wide borders and edge; but the dies were set apart for a thicker planchet (rendering the impression too weak on the king's portrait), and the coin seems to have been carried around as a pocket piece. Copper, 155 grains: 1) JHU; 2) F.C.C. Boyd estate ex Ryder, Nelson, Crosby sale, lot 1313 (1883). Bath metal: JHU. Reverse only pictured in the Guidebook.

3. **1722 Penny. GEORGIUS. Rev. VTILE**, identical die to last, Scott C64. Very long thin ribbons from back of head, pointing down — these ribbons twice as long as on any of the regular issue pennies. Copper, exceptionally wide flan. One known. Boyd estate, ex Crosby: 1305.

4. **1722 Penny. Regular type, only one rev. rosette. Obliquely reeded edge.** Mickley, Bushnell, Parmelee, Brand, Norweb.

5. **1722 Halfpenny. ROSA AMERI: VTILE.** Bath metal. 64 grains, Scott C67. Extremely rare, perhaps 5 or 6 known. At least one of these shows unequivocal evidence of proof status.



ROSA AMERICANA Halfpenny,  
1722. .D:G:REX • /

ROSA • AMERI:UTILE • Ex G. J. Bauer estate

6. **1722 Halfpenny. Obv. D:G:REX. Rev. ROSA AMERI : UTILE.** Bath metal, 62 grs., Scott C68. Very rare. Portrait punch on this same as on No. 5, differing from that on the regular halfpennies; note jowls, shape of nose, hair below ear and to left, and ribbons behind head. Very likely both Nos. 5 and 6

are patterns, but some did get into circulation, as most of No. 6 are worn. At least one shows evidence of proof status. Wretched alloy which quickly corroded; planchets usually defective and pitted.



ROSA AMERICANA Twopence, 1723. Aged head.

Ex G. J. Bauer estate

7. **1723 Twopence. Aged head. Rev. ROSA + AMERICANA : 1723.** Bath metal. 1) Ex Dr. Hall, Brand. 2) Ex G J. Bauer, L. Merkin, Nov. 1968 auction.

8. **1723 Twopence. Normal type.** No periods after REX or date, large knobs to scroll. "German silver". Ex H. P. Smith coll. Also reportedly in Bath metal, unconfirmed.

9. **1723 Halfpenny. Crowned rose.** Type of regular issue, **GRATIA • REX •** Rev. No stop after date, as usual. Silver, 66 grains, Scott C76. Only two reported: 1) Ex Bushnell, Parmelee; 2) Ex Nelson.

10. **1723 Halfpenny. Similar. GRATIA: REX. Rev. Smaller crown than on adopted issue; larger motto UTILE DULCI; colon stop after date 1723;.** Scott C74. Unlike any other Wood's coin. Apparently a rejected pattern. Silver, 70 grs. Unique. Boyd estate.



ROSA AMERICANA Twopence, 1724. MA  
in obv. legend. Ex G. J. Bauer estate

11. **1724 Twopence.** Different portrait punch, with very prominent rounded shoulder; **MA in obv. legend.** Bath metal, about 200 grs., Scott C77. Four known, in various states of preservation (Nelson-Boyd-Ford; Newman; Picker; Bauer-L. M. 11/68:33, J.L.R.). Borders on at least one of them indicate proof status. Pictured in Guidebook and Standard Catalogue. Reported to exist in gold.

12. Same dies, *silver*, 245 grs. Nelson 17a, Scott C78. The only specimen seen has W W engraved below bust, VIII JVNE engraved in left rev. field. Worn; apparently once William Wood's pocket piece, and supposed to have been struck June 8, 1724. Ex Murdoch 438 (1903).



**ROSA AMERICANA 1724 Twopence. M.  
in obv. legend Ex G. J. Bauer estate**

**13. 1724 Twopence.** Same portrait punch as last. Different dies; obv. with M • *in legend* instead of MA, and letters differently spaced on rev. Bath metal, thin flan, 150 grs., Scott C79. Copper: three known, one in JHU; Bath metal: Boyd-Ford; Bauer-L.M. 11/68: 34, Spink. Rumored to exist in silver, but I have not seen one in this metal. Pictured in Standard Catalogue.

**14. 1724/23 Penny.** Obv. Similar to regular type, but D • *GRATIA*. Bath metal? Scott C83 says Copper. Two reported, wts. 93 and 120 grs. Pictured in Standard Catalogue reverse pictured also in Guidebook.

**15. 1724/23 Penny.** Similar obv., different portrait punch, *DEI GRATIA* and period after X. Rev. as last. Bath metal. Two known, wts. 120 and 128 grs.

**16. 1724/23 Penny.** As last. *Silver*. Unique? Taxay says same as No. 18, below.

**17. 1724/23 Penny.** Similar obv., *DEI GRATIA* without period after X; rev. as last. Copper. Bushnell: 221, JHU. Said also to exist in Bath metal but not seen.

**18. 1724/23 Penny.** Similar. *Silver*, Scott C82. Unique. Ex Parmelee: 552, Bushnell: 222, Mickley: 2333.



**ROSA AMERICANA Twopence, 1733.  
Ex Nelson, Ryder, Boyd estate**

**19. 1733 Twopence.** Issued by the successors to Wood's patent (Wood having died in 1730). Childish bust left of George II, in rounded high relief. Rev. Rose facing partly to right, in exceptionally high relief. Copper. Four known: British Museum, JHU, Boyd estate, Norweb collection. One of the most beautiful proofs ever minted. How many impressions were necessary to get this design to strike up perfectly can only be guessed — perhaps as many as five? Beware of electrotypes, casts, and rubbed-down examples of the Robinson copy. The last named is in low relief,

with the rose facing the wrong way and very tall narrow letters entirely unlike the genuine.

**20.** Same dies. *Lead*. This piece turned up in a tray of foreign coins and medals, was bought by a NYC policeman, and was consigned to the Morton Sale (Pine Tree, Oct. 1975), where it brought \$2,400.

**21.** Obv. as last, *uniface*. *Steel*. Supposedly six known; one in the British Museum, one in JHU, and another in the Boyd estate.

Most of the above proofs, except for the silver ones, show edge file marks. Many non-proofs of the regular ROSA AMERICANA types also show edge filing, and it is much less carefully done; the explanation seems to be that — whether from cast blanks or because the coins were struck when very hot — edges quickly developed roughnesses making the coins very unpleasant to handle. This was a peculiarity of Bath metal; the copper coins gave no such trouble.

I shall continue the enumeration of American Colonial proofs continuously with the ROSA AMERICANA series, since so far as I know nobody has previously attempted a catalogue of them. One of its more useful features will be enabling collectors to decide which of the problematical prooflike pieces dated in the 1780's and 1790's actually were made as proofs. Most of these have been assimilated to the Colonial series because of more or less explicit legends or devices referring to America, but they actually originated with various manufacturers of halfpenny-sized tokens intended for British collectors; and the problem with them is to determine which pieces were made as intentional brilliant proofs by processes other than those used on routine tokens of the period ("Conders" or "Pye" tokens), since many are sold as proofs today on the smallest glimpse of a shiny surface.

On the other hand, the series immediately to follow, Wood's Irish or "Hibernia" coins and patterns, never referred in any way to the colonies. They have been associated with, or assimilated to, the Colonial series solely because enterprising merchants bought up the rejected Wood's pieces in quantity (doubtless as junk copper) after the patriotic Irishmen refused to take them as small change, and shipped them over to America as so many "Casks of Hard Ware," much as did others in later decades with counterfeit halfpence. The series is replete with patterns; from among them I list only the few of more or less regular design, in the feeling that only these have even the slightest claim to relevance. My precedents here are of course Peck and Seaby, who (as already mentioned) recognized the difficulty of telling whether some pieces were mere proofs or patterns.

**22. 1722 Halfpenny,** Wood's HIBERNIA type, first design: *harp left*. Copper, Scott C340. Reliably reported to exist in proof, but I have not seen it. Recognizable



## Proofing Process: William Wood

as proof by unusually broad planchet with full border of dentils or narrow oval beads; may show space near edge outside this border; may show file marks on edge; will show somewhat mirrorlike surfaces and exceptionally sharp detail on drapery and king's hair. Same remarks hold for the Wood's proofs to follow. Exceedingly rare.

**23. 1722 Halfpenny**, harp left as preceding. *Silver*, Scott C341. Two reported.

**24. 1722 Farthing**. Copper. Same type. Nelson, plate IV, 10, Scott C345, Extremely rare, generally well worn. 5 or 6 known. Newcomer 3179 was described as a perfect proof, and I have seen one other with the earmarks.

**25. 1722 Halfpenny**. Second design, *harp at right* (as in 1723-24). Regular type. *Silver*, Scott C343. I know only from its mention in Nelson.

**26. 1723 Halfpenny**. Prototype pattern (submitted to Privy Council for approval?). *Larger head* than usual, at least 2mm taller from bust point to highest part of hair than is the head on regular issues (23mm compared to 21). Full borders, as No. 22. Only one obv. die; three reverses, with 10, 11 or 12 strings to harp, all three with pellet before H, a large 3 in date (the lower curve much larger than the angular part) and full beaded borders. Copper, wt. 116-125 grains, compared to 106-113 for regular issue; diameter 27 to 30mm — very much wider than regular issue (25-28mm), but legends the same. Scott C347. Very rare; generally found bright red and choice, sometimes sold as regular issue. Cf. 1973 GENA: 27.

**27. 1723 Halfpenny**. As last? *Silver*. Included under Scott C350. Said to be only 2 known.



**Wood's Halfpenny, 1723. Normal head / No pellet before H, with stop after small 3. Ex. G. J. Bauer estate**

**28. 1723 Halfpenny**. As illustrated; 12 harpshings. Bauer, LM11/68:40, J.L.R.

**29. 1723 Farthing**. Similar. Copper. Scott 354. Record \$1100, Dr. Spence sale.

**30. 1723 Farthing. Same. Silver**. Two die varieties differing in spacing of legends. Scott C355. At least 6 known, some worn (pocket pieces).

**31. 1724 Halfpenny**. Similar to regular type, but rev. very widely spaced legend; N above head, 4 touches harp. *Silver*. Scott C357. Newcomer 3199, said to be unique, ex Nelson.

**32. 1724 Halfpenny**. "Regular type" in *silver*,

reported by Nelson. Unseen.

**33. 1724 Farthing**. Stop after date. *Silver*. Scott C362. Unseen.

## PROOFS OF VIRGINIA COINAGE

By the middle 1700's the proof-making method was fairly well standardized in Britain. The Engraver of the Royal Mint found enough demand for them that in 1746 and probably some later years early in the reign of George III, he made up presentation sets in special cases. Later ones probably included coins of mixed dates as collectors and other recipients in Britain until recent years paid far less attention to dates on coins than to slight changes in royal portraits and reverse designs. These sets seem to be the ancestors alike of the semi-official British proof sets in presentation cases for 1826, 1831, 1839, and 1853 (also issued directly from the Engraver's offices), and of their American counterparts from about 1817 or 1820 on.

It is not surprising, then, to find that the first few patterns or proofs for the Virginia halfpence, made in the Royal Mint pursuant to George III's Warrant of May 20, 1773, closely match in fabric the proof 1770 halfpence of George III of regular British type. They were clearly made by identical processes — even to showing file marks on edge. Eric Newman has established (in his monograph *Coinage for Colonial Virginia*, ANS, 1956) that these proof or pattern Virginia halfpence were struck on heavier planchets originally intended for some Irish halfpence. This small weight difference, together with larger diameter of dies and flans, gave the coins the sobriquet of Virginia "Pennies." They are not pennies, however.

Despite brilliant prooflike surfaces on some of the red mint state Virginia halfpence from the Col. Cohen hoard, none of these are proofs. The only real Virginia proofs are Nos. 34 and 35. Dies for these proofs and for the regular 672,000 Virginia coins were hubbed from puncheons prepared by either Richard Yeo or Thomas Pingo.



### Virginia Prototype Halfpenny 1773

(so-called "Penny"). Ex NERCG "Publick I":110

**34. 1773 Virginia Pattern or Proof Halfpenny**. Small 7's in date. 6 harp strings. Broad planchet. Full border beading, obv. and rev., with narrow space outside it. (Regular Virginia halfpence have radial-line or sawtooth dentilated borders.) Copper, 52 to the pound

= 134.6 grains (standard for Irish halfpenny planchets). Scott C98. The Smithsonian specimen, from the Mint collection, shows edge file marks, as do many regular British proof coppers. (T.L. Compargette's catalogues of the Mint collection, 1912-14, called the piece an electrotype because of the edge file marks. When I went over the collection with the late Stuart Mosher in 1951, I found not the slightest reason to doubt the coin's genuineness.) All specimens known are from Newman's dies 1-A: obv., no period after GEORGIVS; rev. very small date — much less tall, especially the 7's, than letters in VIRGINIA — and only 6 strings to harp. Copper only. Brilliant mirrorlike surfaces, moderately frosty devices, wt. 131 to 135 grains (standard for Virginia halfpence, 60 to the pound = 116 2/3 grains; actual range c. 108 to 120), occasionally with rust marks on the dies. Possibly a dozen are known in all.

**35. 1774 Virginia "Shilling."** Obv. identical to the guinea of the period. Rev. As the halfpenny but for date. Silver. Scott C101. Brilliant proofs of highest quality. (1) JHU. (2) Boyd estate. (3) Eric P. Newman. (4, 5) Mrs. Norweb. (6) Roper. Reported also in bronze (Atkins, 1889, p. 25), unconfirmed.

## THE 1783 CONSTELLATIO NOVA SILVER



**The Mark or 1,000 Unit piece.** 17.417 grams = 269.80 grains, 33mm. Ex Benjamin Dudley, Robert Morris, Thomas Jefferson, Charles Thomson, Thomson descendants, H.S. Adams, S.S. Crosby, Lorin G. Parmelee, Harlan P. Smith, Col. James W. Ellsworth, Wayte Raymond, J.W. Garrett, Johns Hopkins University.



**The Quint (Type I) or 500 Unit piece.** 8.682 grams = 133.98 grains, 26 mm. Same pedigree as the Mark



**The Quint (Type II) or 500 Unit piece.** 7.110 grams = 109.72 grains, 24 mm. Ex S.S. Crosby, Lorin G. Parmelee, Harlan P. Smith, Col. James W. Ellsworth, Wayte Raymond, J.W. Garrett, Johns Hopkins University.



**The Bit or "Cent" or 100 Unit piece.** 1.798 grams = 27.75 grains, 18 mm. Discovered in Scotland (1885), thence to Lorin G. Parmelee, Harlan P. Smith, Col. James W. Ellsworth, Wayte Raymond, J.W. Garrett, Johns Hopkins University.

In 1782, Gouverneur Morris proposed a decimal monetary system, possibly the most ingenious and certainly the most cumbersome in history. This took as its unit 1/4 grain of silver = 1/1440 Spanish dollar (though in actuality the Spanish dollar weighed 416 grains rather than the 360 Morris's figure implied). The coins were to be of gold, valued at 10,000 units; of silver, valued at 1000, 500 and 100 units; and of copper, valued at 5 and 8 units, with other denominations possible. Robert Morris, Superintendent of Finance under Continental Congress, located a diesinker named Benjamin Dudley (the same one who later made dies for New Jersey coppers at both the Rahway and Morristown mints, 1786 and 1787), and hired him to engrave dies for several of these, notably the Mark or 1000 Unit piece, two types of Quint or 500 Units, and the Cent or Bit of 100 Units. For device Morris chose The All-Seeing Eye in glory of rays with 13 stars for the thirteen colonies, and CONSTELLATIO NOVA. Reverse had U.S. and numerical value within circular wreath, LIBERTAS • JUSTITIA • 1783 around. Dudley completed the first sample coins on April 2, 1783, using the weight standard 270 = 1000 Units, the coins are of pure silver (sp.gr. 10.50, as measured at Johns Hopkins University), and the three of larger denominations have edge ornamented with twin olive leaves, after the style of the Continental Dollars of 1776. Lack of bullion, and

the opposition of Thorns Jefferson made the project into a dead letter, but the coins survive, being the first proofs made in the continental U.S.

**Nos. 36 and 37** The **Mark** and **first type Quint** (with obv. inscription) went from Benjamin Dudley to Robert Morris, Thomas Jefferson, Charles Thomson (Secretary of Continental Congress), his nephew John Thomson, his son Samuel E. Thomson, Rathmell Wilson (ca. 1872), J.W. Haseltine (1872), Henry S. Adams, S.S. Crosby, Lorin G. Parmelee, Harlan P. Smith, Col. James W. Ellsworth, Wayte Raymond, John Work Garrett, thence by bequest to Johns Hopkins University, where they remain today. Crosby discovered the **second type Quint (no. 38)** about 1873 and sold it to Parmelee. Its later history is the same as that of the first two pieces, but it is unaccountably lightweight at only 110 grains, instead of the 135 of the other one. Two **100-unit pieces (no. 39)** are known, one in JHU (discovered in Scotland about 1885, thence to Parmelee and the same later owners), the other in the Eric P. Newman collection. These have plain edges. A copper 5-unit piece, with U.S. 5 in wreath, was made and at one time owned by Josiah Bartlett (Signer of Declaration of Independence) and Samuel Curwen, but it has not been located.

The legends make a rude hexameter verse as follows:

Li-ber-/tas jus-/ti-ti-a // con-stel-/ la-ti-o / no-va  
"The sky's New Constellation — Liberty and Justice."

Latin inscriptions have long been thought easier to remember when chanted as verse, so that this was a mnemonic device, comparable to today's advertising jingles.

The coins here illustrated were photographed at Johns Hopkins University and are reproduced by courtesy of Krause Publications.

### **PRIVATELY MINTED PROOFS**

After 1775, the Royal Mint made no more coppers for British use until 1821. (Irish halfpence, 1781-82, did not circulate in England; 1797-1807 "cartwheel" coppers came from Boulton & Watt's Soho Mint near Birmingham, pursuant to royal warrants.) Counterfeiters promptly filled the gap with brassy imitations of halfpence of one of the Georges, of workmanship ranging from excellent to grotesque, many shipped over here. Later came fanciful pieces with evasive legends such as GEORGE RULES / BRITONS ISLES, intended to deceive only the illiterate — the so-called "bungtowns," irrelevant to America though long afterwards shipped to Canada and possibly over here.

Wyon's mint in Birmingham — the earliest of the legitimate private mints, yielding several members who accepted government positions — landed a contract with Gouverneur Morris in 1783 to make reportedly fifty tons (over 5,500,000 pieces) of

CONSTELLATIO NOVA coppers, 1783-85. The maker was probably George Wyon 3rd (ca. 1744-97), assisted by the teen-aged twins Thomas and Peter George (b. 1767). A single proof is known.

**40. CONSTELLATIO NOVA** copper, 1783. *Blunt rays, one L.* Crosby 3-C. Struck twice from rudely polished dies. Ex Edward E. Moore, Robert Shalowitz colls.

In 1787, the Parys Mines Co. (Anglesey) set up a mint in Birmingham under John Westwood & Co., to make the "Druid's Head" pennies and halfpennies, of good copper, full weight, and redeemable. They circulated widely, becoming so popular that other Birmingham mints counterfeited them! Some of the genuine — particularly those with script D in field — are proofs. After they multiplied in dates (1787-91) and varieties (over 250, plus different edges, mulings, and metals), coin collectors began assembling them, and the token-collecting craze began. The "Druid's Head" coins were ancestral not only to later American merchants' tokens, but to many pieces collected as Colonials.

Other firms, with intent less to advertise themselves than to buy up pig copper at ninepence the pound and circulate it at from 60 to 100 halfpence the pound, issued other tokens with an enormous variety of legends and devices, and evasive inscriptions giving no clue to their manufacturer or their redeemability if any. By about 1790, hundreds of firms — many located in the Birmingham area, others using the services of Birmingham "Hard Ware" manufacturers — had gotten into the act. Thousands of different designs and over 11,000 varieties of these "Conder" tokens went into circulation — or into coin dealers' shops. Collectors were quick to form representative sets. Some more enterprising amateurs went to the Birmingham factories and had special issues made to their order in limited quantities (to create rarities), either from new dies created to their whimsy, or by muling dies not intended for each other, or with variant edge devices, or occasionally struck in silver or gold. The London coin dealers pushed this state of affairs to absurdity, creating still more minor varieties solely for collectors, as the token craze soared to its apogee in the 1790's. At that time the craze was compared to the 1635-37 Dutch tulip fad, and later it was to be compared to such American pastimes as goldfish swallowing, flagpole sitting, dance marathons, etc. A few issuers of tokens even lampooned the collectors, who bought the pieces anyway.

The reason for mention here of the British token craze is that many of the tokens intended primarily for collectors in this period — including some with American relevance — have proof like surfaces. Some of them are of good enough die work, striking quality, and surface to give a quite creditable appearance

and to invite no protest if called "Proofs." A few of these, especially those of more obviously medallic character, do seem to have been made by processes comparable to regal proofs. They also occur in other metals besides copper, but then so do some nonproofs as well.

Many, though by no means all, both proofs and nonproofs, come with edges lettered or ornamented by the Castaing machine, a French invention long in use at official mints in Britain and all over the Continent, and also long protected by oaths of secrecy (despite having been described in print!). This consisted of two parallel bars, each with half the edge inscription or ornamentation intended for the given coin or token, the bars set apart minutely less than the diameter of a planchet, one kept fixed, the other caused to move so that each planchet would roll edgewise between them, receiving half its edge device from each. In the Tower Mint this contrivance had been in use at least since the 1660's, stamping edges of gold and silver blanks with DECUS ET TUTAMEN ANNO REGNI ("An ornament and a protection") and the regnal year. But coppers, aside from occasional patterns, were not thought worth the trouble. Nevertheless, a great many late 18th century British tokens bear the firm name or address on the edge, and thousands of other varieties show crosses, leaves, diagonal reeding, or irrelevant or even evasive edge inscriptions such as CURRENT EVERY WHERE. I mention this here because some of these edges are found on coins classified as Colonials, and because many U.S. coins 1792-1836 also had their edges ornamented, reeded or lettered by a similar machine. This type of edge ornamentation became obsolete (not to say impossible) with certain mechanical changes in coin manufacturing techniques introduced in 1828 — changes very relevant to the appearance of proofs.

Since the vast majority of the "Conder" tokens present a more or less prooflike appearance, we are faced with much the same problem as that posed later on with the deceptively prooflike early strikings of Morgan dollars, Liberty Seated halves and quarters 1878-91, gold dollars and three-dollar pieces. Which were intentional brilliant proofs? Which were not? How do you tell them apart?

The presumption is that most of the tens of thousands of varieties were not given special care in manufacture characterizing intentional brilliant proofs. Some few series — those with cathedrals, some with high relief portraits — do appear to have been given such care. Striking and centering are usually good, surfaces far more mirrorlike than usual, etc. It is these which serve as our tests, compared to other coins from the same manufacturers. Mere presence of moderately prooflike surfaces is not enough.

Of the British tokens assimilated to the American Colonial series, a fairly small number of different

designs come with prooflike surfaces, and decision as to whether any of these were intentional brilliant proofs must depend on comparison with actual proofs by the same makers. Fortunately, the makers of many are certainly identified.

The Washington pieces dated 1783 (except the GEORGIVS TRIUMPHO which never comes prooflike) are definitely known to have been made ca. 1810-20, thanks to the researches of George Fuld. The brilliant proof restrikes of these designs, with plain or ornamented edges, are of obvious mid 19th century fabric. They were struck by the London coin dealer W.J. Taylor in the 1850's. One of their UNITED STATES reverses comes muled with an 1851 Taylor die showing a kangaroo.

With the single extraordinary exception of No. 40 above, British-made pieces alluding to the individual colonies or to the Confederation, dated 1783-1788 inclusive, do not occur prooflike and thus do not pose a problem in the present context. Even Wyon's pattern Shillings and Decads of 1785 (respectively the IMMUNE COLUMBIA and CONFEDERATIO pieces, the later conforming to designs worked out in Continental Congress) do not appear to have been given the proofing treatment, though should perfectly preserved specimens turn up, we may have to amend this conclusion.

Nor are domestic state coins or patterns for the Confederation found in prooflike state. The technique may not have been known to anyone in the local mints.

On the other hand, some dated in the 1790's definitely do pose a problem, (a) The 1791 Large Eagle cents sometimes come with beautiful prooflike surfaces. I have seen several gilt, but do not know if this was done before or after striking. I have heard of a specimen coming in brilliant proof in original case of issue, but not seen it. (b) A single brilliant proof Small Eagle cent of 1791, in original presentation case, appeared at an auction in 1865. Where it is now I do not know, (c) The 1792 "Roman Head" Washington cent is usually said to come in proof, (d) Proofs in copper and silver supposedly exist of 1794 and 1795 Talbot, Allum & Lee tokens, as well as of the mules using the 1794-95 LIBERTY 16 COMMERCE stock reverses found on those tokens, (e) The dateless (1795?) Washington penny token with LIBERTY & SECURITY comes prooflike and occasionally gilt, (f) The dateless (1792-95?) "Kentucky," "Triangle" or "Pyramid" token, showing 15 stars each stamped with the initial of a state, K for Kentucky at top, usually comes more or less prooflike; specimens are often sold as proofs, (g) The 1795 Washington Grate halfpenny (usually miscalled a "cent") often comes prooflike, and specimens likewise reach buyers labeled as proofs, (h) Castorland half dollars - originals and early restrikes - come in proof state, (i) The very rare undated (1795-97?) THEATRE AT NEW YORK

## Proofing Process: Private Coppers

Penny, though listed in earlier editions of the Standard Catalogue only in Fine and VF, is known prooflike and apparently in no other condition. I shall deal with these nine problems in order preparatory to continuing and finishing the list of Colonial proofs.

(a) The 1791 large and Small Eagle cents are known to originate with the elder John Gregory Hancock, Birmingham medallist. (Cf. Eckfeldt & DuBois, *Pledges of History*, 1846; Crosby, *Early Coins of America*, 1875, mentions an unfinished-die trial piece coming from Hancock's widow.) This man did create tokens and medals of the regular prooflike kind, and a few of far superior order which would have to be called brilliant proofs — in higher relief. Comparison removes doubt: the Large Eagle cents are of the former sort. Between the finest prooflike ones yet seen, and those from later die states with definite mint bloom and somewhat rougher finish, there is no clearly marked distinction. Further, both the former and the latter have rather weak borders on both sides, and somewhat indistinct striking up on Washington's hair and coat. This is true also of all the gilt specimens I have seen. If any true proofs were made, therefore, they would almost have to be confined to the unseen presentation-case specimens known only to rumor. (I have vague recollection that one of these might have been in one of the A.B. Sage sales ca. 1859 -60). Most probably they would be on unusually wide flans, with unusually full serrated borders and needle-sharp definition on Washington's hair and coat, having been made by processes like those in use at the Royal Mint for proofs.

(b) The same comments made for the Large Eagle cents, above, hold true for the Small Eagle, except that uncirculated specimens of this issue are very rare, prooflikes almost unknown, gilt specimens unseen. In the Bache sale, held by W. Elliot Woodward in March 1865, lot 3273 was a Small Eagle cent described as brilliant proof in original presentation case of issue. I have no idea where this piece might be.



**"Hancock's Revenge," the 1792  
"Roman Head" cent (enl.)**

(c) However, the 1792 "Roman Head" Washington cent is another matter, altogether different. This is a satirical piece — "Hancock's Revenge" — privately distributed by John Gregory Hancock on behalf of Obadiah Westwood, lampooning Washington's

objections to portrait coinage as "monarchical", in revenge for G.W.'s having killed contract coinage proposals. Supposedly 12 are known. I have examined seven different ones, all in copper with the same edge, together with the Merkin-Picker uniface trial with I.G. HANCOCK F. instead of date, and Dr. George Fuld's unique white metal trial piece from a rejected obv. with beaded borders and spelling error PRESEDENT. (It was earlier in New Netherlands' 39th Sale, before that in a Glendining sale in the 1930's.) The copper specimens are in high relief, well centered and struck with full borders and brilliant mirrorlike fields; they show all earmarks of intentional brilliant proofs. The old story that the 12 known of these came from a packet of British tokens consigned to Jeremiah Colburn (fl. 1858-63) makes sense in this context, too; very likely these 12 (plus perhaps a few held out by the maker) were the only ones ever coined.

(d) The Talbot, Allum & Lee tokens of 1794-95 come in many die varieties, and (except for the piece lacking words NEW YORK) often in olive to bright red mint state with moderately prooflike surfaces, the 1795 far more often so than the 1794. Specimens are also found to the present day in batches of unattributed 18th century tokens imported from England. I have seen them from varying states of broken or worn dies, ranging from moderately prooflike to frankly frosty uncirculated with no clear demarcation between the two classes aside from a very few 1795 perfect-die proofs, e.g. Morton: 604 (Pine Tree, Oct. 1975). The same remark holds for the various mules, except for the York Cathedral piece which I have never had an opportunity to examine, and the very rare BLOFIELD CAVALRY mule which I have seen only twice. Further, some of the mules are almost always weakly and unevenly struck from worn dies. The conclusion is clear enough: with very rare exceptions none of them qualify as proofs; they are instead quite typical of the later token-craze pieces, thin and poorly struck from any irrelevant dies on planchets with any edge, merely to satisfy collector cravings for something nobody else has got. Even the silver specimens are of fabric far inferior to authentic proofs of the period.

(e) The dateless (1795) Washington penny token with LIBERTY & SECURITY often comes prooflike and occasionally gilt. I have never seen a prooflike one with the so-called "corded rim" — diagonal ornaments outside the linear circles of border — nor have I seen a prooflike specimen well enough struck on Washington's hair or coat to qualify as proof, though rumors of such recur. Identity of design, punches and fabric between this and the very rare dated 1795 penny and the similar halfpenny forces ascription of all these to the same makers, namely Kempson & Sons. Since the halfpennies are usually on small thin flans some

of which read (like the pennies) AN ASYLUM FOR THE OPPRESS'D OF ALL NATIONS, we can attribute the planchets to William Lutwyche, one of the more careless and venal of the Birmingham Hard Ware Manufacturers; R. H. Williamson has pointed out the frequency of this edge on many of Lutwyche's tokens.

(f) The dateless (1792-95?) token commonly called the "Kentucky Cent," "Triangle" or "Pyramid" token, and known to originate in Lancaster, England, presents one of the more difficult problems. The piece is attributed to Kentucky with no good reason; its legends prove it to refer to the Colonies in general. Its triangular array of 15 stars has each star stamped with the initial of a state, the topmost being K for Kentucky, the 15th state (1792), the next two being R.I. and Vt. for Rhode Island and Vermont (1791), the 13th and 14th states to enter the Union. From the arrangement, one could make a very plausible guess that the token's designer was referring to the Masonic "Unfinished Pyramid" device on the \$50 Continental notes of 1778-9, in the belief that the admission of Kentucky as 15th state completed the roster. (Were the roster then thought incomplete, nothing would have been simpler than to arrange the 15 stars in three rows of 6, 5 and 4, making a still unfinished pyramid.) Most lettered edge specimens of this token come with some prooflike surface; the plain edge pieces normally come Fine to AU. The prooflike ones occur in lots of unattributed British "Conders." They come on wide and narrow flans with plain edge, and on somewhat wider ones with various edge letterings and — extremely rarely — with diagonal reeding, the so-called "engrailed" edge. Once again, there seems no sharp demarcation between the most prooflike and the least prooflike ones; they come in earlier and later states of die breaks (the breaks are on the side showing hand and scroll), and even on the ones with diagonal edge reeding (which have the widest flans of all), borders tend to be weak, central area of scroll poorly brought up. I conclude that none of these were intentional brilliant proofs.

(g) Much the same comment has to be made for the 1795 Washington Grate halfpennies. Typically, the common large buttons pieces come in light olive to bright red prooflike unc, weakly struck on Washington's head and part of reverse devices, and between the earliest (and most prooflike) and the latest strikes with heavily broken dies and mint frost there is no clear demarcation. They look very much like other token-craze pieces and not like true proofs.

(h) Original Castorland half dollar. Proofs, silver and copper, reportedly gold, Scott C295-7. Made at Paris Mint, this does match French proofs of the 1790's.

(i) On the other hand, the Jacobs Penny token is part of a series known to include true proofs. All four specimens I have seen, though on defective planchets, show earmarks of proof status and very likely should

be listed as intentional brilliant proofs.

The list of Colonial proofs, therefore, can be continued with the following:

**41. 1791 Washington Small Eagle cent**, brilliant copper proof in original presentation case of issue. Ex Woodward's Bache sale, March 1865, lot 3273. Unique?

**42. 1792 "Roman Head" Washington cent.** Copper proof, lettered edge. Approximately a dozen known or reported.



**1795 Talbot, Allum & Lee cent. Ex "Morton": 604**

**43. 1795 Talbot, Allum & Lee cent.** Regular type. The most convincing specimen offered was lot 604, Pine Tree's "Elizabeth Morton" Sale, October, 1975.



**1796 Original Castorland Half Dollar.**

**Ex Dr. Hall, Brand, 1975 EAC: 470**

**44. 1796 CASTORLAND "Half Dollar".** Original. Old style lettering, unevenly placed, A below M, R leans right with respect to E-I, UG touching, etc.; thick planchet, reeded edge, no trace of ARGENT (on silver), CUIVRE or BRONZE on copper, no mintmaster's symbol on edge. Scott C295-297. Faint traces of rust at handle of vessel, but no break at 'S' of PARENS. Silver (about 8 known), copper (about 4 known), including LM10/73:222; claimed to exist in gold but we have not examined an authentic example and suspect that the claim covered an early restrrike. The most convincing proofs in silver include Pine Tree's EAC sale, Feb. 1975: 470, ex Dr. Hall, Brand, Breen; Merkin 9/74: 255; Wurzbach, 1914 ANS Exhibition. Others mostly have some evidence of circulation. This historical background is most completely given in the EAC sale above mentioned.



(1795-97?) Penny, THEATRE AT NEW YORK.  
Ex Brand, Breisland colls.

45. n.d. (1795-97?) Penny. *THE THEATRE AT NEW YORK*. View of the old Park Theatre, New York City. In exergue, AMERICA and signature JACOBS. Rev. Cornucopia at seashore. Copper, edge I PROMISE TO PAY ON DEMAND THE BEARER ONE PENNY. Scott C383, Adams (N.Y.) 892, Dalton & Hamer (Middlesex misc.) 167. Possibly as many as eight survive in the USA and Britain. (1) BM. (2) Norweb. (3) JHU. (4) Brand, NN 51:180, W.L. Breisland, S 6/73:855 at \$2,800; pictured in Taxay. (5) Bowers & Ruddy, 1973 FPL, \$2,900, not as brilliant. (6) Pine Tree "Promised Lands": 315 (4/74) at \$2,950.

### MATTHEW BOULTON'S CONTRIBUTIONS

The next step in the history of the proofing process was the changes instituted by Boulton and Watt at their Soho Mint near Birmingham. Matthew Boulton, single-minded industrialist dedicated to mass production via James Watt's steam engine, and in particular to improvement of the national coinage, began experimenting with patterns for British and Colonial coinages as early as the later 1780's. Pattern halfpennies of his manufacture, embodying some features later incorporated into the regular coinage, and some few (such as the *virole brisee* or segmented collar-die for lettering edges) not perfected until early in the 20th century, are known from about 1788. Wilson Peck's *English Copper, Tin and Bronze Coins in the British Museum* gives the most nearly complete specialized study of this series ever attempted; I shall not attempt to go into the kind of detail Peck elaborated, as his chapter on the Soho Mint pieces occupies in excess of fifty pages. Boulton's improvements in coining technology, *specifically related to the proofing process*, are summarizable under the following heads:

- (i) Complete or nearly complete hubbing of dies.
- (ii) Use of a close collar to equalize diameters of coins and improve striking qualities.
- (iii) Concomitantly, use of steam presses and greater force more evenly applied to improve striking qualities — and to bring up borders high enough to afford greater protection of devices from abrasion.
- (iv) Experimental use of bronzing powder to produce a permanent patina on copper proofs.

(v) Experimental use of the *virole brisee* to produce lettered edges on coins struck in close collars.

All five of these technological improvements were tried out not only at the Soho Mint but later on by other mints in Britain, the Continent, and the United States. Correspondence between Boulton and various successive Philadelphia Mint Directors was very extensive indeed; I can only summarize here a small part of its content, as much of Boulton's experimental work related less to the proofing process than to standardizing designs and physical properties of coins. Boulton wished to make counterfeiting impossible through sheer perfection of strike, absolute uniformity of working dies, and absolute uniformity of weights and dimensions of coins. He very nearly succeeded, and he certainly has made easier the task of counterfeit detection, albeit at the cost of increasing stereotypy of coin designs.

With the vast power made available by Watt's steam engines, Boulton found he could actuate presses large enough to impart (albeit by repeated blows) entire or almost entire coin designs to working dies from hubs, minimizing handwork and maximizing both speed of multiplying dies and uniformity among them. The familiar "Cartwheel" copper twopence and pennies of 1797, and similar halfpennies and farthings of 1799, and later coppers of 1806-7, all look very much alike for precisely this reason. About the only details of handwork noticeable on the "Cartwheel" dies are the ships on reverses, though at least two working puncheons of George III portraits were in use, making several minor varieties. At no earlier time in history were fifty million coins issued so nearly indistinguishable from one another as were the 1797 Cartwheel pennies. A little more hand-tooling is found on the dies intended for proofs (as described in Peck), but even those require microscopic examination to distinguish one from another.

Boulton described his methods to the various Mint Directors from Elias Boudinot (1795-1804) on up for several decades. Even earlier than that, puncheons had been used on U.S. coins: three different eagles on 1795 half dollar reverses, a head puncheon for the three 1793 Liberty cap cent dies and the first three obverses of 1794, etc., another for 1794 half cent heads, others for the three gold denominations, and occasionally for reverse wreaths: a technique first used in the USA by Abel Buell for the New Haven Mint (1785-88). With the very limited power then available at the Philadelphia Mint, making complete reverse dies by hubbing proved impractical; much hand tooling remained necessary, even as Buell had learned on the 1786 mailed bust Connecticut coppers. At that time nobody in the U.S. knew how to make steam engines of the capacity used at the Soho Mint, so many of Boulton's inventions and adaptations remained impossible to introduce into American



minting technology for many years thereafter.

But the history of minting technology in the United States remains the history of successive Mint Directors' attempts to put into effect the Boulton innovations. Complete hubbing of reverses, attempted several times without success since 1794, became practical only after steam engines of large capacity could be built for hubbing presses — in the 1830's: 1836 for half-dollars (reeded edge), 1837 for cents, half-dimes and dimes, 1838 for quarter dollars and eagles, 1839 for half-eagles, 1840 for half-cents, quarter-eagles and dollars. Complete hubbing of obverses save for dates came at the same time; complete hubbing of obverses including dates proved a more difficult proposition, involving several extra steps, and though it had been successfully done on Boulton's "Cartwheel" coppers of 1797, it was introduced on United States coins only in the 20th century: 1907 for the larger gold, 1908 for quarter-eagles and half-eagles, 1909 for cents, 1913 for nickels, 1916 for silver coins except the dollar, 1921 for silver dollars. And the *virole brisee*, or segmented collar-die for imparting edge lettering in the same operation with stamping the obv. and rev. designs on a coin, though experimented with by Boulton in the 1780's, first reached successful use in America on eagles and double-eagles in and after 1907.

On the other hand, some Boulton innovations were adopted fairly soon. As many elements as could be included on puncheons were so included, as early as the 1790's in American coins. Boulton used bronzing powder on proofs from the 1780's and 1790's on, and sometime in the late 1820's or early 1830's some of this bronzing powder was sent to the Philadelphia Mint — whereupon it was applied to a few coins (1827-31 cents, 1831 half-cents) which would otherwise have been brilliant proofs, and became quite generally used for mint medals in later decades. (The pattern GOD OUR TRUST eagles and half-dollars in copper, dated 1861-63, normally come bronzed). I do not have complete information on chemistry or use of bronzing powder, but apparently it was baked onto the otherwise finished coins, producing a completely even, uniform, permanent reddish brown patina which would not be damaged by atmospheric conditions. This may not have seemed, to some eyes, like much of an improvement over the regular brilliant proofs with their combination of mirrorlike fields and frosty devices, but at least the bronzed pieces did not develop ugly spots, stains, tarnish or other damage to which brilliant proofs were and still are so vulnerable.

The only real paradox in American adoption of Boulton innovations is the close collar. Boulton early recognized that, even on plain-edged coins, use of a close collar to restrain broadening of planchets on impact from obv. and rev. dies would improve the striking qualities and impart equality to diameters —

as well as build up borders protecting the devices from abrasion. Nevertheless, no experiments at the Philadelphia Mint with this device seem to have been made prior to 1828, when it was brought into use on the new dimes, forty years after Boulton's original experiments.

Curiously, the final pieces in the series of Colonial proofs were made in a close collar: the obscure Kentucky Myddelton token or pattern of 1796, from dies by Conrad H. Kuchler. I list it here for uniformity:



**1796 Myddelton Pattern Halfpenny.**

**Ex NERCG "Publick I":75.**

**46.1796 Pattern Halfpenny.** Obv. Hope with anchor, presenting two children — the infant American nation and the infant British settlement in Kentucky? — to some goddess, whose right hand is extended to receive them, while her left hand supports liberty pole and cap; before, olive branch (for hope?); behind, cornucopia (fertility of the land?). BRITISH SETTLEMENT KENTUCKY around; 1796 in exergue. Rev. PAYABLE BY P.P.P. MYDDELTON. Rev. Britannia, dejected, with spear inverted (as the result of the ill-fated war with the American colonies, or at her people emigrating to Kentucky?); at her feet, the scales, fasces and a broken sword — this last a clear reference to the defeat at Yorktown; before her, a liberty cap rises from the earth like some kind of mushroom newly sprung up. (Description after that in "Miss Liberty's American Debut", *Numismatic Journal* 2,1961.) Silver, plain edge. Scott C309. Brilliant proofs only — sometimes in small cylindrical cases. Very rare.

47. Identical to last. *Copper*, plain edge. Scott C308. Brilliant proofs only. Far rarer than preceding, possibly 4 or 5 traced. In Scott, p.37, is the curious story about Philip Parry Price "Myddelton" and these suppressed coins.

I return to the Philadelphia Mint and its struggles to introduce Boulton innovations, specifically the close collar: As this subject is still much misunderstood, despite its excellent analysis in the Newman-Bressett book *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*, I should summarize older and newer methods of coin manufacture, specifically with reference to proofs.

Prior to 1828, all American coins — including proofs — were struck in screw presses, from radially dentilated or sawtooth-bordered dies wider than the



## Proofing Process: Matthew Boulton

coins, to accommodate flan expansion on impact. Planchets were cut out from strips rolled to approximately the thickness of finished coins, the cutting being done in a press by a device analogous to a cookie cutter. Each planchet was weighed, too heavy ones "adjusted" by being given one or several strokes with a file, lightweight ones remelted. Planchets intended for proof coins were cut from strips which had been thoroughly cleaned and burnished. Planchets intended for gold and silver coins (and copper ones through 1795) were run through the Castaing machine, earlier described, coming out with mathematical roundness and reeded, ornamented or lettered edges. After various additional inspections, weighings, cleanings and dryings, they went to the appropriate striking presses. Regular planchets intended for ordinary circulating coins were given one impression from the dies, then while still hot knocked into a hopper or basket, as likely as not jostling against their neighbors and receiving mint abrasions. Proofs, however, received other treatment. Dies intended for them were specially polished on the fields, the (intaglio) devices left untouched. In some instances they were made up with special care; in others, apparently, they were regular dies removed from the press and polished up for the occasion. In many instances, especially before 1834, they were later used on regular business strikes. Proofs were given two to four blows from these polished dies, the coin being carefully re-fitted into the lower die between each two successive impressions. Occasional early proofs will therefore show traces of double, triple or quadruple impressions here and there, especially on obverse. These made before 1828 will not show knife-rims or "wire edges", because this phenomenon requires the close collar not then in use. They will normally show very sharp striking-up even on borders, stars (most stars will show centers), and upper edges of letters. Details of hair, feathers, and drapery will be much clearer than on normal business strikes. Occasional proofs will have only the obverse die polished but the striking quality will be excellent on both sides. A few copper proofs in the late 1820's and early 1830's may be bronzed.

Earlier press operators, through 1827 on all denominations and through some years in the 1830's on some, used "open collars" — thin, resilient plates with openings larger than the finished coin, and placed just around and above the striking surface of the lower die — to aid in centering planchets at striking. The point of using open collars was precisely not to constrict the edges, as applying pressure on edges would squash the edge reeding, lettering or ornamentation, and impede ejection from dies. With the advantage of having edges protected against clipping by such ornamentation came the disadvantage, especially on larger coins, that it was

often difficult to bring up the designs fully or to prevent very indistinct striking of details at and near borders. Some half-dollars in the 1817-34 period are unattributable precisely because dies differed almost wholly in peripheral details — the very same details often not struck up properly. It is thought that heavier presses were used to make proofs in that period precisely because they were necessary to force stars, letters and borders to come up properly on the finished coin, sometimes even requiring multiple impressions.

Beginning in 1828, Mint engraver William Kneass began a long-range plan of improving appearance and physical qualities of U.S. coins. This involved adopting Boulton's device of a close collar (called a "collar die" in the Newman-Bressett book). Coins so struck would have not only a raised protective rim but also equality of diameters, greater thickness, improved stacking qualities, improved striking-up of details near borders. Beginning with 1828 for dimes, 1829 for half-dimes, quarter-eagles and half-eagles, 1831 for quarters and half-cents, 1834 for some cents, 1836 for dollars and half-dollars, Kneass made dies with deeply cut plain rims surrounding beaded borders, and these dies were closely fitted to the intended diameters of coins to be struck from them. In addition, they were intended for use in heavier presses with "close collars." A close collar fitted closely over the neck of the lower die, and was much thicker and heavier than former open collars; planchets would fit closely into it before striking, and extremely tightly after striking. The newly struck coins would therefore come out only by a special ejection process: the lower die would rise through the collar, pushing out the coin and allowing it to be brushed into the basket by metal fingers. This immediately rendered obsolete the Castaing machine. Lettered edges were no longer possible: raised letters would either be sheared off or squashed to invisibility, incused letters (as on dollars and half-dollars prior to 1836) would be squashed, reeding would be squashed. Edge reeding could be imparted with a grooved close collar, but it would have to be vertical only.

Proofs so made could be struck with fewer blows, most likely two (as at present) or at most three. They continued to be struck in screw presses long after steam coinage (1836). Many, though not all, come with "squared" borders and "wire edges," more properly called "knife-rims or knife-edges" (in British publications). This phenomenon occurs when metal is forced minutely into the extremely narrow crevice between die and close collar, and this could happen if the collar or die gave way even slightly, or if unusual amounts of pressure were exerted. Knife-rims are unusual in this period on coins for circulation, but they do occasionally occur; most often from giving way of collar or die. Proofs in this period are found

more often without them than with them.

At this juncture, Newcomb's criteria for intentional brilliant proofs need to be re-examined. Newcomb was writing about U.S. large cents from 1816 to 1857, and was troubled — as have been many numismatists since — by coins claimed to be proofs by those with commercial motives for exaggerating the importance of any coin with shiny surfaces. Newcomb insisted that those and only those coins are proofs which satisfy the following criteria: perfection of strike, without weak areas anywhere on the coin; perfect centering; brilliant mirrorlike fields and dull or frosty devices; dies sharp and new, perfect or at worst with very faint cracks; all stars show their centers; border beading complete, uniformly strong. In particular, coins with any frosty areas in fields are not proofs.

There are two tests of these criteria: (1) Do all coins in or from original proof sets of the year conform to them? (2) Do coins struck from proof-only dies all conform to them? American proof sets dated prior to 1858 are very rare, those dated prior to 1850 hardly seen once in a generation. Nevertheless, they do exist. Photographs of the King of Siam's 1834 proof set — the one with the 1804 dollar and plain-4 1804 eagle — provide additional evidence to that given by the early proofs in the Smithsonian and several other collections. More important, from 1834 on certain die varieties are known to exist only in proof, and comparing various examples of these coins with each other and with other alleged proofs of the period has proved very instructive. Newcomb's criteria are unequivocally too high. Aside from restrikes, early proofs (those prior to introduction of closed collars) have sharpness on all parts of devices superior to that of uncirculated coins of the same date and type; mirrorlike surface on fields is uninterrupted; borders are strong, though centering is not always perfect; stars are sharp, though not every star will always show its center even on the best proofs in some dies; occasional coins as late as 1836 may have proof obverse and frosty reverse. The mirrorlike surface generally possesses more brilliance and 'depth' than will that of a regular business strike made from new dies retaining polish; in general, a proof will clearly and accurately mirror a finger or pencil point held above the field, while a first strike will seldom do so.

Proofs struck subsequent to the introduction of close collars (1828/36-1916) will, in addition to the above, also show much stronger borders than uncirculated coins, with sharp clear border beads nowhere blurred and nowhere running into the plain raised rim; some, though not all, will show traces of a knife-rim at outermost part of rim on obv. or rev. or both; edges will be sharply defined and polished; there will be no trace of frostiness (from cold flow of metal) near or within any letters, around stars, or near borders; in some cases, rims will be wider than

on normal uncirculated coins. Nickel proofs sometimes constitute exceptions to all this. A coin cleaned with ammonia or any of the more drastic chemical agents such as cyanide will often not be decidable by these criteria, as these chemicals destroy proof surface by dissolving and leaching away microscopic oxide or sulfide coatings, or — in the case of cyanide — dissolving the metal itself.

These criteria apply as well to foreign proofs of the early and middle 19th century. One does get into difficulties with certain crowns of George III dated from 1817 to 1820, as individual specimens were made with such care from polished dies as to make the question almost unanswerable of whether they were intentional brilliant proofs.

Seaby's *English Silver Coins*, p.5, provides the detail that in some 19th and 20th century British proofs, devices were rendered frosty by treating intaglio areas on dies with weak acid, presumably before polishing the fields. I do not know if this was ever done at the United States mint, and tend to doubt it. I do know that as the dies wore down, frostiness on the devices tended to disappear on both British and American proofs; frosted heads and eagles on modern (post-1936) American proofs are very unusual, and the only sets dated after 1950 in which all coins show frosted devices (as was routine in the 19th century) are those assembled by collectors.

Canadian proofs, before introduction of the decimal coinage in 1858, are a group as rare and unusual as American Colonial proofs. I have seen proofs of the 1837 Bank tokens ("Papineaus"), 1844 Front View Bank tokens, 1852 river-god bank tokens, 1843 and 1856 official penny and halfpenny pieces, and a few others, the 1843 and 1856 coins having come from the Royal Mint in London, the others from private establishments (Boulton & Watt's Soho Mint and its successor Ralph Heaton & Sons, Birmingham). Without exception, these rare proofs show every earmark of having been made by the identical processes used on official British proofs of the period. These were substantially identical to those used on later American proofs. The same comment holds for Canadian patterns of the period and those commonly assimilated to the Canadian series (e.g. the 1823 copper Fiftieth and Hundredth of a Dollar). The 1858 Canadian proofs, commonly occurring with plain edges like many silver British proofs of the period, were made in the Royal Mint in London — as in fact were later Canadian decimal proofs prior to about 1908 — and they were made by the same processes.

British proof copper coins from the 1820's on no longer show file marks on edges, and they were struck in close collars; edges are brilliant as though polished, and in every other way they indicate that the moneymen in the Royal Mint had installed equipment similar to Boulton's. Some British proof silver coins, though not

all, come with lettered edges. Seaby lists several of these with blundered edges (transposed words!) indicating that not the Castaing machine but some version of the *virole brisee* was used on them. This, of course, must have slowed up production considerably; the problem of rapid coinage using a *virole brisee* or segmented collar die was not solved until early in the 20th century. In every instance, the difficulty was to make a contrivance which would retract the three, four or six segments of the collar die rapidly and smoothly without shearing off edge lettering or causing the newly minted coin to stick to the collar die after striking. I do not have details on that used now, unfortunately.

## AFTERMATH: TECHNOLOGY REPLACES ART

Except for nickel coins, proofs made in the middle and later years of the 19th century at the Philadelphia Mint are a fairly monotonous lot of coins. "Polished-up portraits of the coinage" (as Dr. Sheldon calls them), they have little individuality and any two of the same year and denomination will look very much alike. That the nickel coins are an exception testifies largely to Mint difficulties with nickel, which remained until well into the 20th century. Nickel is very rough on dies: they wear down fast, they break down fast, they often produce only indifferent impressions on nickel planchets even on proofs. Don Taxay has quoted contemporaneous hostile Mint opinions of nickel as a coinage metal. Of all the alloys of nickel tried, only two — 80 copper: 20 nickel, common in the United Kingdom to the present day, and 75 copper: 25 nickel, adopted in the U.S. since 1865 — have proved at all practical for coinage, and even those two only marginally so. Alloys with less than 12% nickel tend to be very yellow and brassy in appearance; alloys with over 30% nickel generally yield ingots riddled with bubbles and altogether unsuitable for the rolling and cutting processes. Nickel proofs from the Philadelphia mint — and to a lesser extent from the British mint — have often fallen short of the quality of other proofs. I have seen coins of proof-only dates or varieties (e.g. 1865 "double date west" 3¢ nickel, 1866 5¢ nickel with center dot on rev., 1877 and 78 3¢ and 5¢ nickel, 1887/6 3¢ nickel) with the typical proof surface, but poorly struck on borders and edges, often with designs not too well brought up, and very often indeed on planchets thickly seeded with minute defects. As late as the early 1890's, nickel 5¢ pieces in proof sometimes come only with a dull matte-like surface, explanation unknown; apparently the nickel strips simply refused to take a high polish. I have seen nickel proofs of the 1950's which were almost as bad, being identifiable as proofs only by the borders, rims and edges. Authentication of copper-nickel proof cents is a task calculated to give a conscientious

numismatist nightmares, so uneven is the quality of the real ones.

On the other hand, low-mintage silver and gold coins in the 1880's often come with brilliant surfaces very near indeed in appearance to those of proofs, and decisions of the proof or nonproof status of some of these coins are equally eye-taxing. That uncirculated coins have been found in proof sets of 1866 and some other years, straight from the mint, makes the problem still more difficult. I have already quoted the criteria in use; in difficult borderline cases, often the only thing to do is compare the disputed coins with known proofs from original sets. And if there is still doubt, do not sell the coin as a proof.

It may be appropriate here to bring up the matter of restrikes. Most restrikes are nominally proofs, whether minted from original dies or from made-to-order copy dies ("novodels") in the mint of origin, or made clandestinely by private parties. The privately made ones, though usually struck from polished or even lapped dies on polished blanks, are hardly ever of the quality of authentic mint products and do not merit further discussion here. On the other hand, we have items like the half-cents of the 1840's, 1856 flying eagle cents, 1863-64 trimes and half-dimes, 1873 2¢ and \$3, 1875 \$3, 1865 gold dollar and \$3, 1827 quarters, 1801-3, "1804," 1836-39 and 51-53 silver dollars, and others, which were made to order as favor coins by employees at the Philadelphia Mint, sometimes from original dies with new reverses, often lapped to the extent that details are narrowed or even obliterated, or in other instances from dies similar to originals and created by punching old date logotypes into new (undated) dies. Some of the more clandestine restrikes show evidence of gross rust or die failure — this is most of all true of certain patterns. Others, especially in the half cent series, show die buckling, weakness, rude striking and extremely high knife-rims — occasionally these are removed by filing. In every instance such coins were made by processes enough different from the originals so that trained numismatists can "smell them a yard away," save for a few late ones such as the 1865 gold dollar and \$3 which required no different processes and which were probably made only a few years later than their dates

The parallel to this state of affairs in the Philadelphia Mint is, of course, found in the "late Soho" and clandestinely restruck pieces allegedly originating in Boulton & Watt's Soho mint, dating from 1780's, but actually made in the mid 19th century. As Peck has told their story in voluminous and occasionally eye-twinkling detail, I shall not attempt to repeat it here. Restrikes were an attempt to pander to the collector — and commercial — impulse to have something nobody else has got; when the demand died down, at whatever cost, the supply did not continue to be renewed.

Early in the 20th century, apparently owing to the influence of the Paris Mint (which incidentally was more notorious for restrikes than any other in western civilization), medals and proof coins began experimentally to be made by a new process yielding no longer the old and tired brilliant mirrorlike fields, but instead a uniform granular sheen. Russell Nering has traced the process back to about 1896, in which year — if memory serves — Belgium and possibly some other small European countries issued a few proofs by the new processes. Britain introduced it on the Coronation proof sets of 1902, and Canadian sets of 1908. The Philadelphia Mint tried it on the St. Gaudens gold designs 1907-15, the Pratt gold designs of 1908-15, Lincoln cents of 1909-16, Buffalo nickels of 1913-16, and the extremely rare proof silver coins of new design of 1916, pattern and regular (these were not released to collectors in proof state). Somewhat similar proofs were made of the new Peace dollars in 1921-22, and of various commemorative half dollars through about 1935. Again, most of these (except for the fifty sandblast proof Hawaiian commemorative halves of 1928) were not allowed to get into collectors' hands.

Regrettably, the story here is not yet complete. At least five different variations on the matte and sandblast proof technique were experimentally used on regular proofs between 1909 and 1915. At the moment it is hardly possible to give verbal descriptions, or to tell exactly how they were made (the relevant records have not been released to the National Archives). What I do know is that the finish in each instance had to be applied after striking, and that in some instances it involved pickling the coins in weak acid and in others it involved spraying them with a stream of fine sand in compressed air. Russell Nering has experimented with the latter process and found that the fine and coarse sandblast finish, as on 1912-15 gold, evidently differed mainly in the size of sand particles used and in the velocity of the spray or blast. I do not know whether collector complaints were relevant or not, but the technique was abandoned by the British mint earlier than by the Philadelphia Mint: the 1911 proof sets and those of 1927 and later years revert to the old brilliant style, easily distinguished from uncirculated coins. It is thought that increasingly curved fields (spherical or paraboloid surfaces), being difficult to polish uniformly on dies, may have inspired use of matte or sandblast technique for proofs. Even this cannot be verified at present.

Proof that the matte finish had to be applied after striking is of some interest. I once owned a 1909 Lincoln cent with one side perfect matte proof and the other perfect uncirculated with the typical mint bloom found on all unc. and no proof coins. Under microscopic examination, it became obvious that the piece had

been struck medallically (like all proofs of the period) but that only on the proofed side had the surface been interfered with. The type of surface involved made it plain that artificially roughened dies were not used, leaving only an after-striking treatment as tenable explanation. (Pickling or sandblasting *before* striking would have been obscured and replaced by typical mint bloom on impact, or by shiny surface were the dies polished.)

In any event, matte proofs are often simulated by uncirculated coins, and sometimes correct diagnosis is exceedingly difficult. Experience with the real thing is the only safe guide — preferably from proof sets of the year so that no mistake can be made — and even then this type of experience is of value only if the numismatist has an excellent visual memory. (Even then he is likely to develop ulcers making honest decisions on 1916 and 1909 VDB proof cents.) No verbal criteria exist for unequivocally identifying matte proofs, nor will photographs help; the language lacks words for the subtle distinctions involved.

Matte and sandblast proofs ceased being made for reasons never published, aside from World War I, but one reason probably was that these coins do tarnish much faster than regular uncirculated coins. The process used to make such proofs activates the metal surface, causing exceptionally fast oxidation.

When the Philadelphia Mint in 1936 decided to resume sale of proofs to collectors, Coiner's Department personnel had evidently forgotten how to make 19th century style brilliant proofs with mirrorlike fields and frosty devices. Proofs of 1936 thus come in two separate styles or issues, both with typical polished edges, sharp rims and borders and well brought up devices. The first issue has surfaces very much duller than uncirculated coins, without mint bloom or the granularity of sandblast proofs; they are nearest the "satin finish" style of some proofs of 1907, 1909 and 1916. The nickel and cent of this issue come usually much darker than uncirculated coins. On the other hand, the scarcer second issue proofs of 1936 have almost the entire die surfaces mirrorlike, as in 1937. These are among the most brilliant proofs of the period. Later proofs through 1942 are much closer to the 19th century style, save that frosty devices are very unusual. Nickel proofs have little advantage in sharpness over the regular uncirculated coins. Much the same comment can be made for proofs from 1950 to the present; the first proofs of 1950 were quite dull, frosty devices are seldom encountered, and nickel proofs leave still a great deal to be desired in sharpness, as do sandwich-metal proofs from San Francisco, 1968 to date.

Modern proofs (or specimen coins) issued by other mints — Canadian, British, and Continental — for the most part also have resumed the typical 19th century

## **Proofing Process: Aftermath**

appearance, and not much need be said about them. Proofs represent the Mint Bureau's sole lagniappe for present-day coin collectors; they represent a source of needed revenue for "postage-stamp" countries and others; they represent, even now, supposedly the finest work modern minting methods can produce, within

the limitations of modern coin design, which are the limitations of low relief (to facilitate stacking) and stereotypy (to frustrate counterfeiters), which are ultimate outgrowths of the experiments of the key figure in modern minting technology — Matthew Boulton.

## II. U.S. PRESENTATION AND PROOF COINS AND SETS: OVERVIEW

What follows is an updating, in somewhat simplified form, of my 1953 monograph on proofs, published by Wayte Raymond as part of his *Coin Collector's Journal* series of pamphlets. This monograph was based in part on Mr. Raymond's own records (those in turn derived in part from material in the Ryder, Ellsworth, Newcomb, Brand, Col. Green, Newcomer, and other enormous holdings). I have in the intervening years learned, the hard way, that Wayte Raymond was, for all his undeniable experience and ability, no more expert in distinguishing proofs from first strikes than are most other non-specialists. As a result, some early dates of proofs appeared to him to be less rare than they have in the meantime proved to be. This has also been accentuated by the game of Musical Chairs played by some individual coins at conventions. A single early proof quarter dollar might change hands five times during the same convention, be shown or offered (with different groups of coins) four times to the same dealer, at different prices, and perhaps have been dipped in the evening between bourse sessions to remove distinctive spots or tarnish streaks. And so it would be, understandably, recorded as at least three, perhaps four, different specimens. I have at least a dozen specific instances in mind of this very thing happening, the truth only coming out later when during the present research I managed to get each dealer in turn to tell me from whom he had gotten his coin. In other instances stolen coins would be cleaned and bought in good faith by unsuspecting dealers.

Conversely, other rarities have turned out to exist in unsuspectedly large numbers. This is more nearly the normal state of affairs. Many transactions never become known to the general numismatic public,

others remain known only to dealer and customer until years afterward; but estates are eventually dispersed, and some museums let go their holdings after 50 or 60 years, and British auction houses such as Sotheby's (perhaps better known to the general public through fabulous sales of antiques and paintings) bring out catalogues of the numismatic collections of this or that nobleman unknown outside England or the Continent. And as a result hitherto unknown specimens — or pieces long forgotten about, or believed lost — come onto the market. Also, recent rechecks of some very old auction catalogues forced me to revise rarity ratings, by confronting me with photographs of proof coins not earlier known to exist. I have restudied the whole series and many conclusions herein may come as a surprise.

Despite numerous publications by Eric Newman, myself, and Don Taxay among others, collectors still generally continue to think of "proof" as a condition higher in the value scale than "uncirculated" — *but in the same scale*, along with Extremely Fine, Very Fine and lower grades. It has not yet generally gotten across that proofs are a very different kind of thing from regular uncirculated coins, even when struck from the same dies. The distinction is continually being blurred by dealer cupidity in the presence of difficult decisions such as some Morgan dollars, some gold dollars and three-dollar pieces, and some silver coins of 1879-91, or when a coin shows brilliant mirrorlike surfaces together with bag marks and equivocal relief or rounded borders. The tendency is always to sell as a proof; old Tom Elder used to say that in selling coins he graded them with the naked eye, as that is the way people look at them most of the time in or out of exhibit cases. Also, people have

## Presentation and Proof Coins: Overview

tended to identify proof coins as principally those with mirrorlike fields, whether or not they show more relief detail than regular uncirculated pieces; matte proofs are often, even now, confused with uncirculated coins, and some bronze matte proofs have been so drastically cleaned that they can no longer be diagnosed as such beyond reasonable doubt.

What is stranger than the above, the same confusion existed on much the same level among mint personnel, especially during the early and mid 19th century; and before 1817 it is uncertain whether the coiners had figured out the trick of replacing the ejected coin (caught in a chamois or with heavy leather gloves) onto the lower die for a second impression, or as many more as seemed necessary, for maximum clarity. Chapter I (*The Proofing Process*, above) reiterated that the term "proof" properly refers to coins made like medals, not to surface appearance; the whole point of medallically created coins — no matter what surface they were given — was to exhibit to the recipients a finer quality of die-impression (due to multiple blows as in medals) than would normally be possible with business strikes. Evidence of the confusion among mint personnel: (1) Authentic proofs exist made with only one blow from the dies, rather than the usual 2 to 4. Their proof character, or rather their proof intent, is satisfactorily established by their being of date-denomination combinations known to have been issued only in proof state (e.g. half cents in the 1840's, 1877 nickel coins, 1886 and 1887/6 3¢ nickels, etc.). (2) In other instances, pairs of dies known to have been used solely for proofs — the half-cents of the eighteen forties are a notorious series of instances, as are 1873 2¢ pieces and some post-1878 trade dollars — exist on imperfectly polished blanks, sometimes in addition receiving only one blow from the dies apiece, and these carelessly made coins survive as testimony to mint slackness in times when little importance was attached to quality control, or when proofing was assigned to inexperienced personnel. Coins of this sort, intended as proofs but given only a single blow from the dies, are in actuality *mint errors* though seldom recognized as such. (3) More startlingly still, there exist proof sets, many dated in the 1860's and 1870's in the original paper wrappers in which they were obtained from the Philadelphia Mint, and untouched since then, which contain a mixture of proofs and uncirculated coins, some of these being frosty, others early strikes from dies retaining polish and which might have been earlier used for coining proofs. This fact was first publicized by Don Taxay, and I have confirmed it by examining such sets. It appears, however, to have been first recorded in the auction catalogue of the Matthew A. Stickney collection (1907), which contained a large number of sets of coins dated from 1843 on (lots 1787 and following), obtained from the mint in

the year of issue; some of these are indeed proof sets complete from half cent to dollar, others contain one to four uncirculated coins, generally silver. In short, uncirculated coins were substituted for proofs in sets when the supply of proofs of particular denominations had run out and there was no time to make up new proofs. These sets are listed later on and an analysis given. This may also account for the peculiar mixed quality of the sets of 1827-1867 inclusive in the Joseph J. Mickley auction of 1867, which (like Stickney's group) lacked numerous examples of which proofs are today known to exist. In some instances the sets might have been assembled later rather than being "original sets," obtained "as is" from the mint, but of this there is no proof. Similarly with the sets in the Lorin G. Parmelee collection, sold in 1890, and in this case some of them are known to have been assembled.

Proof coins were also occasionally given out in lieu of regular business strikes when the latter were unavailable. It is common knowledge, evidently originating with Mr. Mickley himself, that Joseph J. Mickley went to the Philadelphia Mint some time in late 1827 — probably before New Year's Eve anyway — and tendered a Spanish or Mexican silver dollar, asking for a quarter dollar of the year 1827 as part of his change. He would have been satisfied with one regular business strike for his date set, but what he got was four proofs! It seems that no business strikes were as yet available, and he had to take his change in something — and so the coiner, or some clerk, gave him the four proof quarters. This story was repeated many times during the 1860's, when the Lilliendahl, McCoy and Mickley proof 1827's appeared and reappeared at auction. A somewhat similar story occurs in Harry Boosel's monograph on 1873 coinages (Hewitt Bros., first edition, 1960, p.35) in a letter preserved in the National Archives, from one of the Mint Superintendent's clerks to a collector named Benjamin F. Young:

Mint of the U. States  
Philadelphia, April 15, 1873

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 10th inst. is received, enclosing four dolls, currency for one of the New Style Silver proofs [sets] of 1873. It will be some time before they are ready. When ready I will send them by mail to you.

Also was enclosed gold doll, to be exchanged for one of 1873 with 25¢ silver.

Enclosed find the gold dollar. It is a proof one which is worth one 25 doll, so that your twenty five cents silver will go to pay the premium.

Your obdt Servt  
James Pollock  
Superintendent  
per T C T

Boesel comments that no 1873 gold dollars were in the mint at the time other than proofs, as the only ones yet coined (25, in February) were proofs; regular coinage was not commenced until July, hence no uncirculated gold dollars could have been furnished to any applicant.

With incidents like this occurring, it is small wonder that the confusion persisted. It is also small wonder that it would have spread to collectors and dealers considering that many silver and gold coins between 1877 and 1891 have a superficial appearance similar to proofs, and many proofs of the period were carelessly made so as not to have relief detail much superior (if at all) to that on uncirculated pieces, or else the dies or blanks were only imperfectly polished. This situation was, if anything, worsened after 1907 when the Philadelphia Mint began introducing numerous variants of the French matte and sandblast proof surfaces onto gold, bronze, nickel and silver in that order; as many of the proofs remained in the original paper wrappers (cheap sulfite-process paper at that) for decades, they came out usually darkened, streaked or spotted, and many received drastic cleaning with predictable results. I hope that the present study can help clear up some of the confusion, but in the absence of the actual coins for comparison, or availability of specimens preserved in museums and known to be authentic proofs, or of glossy photographic enlargements showing key surface areas and relief-detail areas side by side on proof and uncirculated coins of the same dates and preferably from the same dies, we may not be able to help everyone. And anomalies do occur even in the twentieth century. Without even going into the question of the notorious "Special Mint Sets" from San Francisco, there are the first issue proofs of 1936, which are often hard to distinguish from uncirculated coins, especially if tarnished or if allowed to knock against other coins; and I once owned a 1909 plain Lincoln cent, obv. perfect matte proof, rev. uncirculated with mint bloom — really another mint error.

Though true proofs, in the technical sense of coins medallically made, appear to date back only to 1817 at the Philadelphia Mint, there are controversial earlier coins dating back to 1792. Enthusiastic dealers and collectors normally call these proofs anyway, because of the lovely mirror-like surfaces and matte relief details, and this is to some extent understandable, for they do resemble later proofs. What is more significant, some of these pieces appear to have been actual presentation coins, such as the 1795 dollar given to Major the Lord St. Oswald, or the 1797 half-dime sent to Matthew Boulton, or the coins of 1796 made up to celebrate the admission of Tennessee to the Union, June 1, 1796. In a few instances partial sets or groups may have been made up,

unofficially, as samples of the mint's work. The idea of making up complete sets from half cent to dollar or even to eagle probably was a later afterthought, perhaps inspired by someone's having seen, and maybe shown around, one of the British proof sets of 1746. All the alleged proofs dated before 1817 are controversial. In some instances it can be proved that the individual coins were made later than the dates they bear; in others, it is dubious that they received more than one blow from the dies, though they were obviously struck from brightly burnished new dies on blanks cut from burnished strip (or perhaps individually burnished before striking), carefully positioned by hand so as to receive well centered impressions, and caught after striking in chamois or glove so that they would not receive the usual nicks and abrasions from their fellows in the receiving baskets on ejection.

In the present study all such coins dated before 1817 will be referred to as *presentation pieces*, save for instances such as the restrike or fantasy dollars dated 1801 through 1804 and the plain-4 eagle of 1804, which have been proved to date to the middle eighteen thirties (by when proofmaking was a well-understood technique at the mint). The antedated fantasy pieces have been studied in the Newman-Bressett book *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*, to which I had the honor to make some contributions, but so far as I know nobody has until now made a study of presentation pieces. The title emphasizes the probable intent of such offbeat issues — they were not publicly sold to collectors, but were instead reserved for the occasional dignitary visiting the mint, or for transmission via messenger or postal service or packet boat to VIPs on selected occasions.

Proof *sets*, properly so called, cannot be unequivocally documented prior to 1834 (or possibly 1829, if indeed the letter quoted below is a product of that year and not something with a blurry 1835 date misfiled). Nevertheless, complete sets could have been made in most years from 1820 on, perhaps on several occasions during the various years to judge by the existence of proofs of early and late die varieties for each denomination. If J.J. Mickley's sets dating from 1827 on were in fact assembled rather than obtained intact from the mint as though proof sets, this would mean only that the proofs made in those years — even as in the London mint during most years besides 1746, 1826, 1831, 1839, 1853, 1887, 1893, 1902, 1911, 1927, etc. — were intended primarily for presentation to dignitaries and other favored parties, rather than for sale to collectors. The few references from 1834-1857 to proof sets among Archives documents allude to the use of such sets in diplomatic presentation, or to transmission to congressional committees or the like, never to sell to coin collectors. Generally sets are not even referred to; what recurs instead is references



## Presentation and Proof Coins: Overview

to transmittal of special "specimens" of some new issue, design, or denomination to The President, The Secretary of the Treasury, or some other officials. It is true that complaisant mint officials did occasionally save rare "old-tenor" gold pieces as they came in for remelting after 1834, and sometimes earlier, as favors for personal friends who happened to be coin collectors, but as far as is known no special striking was made for them prior to the 1850's.

The earliest letter yet found in the Archives alluding to proof sets follows:

Mint of the United States  
Philadelphia  
April 17, 1829 (?)

Hon. S. Swartout, Collector of the Port of N.Y.  
Sir:

I forward by the mail under cover to you as requested by the Secretary of State, two caskets for Edmund Roberts, Esq., which I have to request you will so please to have delivered to him.

Very Respectfully,  
Your obdt Servt  
Samuel Moore  
Director of the Mint

The date on this letter appears to be 1829, and it is filed with other 1829 documents, but it gives rise to some doubts. Enough varieties of every denomination of U.S. coin exist dated 1829 in proof state to make inescapable the conclusion that 1829 proof sets could have been struck, both before and after half-dime coinage resumed (July 4). But the Newman-Bressett book says that Edmund Roberts began his diplomatic mission in 1832, and the abundant correspondence about the contents of the caskets intended for diplomatic presentation to the King of Siam and the Imaum of Muscat all dates from 1834. Is the letter then actually an 1835 product misfiled? The handwriting of dates in that period could have given rise to such an error. Many Archives documents, today filed loose in boxes arranged by date, got into those boxes by the activities of WPA workers in the 1930's. Sloppy or sand-blurred writing (there being no blotters in those days) might easily have resulted in misfiling.

In any event, the earliest proof sets intended for diplomatic or other presentation, from about 1820 on, were presumably made up pursuant to verbal orders, as no correspondence about them survives. The triumphal return of the Marquis de Lafayette to America might have occasioned the presentation of several of them to him and his retinue — even as with other historical events of the period, important then at least locally, but forgotten today, such as the Washington Centenary of 1832, the Declaration of Independence jubilee in 1826, Constitutional Convention jubilee 1837-39, etc.

But in 1834 the State Department engaged in

extensive correspondence with the Director of the Mint, the object of which was the securing of proof sets specially cased for transmittal to Edmund Roberts, special envoy, and ultimately for diplomatic presentation to the King of Siam, the Imaum of Muscat (1834), the Emperor of Cochin-China and the Mikado of Japan (1835), as part of extensive gift exchanges necessary to establishing favorable trade and political relationships with these countries. The cased set intended for (and actually delivered to) the King of Siam survives in private hands today, containing all but two of the coins originally there (the quarter-eagle with motto and the half dime having been lost in the meantime). It is now in England, so far as I know, after its historic exhibition at the 1962 ANA convention. Its containing the 1804 dollar of first type and the 1804 eagle with plain 4, both in brilliant proof state, provided the key necessary to unlock the last remaining mystery box in the puzzles heretofore surrounding those two issues.

Sporadic references in 1835 and later years survive in the Archives, but in no instance prior to 1860 do they enable even a reasonable guess of the numbers of proofs *sets* made in a given year. (They do sometimes enable us to know at least how many proof *coins* of a given denomination were made in some particular years, though they do not exclude the possibility of additional proofs of those denominations having been made. Figures like [15+] in the mintage listings refer to instances of this kind.) In many such instances more specimens survive than are so accounted for, conspicuous exceptions being the gold proof sets of 1850 and 1854 for which see pp. 92-98.

The 1850 proof set, from gold dollar through double eagle, has not been located, and none of the gold coins of this year are at present located in proof state. Yet the set was routinely ordered and presumably the order filled, as per the following letter from the Director of the Mint, Robert Maskell Patterson, to the Secretary of Treasury, Hon. W. M. Meredith, Sept. 26, 1850. (Meredith is the same one whose portrait appears on the common fifth issue 10¢ fractional currency. He owned an 1849 double eagle, later handled by Stephen K. Nagy.) Acknowledging receipt of Meredith's letter dated Sept. 25, respecting application by the Congressional Committee on the Library for a set of "specimens of gold coins," it continues:

I presume that these specimens include one set of Gold Master Coins, and I have the satisfaction to say that these can be furnished without delay.

The number of coins will be five, and their cost \$38.50.

Very Respectfully,  
Your obedt Servt  
R.M. Patterson  
Director

This letter, incidentally, establishes that the term "specimens" as used in official correspondence did in fact mean what we now call proofs; that the pre-1858 term for them was Master Coins; and that for dignitaries no charge above face value was then made (the proof sets furnished Edmund Roberts for diplomatic presentation were sent at cost of coins plus cost of special cases, which is confirmatory).

There must have been struck more than one 1850 proof double eagle, as the 1870 auction of the James Barton Longacre estate (the former Mint Engraver, who died on New Year's Day, 1869) included as lot 178 a proof twenty of 1850 "from the first die used for the double eagle".

It is also on record that at one or possibly both visits by M. Alexandre Vattemare, 1839-41 and 1847-50, the very same R. M. Patterson was able to furnish this French dignitary with proof coins of various years, which he presented to the Bibliotheque Nationale (known for some years after as the Bibliotheque Imperiale since the accession to the throne of Napoleon III) in Paris. Records of the accession have been kept, and the coins appear to be still intact in the Bibliotheque Nationale. Raymond H. Williamson examined the collection some years ago and reported seeing, among other rarities, a proof set of 1850, from half cent to dollar, filed in different trays, lacking the half dime (which may still be in the collection, filed somewhere else). He adds that Vattemare applied to Congress for proof sets of 1850-1855 inclusive, which were to have been deposited in an "American Museum and Library" in Paris, but all trace of them has been lost, if the coins were ever shipped. Vattemare, though a Great Boaster with Great Plans for what he intended to do to improve the Public Image of France in U.S. eyes and vice versa, actually was instrumental in founding the Boston Public Library, today one of the few really great libraries in the United States. The record of the American coins he presented to the Bibliotheque Nationale exists in two sources — the manuscript accession volume at the Paris Library, and Vattemare's very rare (1861) privately pamphlet describing them: *Collection de monnaies et medailles de l'Amerique du nord, offerte d la Bibliotheque Imperiale, de M. Alexandre Vattemare, &c.*

Probably at the time Patterson presented the proofs to Vattemare, extras of earlier years with the then current reverses were made to fill gaps in the date sequence should many other dignitaries require them. This may account for the varying numbers of extant proof coins dated between 1840 and 1848 and the much smaller numbers 1849-51. In particular, the sequence of dollars dated 1842-50 and 52 sharing a single reverse die, and the far more familiar sequence of half cents dated 1840-49 sharing a single (large berry) reverse die might have some such origin. (The explanation for the 1852's with large berry reverse

must be sought elsewhere; see the chapter on *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below.) Whatever the purpose, it is clear that proof sets of all denominations from half cents through eagles were made for each date from 1840 through 1848. Badly cleaned remnants of such a group of sets are still on exhibit at the Smithsonian, from the Mint Collection, in a few instances good proofs having been traded away to collectors by former curators in order to gain rare type coins then still lacking in the Mint Collection. A few other sets of this period, some in cases, others in paper wrappers or rehoused in plastic holders, remain intact. Some of these are complete save for the three gold pieces and were probably given out that way. Sets from 1840 through 1850 inclusive, complete from half-cent to dollar, or in a few instances lacking one or more denominations through mishap, have been auctioned, at least two more being in cases, others in paper wrappers. Matthew A. Stickney, of Salem, Mass., had such sets from 1844 on, obtained directly from the mint. (Why he had no 1843 set is unknown, especially since he was at the mint on May 9, 1843 for the very purpose of trading Massachusetts silver coins and other Colonials including one of the only two known 1785 gold IMMUNE COLUMBIA pieces for a proof silver dollar of 1804, first type. I personally suspect that some of his earlier proof coins or sets were privately traded away or sold before the auction of his collection in 1907.) A set of this kind dated 1842 (filed in denomination sequences) is in ANS, ex J. Pierpont Morgan bequest, ex Robert C. W. Brock. Supposedly Brock had obtained this together with his later (1858-1907) proof sets directly from the Mint in the year of issue, though the presence of a few undoubted restrikes in this group casts doubt on the claim.

In every instance where a proof set of the 1840's period is known in original presentation case, the case is of the following description: Red morocco leather, lined with plush, showing gold trim but no inscription; two hinges and a single small question-mark-shaped clasp, approx.  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5". Those sets that contained the three gold pieces were accompanied by descriptive cards reading as follows:

## Presentation and Proof Coins: Overview

Complete Series of Coins of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA			
VIZ:	QUALITY	WEIGHT	VALUE
Eagle	900	258 grains	\$10.00
Half Eagle	900	129 grains	5.00
Quarter Eagle	900	64 1/2 grains	2.50
Dollar	900	412 1/2 grains	1.00
Half Dollar	900	206 1/4 grains	.50
Quarter Dollar	900	103 1/8 grains	.25
Dime	900	41 1/4 grains	.10
Half Dime	900	20 5/8 grains	.05
Cent		168 grains	.01
Half Cent		84 grains	.00 1/2
			19.41 1/2
		Case	3.08 1/2
			22.50

MANLY & ORR, PRINTERS, 45 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

This pretty well speaks for itself. I first knew of such a cased set with card from an 1844 set formerly owned by Dr. J. Hewitt Judd, hearing of it via the late Stuart Mosher (1951). A similar set dated 1843, originally found in Amsterdam, Holland, and auctioned as lot 2292 of the Neil collection in 1947, also contained the card. The presence of a price on the card suggests sale of such sets to collectors, but other evidence is lacking.

Use of such cards might have occurred as early as December 1838, but no later than May 1849. The reason is clear: the new style eagles began in the former month, and beginning in 1849-50 two new denominations — the gold dollar and double eagle — were added to the coinage. Yet no sets of the period 1849-57 are known in cases or with any kind of invoice or card. The only evidence that any such sets were made is in the coins themselves, complete sets of 1852, 1854-57 having been auctioned and partial sets remaining available for examination at ANS and elsewhere. There is also the set of five gold proofs of 1850, earlier mentioned, and the set of 1854 proofs, from half cent through double eagle, made up for presentation to the city fathers of Bremen, Germany, in July 1854, in exchange for those officials' gifts to the Mint Cabinet of a series of local coins. (I believe that these coins are presumably still in the Mint Collection, on exhibit at the Smithsonian, but had no opportunity to check up after learning of the inventory.) The coins sent by the Bremen officials included the following:

Gold Double Ducat, 1667; Ducat, 1672

Silver Double Thaler, 1668; Thaler, 1660; Halves, 1643-61; Quarter, 1651; Third, 1749 (2); Sixth, 1657; Twelfths, 1671-2; 24th or Three Grote, 1635, 1677, 18th or Four Grote, 1645 (2); 36th or Two Grote, 1639, 1642; 72nd or Grote, 1627-1733 (4 pcs., various dates); 144th or Half Grote, n.d. and 1697

Copper, Fifth Grote or 1/360 Thaler or Schwaren, 1781, 1798, Craig 1

Billon, 1/6 Thaler, 1841-46 (3 pcs. in all), Craig 19;

1/2 Thaler or 36 Grote, 1840 (2), 1846, Craig 21;

1/72 Thaler or Groten, 1840, Craig 11;

1/144 Thaler, 1849-1853 (3 pcs. in all)

It is nowhere claimed that any of these pieces are proofs, though the set of U.S. coins sent in exchange for this assortment certainly consisted of proofs (see below, under 1854).

Presumably other such exchanges took place with both foreign and domestic sources at various times, to the benefit of the growing Mint Cabinet of Coins. This had been started with a gift in 1838 by the retiring Chief Coiner, Adam Eckfeldt, and Congress voted a small yearly appropriation to the curators for adding to the collection. I judge that such exchanges must have been the source of many Mint Cabinet — Smithsonian coins, to judge by their excellent preservation and the lack of evidence of purchase after 1859. It is possible that details of their acquisition may exist in National Archives documents not yet available to me when I was there in 1951-53, and will be published subsequently by R. W. Julian or some other thorough researcher. Others, not so well preserved, appear to have been rescued by Adam Eckfeldt from consignments of gold or silver coins intended for melting down and recoinage into U.S. issues, by exchange of equal weights of gold bullion therefor.

What can be learned from this early material, and from the die variety information yielded by the coins themselves, is that in the earlier years (prior to 1860) proof coins were in general *not* mentioned nor accounted in the mint records, whether as bullion or as coined pieces. Nor were they struck in quantity at the beginning of the year (as in later decades) but rather in tiny amounts, a few at a time, on various occasions in a year when proofs were called for. In at least 2/3 of the known instances before 1840, and apparently all prior to 1834, when proofs were needed for some visiting dignitary or diplomatic presentation or celebration, dies already in use — or prepared for use — for production coins (regular uncirculated pieces or business strikes) would be removed from the press, given extra burnishing on a buffing wheel, wiped to remove any fragments of metal left by this process, and replaced in one of the heavier screwpresses; blanks would be specially burnished, or in some cases apparently strips would be burnished before going into the blank-cutting machine. After inspection (not always too careful) and cleaning, these blanks would be fed into the press, stamped, caught in a chamois or heavy leather glove upon automatic ejection, replaced on the lower die (after 1828, within the close collar), given another blow, sometimes as many as four blows in all in as nearly as possible

perfect alignment with as careful repositioning as possible for the succeeding impressions. Possibly from one or two to as many as 30 proofs of any given denomination might have been made at a given occasion. In a few instances dies cracked during the proofing (1841 half-cents, some 1837 cents, various half dimes during the 1830's etc.). The cents of 1834, Newcomb 7 (see below), 1841 Newcomb 1, and a few other dies of various denominations, once used for making proofs, were retained for proofs and afterwards discarded instead of being placed in the regular presses for subsequent service in making uncirculated coins. A quarter-eagle reverse first made in 1830 was used for proofs, then for making 4540 uncirculated coins of the same date; then repolished for making proofs of 1831, then replaced in the press for the 4520 regular strikes; then repolished a third time for proofs of 1832, afterwards replaced in the press for the 4400 regular strikes; then repolished a fourth time for proofs of 1833, afterwards replaced in the press for some 4160 regular strikes. In early 1834 it was repolished a *fifth* time, the recutting on U of UNITED now being quite faint, used to make at least three proofs, then replaced in the regular press for making the 4000 quarter eagles with motto, May, 30, 1834, after which it was retired because an Act of Congress authorized a weight change, marked also by a change of design. The single half-cent reverse used in 1833-34-early 35 (S T spaced apart) was also used both for proofs and uncirculated coins in all three years. There are technical arguments against the guess that all these variously dated proofs sharing a single reverse die were made at the same time, largely having to do with the progressive wearing down of the die, appearance and buffing off of clash marks, etc.

It was at one time believed that certain small mintages of which proofs were known to survive had consisted in entirety of such proofs. The instances in question: 1827 quarters (4000), 1831 half-cents (2200), 1851 silver dollars (1300), 1852 silver dollars (1100). In recent years this belief has been demolished by the discovery of uncirculated specimens, or of coins near enough to uncirculated to retain some vestiges of mint bloom and no evidence of proof quality of striking, of each of these mintages. (The mere presence of VF or worse examples would not have provided refutation, as proofs in a few cases did get into circulation, and as a result we have records of circulated half-cents in the 1840's when only proofs were made. Only pieces with some mint bloom would prove decisive.) One of the 1827 quarters now surviving is apparently a business strike; three uncirculated and half a dozen worn 1831 half-cents of 1831 remain; and there are uncirculated dollars of both 1851 and 1852 with mint frost. This disposes of a lot of folklore, and incidentally helps in establishing distinctions between originals and restrikes of various issues.

Mention of those same low-mintage items brings up the question of restrikes in general. I shall deal with it in detail in a later chapter. The practice appears to have begun more or less accidentally (?) in 1831 with a few half-dimes, then in 1834-36(?) systematically with the experimental dollars dated 1801 through 1804 and half dollars dated 1833-35, made under supervision of Mint Director Samuel Moore, and it continued at intervals thereafter mostly unofficially, reaching its apogee in 1858-60 under the then Mint Director James Ross Snowden. Despite Snowden's sanctimonious language, and despite his storing away (1860) of a number of dies which had been used for restriking, restrikes of later dates continued to be made well into the eighteen seventies under later Directors and Superintendents, principally while Henry R. Linderman was connected in one or another capacity with the Philadelphia Mint. Claims, repeatedly made, that the dies of any given issue had been defaced in the presence of mint officials, did *not* prevent the manufacture of restrikes, so long as working hubs of the same type, *and date logotypes* (4-digit gang punches), remained in custody of the Coiner's Department. It would be a matter of an idle hour or two to logotype an obsolete but coveted date into a hubbed but otherwise incomplete die, harden and polish it like any other, and strike the coins on any available press of suitable size on any blanks of appropriate size, whenever that press was not in service for other purposes. I have seen a flat piece of lead with numerous date logotypes of various sizes stamped into it, *including 1873 closed 3 and 1875*, evidently a record of logotypes then available (when? 1877-80?) in the Coiner's Department. It is significant that restrikes are known for the three-dollar pieces in both years, and possibly of other denominations as well, even as for 1863-64-65. Presumably William Idler, father-in-law of Capt. John W. Haseltine (both being coin dealers), and a party extremely favored by successive people in the Coiner's Department for a generation, placed surreptitious orders. It is significant that one of the 1804 dollars, Class III (the coin offered with the Edwin Hydeman collection, March 1961), originated with Idler; that the proof restrike or fantasy (simulated series) dollars dated 1801-2-3 were first disclosed to the numismatic world by John W. Haseltine, apparently having been obtained by him from Idler; that the 1884-85 trade dollars also originated with him; that he also owned many other restrikes and similar pieces, many of which went into numismatic circulation via Haseltine, others not until after Idler's collection was dispersed by Haseltine in 1908-9.

In fact, the continued availability of date logotypes and working hubs in the Coiner's Department is the key not only to the restrikes of 1863-4-5, 1873 and 1875 (which supposedly would have been impossible

## Presentation and Proof Coins: Overview

because of Snowden's orders to deface working dies at each year's end) but to the existence of trade dollars of 1884-85 (double eagle date logotypes being used for these) and the unduly frequent appearance of some proof issues of supposedly great rarity.

In the chapters to follow I shall exhibit, first by date, then by denomination, an inventory of all known or reported varieties of United States proof coins, including commemoratives and some few supposed transitional coins and simulated series issues, but at this juncture excluding patterns. Absolute completeness, as of the present edition, is *not* claimed, as there are early proof coins known to exist in several estates. It is rather difficult to enter into correspondence with a bank vault or to induce it to exhibit selected coins for die variety examination! Pedigree information is also very incomplete for several reasons, none of which reflect any credit whatever on the alleged profession of numismatics: (1) A coin, offered at the Soandso auction early in a given year, may have a reserve bid on it and fail to move, or be bought in by the auctioneer, who subsequently reoffers it later in the year, or in the next 2 or 3 years, without mention of its identity, but with the interesting information that this piece is "equal to the coin in the Soandso collection that brought the world's record price of \$7200." (2) The same coin may change hands several times during a single convention, being reoffered at a subsequent convention or in a dealer's auction in the meantime, as often as not having been dipped to remove evidence of its identity (as well as of tarnish or even attractive toning). (3) Some dealers in the 1940's and early to middle 1950's *notoriously* used and reused the same old halftone cuts to illustrate different coins, rather than photographing for record the individual coins offered at successive auctions. They were unwise, of course, because without a photographic record coins could easily be switched and nobody be the wiser — such an offense being unprovable by the very lack of any such record. Of course, later proofs are often difficult to tell apart because they are so much alike in any given year and denomination. Two proofs from the identical pair of dies, both well centered and without imperfections other than at most microscopic hairmarking, and showing about the same degree and location of knife-rims, untuned and unspotted, will look almost undistinguishable even on high quality contact prints (as in some Chapman auctions), let alone in the usual half-tones, and their imperfections (if any) certainly would not be mentioned in verbal descriptions. When pedigrees have been traceable at all, they have been so generally because the coins had some peculiarities of centering or striking, or distinctive patterns of tarnish or toning, or spotting, or in a few instances minute pre-striking chips, lint marks (from bits of thread adhering to the die by

static electricity after a cloth had been used to wipe away oil or grease or foreign matter), or nicks. Nicks on proof coins not showing evidence of circulation usually come about because of the disintegration of thin paper wrappers in which sets were distributed from the Philadelphia Mint, after which the coins were free to jangle against each other. (4) Dealers were often unwilling to allot the space in catalogues to owner's pedigrees even when these were available, let alone to make the effort to retrace them once they had been lost. (5) Many dealers and collectors have been reluctant to say anything at all about pedigree, especially for publication, owing to fear of someone's finding out how much their coins cost — or, perhaps more strongly, owing to fear that the coins might prove to be less rare than they had hoped, believed, or been persuaded. (6) In recent years some early proofs have gotten into numismatic circulation through the most unexpected channels. Sometimes the attempt to trace them back to previous owners results in refusal to cooperate, or in "A little old lady brought it into my store last March," or "Some vest-pocket dealer sold it to me at the ANA Convention"; and in a few instances such coins have proven to be from one of the larger robberies of private collectors or of museums in recent years, though presumably bought in good faith by subsequent dealers. If a stranger offers you a rare coin at your convention bourse table, your automatic question is infinitely more often "How much?" than "Is this stolen goods?"

Mint records of proof coinage from 1860 on, and for a few earlier dates, came from Archives documents (internal records of the Philadelphia Mint) rather than from published annual Reports of the Director of the Mint. For many of these I made the primary researches in the early 1950's; for the rest I herewith publicly thank Robert W. Julian, whose detailed investigations — in some cases involving documents not accessible to me in 1951-53 — have made more complete our knowledge of mid 19th century mintages of all denominations, proof and nonproof. There is a specific reason for using internal records of the Mint rather than official reports. In the earlier years proof mintages were not identified as such in the annual reports. And by the Act of 1873, the Mint Director no longer retained his office in the Philadelphia Mint, but instead to the present day handles a bureau in Washington, D. C., the superintendents of each mint taking on duties formerly devolving on the treasurers. Accounting and auditing procedures in the Coiner's Department through at least 1889 (and possibly later) were, to say the most charitable word possible, extremely sloppy, accounting for many errors in published figures. Julian's investigations, supplementing those of Harry X Boesel for 1873 and my own for most other dates, have enabled nearly complete knowledge of the correct mintages — often

varying vastly from previously published figures, which are still repeated verbatim in annual reports from the Director's office. The figures for 1860-89 inclusive are subject to another source of doubt in that proof coins left unsold at any year's end were often melted down, but in some instances retained for sale during the subsequent year, after which mixed meltings took place and the amounts of each date failed to be recorded. Hence the amounts then surviving cannot be even nearly accurately ascertained. Connivance with William Idler in 1884-85 resulted in the surreptitious mintage of a few trade dollars, but the amounts made are not known as no accounting of the bullion for them was made, any more than for restrikes of earlier years. Data on minor proofs prior to 1878 are minimal. R. W. Julian's article "Notes on U.S. Proof Coinage: Silver and Minor," *NSM*, March 1966, pp. 513-517, cannot at present be bettered. Proof coinages for dollars of 1921-1922 and commemorative coins 1903-38 (with a couple of minor exceptions) are not on record anywhere, save possibly in mint documents not yet released to the Archives. Unfortunately, many Archives records of manufacture and sale of proofs were destroyed in 1925.

It is generally believed that the sale of proof sets to individual collectors, at a premium over face, began in 1858 under Mint Director J. R. Snowden, though the card accompanying cased sets in the 1840's may tend to indicate that some limited sales did occur in that decade. This view is confirmed by a note (courtesy of Raymond H. Williamson) quoting George F. Jones's *Coin Collectors' Manual* of 1860: "The 'Proof Sets,' so called, contained the Silver Dollar, Half Dollar, Quarter Dollar, Dime, Half Dime, Three Cent Piece and Cent, and have been issued regularly since 1840, with the exception of the year 1853, in which no proofs were coined. Prior to 1860 (i.e. 1858? WB) they were given to collectors, from the Mint, for \$2.02, now they are \$3.00." There are several remarkable things about this contemporaneous notice. Not only does it support the view that cased proof sets were sold in limited quantities in the forties, but it also accounts for the extreme rarity of proofs dated 1853. The "commonest" 1853 proof coin today is the silver dollar, of which twelve were struck (all being restrikes); only five sets were apparently struck of silver coins with arrows, and no copper or gold at all!

There is no other record of a sale price quoted for silver-minor proof sets prior to the Snowden broadside, of which more below. Face value 1840-50 would have been \$1.91 1/2; 1851-January 1857, \$1.94 1/2; May 1857 through 1860, \$1.94, so that the \$2.02 evidently included 8¢ proofing charge. The commonness of the large cent proofs of 1857 in comparison with the Flying Eagle cent proofs suggest that the Mint's regular customers had bought their yearly sets as soon as

word got around that they were ready for purchase. As in the 1840's a charge of over \$3 was made for a display case for gold proof sets, presumably the cost of the case for a silver-minor set would have been nearly as high — likely doubling the cost of the set! We need look no further, then, for a reason for the absence of original display cases for silver-minor proof sets prior to the eighteen sixties. Few collectors would have been willing to pay double the normal charge merely to have their coins in cases, especially when (as often happened) they broke up the sets and included the coins in year sets of the various denominations.

The above begs the question of when the sets of coins acquired the "proof". So far as I know J. R. Snowden appears to be the creator of the term, or rather the one who first applied it to what had formerly been called "master coins." R. W. Julian's discovery of a record of five proof gold dollars of large size or second design being struck in 1854 brings the use of that term to within the first year and a half after Snowden's accession to the throne in the Philadelphia Flying Disc Manufactory, but its first *public* use known to me is in Snowden's broadsides of 1858 and later years giving "regulations" to the public respecting transactions with the mint. Leaving aside the provisions therein respecting redemption of obsolete coins (e.g. Spanish silver, old copper cents and half cents, etc.), the relevant material is the sections establishing the price to the public of proof sets. "Silver sets" (cent to dollar, face \$1.94) sold at \$3.00 apiece, "gold sets" (gold dollar to double eagle, face \$41.50) at \$43.00, complete sets \$46.00, without mention of display cases. As original sets from the eighteen sixties survive with fair frequency in identical disintegrating paper wrappers slightly thicker than tissue paper (cheap sulfite paper), the presumption is that the sets were sold directly to collectors in such wrappers, as they certainly were in the 1892-1915 period. Snowden may well have realized that many such sets were destined to be broken up and added to growing year sets by denomination, making permanent cases a needless frill. However, at least some sets from the eighteen sixties did leave the mint in specially made display cases. I have seen silver sets (cent to dollar) of 1865, 67, 68, 70 in such cases, generally of buckram or morocco in some indefinite color which may once have been maroon or plum but is now faded to mud, lined with dark blue plush (the inside upper half sometimes being satin), and containing spaces for one each of the coins of the year. In at least two instances a recipient's name was gold stamped on the outer cover. The 1867 set had room for only one nickel — that without rays — and it was presented to its recipient in March 1867, requiring revision in my earlier estimate of the number of proof nickels with rays. (See below, under

## Presentation and Proof Coins: Overview

1867). The presumption is that cased sets were made only rarely on special order, if indeed the cases came from the mint (and all I have seen are much the same as later ones which definitely originated in the mint), and included only the proof coins *currently being made*. In other words, a proof set issued in 1864 would have included only one cent, whichever type was then being issued, and only one 2¢ piece — the latter only if issued after April 1864. Any set including both nickels of 1867, or both 2¢ pieces of 1864, or 2 or 3 different cents of 1864, *must have been partly or wholly assembled by the collector*. Jon Hanson tells me that he has seen one such cased set lacking one of the regular denominations of the year because none had as yet been struck; it came from this same period, but he does not now recall the date. (I suspect it to have been 1866 lacking the nickel 5¢ or 1865 without nickel 3¢.) Any "complete" set of 1861 issued between April 5 and April 14 would have lacked the dime and probably other denominations. A set issued prior to April in 1865 would also have lacked the dime.

The charges of \$3, \$43 and \$46 for "silver," gold and complete proof sets remained unchanged from 1858 through 1867 at least, by which time three new denominations had been added in the minor coins, namely the 2¢, 3¢ nickel and 5¢ nickel. In the Boston Public Library, call number CJ5802.P43, is a copy of the 1867 Mint Regulations or "Circular Letter in Relation to American Medals and Cabinet Coins, July 1, 1867", promulgated by Henry R. Linderman, then Director. Rule 5 in this revision maintained the prices

"as heretofore." It would appear that 8C of the premium was a proofing charge, the remainder being for wrappers and lagniappe. The unique bound volume *Mint Cabinet Accounts and Memoranda, 1857-1904*, in custody of Dr. Vladimir Clain-Stefanelli, Curator of Numismatics at the Smithsonian Institution, testified that the curator of the Mint Collection obtained proof sets directly from the Coiner, uncased and probably unwrapped, at face value plus 8c specie, higher amounts being paid during the 1867-79 period in the more or less depreciated greenbacks. I shall include the data from this valuable source in the tabulation by dates. The records of bills presented by the first curator of the Mint Cabinet Collections (William Ewing DuBois), 1839-61, naming every purchase or other accession made for the collections of coins, medals, minerals and ore samples, counterfeits, and other oddities, supposedly went with other Mint documents of the period to the National Archives, but in 1953 I could not find any despite intensive search. Should any have survived the selective destruction in 1925, presumably R. W. Julian or some other recent researcher will sooner or later locate them, and from these bills we might learn a great deal about the time of issue of proofs, patterns, and other material, the nature of trades made by the Mint Cabinet officials with various collectors (such as the famous trade of a duplicate 1804 dollar with Matthew Stickney for various Colonials), and other valuable data enabling filling of some of the remaining lacunae in our knowledge of American numismatics.

### III. PRESENTATION COINS AND SETS, 1792-1816

The following enumeration is first *by year*, then *by denomination within the year*. This somewhat unorthodox manner of listing has the intention of reconstructing what might have been contained in any proof or presentation sets in any given year. In the price supplement, giving estimates of value based on auction prices realized, I revert to the normal method of listing first by denomination, then by date (half cents 1825-57, then cents 1817-57, small cents 1856-1975, etc).

All purported "proofs" or presentation coins dated before 1817 are controversial. In every instance possible, some occasion for the presentation is sought. Sometimes this will have been only the presence at the Mint of some distinguished foreign visitor; at other times the occasion is some important anniversary, or the introduction of a new denomination, a new design, or the resumption of coinage of a denomination after a long intermission. I realize that in enumerating presentation pieces I am to a certain extent violating the rather strict ground rules for identification of coins as proofs, but at the moment I see no alternative. The coins exist, the real presentation pieces show evidence of unusual care in striking on carefully selected blanks, and in a few instances the intended recipients have been identified beyond peradventure. Even if Coiner's Department personnel had not yet perfected the technique of burnishing strips, inspecting blanks before striking, burnishing dies and giving the blanks repeated blows, still these presentation pieces do represent beyond question *some* attempt at a special mintage. In making this admission I know I am leaving open the road for a jail full of dishonest dealers motivated solely by cupidity to seize on the slightest remnants of a shiny field as evidence that their prized coins are suddenly transmogrified into the fantastic

elite of presentation coins. But were I to omit the 1792-1811 pieces altogether from consideration, I would be leaving untouched a very real chapter in the history of minting practice at Philadelphia.

The section to follow may be for many collectors pure caviar and truffles: few have ever seen a real presentation coin (after all, not many were made to begin with), and American proofs dated before 1858 are rarely seen except at occasional major convention exhibits or on infrequent visits to the Smithsonian Institution. What will be of more interest to some of you, perhaps, is the historical material scattered throughout this and subsequent chapters, if not merely the list of values at the end. But a lagniappe for others, surely, will be seeing photographs of incredible, legendary, fabulous coins, coins you would not believe without the visual evidence — something to stimulate your Sense of Wonder (as seeing them did mine), after one has been so long dulled by continual exposure only to the kind of stereotyped items weekly quoted in the gray sheet and the Trends Pages.

#### 1792

**Disme.** Copper, plain edge. Ex Adam Eckfeldt, Mint Cabinet, 1838, by trade to Dr. Edward Maris, private coll. Excellent striking, prooflike surfaces.



**1792 Disme.** Copper, diagonally reeded edge. Ex Dr. Judd



— Copper, reeded edge. Same diagonal reeding as on Silver Center Cent and small copper cent without silver plug (known to have been struck around Dec. 17-18, 1792). Because of the proof earmarks on the Eckfeldt, Mint Cabinet, SI specimen and one other, Dr. Judd (1950-1, during early stages of compilation of his book on patterns) raised the question of their being restrikes. If so, they are of very early date; diagonal reeding was abandoned as early as 1794, and I see no reason to postulate any later date than 1792. The two or three silver dismes all show evidence of circulation, and their striking characteristics are not in a class with these few copper pieces. It is, however, doubtful if the latter received more than one blow from the dies in John Harper's screwpress at 6th and Cherry Sts., Philadelphia. It is probably significant that the 1,500 half dismes struck about July 13, 1792 come in all grades from Good to Unc, but no specimen known to me shows any earmarks of proof status; the finest ones have the typical mint bloom of uncirculated coins, they are usually on blanks showing minute cracks or adjustment marks, and they generally show some unevenness of centering and of striking. George Washington may have given many of them to his friends, but others certainly went into circulation, and there is no specimen comparable to the copper Dimes above mentioned.



**1793 Cent. Chain, AMERICA, with periods. Sheldon 4. Ex Mickley, Crosby, Dr. Hall, Brand, Hines, Sheldon colls., familiarly known as "The Coin!"**

**Cent.** Chain type, periods. Sheldon 4, Crosby 4-C. Struck around March 12, 1793. Light golden olive prooflike presentation piece, struck on brilliantly burnished blank from polished dies, early state. Calif. Specialist, ex Mickley, Crosby, Dr. Hall, Brand, Hines, Dr. Sheldon. It has been speculated that Mickley may have traded this away from the Mint Cabinet. Among EAC people (the Early American Coppers society) this incredible piece is mentioned — in awe-struck tones — as "The Coin!"



**1793 Cent. Wreath, large date and LIBERTY. S-5. Ex Atwater coll. Familiarly known as "The Atwater coin!"**

**Cent.** Wreath type, Sheldon 5, Crosby 6-F. Large date and LIBERTY. A very few struck on burnished blanks carefully centered in the press, possibly given two blows apiece, early in April 1793. Occasion: achievement of a reasonably satisfactory new design for the cent, after so much scurrilous newspaper criticism had been made of Henry Voigt's rather primitive Chain design. Don Taxay has attributed the wreath cents to Adam Eckfeldt. Three or more are known which can qualify as presentation pieces. (1) ANS, ex S. K. Harzfeld, R. B. Winsor, George H. Earle, G. M. Parsons, Clarence S. Bement, Col. James W. Ellsworth, Wayte Raymond, George H. Clapp. (2) Calif. Specialist, ex R. Coulton Davis, Dr. Thomas Hall, Sisson:988 (1916), Virgil Brand, B. G. Johnson, Henry Clay Hines, Dr. W. H. Sheldon. (3) Atwater: 11, now Calif. Specialist. (4) The former Dr. Hall, Brand, Oscar Pearl coin may qualify at this level, though I have not seen it recently enough to remember it clearly from this point of view. The former T. James Clarke piece, ex Henry C. Miller, Howard R. Newcomb, may also be one of these.

— Similar. Sheldon 6, Crosby 7-F. Broad leaves, small date and LIBERTY, obv. bulge or convexity from back of hair slanting slightly up to left rim. This was the next variety struck after the rim of Sheldon 5 had broken too heavily over LI and BER, and once again a few appear to have been made on burnished blanks for presentation purposes, most probably to government officials visiting the mint, as they often did during its earliest years. (1) The one most clearly qualifying at this level is the Harold Bareford coin, ex George F. Seavey (circa 1863), Lorin G. Parmelee, Harlan P. Smith, Dr. Thomas Hall, Virgil Brand, and several dealer intermediaries. (2) Another, slightly finer in color, is the Calif. Specialist coin, ex Parmelee, Dr. Hall, allegedly Dr. Henry Beckwith at private sale, Dr. G. P. French, Henry C. Hines, T. J. Clarke, Dr. Sheldon. This more than once was referred to as a "proof" by former owners, evidence in this instance less of enthusiasm than of awareness that it was something special even among 1793's.

Evidence of presentation coins among the

half-cents of this year (struck beginning July 20, 1793) is equivocal. I have seen two or three, many years ago, on exceptionally broad planchets, perfectly centered and unusually sharply struck, but I do not recall any of them as being on burnished blanks. One of these appeared in an early auction as having been presented by Adam Eckfeldt to someone or other as a sample of his work.



**1793 Cent. Liberty Cap. S-13.** By far the sharpest impression known. Ex Chapman, Cleneay, Mougey, Bement, Ellsworth, Wayte Raymond, Atwater, Eliasberg colls.

Evidence of presentation coins among the Liberty Cap cents of 1793 is still more equivocal. The Eliasberg specimen is possibly the most convincing one, though at some time in its history it was cleaned, not affecting its extraordinary sharpness, but obscuring the original appearance of the surface. This piece came originally through the Chapman brothers, who began as teenage dealers under the patronage of Capt. John W. Haseltine about 1877 in Philadelphia, passing later through the collections of Thomas Cleneay (lot 1800), Peter Mougey (lot 1), Henry Chapman, C. S. Bement, Col. James W. Ellsworth, Wayte Raymond, William Cutler Atwater. (Mougey travelled from Cincinnati to Philadelphia to buy this one coin!) There are two others with finer surfaces, one of them Dr. Sheldon's, another in the John Work Garrett estate now impounded in Johns Hopkins University. But neither of these is equally sharp.

## 1794

Evidence of presentation coins among the half-cents and cents of this date is lacking.

**Half Disme.** All four varieties dated 1794 were included, with some dated 1795, in a delivery of 7,756 pieces made on March 30, 1795. Unquestionable presentation pieces exist of three of these, only one known in this state for each variety though ordinary frosty uncirculated specimens exist for V-2,3 and 4. Possibly the presentation pieces were made earlier, the V-1 perhaps in 1794.

Valentine 1 (Newlin 2). Wide date, double leaf at top of r. branch; the numerals are more than their own width away from each other, the 17 9 especially widely spaced. The single presentation piece, Lelan Rogers coll. ex Lester Merkin, is exceptionally sharply struck (breast and claws sharp, central hair sharp)

on a blank burnished before striking; it is well centered and has bold, fairly wide borders.

Valentine 2 (Newlin 3). Close date, crowded between bust and border; double leaf at top of r. branch. Eliasberg's is a presentation piece, similarly struck to last.

V-3 (Newlin 4). Close date, the 1 4 very close to hair and bust, berry almost touches I of UNITED. Eliasberg's is a presentation piece, like the last two.

No evidence of presentation pieces among the half dollars delivered on December 1, 1794, or among the 1794-dated halves coined through Feb. 4, 1795.

**Dollar.** The unique copper specimen with lettered edge, struck from the same dies presumably early on Oct. 15, 1794 just before the production run of 1758 pieces, *does* show evidence of having been coined from polished dies on a burnished blank. The stars at left are sharper than on the known silver pieces. It is unique, though several dangerous electrotypes (with false edge lettering) exist and may deceive the unwary. Whereabouts of the true specimen (Adams-Woodin 14, Davis 14, Judd 19) unknown at present; ex Benjamin Haines coll., Jan. 1863, lot 781; John F. McCoy: 1834 (1864); Levick: 1701 (Oct. 1864); Heman Ely: 90 (1884); Parmelee: 12 (1890), where described as "same as regular issue, but in *copper*: hair sharp and perfect, which is remarkable for this period of coinage: uncirculated, proof surface; *unique*." It then brought \$100, going to Harlan P. Smith bidding under the *nom de guerre* of "Clay" for Dr. Thomas Hall; thence to Virgil Brand, Brand estate (1928), H.L.P. Brand, Stack's (1951), H.P. Graves, Davis-Graves sale (1954), L. Horowitz, *Coin World* advertisement, 10/31/73. Silver dollars of 1794, unlike this piece, almost invariably have weak areas at left obv. and rev., rendering left stars, part of date, and parts of UNITED STATES hardly visible even on uncirculated or nearly uncirculated specimens; in addition, the hair is seldom well brought up. This copper piece probably did receive two blows from the dies while they were still parallel; after the first few silver ones were made, some accident rendered them skew (not quite in parallel planes) producing the mentioned weakness. (It is known that some of the weakest 1794's were not allowed to leave the mint, but instead used as planchets for striking dollars of 1795.) If it can be established that this copper dollar did in fact receive two blows from the press, then it qualifies as a true proof and the first definitely established to have been issued by the Philadelphia Mint.

## 1795

**Half Cent.** No unequivocal evidence of presentation pieces with lettered edge (struck on Oct. 27 and Dec. 3, respectively with date 1795 and 1,795) or with plain edge (mostly struck in 1796). Copper was given very little attention in those days. The

John G. Mills example, so claimed, is untraced.

**Cent.** Only two lettered edge coins show the slightest evidence of presentation piece status and about both of these there is some question. One of them is a Sheldon 75, double leaf at top of r. branch, still preserved in the Smithsonian, *without* edge lettering of its own, but struck over a Talbot, Allum & Lee token retaining traces of the edge lettering of the latter; it is presumably more like a set-up trial to test die alignment than like a true presentation piece. It is in gem mint state, well struck and with extremely wide borders. Presumably it was saved from the time of issue (probably when the new reverse die was placed in the press late on Oct. 27, 1795) by Adam Eckfeldt. Weight, 147.4 grains; standard for the TA&L tokens 153, standard for the cent then 208.

The other possible presentation piece is a Sheldon 76a (ONE CENT high in wreath), with lettered edge but on a wide thin planchet. This is in the Calif. Specialist collection, ex Dr. Sheldon, and is magnificently struck and centered, retaining almost perfect original color. It is barely possible that this was an experimental coin made on Dec. 27 or 28, 1795 before the decision of Elias Boudinot (with Henry Voigt and Adam Eckfeldt) to abandon edge lettering with the drop in official weight from 208 to 168 grains apiece. I have seen the coin but do not know its weight. If an experimental piece, it would presumably have preceded the famous 1795 cents with vertical edge reeding; but when this experiment too was abandoned (probably on the realization that copper was no longer a precious metal and thus did not need, the protection of an edge device) the cents went into circulation.

No plain edge cents show the slightest evidence of presentation piece status.

**Half Disme.** All collectors are warned: a hoard of uncirculated 1795 half-dismes turned up some time in the late 1870's or early 1880's, consisting of the commonest varieties (Valentine 5, a few V-6, and principally V-4, quite a few of the V-4's showing the heavy rim break over TY and adjacent star). Some of the hundred or so pieces from this find have vaguely shiny or partly mirrorlike surfaces, but they are generally weak in centers, central hair and breast feathers being flat. Nevertheless, at least two true presentation pieces of this date exist, and more probably remain to be discovered.

— Valentine 1; Breen 1-A; Newlin 7. First star between 2nd and 3rd curls; F rests on leaf. Lohr: 235 (S 10/56) may qualify.

— Valentine 8; Breen 6-C; unknown to Newlin. Top of hair almost touches E; no berries below wings, inside or outside wreath. The unique presentation piece is now in the Eliasberg collection. The variety is Rarity 7.

— V-4; B.8-E; N-1. B E apart, TY low, last star

just touches tip of bust point; rev. outer berry between UN. Perfect die. (This is the variety that often shows the rim break over TY and right.) Jackman:634, ex Winsor collection; proof surfaces, exceptionally sharp strike as preceding. This may be the Eliasberg coin.



**1795 Half Dollar. Overton 121. First variety of the year, one of the first struck, Feb. 1795, and sharpest impression known of the date. Ex "old Phila. estate," Merkin 9/68:25**

**Half Dollar.** The solitary coin nearest to qualifying as a presentation piece for this year is an Overton 121 (Beistle 18-P=Haseltine 18), obv. quickly identified by having Y cut over a star, and vertical die file mark hanging from next to bottom curl; recut CA. Though this piece shows no mirrorlike finish in fields, it was carefully positioned and given two blows in perfect alignment. As a result, it appears in exceptionally high relief, all hair and breast feathers sharp, three claws needle sharp and the other two visible (claws are seldom discernible on even uncirculated 1795 halves of any die variety). Very faint doublings show on some left stars. The first die variety of the year, retaining reverse B of 1794, and one of the first few 1795 half dollars made, apparently during the first week of February 1795. It was in Merkin's Sept. 18, 1968 sale, bringing \$5,000. I am reliably informed that it came from an old Philadelphia collection of illustrious antecedents. Probably it was made on the occasion of first striking half dollars dated 1795, just after the Feb. 4 delivery of 18,164 halves dated 1794 (exhausting the mint's stock), and while the last reverse die of 1794 remained in the press. This die variety is a high Rarity 6, Sheldon scale.



**1795 Dollar. Flowing hair, triple, leaves. Bolender 7, second variety of the year. Ex Philadelphia Mint, presented to Major the Lord St. Oswald, Oct. 1795.**

**Dollars.** Flowing hair design. The one with the best claim appears to be the Major the Lord St. Oswald specimen of Bolender 7: triple leaves under wings, inner and outer berries opposite each other below D. Deeply toned but evidently originally made on a burnished blank from dies which had been polished and were still new; exceptionally sharp strike, all stars sharp, all central hair sharp, most feathers sharp, border deep and well centered; quite possibly given two blows as with the above mentioned dollar. Presented to St. Oswald on the occasion of his visit to the Philadelphia Mint about October 1795, at which time he also obtained some regular U.S. coins of recent issue, including several mint red cents of 1794 of the late style or Gardner type, and various other uncirculated coins of 1794-95. This piece was not struck on the occasion of his visit; it may have been one of several presentation pieces struck around the beginning of dollar coinage, May 6-16, 1795. St. Oswald: 141, LM 10/73:451. The mating sequence established by die break evidence gives the order (in Bolender numbers as "19", 7, "21," 8, "20," 2, "17," 10, 16, 1, 13, "18," 12, 6, 5, then 11, 3, 9, 4, followed by the two draped bust varieties. As other possible presentation pieces include the Earle-Clapp-Eliasberg B-2, and perhaps Frank Stirling's B-13, it would appear that presentation pieces may have been issued on several occasions, principally during May-June 1795. Other similar pieces may exist from other dies. I have seen a couple of B-5's (the common Three Leaves coin with a small rod-shaped die cut behind head) which may qualify at this level, as well as two or three examples of B-1, the common Two Leaves coin with obv. date 1795 over 1195. One of the B-5's: R. L. Miles: 1527 to "LSD"; cf. (Boeing-) Bridgman: 690 (Chapman, 1891), with slightly flat dentils left of 1.

I did not go to the trouble of describing these other varieties in detail because in every instance (save for the St. Oswald coin, from the 1964 auction held by Christie's in London) there was some ground for doubt. For example, the Stirling B-13 has extraordinary sharpness everywhere except at the centers, but it is on a planchet which was rendered unsightly by a superabundance of adjustment marks. The criteria for calling a coin a presentation piece must remain rigorous if we are going to prevent the dishonest from calling everything shiny by that title. Striking qualities are far more important even than surface, and if a piece was intended as any kind of special mintage, the planchet certainly would have been selected with reasonable care and inspected to make sure it was free of splits or too many heavy adjustment marks.



**1795 Dollar. Draped bust design. B-14. Obtained in England by Lester Merkin.**

— Draped bust design. (Coined, probably, Oct. 17-24, 1795, to the extent of 42,738 pieces.) Pieces qualifying as presentation coins exist of both varieties, the Bolender 14 (draped bust placed too far to left) and the B-15 (head properly centered, jagged die chips or slivers in hair). I recall especially a B-14 which is the identical twin in quality to the St. Oswald B-7 above described; it came from England via L. Merkin. There are possibly 3 or 4 presentation coins of each variety. These have mirrorlike fields, frosty heads and devices, exceptional sharpness including eagle's claws and breast feathers, good centering, etc. The occasion for manufacture of presentation pieces of this design was, of course, Henry William DeSaussure's achieving his ambition in having United States coins made from designs by the famous American portraitist Gilbert Stuart.

**Half Eagle.** Several varieties may exist in presentation piece state, but the only one I can recall seeing which I can swear to be such is the first variety of the year, Breen 1-A, Adams 5, Clapp 6, Newcomer 5: wide date, first star low (below first curl), Y and two stars following crowded together; only 3 berries in wreath (held in eagle's beak). At least five "proofs" have been offered at auction, and I know that at least one of these was a presentation piece; I have seen three from these dies qualifying at that level and can well believe that more exist. The occasion for presentation was obviously the Mint Director's jubilation on getting such attractive coins into production. It is known that beginning gold coinage was one of Henry William DeSaussure's two great ambitions when he began his duties as Mint Director, the other being (as mentioned) improvement in design of silver and copper coins. The very first warrant DeSaussure issued, July 31, 1795, was for the Coiner to deliver to the Mint Treasurer 744 half-eagles, the first coined; they were from the dies above described. Some of these went to local banks. It is not known whether the presentation pieces were included in the mint accounting, though they may well have been among those issued to the Director or to "Sundry Accounts". The B.1-A's probably formed the majority of the next few deliveries, as this die combination was fairly long-lived and is still not very rare. Other

varieties may exist in presentation-piece state, but I have not seen any I could swear to.

**Eagles.** Same design; mintage 2795 between Sept. 22 and Nov. 27, 1795, plus 2788 between Jan. 9 and March 30, 1796, from 1795 dies, total 5583. (This is established because the solitary 1796 obverse has 16 stars, which means it must have been completed after the admission of Tennessee to the Union, June 1796. See below, under 1796 Eagles.) Five die varieties, the first of which — Breen 1-A, Adams 3, Clapp 4, Newcomer 437 — exists in presentation-piece state. Y and all 5 stars at r. touch; I below L; leaf touches left upright of U. Comprises the 1097 struck on Sept. 22, 1795 and possibly part of the next three deliveries. Of the initial 1097, 400 immediately went to the Bank of Pennsylvania, the remainder to various accounts. One specimen was saved by Adam Eckfeldt for the Mint Cabinet. One was reportedly presented to George Washington and preserved with his estate at Mount Vernon. At least three others have been seen showing presentation-piece characteristics. These have good centering, strong borders, strong central hair and breast feathers, proof surfaces. Adjustment marks, as on the half eagles, are faint if present at all. I cannot swear to more than one impression having been given them from the dies, but it is not impossible.

Other varieties may exist in presentation-piece status, but I have not seen any.

It is unlikely that any presentation sets were made during the year, and still more unlikely that they would have included the copper coins. Possibly pairs of gold pieces might have been presented together with the silver dollar, and such a set could well be assembled today with enough patience (and nearly unlimited funds).

## 1796

A midwest dealer has attempted to assemble a so-called "proof set" of 1796. The effort yielded a beautiful group of coins, though most of them would not have qualified at the presentation-piece level. What confuses many collectors and dealers is that many silver coins of 1796 exist on brilliantly polished blanks. Some few of these may have been presentation pieces. The information available for this date is more confusing than for any other in United States coinage.

**Half Cent.** Extremely doubtful if even the Boyd coin (with pole, full blazing red unc, proof like, sharp strike) qualifies at this level.

**Cent.** Many reported of various varieties of the so-called "Nichols find" group and some others in the Draped Bust design. None of them were made early in the sequence of varieties, which is automatic grounds for suspicion, and the "Nichols find" varieties are all known to have been struck in 1797-98. They often have excellent surfaces (though usually plagued in centers by granular defects) but almost all show

some weakness of striking on forelock, ribbon, parts of leaves, etc. T. James Clarke had several Liberty Caps labeled "proof" but they did not qualify as presentation pieces. I have never seen one that would. The "Nichols find" group is usually believed to include the varieties Sheldon 119 of 1796, 123 and 135 of 1797, but coins from this same lot of planchets (from Boulton & Watt of the Soho Mint near Birmingham, England, per packet boat *Adriana*) are known for many other varieties: S-104 late state, 113, 114, 115, 117, 118, 119, 123, 135, 136, 137 and 143 of 1797, 154 and several others of 1798. None of these show evidence of unusual care in striking.

**Half Disme.** 1796/95, Valentine 2. Of seven or eight examples known, all but one come very close to Unc, and at least one of these was a presentation piece. Point of 5 touches bust, 6 away; berry under E of UNITED.

1796 normal date. V-1. Eliasberg has one showing the earmarks. Miles: 390, so called, at a then extraordinary \$2700, is unverified; Holmes:2577 has not been available for examination.

**Disme.** The denomination was first coined Jan. 18, 1796, some 14,520 being delivered on that date. Presentation pieces — at least a dozen — survive from the first dies used: Breen 1-A, Clapp 3. The variety is fairly often seen and is immediately identifiable by dot before L, outer berries between TE in UNITED and under first T in STATES. The presentation pieces are from perfect dies, without cracks. A couple of those in WGC (F.C.C. Boyd collection) had earmarks of light double striking, suggesting that they indeed might have been deliberately given two blows apiece from the dies to bring up the design. If so, any such coins would qualify as proofs, given the other characteristics (surfaces and vividness of impression). Occasion for the presentation was presumably the beginning of coinage. A few other varieties have been seen with similar characteristics, but their status is still uncertain.

**Quarter Dollar.** Browning 1 and 2, point of curl respectively under left part or right part of B, the former extremely rare. Two B-1's and about seven B-2's exist showing earmarks of presentation-piece status. Many other B-2's are known on planchets showing some degree of polish before striking but they do not qualify as presentation pieces because striking is weak or uneven (breast feathers not up, claws weak, forelock weak, stars partly flat, etc.), there are adjustment marks of more than the faintest degree, centering is uneven, etc. The weakness at eagle's head is characteristic of the design and is not to be attributed to imperfect striking: the eagle's head was opposite Liberty's shoulder, the highest-relief part of obv. design, and only on coins struck more than once (I have seen three which might have qualified as such), or with dies aligned at a

different angle, will the eagle's head show up plainly (eye as well as beak details). Occasion for presentation pieces: beginning of coinage, April 9, 1796. There were only four deliveries, 1800 on April 9 (believed to include the B-1's and possibly the earlier B-2's), 2530 on May 27, 1564 on June 14, and 252 on Feb. 28, 1797.

**Half Dollars.** Here is the major mystery. Most of the choice ones with 15 stars show evidence of polished dies and polished blanks or strip. The majority of these appear to have come from the Col. E.H.R. Green collection. But there is no evidence that any were actually coined in 1796; the delivery dates: 60, Feb. 28, 1797; 874, March 21; both deliveries sent to the Bank of the United States in Philadelphia. Later 2894 (believed to include all the 1797-dated coins), May 26. If any were actually struck in 1796, they would have been presentation pieces. This is not impossible, and I believe we need look no farther than the initiation of the new design (some time before June 1796 because of the obv. having 15 stars rather than 16) for the occasion for any such presentation. My guess is that the three most brilliantly proof-like examples *from uncracked dies*, showing strong striking and good centering, including sharp curls and ribbon, sharp stars, strong claws, some details of breast feathers visible, were actually presentation pieces. There may be more than three of these around. The James A. Stack estate contained one so called (lot 313, ex Eliasberg, "H.R. Lee") but it was from the cracked die. As for the sixteen-star type, the occasion for presentation would have been the admission of Tennessee to the Union, June 1, 1796, as with the eagles of this year (see below); certainly there could have been no other logical reason for making an obverse die with 16 stars, when another 15-star obverse, *complete except for the last numeral of the date*, was already on hand in the Engraving Department. (Proof of this is that the single obverse of 1797 has fifteen stars and is not an overdate. Had the die been made after June 1796 it would have had either 16 or 13 stars, as on other denominations.) It is not therefore surprising that a simon-pure presentation piece of this type should exist, and one is in fact known. Accordingly, we list:

— 15 stars. Overton 101= Beistle 2-A. Without die cracks. Possibly 3 presentation pieces known, and more may exist. Occasion: Introduction of the new design, probably early in the year. One ex James A. Stack estate, \$29,000. One may have been the H.O. Granberg specimen, pictured on Plate 19, 1914 ANS Exposition, though I have not seen the actual coin (was it the one reappearing in the Baldenhofer sale? the illustration is not good enough for certainty) and an element of doubt exists in that two stars are partially flat, and adjustment marks show through IB and curls. Another is possibly ex Allenburger, Judd, Lichtenfels II: 1289. I know I have seen at least three

during the past twenty-five years, on exhibits or in bourse tables at conventions, and I am reasonably sure (from the toning, among other things) that they were not all the same piece playing Musical Chairs. Warning: there are possibly 8 or 10 deceptive coins on polished blanks from a subsequent production run, probably included in the 60 struck Feb. 28, 1797; some of these show cracked dies, e.g. the Beistle Plate, Newcomer-Green-T.J. Clarke coin; all have more flat stars, breast feathers mostly not struck up, etc.

— 16 stars. Overton 102=Beistle 1-A. Without die cracks. Only one traced: the Beistle, Colonel Green coin, pictured (obv. 1) on Beistle's Plate 4. This piece was not known to exist prior to the turn of the century, and I have lost track of it in recent years. Probably struck for presentation, about the beginning of June 1796, on the occasion of Tennessee's admission. Cf. also the Dr. Allenburger - Reed Hawn coin, lot 7, at \$32,000.

If this hypothesis is correct, we can say definitely that presentation pieces were *not* included in Mint accounting procedures, even as proofs prior to about 1860. The small amounts of bullion involved would have rendered this likely; at most Sundry Accounts or Profit and Loss would have gotten some kind of more or less noncommittal entry without specifying the nature of the bullion transferred.

**Dollar.** I have seen two specimens of the Bolender 4 variety (small date, large letters, dot above 1 in date) which might qualify at this level. If they actually prove to be presentation coins, the occasion *might* have been to make up some kind of group of silver coins around the beginning of June 1796. As the mint was primarily concerned with making silver dollars and large cents during the first ten months of 1796, there may not have been time to make up new dies while the old ones were still usable. The characteristics, if memory serves, are much like those on the 1795 Bolender 14's earlier mentioned, but I would like to see these pieces again to verify that they have the quality of surface and striking characteristic of actual presentation pieces of the period.

**Quarter Eagle.** Without stars. Breen 1-A. Only one known in presentation-piece form, and I have long since lost track of it. Earliest die state, of course. Struck probably Sept. 22, 1796 when the denomination was begun, some 66 being made that day (regular business strikes) and 897 more coined Dec. 8 for the Bank of the United States. This particular piece can be identified by its proof surface and excellent striking characteristics — breast feathers above field sharp, stars and clouds all up, eagle's tail well struck up, curls well up.

With stars. Three seen in presentation-piece form. One of these was Earle:2496; another went in the M.I. Cohen sale of 1875, and may or may not be among the

three seen by me. Cf. also Maris: 12 (1886); Winter sale (1974), \$33,000. The production run began on Jan. 14, 1797, but the presentation pieces may have been made in December 1796. Occasion, presumably the new type.

**Half Eagles.** None definitely traced, though one or more might well exist from an issue in June 1796.

**Eagles.** Only one variety; sixteen stars, spaced 8 + 8, unlike any other die of the 1795-1804 series, this arrangement of stars matching the quarter eagle die and no other. There may be as many as a half dozen around in presentation piece state. These are almost indistinguishable from each other, having brilliant proof surfaces and unusually sharp striking on stars, central curls, breast feathers, etc. Occasion: admission of Tennessee to the Union, June 1, 1796. The obv. die was presumably completed on receipt of the news, date and stars being added. First production run was 2332 pieces, June 2; total dated 1796, 4146 pieces, the other two deliveries being 960 on June 21 and 854 on Dec. 22 during the emergency following the yellow fever epidemic.

Sets could have been made up from half disme through eagle, or comprising 3 or 4 different gold pieces alone; if the former, and made up in June 1796, they would have included 1796/5 half dismes, and may not have included half eagles (first coined June 28), nor is it likely that they would have included either, let alone both, of the quarter eagles. If the presentation was made at the end of the year, there would have been a greater range of available designs for choice.

## 1797

**Half Disme.** Valentine 2, the regularly seen variety with 15 stars. Presented by Mint Director Elias Boudinot to Matthew Boulton, possibly with other coins; later, Waldo Newcomer, Bareford collection. It was exhibited in NYC during the mid 1950's. I saw the piece; it is from the earliest die state, and is carefully struck from brilliantly polished dies on a polished planchet. As Matthew Boulton had long since made proofs with lettered, plain and ornamented edges as specimens of the finest work his Soho Mint could do, presumably this coin was intended as a sample of what the Philadelphia Mint could do using its far more limited facilities. I cannot swear that this half disme was given more than one impression from the dies, but it is a vivid enough impression to raise that question.

To date there is no positive evidence for any other presentation pieces of 1797, and only one other is rumored (aside from the often seen "Nichols find" cents, which do not qualify): the eagle of the first Heraldic reverse die, Breen 2-B, Adams 2, Clapp 2, Newcomer 442. Woodin: 1185 was sold in 1911 for an astoundingly high figure as "Proof" and no equal

example has been seen to date. I have not seen the Woodin coin. Occasion: Introduction of the new design.

## 1798

**Quarter Eagle.** Close date, 7th star very close to Y, four berries. Breen 1, Adams 1, Clapp 1, Newcomer 675. Not seen; reported in presentation piece state by Ronnie Carr, who saw it in the possession of Leo A. Young about 1959; 1959 ANA: 956; possibly later Bell II;78 (1963). It is described as being in all respects of proof quality, including striking characteristics, though it has a small planchet defect — a lamination which may have occurred on exposure to cold weather during the years after striking. Occasion for presentation unknown.

## 1800

**Half Eagle.** Breen 1-B; Adams 1, Clapp 2, Newcomer 38. Last star away from drapery as usual; rev. 6th star plainly double punched, E nearly centered above space between clouds. Ex Col. James Flanagan (1944):1069, W.F. Webb, Baldenhofer: 1206, brilliant proof surface, excellent striking quality.

**Eagle.** Only the one variety; earliest die state, the crack through various letters in LIBERTY faint. I have seen two and have heard of several others that qualify as possible presentation pieces; occasion unknown, but if these were actually included among presentation coins, the ceremony must have taken place very late in the year. Most of the mintage of eagles in 1800 consisted of coins dated 1799.

## 1801

**Dollar.** See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

## 1802

**Dollar.** See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

**Half Eagle.** Not seen, reliably reported: ex Mehl estate, Justus, Kosoff, May Co. (1960), Dr. Martin Klein.

## 1803

**Dollar.** See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

## 1804

**Dollar, Eagle.** Plain 4. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

**Eagle.** B. 1-A, Crosslet 4. Smithsonian Institution, from Mint Cabinet Collection.

## 1806

**Half Dollar.** Reed Hawn: 20 at \$2,300 may qualify.

## 1807

**Half Dollar. Bust R.** Reed Hawn: 24 at \$8,500 may qualify. Compare "Dupont": 2044, Ov. 110 in the earliest die state known.

**Half Dollar. Bust left,** new design by John Reich. Large stars. Ov. 114 = Beistle 12-J, Haseltine 10. "Dupont": 2045. Compare Reed Hawn: 26, \$2,300. Occasion for presentation, the new design, Sept. 1807. The similar small stars coin, Ov. 113, in James A. Stack estate: 332, had full proof surfaces but was a weaker impression; it nevertheless brought \$2,700.

It is odd that design changes on the half eagle this year, the cent and quarter eagle in 1808, the half cent in 1809, the half eagle again in 1813 and the quarter dollar in 1815 seem not to have occasioned presentation pieces. Possibly some still await discovery in estates.

## 1809

**Half Dollar.** Overton 109, earliest state. William R. Hall, San Francisco, seen at a convention in Sept. 1976.

## 1811



1811 Half Cent. Wide date. Gilbert 2. Ex Mickley, Cleneay, Ryder colls., always as "proof."

**Half Cent.** Wide date. Gilbert 2. First of two varieties. Earliest die state, both dies brilliantly polished. Careful strike of needle sharpness. Ex Mickley, J.B. Clemens (1878), Thomas Cleneay (1890), a 1913 Elder sale, Hillyer Ryder, Wayte Raymond, NN 44th Sale, June 1954, to Norweb coll. In all its earlier auction appearances this piece was called a proof. The Joseph Brobston example, also called a "proof" in the fixed-price offering of that collection, was not the same quality. Occasion for presentation unknown.



# IV. PROOF COINS AND SETS, OLD TENOR, 1817-1833

## 1817

This year marked the silver jubilee of the mint's establishment and of the authorizing Act of April 1792; it was also notable for the installation of various items of new equipment, a renovation program whose immediate occasion was the Mint fire of January 1816. The manufacture of unquestionable proofs appears to have begun on a consistent basis in this year. On these proof coins 2 to 4 blows from the dies in a screw press can usually be demonstrated, dies and blanks having first been polished to unusual brilliance.

In all listings to follow, *an asterisk denotes varieties of a denomination, known to occur only in proof state.* Should the asterisk precede the *denomination*, it means that the denomination exists for that year only in proof state. (Naturally, impaired or circulated proofs are known of quite a few of these, notably the half-cents of 1836-48 inclusive.) We are hereinafter attempting to standardize the terms *original set* and *assembled set* as antonyms. An original set is one in the original mint case or mint wrappers, or in some other way provably consisting of the group of coins issued by the mint at the same time or occasion and retained together since then; its importance is in establishing which varieties were contemporaneous with each other, especially when the mint is known (as in many later years) to have issued proofs in several varieties of each denomination throughout the year. An assembled set, of course, is one made up by the collector by buying the individual denominations. Original sets were mostly broken up in the year of issue by the collector recipients, who added the cents to their cent collections, the dimes to their dime sets, the half dollars to their half dollar

runs, etc. It has been taken for granted over the years that the average proof set of any date prior to about 1950 will have been assembled; afterwards sets were commonly collected in original mint boxes (not always a good idea, as they tarnished, and the cellophane envelopes later split, allowing the coins to escape and jangle against each other), but the distinction between original and assembled sets becomes decreasingly important afterwards. However, 19th century original sets remain of great historical importance, and their composition is a continuing research project.



**1817 Cent. 13 stars, close date. Newcomb 6. Ex Hines, Sheldon, Henderson colls.**

**Cent.** Newcomb 6. Thirteen stars, close date, leaf midway S 0. Known from its mention in the Newcomb book; presumably a Henry Clay Hines coin, subsequently in the Dr. Sheldon and Floyd Starr collections. This coin, or its twin, was described to me as having proof obv., frosty unc. rev. (but with proof characteristics of striking), like the 1817/13 half dollar and quite a number of others to follow. Floyd Starr could not locate it, claiming he had mislaid it. At present, the Calif. Specialist has one ex Hines, W. H. Sheldon, E. Henderson, 1947 ANA Convention sale,

Lot 1588A; a second was Beckwith:51. Either one is possibly ex Lot 504, Chapman sale, June 17, 1889, and/or Mickley: 2009, later in M.L. Mackenzie coll. (1869). Cf. also Kagin 69: 268 (3/19/49), "reddish brown," unverified. As Newcomb enunciated criteria for proofs (p.8 of his book on 1816-57 cents) which are, if anything, a little too stringent, presumably the above pieces conform to them. Note that Newcomb mentions having encountered obv. proof rev. unc. coins, not distinguishing them from proofs in his variety description; they have often been termed "one-sided proofs."

The Newcomb 6 cent variety was struck fairly early in the year though not at the very beginning, as it is sixth in the established emission sequence (proved by die breaks and style, the first variety having an 1816 reverse): N-2, 1, 16, 13, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 14, 4, 5, 17, 9 and 3. (Rev. of 14 and 4 are the same die.) Of the four varieties preceding the N-6, only the N-13 and N-16 are common, one is scarce (N-2), the other (N-1) rare. Possibly struck late Jan. or early Feb. 1817.

— N-8. Obv. proof, rev. unc. H. Chapman 12/16:97 — Hines, Philadelphia estate.

The report of an N-9 in proof, T. James Clarke: 151, is not credited here. The coin was not quite full mint state, not even too deceptive.

**Half Dollar.** 1817/13. Overton 101 = Beistle 1-A, Haseltine 1. Privately placed by New Netherlands Coin Co., ex Newcomer, Green, Wayte Raymond's personal set of proof half dollars. Obv. proof, rev. unc, not too carefully made. Probably the earliest variety of the year.

— Unattributed perfect date: lot 739, part I, Newcomb sale, J.C. Morgenthau, 1945, to J. Kelly. Not seen, but Newcomb was presumably as careful in labeling his halves and other silver as he was his cents, so the coin probably is as described.

A set could have been made up consisting of cent and half dollar, no other denominations being made during the year. The wonder is that more proofs of 1817 are not known.

## 1818

**Cent.** N-7. Date spaced 1818, double denticle left of first 1; the variety that usually (though not always) shows a crack joining 6th and 7th stars. Listed by Newcomb, this is a ghost that refuses to be put to rest. *Both specimens claimed have been discredited:* (1) Phila. Estate, ex Hines, Sheldon — a strange piece possibly double struck (?) and buffed. (2) Ex Dr. George P. French (called "the jolly abortionist" by old collectors who knew him in the 1920's), T. James Clarke (notorious for his wishful thinking on grading, even as Dr. French had been), Calif. Specialist, Dr. James O. Sloss, Lee Lahrman (lot 298), Gorlin, Bland. This is a little under mint state and not very deceptive. Cf. Woodward 5th sale: 660

(10/18-22/1864), "Levick et al.," probably ex Lorenzo H. Abbey, which may mean a real proof in some bank vault.

**Quarter Dollar.** Browning 8, Haseltine 1. Obv. Three denticles crowded together below first 1. Rev. Close 25, the 2 very near leaf and the C distant. I know only the Col. Green coin pictured in Browning; but cf. Dunham:419. If the Dunham coin was an actual proof, it may have been a reappearance of the Browning-Colonel Green piece, ex Cleneay: 1326 (1890). No others are reported. This and the cent both must have been struck late in the year; in the actual emission sequence as established by die breaks, the N-7 cent is seventh of 10 varieties, and the B-8 quarter is next to last.

**Half Dollar.** 1818/17 Lg. first 8. Ov. 101; Beistle 1-A. Dr. E. Yale Clarke: 215, ex "Alto" sale, C. H. Patten.

— 1818/17 Small 8's. Ov. 102; Beistle 2-B, H-1, Clapp 1. Most recently seen in Maurice Bauman: 32, cleaned; ex T. James Clarke, NN47: 1237, R.E. Cox, and the 1962 N.Y. Metropolitan Convention auction: 1799.

— 1818, normal date, spaced 1818, 8's normal, AT-S low, E in AMERICA leaning well to r., I's have r. base beginning to split away from upright; recutting on arrowheads. Overton 113; Beistle 10-L, H-12, C-12. (1) Wayte Raymond set, presumably ex Newcomer, Green; may be Cleneay: 1142. If so, borders are wider at top, obv. and rev. (2) Smithsonian, from the Mint collection — believed to be this variety but not checked. (3) Eliasberg, ex George H. Earle (1912), John H. Clapp. This may be Winsor:493. (4) Lichtenfels I: 2741, possibly #1 above or a Brand coin.

No half eagle proof even rumored for this year. If any sets were made up, they must have lacked the half eagle. It is odd that more half dollars are known than quarters and cents.

## 1819

**Cent.** 1819/18. Newcomb 1 (1) "Dupont":568, to H. Bareford. (2) Beckwith: 54, sharper stars, to SHC. Both specimens show nicks. (3) Mougey: 121 — possibly same as (2)?

— 1819 large date. N-2. New style 8 cut over old style 8 (of 1818); first 1 almost touches bust. Reliably reported years ago, not seen. (Wayte Raymond mentioned it also.) Cf. Woodward 5th sale (10/64): 663, possibly ex L. H. Abbey. Dr. French: 410, 'purple red,' is unverified.

— Small date, UNI too high, E in ONE too low, tops of TE in UNITED joined, bases of AT in STATES joined. N-8, state a. Known only from the report in Newcomb. (1) & (2) Mougey: 118-19, to S.H.C. (3) Dr. French:415, red, unverified. Compare Sloss:306 (a Clarke duplicate), not seen. Note that T. James Clarke :166, bought as a proof from Henry Chapman, turned

out not to be one. Various prooflike business strikes reported. Allenburger:746, ex SHC 11/07, now in Calif. Specialist coll., is impaired and doubtful.

— Small wide date, lines at IB, 9th star recut; triple denticle above E in STATES, TA joined, R in AMERICA double punched. N-9 state a. Known from the report in Newcomb, probably referring (as with the N-8) to a Hines-Sheldon-Starr coin. Compare the possible impaired proof in the Kissner collection, sold as NN44: 371. T. J. Clarke: 170, privately ex Homer K. Downing, called a proof by Clarke, turned out not to be one. The two handled by the Kagins — 84:3875 (5/27/50), red, and 109:55 (11/51), red and purple, are unverified.

No quarter dollar of 1819 as yet known in proof state. That claimed in the Allenburger collection (1948) reappeared in the Clarke collection as NN 48: 1567; it turned out to be an early striking of Browning 3, the common variety with even date and colon after C:, but not even deceptive.

**Half Dollar.** Perfect date. Lot 740, Newcomb sale, part I. This may be the J.N.T. Levick coin, sold in October 1864. Not seen, and no other reported.

No half eagle even rumored. Sets were probably not made.

## 1820

**Cent.** 1820/181, large date. N-1. Beckwith:57, then to Henry C. Hines, Homer K. Downing, but not catalogued as a proof in Beckwith or the 1952 ANA sale (lot 2149), which included the Downing cents; to Harold Bareford.



**1820 Cent. N-13. Large date, "connected stars." Ex Winsor, H.P. Smith, Morgan, Clarke colls.**

— N-13. Large wide date, leaf points between D S and S O; encircling crack (lighter than usual) through stars and date. Ex Winsor:916 (1895), H.P. Smith, B. Max Mehl (1924), W.F. Morgan:189, Mehl again, T.J. Clarke, Calif. Specialist. Not the best strike imaginable — four stars do not show their centers.

— N-10. Large date, 8th star recut, triple denticle just left to top of U. (1) TAD:88, ex "Dupont":581, doubted by Dr. Sheldon; possibly ex Elder 12/24: 2272. (2) S.I. ex Mint Cabinet, probably ex Adam Eckfeldt.

— Small date. N-6. Star point well to left of coronet point, top of I in LIBERTY double. Ryder:843, ex

Wayte Raymond, Mougey:132, Sleicher:1051; bought by Kagin, whereabouts now unknown. Possibly the same coin: Parmelee:926, bought by Smith at the Parmelee auction, but not appearing in Smith's own collection so probably obtained on behalf of another collector. No other reported. It is incredible that Newcomb had not seen this one.

**Dime.** Breen 2-B, Clapp 2. Large 0, oldstyle letters, words normally spaced. Only one seen by me, and I lost track of it years ago. Oldstyle letters have little distinction between thick and thin elements; serif of C's wedge-shaped, rather than vertical with sharp points.

— B. 7-H, Clapp 4 (formerly called 6-F). Large 0, modern letters, last two stars too far apart, 9th faintly recut, 1 in 10 C. recut, unusually large period. Last variety of the year, the bulk of the production coins being struck in 1821. One proof seen, many years ago, and I have also lost track of this one. Compare Cleneay: 1488; Maris: 100 ex H.P. Newlin.

**Quarter Dollar.** Browning 1; Haseltine 3. Large wide date, long peak to 1; C in value nearer to stem than to border, normal olive leaves. (1) WGC: 69, the Boyd coin. Compare Cleneay: 1330 and Winsor: 592. I have seen two others, possibly three.

— B-2; not in Haseltine. Same obv.; rev., olive leaf at left of lower berry joins border. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint collection, No. 785. (2) Obv. proof, rev. unc, "Dupont": 1793, apparently the Browning, Col. Green coin, pictured in the Browning book, plate 4.

— B-4; H-1. Small 0, large 5. Obv. proof, rev. unc. Earle: 3052 — Ryder - Wayte Raymond — NN49: 1146.

**Half Dollar.** Overton 103 = Beistle 4-D, Haseltine 5, Clapp 5. Small curled curved-base 2 without knob, large 0, closely spaced date; D low, TE in STATES about touch at tops. Only one proof reported: Winsor: 498 (1895). The variety is seldom seen in any state, both dies quickly cracking up.

— Overton 105 = Beistle 3b-C, H-6, C-6. Very wide large date, the 2 knobbed and with flat base; no defect on zero; 50C about equidistant; triple denticle under second leaf pair. Winsor: 499, T. James Clarke (the same coin?).



**1820 Half Dollar. Ov. 108. Ex Wayte Raymond**

— Overton 108 = B. 6-F, H-3, C-3. Close date, 182

large (same style 2 as last), 0 smaller; 82 close at tops, 5th star recut, 7th touching border, T-D too low. (1) "Empire" 1308 (CA. Cass collection), ex S. H. Chapman, Allenburger:753, R.T. McPherson:843. (2) T.J. Clarke: 1245, ex Deetz. Dies show traces of rust.

— Unattributed. Lichtenfels I: 2748, possibly ex Brand.

— Overton 106 = B. 5-E, H-4, C-4. Closely spaced date, flat based 2 without knob, line joins tops of ME, tiny group of rust pits below I in UNITED. Eliasberg collection, no duplicate reported. This reverse was reused on nonproofs of 1820, and on proofs and nonproofs of 1821; apparently the last variety of 1820,

**Half Eagle.** Type I: *Square based 2, large letters.* Breen 1-A, A-4, C-3. 13th star free of curl; D nearly touches denticles, being much lower than 5; top of E in STATES below T-S. Melish: 1945, to "J.W."; Bell II: 598 (1963) at \$1100 may have been this variety; two others seen.

Type II: *Curled curve-based 2, large letters.* B. 3-C, A-6, C-1. Wide date with 18 closer, first T in STATES below S-A, 5 D . quite widely spaced. (1) WGC:368, ill. numbered 369; later "Memorable":318. This may have been H.P. Smith:208, numbered 210 on the plate. (2) Melish: 1942 to "J.W.". One is illustrated over G.H. Hall: 1892, evidently a Col. Green coin; possibly one of the two preceding. One other seen, some years ago.

Type III. *Curled 2 as last, small letters.* B. 4-D, A-5, not in C. Base of 8 below 1-2, arrow points to left curve of C and very close. (1) Melish: 1943, to a dealer. (2) Woodin, Newcomer, Green, Farouk. One other seen, some years ago.

Proof sets could have been made up both earlier and later in the year. The earlier ones would have contained the overdate or the N-6 cent, B. 2-B dime, B-1 quarter, Ov. 103 or 108 half dollar, and a Type I or II half eagle. The later ones would have contained the N-13 or N-10 cent, B. 7-H dime, B-2 quarter, Ov. 105 or 106 half dollar, and a Type II or III half eagle. It would not be impossible to assemble a set today; the stumbling blocks would be the lower denominations, not the higher. Occasion for manufacture or distribution of proof sets not recorded, but my own guess is that the earliest ones might have been made up for officials connected with celebrating Alabama's entry into the Union (Dec. 14, 1819), the later ones for Maine's admission in March 1820, or possibly for the bicentennial of the Mayflower landing and/or Pilgrim Fathers' initial settlement in Massachusetts.



**1821 Cent. N-1. Ex French, Downing, Clarke colls.**

**Cent.** N-1. Close date, second 1 low; earliest die state, some traces of inner circle visible around obv. border near denticles, not found on production coins for circulation; reverse die perfect. Generally considered to be of extreme rarity, but too many are around to sustain a rating of Rarity 7. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint coll., no. 1200 (these numbers are in the Compurette inventory of 1914), not too kindly handled. (2) French: 249 — T. James Clarke — Homer K. Downing — 1952 ANA Convention sale, to Calif. Specialist. (3) Dr. Thomas Hall — V.M. Brand — Armin Brand — NN 12/58 (pvt. sale) — Helfenstein: 85 (\$2100) — F. E. Knoble — LM 4/70:431. Traces of quadruple impressions at some stars, showing that four blows in a screw press were needed to bring up design to desired sharpness. (4) Atwater:58 — Leonard Holland — G. Reale, light rim dent. (5) Newcomb 11:542 — F. Starr —??. (6) V. Brand — T.L. Gaskill — Sloss:142 — Benedetti —??. (7) Dr. Hall — V. Brand — Kagin 3/19/46 — Phila. Estate. Double impressions on stars, triple on leaves and letters. (8) J.P. Lyman — Allenburger:777 — Lee G. Agnew:729a. (9) Mougey:133 — Sleicher:1573 — Beckwith:59 — Pearl:269 — H. Bareford. (10) C. Wurzbach — Kagin QM3:1610 (3/64) — Kagin 3/67. (11) Mougey:134, part red, possibly Bement:396, possibly (4) or (5) reappearing. (12) Frothingham — J.B. Wilson: 1055, bright red. At least five others reported; possibly the actual number distinguishable is between 12 and 20.

The other variety, N-2 (date wider, 8 low), in repolished state without line from rim to end of bust, is much rarer. (1) Calif. Specialist, ex Kagin 2/47:2320, possibly ex W.F. Morgan: 194, Standish Hall, C. David Pierce, ultimately Winsor:918. Three others claimed, unverified: Bareford coll.; Stack's 2/45; T.J. Clarke:180 ex G.J. Bauer, this last another instance of Clarke's wishful thinking.

**Dime.** Large date as in 1820. Only one seen: Phila. Estate, ex Bluestone 6/25/46:919. Broad dentil at first star; final S much too high. Possibly ex Winsor:672.

— Small date. Date far to left (final 1 out from under curl), first 1 high and distant, 8th star joins cap, zero too high. Breen 5-E = Clapp 6. Cleneay:1490;

Cass — Empire:750 — Phila. Estate; others, possibly as many as four in all.

**Quarter.** Browning 4. 7th star points to center of ribbon; small die defect joins olive leaf just left of lower berry with border. Without and with clash marks. Small 5. (1) WGC:78, probably to Adolph Friedman and 1946 ANA: 424. (2) One I saw in the mid 1950's. Cf. Reed Hawn:271 (3/77).

— B-3. Obv. as last, but struck afterwards as later business strikes come with this die cracked. Rev. Small rust pits between olive leaf and 2. Large 5. (1) David M. Bullowa, shown me March 18, 1952. (2) Eliasberg, ex Clapp. Others probably exist.

— B-5. Distant first 1, date low especially the 8, large 5, OF nearer STATES than AMERICA. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Wolfson:783 at \$400. I have seen quite a number of others; possibly a dozen exist, several of them cleaned or showing signs of contact with other coins.

**Half Dollar.** Overton 102 = Beistle 1-A; identifiable by a small cluster of rust pits below NI in UNITED. Newcomer — Col. Green, probably the piece Beistle saw. I have seen three, one of them being the Cass, "Empire" coin, lot 1312, ex R.T. McPherson:844, ex 1949 ANA sale. Others probably exist. Reverse is 1820 E, used for proofs and business strikes in both years. Cf. S 3/72: 357—C.H. Patten— Dr. E. Yale Clarke:222. Unverified — Reed Hawn:58 at \$1400.

— Overton 104 = Beistle 3-Ca. Golden I:1150 (K.S.1/62), O.K. Rumbel, QS 9/73: 543, Beck I: 1096, \$1250. Doubted; UR illegible.

— Overton 107 = Beistle 6-G. Widest date of the year, placed high; 7th star points to top of cap. N.N. 50:587, ex Elder, March 1911, Hillyer Ryder, Wayne Raymond.

— Unattributed: Lichtenfels I: 2754.

Other varieties are claimed to exist but there is some doubt of all shown me. The same remark holds for all dates of half dollars through 1836. If the proof surface gives way to frost anywhere on the fields (the usual places are near eagle's head and below Ms. Liberty's chin), the piece is not a proof. If there is any doubt, it should not be sold as one.

**Quarter Eagle.** Only the one variety. (1) Smithsonian, from the Mint collection. (2) Eliasberg, ex Parmelee:931, Woodin:939, "Memorable":86. (3) Mills:337, choice, not later traced. (4) D.S. Wilson: 165 (1907), small curved planchet defect on jaw, convex to upper left. (5) Gable:368 (1914), small obv. scratch. (6) Dr. Clifford Smith: 1495. Possibly same as one of above. Occasion: probably the resumption of coinage with a new design. Cf. Gaylord:100, Bell I.

**Half Eagle.** Breen 3-A. Base of second 1 high, 13th star touches curl. (1) Smithsonian, from the Mint coll. (2) Randall:927 (1885), Woodin, Newcomer, Green, B.G. Johnson, Farouk. Pictured in ANS 1914,

plate 15.

Occasion for striking proof sets this year: probably celebration of Missouri's admission to the Union. Early sets might have had the large date dime if indeed this coin was a proof. There are so many more cents than any other denominations that the suspicion arises that a group of proof cents was made up at the outset, not all being used in presentation or sets, some being possibly later sold to collectors.

## 1822

**Cent.** N-10. Wide date, 22 slightly lower than 18; r. top of N in UNITED well above left top of I. Traces of inner circle at border. Top obv. border generally narrow on the proofs. First variety of the year. (1) Smithsonian, from the Mint coll., bought at the Benjamin Haines sale of January 1863. (2) Omaha City Library, ex Byron Reed estate, possibly Mackenzie:668. (3) Frothingham (5/29/83) — J.B. Wilson: 1057 (1908) — French:439 (?) — Frank Hussey — NN 54:1335 — Lester Merkin. (4) Philadelphia Estate, brilliant, source unknown. (5) Lester Greenwood, Coin Galleries (8/56):2280. (6) McCoy:703 (Woodward 5/64) — Zanoni — Cleneay: 1859 (1890). (7) Philadelphia Estate, ex J.C. Morgenthau 444th sale (6/42):349, bright red. At least three or four others seen, known to be different from any of the above. Walter F. Webb offered one to Homer Downing in July 1941, which may be one of these. Another is in a N.Y. State coll.. Obverse border is always narrow at top. (Emission sequence: N-10, 9, 8, 12, 7, "13" (obv. 7, rev. 11), 11, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. N-10 has an earlier sate of obv. of N-9; N-12 has rev. B of 1821, N-7 has rev. D of 1820.)



1822 Cent. N-12. Ex French, "Dupont," Taylor colls.

— N-12. Wide date, line joins top of ER in LIBERTY, base of large T low; faint crack, rim to 7th star to head. Rev. U slightly low; base of T below that of E in STATES. (1) Calif. Specialist, ex French (before 1914), Mehl 6/45: 1750, "Dupont": 612, E. Taylor. (2) Beckwith: 61, W.F. Morgan: 201. Unverified.

— N-8. Calif. Specialist, ex Hines-Sheldon-T.J. Clarke.

— N-6. Wide date, curl begins left of center of first 2, E R apart, most stars double punched. (1) Philadelphia Estate, ex Newcomb:550, possibly ex Mougey: 136, and/or Dr. French:436. (2) Calif.

Specialist, ex A.J. Fink, T.J. Clarke, reportedly ex Newcomb. Nick on jaw; doubling on rev.; has been doubted. The other Dr. French — T. James Clarke: 186 coin turned out not to be a proof.

— N-4. Wide date, low 8, first star much nearer 1 than 13th is to final 2, and points at top of 1. Only one seen, in a private collection in the early 1950's, not now traced.

— N-2. Philadelphia Estate, ex J.C. Morgenthau, 1/12/34.

— N-1. Closest date of the year; top leaf below middle of final S. Philadelphia Estate, ex Newcomb: 595, probably privately ex Dr. French; earlier recorded only in ANS 1914, Dr. French loan.

**Dime.** Second variety, the one usually seen, with the taller stronger 1 in 10 C. (compared to 1821 reverses). WGC:467, at an astonishing \$200 back in 1945; worth possibly eighteen or twenty times as much today. I have seen one other and have a report of a third. Others claimed turned out to be reappearances of the WGC coin, or else first strikes or buffed pieces. There may be more than three around, though.

**Quarter.** B-1. Normal 25 C. (1) Newcomb 1:596, probably from Cleneay: 1323. Choice. (2) Davis-Graves:331. (3) Clapp, Eliasberg. (4) Lohr: 529, badly cleaned. (5) S.W. Freeman:1650. Wayne Raymond had seen at least six different ones, which may or may not include all those here.



**1822 Quarter. B-2, 25 over 50. Ex Steve Ivy**

— B-2. The famous Blundered Die, 25 over 50. (1) Mougey:687, Clapp, Eliasberg. (2) V. Brand (?), James Aloysius Stack estate:21, \$7500. (3) Virgil Brand estate, H.L.P. Brand, Miles:892. (4) Steve Ivy, 1976, no earlier pedigree. Supposedly the Brand estate owned as many as four of these, which would mean that at least two others are floating around; where are they? It is extraordinary that this naked-eye blundered die would have been used to make proofs. Possibly the other die had cracked and no third reverse was ready.



**1822 Half Dollar. Ov. 106. Ex Wayne Raymond**  
**Half Dollar.** Overton 106. 18 above 22. Ex Wayne Raymond.

— Overton 103? Exceptionally wide date. Cleneay: 1152; and cf. Lichtenfels I; 2755. The Cleneay plate is not clear enough to tell if these two are the same coin.

— Overton 109? Seventh star attached to cap. (1) R. Bart Holmes, R. T. McPherson, CA. Cass, "Empire": 1313, Reed Hawn:63, \$1400, called "Beistle 2-B," unverified. (2) Arnel:359, Scanlon:1385, \$1500. (3) Pvt. coll., possibly ex Newcomb 1:741.

No evidence that any half eagles were made in proof state; none of the three survivors of this date shows any sign of proof origin.

No evidence of manufacture of proof sets. If any were made, they contained only copper and silver, and extra cents were made on several occasions.

1823



**1823/22 Cent. N-1. Ex Batchelder**

**Cent.** 1823/22. N-1. Earliest die state, no rim breaks. (1) Mint Coll., no 1202, SI; cleaned. (2) Philadelphia Estate, tiny field chip high above N of ONE. Ex Newcomb II:556, probably ex Haseltine, Crosby, Parmelee:494 via Chapman Bros. (3) Beckwith:62, ex Wetmore:616, ex Mills:1308, ex Cleneay: 1860, ex McCoy and Zaroni back in the 1860's. Pictured in the Guidebook. Not recently traced. (4) Calif. Specialist, ex R.F. Batchelder, Sept. 1971 (discovered summer 1969).

— 1823 normal date. N-2. Philadelphia Estate, ultimately ex Finotti (1862): 805.

**Dime.** 1823/22, large E's in legend. B. 2-B, C-2. The only one seen with any claim is lot 514, 1954 ANA Convention sale, obv. proof, rev. unc. One other rumored to exist.

**Quarter.** 1823/22, only the one variety. Only one specimen, Reed Hawn:272 (3/77), ex Speir sale:

16, ex Miles:893 at \$11,500 (1968), ex F.S. Guggenheimer: 334 at \$2750 (1953), ex Mehl's "Golden Jubilee" sale, 1407, at \$1050, ex Jerome Kern (the songwriter), ex Clinton Hester, ex George H. Hall, ex A.J. Allen, ex Waldo Newcomer, ex Elmer Sears, B.G. Johnson, and reported variously to have come from Adolph Weyl in Berlin before the turn of the century or from Britain. Mehl claimed that several others exist but they have never turned up.

**Half Dollar.** Normal date. Repeatedly reported but not seen by me, though several deceptive early strikes are around. First auctioned in the J.N.T. Levick sale of October 1864 (W. Elliott Woodward, auctioneer). Cleneay: 1154, illustrated; several flat stars. Waldo Newcomer had one, #1440 in his private catalogue, unattributed, possibly the Levick (?) - Cleneay coin; it cost him \$25 back in the early 1920's, which was then a high price even for proofs. The A.C. Gies H-7 (one of the "ugly" or "patched 3" varieties) reappeared in the T.J. Clarke collection, and NN 47:1250, and both Gies and Clarke were doing some wishful thinking on this one. It does not even come close.

**Half Eagle.** Only the one variety. One reported from the Randall sale of 1885, lot 928. Not since traced, unless Golden I:2484. It is unlikely that any sets were made.

## 1824

### No cents even rumored to exist in proof state.

**Dime.** Only the one variety; earliest state, 1824 over 23 over 22! (1) Harold Bareford, possibly ex McCoy:562, Zaroni, Cleneay:1495; called "second finest" in the Cleneay sale. (2) Phila. Estate, ex Newcomb (private sale), Atwater:912; exhibited by Newcomb at ANS 1914. (3) 1954 ANA:515, doubted, possibly cleaned.

**Quarter.** Only one variety. The unique example: Haseltine Type Table sale:1331, R. Coulton Davis, Davis-Graves:333 at a then high \$550.

**Half Dollar.** Perfect date, unattributed. (1) Bart Holmes, R.T. McPherson:852, CA. Cass, "Empire": 1315. (2) Lichtenfels I:2760, impaired. One of these is possibly ex McCoy:443, Ely coll.

**Quarter Eagle.** Only the one variety, generally catalogued as 1824/21 though the overdate is very obscure. (1) SI, ex Mint, cleaned. (2) Winsor:506, "slight double profile." (3) Randall:969 (1885), Parmelee:952, Harlan P. Smith, later reportedly in Adolphe Menjou coll. One of preceding is possibly (4) Emerson Gaylord:101, Russell C. Heim:784. (5) Woodin:940, ex Cleneay, obv. proof, rev. unc; Ronnie Carr reported seeing this in a private collection (1960's).

**Half Eagle.** Only the one variety. SI, ex Mint, cleaned.

No sets are likely to have been made.

## 1825

**Half Cent.** Breen 65, Gilbert 2, wide date, curl above 5. Earliest die state, guide line showing between bases of S-O. Only one seen, in the hands of Bruce Abrash (ca. 1965), so drastically cleaned as to have lost its proof surface; evidence of at least two impressions from the dies.

— Breen 66, G-1. Close date, curl above 25. Proof/unc. This writer, ex F.C.C. Boyd through intermediaries. (2) David O. Hughes, Bogota, N.J., ca. 1947. Obv. die repolished, rev. lapped, probably to remove clash marks, after some business strikes had been made.

**Cent.** N-6. Small A's, tiny cluster of rust pits below TE(S). Third variety in striking order (N-8, 3, 6, 1, 7, 9, 10, 4, 2). Two reported, one ex Dr. French, not confirmed.

— N-9. Large A's, wide date, recut T of CENT. (1) Bement:354, minor obv. field nick, possibly same as one of next two. (2) ANS ex Mougey:149, Beckwith:67, R.D. Book (5/1930), G.H. Clapp. (3) Parmelee:963, Mougey:148, H. Chapman. (4) Sargent:658 — Ryder:859, Gallo. (5) Morgan: 215 — Mehl personal coll. — ??, bright red. Others exist, borderline cases, full proof surface but variable striking quality, e.g. French: 457 — Clarke: 204 (dubious), "Dupont":633 — Clarke:205 — Sloss — Lahrman, Kagin 9/56 — Helfenstein: 110 — G. Reale, etc.

— N-10. French:477 (as "A-8"), MacAllister, Clarke, Calif. Specialist. Has been doubted. Widest date of the year; large A's.

— N-2. Divided date, large A's, U D low. French:451, 'steel and iridescent purple,' unconfirmed, doubted.

**Dime.** Wide date, 1 high (Breen 2-A). One seen in 1950's, not now traced.

— Divided date 18 25. (Breen 3-B) (1) Bareford. (2) Mrs. Norweb. It is barely possible that one or other of these is a 3-C; the differences are very slight. TA almost touch on reverse C, less close on B.

— B. 3-C (see above). (1) Earle:3172, Ryder, Wayte Raymond, NN 50:382. (2) Cleneay: 1496 is possibly this variety, possibly same as (1). (3) Parmelee:962 to Steigerwalt, same comment. (4) Winsor:679 (obv. proof, rev. unc.) is possibly this variety. (5) Mills: 1105, probably same as one of above. (6) H.G. Brown (Low 10/04), Jenks, Sternberg, Alan Weinberg, Jon Hanson.

**Quarter.** B-2. Close date (generally "1825/23," actually 1825/4/3). Rev. Small 5, not taller than 2. (1) Boyd, WGC:86, Kern:1411. (2) A.J. Fink, 1950, cleaned, offered to me, refused. (3) I saw another that same summer in Malcolm Chell-Frost's stock. In all I have met with nine (probably representing six different ones). The deceptive early strikes lack the central sharpness of real proofs.

— B-3. "1825/24," 4 plainer under 5 than 3, same

obv. die. Rev. Large 5, taller than 2. One seen, not traced. First described as 1825/24 in Woodward's "European" sale, July 1884.

**Half Dollar.** Plain 2 (top ends in sharp point to r., unlike Fancy 2, below). Overton 113, 7th star to upper half of ribbon; 25 farther apart than on the other Plain 2 die with this star position (below); 5 of date not recut. (1) Parmelee:959, Woodin, Newcomer, Col. Green, B.G. Johnson, Eric P. Newman. (2) Davis-Graves:510. (3) KS 2/60: 1423, hairlined. (4) Col. Green, Lichtenfels I:2763.

— Similar but 25 closer, upright of 5 repunched; tiny lump on lower r. side of first stripe. Ov. 117. "Dupont": 2079, Edgar A. West:674.

— Fancy 2. (Top ends in duller point curled sharply upwards.) Ov. 116. Upright of 5 repunched at left; horizontal die file marks in field left of date; field chip before throat. Rev. Patch of die file marks on lower r. side of first stripe, this rev. reused as 1826 Ov. 104. (1) Krouner, LM 2/71:703. (2) N.Y. state specialist, unverified, possibly this variety. (3) Allenburger, McPherson:857, Cass, "Empire":1319, unverified, possibly same as one of first two.

**Quarter Eagle.** Breen 2-A, Adams 2, Clapp 2, Newcomer 690. Only the one die; second rev., that of 1826-7, large 2 of value close to leaf. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Elmer Sears, April 1926, John H. Clapp, Eliasberg. (3) Gaylord:102, unverified, ex Bell I?

**Half Eagle.** 1825/24. \*B. 1-A. Eliasberg, ex Clapp, ex Earle: 2394, ex Col. Mendes I. Cohen: 145. 4 plain within 5.

— 1825/21. B. 2-A. (1) SI, from Mint collection. (2) Ex Parmelee:957, Steigerwalt, Woodin, Newcomer, Green; exhibited by Woodin at ANS 1914 Exposition, pictured in the G.H. Hall Catalogue (1945) over lot 1895, later Flanagan:1100, Bell I, Eliasberg, "H.R. Lee":1243, Farouk, Dr. Wilkison. This may be the piece now in Mocatta Metals collection.

Proof sets may have been made early or late, the early containing the B-65 half-cent, N-6 or 9 cent, 2-A dime, either quarter and possibly the 1825/24 half eagle, the later containing the converse varieties. If so, it is unlikely that there were more than one or two sets made. Not even a whisper of a rumor of a second 1825/24 half eagle proof has come to my ears. Later proof sets are slightly more likely, and it is curious that there are more of the smaller denominations than of the half dollars. Occasion: the visit to the USA of Marquis de Lafayette, July 1824 — Sept. 1825.

## 1826

**Half Cent.** One rumored to exist, unlocated; supposed to be of the regular seen Gilbert 1 variety with crisscross die file marks r. of date. Cf. M.A. Brown: 1008 (SH & HC 4/97); Woodin:800; (Elder, 1911), one of these later owned by L. Werner.

**Cent.** Benjamin H. Collins, Washington, D. C. dealer of the 1880's and 90's after his retirement from the Treasury Dept., claimed to have owned one, but it has not been seen. T. James Clarke owned a N-9, state I, which he called a proof, but the last time I saw the piece it was anything but. No others reported.

**Half Dollar.** Only one variety claimed to exist: Overton 102=Beistle 2B=Haseltine 1, immediately identified by having plain 2 low, 6 in date too high. (1) Cass — "Empire":1320, ex Allenburger, McPherson:863, possibly originally Cleneay:1162. (2) Ira Reed, T. James Clarke, NN 47:1258, had been struck twice but the design was still not properly brought up: weakness on part of drapery and STA. (3) Col. Green, 1946 ANA:786, Lichtenfels I:2783. (4) Newcomb II:846, obv. proof, rev. unc. (5) Dr. Ruby, "Gilhausen":930, \$2500, Ruby III:696, possibly same as (1) or (3). Others may exist. One of these — possibly no. 1 — is ex McCoy:446, J.N.T. Levick.

**Quarter Eagle.** Only one variety. (1) Neil:2405, not seen. Possibly either of the coins later handled by the Kagins: 218:121 (5/31/58), later 227:233 (8/1/59), "light rub," different from (2): Kagin: 228:877 (9/12/59), "gem." (3) Newlin, 12/15/1885, Mint, SI: is this a proof?

**Half Eagle.** Usual variety, 13th star almost touching curl. (1) Adam Eckfeldt, Mint coll., SI. (2) Randall:931, Parmelee:965, Steigerwalt, Woodin, Newcomer, Col. Green, Farouk, not since traced. Pictured over G.H. Hall: 1896.

There would have been ample reason to make proof sets for 1826, this being the jubilee of American Independence, but no evidence exists for any. One likely reason for the subdued character of any celebration: Adams and Jefferson died simultaneously on Jubilee Day.

1827



**1827 Cent. N-7.** Ex "Dupont," W.L. Carson, Merkin Feb. 1972.

**Cent. N-7,** first variety of the year. Upper half of 8 recut, B E apart, E's of ONE CENT recut under top arms. Left obv. border bold, r. narrow. (1) Cleneay:1867, more border visible at r. obv., possibly Philadelphia Estate. (2) "Dupont":658, W.L. Carson, LM 2/72:66. (3) Warfield:501, Kagin. (4) James Kelly 3/46, unverified, possibly same as (1) or (2). Emission sequence: N-7, 11, 10, 6i 1, 2, 9, 4, 5, 8, 3, 12.



— N-1. Curl begins over center of 2, B T recut; high leaf ends near 0, small field defect below space between NT. (1) Mougey: 153, Beckwith: 72, A.J. Fink, T. James Clarke, Calif. Specialist. (2) "Dupont":651, NN, Phila. Estate. (3) T. James Clarke: 213, not seen (out to a mail bidder when I was looking over the Clarke coins). That in Bluestone's fixed price list (early 1930's), no. 87, could be any of the above.

— N-2. Same obv., r. stands of both A's in AMERICA too long. Ellsworth-Clapp-ANS. Obv. proof, rev. unc.

— N-4. Curl entirely over 7, 82 almost touch at tops, denticles slant, rev. same as last. (1) SI, from Mint Coll. (2) "Dupont":653, to "D.N.", TAD:99, light nicks on either side. (3) Newcomb II:583, to Philadelphia Estate, rev. pin scratch. (4) Walter F. Webb offered one to Homer Downing in July 1941. (5) Zabriskie:813, possibly the same as last. (6) H. Bareford. Others seen at various times, fifteen in all, probably representing a dozen different coins.

— N-II (?). Mougey: 154, Miller: 873. Not since traced.

**Dime.** B. 1-A, C-1. Close date, recut 7. One seen many years ago.

— B. 3-C, C-2. Close date, "ugly 8" (die defect lump between loops). Three seen in private hands during the 1950's, none recently.

B. 5-E, C-3. Low 7, second star double punched. (1) Eliasberg. (2) NN50: 383, ex Elder, Feb. 1912, Hillyer Ryder, Wayte Raymond.

— B. 6-F, C-4. 13th star double punched. Obv. proof, rev. unc: (1) Jon Hanson, ex Lester Merkin, ex Taylor-Windle sale (H. Chapman, June 1908): 1319, ex C.S. Lincoln, former Mint coiner. (2) D.M. Bullowa, ca. 1952.



**1827 Dime. Breen 8-G. Ex Boyd, Friedman, Lathrop, Edelstein colls.**

— B. 8-G, C-5. "K-1". Wide date, 7th star recut, A below M, 1 below 0. Four seen, the best being the F.C.C. Boyd — WGC:476 — Adolph Friedman — 1946 ANA: 243 — R.J. Lathrop — NN 40: 480 — Jonathan Edelstein piece. Cf. also 1946 ANA: 1604; 1958 ANA: 40; LM2/71:563.

— Unattributed. (1) Mickley, Reichardt, Joseph P. Reakirt, Lt. Jay P. Reakirt, Columbus (Ga.) Stamp & Coin Co. (1962), to Mrs. Norweb, in set with 25¢, 50¢. (2) KS 4/59: 1555, KS 2/60: 1171. (3) Menjou: 176. (4) Philadelphia Estate, ex Morgenthau, Oct. 5, 1939:469. (5) Kern:1670,s same as (2)?



**1827 Quarter. Original. B-1. Ex Mickley (IV), Reichardt, Reakirt, Norweb colls.**

**Quarter.** One of the most famous rarities of the American silver series. Here we deal only with the original (rev. curve based 2, I in motto below Tat r., same as 1828 B-1), Browning 1. The story has already been mentioned of how Joseph J. Mickley in 1827 obtained his four original proofs late in the year in exchange for a Spanish or Mexican silver dollar. Of Mickley's four, one was sold to George F. Seavey, one to Jeremiah Colburn, one to Rev. Joseph Finotti, and the fourth went in 1867 with the dime and half dollar to J.P. Reichardt. All are tentatively identified. The following pedigree list differs from any previously printed and is believed to be more accurate; uncertainties still exist and are so noted. We may conjecture an original mintage of 12.

1. Adam Eckfeldt, Mint, SI. Cleaned.

2. Mickley (I), Rev. Joseph Finotti, G.F. Seavey:471 (1873) by which time already the property of Lorin G. Parmelee; cleaned; later Parmelee:975, Col. Green, B.G. Johnson, J.A. Stack estate:29, \$50,000. Pictured in Seavey, Parmelee and Browning Plate. Top hand upper r. borders weak, last two stars flat, 4th and 10th partly flat but show centers, top rev. border flat.

3. Mickley (II), John F. McCoy:508, Ely:244, G.W. Massamore, Cleneay: 1339, Mills:999, Wetmore:396, Waldo Newcomer, B. Max Mehl (1933), A.J. Allen, George H. Hall (privately), Clinton Hester, Jerome Kern (with the restrike and the proof 1823 at \$7500 for the group), New Netherlands, Wayte Raymond, Raymond estate, NN 49:1149, D.N. for the TAD collection (at \$5,750, June 1957), 1976ANA:962 at \$35,000. Pictured in Cleneay, Mills, Wetmore, and NN49. Third and fourth stars flat; light cucumber-shaped discoloration near 9th to 11th stars.

4. Mickley (III), Seavey:226 (1863), Joseph N.T. Levick, Woodward 10/64:437, Dr. Frank Smith Edwards: 1202 (1866), Lewis White (E. Cogan, April 17, 1876): 177, R. Coulton Davis:1425, unknown intermediates, Charles M. Williams, Menjou:696, King Farouk, N.Y. specialist. Badly stained, cleaned for Farouk and minus most of its proof surface.

5. Mickley (IV), Mickley: 1706 with the dime and half dollar, J.P. Reichardt, Reichardt family (name later changed to Reakirt), Joseph P. Reakirt

(Cincinnati), Lt. Jay P. Reakirt, Columbus (Ga.) Stamp & Coin Co.; seen at Detroit ANA Convention, 1962; in Columbus MBS to Mrs. Norweb. All stars show centers, which is probably why Mickley kept this one when he sold the others.

6. H.O. Granberg, ANS 1914 exhibit, William H. Woodin, later fate uncertain; believed later to Dr. Owens, Yale University. Not recovered after the Yale robbery. Probably has been drastically cleaned to prevent identification. If this is the Granberg coin, it can be identified by the following: Obv. perfectly centered, no part of border weaker; last two stars flat; rev. border narrower at top; none of the stigmata of the other specimens.

7. F.C.C. Boyd, WGC:89, Neil:897, Guggenheimer:539, R.L. Miles: 898, Speir sale:20, Hughes, 1977 ANA. Pictured in all these auctions, though the Guggenheimer illustration is too poor in quality to prove continuity though it is so claimed in all later appearances. Last two stars flat, top obverse border flat but broader than on any other known example, rev. well centered; cleaned long ago. In the Miles sale this was erroneously identified as the Parmelee coin and the Browning Plate coin; they are similar but not identical.

8. John H. Clapp at an unknown date prior to 1941; Stack's; Louis Eliasberg coll. VF plus.

9. — Alvarez, Jerry Cohen, ca. 1972, QS 9/73 :670, \$28,000, Stacks, Reed Hawn:275 (3/77). Top and bottom obv. borders both weaker (blurrier) than remainder, and in part much less clear than on no. 6 with which this conceivably could be confused; plain rim nick almost midway between 8th and 9th stars; all stars show centers but most are partly flat; rev. well centered, top border not as clear as rest. Pictured in the QS catalogue. Accepted as a hitherto unknown specimen, once the difference from number 6 was demonstrated.

For the restrike, with flat based 2 (rev. of 1819), see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below.



**1827 Half Dollar. Flat based fancy 2. Ov. 107. Ex Merkin, Sept. 1967.**

**Half Dollar.** Flat based fancy 2. Ov. 107. LM 9/67:255.

— Unattributed, fancy 2, possibly same dies. (1) Newcomb I:742. (2) Newcomb II:847. (3) T. James Clarke:1262, obv. proof, rev. unc. (4) Allenburger, McPherson:870, CA. Cass, "Empire": 1523, W.L.

Carson, possibly same as one of first two. (5) Mickley, Reichardt, Reakirt, Columbus MBS, Norweb, in set with the dime and quarter as mentioned above. One of the first four may have been ex Winsor:512 and/or McCoy:448, Col. Cohen colls. Another, unverified, was the MacAllister, Lahrman:680 example.

From all this possibly confusing verbiage we can conclude that at least four different specimens exist, possibly as many as seven.

**Quarter Eagle.** Only one variety. So rare that its existence is controversial. I mentioned it as "rumored" in the original monograph; the piece alluded to was the Cleneay-Woodin (lot 943) coin, obv. proof, rev. unc, not seen in recent years.

**Half Eagle.** Only one variety. (1) Mint, SI. (2) H.P. Smith, John H. Clapp, Eliasberg. (3) Reported, untraced.

Proof sets may have been made; no occasion has been suggested.

## 1828

**Half Cent.** Breen 69, Gilbert 1. High leaf ends beyond S; 13 stars. (1) Obv. proof, rev. unc, ex Louis S. Werner in 1950's. Two others reported, untraced.

**Cent.** N-5. Large date, tops of 82 almost touch, high leaf nearer O than S, another leaf point midway F A; very faint crack, tops of TED. (1) Mint, SI, cleaned. (2) Cleneay: 1869, Beckwith: 74, W. F. Morgan: 330, Mehl, T. James Clarke: 223, Emanuel Taylor, Phila. Estate. First variety of the year, earliest in a muling group which included two 1827 reverses. True sequence: N-5, 2, 4, 3, 1, 12, 7, 6, 8, 11, 9, 10.

— N-8. Divided large date 18 28, high leaf central under S; die scratches in field below ribbon and stem. Perfect die, or with extremely faint crack through tops of TED (coincidentally). Miller: 879, Mehl 10/23, Clapp, ANS, whereabouts unknown. Note: Newcomb II: 599 to Phila. Estate, called "proof," has wear and handling, grades EF-AU and may never have begun as a proof.

A third variety (N-1, identified by dot within upper curl of 2, tops of ER even, die scratches between S O, the cracked Rev. G of 1827) is unverified; the piece responsible for the report appears to have been ex Ernest Henderson = "Sheraton," 1947 ANA: 1631, T. James Clarke: 222, Carabin: 703, 1958 ANA: 541, Dr. Sloss: 172, buffed. Rumors persist of the small date coin (N-10) in proof; unverified.

**Dime.** Small date, as in 1829. Breen 2-B, Clapp 2. (1) Alan Weinberg, from England. Toned. (2) Phila. Estate, ex J. C. Morgenthau 1/43. (3) Newcomb at private sale, Boyd, WGC: 479; possibly ex Cleneay: 1501; exhibited at ANS: 1914. (4) LM 4/70:484, possibly same as last. (5) 1954 ANA: 519, doubted. Others exist with knife-rims and some proof surfaces, but lack proper striking quality.

**Quarter.** Browning 1. Punches as on small date cents. Rev. of 1827. First star much nearer drapery than border, light cracks through ED to scroll, and from top of scroll under 0 to AME. (1) Boyd, WGC: 94. (2) and (3) Shown me by David M. Bullowa, March 18, 1952, earlier unattributed. (4) Speir sale: 21. (5) James A. Stack estate: 31 (unverified), \$3500. This or preceding may be same as (1).

— B-2. Obv. as last. Rev. of 1824. Small die chip up from top of scroll between s and final S; spine leftwards from lowest arrowhead barb. "Dupont": 1804.



**1828 Quarter Dollar. B-4. Ex Merkin, Oct. 1969.**

— B-4. First star much nearer border than drapery; F below 0. (1) Cleneay:1340, Allenburger, T. James Clarke, NN 47:1514, Eugene Gardner: 1630. (2) Earle: 3065, Hillyer Ryder, Wayte Raymond, NN 49:1150, minute field nicks. (3) Boyd, WGC:97, nicked, possibly 1946 ANA:429, S.W. Freeman:1555. (4) T. James Clarke, duplicate, privately sold. (5) Col. Green, Browning Plate coin. (6) LM 10/69:85. (7) Dr. D. C. Montgomery: 1271, possibly same as one of foregoing.

Several others are around for which attribution has not as yet been feasible, (a) Parmelee: 981, H. P. Smith. This may be (2) above, of B-4. (b) Newcomb I: 601, possibly same as one of above, (c) Woodin: 564. (d) W. L. Carson. They may not represent four different examples. When I called the B-4 "R-6" I was thinking of all these as B-4's.

**Half Dollar.** Large date, large curled curved-based 2 without knob. Overton 105, Beistle 3-D. Reported by Beistle as a proof, therefore evidently a Col. Green coin. Newcomb I: 743 may be this variety.

— Small 8's, flat based 2, large letters (the common type). Unattributed. (1) R. E. Cox: 1834. (2) Newcomb I: 848, obv. proof, rev. unc, possibly ex Woodin: 172. (3) and (4) Woodin: 165-166, two different varieties. Cf. McCoy: 449, Ten Eyck, "rev. tarnished."

Others are reported but attributions are not available, except for Overton 118 = Beistle 9-M: last star almost touches curl, 5th — 6th and 10th — 11th stars too closely spaced, UNITEDSTATES as one word. Winner Delp: 72, \$1050, unverified.

**Half Eagle.** 1828/27, B. 1-A. Eliasberg, ex Clapp.

— Normal date. B. 2-B. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Mrs. Norweb. Compare also Bell II: 605, at a then (1963)

high \$4650.

Proof sets may have been made up earlier and later in the year. The earlier ones would have contained the B-1 or B-2 quarter and the large curled 2 half dollar; later ones the B-4 quarter and small 8's flat based 2 half dollar. Occasions for manufacture unknown, though the dime logically would have been sent out to exhibit the new coining technique (close collar) and new border treatment by Kneass (beads within a plain raised rim). However, no record of such presentation survives.

## 1829

**Half Cent.** Only one variety of the date. Four reported, one of them a piece I saw at the Boston ANA Convention in 1948. A second was offered with the Brobston collection at \$550 over fifteen years ago but I do not recall seeing it in Brobston's collection.

Some of the cents, and not impossibly the half cents, of this date and 1831, occur with the new "bronzed" finish, apparently first used by Boulton & Watt's Soho Mint, then experimentally used in Philadelphia after samples of bronzing powder had been sent there from Birmingham; bronzing was regularly used on some copper pattern eagles 1861-63 (GOD OUR TRUST in field or on scroll) and on some other pieces of that period as well as on numerous medals. The surface is uniformly matte and usually reddish brown — apparently an artificial protective patina. Neophytes are advised to look at the 1861-63 patterns to recognize the finish.

**Cent.** Large letters. N-6. High wide date, IB join, tall 1. (1) Eliasberg, bronzed. Believed ex Mackenzie: 675, Winsor: 931, Mougey: 161, Bement: 359. (2) Philadelphia Estate, believed ex McCoy: 711, Zanoni, Cleneay: 1872, Beckwith: 76, Elmer Sears, Barney Bluestone (1942). (3) Standish Hall, C. David Pierce, Kagin 47: 600 (6/5/47), Kagin fixed pricelist 25: 116 (1948), Kagin 270: 1400 (4/67), 294:58 (7/71). (4) "Dupont": 677, TAD: 101, couple of obv. and rev. spots, Denis Loring, later cleaned. (5) Roebbling, NN 54: 1543, C. Douglas Smith, L. Helfenstein: 129, 'R.Z.R.' Any of the last three could be Winsor: 932 and /or French: 488. (6) W. F. Morgan: 233. (7) Brand, Landau: 139, Emanuel Taylor, Schwartz: 608, Gene Reale (thought by some to be ex Beckwith?). Several others seen, almost indistinguishable.

— N-L Complete inner circle, ER touch at tops and bases; rev. E's in ONE CENT recut. H. Bareford. Unverified.

— N-8. Short 1, first star close to bust. Reported: French: 490, in Dr. French loan at ANS 1914; untraced since, doubtful, but not impossible.

It is uncertain which variety came first. The tall 1 obvs. appear to use the same date punches as 1828 small date, the N-8 has an 1828 reverse. Both N-6 and N-8 are singletons, apparently separated by a muling

group including the other seven varieties of the year.

**Half Dime.** Triple vertical stripes (first eagle puncheon, this year only):

— V-3. Faint recutting on 8; IT joined at bases, top of same I double. (1) Eliasberg. (2) SI ex Mint, probably one of the first coined July 4, 1829, saved by Adam Eckfeldt for historical purposes. (3) One formerly owned by this writer. (4) Ex Brand, New Netherlands. (5) Grant Pierce: 429. (6) Neil: 1525, Lichtenfels II: 2834. Others probably exist.

— V-2. Recut 9, recut C's in 5 C. and AMERICA. (1) ANS. (2) "Dupont": 1360. (3) Dr. Angus Black, NN 61: 214, impaired. (4) Mehl 3/22/1938, Phila. Estate. (5) Merkin 6/68:220, 6/71:691. (6) Newcomb's, exhibited at ANS 1914, was probably this variety.

— V-7. Scroll begins under E of UNITED, not T as in the others. Only one seen: the former Brand, New Netherlands coin.

The triple stripes coins appear to have been struck in proof to memorialize the resumption of coinage of this denomination, a resumption marked by use of the new style beaded border (introduced on the dimes in 1828), and of a close collar. Cf. letter of August 8, 1829, from Mint Director Samuel Moore to Secretary of the Treasury S. D. Ingham, Mint Letter Book #2 (1824-31), p.80, Record Group 104, National Archives.

— "B-13." Double stripes in shield. Not in Valentine: obv. V-2, rev. V-6. Recut 9, unusually short wedge-shaped top to 5, recutting on bases of 5 C. Eliasberg.

— V-6. Top of 1 recut; rev. as last. Eliasberg; Valentine, in ANS 1914 Exhibition.

— V-8. Obv. as last; rev. S above s and space right, final S low. Eagle's beak filled. (1) Shown me by David M. Bullowa, May 1952. (2) Lester Merkin auction, April 1966: 63 at \$310, later H.W., 1971 ANA: 609, Reed Hawn: 561 at \$550. The double stripes type, representing a second eagle puncheon differing slightly in other details (shape of leaves and shield, etc.), was continued into later years.

—"B-14." Obv. V-9 (top of 9 recut), rev. 1830 V-3. Scroll ends under center of M. M-R above A-E. Merkin 2/71: 557.

**Dime.** Extra large 10C, fine beads (die of 1828). Breen 1-A. Lohr: 391, obv. proof, rev. unc. Exceedingly rare type even in nonproof.

— Small 10 C, round o. B. 2-C: widest date, curl begins between 29. (1) Landau: 426, impaired. (2) Winsor: 683 may be this variety. I have seen at least two others.

— Same type. B. 3-D. Wide date, A joins arrow. Norweb.

— Same type. B. 4-D. Close date, same rev. One seen some years ago. Winsor: 684 may be this or preceding.

— Same type. High 9, widest AMERICA. Cleneay: 1502; two seen during the 1950's. One of these is

possibly Reed Hawn: 691 at \$2000, the other (?) Miles: 626. Newcomb I:552, Atwater: 918, Parmelee: 992 have not been identified, nor has the impaired piece which went as NN 36:104.

**Half Dollar.** Small letters. Large 50 C. Overton 107=Beistle 11-A: largest C (of 50 C.) in the series, its serif and tail nearly touching. NN 50:388, ex Elder (1912), Hillyer Ryder, Wayte Raymond estate.

— Overton 105=Beistle 6-H. Similar. R I C A far apart, C large but not quite the size of preceding, the serif and tail normally spaced apart. D and first T in STATES slightly high. Philip G. Straus estate, sold privately as it did not appear in either of the auctions. Straus had shown it to me in 1951.

— Overton 112=Beistle 12-Q, possibly Haseltine 5. Similar, the reverse almost identical; obv. mouth open (lapped die). Known from the Col. Green coin mentioned by Beistle.

— Small 50 C. Apparently Overton 111, Beistle 3-L, Haseltine 3. One seen many years ago; Winsor: 517 may be the same piece, possibly ex McCoy: 451, Levick.

Other varieties probably exist, and various specimens have been seen or reported without attribution: (1) Newcomb I: 744. (2) Woodin: 173, "broad 8, large 50 C." (3) Reed Hawn: 91 at \$2000. (4) "Dupont": 2088, to Kagin. (5) 1829/7. Claimed by Wayte Raymond, unverified.

**Quarter Eagle.** Only the one variety; new style border, struck in close collar, modified design by Kneass. (1) SI, ex Mint collection. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Cohen: 196 — Parmelee: 990 — Woodin — F.C.C. Boyd — WGC: 95 — "Memorable": 89, possibly same as last. (4) Winsor: 330 — T. L. Gaskill — NN 48: 196, to a dealer. Slightly impaired. (5) J. H. Clapp — Eliasberg — "H. R. Lee": 1000 (1947) — NN 49:573. Slightly impaired. (6) Adolphe Menjou: 1175, impaired. (7) "Cicero" collection, NN 55:263, EF but obviously had been a proof. (8) Possibly another handled by the Kagins, 214: 1011 (10/57), 218:122 (5/58), 293:1386 (4/71). Occasion for striking the unusually large number of proofs: new design.

**Half Eagle.** First type, as in 1828: large date, stars, letters, large flan, radial denticles, struck in open collar. Only one of the six known specimens has the slightest claim to proof status. This is Atwater: 1646, ex David S. Wilson: 79, ex Randall: 934 (1885), obv. proof, rev. unc. In the Atwater sale, Mehl's 26-line description failed to mention grade!

— Second type, as in 1830: small flan, beaded borders, closed collar; small date, stars and letters. Three of the six known are proofs. (1) SI, from Mint collection. (2) Norweb, ex Col. Cohen: 149, Parmelee: 989, Lyman Low, James Ten Eyck, Waldo Newcomer, Col. E.H.R. Green, King Farouk. (3) Omaha City Library, from Byron Reed estate, earlier source unknown.

Proof sets are quite likely to have been made this year on at least two occasions. Resumption of mintage of half-dimes, July 4, and initiation of new style coinage in the gold, might well have been the occasions, though absolute proof is lacking. The earlier sets presumably had the triple stripe half dimes, and probably no gold; the later sets, the double stripe half dimes and a few at least contained one or both gold pieces.

### 1830



#### 1830 Cent. N-10. Ex a Swiss estate, Merkin March 1968

**Cent.** Newcomb 10. Second Inner Circle (date curved, wider than on N-1, the First Inner Circle). Leaf barely beyond stand of F. (1) SI, ex Mint collection. (2) Lelan Rogers, ex a Swiss estate, L. M. 3/68: 181. (3) Philadelphia Estate, ex McCoy: 712, Zanoni, Cleneay: 1874, Mougey: 163, Newcomb II: 621. (4) Seen in 1950's. The variety is exceedingly rare even in business strike form as this reverse rapidly broke up.

— N-1. Philadelphia Estate, ex Sargent: 581, Beckwith: 77, SHC, Morgenthau 10/5/38: 623.

**Half Dime.** V-10. In date 0 too high; minute spine up from scroll between two S's; base arc line may show between F A. (1) A coin formerly owned by this writer; signs of cleaning. (2) One shown me by David M. Bullowa, May 1952. (All so identified remain intact in a private collection, 1975.)

— V-8. Similar; end stars unusually far from drapery and curl. Rev. of 1829 V-8, earlier described. (1) Bullowa, May 1952. (2) LM 4/66:64, H. W., 1971 ANA: 610, Reed Hawn: 563, \$1,150.

— V-5. Faint crack from 6th star through cap, thence between 8th and 9th stars to border. Rev. Final S and M partly filled. Business strikes are from later die states. Evidently struck in 1831 as this rev. appears in earlier state (without defects) on 1831 V-6. Occasion for restriking unknown but apparently not official skulduggery. (1) SI, ex Mint coll., no. 1007. (2) Eliasberg. (3) LM 9/70:238, possibly the piece he showed me in early 1966.

Other specimens of this denomination, unattributed, have been seen or are reliably reported in proof state: (a) Parmelee: 1000, Byron Reed, Omaha City Library, (b) Grant Pierce: 428. (c) W. L. Carson.

**Dime.** Narrow 0 in 10 C. Breen 2-B. (1) Byron Reed estate, Omaha City Library. (2) Parmelee: 999, Steigerwalt, Woodin, F. C. C. Boyd, WGC: 485, Neil: 1227. (3) Lohr: 398, possibly same as last. (4) 1946 ANA: 248, same comment. (5) Ex W. L. Carson, possibly one of foregoing. Compare also Cleneay: 1504 and Winsor: 686. All we can be sure of is that one is impounded in Omaha, and that at least two others are around.

**Half Dollar.** Small 0. Rev. Die defect lump at border r. of F. Ov. 110 = Beistle 8a-G and possibly also Beistle 1-A. (1) Parmelee: 998, Woodin, possibly later Newcomer, Col. Green, which would make it the coin known to Beistle. (2) 1949 ANA, R. T. McPherson:879, C. A. Cass, "Empire":1330. (3) Davis-Graves: 519, not verified. (4) LM 2/71:720. (5) "Terrell": 837. (6) Reed Hawn: 93, \$1,250. The last three coins may represent reappearances of one or two of the above; we cannot be sure that as many as five different ones exist. I have also seen, in the early 1950's, two others with reasonable claims to proof status, but have long since lost track of them. It is a safe guess that at least three are around in all. It is not known if these have first, second or third edge.

**Quarter Eagle.** Only one variety of the year. (1) SI, from Mint collection. (2) Omaha City Library, from Byron Reed bequest. (3) Parmelee: 997 — W. H. Woodin: 945 — Waldo Newcomer — Col. Green — B. G. Johnson — F. C. C. Boyd — WGC: 96 — "Memorable": 90. Slightly impaired. (4) Jerome Kern: 18, believed ex G. H. Hall: 1730 (1945), H. P. Smith: 253 (1906). This or preceding believed reappearing as H. R. 11/69:397 at \$2,900. Cf. Gaylord:104, unverified; "H.R. Lee":1001.

**Half Eagle.** Breen 1. Large 5 D., rev. of 1829. One seen many years ago, but I have lost track of it. The variety is extremely rare even in business strike form.

— Breen 2. Small 5 D., the D narrow. The proof in Omaha City Library, ex Byron Reed bequest, is believed to be this variety; one other reported, known to Wayne Raymond.

It is rather unlikely that more than a very few sets could have been made up; occasion unknown.

### 1831



#### 1831 Half Cent. Original, rev. of 1832. Ex Philip Showers coll.

**Half Cent.** Rev. of 1832, high leaf below r. side of

final S; guide lines between words. B-73, Gilbert 1. Original. (For the other varieties, see under *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.) About 5 or 6 proofs of these are known, compared to 8 or 10 business strikes, T. James Clarke had one; the Brobston piece was priced at \$1100 and reappeared in the 1965 "Century" sale at \$1550. That in SI is bronzed.

**Cent.** Newcomb 11. First variety of the year; rev. of 1830 Small Letters. Date 1 831; first star closer to bust than usual; high leaf barely past S. (1) Stickney: 1596 (top 6 stars flat). (2) Calif. Specialist ex Lahrman: 367 (first 4 stars flat). Rumored to be same as (1). (3) Philadelphia Estate, ex J. G. MacAllister 11/30/44. One other reported. The French: 509 — T. J. Clarke: 245 — Sloss: 180 — LM 11/65: 102 — J.C.S. coin, claimed by Dr. French and Clarke as a proof, turned out not to be. Emission sequence: N-II, 12, 9, 6, 8, 7, 10, 14, 1, 3, 2, 4, 5 — the last three made between 1833 and 1835.

— N-9. Straight tailed R in LIBERTY; large letters, M E apart. Calif. Specialist, ex Miller: 893, Ryder, NN 41:877, as "A-12," obv. proof, rev. unc.

— N-6. Perfect l's, coronet point almost opposite 6th star; same rev. as last. Calif. Specialist, ex "Dupont": 695, possibly Parmelee: 1010, also "one-sided" (obv. proof, rev. unc).

— N-10. Similar obv., first star closer to bust (like N-II), large letters, die defect almost closes C of AMERICA. All are "one-sided": (1) Calif. Specialist, ex McCoy: 713, Zanoni, Cleneay: 1876, Bement:363, Judge Sawicki:660 (S 2/54), T.J. Wass, NY/NJ 3/59:717, E. Taylor. (2) Philadelphia Estate, ex Newcomb II: 631, possibly ex Mougey: 169. (3) BB 9/45: 744 ex J. P. Young, possibly same as (1). One other reported.



**1831 Cent. Small letters. N-3. Ex Dr. French, T. J. Clarke colls.**

— N-3. Curl begins about over left edge of second 1; l's perfect; trace of inner circle; small letters, widely spaced, high leaf left of center of final S. (1) Calif. Specialist, ex Dr. French: 503, T. J. Clarke. (2) H. C. Hines, H. K. Downing, 52ANA:2176, E. M. Seneca Jr., small obv. field nick. (3) "Dupont": 691. (4) C. David Pierce, T. J. Clarke: 238, Lahrman: 365, not seen. (5) T. J. Clarke: 237. (6) Sloss, Ronald Stolberg, possibly same as one of last two. (7) N. Y. Specialist. (8) H. Bareford. (9) H. P. Smith: 1144, Beckwith: 78, H. Chapman, TAD: 106, Jerry A. Bobbe. First 10

stars flat, field nick opposite brow. (10) Phila. Estate ex Pearl: 319, bright red. (11) D. S. Wilson: 939, first 7 stars flat, possibly same as one of foregoing. (12) Elder 12/24:2273. Others reported. This rev. was reused in 1834-35. May exist bronzed.

**Half Dime.** V-5. l's lean a little r.; curl begins about centrally above 3. Rev. Faint die scratch, point of top leaf through wingtip towards N. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Wurzbach, Brand, NN, early 1960's.

— V-4. Same obv. Rev. F defective; O in OF repunched. Earlier state of die later used with leftover 1829-30 obvs. to make the unintentional restrikes 1829 V-1, 1830 V-2 (probably 1833-35). (1) Eliasberg. (2) NN, late 1950's. (3) Paramount FPL, Winter 1976, in set. (4) Moskowitz, QS 2/77: 1273, R. J. Rieth, gem, same as (2)?

— V-3. Curl begins about over inner curve of 3; 2nd star repunched; 1 8 a little wider spaced than other digits. Rev. of V-4, later state; berries fragmentary, disconnected, but not as late state as the 1829 or 1830 combinations. (1) Bullowa, May 1952. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Virgil Brand, James Kelly, Aug. 1939, Phila. Estate.

— V-1. Obv. as last, sometimes with fivefold clash marks. Rev. Final S often partly filled; final s of motto wholly below E. (1) Newcomb, exhibited at ANS, 1914, possibly one of following. (2) C. Ramsey Bartlett: 464. (3) Ex W. L. Carson. (4) Nate Smith: 364, believed ex Merkin 2/72:90. At least six others exist for which attributions have not been available. Cf. also Dr. Green: 1072; "Dupont": 1362; Futter: 154; Pelletreau:495; Brand-Lichtenfels II: 2838.

**Dime.** Breen 4-E. C and period high. (1) Parmelee: 1008, Steigerwalt, Woodin: 567, Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:486, Neil: 1229. (2) Cleneay: 1506, believed reappearing as Newcomb I: 554. (3) Winsor: 687, Mills: 1116, dull. (4) Allenburger: 874, Phila. Estate. (5) Holmes:2710, nicked. (6) LM 4/66:118, H. W., 1971 ANA.-650. (7) Paramount FPL Winter '76, in set. Cf. also 1946 ANA:249, Menjou: 183, and the coin lately consigned to Pine Tree Auctions. Known as a great rarity since the Levick sale of Oct. 1864, which coin had come from McCoy:570 or 571.

**Quarter.** Small date and letters. Browning 1. Curve-based 2, two berries on branch. ANS. One or two others reported, not traced.

— B-2. Curl begins above r. edge of final 1; weak faint tongue to eagle; flat based 2, 25 C. much nearer to border than to eagle. (1) Boyd, WGC: 101, Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA:432. (2) "Dupont": 1806. (3) Morgenthau 3/18/40: 360, Phila. Estate. At least three others seen.

— B-4. Curl begins about over left edge of final 1: 25 C. high near eagle; flat based 2; faint weak tongue. Philip Straus coll., ca. 1951.

"Large date" (tall l's punched over short l's); large letters, long arrowheads. (On the large letters

coins, C of 25 C is as tall as the 25; on small letters coins, c is much less tall than 25.) (1) Eliasberg. (2) Mougey:694, Allenburger, T. James Clarke, NN 47:1577. (3) Boyd, WGC:105, Kern:1416, John McNail, 1977 ANA. (4) Davis-Graves:338. (5) Paramount FPL, winter '76, in set. (6) Parmelee: 1006, to Steigerwalt, possibly same as one of first three. (7) Cleneay: 1341, same comment. Others seen in private collections. Possibly R-6, not R-7.

Mint Director sent 20 "specimens" to President Jackson, who could hardly have appreciated them, and 20 more to Treasury Secretary S. D. Ingham. These may not all have been proofs. Occasion: new modified design by Kneass, using beaded borders and close collar.



### 1831 Half Dollar. Overton 103.

**Half Dollar.** Ov. 103. (1) Paramount FPL winter '76, in set. (2) Reed Hawn: 98, \$1250. (3) Ex W. L. Carson. Cf. also McCoy:454, to Levick; Winsor:522. Wayte Raymond knew only two.

**Silver-Minor Sets.** Paramount FPL, winter 1976, lacking the cent, \$30,000.

**Quarter Eagle.** Only one variety; rev. of 1830 (proofs and business strikes both years). (1) SI ex Mint. (2) ANS. (3) Ex Ronnie Carr, possibly same as one to follow. (4) Randall: 975, Parmelee: 1004, Woodin: 946, "Memorable": 91; possibly later Grant Pierce: 1085, \$3,000, as "unique." (5) Davis-Graves: 680. (6) Bell 11:91, impaired. (7) Golden 11:1774, probably same as one of above. (8) Dr. Clifford Smith: 1502, ditto. Cf. also Stickney: 739, Earle: 2519 (hairmarked). Melish: 1118 turned out to be a fairly deceptive early business strike. One of the above (no. 3?) has lately been showing up at conventions.

**Half Eagle.** Breen 1, small D in 5 D., rev. of 1830 B-2. Parmelee: 1003 — H.P. Smith, not recently traced.  
— Breen 2, large D in 5 D. (1) SI ex Mint, dubious. (2) Reported by Wayte Raymond, not now located.

## 1832

**Half Cent.** Breen 76, Gilbert 2. Rev. of 1831 originals, described earlier. (1) SI (impaired) ex Mint. (2) Norweb. (3) This writer, bought as unc. from KS 2/60:869, yielding a pleasant surprise on degreasing. (4) I bought a duplicate at a midwestern convention about 1959 and resold it in 1963 at \$400 to finance purchase of other half-cents. I believe this is the piece

that later showed up in the Leon Bookman collection. No fifth example reported.



### 1832 Half Cent. G-1. Ex Ryder, Showers colls.

— B-77, Gilbert 1. Rev. High leaf below E in STATES, not S. (1) Brobston. (2) NN 51:1206. (3) Ex T. James Clarke. (4) Ex Elder (1927), Ryder, Wayte Raymond, NN 44, Showers. Possibly ex Jackman: 887. Small rim nick. (5) Private collection, about 1956. (6) Drastically cleaned, last seen in hands of Bruce Abrash — like the 1825.

— B-78, Gilbert 3. Recutting on D ES; very late rusted die state, possibly made at year's end. (1) Ex B.M. Douglas. (2) The writer's example. A third rumored.



### 1832 Cent. N-1. Ex Mickley, MacKenzie, Keeney, Chubbuck, Winsor, H. P. Smith, Wilson, MacAllister, Clarke colls.

**Cent.** N-1. Small letters, first star far from bust, 6th star point r. of coronet point. Rev. later used (1833-5) as 1831 N-5. Flat stars. (1) Mickley: 2032, Mackenzie: 678 (1869), Keeney, S.W. Chubbuck: 1692 (1873), "Boswell" (i.e. Richard Boswell Winsor), Winsor: 937, H. P. Smith, J. B. Wilson: 1073, J. G. MacAllister, T. James Clarke, Calif. Specialist. (2) McCoy: 714, Zandoni, Frothingham (May 29, 1883), Cleneay: 1879, unknown intermediaries, "Dupont": 707, TAD: 109, J. A. Bobbe.

**Half Dime.** V-1. 1 and 2 high, 12th star recut. Former Brand, New Netherlands coin.

— V-8. Wide date, final S, N and F partly filled. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Bullowa, May 1952. (3) Reed Hawn: 569 at \$525, ex Merkin 4/66:65, H. W.

— Unattributed. Wayte Raymond knew two; cf. E. M. Wharton: 1063, "Dupont": 1363.

**Dime.** In date 2 high, reverse not identified. Cleneay: 1508. This may have been the piece from the J. N. T. Levick sale of October 1864. Wayte Raymond knew none, and I have not seen the piece



"in the silver." Cf. Essex Institute:472 (\$1500); McCoy: 572 to Leslie.

**Quarter. B-1.** Long arrows; die of 1831 B-5. One reported in addition to the following mistake: The Allenburger coin, reappearing in the T. James Clarke collection as a proof, NN 47:1578, turned out to be a first strike. Cf. Mougey: 697.

— B-2. Short arrows, not ending near border. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Eric P. Newman. (3) Landau: 507, impaired. W. L. Carson had one, but I do not know which variety.

**Half Dollar.** Hyphenated date,-1832 (the "hyphen" short and next to base of 1). \*Not in Overton. Beistle obv. 8 (Overton 112) with new reverse: In 50 C, 0 too low. Base of right leg of first A in AMERICA double cut. R I apart, defect on tail of R. Rust pits at TA and scroll. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint collection. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Harold Bareford. Either of the last two may be Parmelee: 1015 or Winsor: 523, ultimately from McCoy: 455, Levick coll.

The Newcomer-Green B. 1-A (Overton 106), reappearing labeled "proof" in the T. J. Clarke collection, turned out to be a first strike and was so sold in NN 47:1273, but resold as "proof" in Lichtenfels I: 2778. Significantly, it was *not* called a proof in the Beistle book, though it appears to have been the piece Beistle was describing.

— Unattributed: Two reported by Wayte Raymond.

**Quarter Eagle.** Only one variety; reverse of 1830-31 proofs and business strikes. (1) Col. Mendes I. Cohen: 199, choice (1875), not since seen unless reappearing as one of those to follow. (2) "Memorable": 92, hairmarked on cheek. (3) R. Coulton Davis — W. H. Woodin: 947, small nick. (4) Maris: 17, ex Winslow Lewis, possibly No. 1 above.

**Half Eagle.** A single 13-star coin is rumored to exist.

It is most unlikely that any sets were made, despite the obvious occasion of the Washington Centennial. Why the extra half cents cannot even be conjectured.

1833



1833 Half Cent. Ex "Dupont" coll.

**Half Cent.** Only the one variety. Over two dozen are known, possibly more than 30. I was offered at least twelve demonstrably different ones (some impaired) in 1950. Two in Ryder collection (NN 44th),

two in Davis-Graves. Dies perfect or with *very* slight crack through top stars; without the severe clash marks seen on many business strikes.

**Cent.** Newcomb 4. High date, 1833/2, much nearer device than border; leaf ends just past stand of F. Only one seen, the former McCoy: 715, Levick, Woodward (10/64): 684, R. C. W. Brock, University of Pennsylvania, P.H. Ward, New Netherlands coin (1959). This shows minute evidence of four blows from the press (quadruple profile on lips).

The Dr. French — T. James Clarke N-3, lot 252 in the Clarke sale, was claimed to be a proof, but was out to a mail bidder when I examined the Clarke cents. It reappeared as Sloss: 184, at \$115, where called "proof-like." N-3 has date rather wide and placed well to right, curl begins r. of center of first 3, leaf ends under left tip of F.

**Half Dime.** V-1. Very heavy high border, 83 too close, rev. of 1831 V-1 with filled final S. Eliasberg, ex John H. Clapp, possibly ex Parmelee: 1027. In the Mickley catalogue of 1867, W. Elliot Woodward remarked that he had never heard of a proof 1833 — only thirty-four years after it was made! Neil: 1548 and 1552 have not been identified and may not have been proofs. Wayte Raymond had seen three specimens, probably including Clapp's. Cf. "Dupont": 1364; Kern: 1934.

**Dime.** \*B. 2-D. 1 high, leaning r., but not distant; close date. Rev. leaves doubled at left. (1) Landau: 432, to R. F. Batchelder. (2) Philadelphia Estate, ex Neil: 1223. (3) One other seen in a private collection. Cf. also Newcomb I:556 (exhibited in ANS 1914); Cleneay:1109, possibly ex McCoy:574, Levick. Both dies exist in nonproof combined with other dies, but this muling is known only on proofs.

— Obv. 3 with rev. not positively identified: date spaced 1 833, the 1 high. WGC:489. The W. L. Carson coin may have been of either of these varieties.

**Quarter.** Browning 1: period after C. (1) Eliasberg. (2) One other seen during the 1950's. Compare Mougey: 698; Cleneay: 1345, slightly impaired; Parmelee: 1025 (not certain that it was from this reverse); McCoy: 513 to Levick.

— B-2. No period after C; rusted obv. die. ANS has a questionable example; compare WGC:111. One other reported long ago, not now traced.

— Unattributed. Wayte Raymond reported four.

**Half Dollar.** The only proofs verified to exist are restrikes or antedated fantasy pieces having plain high rim and round border beads. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below. Cf. McCoy:456 to Levick.

**Quarter Eagle.** Only one variety; rev. same as 1830-32 inclusive, proofs and business strikes. The recutting on U is weaker than on former coins. (1) SI, from Mint collection. (2) Parmelee: 1022, reappearing as Mills:546; choice. This may possibly have reappeared as Davis-Graves:682; it was seen in New



York later in the 1950's. (3) Woodin — Newcomer — Green — B. G. Johnson — various dealer intermediaries — "Memorable": 93, not too carefully handled. Compare G. H. Hall: 1732 and Gable: 376, latter graded as hairmarked.

**Half Eagle.** Type II: Large wide date. Adams 2. Clapp 1. (1) SI, from Mint collection, rev. of 1832. (2) Randall:938 — Parmelee:1021 — various intermediaries, last seen in the Farouk collection. (3) Ex Nicholas Petry:314 (Chapmans, 1893), hairlined.  
It is very unlikely that any sets were made.

V.  
DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER  
COINS AND SETS, 1834-

1834

We now get into very interesting territory. On Nov. 11, 1834, John Forsyth wrote to Samuel Moore, Mint Director, as follows:

Dept, of State  
Washington, Nov. 11, 1834

Sir:

The President has directed that a complete set of the coins of the United States be sent to the King of Siam, and another to the Sultan of Muscat. You are requested, therefore, to forward to the Department for that purpose, duplicate specimens of each kind now in use, whether of gold, silver or copper. As boxes, in which they are to be contained, may be more neatly and appropriately made at Philadelphia, under your direction, than they could be here, you are desired to procure them, if it will not be too much trouble, and have the coins suitably arranged in them before they are sent on. They should be of as small a size as is consistent with the purpose in [=for] which they are intended; and should be of wood, covered with plain morocco. The color of one should be yellow, and the other crimson.

You are authorized to draw upon the Department for the value of the coins, and the expense of the boxes.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully,  
Your obed. serv.  
John Forsyth

To  
Dr. Samuel Moore  
Director of Mint



**1834 Cased Proof Set (Interior View). Made Nov. 1834, to State Dept, specifications, and presented April 5, 1836 by Special Agent Edmund Roberts to King Ph'ra**

**Nang Klao of Siam. Later owned by Kings Mongkut and Chulalongkorn, by whom given to ancestors of present British owner.**

The expressions "complete set" and "specimens of each kind now in use" appear to have meant "set of all denominations now in use." This would mean, as evidently Dr. Moore took it to mean, proof sets from half cent through half eagle. But the Mint Act of 1792 authorized dollars and eagles, and this act had not been countermanded by any subsequent law. Nevertheless, by executive order (unconfirmed by any Act of Congress), President Jefferson had stopped coinage of dollars and eagles in 1804. Mint Director Moore was therefore in a quandary. Was he supposed to strike dollars and eagles or not? No further correspondence on this point has survived.

The discovery by David Spink (1962) of the 1834 proof set originally presented April 5, 1836 by Special (State Dept. Diplomatic) Agent Edmund Roberts to the King of Siam has solved the century-old problem of the occasion for manufacture of the dollars of 1804

and the plain 4 proof eagles bearing the same date. (For further details, see the Newman-Bressett book *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*, passim, and the chapter *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces* below.) However, it has opened up many other problems not hitherto recognized as problems. Why were the restrikes of the half dollars of 1833, 34, 35 made? Were these coins perhaps struck originally for some similar 1836 diplomatic presentation? Were they made specially for Alexandre Vattemare in 1837 or '38 at his first visit? Why no earlier dates? What was the purpose of the antedated proof dollars dated 1801, 02, 03 using the reverse of the Class I 1804's? Why were the dollar and eagle antedated to 1804 rather than some earlier or later date? If one president could order interruption of coinage denominations without congressional approval, why could not a subsequent president countermand that order? Note that it took no act of

congress to put eagles back into circulation in December 1838. And did not the order from President Jackson, authorizing mintage of these proof sets, imply that the denominations had to conform to the existing laws governing weight, fineness and date? Why not then date the coins 1834-35? Were any other proofs of 1834 restrikes? It can be shown that the proofs of 1834 fall into early and late series, the early being far more rare, the late presumably made in larger numbers to cover other possible demands for diplomatic presentation sets. For what occasion were the early sets? Why were so many more quarter eagles *with motto* coined in proof than half eagles, despite the larger number of business strikes of the half eagles? Note that the sets for Siam, Muscat, and presumably Japan and Cochin-China (1835) had no space for the 1834 half eagle with motto but did contain quarter eagles with motto, again somewhat contrary to proper practice as these were no longer current (being worth more than 6% above face). And so on . . . questions could be asked all night.

**Half Cent.** [2+] Only one variety. Specimens exist with and without clash marks, those on reverse coming in some instances from the 1833 die, but later polished off, and in still later instances from the 1834 die. Business strikes are known of both earlier and later die states, i.e. struck before and after the proofs. About 18 examples of the 1834 proof are now known. Brobston's was priced at \$400 a dozen years ago, and went to Wayne G. Slife. One is impounded in the Smithsonian, from the Mint collection. The "Dupont" coin went to D. N., the Jackman-Alvord-Ryder piece to L. W., Clarke had another one, and so forth.

**Cent.** \*N-7. Large date, stars, letters, with high leaf under r. side of S; small dot die defect below base of T in CENT. Obv. die cracked up from rim above 6th through 8th and 9th stars. Why the rev. was not saved is unknown. (1) J. C. Morgenthau 444: 355 (6/16/42) — Newcomb II: 656 — Philadelphia Estate. (2) Dr. French — C. M. Williams: 404 — Calif. Specialist — C. Peterson — Kreisberg — Philadelphia Estate, badly cleaned; exhibited at ANS, 1914. (3) Calif. Specialist ex Dr. French:540 as "A6," T. James Clarke privately. The Newcomb coin was the discovery piece and then believed unique.



**1834 Cent. Issue of Nov. 1834. Large date, small stars and letters. N-3. Ex MacAllister, Clarke colls.**

— N-3. [2+] One of the last mintages of the year. Large 8 (large date), small stars, small letters. Obverse die cracked, from rim through 12th and 13th stars to rim below 4. As this same obverse die is found perfect on a minority of business strikes of N-3 and the majority of business strikes of N-4, presumably the proofs of N-3 were coined after the N-4's and before some N-3's. This is the variety found in the proof set sent to the King of Siam, pictured on p.70 of *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*. It is known that these proofs were made up after mid November 1834. Possibly some of the business strikes of N-3 might have been executed early in 1835; not impossibly proof cents of 1834 were included in the (otherwise 1835-dated) proof sets made up for the Emperors of Japan and Cochin-China, so much rarer are the proof cents of 1835 than those of 1834 — though proofs of other denominations of 1835 are not so rare as the cents. (1) SI, ex Mint, cleaned. (2) King of Siam proof set. (3) McCoy: 717 — Leslie — Cleneay: 1883 — Mougey: 178, Beckwith:81, H. C, pictured in Standard Catalogue. (4) Calif. Specialist, ex J. G. MacAllister, T. James Clarke, possibly Mougey: 179. (5) Philadelphia Estate ex Sawicki:666, scratched up, believed ex Winsor:944, H. P. Smith. Possibly 9 or 10 known in all.

**Half Dime.** [2+] \*Not in Valentine, obv. V-4, rev. new. Low date, 8 high, 7th star points to top of band. Rev. E in STATES too low, defect on r. side of first A in AMERICA, crack through bases of CA to arrow. Smithsonian, from Mint collection, no. 1011. Probably this reverse die broke up and was replaced by the production die next to follow.

— V-4. Obv. as last, perfect and later with cracks from throat to drapery down to rim, and at 7th star. Rev. third stroke of M in AMERICA, missing on business strikes of V-3 (same rev. die), shows here: either earlier state, or the stroke was cut in by hand. RI about touch; first A of AMERICA recut; defect on right half of N in UNITED (filled). (1) Eliasberg. (2) David M. Bullowa, May 1952. (3) Landau:356, ex Brand via J. J. Ford. (4) Bartlett:467 at \$325. (5) Lester Merkin auction 4/66:66, at \$675 — superb. (6) (7) Both ex W. L. Carson collection, both presumably from these dies. (8) C. Jay: 123, possibly same as (3) above. (9) 1962 N.Y. Metropolitan Convention auction: 897. (10) Dunham:43, Phila. Estate. There are about fifty auction records during the past fifty years. I have seen at least 15 that I can be fairly sure are different specimens. This is R-6, not R-7.

**Dime.** [2+] Type I: Large 4. B. 1-A, Clapp 2. Large perfect 4, E S apart. In King of Siam set. Two others seen.

— Large imperfect 4 (crossbar broken partly off, leaving a jagged point). \*B. 3-C, Clapp 4. 18 too close; final A touches C and arrow. (1) Byron Reed estate, now in Omaha City Library. (2) WGC:492, Menjou: 185,

Philadelphia Estate. (3) John H. Clapp originally described the variety, but Eliasberg does not have the coin despite having bought the Clapp collection intact. Apparently it was either sold with some duplicates or described from someone else's coin. I have seen two others, and can well credit reports of still other large 4 proofs. The reverse die was used both perfect and cracked on business strikes; this obv. is found only on proofs, though other dies have the large imperfect 4.

— Small 4. B. 5-E, Clapp 1. 1 in date even with other digits; U too low, E in UNITED above D at base. Cf. Cleneay:1511; I have seen one (maybe the same piece) and heard of others. Compare W. L. Carson and Newcomb I:558.

The large 4 is known on other grounds to have preceded the small, so if the large 4 type was found in the Siam set, this presumably means that coins were left over and remained available, rather than being specially struck late for the purpose. Presumably far smaller numbers of Small 4 dimes were made up, the dies replaced in the presses and used for business strikes, afterwards wearing out or cracking up, the proofs meanwhile having been dispersed. Not impossibly the die I call Obv. 3 was specially made up for proofs at some unknown time during the year.

**Quarter.** [2+] B-1. No period after C in 25 C; perfect dies. (1) "Dupont": 1810, later Edgar A. West:666 (May 1957), present owner unknown. (2) Eric P. Newman. (3) Mougey:701. (4) Newcomb coll., exhibited at ANS 1914. Barely possibly the last three could be the same coin.

— B-2. Small weak period after C. Double-tipped tongue to eagle. (1) WGC: 115 — Jerome Kern (Golden Jubilee): 1420, present owner unknown. (2) Mougey: 700 — Bement:277, cleaned. (3) Ex Chapman, Dr. Ruby, "Gillhousen": 606, possibly same as last. Others are reported.

— B-4. 25 C. far apart, more than the width of the 5. Only one proof seen: Eliasberg, perfect die.

Others exist, but varieties are not identified. (1) King of Siam set — either B-1 or B-2, as both have the same obv. with upright of 4 pointing along left edge of curl. (2) Winsor:605. (3) McCoy:514, Levick, same as last? I have seen also at least three others of the date, under glass, at convention exhibits — not exactly a suitable way of ascertaining die varieties. As the order of striking appears to have been B-1, 2, 5, 4, 3, it is singular that the Siam proof set would have had one of the first two varieties in proof rather than the later B-4. The explanation may be the same as for the dimes.

**Half Dollar.** [2+] Type I: Large date and stars, large letters. At least two die varieties come in proof, according to Stewart Witham. One of these (Overton 103) is in the King of Siam proof set. Cf. also Bolender

— Cass — "Empire":1336; Woodin:206 (1911); Davis-Graves:528; Philadelphia Estate, ex Mehl 12/12/39 (Overton 101); Lichtenfels I:2785. One of these is possibly ex McCoy: 457, Levick.

As the large date, stars, letters type was the earliest of the year, it is singular that a specimen of it would have been used for the Siam proof set. Possibly no other types had at that time been struck in proof. Those claimed to exist of Type IIIa (small date, large stars, small letters, large C in 50 C.) have proved to be restrikes using an apparently original obverse, altered at border to produce the plain raised rim outside the beading as on 1836 Gobrecht coins, combined with a reverse similarly treated, most like 1836 Ov. 106. (However, the Ov. 106 die cracked up and the cracked die coins have normal borders, so it is a different die.) See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*. No specimens have been seen of the other types (II: large date and stars, small letters; IIIb: as IIIa but small c; IV: head of 1835, small date, stars and letters, bust sloping down much more than formerly).

**Silver Proof Sets.** A broken set, so identified, lacking the dime, was sold piecemeal in Cogan 9/16-20/1878:1504-1508; half cent, cent, half dime, quarter and half dollar, varieties not described.

**Quarter Eagle. With Motto.** [2+] Breen type I-1. Rev. of 1830-33, used on business strikes and proofs in each year. (1) Adam Eckfeldt (1838), Mint, SI. (2) Clapp, Eliasberg. (3) A. J. Allen, Ira Reed, T. L. Gaskill, NN 48:201, EF ex-Proof. (4) Newcomer, Green, Kern:22, impaired, not verified. The King of Siam's proof set has space for the coin, even though that particular coin was lost years ago. (It may have been spent, melted, or sold into another collection; it may even be the source of one of the above.)



1834 Quarter Eagle, Motto.

— **No Motto.** "Classic Head." [2+] Breen II-1, \*state A. Small head, 4 well away from curls, recuttings on bases of E of STATES, O in OF. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Parmelee: 1033, Woodin:950, Bement:227, Newcomer, Col. Green, B. G. Johnson, J. F. Bell, "Memorable": Kern:23, T. L. Gaskill, NN 48:202, N.Y. State specialist. (3) Clapp, Eliasberg, possibly ex D. S. Wilson:177 and/or Wilharm:71. (4) King of Siam proof set. (5) J. Klausen, ex Harlan White, "from a broken set". (6) WGC: 101, impaired. (7) "Cicero"

collection, NN 55:266, EF, formerly proof. Two others reported, and I know that I have seen at least one not identical with any of preceding.

**Half Eagle. With Motto.** Breen I-3. Crosslet 4. Only one proof known: Eliasberg, ex Clapp. *No space for any such coin in the King of Siam set.* Unverified rumors of others.

— Motto, plain 4. Breen I-1. SI, ex Mint. Dubious.

— **No Motto.** "Classic Heads." First Head. Breen II-1. [2+] Truncation large and wide; large 4; wide date, 4 away from curl, A's clear of wing and arrow, leaf away from U. \*Early state: guide lines left and r. of 5D., left of base of U (when coin is held so that U is upright), between bases of D S, between bases of F A. (1) SI, from Mint collection. (2) Clapp — Eliasberg. (3) Norweb. (4) Parmelee: 1031 — Woodin — Boyd, WGC:381. Pictured in ANS 1914, pl.15 (5) WGC: 382 — Eliasberg — NN 49:386 — M.A.C. Minor rubbing. (6) Jerome Kern — "Golden Jubilee": 365. (7) Melish: 1962 to Kagin, somewhat impaired. (8) Col. Flanagan: 1112 — Mason Williams: 1006, possibly same as one of above.

— Breen II-4. Same head, large 4. Date very closely spaced and high, 8 and 4 a little low, 1st and 13th stars very close to bust and curl. Rev. A joins arrow. (1) King of Siam proof set. (2) Melish: 1961 to Kagin. At least two others seen, one impaired.

Note that the second head, with small narrow truncation, and always with small 4, appears on at least six varieties including the famous Crosslet 4 as well as on three varieties of 1835, and that the rev. of the Crosslet 4 coin reappears in 1835. From this we may conclude that the second head was put into use late, that the small 4 punch followed the breaking of the large 4 (seen on the dime obverses), and that presumably the large 4 dime obverses must have preceded the small 4 obverses in order of manufacture. This is the argument alluded to earlier for placing the large 4 coins first.

The very earliest proof set or sets of the year presumably contained among other coins the N-7 cent, large 4 dime, B-1 quarter, and if any gold was included, the quarter eagle and half eagle with motto; the later proof sets, aside from the special ones for diplomatic use (Siam, Muscat, etc.), presumably contained later types — N-3 cent, no motto gold, etc. It is very unlikely that more than one or two sets were actually made up early in 1834. I find it very significant that the mint people did not have any leftover half-eagles with motto for use in the sets for Siam and Muscat.

## 1835

In this year two proof sets in special cases were made up for diplomatic presentation (by Edmund Roberts, as before) to the Emperor of Japan and the Emperor of Cochin-China (Indo-China). As Roberts died in Siam in 1836, he never got to Japan or

Cochin-China and the proof sets were returned to the USA at some later date, thereafter probably to be broken up and their contents turned over to coin collectors. The most probable contents of the proof sets: regular proof coins of 1834-1835 from half cent through half dollar, 1804 dollar of first type, 1835 quarter eagle and half eagle, and 1804 plain 4 eagle. I derive this from the account in the Newman-Bressett book earlier alluded to.

**Half Cents.** [2+] B-81, Gilbert 2. Regular obv., only the one die of the year; rev. of 1833-34, S T spaced well apart. Only two reported. One of these, Brobston's, had proof obv., unc. rev. The other was a regular proof and it dropped out of sight years ago, possibly being confused with one of those next to follow.



**1835 Half Cent. Gilbert 1. Ex Jackman, Alvord, Ryder colls.**

— B-82, Gilbert I. Rev. ST closely spaced, otherwise very similar to last. Probably about 15 of these survive. Brobston's was offered at \$375, later LM3/68:146, GJS; NN 56:460 brought \$270 some fifteen years ago. Others demonstrably different: SI, ex Mint; "Dupont"; T. J. Clarke; Jackman-Alvord-Ryder:314; and at least five others in private hands.

**Cent.** [2+] Newcomb 11. Head of '34 (short rounded coronet point), small date and stars, like the next. Date to left, curl begins over center of top of 5, 10th star away from hair, faint crack through base of date and to r. Rev. leaf point at F slightly left of upright; base of E in ONE double. (1) ANS, ex Barney Bluestone, Feb. 1938, via George H. Clapp. (2) Newcomb II:666 to Philadelphia Estate, impaired. The variety is rare, as its rev. smashed up immediately after it was put into the regular press for business strikes.

— N-13. Same type. Date high, first and last stars unusually close to bust and 5, E and base of 5 recut. Rev. high leaf far beyond 0, but 23rd leaf r. of center of C rather than under A. Die of 1831 N-2, but struck before the latter. Faint obv. crack; triple impressions on stars. Only one traced, though a second has been reported: Beckwith: 83 — W. F. Morgan: 270 — Newcomb II:668, obv. proof, rev. unc. to Philadelphia Estate. The variety is rare, as the obv. cracked badly shortly after it was put into the press for making regular coins. This coin is pictured in Newcomb (both sides) and the Standard Catalogue.

— N-7. Head of '36: longer sharp coronet point, two

minute dots either side of second berry on left (outer, below space between TE in UNITED). The unique example shows traces of four impressions from the dies, to bring up the design properly. It came from Ira Reed to Leonard Holland, then in the May 1959 Pennypacker auction of the Leonard Holland collection (Kenhorst, outside Reading, Pa.) it went to New Netherlands, reappearing in NN 54:1545, where bought at \$700 by Lester Merkin for California Specialist. It was not described in the Holland sale catalogue as a proof, but then this catalogue was a barely minimal thing as usual with rustic Pennsylvania auctions: one would have had to see the coins in any event, mail bidding was out of the question.

As the cents of 1835 in proof are so much rarer than those of 1834, the suspicion arises that the proof sets intended for diplomatic presentation may have included cents of 1834 left over from the previous group, perhaps no proofs of 1835 having been made as yet.

**Half Dime.** [2+] Large date and 5 C. (As in 1834 and earlier years, taller than letters in legend.) V-2. Obv. has first star well away from bust, unlike V-3, and date on an even curve with successive figures placed farther apart, unlike V-10 obv. Rev. S in motto below E in STATES. (1) D. M. Bullowa, May 1952. (2) Lohr: 249. (3) Reed Hawn: 573 at \$525, ex 1971 ANA: 613, ex H.W., ex Merkin 4/66:67. I have seen at least 2, possibly 3 others which I am reasonably sure are not identical with these. Cf. "Dupont": 1366.

— Smaller date, large 5 C. V-5. Close date, the 1 too high; 5 very low, about touching border, C. higher. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Merkin 6/72: 214, cleaned.

— Small date and 5 C. V-1. Date rather widely spaced, curl begins over 5, long curved top to 5; rev. R recut, the period much too high. Newcomb collection at private sale, exhibited in ANS 1914.

— Same type. V-7. Very closely spaced date, recut, the 3 low, curl begins over inner curve of 3. Rev. top loops of S's filled. I know this from the former Carl Wurzbach, Brand, New Netherlands specimen. Cf. also Neil: 1568. Parmelee: 1050 has not been identified.

**Dime.** [2+] B. 1-A, C-1. Wide date, "horned" 8, recut 3, high 5, UN even but too high. Tall 0 in 10 C. on this and next (taller than 1). (1) Norweb. (2) WGC: 498, probably to Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA: 255, believed Reed Hawn: 697 at \$950. (3) Neil: 1236, somewhat the worse for contact with other coins. Compare also Wolf son: 543; one or two others seen.

— \*B.1-new. Rev. Tall 0, UNI successively lower, D below E, RI almost touch. Lower arrow point has an extension into border. (1) Phila. Estate, ex Numismatic Gallery 5/12/45. (2) S pvt. sale, seen at 1967 CSNA convention.

— B. 3-E, C-2. Wide date, 5 leans left, curl begins r. of center of 5, 3rd star about touches border. Rev.

Tall 0, lower than 1-C. ST too low. Only one seen, lost track of years ago. Possibly ex Cleneay: 1514.

B. 4-F. Low 1 in date. Rev. "Small 0," not taller than 1-C. Both T's in STATES very heavy. (1) Boyd, WGC:497, Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA:254. (2) Neil: 1235, same piece? This type in business strike form is rarer than the tall 0.

— Unattributed. Parmelee 1049, Newcomb I:559, Lichtenfels II :2975 and/or KS 5/66:1006. Some of these possibly are represented above.

**Quarter.** [2+] B-1. High 3, coarse dentils. Rev. Leftover die of 1834 B-3, period after C, crack joins STA and through field above head to wing and RIC. (1) Newcomb, privately sold, exhibited ANS 1914. (2) Clapp, Eliasberg. (3) Neil:907. Cf. Parmelee: 1048. Use of an old cracked die for proofs is unusual.



1835 Quarter. B-7. Ex Merkin, Feb. 1971

— B-7. High 1 in date. Rev. No period after C. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Winsor:606, possibly reappearing as Mougey: 702. Either of the above may be ex McCoy:515, Levick coll. (3) LM 2/ 71:574, possibly ex W.L. Carson.

**Half Dollar.** [2+] Most offered of this date, when not mere early business strikes, are restrikes similar to those described for 1833-34. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below. Originals exist, however, but die variety information is negligible. Compare T. James Clarke, NN 47: 1277-8 (carelessly made); McPherson:893, Cass, "Empire": 1340 (original or restrike?); N.Y. State Specialist. That ex Krouner, "Gentleman's Study Collection," (Deutsch, 1969-70) is unlisted though deceptively similar to Overton 110. Obv. Ov. 110 in earliest state, with 8 and first three and 7th stars recut, rev. several stripes (lines of azure) extend to r. into feathers, 0 C farther apart (1 1/4 mm), center dot between lines 4 and 5, otherwise similar to Overton 110. Cf. McCoy:460, to Levick.

**Quarter Eagle.** [2+] Only the one obv.; rev. of 1834 II-3: U close to leaf, A M apart, split berry. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint coll. (2) Davis-Graves: 685. (3) Parmelee: 1046 — Mills: 549 — Woodin: 954 — F.C.C. Boyd (possibly via Waldo Newcomer) — WGC: 102 — "Memorable": 96. The fourth one reported, Melish: 1124, turned out to be a first strike, but others may exist. Wayte Raymond knew five, including nos. 1 and 3 above.



**1835 Half Eagle. Ex Parmelee, Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, J. F. Bell, "Memorable" colls.**

**Half Eagle.** [2+] B-2, head of 1834. Short, narrow end to truncation. Short 1; first star close to bust; leaf runs into base of U. (1) SI, from Mint. (2) Parmelee: 1047 — Woodin — Newcomer — F.C.C. Boyd — WGC: 385 — "Memorable": 334. (3) 1946 ANA: 1285, impaired, Others are reported; Wayne Raymond knew one more.

Sets: Probably only the two for Emperors of Japan and Cochinchina (returned to U.S., most likely dispersed).

## 1836

**\*Half Cent.** Originals are of the same general type as those of 1835. Borders most often will be rounded and stars may not be all sharp enough to show their centers. About 12 known. (Those having high wire edges, bulged obv., and weight away from the norm are restrikes; see the chapter *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*. Standard weight 84 grains, tolerance generally a grain or so either way. Three are in museums (Johns Hopkins University, Smithsonian, and Massachusetts Historical Society); about nine in collectors' hands, two of these being worn (Lester Merkin's and "Century": 102 being demonstrably different). Eugene Gardner's proof brought \$600 eleven years ago, and Brobston's restrike was offered at the same 'figure; the Mills-Clapp-Eliasberg, F. J. Schaeffer 4/42-Phila. Estate, "Dupont"-Bareford, Clarke, Cass — "Empire": 103, Holmes, Kreisberg 2/28/55: 43 — Ruby and NN 51st sale coins are all different. The presence of worn examples shows only that proofs were occasionally spent.

**Cent.** N-1. Double peak to 1 in date. Newcomb mentions proofs from perfect dies (State I) and with rev. crack from rim above A through tops of TES to rim above O, and from top of F to rim above M (State II). (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Brock, Univ. of Pennsylvania, P.H. Ward, privately resold via Dochkus, whereabouts unknown. (3) Early State III: faint trace of obv. crack, rim through lowest point of 5th star to L and coronet line above I, etc. Obv. proof, rev. unc. Unnamed English source, NN 56:581, Wayne G. Slife, reconsigned to NN, to Jon Hanson who resold it ten

years ago at \$500. (4) Also state III early: Mougey: 192, Wurzbach, Hines, Sheldon, Ernest Henderson, T. James Clarke, Calif. Specialist, always at private sale. As Newcomb could hardly have known any of these, we must conclude that at least one more apiece exists in states I and II. (Newcomb could not have seen the Mint's proofs, as the 1844, 46 and 47 are of varieties unknown to him.)

— N-2. Fourteenth leaf point, below final S, extends far beyond leaf above it. H. Chapman 1/1927, G.H. Clapp, ANS.

— N-4. Date almost straight, top of E above R (obv.) though bases are even. R. D. Book, May 1930, G.H. Clapp, ANS, doubted.

— N-6. Low 8, blunt 1. Beckwith:84, H. Chapman, G.H. Clapp, ANS.

**Half Dime.** V-1. Date spaced 183 6. Rev. Small 5 C, period much too high, R recut; rev. of 1835 V-1 mentioned above, repolished after many business strikes dated 1835 and before some business strikes date 1836. Eliasberg.

— V-5. Same obv. Rev. Large 5 C, 5 low and about touching border, the C higher; rev. of 1835 V-4, 5, 6 above mentioned, repolished, now showing some stage of breaks from T of UNITED to scroll, and from rim between D and S to scroll. At least seven seen in all. (1) Philip G. Straus coll., examined in 1951, privately sold as it was not in either of the 1959 auctions of his estate. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Bullowa, May 1952. (4) Landau:359. (5) Brand, NN, *Numisma* 7/54: 710. The other two are impounded, one in an estate, the other in a museum. These show varying stages of reverse die break. Business strikes were made after the proofs, showing light to very heavy breaks in the mentioned area; the Valentine plate coin is one of the last. Parmelee: 1064 has not been identified as to variety.

**Dime.** B. 1-A, Clapp 2. Short denticles, 1 and 3 low in date, 8th star away from cap (about equidistant between cap and border), tall zero, U and A-ES high. Three seen in all, present owners of two unrecorded; Roy Rauch has the third. One is ex Golden I: 982.

**Quarter.** Browning 2. Small 6, curl begins over knob of 6, 25 C. low and distant with stem extending only to a point left of center of top of C. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint collection. (2) Marvin Taichert collection. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Roy Rauch, ex W. L. Carson, L. M. 2/72: 108, badly cleaned. Compare also *Numismatist*, June 1950, p. A304; Cleneay: 1350. It is likely that one of these at least represents a fifth example of the variety, which is rare in business strike form. Neil: 907 was described as a proof of B-1, the variety with curl beginning about over left edge of 6, but as the coin was withdrawn we may justly doubt either its attribution or its proof status or both. Wayne Raymond knew three.





**1836 Half Dollar. Lettered edge, 50/00 blunder. Ex Merkin, Sept. 1967.**

**Half Dollar. Lettered Edge.** Overton 116=Beistle 14-T. Blundered reverse, 50 over 00; date spaced 1 836 with the 8 too low. (1) Eliasberg, discovery coin, 1953. (2) NN 45:795, to R. J. Lathrop, sold privately with Lathrop's other half dollars and finding its way into the Elliot Landau collection, then with Landau's material in NN 52:565; seen more recently, later owners not known, possibly Reed Hawn: 115 at \$3500. This Lathrop-Landau coin is distinctive in having edge blundered FFIIFFTYY etc., the planchet having been run twice through the Castaing machine in inexplicable error. I believe I have met with at least two others, not a reappearance of the Lathrop-Landau piece, probably more; I owned an impaired one ca. 1956. Compare Earle: 2957, identifiable as the variety but not so described in the auction; S. W. Freeman: 1655; Empire Coin Co., Dr. K., LM9/67:256.

— Normal reverse. Small 50, large C. Overton 102=Beistle "1-C" (combination not known to him). Low 3, low 5, E above M-R (distinguishes from Overton 110). Examined at Stack's, 1953.

— 1836/1336, knobs of erroneous 3 show within 8; ST over IT. Overton 108=Beistle 6-E. Proof first described as Overton 15 (first edition). Seen in Stack's stock, ca. 1953; 1976 ANA: 1160.

— "Fancy" top to 5. Spine from end of stem, A of STATES has elongated point from right base, first T in STATES too low. Overton 106=Beistle 5-D. Identified by Stewart Witham. The coin was first reported to me in the early 1950's. Slife, LM 2/72:204. Compare T. J. Clarke collection, NN 47:1280, ex B. G. Johnson; compare also Davis-Graves: 533, which supposedly had squashed edge lettering, though I have not seen this specimen.

— Unattributed. Ex W. L. Carson; 1946 ANA: 805; Lichtenfels, KS 2/61:2790, unverified.



**1836 Half Dollar. Gobrecht type, reeded edge.**

— **Reeded Edge.** Design of Christian Gobrecht, 50 CENTS. Haseltine 7; Beistle 19-Y, only the single pair of working dies being used for proofs and business strikes. [10+] Ten "Specimens" furnished by the Director of the Mint, Robert Maskell Patterson to Levi Woodbury, Secretary of the Treasury, Nov. 8, 1836, called "The first specimens, executed this afternoon." The enclosing letter continues "The old [half dollar] coins were struck in what we term an *open collar*; this is struck in a close collar, which makes the edge of pieces thicker, and gives a mathematical equality to the diameters." I know of at least eleven different examples; a few more probably exist. (1) ANS, obv. broad square borders, rev. narrower round borders. (2) Ex Lester Merkin. Cf. LM 10/66:351. (3) Norweb? (4) The former Dr. Judd coin, III. Hist.: 95. (5) MacMurray: 1487, both sides scratched up. (6) A piece formerly in the hands of several vestpocket dealers, deeply toned, probably cleaned in the interim, which has been identified as the stolen Yale University coin. I do not know its present whereabouts. This has minute hairline scratches in field; identifiable by its doubling on rev. border. (7) Seaby, Paramount fixed price list, choice. (8) Lichtenfels 1:2792 (KS 2/61). Compare also Parmelee: 1061, "drift marks" (streaks representing planchet inhomogeneities); Earle:2958; D. S. Wilson:521; Roach — Neil:468; Lichtenfels II: 1314 (KS 3/64); "Terrell":844. Most of these are probably represented above. I have not verified the Mint — SI example, though it is probably a proof.

The single reverse die has doubling (minute misalignment in hubbing, same principle as the famous 1955 "shift" cents) on bases of 50 CENTS and elsewhere, which fades out; there is a tiny die crack from rim down into field, r. of final S, varying in size. The proofs are from the earliest die state. Any proof showing a larger break would follow the business strikes made the same day and could be identified as a later striking.

**\*Silver Dollar.** Gobrecht design, name *below* base. Rev. Flying eagle, 26 stars in field, dies aligned , the two circles flanking ONE DOLLAR in a level line, eagle therefore "Onward and Upward," to quote Mint Director Patterson's phrase. Judd 58, Adams-Woodin 46. The die was given 26 stars in anticipation of admission of Michigan as 26th state; 13 stars are large, for the Original Thirteen colonies, the others smaller. Time of mintage unknown, possibly November or early December 1836. Eighteen originals said to have been struck. I have not seen an original in many years, though one would be instantly identifiable by die alignment. The regularly seen restrikes have dies aligned ↗ or ↘, the eagle is horizontal as on 1856-8 cents, the two circles not in a level line; they come without and with knife-rims and traces of cracks through OLLA and NITED STATES

0, whereas originals are from perfect dies. Cf. "Dupont":2552, Cass — "Empire":1718, Atwater — Neil:32, KS 1963, for possible originals. The copper impression is a restrike, as are all the silver and copper pieces with starless rev. of 1838. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below.



**1836 Gobrecht Dollar. Name on base.**

— Gobrecht design, name on base. Rev. as last. Judd 60, AW 42. [1,000 reported as of Dec. 31, 1836, dies aligned  $\uparrow\downarrow$  as above, + 600 reported as of March 31, 1837 from the same dies, aligned  $\uparrow\uparrow$ .] Originals: 83 recut (fades), no rim breaks, no cracks through letters, no knife-rims; borders like the half cents — semi-rounded. Most proofs were spent; survivors come from perfection down to Good or even holed and plugged. Many have been drastically cleaned. For the restrikes with plain edge in both die alignments,  $\uparrow\swarrow$  and  $\uparrow\searrow$  — eagle level as in 1856-58 cents, two dots flanking ONE DOLLAR not level — as for the pieces with reeded edge, or with starless rev. of 1838, or in copper, see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below.

**Proof Sets.** McCoy: 362, half cent to dollar (name on base), lacking the cent; to Hodge. Untraced.

**Quarter Eagle.** Head of 1834, long ribbon ends. \*Breen A2 (not in original monograph): only one obv. of type, arrows well away from CA, large leaves. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Parmelee: 1055, H. P. Smith, Mills:530, Woodin:956, Boyd, WGC: 103, "Memorable":97. (3) Col. Grean, Kern:26. Wayte Raymond knew four.

— Head of 1835, Breen B3 (formerly II-3). only tip of upper ribbon visible; tiny forelock near 6th star; 3 below bases of 8-6. Rev. Split berry in field (stemless), A M far apart, 3rd leaf from bottom clawlike. Obv. die partly caved in; rev. border beads 4:00 to 9:00 far apart, attenuated around 7:00, one opposite middle leaf pair detached and microscopic. One seen, ex Stone House Coin Shop; tiny lamination defect in field southwest of 10th star.

**Half Eagle.** Probably Breen 4, "large date" (tall 1), period after wide "large" 5 D. a little high. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Parmelee: 1054, Mills, H. P. Smith, Farouk, NY Specialist.

Proof sets, presumably lacking the gold, may have been made up early in the year to celebrate the admission of Arkansas into the Union as the 25th State, and very late in the year to anticipate the admission of Michigan as 26th as above suggested. The fact that Gobrecht placed 26 stars on the dollar

reverse — 13 large for the 13 original colonies, and 13 smaller for the 13 states thereafter admitted — shows that mint personnel in that period paid considerable attention to what may be called in a very real sense the "State of the Union." The earlier sets would have lacked the dollar and reeded edge half dollar; which half dime they had is impossible to tell.



**1837 Cent. Type of 1836 (plain hair cord, large letters). N-3. Ex Hines, Williams, Sheldon, Henderson, Clarke colls.**

**Cent.** Head of '36. Plain hair cord, narrow truncation, large letters. N-3; check-mark die defect at left end of dash under CENT. Second earliest variety of the year, coming immediately after the very rare N-17, and preceding the large muling group which includes all the other First Head (Head of '36) coins. (1) Bement: 376, Beckwith: 88, H. C, W. F. Morgan: 282 — Mehl — T. J. Clarke: 278 — N. J. Specialist. (2) Calif. Specialist, ex H. Chapman as 'A-2', Hines, Charles Williams, W. H. Sheldon, Ernest Henderson, T. James Clarke. (3) Bement: 377. (4) Philadelphia Estate ex C. David Pierce, Kagin 8/45. (5) I once owned an impaired proof and have seen one other that appears to be in the same category. Reverse die shows varying strengths of a crack through MERICA, stem, ribbon fold, left ribbon tip and UNITED; business strikes have it heavier.

— N-13. Curved line through Y; double foot to N of UNITED. New Jersey Specialist.

— Second head, Dr. French's "Pert Head." Plain haircord, large letters, rounded convex truncation. N-6: 7 well away from curl. (1) Newcomb II:682 to Philadelphia Estate, cleaned. (2) Pearl: 340 as 'N-3.'

— Same head. N-8: Date high, nearly straight, 7 very close to curl. Die scratches above MERI, seven center dots. Newcomb II:684 to Philadelphia Estate.



**1837 Cent. Type of 1838. Beaded hair cord, small letters. N-10. Ex Morgan, MacAllister, Clarke colls.**

— Third head. Head of '38. Beaded hair cord, small letters. N-10: low date, recutting on curl tip of 3; rev. C in CENT double punched, S-ATE same base arc line, first T leans crazily to left, final S low. (Not rev. G of N-9, 11: Newcomb blundered here.) Perfect dies. (1) Philadelphia Estate ex Newcomb: 685. (2) Hines (the coin mentioned by Newcomb), WHS, Ernest Henderson-"Sheraton"-1947 ANA: 1656A — T. James Clarke: 284, not seen as it was out to a mail bidder when I was examining the Clarke cents. (3) Calif. Specialist, ex Wm. Festus Morgan: 291, as 'A-9', J. G. MacAllister, T. James Clarke. (4) Dr. French: 571, possibly same as (3), unverified. Compare Cleneay: 1892, Earle:3521; Mougey:199, "plain cord" is unidentified.

**Half Dime. Draped Bust.** V-3. Large 5 C. Base of 7 and 5 C. recut. (1) Neil: 1582 is described as showing recutting on all numerals; not seen, presumably this variety. (2) Bullowa, May 1952. (3) Reed Hawn: 580 at \$625, ex 1971 ANA: 614, ex H. W., Merkin 4/66:68. (4) A. V. Weinberg, obtained at 1964 ANA convention. (5) Ex Reverend E. W. W. Lewis, at a San Diego convention ca. 1966. I have seen a fourth, some years ago, but it has since dropped from sight.

— **Liberty seated, no stars.** Gobrecht design. "Large date" — tall 1 with sharp peak atop upright, similar to preceding. V-1. Triple cut 8, double cutting on other numerals at bases. [20+] Proofs struck July 25, 1837, per #81, *Letters Mint & Branches, 1837-8*, R. G. 104, National Archives. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Holmes: 2899. (4) Reed Hawn: 582 at \$1900, possibly same as no. 3 or no. 6? (5) Lester Merkin auction, April 1966:69 at \$550, later 1971 ANA: 615. (6) Judd, Ill. Hist.: 100. (7) 1975 ANA: 154, ex "Gilhousen": 166, ex Dr. Charles L. Ruby, ex Kabealo sale 4/17/49, Guipe collection. I have seen quite a number of others, some cleaned, a few impaired.

— V-2. Apparently later state of same obv. die, after some business strikes had been made; recutting now almost invisible. Rev. heavier letters, r. bases of first T in STATES, first A in AMERICA recut, notch (hub injury) on tip of innermost leaf under D in DIME. Eliasberg, with early state of cracks from rim to cap, rim to rocky base below foot, rim to shield.

No proofs of the so-called "small date" (flat top to 1 as in 1838) type have been verified. Cf. L. G. G. Consignment, S 12/69: 698, "square edges, 2 small R. edge cuts".

**Dime.** Draped bust design: rumors persist, unverified. Wayne Raymond saw one.



**1837 Dime. Gobrecht design. Liberty seated, no stars, large date. Ex Merkin 4/66, H.W., 1971 ANA, Reed Hawn, 1974 GENA**

— Liberty seated, no stars. Gobrecht design. Large date, flat top to 3. Rev. Faint die scratch through ES-0; spur from border over first T of STATES. Breen II-1, Clapp 5. [30+] Struck June 30, 1837. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Stack 3/4/39 — Phila. Estate. (3), (4) Dr. Judd, "Ill. Hist.": 102-3. (5) MacMurray: 1169. (6) "Dupont": 1558. (7) LM 4/66:124 at \$1200 (faint hairlines), H.W., 1971 ANA:616, Reed Hawn:699 at \$2,600, 1974 GENA: 1297. (8) T. James Clarke, NN 47:1628. (9) Dr. Ruby, "Gilhousen":319. Specimens — probably duplicating some of those above — were in Atwater, WGC, Neil, other famous auctions; possibly 20 seen in all, some badly cleaned.

**Quarter.** B-2. Curl begins r. of serif of 7; wide low 25 C, A very close to arrow. First reported from the Browning (?) — Col. Green coin; cf. Cleneay: 1352. The Newcomer-Green-T. James Clarke coin in NN47:1578 was doubted. I saw one other authentic proof, over 20 years ago, but its present ownership is not now known to me.

— Breen 5, not in Browning. Obv. B-4, perfect die; curl begins over r. tip of 7. Rev. C of 25 C. recut at base; stem extends beyond serif of that C and is very close to it. U low, A T too far apart; E in AMERICA too low. (1) Philip G. Straus coll., 1951, scratched up, brought \$100 in 1959 NYMet. (2) Eliasberg, impaired proof; freak, struck once far off center, then replaced in press for two proper impressions. (3) "Dupont": 1813, carelessly made but unimpaired. Two or three business strikes also are reported.

McCoy:516, to Lilliendahl, is probably one of the above.

**Half Dollar.** Only four seen; rev. not the same die as 1836. (1) Col. Green, Adolph Friedman, 1949 ANA:1492, not now located. (2) "One-sided," rev. frosty unc, midwest coin firm. The other two were seen in private collections in the 1950's.

**\*Silver Dollar.** From the 1836 dies with name on base and starry reverse; dies aligned ↑↑. Delivered March 31, 1837. [600] Proofs are less often seen than of the Dec. 31 issue; many survivors are circulated. QS 9/73:484, others. See above, under 1836. Those with dies aligned ↑↗ (eagle level, dots flanking ONE

DOLLAR not in level line) are restrikes; see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below.

**Quarter Eagle.** B-2. (1) SI, from Mint. (2) Parmelee: 1071, to Mills; last seen in the Mills sale (1904), lot 552. (3) Harry Bass, same as (2)? Wayte Raymond knew three in all.

**Half Eagle.** Large date, SI, from Mint collection. No rumor of a second one.

Some proof sets made up this year would presumably have been in some way connected with the Michigan Statehood, Jan. 26, 1837. (Others may have been made for M. Alexandre Vattemare.) They would have included the silver dollars — one or both varieties — from the Dec. 31, 1836 issue. As the Gobrecht halves and dollars dated 1836 are technically patterns owing to their having been made anterior to passage of the Mint Act of 1837 authorizing coinage at the reduced weight (412 1/2 grains for the dollar instead of 416), perhaps they should not have been listed, but omission would lessen the value of this book since the coins are thoroughly assimilated to the regular series, and since the mint people themselves took little or no notice of the technical status of the coins but struck and issued them exactly as though they were regular issues. The dollars delivered March 31, 1837 would therefore be regular issues, and if they are included why not the earlier ones from the same dies?

## 1838

**Cents.** N-8. Date spaced 183 8; no line under L; forelock starts in a small ball before brow; 10th star away from hair. Rev. RI recut, lumps atop E I in AMERICA, die cut across 19th leaf, pointing to r. stand of M. Known only from the Newcomb report, possibly a Hines coin; if Newcomb had his own coin in mind (Philadelphia Estate ex Newcomb II:696, cracked die, proof-like), the reference should be deleted.

— N-I. Double top to 1. Miller:922, not since traced.

— N-II. Perfect E, bases of L E recut, heavy recut date closely spaced, base of 3 high. Rev. D high, final S low, both feet of M double, partial recutting on ERI. (1) ANS, ex G. H. Clapp, ex Wayte Raymond, Sept. 1925. (2) "Dupont":792, D. N., TAD:130. (3) "Coogan" (=?), Wurzbach, Hines, Sheldon, Ernest Henderson, "Sheraton Coll.," T. James Clarke:300, N.J. Specialist. (4) Calif. Specialist, T.J. Clarke:299, Norweb, probably same as one of the others. (5) Winsor:962, H. P. Smith:1156, Chapman, Roebing, NN 59:1306, W. G. Slife, privately. (6) Mickley:2041, Cleneay, Mougey:203, Jackman, Beckwith:90, Morgan:303 as "A-7," Newcomb II:699, Phila. Estate. (7) Morgenthau 6/16/42:357, Phila. Estate, bright red, possibly ex Bement:380. (8) Garrett estate, JHU, said to be red and blue with most stars flat, "narrow rim breaks over 8th and 9th stars." (9)

MacAllister, Clarke, Calif. Specialist, claimed to be ex Beckwith, unverified. (10) J. G. MacAllister (1936), F. Sternberg, Bolender 3/56:1669, unidentified intermediates, M. Kirzner, Del Bland, J. A. Bobbe, some stars flat. This or no. 9 possibly ex Earle:3531 and/or Stickney:1613 — unverified, as ANS's copy of Earle is missing. The "Andrews 14" in Bluestone's Auction VIII:381 (2/17/1933) was probably this variety and possibly duplicates one of the above. Despite these uncertainties, the number of survivors is evidently nearer to 12 than to 8 and possibly higher.

**Half Dime.** Large stars. V-10. First star low, close to rock, double punched; top of 1 in date recut below serif; shield point left of 8; without the break between AMERICA and wreath described for V-10. (1) Bullowa, May 1952. (2) Ex W. L. Carson. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA:52. (5) KS 2/60:1110, cleaned, possibly same as (2) or (4) above. One of these is presumably ex McCoy:635, Leslie, Cf. "Dupont":1374.

**Dime.** Large stars. Breen 7. (1) Boyd, WGC:510, Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA:261. (2) Impaired, Wolfson:530. No rumor of a third.

**Quarter. Draped Bust.** B-1, the only variety of this design; rev. 1837 B-2 above. Philip Straus estate, NN 53:730, Eugene Gardner, whereabouts unknown, probably ex McCoy:517, Lillendahl.

— **Liberty Seated.** Sept. 13, 1838. (Though the Director sent 20 on that day to Secretary of Treasury as a "new issue" he did *not* call them "specimens.") Unique? "Dupont":1815, Edgar A. West:667, whereabouts now unknown. Wayte Raymond knew another.

**Half Dollar.** Apparently only four known of the regular Draped Bust type with HALF DOL. The following auction records have not yet been possible to sort out: McCoy:464 to Levick; Cleneay:1197; Parmelee:1087; Newcomb II:850 (gem), possibly reappearing as Reed Hawn:120 (\$9,500); Cass — "Empire":1343, impaired (slide marks); Brand, Lichtenfels I:2793 (KS 2/61) at \$775 to R. E. Cox, later Cox:1871. Also Mickley:2162, "Mass. Consignment," Elder 6/24:2533, since untraced. These probably represent at least three different specimens. Wayte Raymond knew only four.

It is beyond the scope of this book to attempt close coverage of all the Kneass-Gobrecht patterns. Details — not all up to date — will be found in my monograph *Secret History of the Gobrecht Coinages*, NY, Wayte Raymond, 1956. All these patterns are rare, most were restruck, and restrikes are identifiable by weight; originals weigh about 206 grains, restrikes are on the 1853-73 standard of 192 grains. I should nevertheless take some notice of the true transitional coins, as these have a closer association with regular issues than do the frankly experimental designs. Transitionals normally

represent a design later adopted, or mule the adopted type of one year with a type subsequently adopted.

**First Transitional:** Liberty seated, no drapery (adopted in 1839), rev. regular die, HALF DOL. Adams-Woodin 75, Judd 83. Unique, SI, cleaned. Adams originally listed as no. 76 a copper striking, but this is unknown and was expunged in his later notes.



**1838 Second Transitional Half Dollar. Obv. type of 1839, rev. of 1837. Ex Brock, Univ. of Pa., Ward, Dochkus, Dr. Judd colls.**

**Second Transitional:** Liberty seated, no drapery (same die). Rev. Adopted die of 1837, 50 CENTS. Two originals known (206 grains) plus at least one lightweight restrike. (1) U.S. Mint, Joseph J. Mickley:2163, Col. Mendes I. Cohen:419, Lorin G. Parmelee, Parmelee:1089, where pictured with the regular issues as unique and the discovery coin; Charles Steigerwalt, H. O. Granberg, W. H. Woodin, Waldo Newcomer, F. C. C. Boyd, various dealer intermediaries, Empire Coin Co., and one Walter Farris. Pictured in ANS 1914, plate 19, exhibited by Granberg as "unique," called unique in all copies of the Adams notebooks (ANS and elsewhere); pictured in Wayte Raymond's plate of 1838-9 half dollar patterns reproduced in the Standard Catalogues in the 1940's; pictured in my monograph. At some time in its history this coin was cleaned. About 1958 Farris attempted to trade it to Frank Spadone, a New Jersey mint error specialist (author of a popular guidebook in that field), valuing it at over \$10,000, for a 1943 S bronze cent of unquestionable authenticity (the coin offered in the Ruby sale); during the negotiation I was called in for authentication certificates and was also, unfortunately, asked to attempt to sell it, though at the asked price there were no takers. Later, Spadone vainly attempted to move the half dollar at \$2,000, then high but today cheap; it finally sold for a lower figure and now reportedly rests in the Stewart Witham collection. Similar stories could be multiplied about dealers' dreams. (2) Brock, Univ. of Penna., P. H. Ward, Dochkus, New Netherlands, Dr. Judd, "I11. Hist.":112, where said to be ex Brand. (3) Brand, Farouk:1727, Burton Krouner, LM 2/71:858.

For the 1838 O half dollar, see *Branch Mint Proofs*, below.

**\*Silver Dollar.** Gobrecht design, 13 obv. stars as on smaller silver. Rev. Flying eagle, no stars. Reeded

edge. [25] Struck July 5, 1838. Originals have dies aligned normally  $\uparrow\downarrow$  as on most U.S. coins. Exceedingly rare, none seen in recent years. Those lately offered are restrikes with dies aligned  $\nearrow$  or  $\nwarrow$ : eagle horizontal as on 1856-8 cents rather than "Onward and Upward" as on originals, circular ornaments flanking ONE DOLLAR not level; often with knife-rims unlike originals. All the plain edge coins, and the few with starry rev. of 1836, are restrikes; see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*. In the mid 1930's, owing to a typographical error in Adams-Woodin, the idea got around that only 3 to 5 regular 1838's were struck — sending prices into the sky. C. E. Green (*Mint Record and Type Table*, 1936) first doubted it, but it is still occasionally quoted. A few originals and probably over 100 restrikes play Musical Chairs, mostly cleaned, some badly scrubbed, nicked, dented, impaired or frankly circulated, a few even mutilated. Perfect proofs are seldom seen. The 1838's are traditionally listed as patterns, but as mintage records survive in regular Archives coinage ledgers, and considering the parallel with 1836 dollars and halves, the pattern vs. regular issue status distinction appears to have been obscured in the Director's and Coiner's minds at least. For unequivocal pattern issues such as the 1836 gold dollars and 2p pieces, etc., there are no records of quantities minted or distributed aside from occasional submission of samples.

**Quarter Eagle.** Unknown, but possibly may have been struck as all other denominations are known for this year.

**Half Eagle.** Variety unknown. The unique example is in the Omaha City Library, from the Byron Reed estate; possibly Parmelee: 1083 but if so then it was underdescribed by Proskey & Smith (cataloguers of that auction).



**1838 Eagle. Ex Cardinal Spellman.**

**Eagle.** Gobrecht design, head left with markedly curved truncation; eagle similar to that on the smaller gold. [4+] Struck December 6, 1838. Low date, final 8 high, left base of 1 over center of dentil. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint Cabinet, presumably reserved by the Director or Adam Eckfeldt, as Eckfeldt had in the meantime turned over his collection (accumulated since 1792) to the Mint Cabinet as the basis for our

National Collection. (2) Eliasberg, somewhat impaired. (3) Ex Cardinal Spellman, gem. Pictured in *Coin World*, Jan. 2, 1974, p. 42. Offered by Paramount at \$125,000. (4) N.Y. State private collection; tarnish spot before nose. Ex Parmelee: 1082, Woodin: 1201, Newcomer, Green, B. G. Johnson, J. F. Bell, dealer intermediaries, King Farouk. One of these last two specimens appears to have been the piece sent to the Secretary of the Treasury by Director Robert Maskell Patterson.

Proof sets probably did not include the gold; very few made, if any. Occasion unknown.

## 1839

**Cent.** N-2. Head of 1838, leaf point left of center of stand of F. Reported — Stickney: 1618, not now located, authenticity questioned.

— N-6. Booby head; second berry split, as is fifth; no loop on left stem (opposite T of UNITED). Perfect dies. Reported from Dr. French collection, ANS 1914 exhibit, later Dr. French: 590. Not seen, authenticity doubted.

**Half Dime.** V-2. Double cut 39. (1) Bullowa, May 1952. (2) Merkin 4/66:71 at \$625, H. W., 1971 ANA:617. (3) R. C. W. Brock, Univ. of Penna., Philip H. Ward, S 4/30/64:1011, possibly same as preceding. (4) Menjou: 108, Lohr:254, not perfect; possibly W. L. Carson, not traced since the robbery of his coins.



**1839 Dime. B-1.** Ex Levick, Smith, Brand, Landau, W. L. Carson colls.

**Dime.** B-1. Date not recut. (1) J. N. T. Levick, Woodward sale 10/1864, H. P. Smith: 944, Brand estate, Landau:444, W. L. Carson, 1976 ANA: 816, \$3,000. (2) J. G. MacAllister, T. James Clarke, NN 47:1629, impaired. It is barely possible that the first record (prior to Brand) covers two similar pieces. Cf. McCoy: 583, Col. Cohen.

**Quarter.** WGC: 147. No other even rumored.

**Half Dollar. Draped Bust.** (1) A. C. Gies, before 1940. (2) Reported by Wayte Raymond. Both presently untraced.

For the 1839 O half dollar proofs, see *Branch Mint Proofs*, below.

— **Liberty Seated, no drapery.** [1+] August 13, 1839, one proof and one frosty unc. of the new design were sent by Mint Director Patterson to the Secretary

of Treasury. They were distinguished in the description even though the word "proof" was not used. (1) Norweb, probably ex Winsor:539, Neil:474, 1948 ANA: 1766. (2) Boyd, WGC:246, Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA: 812, E. M. Seneca, S 3/65:440, 1976 ANA: 1172, \$10,000. Unverified; from a reverse cracked through MERICA and HALF DOL., and from rim through leaf, eagle, shield, wing at r. and to R. (3) Reed Hawn: 125, \$10,500 — same coin?

— **Liberty Seated**, slightly modified design: *extra fold of drapery at elbow*. "Menjou": 15, possibly reappearing as Lichtenfels I:2799. Unverified.



**1839 Gobrecht Dollar. Ex QS 11/76:1109.**

**\*Silver Dollar.** Identical type to 1838. [300] Date of manufacture unknown, reported as of Dec. 31. Starless rev., reeded edge. Originals have die alignment  $\uparrow\downarrow$  as on regular issues (see 1836, 38 dollars); restrikes come with alignments  $\uparrow\uparrow$  and  $\uparrow\downarrow$ . The copper pieces, the plain edge coins, and those with starry rev. of 1836 are all restrikes. Some restrikes of the regular type have high knife-rims, some show various states of cracks through legends. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below. Originals are found in all grades from Fine to perfection; many have been cleaned to death, others show evidence of circulation, the distinction between patterns and regular issues not being clear in the minds of mint people.

**Quarter Eagle.** Unknown, though with the changed design proofs might well have been made.

**Half Eagle.** [2<sup>+</sup>] Two sent by Mint Director Patterson to the Secretary of the Treasury, March 22, 1839, bringing to his attention the new improved design. (1) Woodin (exhibited at ANS 1914), Newcomer, Col. Green, B. G. Johnson, King Farouk, present owner unknown. *Supposedly* a gem coin, though if Farouk had it cleaned, it might be the same piece as following. (2) Melish: 1983, cleaned; sold to Kagin, reappearing in the Hollinbeck sale of November 1959.

**Eagle.** Large letters, type of 1838. Date low, to left, many die file marks near rev. border. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint collection. (2) Parmelee: 1097 to Chapman, Jenks: 5735, John H. Clapp, now in Eliasberg collection. No rumor of a third specimen.

It is extremely unlikely that proof sets were made up.

# VI.

## PRESENTATION AND OTHER "MASTER COINS AND SETS, 1840-57.

### 1840

**\*Half Cent.** Gobrecht coronet head design. Rev. large berries on wreath (altered by Gobrecht's hand as the hub had small berries). About 17 known, at least five of them in museums (Smithsonian, ANS, Johns Hopkins, Omaha City Library, Mass. Historical Society), at least one of the others worn (Gardner: 650). Some of the proofs of this year have an extraordinary flaming color found on 1841's and a single 1842 and no other half cents. Some of these were struck on blanks which had earlier been *reeded*, probably experimentally in a Castaing machine. (Smithsonian; NN 54:1633; Eliasberg, ex Lyman Low, Sept. 1901, and at least two others.) Two restrikes known from the Large Berry reverse die (see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*).



**1840 Cent.** Small date over large 18. N-2. Calif. Specialist.

**Cent.** Small date. N-2. Blundered die, small straight date over larger 18 leaning to r. The die was originally dated 18 — in expectation of use either in 1839 or 1840, but by the time the Engraving Department got around to using it, the individual large date punches had been abandoned in favor of the small date logotype or gangpunch. About 14 or 15 proofs are known, and it is incredible carelessness that among all the dozen or

so obverses made for this year, the one with a naked-eye blunder would have been chosen for making proofs. Some specimens have a fiery brilliance like the 1841's and the half cents of this year. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Beckwith:95, W. F. Morgan:319, T. James Clarke:310. (3) C. David Pierce, T. J. Clarke:309, Sloss, Lahrman:411. (4) "Dupont": 808, TAD: 137. (5) Gardner: 1166. And so forth. The variety is scarce in business strike form.

**Half Dime. No drapery,** type of 1838-39, coined between April and September. \*Not in Valentine: first star far from rock, date low, perfect dies; more like V-4 than any other but not identical. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Newcomb, exhibited in ANS 1914, was probably this variety. (4) N.Y. state specialist. McCoy: 638 to Leslie is possibly one of the above. Others probably exist. The "V-2" in E. M. Wharton: 1070 (1945) is unverified.

— **Drapery,** type of 1841-58. By Robert Ball Hughes, after Gobrecht, coined Nov. — Dec. only. Heavy extra fold of drapery from forearm to below knee, in the interest of respectability. V-7, high date. (1) Bullowa, May 1952. (2) Newcomb, exhibited ANS 1914. The type is very scarce, being struck only at year's end; the proofs may have been intended for the Secretary of Treasury or some other official, to memorialize the new type, but I have seen no transmittal letter to confirm this guess.

**Dime.** No drapery. B-2. At least five known, one impaired. Cf. Gardner: 1483, \$450 (1965); Lichtenfels II:2989. Probably others exist, perhaps even with drapery.

**Quarter. No drapery.** I have seen two and am reasonably sure that others survive. My records are incomplete, but I seem to recall a badly cleaned one



from the Mint's proof set in the Smithsonian, which would make a third.

— **With drapery.** Winsor: 614. Compare the drastically cleaned piece in Holmes: 2937. "Dupont": 1817, laconically described as "Brilliant proof. Still very attractive and very rare," suggesting that a remark about cleaning or impairment was suppressed, has been questioned. I suspect that these pieces, if proofs, were made for much the same purpose as the half dimes with drapery. Wayte Raymond knew two.

**Half Dollar.** Small letters as in 1839. Beistle lists his 1-A and 2-Aa (rev. clash marks) as two different varieties; the only differences, aside from clash marks, appear to be in the placement of the date, obv. 2 supposedly having it minutely lower than obv. 1, but it would be impossible to tell them apart without both at hand. Rev. Almost all vertical stripes completely through azure. I suspect that only one pair of dies actually was used. These must have been Col. Green coins, but they are not now traced. Cf. also H. P. Smith: 673, impaired; Allenburger: 982, Phila. Estate; Brand-Lichtenfels I:2801; Reed Hawn: 128, "gem," \$1800. I have seen at least one other.

**Silver Dollar.** B-1. Only the one obv. on proofs; date about centered. Shield point about over left upright, left base of 1 over space. Defect on r. side on final A in AMERICA, much smaller than that on the 1842-52 series, on originals. Winsor: 419, documented there as being the first specimen struck, passing from some mint employee eventually to Richard Winsor at a then (1895) extraordinary \$100, later M. A. Brown: 298 (4/97). Not now traced. Compare also WGC: 127, Lyman-Bement: 238 (cleaned), Geiss: 334, Dr. Judd: 132, 1949 ANA: 216. Another in the Winsor proof set.

— \*B-2. Rev. of 1842-52: *two plain tiny defects on r. side of final A*, claws not joined (lapped die), small defects in border above E in UNITED, space between arrows clear, arrowheads not touching, third line of first stripe (gules, counting from observer's left) and first (left) line of 6th stripe extend far into azure, other lines of those stripes and all three of 2nd extend slightly into azure. T. J. Clarke, NN 48:657 to Kagin; Philadelphia Estate ex Brand, Bowers May 5, 1967; Cass — "Empire": 1722; David Golding: 231; Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., possibly ex Geiss:334; others. It is not certain whether all pieces bearing this reverse were struck in the year of issue, this remark holding for the series 1840-52, though some certainly were.

**Silver proof sets.** "Given to collectors from the Mint for \$2.02". — George F. Jones, 1860, earlier cited. Winsor: 1065, complete, one other heard of. Presumably early issue, without drapery on silver, as with the assembled (?) NY specialist set.

**Quarter Eagle.** Only one variety in proofs. Small date as on the small silver, half cents, & c. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint (impaired). (2) T. L. Gaskill, NN 48:217, also impaired. (3) N.Y. Specialist.

**Half Eagle,** Broad mill (diameter of 1834-39 coins, 15/16", very wide rim outside beaded circle, usually not well centered). Fine edge reeding. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint. (2) Woodin, Newcomer, Green, Farouk, Struck January 1840, quantity unknown. Business strikes are very rare.

**Eagle.** Smithsonian, from Mint. (?)

**Complete proof sets.** Early ones would have contained the half dime, dime and quarter without drapery; the half eagle would have been of the broad mill type. It is extremely unlikely that any were made up late enough in the year to include the with-drapery silver. Smithsonian, from Mint: badly cleaned, the coins separately enumerated above.

1841



**1841 Half Cent. Original. Large berries. Ex Ryder coll.**

\***Half Cent.** Same type as 1840. Several on blanks whose edge had previously been reeded by Castaing machine; many have extreme flaming brilliance mentioned under 1840. Before making the obverse die of this year, the hub suffered an injury consisting of a dent on the hair near ear, and this dent shows on all half-cents 1841-57 save for the 1854 in which fine hair (added by hand on the working die) replaces it. Large berry reverse of 1840. About 24 specimens known, half a dozen of these impounded in museums: 4 or 5 are worn (cf. "Century": 106, VF). Two were in the Ryder sale, two in Holmes. Brobston's was offered at \$700, Gardner's brought \$600 (1965). No restrikes with the large berry reverse. All show traces of die crack through 3rd to 7th stars — microscopic only in Eliasberg's, the MHS coin, and Baldenhofer: 113 ex "Dupont": 1131, varying from light to fairly heavy on the others.



**1841 Cent. N-1. Calif. Specialist.**

**Cent.** \*N-1. Sharp curl point above left edge of upright of 1; no recutting on first 1, no die scratches near head. Rev. Faint line joins NI at bases.



Sometimes with minute dot in field above ribbon loop below N in CENT; sometimes with tiny rim break above second T in STATES. (Warfield collection.) A couple of dozen proofs and no business strikes from these dies, many having fiery color like the 1840-41 half cents. Borders are often rounded, centering not perfect but the quality of surface and striking leaves no doubt of their status. Six were in the Chapman "Eavenson" sale of 1903, from a mint official's collection (probably Patterson DuBois).

**Half Dime.** \*V-1. Small die scratch below arm holding cap; rev. small die flaw r. of D in UNITED. (1) Bullowa, May 1952. (2) Smithsonian, from Mint. (3) Atwater: 1147, slightly impaired. (4) Dr. Green: 1086 (1949). Either of the above or the first might have been from Cleneay: 1683 (ex McCoy:639, Leslie?) or H. P. Smith: 1017. (5) Untraced specimen from the (Col. Green) silver-minor set broken up about 1942/43 in New York, mentioned in *Numismatic Review I*, 3:29 (1943). This may have been No. 4 above and/or Golden I: 898. Others probably exist; Valentine exhibited one at ANS 1914. Cf. "Dupont": 1379.

**Dime.** \*Without Drapery. Breen 1. Drastically lapped die, stars smaller than usual, rocky base shorter; border broader than normal. (1) Untraced specimen from the (Col. Green?) silver-minor set mentioned under the half dime. Brilliant. (2) NN 57:466, EF+, obviously ex-Proof, \$875, Kagin Sale of 70s (11/73): 1107, \$52,000; claimed to be ex WGC:519, "VF," not verified. I did not see one in SI: probably it was long since traded away. (3) Boyd, WGC: 519, "VF," later Kagin 11/73:1107? — sharper but weakly struck. I did not see one in SI: probably it was long traded away.

— With drapery. N.Y. state specialist set.

A "one-sided" proof (drapery not specified) was H. P. Smith 10/15/81:440.

**Quarter.** Date slants slightly up to right. (1) SI, ex Mint? (2) N.Y. state specialist. (3) Kabealo, 1941, later 1959 ANA:2480, NN 54:1113, last seen in hands of Lester Merkin. (4) Col. Green's set, broken up in NYC ca. 1942/3, mentioned under Half Dime. This might conceivably be one of the preceding.



**1841 Half Dollar. Ex Dr. R. H. Wilson, Landau colls.**

**Half Dollar.** Beistle 1a-B. Centered date — claimed as possible overdate! Rev. Open mouth to eagle (lapped die). I do not recall if any of these show clash marks within shield — illustrations are not clear

enough for certainty. (1) SI, ex Mint? (2) Dr. R. H. Wilson, 1952 ANA:310, Landau:575. (3) Golding:232. (4) Cass, "Empire": 1352. Possibly same as either of preceding. (5) Brand, Lichtenfels I:2806. (6) Ex broken set mentioned above. (7) Reed Hawn:132, \$2100, probably same as one of foregoing. (8) Tatham Coin Co., Burton Buckley, Douglas Weaver. (9) ANS, dubious, dies imperfectly polished. One of the foregoing was owned by W. L. Carson; another, N.Y. state specialist. Cf. also H. P. Smith:675; Earle:2970. It appears that at least five of the above are different, the rest probable duplications.

**Silver Dollar.** \*B-1. Unusually small stars — lapped die. Rev. as on other proofs in the forties, with the two minute defects on r. side of final A. (1) SI ex Mint? (2) Haseltine Type Table sale, R. Coulton Davis, Davis-Graves: 1338. (3) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC: 128, probably reappearing as Golding:232. (4) Brand estate, "J. H. South":803. (5) Col. Green, broken set mentioned above. (6) J. C. Morgenthau 3/18/40, Phila. Estate. (7) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., slightly impaired. Those in 1962 N.Y. Metropolitan: 1624 and N.Y. state specialist set are believed to be reappearances of pieces already mentioned.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** Evidently several were made, or 1841 would also have been excepted in the Jones enumeration (1860); but to date the only original set traced outside SI was Col. Green's, broken up in NYC (1942/43), mentioned under the half dime. The N.Y. specialist's set was probably assembled. It is extremely odd that so many copper proofs were minted with so few silver.



**1841 Quarter Eagle. Date position and striking quality from C, D coins.**

**\*Quarter Eagle.** Only one variety. First published in Adams's Official Premium List (1909), which mentioned nos. 1 and 2 below; earlier, the date was represented in collections by C or D mint coins, often unspecified, as nobody prior to A. G. Heaton particularly cared which mint had produced the coins of any given date. Fine edge reeding, like other Philadelphia coins of the period; entirely unlike the wider coarser reeding found on C and D mint coins. I mention this because forgeries have been made by removal of a C or D mintmark; I have seen at least two. Leo A. Young was offered one of these in the

late 1950's or early 60's, and a doubt of the same type was thrown on the former Earl Parker coin offered as Hydeman:548 (1961).

(1) SI ex Mint proof set.

(2) Connecticut State Library, Hartford, ex J. C. Mitchelson. Impaired.

(3) Newcomer 713 (cost \$1200), source unknown, to Col. Green, B.G. Johnson, C. M. Williams, J. F. Bell, "Memorable": 101, C. T. Weihman, Cardinal Spellman estate, Archdiocese of N.Y.

(4) Adolphe Menjou: 1189, R. F. Schermerhorn, R. Friedberg, H. P. Graves, Davis-Graves:691, Grant Pierce, 1976 ANA:2787, \$41,000. Field rubbed.

(5) Col. Green (from a broken set), B. G. Johnson, F. C. C. Boyd (cost a reported \$3,600), WGC: 108 at \$6,000, Eliasberg.

(6) Wolfson:114, \$15,000; Alex Shuford:1731, \$18,000, World-Wide, Herstal:739A, \$26,000, imparled.

(7) Dunham: 1932, dealer intermediaries, J. F. Bell, Bell II:108, \$13,500 (1963). VF, former proof.

(8) Upper N.Y. state noncollector accumulation, 1958, authenticated by me; to Q. David Bowers, resold at \$14,250. VF+. Pictured, *Empire Review* 14:31 (August 1961).

(9) Merkin 2/72:368A, \$11,000; "Terrell": 1009, \$10,050. VF+. Not same as foregoing, though very similar and formerly believed to be the same coin.

(10) Mehl 3/26/1940 mail bid sale, \$605, "Fine." Not since traced, doubted — is this the Earl Parker coin?

(11) Stephen Baer, Los Angeles, VF+, two plain rim nicks at upper obv.; earlier history if any unknown (1974).

(12?) Unidentified — the piece stolen from RARCOA at the 1966 N.Y. Metropolitan convention, possibly no. 7 or 8.

In all, possibly 4 or 5 still qualify as proofs, remainder got into circulation; oddly, more than half were fairly recent discoveries. Col. Green supposedly owned three — nos. 3, 5 and possibly either 4 or 6. In 1945, the cataloguer of WGC knew only three — nos. 1, 2 and 5. In 1948, he knew of only five — nos. 1, 2, 5, 7 and 10, proving that he had not had access to the Col. Green inventory.

The above accounts for nine demonstrably different specimens, with a couple more which may or may not duplicate those. William Ulrich claimed to have owned one, which he offered to Leo A. Young in the early 1960's; I did not see the coin, but if it is genuine, it is probably a reappearance of no. 6, 7, 8, or 11. We may conjecture that either 10 or 12 were originally struck. However, the evidence of other gold proofs of this year leads at once to the conclusion that most of these quarter eagles were not for sets; more quarter eagles survive than proofs of all the other silver or gold denominations!

**Half Eagle.** Centered date, die file marks at border between last two stars. SI, ex Mint collection, from the complete set. One was in the Col. Green set, presumably the piece known to Wayte Raymond.

**Eagle.** Centered date, rev. of 1840. (1) SI, ex Mint coll. (2) A somewhat questionable proof is in ANS, from J. P. Morgan, presumably ex R. C. W. Brock. This is from polished dies and is very sharp but the surface is not of the quality of the later proofs.

**Complete sets.** SI, ex Mint collection, the coins enumerated above. Col. Green's set was broken up and may have lacked a denomination or two.

1842



**1842 Half Cent. Original, large berries. Ex "Dupont" coll.**

**\*Half Cent.** Small date. Second star double punched. Large berry reverse as in 1840-41. At least one has the same unusual flaming brilliance as was commonly seen in 1841. About a dozen known, two being in museums (Smithsonian; ANS); of the other ten, at least two are worn or damaged. The better of these two was from Parmelee, the other is nicked, dented, scratched and banged up aside from its indications of wear, and sold via 1956 NY Met: 1317 in the "Century" sale of 1965 for a reported \$600! One of the proofs is in a set formerly owned by Oscar G. Schilke (co-author of *America's Foreign Coins*), one was NN 51:1216, one was "Dupont": 1133, a fourth was Holmes: 1336, a fifth was Cass — "Empire": 107 (this is the flaming red coin on the 1840-41 blank), and Brobston's was offered at \$700 over a dozen years ago. No restrikes with the large berry reverse.



**1842 Cent. Small date. N-1. Ex Parmelee, Mougey, Beckwith, Morgan, Clarke colls.**

**Cent. Small date,** as in 1841. N-1. Curl point over center of upright of 4. (1) SI, ex Mint collection. (2) ANS, ex R. D. Book via Clapp. (3) Hines-Downing-1952 ANA: 2198. Rev. Rim dent. (4) Dr. French — T. J.

Clarke: 317 — Kagin. (5) Philip G. Straus — 1959 N.Y. Metropolitan: 371 — D. N. (6) Parmelee: 1137, to Frossard: "Only one other . . . seen, sold in [Charles James] Stedman collection [:740. HPS 4/17-8/1882] for \$40". Later Mougey: 225, Beckwith: 98, Morgan: 328, B. Max Mehl, T. J. Clarke, Calif. Specialist. Cf. also Stickney: 1628. The small date is many times scarcer in business strike form than the large, only two obv. dies being used for it compared to at least six of the large; and N-1 is much rarer as a business strike than N-2, the other small date coin (latter with curl point above r. edge of upright of 4).

— **Large Date**, as in 1843. N-3. Curl point above left edge of upright of 4; rev. apparently of N-1 proofs. (1) Beckwith:99, Clapp, ANS. (2) Schilke proof set. (3) Homer K. Downing, privately sold before 1951. I have the impression that a few others survive but cannot document it.

**Half Dime**. V-1. High date, 184 almost touch base. (1) Brock, Morgan, ANS set, allegedly from mint? (2) Bullowa, May 1952. (3) Valentine Plate, exhibited by Valentine at ANS 1914. (4) Newcomb I:809. (5) Norweb. (6) E. M. Wharton: 1072, unverified. (7) LM 4/66:75.

**Dime**. B-1. (1) Brock, Morgan, ANS set. (2) Norweb. (3) Morgenthau 1/43:176, Phila. Estate. (4) Mint, SI — is it still there?



1842 Quarter dollar. Small date.

**Quarter Dollar**. \***Small date**, as in 1841. Six said to exist of this famous and extreme rarity, all from the same dies. (1) ANS, ex R. C. W. Brock, J. P. Morgan proof set. Said to have come from the mint in the year of issue, unverified. (3) Oscar Schilke estate, in the proof set. (4) Q. David Bowers, ex Steckler sale:39, ex "Vermont private coll.", ex Miles:918 at \$12,000, "Century":872, at \$8,250, said to have cost \$11,000; ex Jerome Kern: 1432, possibly originally H. P. Smith:801. (5) James A. Stack estate:55, \$41,000. (6) SI, ex Mint.

— **Large date**. WGC: 151, probably reappearing in N.Y. state specialist set. Two others reported plus a couple of other impaired pieces. Cf. 1950 ANA: 1060, cleaned; Kern: 1431.

**Half Dollar**. **Small date**: Beistle 1-A. Only the one obv. die of this type; I cannot identify the reverse except that it has large letters (1842-65 hub, different

from the 1839-41 series). (1) SI ex Mint. (2) ANS, ex Brock, Morgan set. (3) Norweb. (4) Boyd, WGC:255, Adolph Friedman, 1946, ANA:816, E.M. Seneca, S 3/65: 443. Believed to be the Col. Green coin known to Beistle; possibly Winsor:545, Earle:2973. Cf. "Dupont":2117.

— **Large date**. Unverified. Cf. Brand-Lichtenfels I:2812, impaired.



1842 Dollar. B-1. Ex Merkin 9/67

**Silver Dollar**. \*B-1. Date about central; die file marks slant down to r.) near shield thumb, and nearly vertically from pole to crook of elbow. Rev. Minute defects on r. side of final A, the die described above under 1840 as "rev. of 1842-52." (1) SI ex Mint? (2) ANS, ex Brock, Morgan set. (3) Schilke set. (4) WGC.130, Kern:812, Golding:233. (5) Davis-Graves: 1339. (6) An impaired proof I sold to A.M. Kagin about 1958. (7) "Regal":776, B. M. Eubanks, J. Cohen, "Golden II":3056, QS 9/73:490, Joe Flynn, Bowers & Ruddy, Julian Leidman. (8) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (9) LM 9/67:271, 10/69:376. (10) Col. Green, Roe:437, nicked.

**Silver-minor proof sets**. (1) The ANS set, filed by denomination — apparently lacking the cent — ex R. C. W. Brock, J. Pierpont Morgan, allegedly obtained from the mint in the year of issue. (2) Oscar Schilke, complete, half cent through dollar. These two contained the small date quarter, therefore evidently made early in the year — probably January. The identity of the cent and quarter dollar in those next to be listed are not ascertained, unless indeed Schilke's set is one of the two next to be mentioned. (3) Cleneay: 838, containing original half-cent, small date cent; quarter dollar not specified, but may have been small date from the time element. (4) Winsor: 1066, not described in full, but supposedly from the mint as issued in 1842. An anomaly is (5) Cleneay: 837, containing small date cent and quarter and a *restrike* half-cent. It is probable that the half-cent originally present was damaged or lost — or put into a date set of half-cents — and replaced by the restrike. I find it incredible that the restrike half-cent was originally present; that would have required some extremely improbable ad hoc assumptions about the manufacture of restrikes at the mint. Early sets, therefore, made in January, contained small date cent, quarter dollar, half dollar; later sets contained large date cent and

quarter dollar and possibly half dollar as well. The NY Specialist set (assembled?) has small date cent and half dollar, large date quarter dollar.

**Quarter Eagle.** For long considered one of the rarest dates of this denomination; small date only, and very seldom available in business strike form save in well worn condition. Smithsonian, ex Mint Cabinet collection. Two others seen by Wayte Raymond. Two (the same?) impaired pieces seen in the 1950's.

**Half Eagle.** Small date, small letters; first type, probably coined only January-February. (1) Smithsonian, ex Mint; bisecting vertical rev. crack. (2) Cleneay: 619, to Woodin, exhibited ANS 1914, not lately seen. The type is rare in business strike form.

**Eagle.** Small date, centered, rev. of 1840. Smithsonian, from the Mint's proof set. I have heard of one other.

**Complete proof sets.** The Mint Cabinet collection had one but it is almost certainly lacking several denominations now. Matthew Adams Stickney, in his letter of 1867 quoted in *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*, 72ff, said that he had been receiving proof sets regularly from the mint for twenty-five years. Now 1867 - 25 = 1842, but there was no 1842 proof set in the Stickney collection; probably this and some later proofs were privately sold.

## 1843



**1843 Half Cent. Original.** Ex "Dupont", D.N., TAD colls.

**\*Half Cent.** Small date, 8 recut; large berries, the die of 1840-42. (1) ANS. (2) Mint, SI. (3) Cased set ex Neil (see Complete Proof Sets, below). (4) Mills: 1443, Clapp, Eliasberg. Double struck rev., the die probably loose in its stake between impressions. (5) "Dupont": 1135, D.N., TAD. (6) T. James Clarke:474. (7) NN 51:1217. (8) Gardner coll. (9) Holmes: 1337. (10) LM 10/66:134. (11) Swiss estate, LM 3/68:152, LM 2/72:59, 83.2 grains. (12) Holmes:1338, VF. (13) "Century": 110, worn. Plus several others, and at least four restrikes from the same dies (see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below).



**1843 Cent. Type of '42.** N-14. Ex Beckwith, Morgan, Clarke colls.

**Cent.** Large dates from now on through 1856, though some variation occurs. Type of 1842. \*N-14. Dull curl point above center of upright of 4; left base of 1 almost touches r. edge of dentil; perfect rev. die, no die file marks. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Andrews (as "A-1"), Newcomb II:736, Floyd Starr, 1949 ANA: 1777. (3) Oscar J. Pearl, T. James Clarke:325. (4) J. G. MacAllister, T. James Clarke:324. (5) Geiss: 224. (6) Lahrman:474. (7) B. Frank:27. (8) Swiss estate, LM 3/68:189, weak strike. (9) Beckwith:100, W. F. Morgan:333, B. Max Mehl, T. James Clarke, pvt. sale. (10) Cased set ex Neil (see Complete Proof Sets, below). Others doubtless exist.

— \*B-19. Obv. N-14 as above. Rev. Die file marks through NI and ERI, this die also found with other obvs, on business strikes. W. C. Blaisdell.

— B-17. Obv. N-12. Rev. As preceding. Calif. Specialist.

— Obv. of 1842, rev. of 1844, N-4. J. Grier Ralston, Mougey:230, unverified.

**Half Dime.** \*V-1A. High date, nearly touching base; spur above first T in STATES. (1) Bullowa, May 1952. (2) The Dr. D. W. Valentine coin, pictured in his book. (3) Lester Merkin auction, April 1966:76 at \$330, H.W., 1971 ANA: 621, Reed Hawn: 597 at \$435. At least one other reported.

—\*Not in V, "B-7". Lower date, double punched, first cut too low then corrected, some doubling on all four digits. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set. Impaired. (2) That in the cased set ex Neil: 2292 is believed to be this variety, though the photograph available to me is not as clear as I could wish. (3) WGC: 232. (4) The former Brand, NN coin. (5) Philadelphia Estate, ex Allenburger: 1017. (6) One other seen in the 1950's. Others reported.

**Dime.** B-1. Normal date, heavy numerals, placed low. (1) The cased set ex Neil: 2292. (2) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set. (3) WGC: 523. (4) Atwater: 936, slightly impaired. (5) Dunham: 170, obv. proof, rev. unc. Dr. C. W. Green: 1177 (1949) may possibly be a reappearance of the WGC coin; Baldenhofer: 559, impaired, may possibly be a reappearance of Atwater's. I know I have seen several others.

**Quarter.** Date very slightly below center. (1) The cased set ex Neil: 2292. (2) SI, from Mint proof set.

(?). (3) T. L. Smith (June, 1957), lot 529. (4) Allenburger: 1015, Phila. Estate. Left stars flat. (5) 1946 ANA: 442. (6) Davis-Graves: 354, impaired. I have seen at least two others, one of them drastically cleaned.

**Half Dollar.** Possibly Beistle 1-A. Date slightly above center, slanting up to right, die file marks horizontally at left rocky base; shield point over r. edge of 1, left base of 1 over space; rev. crack from E(S) to (L)F. (1) Cased set ex Neil: 2292. (2) Allenburger: 1103, McPherson:924, Cass, "Empire": 1361, irregularly toned. (3) SI ex Mint (?). (4) Cleaned proof formerly in the writer's collection. (5) 1975 ANA: 561, ex Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA.817, E. M. Seneca, S 3/65:444. (6) 1948 ANA: 1771, cleaned. W. L. Carson's many have been almost any of these.

**Silver Dollar.** \*B-3. Date a trifle above center; rev. of other dates in this period, two minute defects on r. side of final A. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) WGC: 131, Kern:813, "J. H. South":805. (3) Cased set ex Neil:2292. (4) Geiss:337, Phila. Estate. (5) Cass, "Empire": 1725. (6) Golding:234, impaired. (7) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., nicked. (8) Col. Green, Roe:438.

For all years 1840-57 inclusive, especially 1840-50, most of all 1843 and 1847, deceptive first strikes exist in this denomination. These usually have areas of imperfect die polishing, often around letters or within shield, imperfect detail definition such as partly flattened areas on wings or claws or Ms. Liberty's head, together with bag marks by the hundred. They are not to be confused with real proofs, though many dealers and collectors unfamiliar with the genuine article will automatically make the allegedly more profitable assumption . . . to which (seeing their shamed and bewildered faces uncomprehending why their treasures have not brought prices somewhere up in orbit) I can only reply: *if there is the slightest doubt, don't sell it as a proof*. Striking quality and die identity are the safest criteria.

**Silver-Minor Proof Sets.** (1) Winsor: 1067. Ex President John Tyler, a presentation set to some unnamed constituent, occasion unknown; this cost Winsor \$100 in 1880. (2) Stickney: 1787, from the Mint in the year of issue, possibly broken up. Half-cent is original in this as in the Tyler-Winsor set, but dollar and half dollar are business strikes! It would appear that the confusion mentioned at the beginning of this section, on the part of mint personnel, between true proofs and uncirculated coins furnished to collectors, dated back at least this far. It is barely possible that the coiner had run out of proofs by the time Stickney's request was processed; slightly more possible that the dollar and half dollar had been replaced by unc. examples; but much more likely (in view of later instances of this kind of thing) that the mint personnel made little effort to provide optimal specimens for

collectors then as now.

**Quarter Eagle.** Date larger than in former years, placed low; apparently from the punches used on the dime and quarter dollar. (1) Cased set ex Neil: 2292 (see below). (2) Amon Carter, Jr., ex his father's estate, ex WGC: 110. (3) "Memorable": 103, Kern: 32, in an eastern collection. This or preceding presumably from Woodin: 966, Newcomer, Col. Green. (4) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set.

**Half Eagle.** Date placed rather low and to left; 3 farther from border than 1, same punches as quarter eagle. (1) Cased set ex Neil:2292. (2) WGC:394 to Amon Carter to Amon Carter, Jr. (3) "Memorable":343. This or preceding ex Woodin (ANS 1914 exhibit), Newcomer. One of these may have been traded out of the Mint's proof set over a century ago.



**1843 Eagle. Ex J. F. Bell, "Memorable":546**

**Eagle.** Low heavy date, from the punches used on half dollar and silver dollar. (1) Cased set ex Neil: 2292. (2) WGC: 648 to Amon Carter to Amon Carter, Jr. (3) J. F. Bell, "Memorable": 546. This or preceding ex Woodin: 1207 ("almost unique"), Newcomer. (4) Ronnie Carr, gem, apparently ex Brand, KS 3/65:157. (5) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set. One of these is from Hebbard:378 (H.P. Smith 4/25-6/1883).



**Interior view, 1843 cased proof set. Ex Fernand David, Stoddard, Neil, Amon Carter Sr., N.Y. State Specialist colls.**

**Complete Proof Sets.** (1) That in the Mint collection, now in the Smithsonian; some pieces now cleaned or impaired, the \$5 missing (traded away). (2) Set in original case of issue, first seen in the Fernand David auction (Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 1930), then to Frank Stoddard, B. Max Mehl, W. W. Neil of Abilene, Kansas; Neil: 2292 at \$1250, Amon Carter Sr., New York state private collection. I have seen the set exhibited, though not in a good light — not exactly ideal conditions for die variety checking — and a friend long since furnished me with photographs. The case is without inscription name though with gold trim on outer red morocco cover; plush lined, with ?-shaped clasp and two hinges. Top row, \$10, \$2 1/2, \$5; middle row, 25¢, \$1, 50¢; bottom row, cent, dime, half dime, half cent. Mehl said he knew only one similar (cased) set. I am not certain whether this was another 1843 proof set in case of issue or the 1844 mentioned earlier (p. 24). These cased sets both contained the cards printed by Manly & Orr, Philadelphia, pricing the sets at \$22.50 apiece, and described above.

1844



**1844 Half Cent. Original. Ex Ryder, Showers colls.**

**\*Half Cent.** Small date; only the one obv. Rev. Large berry die of 1840-43. About sixteen known, none of them being restrikes; four are in museums (Smithsonian, from Mint proof set; ANS; Johns Hopkins; Mass. Historical Society). Of the dozen in collectors' hands, three are worn or impaired (cf. Atwater: 167, Mayfield: 523 as 'AU', etc.). Brobston's, not the most brilliant known, was offered at \$725, reappearing in "Century": 112 at \$675. Philip M. Showers has one from Elder (1924), Ryder: 321, Wayne

Raymond. "Dupont": 1137 went to D.N.. Gardner's reportedly brought \$675. An eighth is in the cased set formerly owned by Dr. Judd; Holmes: 1339 is a ninth; and others have been playing Musical Chairs for years.

**Cent.** N-1. Curl point over inner r. curve of 8; base of 1 thin; faint horizontal scratches in die above and below outer berry opposite T of UNITED. Known only from the Newcomb book, apparently referring to a Hines coin not seen. Exceedingly rare, and it is strange that Newcomb did not know the other variety, to follow.



**1844 Cent. Breen 8, not in Newcomb. Ex Allenburger coll.**

—\*B-8. Curl point midway curves of 8. Naked-eye spine from end of bust. Closer examination shows this to be part of serif of a 1, and within bust is a curved relief line horizontally to right of this and directly above the top of 8. The marks are evidently parts of tops of erroneously placed 18 — placed about the digits' own height too far up. Rev. small die chip between denticles opposite ribbon end. Many more known of this; probably R-6, not R-7. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set, catalogued as #1225 in Comparette (1914). (2) Ex Dr. Judd cased set. (3) Calif. Specialist, ex Allenburger: 1028. (4) Norweb, ex Mougey:236. (5) N.Y. State specialist. (6) "Dupont": 848, D.N., TAD.145. (7) Boyd, NN 51:1253, Dr. M. A. Rutenberg. (8) J. G. MacAllister, T. James Clarke:328. (9) Mougey:235, Beckwith:102, Morgan:342, Mehl as "A-6", T. James Clarke:329. (10) Sloss:225, same as one of last two? (11) 1948 ANA Convention, O. T. Sghia, W. C. Blaisdell. (12) Barney Bluestone 1/15/1940, Phila. Estate. (13) Hillcrest II, well circulated. I have seen four others, one of them badly cleaned. Usually comes off center, border narrower at bottom obv.

**Half Dime.** V-1. Date high, slanting down to r.; shield point above r. side of upright of 1, skirt pendant between 4's. Sometimes shows traces of repunching on first 4. (1) Mint, SI, no. 1025 in Comparette. (2) Valentine. (3) WGC:234.

— V-2. Lower date, shield point about over center of upright of 1, pendant above Crosslet of first 4. No repunching on date. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Bullowa, May 1952. (3) Valentine. (4) Boyd, WGC:235, Adolph Friedman; 1946 ANA:60. (5) Believed the variety in LM 4/66:77, H.W., 1971 ANA:626, Reed Hawn:600.

— V-3. Low date slanting up, shield point above left serif of 1, pendant above r. upright of first 4; heavy date, 84 almost touch. Extra serif on left upright of 1, triple cutting on 8, double foot to first 4. Later states (including some business strikes) show only traces of doubling at top of 1 and base of 8. (1) ANS. (2) Eliasberg. Not to be confused with next. Cf. E. M. Wharton: 1073, unverified.

— B-4, not in V. Date first cut too low, then corrected, the repunching differently placed from V-3. (1) Ex this writer, NN 51:558. Two others seen. Compare Cleneay:1692, W. L. Carson. That in Dr. Judd cased set has not been attributed, as it was only to be seen under glass in an exhibit hall not too well lit.

**Dime.** \*B-2. Shield point between tip of serif and left edge of upright of 1. Date high, slanting up a trifle. Rev. Striae at ED. (1) SI, from Mint. (2) Dr. Judd cased set. (3) LM 4/66: 139 at \$700, H.W., 1971 ANA:663 at \$1,250. (4) Dunham: 171, possibly from Parmelee:1157, Mills:1137. Barely possibly same as preceding or as following. (5) Brand — Lichtenfels II: 2996, QS 9/73:731, Joe Flynn. (6) Another last seen in Lester Merkin's hands. Others are reported. Proofs of this issue bring much more than those of other years which are actually rarer in this state, even as top grade business strikes exceed rarer ones of 1846. This inequity is due almost entirely to one Frank C. Ross, Kansas City small-time dealer, hoarder, and hack writer, who publicized the 1844 dime as an alleged rarity during the 1940's, even unto burdening it with the name "Little Orphan Annie" — possibly because her sententious gems of reactionary wisdom appear to date from about 1844.

**Quarter.** Shield point about over left edge of 8. (1) SI, from Mint. (2) Ex Dr. Judd cased set. (3) "J.H. South":507. (4) LM 6/71:717. (5) One other impaired piece seen years ago, but I have long since lost track of it. "Ships that pass in the night . . ."

**Half Dollar.** Normal date. (1) SI ex Mint? (2) Dr. Judd cased set. (3) A drastically cleaned piece I was offered, and refused, about 1954. (4) One I owned about 1953, also cleaned. (5) Brand-Lichtenfels I:2816, impaired, possibly same as one of last two. Wayte Raymond knew at least three, only one of them likely to duplicate the above, so probably at least two others are salted away in estates or private collections.

**Silver Dollar.** \*B-1. Date slightly above center (on business strikes it is lower); normal stripes (on business strikes they are quadruple). Shield point about over tip of serif of 1. Rev. of 1842. (1) Waldo Newcomer owned one which had been sold to him with the claim that only three were known. This is probably some dealer's dream that got into print (though perhaps not in the way the dealer might have wished), but — if we exclude impaired coins — for once the truth is not too far from the claim, or vice



versa. Believed later Boyd, WGC:132, Adolph Friedman, 1949 ANA:221, Kern:814, Golding:235. (2) Haseltine Type Table, R. Coulton Davis, Davis-Graves:1342, rev. field nick, cleaned, possibly Cass, "Empire":1726. (3) Mint, SI. (4) Dr. Judd cased set. (5) "From a proof set," Hollywood FPL, Austin:56, \$4,100. (6) Garrett:260, F. G., \$2,600. (7) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., believed ex Geiss:338. (8) Col. Green, Roe:440.

"Dupont":2519, to G. K., is doubted, as it is from the same dies as business strikes.

**Silver-Minor Proof Sets.** (1) Mint, 1844, Stickney:1788; half cent original, cent and dollar proofs, others uncirculated — reflecting carelessness or confusion on the part of mint employees. Probably no longer intact. If in one set of seven pieces furnished as proofs, four were business strikes, this makes more understandable the old practice of breaking up sets and placing the individual coins into date sequences by denomination. (2) Ex F. K. Saab, Feb. 1945, at a then high \$550, "in original holder," not described, not seen. (3) Another set lately broken up, of which the half dime and dollar (proofs) went to a Hollywood firm; not the Stickney set, as the half dime was a proof.

**Quarter Eagle.** Date far left, 1 touching bust. (1) Mint, SI. (2) The cased set described below. (2) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:111, "Memorable":104.

**Half Eagle.** Date far left, peak of 1 microscopically out from under end of truncation. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Cased set described below. (3) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:395, "Memorable":345.



**1844 Eagle.** Ex Newcomer, Boyd, J. F. Bell, "Memorable":547

**Eagle.** \*B-1. Low date slants up to right. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Cased set described below. (3) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:649, "Memorable":547.

For the 1844 O mint half eagle and eagle, ex Parmelee, Woodin, see the chapter *Branch Mint Proofs*, below.

**Complete Proof Sets.** (1) Smithsonian, from Mint collection; this set's coins have been separately enumerated above, some being drastically cleaned, possibly others traded away. (2) Dr. Judd formerly owned a cased set similar to the 1843 (was this the one known to B. Max Mehl and mentioned under Neil:2292?). Now in a N.Y. state private collection.

## 1845

**\*Half Cent.** Only the one variety; large berry reverse of 1840-44. Two proofs in museums (Smithsonian, John Hopkins), at least 10 or 11 in collectors' hands plus a single restrrike (Brobston, at \$725: see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*), at least three of the collectible pieces being worn. (1) Showers, proof. (2) Chapman, June 20, 1908 — Ryder — Wayte Raymond — "Dupont":1139 (bought at the Ryder sale, June 1954:323, to fill a gap in the "Dupont" date sequence), to D. N. Proof, spot above head. (3) Eliasberg, proof, ex Chapman 4/95, Clapp. (4) Norweb, ex J. C. Morgenthau, 9/05. (5) Brock, University of Pennsylvania, C. J. Dochkus. (6) Wolfson:32. (7) Ex W. L. Carson. Spot at M, possibly ex #5?. (8) Boyd — NN 51:1219, proof. (9) Eliasberg duplicate, Fine. (10) NN 54th sale, nearly EF, later in the hands of Cohen & Kreisberg and reappearing as "Century":114. I have heard a report that one from the Yale University museum robbery, very dull proof, was handled by one of the fences at \$550.

**Cent.** N-2. Two dashes and a line r. of Y; 8 4 apart. "Dupont":850 to D. N., part of edge rounded. Pre-striking planchet chip near C of CENT. Has been doubted, but the surface is convincing enough.

— N-5. In date 84 touch; no lines near TY; dot on base of N in ONE, two minute spines from base of E in CENT, die file marks rim to UNIT. N. J. specialist, ex T. L. Elder, Feb. 6, 1915:1752.

— N-8. In date 84 almost touch, recutting on part of upright of 4, curl point almost over extreme r. edge of 8, date below center of space. Newcomb mentioned the variety as occurring in proof, but I am not sure whether the coin he knew was the same as either of the pieces I have seen: (1) Earle:3562 — Hillyer Ryder — Wayte Raymond — NN 41:921 — Kagin — Philadelphia Estate. (2) Calif. Specialist, ex Wurzbach, Hines, Sheldon, Ernest Henderson, T. James Clarke.



**1845 Cent. N-14.** Ex Mougey, Beckwith, Morgan, Clarke colls.

— \*N-14. Curl point midway 8 4, which digits do not quite touch; curved line up from r. base of Y. Rev. Same as 1844 B-8. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set. (2) Pearl:383. (3) "Dupont":859, now in a N.Y. State private collection. (4) The piece Newcomb knew, apparently Philadelphia Estate, ex Mehl,



11/15/1938. (5) Mougey: 238, Beckwith: 103, Morgan: 344, B. Max Mehl, T. J. Clarke, Calif. Specialist. Red; stained over TATES OF. (6) N. J. Specialist, ex Williams: 493. (7) Mathewson coll., to R. P., May 1955. (8) N. Y. Specialist cased set. Others reported.

**Half Dime.** \*V-1A. Date high, slants up, the 5 almost or quite touching base, 845 almost or quite touching each other; line through U into wreath. (1) Bullowa, May 1952. (2) Eliasberg, perfect rev. die. (3) T. K. Harvin — Wolfson: 453. (4) Lester Merkin auction, April 1966: 78 at \$350, later H. W., 1971 ANA: 623, Reed Hawn: 604 at \$450. (5) Cased set mentioned below. "Menjou": 113 may have been this variety.

— \*Not in V., most similar to V-6 but without so many die defects near stars. Low date slanting up, 1 almost touches border. SI, from Mint's proof set.

**Dime.** \*B-6. Plainly recut 45. (1) Landau: 448. (2) SI, from Mint proof set. (3) Philadelphia Estate ex Morgenthau 1/43. (4) Menjou: 198. (5) Cased set below. I have seen two others, one of them obviously cleaned, but cannot now trace them. Wayte Raymond had seen two.

**Quarter.** Plainly recut date, 845 first placed to left of their final position, then corrected; outlines on left of those digits. (1) Newcomb collection. (2) Earle: 3088 to Ryder, Wayte Raymond, NN 49:1152. This may be the W. L. Carson piece. (3) SI, ex Mint. (4) Menjou: 715. (5) The cased set described below. Wayte Raymond knew of one other.

**Half Dollar.** Normal date, low. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Cased set below. (3) Boyd, WGC:273, E. M. Seneca, S 3/65:447. Two others seen, so badly cleaned as to render their original proof status dubious.

**Silver Dollar.** \*B-1. In date 84 heavily recut, this date slanting slightly down. Rev. of 1842 earlier described. (1) Col. Green, Roe:441, Geiss:339. Possibly the Amon Carter coin. (2) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:133, Adolph Friedman, 1949 ANA:223, Golding:236. (3) Cased set below. (4) Kern:815. (5) Cass, "Empire": 1727, possibly same as last. (6) Baldenhofer, Ostheimer, LM 9/68:140, E.I.U., spot near 6th star. (7) An impaired piece handled by FCI about 1975. Wayte Raymond knew at least three and believed others were around; it is uncertain if the three he traced are all above.

— B-2. Normal date, different reverse, no more exact data available. Cf. SI ex Mint, and Davis-Graves: 1343.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** Stickney: 1789, all proof, ex mint in year of issue. I would very much like to examine this set, if it is still intact, as it would establish conclusively whether or not the cent and dollar varieties are originals. Rumors persist that some of the large berry half cents 1840-48, some cents with the 1844 B-8 reverse, and some silver dollars, were among coins struck for various dignitaries ca. 1848 (e.g. Alexandre Vattemare?), or restruck ca. 1858-60.

**Quarter Eagle.** Only the one variety of proofs; normal date, low, to right. (1) SI, ex Mint. (2) Cased set below. (3) "Memorable": 105, source unknown. A fourth is rumored.



**1845 Half Eagle.** Ex Parmelee, Woodin, Newcomer, Green, B. G. Johnson, J. F. Bell, "Memorable" :347.

**Half Eagle.** Heavy date, placed low, to left. (1) SI, ex Mint. (2) Cased set below. (3) Parmelee, at private sale (supposedly), W. H. Woodin, exhibited by Woodin at ANS 1914, Newcomer, Col. E. H. R. Green, Burdette G. Johnson, J. F. Bell, "Memorable": 347.



**1845 Eagle.** Col. Green, J. F. Bell, "Memorable":548

**Eagle.** \*B-2: date low, far left, slants up; left tips of serifs of 1 in line with extreme left edge of truncation. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Cased set below. (3) Col. Green, "Memorable": 548.

**Complete proof sets.** (1) SI, from Mint Cabinet collection; same comment as to former years. (2) N. Y. State Specialist coll., in original case, similar to the 1843-44 sets. The late Floyd Starr told me about it many years ago, saying that B. Max Mehl had handled it, but could not recall when, nor where it had come from.

1846



**1846 Half Cent. Original.** Ex "Dupont" coll.

**\*Half Cent.** Only one variety. Date small, delicate-looking, apparently engraved rather than

punched; large berry rev. of 1840-48. Three in museums (SI, ANS, Johns Hopkins); at least 13 in private hands, two being worn (I handled one of these, which later went to John Cobb). Brobston's was offered at \$825 some 13 years ago, later LM 3/69:370. That in the Balboa bank set has a heavy mark over (C)E, from foreign matter adhering to die, like a couple of others of this date. No restrikes with this large berry reverse. Auction records (see Value Guide) have little relevance to relative rarity from one date to the next in the forties.

**Cent.** Type 1a: small date, closed 6 (knob of 6 nearly touches loop). \*Unlisted, obv. N-1, rev. 1844 B-8 (unlike business strikes from this obv. die). Plain outlines (repunching) below 18 and within lower loop of 8; date low, roughness at border between second and fourth stars. (1) Dr. French, exhibited at ANS 1914; French: 648; T. James Clarke; Calif. Specialist. (2) Morgenthau 10/5/39, Phila. Estate. (3) Newcomb, Starr, 1949 ANA: 1792.

— N-4. Double date, first punched obliquely (bases only showing strongly) well to left, then corrected, so that outlines show left of each figure. Rev. not described. Hines, N.J. Specialist. Oddly, unknown to Newcomb in proof state; possibly Hines obtained the piece after Newcomb's book was published (1944).

— N-19, perfect die. Small curved line on cheek, convex upward, pointing down to r. Curl point over inner r. curve of 8, peak of 1 even with extreme left edge of truncation; die file marks through E in AMERICA. (1) Philadelphia Estate, ex Newcomb II: 743, impaired. (2), (3) Two examples offered by Walter F. Webb to Homer Downing in July 1941.

— Obv. N-15 and 21, like last but without cheek line; "round hole" in ear. Rev. different: around E's in ONE CENT, S OF heavily doubled ("recut"), faint die file marks through UNIT, roughness over MERICA. Elder, June 1911: 1361, to Hillyer Ryder, Wayte Raymond, NN 41:924, to Kagin, now Philadelphia Estate.



**1846 Cent.** Small date. Breen 22, not in Newcomb. Calif. Specialist coll.

\*B-22, not in Newcomb. Obv. similar to N-17, curl point midway between r. curves of 8; small curved line like a reversed C on neck; irregularities in 184, file marks at Y. Rev.: Same as 1844 B-8. Usually, border narrow below date. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint's proof set. (2), (3) "Dupont": 872, 873, both to

a N.Y. state private collection. (4) N. J. Specialist. (5) Philadelphia Estate ex Mehl 1/22/38, possibly ex Mougey, Sleicher. (6) The Balboa (Calif.) bank proof set. Small cheek spot. (7) Apparently the variety in the cased set below. Others exist.

— Type 1b: Small date, open 6, knob distant from loop, this 6 in other ways a little differently shaped from the closed (N-9, 10, and a couple of unlisted varieties). N-10. Curl point in line with extreme r. side of 8, plain vertical die file marks within ON and EN (rev. 1845 N-11). (1) The coin Newcomb saw: Calif. Specialist, ex Parsons: 1906, H. Chapman, Hines, Wurzbach, Sheldon, Ernest Henderson, T. James Clarke. (2) Dr. French — T. James Clarke: 335, not seen as it was out to a mail bidder when I was examining the Clarke cents. (3) The former J. P. Young example.

— Type II: Tall narrow numerals, same as on the tall date half dollars. \*B-27: Similar to N-13 but without line crossing 1: curl point over inner r. curve of 8, 1 not touching border; die file scratches at ERT and ear. Rev. 1844 B-8. (1) Dr. French:661 as "A-12" (understandably), "Dupont":874, Phila. Estate. (2) "Dr. French duplicate," T. James Clarke:336. (3) F. C. C. Boyd, NN 51:1258, D.N., TAD:154. (4) Cleneay:839 (proof set), Mougey:245, Beckwith: 106, Morgan:352, B.Max Mehl. Possibly same as either of last two; illustrations unavailable.

**Half Dime.** \*B-2. Not in Valentine. Shield point above left upright of 1, whereas on the V-1 variety constituting the scarce business strikes of this date shield point is about over r. upright of 1 and date slants down. First publicized by B. Max Mehl in the Neil sale (1947) as a new and exceedingly rare variety — presumably after Neil's own notes. Mehl there claimed it had been unknown (i.e. unrecognized) until about 1945. However, specimens had been pictured earlier. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Brock, Univ. of Penna., P.H. Ward: 1015. (4) Bullowa, May 1952. (5) Atwater: 1154, Allenburger: 1052. (6) Boyd, WGC: 239, Neil: 1613, Phila. Estate. (7) Ex Dr. Judd set, Bowers. (8) Cased set below. (9) Merkin 4/66:79 at \$750, H.W., 1971 ANA: 624, Reed Hawn: 606 at \$1,600. (10) Bolender 3/2/56: 1230, Phila. Estate. (11) S 6/73: 992, \$1,700, later in Balboa bank proof set. Spotted over I(M), on neck and below 18. (12) "A.R.," S 12/71:182, impaired. Cf. also Parmelee: 1176, H. P. Smith: 1027, either or both probably represented above.

**Dime.** \*B-2. Shield point between tip and left upright of 1. Rev. Perfect die, without the defects on MER commonly seen on business strikes (which are rarer than 1844, q.v.). (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Dr. Judd set, Bowers. (3) Cased set below. (4) Atwater:939, Phila. Estate. (5) NN 36:116, from either Wayte Raymond or Brand estate, not since traced. (6) Balboa bank set; lint mark between 6th and 7th stars. (7)

LM 2/72:96. Two others reported.

**Quarter.** \*Normal date, die file marks slant down sharply to right of it; "extra hair" below chin; small outline above first star. Rev. All red stripes extend upwards into azure; die file mark, rim to E(R). (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Ex Dr. Judd set, A-Mark. (3) Cased set below. (4) Kern:1417, Phila. Estate. (5) Col. Green, 1946 ANA:447. (6) Dr. Green: 1399. (7) Brock, U. of Pa., Rovensky:602. Possible reappearances of the above: Rothert:796; W. L. Carson; Parmelee:1174 (nicked); S. W. Freeman: 1159. There are also those in the proof sets mentioned below.

**Half Dollar.** Type I. Medium date, as on the N-II cents; commonly called "small date," but this is not the same logotype as was used on the small date cents. Apparently two pairs of dies; I have description for only one: Die file marks, rim to field below 4th star; 10th star towards 11th; rev. vertical die file marks below wing left of shield. (1) Newcomb II:857. (2) Boyd, WGC:285. (3) Col. Green, 1949 ANA: 1502. (4) I owned one with cracked rev. die, ca. 1956, cleaned. (5) I owned an impaired perfect-die coin about 1953. (6) N.Y. state specialist. (7) James A. Stack estate:444, field nicks, \$900. The following records are believed to represent reappearances of the above: Col. Green, Geiss:532; Earle:2989; Paramount Fixed Price List, ca. 1966, Krouner, LM 2/71:744; Reed Hawn: 153, \$1700; W.L. Carson, ex Merkin. There are also the coins from the proof sets, one broken up, the half dollar offered as "Terrell": 858, Rothert:865.

— Type II. Tall date, as on the cents. Low date slants down to r., short line from left base of 1. Rev. Die failed to take full polish between arrowheads, between olive leaves, and within MER-A and A F of HALF. I saw this coin about 1953, attributed it as Beistle 5-C, but have no record of its present location.

**Silver Dollar.** \*B-1. So-called overdate. Date first logotyped obliquely and much too low, about half its own height below final position, then correctly repunched. Parts of upper halves of 846 show at lower halves of those digits. Called "1846 over 45" in Parmelee: 1171, "1846 over 1844" in WGC. Not correctly identified as a blundered die until I examined the Eliasberg coin in 1953. Rev. of earlier dates in the forties, with the two minute defects on r. side of final A. (1) Clapp, Eliasberg. (2) Garrett:262, \$3300, F. G. (3) Boyd, WGC:135, Guggenheimer:972, "Penna. Coll.," S 5/57:524. (4) Mickley, Reichardt, Reakirt, 1962 Columbus sale. (5) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (6) Parmelee: 1171, H. P. Smith: 442, badly cleaned, not now traced. (7) Golding:237. (8) Balboa bank set, ex Dr. Judd set (?), lint mark from rim near first S. (9) Menjou:2091. (10) Golden II:3057. (11) Cass, "Empire": 1729. (12) Bowers, 2/27/1964, Phila. Estate. At least three others reported, one of them ex W. L. Carson. The variety is a naked-eye blunder, making it the more surprising that this die would have been approved for use on proofs.

— B-2. Normal date, no variety data. (1) WGC: 136. (2) SI ex Mint. (3) Geiss:340, probably Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (4) Ex Dr. Judd set (see below). (5) One other impaired example examined about 1954. Wayte Raymond also mentioned a partly and slightly doubled date in proof, different from either of foregoing varieties; I have not seen this.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** (1) Stickney: 1790, from the mint in the year of issue. Complete, original half cent to silver dollar, the dollar from the blundered die above described, proving that at least some impressions from this obverse are originals. If the Stickney dollar can be identified and proves to have the usual reverse, that will settle matters. However, doubt remains whether all such impressions are originals, owing to the set next to be described. (2) Cleneay:839. Later broken up, this had a restrike half cent, both small and tall date cents, the latter going to Mougey and Beckwith (see above), but the silver dollar is also of the blundered variety. I personally suspect that the tall date cent was added later, and that the half cent was put in to replace the original which had been removed for a date sequence, but that the silver coins were as they came from the mint in 1846. In neither of the above was the half dollar specified as to medium or tall date. (3) Dr. Judd also had a set, lately broken up, which might have been a reappearance of the Cleneay set, minus the extra cent and with an original half cent put in; but I suspect instead that it is actually different from either. Cf. "Ill. Hist.":139A. Its B-2 dollar had been replaced about 1972 by a blundered die coin. Rumored to have come from London via B. H. Collins. (4) Mehl estate, Ken Nichols, A. Kosoff, a Balboa (Calif.) bank, RARCOA, Brownlee, A-Mark, Allen Harriman, Ruby I:1623 at \$17,500, Julian Leidman, a midwest dealer; either partly assembled or upgraded, as the half dime was earlier in S 6/73 (see above); is this the Stickney set? Original half cent, small date cent, medium date half dollar, blundered die dollar. See also Complete Sets, below.

**Quarter Eagle.** Oddly recut date like an overdate, slanting down to r. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Cased set below. (3) Ex Wetmore, Jenks:5810, seen by Wayte Raymond, not now located.

— Normal date. Brock, Morgan, ANS, from a broken set.



1846 Half Eagle. Large date. ANS

**Half Eagle.** Large date, placed to left. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Cased set below. (3) Reported by Wayte Raymond. (4) ANS.

**Eagle.** Small date as on cents. \*B-1. No die file marks in shield. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Cased set below. (3) Woodin, exhibited at ANS 1914, no since traced.

**Complete proof sets.** (1) SI ex Mint. (2) N.Y. State specialist, in original case. Others were evidently made, as the Brock, Morgan, ANS group testifies. Occasion for the earlier sets — which may or may not have included the gold — with small date coins, probably the admission of Texas. Occasion for the latest sets, with tall date coins, probably the admission of Iowa, Dec. 28, 1846.



**1847 Half Cent. Original. Large berries. "Dupont": 1143.**

\***Half Cent.** Only the one obverse. Rev. Large berry die of 1840-48. Two in museums (SI, ANS), and possibly 14 collectible specimens, two of them circulated ("Dupont":1143; Parsons, Ryder, Hutcheson, Ruby I:296) plus a couple of restrikes with large berries. Brobston's was offered at \$800 thirteen years ago; later auction records were lower until about 1973. The date now goes in four figures; 1976 ANA, \$2,100.

**Cent.** N-1. Perfect dies; blundered die, date first obliquely punched to left of its correct position, bases plainest, then mostly effaced and relogotyped correctly. Die file marks through RTY. Known only from the mention in Newcomb, probably covering a Hines coin.

— \*B-46. Obv. of N-4:18 double punched, the recutting atop upper serif and below base of 1 and below 8; roughness at border near all stars. Die file marks r. of 7. This is a much earlier die state than that recognized as Newcomb 4. Rev. Roughness joins E of ONE to wreath; roughness at left ribbon, above UNITED and various parts of wreath. May not be the same die as N-4; certainly different from N-27 and the die of "Dupont":878. Warfield collection (1955) ex Bullowa, May 1952. Note: The half dimes credited to Bullowa, May 1952 are retained in a single collection and have not been publicly available.

— \*N-25. Obv. is supposedly an earlier die state of N-24? Curl point midway r. curves of 8, and very close; left serifs of 1 in line with end of truncation,

top of 1 very close to bust; no roughness near border. Rev.: Same as 1844 B-8. (1) ANS, probably the coin described by Newcomb. (2) (?) T. James Clarke: 340, ex Beckwith: 107, Morgan: 361, B. Max Mehl as "Andrews 13", not seen as it was out to a mail bidder when I was examining the Clarke cents. I am reasonably certain of the ANS piece, though I question Newcomb's conclusion that this die is the same as N-24, or as N-9 (crack from base of 4 to border). I strongly question the Clarke attribution, in view of the next coin to be described.

— \*B-41. Similar to last but curl point nearer r. than center of curve of 8; end of truncation r. of left edge of upright of 1 (date a little wider spaced); small die file marks down from several back curls, lacking on N-25. Rev. Same as last. Newcomb described the N-25 reverse as having delicate wreath; this is from the die having been lapped or vigorously polished and repolished for proofs. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint's proof set. (2) Philadelphia Estate. (3) Calif. Specialist, ex C. David Pierce, 1947. (3) 1958 ANA :506, ex French. (4) "Dupont":898, to N.Y. state specialist. (5) Ryder:925, Kagin, from Wayte Raymond sale 4/14/1911. (6) T. James Clarke:341. A couple of others reported; cf. Mougey:248-9, former to Sleicher.

**Half Dime.** \*V-2. Thin date, tops of 184 and left top of 7 touch base, 47 closer spaced than usual; die defects at every star; heavy rev. lettering. (1) SI from Mint. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Bullowa, May 1952. (4) Atwater:1155, scratched. (5) T. K. Harvin, Wolfson:455, believed later W. L. Carson. (6) Merkin 4/66:80, H. W., 1971 ANA:625, Reed Hawn:608 at \$400. Cf. also Parmelee:1185; H. P. Smith:1030 (same coin?); McCoy:646, Zaroni, Cleneay:1699; Menjou:117; Newcomb II:810 and those in the proof sets. Source and fate of the Valentine coin unknown.

**Dime.** \*Normal date, left, all digits touch device. Rev. Striae from TED to wreath. (1) SI from Mint. (2) J. C. Morgenthau 1/43:441, Phila. Estate. (3) WGC:532, Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA:269. Possibly same as next. (4) Parmelee:1184, H. P. Smith:956. (5) "Dupont":1574. (6) Lester Merkin, ca. 1960, to an upper N.Y. state collector. That in the Winsor proof set is probably not included; and at least one other is floating around, which I have lost track of.

**Quarter.** \*Normal date, heavily punched, about centered. Rev. of 1846 proofs. (1) SI from Mint. (2) Elder, 1925, Ryder, Wayte Raymond, NN 49:1153, Eugene Gardner, Gardner:1651, \$520, Phila. Estate. (3) Morgenthau 10/5/39:378, Phila. Estate. (4) Atwater:700, Neil:923. (5) "J. H. South":511. (6) NN 54:1119, Merkin. (7) Parmelee:1183, H. P. Smith:813. It is possible that duplications exist among the last four. Source of the W. L. Carson coin is not known.

**Half dollar.** 1847/46. Beistle 1-A. Identifiable by fragments of bottoms of 1846 date (the curve of base of 6 not matching the curve of bottom of 7) well

below 1847 date and somewhat to left of it, the base of 6 below space between 47. Most of the known specimens (business strikes and the solitary proof) were not identified until recent years, partly because Beistle was vague about the details. The finest of about 4 or 5 known of this variety has been called a proof by all its owners of record. Its surface on obverse is convincing enough; its reverse is more satiny than mirrorlike, but the sharpness is comparable to obv. "Dupont":2131 at \$1,000, C. A. Cass, "Empire": 1379, \$925, Reed Hawn:161, \$7,500, Dr. E. Yale Clarke:276. This is by no means the most spectacular of the blundered dies Longacre committed during his neophyte days at the Mint (see 1844 B-8 cent, 1846 blundered date dollar for a couple others found on proofs); his experience was as a banknote plate engraver, hardly relevant to diesinking. The 1846 date logotype was weakly punched in at a plane oblique to the surface of the die, as with the other errors just named.

— \*Normal date, thin, placed low in field. Shield point about over left edge of 8, left base of 1 slightly r. of center of dentil, rev. scattered crisscross diagonal file marks in white stripes. (1) SI, from Mint. (2) Earle:2991, J. G. MacAllister 12/12/1938, Phila. Estate. (3) Garrett:210. (4) Norweb. (5) Boyd, WGC:289, E. M. Seneca, S 3/65:451. Either this or no. 2 is likely to have been ex Parmelee: 1182, H. P. Smith:687. (6) Col. Green, Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA:827. (7) Cass, "Empire": 1380. (8) Brand, Lichtenfels I:2826, R. E. Cox:1913, 1975 ANA:575. (9) Reed Hawn: 162, \$2,200, probably same as one of last four. (10) Armand Champa:889, "Terrell":859, same comment. There are a few others floating around, mostly badly cleaned and /or nicked.

**Silver Dollar.** \*B-1. Date about centered, not heavily logotyped; left base of 1 over space between dentils. Rev. as on earlier dates, with the two minute defects on r. side of final A. Sometimes with faint line from D to beak to wingtip. (1) SI, from Mint. (2) Eliasberg. (3) WGC:138, possibly ex Parmelee: 1181, Bement:239, possibly same as next. (4) Cass, "Empire": 1731. (5) T. James Clarke, NN 48:658, Kagin. (6) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (7) Wayte Raymond 8/23/38:132, Phila. Estate. (8) Bluestone 9/17/40:623, Phila. Estate. (9) "Dupont":2523, impaired. Source of the W. L. Carson coin unknown. Geiss:342, "recut 4," is unverified. Cf. Col. Green, Roe:443.

As in 1843, there are a great many deceptive early business strikes, with light (B-2) or heavy (B-3) dates, and with different reverse dies; usually they have traces of mint front in field near stars, letters, or eagle's neck, and no die polish in shield. Presence of die polish in shield (parts representing *white* stripes) is evidence in favor of proof status, though not by itself conclusive; its absence, when not replaced by die file marks, is suspicious in that this was one of

the parts of the die in highest relief, thus one of the parts most strongly contacted by the buffing wheel used to polish dies for proofing.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** (1) Winsor: 1068. The half cent was original, other coins all proofs but not described in detail. (2) Stickney: 1791, from the Mint in the year of date: silver dollar proof, smaller silver all unc. (!), cent and half cent proof, latter with large berries. Same comment as to the 1844 set Stickney: 1788, above. The Stickney set probably was broken up, the Winsor set may well survive intact; whereabouts unknown. (3) McCoy:373, to Levick, "5 Pieces," probably no copper coins; possibly same as Winsor's upgraded in the meantime.

**Quarter Eagle, Half Eagle, Eagle.** Known only from the Mint Collection's proof set now housed in the Smithsonian. Same comment as to previous years.

**Complete proof sets.** None reported aside from that furnished the Mint Cabinet collection.

## 1848

**\*Half Cent.** One obv.: date too large, fills space below device; 6th star double punched; large berry reverse of 1840-47. Three in museums (Smithsonian, ANS and Johns Hopkins). About a half dozen proofs in collectors' hands aside from the two restrikes from these dies (Farouk's thick flan coin and Brobston's underweight one, the latter offered at \$800 as original: see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*). "Dupont": 1145 went to D. N.; the Wayte Raymond April 6, 1926: 75 — Ryder — NN 44: 327 went to L. W(erner ?); Wolfson: 35 and Holmes: 1341 appear to be different coins, etc. A single worn example is known: "Century": 120 at \$240.

**Cent.** Note that the earlier varieties of the year have an "open 4" logotype, more like the style of 4 used on 1847's, with Crosslet well away from base. The later varieties have "closed 4" with long Crosslet almost or quite touching base; this style did not recur in 1849. Both logotypes also occur on half dollars (which see). No open 4 cent proofs are known. N-8, closed 4, claimed in Neil: 2110, is in the Calif. Specialist coll., and proved to be N-19, below.



### 1848 Cent. N-19. Ex Neil coll.

— \*N-19. Low date away from bust, fine **line** (base of an erroneously placed 1 ?) crosses upright of 1 slightly above base, base of second 8 double. Rev.: Die of 1844 B-8 (used also on coins dated 1845-6-7).

Generally thought very rare, but the following enumeration will give a better idea: (1) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set. (2) Newcomb II: 745, Phila. Estate. (3) Philadelphia Estate, ex Davis-Graves: 1761. (4) F. C. C. Boyd — NN 51:1262. (5) "Dupont": 911, spotty. (6) "Dupont": 912, nicked below NT. (7) "Dupont" 913, cleaned, to a dealer. (8) Chapman, Carl Wurzbach, V. Brand, H. C. Hines, W. H. Sheldon, Ernest Henderson, "Sheraton" offering, T. James Clarke: 345. (9) B. H. Collins — B. Max Mehl — T. J. Clarke: 346. (10) Morris — T. J. Clarke: 347. (11) An uncatalogued Clarke duplicate, seen at the time I was examining the auction lots. (12) Zug: 1127, Beckwith:108, Morgan: 363, Mehl. (13) Calif. Specialist, ex Neil:2110 as "A-8." And I have excellent reason to believe that this enumeration is far from complete. The Mougey sale contained three (lots 252-254), the last "bronzed".

Note: The N-20 claimed in Sawicki: 718 proved to be a business strike.

**Half Dime.** Medium date only. (The true large date, V-1, with dime logotype and date overrunning base as it is too large for the exergual space — a real blunder — is rare and unknown in proof; and no true small date as in 1849 is known to exist.) Three barely distinguishable obverses; Valentine's descriptions are no help, though his plates clearly show the differences.

— V-2. Top of date barely touches base; defects at all stars; shield point a little r. of left upright of 1; skirt pendant minutely r. of r. upright of 4; left base of 1 r. of center of denticle and very close; left base of 4 minutely r. of left edge of denticle. Bullowa, May 1952.

— V-3. Very similar. Defects only at 5th, 7th, 8th and 10th stars and not always even on those. Shield point left of center of upright of 1, skirt pendant minutely farther r. of r. upright of 4, above the crossbar. Left base of 1 higher above center of denticle, nearly its own thickness away; left base of 4 left of center of denticle. Eliasberg, perfect die (repolished, lapped, the defects at stars now absent). One other seen.

— V-4. Very similar. Date slants minutely upward, 184 barely touching base if at all, final 8 minutely overlapping; date less heavily punched into die. Shield point a trifle left of left upright of 1, skirt pendant left of a point where it would have been centered above r. upright of 4, left base of 1 high above space between denticles as is left base of 4; defects only between 5th and 6th, 10th and 11th stars. Rev.: Usually "upset" — 180° away from normal alignment. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set, impaired. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Valentine plate coin. (4) A-Mark.

Which of these varieties are represented by the following coins, I have not yet been able to determine: (1) ANS, ex J.P. Morgan, ex R. C. W. Brock proof set. (2) Wolfson: 456 at \$400, ex T. K. Harvin. (3)

Parmelee: 1193, probably the same coin reappearing as H. P. Smith: 1032. (4) Newcomb I: 504. (5) Newcomb II: 811. (6) Cleneay: 1702, obv. proof, rev. unc. (7) Winner F. Delp: 35, probably same as one of foregoing.

**Dime.** \*B-2. High date, slanting down to r., 1 recut above and touching base, final 8 about equidistant between base and nearest point of border; left base of 1 above space. Rev.: Die of 1844, 1846, 1847 proofs, probably used on other intervening dates. (1) ANS, ex Morgan, Brock proof set. (2) Philadelphia Estate, ex J. C. Morgenthau 1/43:442. (3) A-Mark, ex 1971 ANA: 667, ex Lester Merkin auction, April 1966: 144 \$500, H. W. Rim spot at 7th star. (4) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set. (5) 1946 ANA: 270, ex WGC: 534, Adolph Friedman, possibly reappearing as Winner Delp: 45. Compare also Newcomb II: 816, Parmelee: 1192, H. P. Smith: 957, etc. I have seen several others, mostly badly cleaned.



**1848 Quarter.** Ex Wayte Raymond, NN 33rd and 41st sales, Kagin

**Quarter.** Normal date slanting down to r., to recutting; shield point between 18, left base of 1 over left edge. Rev. of 1847 proofs, vertical stria left of beak. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS set. (3) Wayte Raymond, NN 33:484, various intermediaries, NN 41:734, Kagin, then deeply toned and tarnished, possibly later cleaned. (4) Hillyer Ryder, Wayte Raymond, NN 47:1154, Eugene Gardner, Gardner: 1642; four minute nicks in r. obv. field. (5) Reed Hawn: 165, \$1200, possibly one of last two. (6) A-Mark, same comment. (7) N. Y. private coll.

— Double punched date. Newcomb II:833.

Which variety is represented by Parmelee: 1191 is unknown; possibly it is one of those listed above.



**1848 Half Dollar.** Ex 1949 ANA, McPherson, Cass, Krouner colls.

**Half Dollar.** Open 4 (Crosslet short, distant from base) as on earlier nonproofs. Answers description of Beistle 1-A; high date, shield point over space between 18, left base of 1 almost over r. edge. Two rev. dies; the coins listed below are not differentiated, (a) Die scratch up through azure from r. edge of 6th red stripe; feather ends below shield at r. short and pointed, not touching arrow shaft — lapped die. This rev. may appear on other half dollar proofs of the period, as it has a familiar look, (b) Normal feathers, scattered horizontal marks in white stripes, 7th white stripe filled. (1) SI from Mint. (2) Col. Green, Boyd, WGC:294, the coin Beistle knew. (3) 1949 ANA.1505, McPherson:933, Cass, "Empire":1383, Krouner, LM 2/71:752, slightly impaired. (4) A-Mark, deep steel-blue, possibly same as one of above. Cf. Parmelee:1190, H. P. Smith:689 and/or Newcomb II:859, probably source(s) of 2 or 3 of above. At least one other badly cleaned proof is known.

Half dollars exist with closed 4 logotype (Crosslet long and nearly touches base of 4) but no proofs are certainly identified of this type.

**Silver Dollar.** Larger date than formerly. \*B-1. Die chips (-shaped) on breast; shield point above center of top of 1; left base of 1 over r. edge. Rev. of 1842. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Boyd, WGC: 139, "J.H. South":819, Golding:240 (4) Cass, "Empire":1732 (same Kem:819?). (5) T. James Clarke, NN 48:359, Kagin. (6) Col Green, Roe:444, Geiss:343, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (7) Bluestone 9/17/40:624, Phila. Estate. (8) Baldenhofer, A. J. Ostheimer, LM 9/68:344, E.I.U., rim flan defect below 4. One other imparled piece seen in the 1950's. Parmelee:1189 is probably the source of one already named.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** (1) Winsor.1069, complete; half cent original, silver varieties not specified (probably not then known). (2) Stickney:1792, complete, ex the mint in the year of date, same comment. (3) Cleneay:840, complete, but the half cent is a restrike, probably obtained to replace the original which went into his date sequence. Broken sets are also known; ANS's, ex Brock, Morgan, lacked the half dollar and dollar, and is filed individually by denomination. McCoy:375, to Levick, lacked the copper. Newcomb evidently owned another, lacking the half cent and dollar; the remaining coins were sold as individual pieces, the common fate of broken sets.

The question arises whether or not any of these sets dated 1840-48 inclusive were made in 1848-50 for Alexandre Vattemare or other dignitaries. Vattemare's second visit to the USA was during the years 1847-50, and he is known to have obtained proof sets from the mint; the Bibliotheque Nationale still retains his 1850 set. Should it develop that the coins in that set include any restrikes, this will enable

identification of others sharing the same reverse dies in the same states but muled with earlier dated obverses as pieces probably made on the same occasion and for similar purpose. The existence of runs of dates of coins sharing a common reverse die (while other proofs of the same denomination, known to be originals, use different reverse dies in the same dates) strongly suggests the issue of various dates of proof sets at the same time. Sets of individual pieces made up each year normally had individually made dies for the year, save for half cents and silver dollars (as the Stickney sets apparently prove) and barely possibly the cents; though the cents remain moot. Any sets of various dates made up to order at the same time most probably would have been manufactured by something like the following procedure. A cent reverse die was put into the press (perhaps the 1844 B-8 die earlier mentioned), a few cents from an 1844 obverse die saved from that year (or even perhaps newly made to order using old logotypes) were struck, then an 1845 obverse put into the press instead and a few struck, then a few dated 1846, and so forth, and similarly for the other denominations, since no type changes involving reverses occurred in this period. Confirmation of this process awaits sight of the Vattemare proof set of 1850. Circumstantial confirmation would consist of evidence that the same kind of copper planchets showed up on the cents (perhaps the half-cents too) in that group of proofs. The reasoning behind this conclusion is simple enough: from year to year the copper used for cents differed with differing suppliers or contractors employed by the Mint, these firms being in various parts of the USA as well as in England. Physically the cents tend to tone or tarnish or streak differently from year to year, the borders differ, as does the texture of devices; and the color on untarnished ones is also distinctive. I have already alluded to the exceptional brilliance characteristic of 1841 proof copper coins; it would almost be possible to tell the date of an original proof half cent in the eighteen forties *from the reverse*, so characteristically variable are the kinds of planchets used from year to year. Much the same remark could be made for the silver coins except that the tests required would be extremely sophisticated (X-ray diffractometry, spectrography and neutron activation analysis), since the mint made its own planchets and the differences from year to year would be principally those of exceedingly minute impurities or trace elements not touched by the mint's refining processes.

On the other hand, discovery of any proof silver dollars dated in the eighteen forties *bearing either of the reverses of 1857-59* would immediately enable us to date them to that period, probably the same time that the 1852 silver dollars were restruck. Examination of some of the Cleneay proof sets of the 1840's including



restrike half-cents would perhaps enable a decision among the following alternatives: (1) Original set from which a half-cent had been removed for inclusion in a date sequence, then replaced with a restrike. (2) Set made up in the 1847-50 period. (3) Set made up in 1858-60, all the coins being manufactured to order at the time. (4) Set made up in either period, the coins being assembled from leftovers in the Coiner's vaults and any missing denominations being supplied from newly minted restrikes.

**Quarter Eagle.** Regular type. \*B-1. Small die chip on neck. Final 8 midway between truncation and border. No die file marks at 1, its left base above r. edge of dentil. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set. (2) Woodin:973, possibly reappearing as that next to follow or as no. 5 or 6. (3) WGC: 115, possibly same as Melish: 1181, now in New York state specialist collection. (4) Ex Stack's, impaired. (5) Ex Texas private collection. (6) Ex Davis-Graves, Kesselman: is it same as last?

— CAL. over eagle. B-3 (dies of B-2). Die file marks slant up to left, touching dentil left base of 1, which is about over center of a dentil. Final 8 nearer to truncation than to border. Three proofs were in the J. B. Longacre estate, lots 170-172 inclusive, at \$5 apiece, and apparently others were made for presentation purposes in conjunction with, or commemoration of, the first shipment of California gold to the mint. Ronnie Carr swears that he has seen three different proofs, so probably more than that survive. I know that there are several prooflike first strikes, which have from time to time been sold as proofs. Incidentally, the CAL. was punched into the coins while they remained on the obv. die, as no flat spot on obv. shows on the genuine. The CAL. is a logotype or gang punch, letters always identically related to each other, rectangular period, square or oblong serifs, etc.; but the logotype is slightly differently placed from coin to coin: very low on Menjou: 1196 (pictured by Hewitt in my quarter eagles monograph), about centered on Bell II: 135 and many others, very high on Jerome Kern: 39 — Pierce: 1130 — Miles: 142 — Delp: 780 (claimed as proof, dubious).

**Half Eagle.** (1) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set. One other seen by Wayte Raymond years ago, but it has dropped from sight.



1848 Eagle. Ex Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Bell, "Memorable": 550

**Eagle.** New obv. hub. Date with open 4 logotype as on the half dollars; \*B-2: low, slanting down to r. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint's proof set. (2) Woodin: 1213, "unique", probably to Waldo Newcomer and reappearing as WGC: 653, "Memorable": 550, whereabouts now unknown. (3) One other badly cleaned piece seen about twenty-two years ago, nicked and scratched but with the sharpness and edge. (4) ANS, somewhat questionable proof, ex Morgan; sharpness is as one would wish, but dies or planchet not as brilliantly polished before striking as usual — somewhat satiny finish. I have seen a finish like this on some restrikes dated 1863 and 1865 in gold and silver, and on a few half cents. I would like to compare this piece with the Woodin proof for die identity. If the reverse proves to be the same as some later (pre-1866) proof, that will diagnose it as well; but I did not have time to make the detailed comparisons necessary to establish this while at ANS.

**Complete proof sets.** Smithsonian, from Mint collection, as previously and with same comment; note also that some of the proofs have been mishandled in ensuing years. Mint curators paid little attention to proofs — apparently believing them of little importance. The Woodin coins suggest that he owned a similar set which lacked the half eagle and possibly several other denominations. Occasion for earlier sets: possibly the successful conclusion of the Mexican war.

## 1849



1849 Half Cent. Small date. Original. Ex "Dupont" coll.

**Half Cent.** \*Small date (apparently from the logotype used for half dimes and gold dollars, but much more heavily punched into the die). Rev. Large berry die of 1840-48. First auction record: E. Cogan, Oct. 18, 1860, for a fantastic \$22, to John F. McCoy, thence McCoy:793 to Col. Cohen. First publication in a numismatic journal: AJN, January 1871, p.59, by E(dward) M(aris), by implication in that he claimed to have seen all dates, 1840-49 small date, with both large and small berry reverses. Long controversial and long believed rarest of the proof-only half cents of the 1840's. Aside from two obvious underweight restrikes with high wire edges, there are possibly eight proofs and one damaged coin in collectors' hands, none in museums at present — not even in the



Smithsonian. As none of the known specimens of this variety weighs correctly, the original status of all of them has been questioned; but the presence of this variety in the Stickney proof set seems to establish satisfactorily that at least some were actually made in 1849. The damaged piece was in the Henry Clay Miller and Hillyer Ryder collections, reappearing in the 1962 New York Metropolitan Convention sale, lot 241. Proofs: (1) Phila. Estate, 1958, probably ex Cass — "Empire": 117. (2) Mills-Clapp-Eliasberg. (3) "Dupont": 1147, to H. O., 83 grains. (4) F. C. C. Boyd — NN 51:1221. (5) Holmes: 1344. (6) The former R. C. W. Brock, University of Pennsylvania, Dochkus coin. (7) Brobston, 86 grains. (8) N.Y. state private collection, probably same as one of the above. One of these, not too carefully handled, slept at \$450 in the "Century" sale. Not impossibly a ninth original is around, even aside from that in the Stickney proof set if that set remains intact. (The Showers and Norweb pieces are the two restrikes.) Existence of a circulated specimen tends to confirm the view that these were made in 1849; restrikes were not spent.



#### 1849 Half Cent. Large date. Ex NERCG "Cambridge" Sale

— Large date, as on the half eagles and quarter dollars. Rev.: Small berries, not a die found on restrikes. Two known, a third reported: (1) The former "Suitcase Foster" piece, presumably ex Cleaney. (2) The writer's coin, dull, believed to be the former Mickley-Crosby example. (3) That from the H. P. Smith proof set, not now traced. One of these is in NERCG 12/76:108, possibly (1).

**Cent.** N-1. Curl point over inner r. curve of 8, tops of 1 and 4 about equally close to bust and curl, fine die file marks parallel neck line, others behind head; small die chip close below 13th star. Rev.: Die file marks through berry r. of T in CENT, and over UNITED. (1) ANS, ex Clapp, ex Henry Chapman, Jan. 1927, at \$MA (=15: Clapp's code word was MENDACIOUS, his own private jape at B. Max Mehl). (2) Philadelphia Estate, ex Newcomb. (3) Elder, Oct. 17, 1908:433, to Hillyer Ryder, Wayte Raymond, NN 41:929, A. M. Kagin, Ronald Stolberg. (4) Norweb, ex Mougey: 255. (5) Lahrman: 451, claimed as this variety, not seen, possibly (3) above. The piece in Clarke: 354 ex Dr. French was not a proof.



#### 1849 Cent. N-18. Ex Mougey, Beckwith, Morgan, Clarke colls.

— \*N-18. High date slanting a little down to r., top of 1 almost touching bust, 84 farther from device; left end of truncation, both serifs of 1 and left edge of dentil all lined up. Rev. Same as 1844 B-8. (1) "Dupont":930, D. N. (2) "Dupont":931, W. C. Blaisdell. (3) C. David Pierce, T. James Clarke:357, Sloss, Lahrman:452. (4) Mougey:256, Beckwith:109, Morgan:368, B. Bax Mehl as "Andrew 1", T. James Clark, Calif. Specialist. (5) Newcomb II:746, Phila. Estate. (6) J. G. MacAllister, 1942, Holmes: 1639. (7) F. C. C. Boyd, NN 51:1267. (8) Ronald Stolberg, said to have been resold about 1964 to a dealer, probably (3) or one of the last two. One of the above was lately offered by a Hollywood firm at \$3,995. There may be more than a dozen around in all. This is the least proof of the date, in any denomination.

Note: The N-5 claimed as proof, ex Downing, Sloss:271 (base of date weak, top of date runs into device, die roughness around border near stars, prow-shaped patch of roughness r. of 9) is doubted. Downing did not list it as a proof in his private catalogue, and the coin's photograph shows beveled, rounded rims and weak dentilations.

**Half Dime.** V-8. Low date, no noticeable recutting. (1) Valentine, unseen, not even illustrated in his book. (2) Boyd, WGC:244, Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA:69. (3) Menjou: 119, same as preceding? Two others seen in middle 1950's.

— \*Not in V. Low date, shield point minutely left of upright of 1, left base of (recut) 1 over left edge of dentil, skirt pendant almost over r. upright of 4; part of crossbar of 4 and lower edge of loop of 9 repunched: date first punched lower and slanting slightly up, then corrected higher and level. Rev. H touches leaf. (1) Eliasberg, probably ex Clapp. (2) S. H. Chapman, 12/19/1919, Garrett:107, opened at \$1150, bid up to \$3,500, to "R.M.X." (3) T. K. Harvin, Wolf son: 466, is apparently this variety. One of the above is believed ex H. P. Smith: 1035.

— 1849/48. \*New. Obv. V-4, rev. different. Parts of both loops of 8 visible within and to r. of 9, clearer than on business strikes, the 8 much larger than the 9. Rev. Without the break through first S and wreath of business strikes. This obv. also used on experimental

billon trimes, like the preceding. (1) Norweb. (2) Bluestone 4/22/47:1704, Phila. Estate. (3), (4) Pvt. colls., reported. Parmelee: 1204, Cleneay: 1706 have not been identified.

**Dime.** Normal date. (1) Wolfson:564, possibly ex Parmelee: 1023? (2) Dr. Green: 1183, not choice. (3) Norweb, rev. unc, probably ex Cleneay: 1559.

— \*1849/48. The 1848 date slanting down, clear, the 1849 level. J. C. Morgenthau 1/43:413, Phila. Estate. The "normal date" coins must be rechecked. Not to be confused with the usual heavy 9 with knob touching loop; traces of 8 are plain.

**Quarter.** Rarest denomination of this difficult date. Shield point about over r. foot of 1, date a little above center and well to left, base, of 9 much farther from border than 1. (1) J. Colvin Randall, Woodward 7/85:623, Garrett:160, \$3000, Steve Ivy. (2) Kern:1440, N.Y. state specialist. (3) Parmelee: 1202, impaired. Wayte Raymond knew only two.

**Half Dollar.** Normal date, high, to left similar to last; shield point about over left edge of 8. (1) Randall:409, Garrett:214, \$4000. (2) Boyd, WGC:296, Phila. Estate, believed ex Parmelee: 1201, Earle:2997. (3) W. L. Carson. (4) J. A. Stack:453, \$5250. (5) A badly impaired piece I turned down about 1955. One of these is ex John Haigh:448 (Boston, CF. Libbie, 10/27-8/1901).

Brand-Lichtenfels:2829, "obv. unc, rev. proof, B.4-D," is unverified.

**Silver Dollar.** \*B-2. Imperfection on 4; rust marks (?) near border, especially in exergue; look at three dentils below and left of 1 of date. Rev. of previous forties. (1) Geiss:344, Phila. Estate. (2) Randall:73 (9/85?), Garrett:266, \$7500, T. D. (3) Brand estate ca. 1956. (4) Lohr:859. (5) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (6) Col. Green, Roe:445, Golding:241, impaired. (7) Kern:820. (8) Rovensky:36. One of above ex Cleneay:984 another ex Parmelee: 1200, Frossard; one later to W. L. Carson; one to NY state specialist.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** (1) Stickney: 1793. Half cent with small date, large berries; all denominations are proofs. Ex the Mint in 1849, which is conclusive with respect to the half cent — but I would much like to examine the other denominations. (2) H. P. Smith, also complete, but with large date half cent. This must have been made at year's end; the large date die was cut only to fill an unexpected order for half cents (business strikes), then repolished *afterwards* for a few proofs. Presumably the small date die had been hidden away, with the other proof-only obverses (see below, *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, under 1804 Dollar, where the inventory of these dies is given) by Franklin Peale in the meantime, and he could not retrieve it in time when the very late proof orders came in. Reports recur from reliable sources (including Wayte Raymond) that Col. E.H.R. Green owned various more or less complete proof sets from

1840 through 1848-9 (possibly 1850 as well) and that on the breakup of his estate during World War II many of these proof sets were dispersed, the individual coins being sold in date sequences of their denomination, rather than as proof sets. Some of these sets may have been the original Stickney, Cleneay and Winsor sets, and an excuse for their breakup would have been the mixture of proof and uncirculated pieces forming them, or the mixture of restrikes and originals in a few. Wayte Raymond knew of these sets and his own listings appear to have included some of the coins from them, but no complete inventory is at present known to me. Unfortunately, Raymond also knew of mixed sets, mixed date sequences and individual coins in which some of these pieces claimed to be proofs and so believed by their owners turned out on later examination to be early strikes intended for circulation. The actual rarity level of proofs is probably a grade or two higher than indicated in my original monograph (1954), once the dubious pieces have been excluded. The set in N.Y. State Specialist coll. is possibly one of those ex Col. Green, or may have been assembled. McCoy:377, to Levick, apparently lacked the copper.

**Gold Dollar.** Type I. Breen I-2. Small head, without L on truncation; coronet point midway two stars; obv. field concave (the die was convex in a nearly spherical surface), two stars below head double punched. Perfect reverse die, die file mark through T (ED), no recutting on (A)R. Proofs minted May 7, 1849 and possibly early on May 8, before the 1000 business strikes. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint Cabinet collection via Jacob Reese Eckfeldt (curator), from Franklin Peale, coiner. (2) ANS, ex J. P. Morgan, ex R. C. W. Brock. (3) Philadelphia Estate, ex Bell 1:1. (4) S 5/15/41, Philadelphia Estate. (5) One formerly owned by the writer, obtained in England about 1959, later in Lester Merkin's hands; this has excellent surfaces but a few scratches. (6) Stack's, privately handled ca. 1966. (7) Pine Tree Auctions, "Breen I" (3/74): 1 at \$2,160 limit. A possible 8th: S 6/73: 1052, long obv. tarnish streak. Two were in the J. B. Longacre estate in 1870; a third was sent by Longacre to J. C. Calhoun as a token of grateful remembrance — it appears that Longacre had obtained the Engravership through political influence exerted on his behalf by Calhoun. One or more went as presentation pieces from the Mint Director to various government officials; these are presumably all included in the above enumeration.



**1849 Gold Dollar. Closed wreath. Ex Landau coll.**

— Type IV. Large head, with L, coronet point nearer r. star; closed wreath; \*B. IV-1, date very thin, no recutting, base of 8 weak, delicate wreath and berry stems. (1) Landau: 682. (2) Texas private collection, ex Grant Pierce: 990. (3) Kagin 5/13/46, Phila. Estate, carelessly made, cleaned.

**Quarter Eagle, Half Eagle, Eagle.** Unknown.



**1849 Double Eagle. Ex Franklin Peale, Coiner, Dec. 22, 1849; Mint Director R.M. Patterson; Mint Cabinet, to Smithsonian Institution.**

**Double Eagle.** Adopted type, but not the identical hub used for the 1850 coins. (Positions of LIBERTY with respect to beads above differ from those on 1850-58 coins, though JBL is below curls; cheek in slightly higher relief; stars in slightly different positions with respect to denticles. Specifically: small beads above LIBERTY: that above I centered; 6th star points to a denticle; no recutting on Y; JBL not far to r. under curl as in 1850-58 coins.) Date as on cents. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint collection, from Director Patterson, Dec. 22, 1849, from Franklin Peale, Coiner. This is a brilliant proof marred by several obv. field nicks. (2) Unknown private collector, ex Stephen K. Nagy (protege of J. W. Haseltine), ex estate of William M. Meredith, Secretary of the Treasury (1849), presented to Meredith by Mint Director Robert Maskell Patterson. The photograph in the Nagy estate indicates that it is a gem proof. Others are known to have been made at the time by Peale, on an old screw press still used in the 20th century for making proofs, but their whereabouts are at present unknown. A brass gilt specimen from the original dies was made surreptitiously for R. Coulton Davis, but this piece too has disappeared, last being seen in the Woodside collection (1892). Why more specimens were not restruck in various metals cannot even be guessed.

**Complete proof sets.** Unknown.

1850



**1850 Half Cent. Ex Ryder coll.**

**Half Cent.** Small berries only from now on. Two microscopic rev. vars., those of business strikes. About a dozen known, equally divided. Brobston's was double struck at date, later LM 3/68:155, 6/71:541. "Dupont": 1110 had the first reverse (heavier letters).

**Cent.** N-9. Weak date, base of 0 away from border, small dot (die chip) below eye; die file marks within ONE CENT. (1) Mehl, Clapp, ANS. (2) Hines, Sheldon, Ernest Henderson, "Sheraton," T. James Clarke:359. (3) Reported.



**1850 Cent. N-II. Ex French, Clarke, Carson colls.**

— N-II. Stronger date, base of 0 double cut (as on many other proofs of this date), and very near border; date slants slightly down, tops of 185 close to device though successively less so. (1) Crawford (Steigerwalt 5/13/1894):527, Beckwith: 110, S. H. Chapman, J. C. Morgenthau:7/27/39:774, Phila. Estate. (2) Newcomb II:747, Floyd Starr, N.Y. private coll. (3) Dr. French as "Andrews 12", T. James Clarke:361, apparently W. L. Carson, LM 2/72:74. (4) W. F. Morgan:374, Mehl, T. James Clarke:360. (5) Specimen offered by W. F. Webb to Homer Downing, July 3, 1941. One other reported.

**Half Dime.** \*V-2. High date, 185 touch base, 0 barely free, shield point nearer tip than left upright of 1, skirt pendant a little left of tip of 5, left base of 1 over left edge of dentil. Rev. Often with line (clash mark?) at TES. (1) Valentine, exhibited ANS 1914, pictured in his half dime book. (2) Bullowa, May 1952. (3) Philip G. Straus estate, privately sold. (4) NN 34:463, impaired. (5) Brand, NN, *Numisma* July 1954. At least one other seen. Neil:1628 and Golden I:910 may be this variety. W. L. Carson's was unchecked.

— \*Not in V. Low date slants up, shield point slightly left of upright, left base of 1 over space but

favoring r. edge of dentil, pendant about as on last. Die file marks below date and r. Rev. H free of leaf. Heman Ely coll. (Woodward 1/84):959, Garrett:109, \$2600, Joe Flynn.

— \*Not in V. Fairly high date, 1 about touches base, 8 almost touches it, 50 free but close. The heavy parallel die file marks slant up to left of 1; skirt pendant minutely r. of tip of 5, left base of 1 about over r. edge of dentil; rather delicate letters and stars. Virgil Brand estate, Landau:379.

Eliasberg has a questionable proof with obv. V-5 (date very low, plain center dot) and new reverse with H firmly joined to adjacent leaf. Another (from different dies?) was seen in the stock of Kenneth W. Lee about 1963 along with various other proofs of the period.

**Dime.** \*B-5. Date slants down to r., placed low, well away from base; shield point a trifle r. of tip of 1, skirt pendant left of central over top of 5. About 3 or 4 seen in all, the best of these being ex Brand, Landau: 451.

**Quarter.** Low date, shield point about over left edge of 8, left base of 1 over right part of dentil. Prohibitively rare. Wayte Raymond had seen only one; I have records of only two aside from those in the unseen proof sets. (1) H. P. Smith:820, excessively high knife-rims (restrike?). (2) "J. H. South":515. Present whereabouts of either coin unknown, if indeed they are not the same piece. One reappeared in RARCOA's 1976 Central States sale:218, to Reed Hawn.

**Half Dollar.** Several die varieties, all extremely rare.

— Very high date, *1 of date almost touching base*, numerals slant down a little to right. Boyd, WGC:300, Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA:832.

— Alleged "shift": stars and part of rocky base and seated figure show double impressions, "recutting" (?) on date, possibly Beistle 2-Aa. WGC:301, impaired. Is this just a double striking of the following?

— \*High date, 185 about equidistant from base, the 0 minutely lower; numerals nearly thickness of top of 5 away from base; *base of 0 in date double punched*. Virgil Brand estate, Landau:580. Possibly reappearing as Lichtenfels I:2831 (Feb. 1961), R. E. Cox:1921, KS 5/66:1200, and possibly again as Reed Hawn: 171 at \$1,200.

Not identifiable as to variety among the above: (1) Norweb. (2) "Dupont":2137 at \$120 to Horland. (3) Dr. R. H. Wilson, 1952 ANA:324, L. Belinger. (4) Thomas L. Smith estate:698. (5) One other seen in a dealer's stock about 1961 — same as last?

**Silver Dollar.** B-1. Normal date, not recut. Rev. Die file marks or the like fill most of shield except the northwest sector of white stripes at left. Two arrows join. *Line slants down to r. through azure at r., ending at its lower r. corner.* Striae mostly

extending northeast. Faint cracks through ON and TED (not constant?). Struck *before* the business strikes from these or the B-2 dies, therefore original. Byron Reed estate, Omaha City Library. This rev. recurs on B-2 business strikes, which have same obv. as \*B-3 below. The Steckler (\$5000) and Garrett:267 (\$6250 to "X") pieces have not been available for examination.

— \*B-3. Base of 0 double punched. Die file marks nearly horizontally below zero. Rev. of the 1840-49 proofs. Perfect and later with heavy crack through base of date, the cracked die coins sometimes with unnatural high knife-rims. (1) Boyd, WGC: 141, Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA: 1330. (2) F. J. Schaefer, ca. 1942, Phila. Estate. Perfect die. (3) Newcomer, Lohr:860. (4) Geiss:345, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (5) Cass, "Empire": 1734. (6) Dr. Clifford Smith: 1185. (7) 1974 ANA:22 at \$4000, cost \$4750. The last three may represent two or three of those earlier mentioned. The above listing excludes the obvious restrikes; see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** (1) Phila. Mint, 1850, Alexandre Vattemare, Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris. I would like to check die varieties here, as that would establish which ones are unquestioned originals. (2) Stickney: 1794, dollar and half cent proofs, remainder unc, ex mint in 1850, probably broken up since. (3) H. P. Smith: 1240, complete. (4) William Hesslein (the dealer who vanished mysteriously in the twenties) had one in 1923, according to the late Floyd Starr, who saw it; was this the H. P. Smith set? (4) McCoy: 379, 'five pieces,' apparently no copper, possibly same as one of last two.

**Gold Dollar, Quarter Eagle, Half Eagle, Eagle.,** [1+] Unknown, though at least one of each must have been struck in proof for the set made up for the Congressional Committee on the Library, per Patterson letter 9/26/50.

**Double Eagle.** [2+] Large coronet beads, Y recut, different hub from 1849; continued through 1858 on business strikes from all mints. (1) J. B. Longacre estate, 1870:178, at a then astonishing \$27, "from the first dies used for the double eagle." (2) Dr. Green:719 (at a then extraordinary \$315), which was questioned, and which I have never seen — though the price reportedly realized was fantastic for the time, well after the postwar boom in gold had faded away. Another was in the gold set mentioned above.

Date logotypes on double eagles, 1850-73, are the same as those for silver dollars; afterwards they match those used for trade dollars, through 1885, and in later years they are distinctive to the denomination.

**Gold proof sets.** One was made up for the Congressional Committee on the Library; untraced.

**Complete proof sets.** Unknown.

1851

**1851 Half Cent. Ex Cleneay, Mougey, Ryder colls.**

**Half Cent.** Only the one variety; blundered die, part of a third 1 (base and small fragment of upright) right of final 1. About eight now known, from the single pair of dies used for business strikes. One is in the Smithsonian; the Cleneay-Mougey-Ryder coin went to S. J. O.; I found a specimen at a convention in Pittsburgh about 1958.

**Cent.** Unknown and unreported.

**Trime (Silver 3¢).** Occasion: Initial issue, June 30, 1851, effective date of authorizing act. (1) Eliasberg, ex Clapp. (2) W. L. Carson, doubted. (3) The Smithsonian's coin is so heavily lacquered after cleaning long ago that it is impossible to tell if it was originally a proof. (4) "Gilhausen": 108, at \$4,200, found in Philadelphia in the 1950's. Cf. also Maris: 136 (1886), possibly No. 1 above; McCoy:655, bought back by consignor. The name "trime" for this denomination was coined by James Ross Snowden by analogy with dime; not in Oxford English Dictionary.

**Half Dime.** \*V-1. High date, all numerals touching base; die rust pit at border above 10th star. Rev.: Die file marks above AMERIC. (1) Valentine collection. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Bullowa, May 1952. (4) E. M. Wharton: 1078, unverified.

**Dime.** I have heard of only one, a piece formerly owned by Q. David Bowers. Other reports have led to examination of first strikes or buffed pieces.

**Quarter.** Wayte Raymond knew of one but it is now untraced.

**Half Dollar.** Unknown.

**Silver Dollar.** B-1. Date very high in field, close to base and slanting down to r.; base of second 1 closer to border than first; shield point about over left upright of 1. Rev.: Same as 1850 B-1. All proofs of this die combination are controversial as to their proof status, though they are definitely known to be 1851 productions. (1) Ralph J. Lathrop — 1952 ANA: 1303. Doubted on what seem to me inadequate grounds. (2) The piece pictured over G. H. Hall: 1484. Probably ex Col. E. H. R. Green. (3) Davis-Graves: 1350, several stars rounded, sharpness not equal to that on some other unquestioned proof dollars. (4) "Dupont": 2528, the one with what appears to be the best claim. (5) Golding: 243.

For the centered date pieces, see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*. These coins have the reverse of 1858-9

in a more worn state, proving them to have been made later than 1858.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** None reported, none even in the Smithsonian.

**Gold Dollar.** Lots 175 and 176, J. B. Longacre estate, 1870. No other proofs even rumored and these two are not traced.

No higher denominations of gold are even rumored to exist in proof.

**1852**

**Half Cent.** Only the one obverse; date large, as on the half eagles. Rev.: Small berries, presumably the extra reverse left over from 1851. Probably not identical to the die of 1856-7 with doubling on CENT and ribbon, certainly not identical to the restrike die found on coins dated 1831,1836,1840-48 and 1852 showing heavy die file marks over RICA, as the 1852's showing that reverse are all ludicrously overweight. No example from the unquestioned original die is now traced, though at least a few must have been made owing to the evidence of manufacture of silver-minor proof sets for this year (see below). Proof that the B reverse of 1856-57, often found on half cents with the 1852 obverse, and sometimes claimed as the original die, is an 1852 product, would to have to consist of discovery of an 1852 proof set (Winsor's?) of which all the other coins are demonstrably originals (the dollar is an especially sensitive test) and in which the half cent weighs correctly without exhibiting a high knife-rim or die failure. As many 1852 half cents with this reverse are obvious restrikes with progressive die failure, high knife-rims, weights deviating greatly from the 84-grain standard, etc., any purported original would have to resemble in rims, borders, and texture or fabric, original proofs of 1850-51. Restrikes were all made after regular manufacture or import of half cent blanks had ceased, and other surreptitious fabricators had to make blanks of only approximate weight, with predictable results; light ones did not strike up properly, heavy ones show high knife-rims as metal was forced between collars and die edges. In the absence of the Winsor proof set or any other (see below), we must assume that the original 1852 half cent with small berries is still an unknown quantity in U.S. coinage, its discovery still a thing of the future. For the Large Berries coin, see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below.

**Cent.** \*"B-23", not in Newcomb; obv. B-8, rev. new. Curl point above extreme r. side of 8, end of truncation in line with left upright of 1, which nearly touches bust; left base of 1 well away from left edge of dentil; defects within openings of B. Rev. Faint striae point southeast; doubling on S OF and some other letters. (1) Crawford:530 (Steigerwalt, 7/1894), Ryder, Wayte Raymond, NN 41:935, Kagin. (2) "Dupont":964, as N-8. (3) Norweb. (4) Sawicki:733,

Phila. Estate. (5) French, Clarke:381, Sloss:305, TAD:175 as "MS-70+," questioned. (6) Bement:401, Beckwith:112, Morgan:378, B. Max Mehl personal coll. as "A-5", T. James Clarke:376. (7) The writer's former example, 1975 EAC:975, subsequently cleaned by purchaser obscuring its proof surface. Others are reported.

— N-12. Curl point midway between 85; double punching on 18; tops of 85 touch device. Known only from Homer K. Downing's private listing; Walter F. Webb offered him a proof of this variety, July 1941. It has not been since traced; that in Sawicki:735 has been doubted (same piece?).

— \*Not in N. "B-25". Obv. N-15, date distant from device, minute crescent-shaped dot (convex upwards) on neck close to jaw, two lines r. of Y. Rev. Die file marks over AMERIC, different from the regular N-15. (1) F. C. C. Boyd, NN 51:1290, TAD:173. (2) W. F. Morgan:377, J. G. MacAllister, T. James Clarke:377, Phila. Estate. Morgan had this and the variety called "B-23" above confused.



### 1852 Trime. Ex R. C. W. Brock, J. Pierpont Morgan, ANS

**Trime.** Heavy stars, strong date. ANS, ex Brock, Morgan proof set. No duplicate reported.

**Half Dime.** V-3. Date barely free of base, slanting down to r., heavy 1. Shield point above tip of serif of 1, or minutely right; skirt pendant r. of central above top of 5; left base of 1 microscopically r. of left edge of dentil. Rev. Thin letters, but H touches leaf. (1) ANS, ex Brock, Morgan set. (2) O. H. Berg (Haseltine 5/23/1885):755A, Garrett:111, \$2000, Joe Flynn. (3) Dr. Daniel W. Valentine, exhibited by him at ANS 1914 and pictured on the plate of his book, not traced. (4) Newcomb's coin, in same exhibition, not since identified. (5) Brand, Lichtenfels II:2880, B. M. Eubanks, O. K. Rumbel, NASC 2/73:690, QS 9/73:810, cleaned, Joe Flynn. (6) Bullowa, May 1952. (7) "Dupont":1395 was probably this variety.

— V-4. Date high but level, not as high as preceding. Shield point and skirt pendant positioned about as last but left base of 1 almost over r. edge of dentil. SI, ex Mint, impaired.

Die identity of the following unknown: (1) Cleneay:1721. (2) Winsor:784. (3) D. S. Wilson:817. (4) Menjou:121. (5) Ex W. L. Carson. This may refer to a single coin, or to as many as three; possibly some are included among V-3 records above.

**Dime.** B-3. Shield point over left tip of serif of 1, skirt pendant well to r. of center of top of 5, left base

of 1 over left edge of dentil; rev. marked striae pointing southeast. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Parmelee:1227, possibly same as next. (3) Woodin:593, Boyd, WGC:543, Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA:273. (4) 1954 ANA sale. Compare also Cleneay:1568, Winsor:713, Menjou:203.

**Quarter.** (1) In Winsor proof set, unlocated. (2) Reported by Wayte Raymond. I have seen none.

**Half Dollar.** Die variety data unknown to me. (1) In Winsor proof set, unlocated. (2) Newcomb I:746, later untraced unless this is the former W. L. Carson specimen via Lester Merkin. (3) Paramount.

**Silver Dollar.** B-1. Only the one obv. for this year; date about centered, level. Rev. Rather similar to 1850 B-1 but uncracked; traces of doubling on Crosslet of E of UNITED. Shield filled with confused die file marks or roughness except for a small almost triangular sector in first (Leftmost) white stripe, where brilliant polish remains, claws and arrows all separate — different from the 1850-51 reverse. Very small rough or "unfinished" patch (where die was insufficiently polished) between pairs of leaves — less so than usual. This die also used on some business strikes. (1) Byron Reed estate, Omaha City Library. (2) "Dupont":2529.

— \*B-2. Same obv. Rev. of 1840-49. ANS, ex Brock, Morgan set, no duplicate reported. This may even be an original striking, but decision is as yet impossible.

— \*B-3. Same obv. Rev. Diagonal line slants down (west-northwest through east-southeast) through first five white stripes. Lichtenfels, Paramount 2/73, QS 9/73.

Over 90% of the proofs dated 1852 in this denomination are in fact restrikes with the rev. of 1858-59 in a late state. Collectors owning, or being offered, 1852 proof dollars, having some reverse not matching any of the above descriptions, are advised to look in *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below. All other 1852 proof dollars I have seen in recent years have had the 1858-59 reverse die save for those mentioned above and possibly Cass — "Empire":1737 which I did not examine closely at the time. There are probably a few other originals around.

**Silver-minor proof** sets. Winsor:1070. Silver coins all proofs, cent uncirculated, half cent with small berries and possibly original but no photograph is available nor has the set reappeared in recent years. Possibly it has been broken up, though for many reasons of theory I hope not. Other sets were evidently made, as R. C. W. Brock had one (missing the quarter and probably the copper coins) when he sold his collection of proof sets to J. P. Morgan. It is now broken up, being distributed among the ANS's denomination sets. There are several hypotheses feasible about original sets' composition. (1) Should the Winsor set prove to have the B-1 dollar, this immediately throws suspicion on the B-2 as a later striking made at the same time as many other dollars

bearing the 1842 reverse. But its original status must necessarily depend on the fabric of the other coins, documentation being absent. (2) Should it have the B-2 dollar, its original status will necessarily depend on the fabric of the half cent. If this proves to have the reverse of 1851 or a reverse die hitherto unseen, and the fabric of an original half cent of the period (correct weight, finish similar to proofs of 1851 and 1850, no extreme knife-rim, no die failure), that will suffice to validate the set. If it proves to have the B reverse of 1856-57 with double impressions on CENT and ribbon, etc., once again the fabric of the coin will enable a decision on whether or not the piece is original. Presence of a restrike half-cent in a proof set where the cent itself is only uncirculated would suggest that the copper coins had been replaced as in some other Winsor sets. We would then be thrown back on examination of the fabric of the silver proofs. Presence of any with exceptional wire edges or die failures — or from die combinations associated with later years, e.g. the B-4 dollar with the 1858-59 reverse, the quarter or half dollar with a reverse identifiable as of later issue, etc. — will tell its own story: a set made up in later years to fill out someone's order for rare date coins. All the silver of 1852 in business strike form is scarce, the larger denominations particularly so. The reason is known: California gold discoveries had already begun to lower the world market level of gold in terms of silver, or what is the same thing, drive the price level of silver up in terms of gold. By 1851-52 this process had already made silver coins worth more as bullion than their face value. As a result little silver was brought to the mint for coinage, and much of the extant recent silver coinage was being exported for remelting. The only way out was a reduction in the standard weight of silver (the step actually taken by Congress in 1853), but in the meantime little silver was used for business strikes or for proofs in 1851-52.

It is nevertheless odd that more original proofs of 1852 in all denominations were not known. An excellent occasion for them existed in the triumphal visit of Lajos (Louis) Kossuth (1802-94) to the United States — an occasion marked by processions and celebrations like almost nothing since the Washington centenary of 1832 and the visit of the Marquis de Lafayette in 1824. Kossuth was a charismatic leader of extraordinary reputation, a sort of George Washington figure to the Hungarians of his day (the epoch of the 1848 counterpart to Freedom Marches).

**Gold denominations.** No proofs known.

**Complete proof sets.** None known.

## 1853

**Half Cent.** Unknown.

**Cent.** One was supposedly in the proof set, Mougey: 1277, not seen. The N-16 in the Crawford sale

(Steigerwalt, 1894), reappearing in the Ryder sale (NN 41st), turned out to be an early strike. No genuine proof cent now known.

**Trime.** None known. Mickley had one of the type adopted in 1854 but even it is now unlocated.



1853 Half Dime. Arrows. Valentine 4. Ex Boyd, Landau colls.

**Half Dime.** Arrowheads at date. [5] New mintage, pursuant to Act of Congress, Feb. 21, 1853, at reduced weight of 19.2 grains instead of previous 20.8 grains. Newlin claimed in his 1883 book on half dimes that the new coins with arrowheads were first made March 3, 1853. As the first delivery of production coins with arrowheads (200,020 pieces — the odd 20 for assay?) took place April 29, these March 3 coins must have been proofs: five sets in all (see below). As it happens, though no early auction records for 1853 proofs with arrows were located (aside from the Mougey proof set), a proof half dime with arrows did turn up in the group shown me by Dave Bullowa in May 1952; it was attributed as Valentine 4 but is now believed to differ minutely from the V-4 dies used on business strikes. Obv. Thin numerals, serifs especially so, as are horizontal parts of loops of 853. High date, sloping down to r., top of 1 almost touching base; shield point about over left upright, skirt pendant almost over tip of 5, left base of 1 high above right part of a bead, arrows very close to base and well away from date or border, beads look smaller and spaced apart (lapped die) below date. Rev. Rather light lettering, many striations pointing southeast (imperfectly polished die). No defects of V-4. (1) Bullowa, May 1952. (2) F. C. C. Boyd, Landau:387 at a then (1958) astonishing \$640, Stack's, apparently 1976 ANA:631. (3) W. L. Carson. The "V-2B" in E. M. Wharton:1081 is unverified. Occasion: the new coinage.

**Dime.** Arrowheads at date. [5] (1) Mrs. Norweb. (2) N. Y. state specialist. The following auction records are believed to account for two different examples, which may be the sources of one or both of the above: (a) Mickley: 1883, Parmelee: 1238, Earle:3222, possibly the piece in Newcomb loan, ANA 1914. (b) Maris: 106, believed ex W. H. Smith coll., (Haseltine, Jan. 15, 1883):283. Wayte Raymond had seen three, but the locations were not recorded.

**Quarter.** Arrows and rays. [5] Light recutting on 53 and r. arrowhead, the first cutting slightly low.



Right arrowpoint practically touches border; shield point above r. base of 1; left base of 1 about over center of dentil. Rev. Faint die file marks above ER in AMERICA. Faint die scratches or the like joining QU (visible in loop of Q), through C to final A and within blank spaces under wings, almost vertically. (1) Smithsonian, dies not checked, probably this variety. (2) The former Jerome Kern coin, lot 1445, possibly same as one of the ancient records following. (3) R. F. Batchelder to Don Jensen in four figures privately at the 1966 ANA convention; this piece was authenticated by me, later resold in LM 6/68:291. It has been drastically cleaned. Compare (a) Cleneay: 1417, (b) Winsor: 636, (c) Parmelee: 1235 — Woodin — Newcomer — Green. Possibly the three old records represent two of the coins mentioned as privately held plus a third still impounded somewhere. The piece is obviously about as rare as the dime. D. S. Wilson: 635 (1907) may be a reappearance of the Cleneay or Winsor pieces. There is also a piece from imperfectly polished dies and/or planchet but with excellent sharpness, passing from Steve Markoff to Harlan White and a private collector. Die identity must be rechecked on this one. Occasion: the new coinage, March 3; business strikes began April 26th.

**Half Dollar.** Arrows and rays. [5] Defect joins left arrow to base, date almost touches base and die defects join 1 5 to base. Rev.: Vertical striae; first red stripe thin at top, 2nd along most of length, 3rd at base; three die file marks slant up to r. from top leaves. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint collection. (2) The former Dr. J. Hewitt Judd specimen, "Illustrated History": 172, probably same as Reed Hawn: 178 at \$6,500. (3) Norweb. (4) A badly cleaned piece traced from Parmelee: 1234 via Steigerwalt to Woodin, Newcomer, Green and Lohr: 753. It has excellent sharpness, and was obviously a proof rather than a first strike. (5) N.Y. state specialist. Occasion: the new coinage, March 3. One of these was ex W. H. Smith:258 (Haseltine, Jan. 1883).

**Silver Dollar.** [12] All specimens known in silver or copper are restrikes made in late 1862 or 1863, using the regular proof rev. of that year and a new obverse. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

**Silver-minor proof** sets. None made for release to collectors according to George F. Jones (1860) cited above. As Mougey: 1277 was such a set, though lacking copper coins and half dime, it is possible that all the coins in it were restrikes except for the silver with arrows. I very much hope that the set has remained intact and may become available for examination. Die identities on these coins may enable determination if any of them are in fact originals rather than restrikes — with obvious effect on the status of the above described smaller silver denominations.

**Gold Coinage.** No proofs known, though at least one quarter eagle obv. was polished for use in making

proof pattern cents with a special rev. concocted for the purpose (ONE CENT in wreath, lacking any mention of our nation's identity). For the proof coins made experimentally by or for the San Francisco Provisional Mint (the U.S. Assay Office of Gold under Augustus Humbert), see *Mintmaster's Provisionals* below.

## 1854

**Half Cent.** Only the one obverse. Rev. Second die, with small rust pit on upper right part of upright and top serif of I of UNITED. *Copper*. About 25 to 30 survive.

— **Copper-nickel.** Judd 155, Adams-Woodin 192. Two known. (1) Woodin, Judson Brenner, F. C. C. Boyd, various dealer intermediaries, King Farouk, a Florida dealer named Randall (about 1955), unknown private coll. Weight unrecorded. (2) "Dupont": 1115, D. N., Dr. Spence sale, March 1975. Weight 84 grains (standard for copper), small edge nick. The original Woodin coin, described as "unique" in AW, was later theorized to be a restrike on a planchet intended for Flying Eagle cents. This would be proved if and only if the Woodin-Farouk coin weighs 72 grains, which is standard for 1856-64 small cents in this metal.



## 1854 Cent. N-12.

**Cent. N-12.** Small line (part of base of a 1 first punched too low) just below center of base of 1 in date; 54 about touch; date very high, slanting minutely down to right, with 1 touching bust, 85 all but touching device; faint die file marks at border below 854. Often slightly off center, border narrower at left obv., wider at r. with knife-rim. Less rare than the half cent, possibly 30 to 50 known. (1) SI from Mint. (2) Newcomb II:751, Phila. Estate. (3) Calif. Specialist. (4) "Dupont":991. (5) "Dupont":992, D.N., TAD: 189. (6) J. B. Wilson, Ryder:938. (7) Hines, Downing, Sloss, Lahrman:475. (8) T. James Clarke:406. (9) Mougey:266, Beckwith:114, Morgan:386, B. Max Mehl as "Andrews 14," T. James Clarke:407. (10) The writer's example, obtained in Philadelphia, heavily coated with wax; later 1975 EAC, subsequently ruined by purchaser's cleaning. I have seen possibly a couple of dozen others.

**Trime.** New design, two extra outlines outside the star ("three outlines to star" in all), arrows and olive branch within the C, to distinguish the new coinage in standard silver from the 1851-53 billon



issues. Occasion: beginning of new coinage, May 22. Two varieties, both much rarer than the copper coins.

— Obv. one of the usual dies with part of base of 5 between 85. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) J. C. Morgenthau 10/5/39:550, Phila. Estate. (3) Col. Green, 1952 ANA:2821, Dr. Sloss. (4) "Dupont": 1335. (5) Philip G. Straus estate, NN 53:403. (6) Bell II:1032. (7) KS 3/65:516, possibly same as one of foregoing. Possibly six others seen in all. Wayte Raymond was sure of over a dozen survivors, possibly not all the above included among them; I would not be sure that as many as twenty exist. Some have been impaired by drastic cleaning or brief circulation. Some from these same dies show strong field striations (before dies repolished?).

— Obv. No traces of extra 5; die file marks above TED. (1) Lately consigned to FCI. (2) Mal Varner, ex "Crown" coll., ca. 1900. Others probably exist.

**Half Dime.** V-2. High date touching base, left base of 1 and r. base of 4 close over respectively left and right parts of dentils. Arrows high, almost touching base and border. Shield point above left edge of upright of 1, skirt pendant left of central above top of 5. (1) SI, ex Mint. (2) Landau:388, Norweb. (3) Bullowa, May 1952. (4) "Dupont": 1400. (5) 1974 ANA:486, nicked, \$2600. (6) J. C. Morgenthau 1/43: 485, Phila. Estate. (7) Atwater:1165. Cf. also Dr. Green:1105, Newcomb (privately sold), KS 1/67:1571, W. L. Carson, etc. Almost as rare as the trime. These dies also used for impressions in argentan (formerly misidentified as copper-nickel), broad flans, plain edges, possibly as mint experiments to show how this metal could be mistaken for silver or copper-nickel or both. Judd 166, Adams-Woodin 185.

**Dime.** B-1. All digits and arrows touch base, 54 touch each other. About as rare as the smaller silver. (1) SI ex Mint? (2) J. C. Morgenthau 1/43:447, Phila. Estate. (3) Boyd, WGC:551, possibly ex Parmelee:1249, Woodin:595. (4) Dunham: 183. (5) J. B. Wilson: 713. (6) A. J. R., Elder 12/29:915 "from a set." (7) T. L. Smith estate:396, possibly one of foregoing. (8) Brand-Lichtenfels II:3012, ditto. I have seen a few others.

**Quarter.** Date and arrows high but free of base. Shield point minutely r. of left edge of 8, left base of 1 r. of center of dentil and oddly shaped, r. base of 4 slightly r. of center. Rev. almost vertical striae above QU and near arrows; lowest horizontal stripe extends far to left into wing. About as rare as the dime. (1) Allenburger:1134, Phila. Estate. (2) Brand, Lichtenfels II:1434. (3) Superior Galleries, Steve Ivy, Nov. 1975. (4) Parmelee: 1248, Woodin:454. Cf. also D. S. Wilson:637; Kern: 1446, possibly earlier appearance of above.

**Half Dollar.** Obv. Beistle 2, very high date, 54 practically touching; extra outlines on stars (not constant — die repolished removing them?), foot

supported but toe not enclosed (lapped die). About as rare as the quarter. (1) Phila. Estate. (2) NASC 2/73:692, lacquered. (3) Reed Hawn:181, \$6,750. Cf. also Parmelee:1246; Earle:3008; G. H. Hall:1145; J. B. Wilson:390; A. J. R., Elder 12/29:914 "from a set;" Geiss:548, some of above probably same coins.

**Silver Dollar.** \*B-1. Triangular defect at base, above and r. of 5, possibly serif of a misplaced 4? Rev. Scattered die file marks slant down to r. in shield — two plainest in first white stripe. Usually weak at left wing. Less rare than smaller silver. (1) SI ex Mint? (2) Phila. Estate. (3) Ely: 123, Garrett:272, \$3500, cleaned. (4) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., possibly ex Atwater: 235 and/or Geiss: 351, Neil: 50. (5) Haseltine Type Table, Davis-Graves: 1353. (6) Neumoyer:2142 to a dealer. (7) 1974 ANA:25, \$3750, impaired. (8) Brand, Lichtenfels 11:1166, field nick. (9) Boyd, WGC:148. (10) Baldenhofer, Ostheimer, LM 9/68:351, LM 6/71:805, 1975 ANA:1075. (11) Cass, "Empire": 1739. (12) Miles: 1592, possibly one of foregoing. (13) Lohr:861, ditto. Cf. J. B. Wilson: 134-5. A few of these may be duplications (after cleaning, especially Miles) but the photographs indicate most are different. We may estimate possibly a couple of dozen survivors.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** Much rarer than expected. (1) Stickney:1795, complete, from mint in year of date. (2) D. S. Wilson: 1033. Others have most likely been dispersed.

**Gold dollar. First design** (as in 1850-53), *small size*. [1+] (1) Seen by Wayte Raymond before 1951. (2) From the set furnished the authorities of the City of Bremen, July 1854, in exchange for a group of coins of Bremen given by them to the Mint collection. What appears to be this piece was recovered in Switzerland and seen at the 1975 ANA Convention; vertical die file marks at lower left, both sides; *very* low date, almost touching leaves; slanting die file mark above E of STATES.

— **Second design** (as in 1855), *large size*. [5+] The proof mintage figure furnished by R. W. Julian, who discovered it in the Archives. Design by J. B. Longacre, completed in mid August 1854, one proof furnished the Secretary of Treasury on Aug. 17, approval notice sent back to the Mint Director on Aug. 18, new coinage began Aug. 19. Similar to Breen II-1, but with minute recutting on DOLLAR. (1) SI ex Mint? (2) ANS, ex J. P. Morgan. (3) Cohen:240, Parmelee: 1244, Woodin:851, Philadelphia Estate. (4) Melish:1742 at a low \$525, N.Y. state specialist, cleaned. (5) Johns Hopkins Univ.

**Quarter Eagle.** [1+] Date very heavy, top of 1 touching device, base of 1 double, 54 touch; 2 parallel die file marks slant down crossing second red stripe (from left) near base. One known, believed from the set furnished the City of Bremen, July 1854, 'liberated' May 1945, later turned up in a bag of quarter eagles by a German noncollector, via a Zurich bank, privately

at \$35,000 (1974) to Mocatta Metals. In an ill-advised market test, it was placed in 1976 ANA:2804, selling at \$8,000 to Brownlee, probably for Harry Bass.



1854 Three Dollars. Ex Mint, Rev. Richmond, Merkin 3/68.

**Three Dollars.** First design, small DOLLARS this year only. [15+] \*B-1. Heavy letters, ES on same base arc line, some other details differ from later dies. Fifteen "specimens" sent by Mint Director Snowden to the Secretary of Treasury, April 28, 1854, per #136, *Letters, Mint & Branches, 1854*, R. G. 104, Treasury Section, National Archives. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Jenks:5782, Clapp, Eliasberg. (3) Mint, Rev. Richmond, Merkin 3/68:400 at only \$1,600. (4) Geiss: 1582, impaired. Two were in the J. B. Longacre estate, 1870. It is probable that a few others were made at the beginning of the new coinage of this denomination, May 1, 1854. (First delivery of regular coins, 23,140 on May 8.) Others almost certainly survive. Cf. McCoy: 1986 to French; Cleneay:688; Bell I: 265; Kern: 184, impaired; Rovensky:1733, imp.

— B-2. Lighter letters as usual, final S below base line of E. (1) Possibly in the set furnished City of Bremen; July 1854, possibly the Harry Bass coin. (2) One other seen many years ago.

**Half Eagle, Eagle, Double Eagle.** [1+ each] Known only from the set furnished the City of Bremen in July 1854, none now located. The 1854 proof \$20 in the Smithsonian turned out to be an S mint coin (see *Branch Mint Proofs*).

**Complete proof sets.** One made up for presentation to the officials of the City of Bremen, Germany, July 1854, as mentioned in the introductory historical material to this section. The set was "liberated" during World War II and occasional coins from it have turned up in recent years.

## 1855

**Half Cent.** Only the one variety. Slanting 5's. Probably well over thirty specimens survive.

**Cent.** Slanting 5 only. Newcomb 10: small dot or die defect on front line of coronet. Many of these are around, possibly over 100 in all. Two were in the Lahrman sale, two others in "Dupont"; Clarke: 418-420 were all called N-10 though I examined the coins and found that the Wurzbach-Hines-Sheldon-Henderson — "Sheraton" piece, Clarke: 418, was a Newcomb 11, as

was lot 420; 421, called N-11, was a N-10. There are also many early strikes, deceptive ones albeit with rounded rims, weak coronet point, weak borders, sometimes even with the 6th star failing or absent.

— \*N-11. Distinctive among the three slanting 5's dies, this has curl point very slightly r. of inner r. curve of 8; no spur from front line of coronet. Extremely rare; Newcomb never owned one. (1) One offered to Homer Downing by Walter F. Webb, July 3, 1941. (2) Phila. Estate. (3) Geiss — Lahrman:486. (4) "Dupont": 1011. (5) Beckwith: 115, Morgan:389, B. Max Mehl as "Andrews 10", T. James Clarke:420. (6) Earl Kohl, Waldorf (KS) sales 2/59:1241, 2/60:937, Calif. Specialist. (7) Clarke: 418. (8) King Umberto:917, Calif. Specialist. (9), (10) Two specimens ex Judge Sawicki. Two others seen, one impaired. No. 1 above is probably same as one of the later mentioned coins. I doubt that as many as 15 survive.

**Trime.** Obv. from the die used later on 99% of business strikes: repunching on 855, date first cut too low and slanting down to r., then corrected. (On business strikes the extra 8 is gone and only parts of extra 5's show above knobs.) Probably under 30 survivors, possibly under 25, which is more than most dealers would like to admit. As business strikes are highly coveted owing to their comparatively low mintage, the proofs have been accorded the usual treatment — trumpeting of "Extremely Rare!" being about the least found — and date collectors have snapped them up. As a result, one in S. J. Kabealo's Pittsburgh (Penn-Ohio) auction of 11/14/1958, lot 1018, reportedly brought \$1,050, a figure which as late as 1966 remained a world record. At least a dozen traceable in auctions, seven others seen outside them which could not be immediately traced to auctions. The price climb has been spectacular: Miles:369, \$1400; Jay-Scanlon:357, \$3300; 1975 ANA:95, \$2500; Newlin:243 — Garrett:86, \$6,500.

**Half Dime.** V-6. Date lower than on most varieties, beginning about centrally and slanting up. Shield point above end of left arrow shaft, skirt pendant over left corner of 5, these positions usual for the date; left base of 1 about over r. edge of dentil. Hollow place in base above left arrow, concave downwards, evidently from excessive polishing of die. Rev. Rather thin letters. (Valentine says arrows are heavy, running into base, but this is usual for the date.) Not quite as rare as 1854. Compare D. S. Wilson:823; J. B. Wilson:819; Boyd, WGC:252; Newcomb I:805; Newlin:131, Garrett:112, \$2500 to A.H.L.; Cass, "Empire":683, possibly to R. L. Miles, cleaned, Miles:453; 1958 N.Y. Metropolitan: 1417; MacMurray:1006; Delp:36; Morgenthau 1/43:485 to Phila. Estate.

**Dime.** \*B-4. Double date, first punched too far to r., then corrected; parts of all eight digits discernible.

At most a couple of dozen survive, perhaps less. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Mehl 11/15/38:533, Phila. Estate. (3) J. B. Wilson:715. (4) Boyd, WGC:554. (5) Dr. Green:1188. (6) "Dupont": 1588. (7) Brand-Lichtenfels II:3015. (8) Merkin 4/66:158, H. W., 1971 ANA:675. (9) Miles:676.

**Quarter.** Date low, below center of exergual space; r. arrow almost touches border, left arrow more distant. It is not certain that all proofs are from the same dies. Slightly rarer than the dime. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Phila. Estate. (3) Boyd, WGC: 188, possibly ex Woodin:455, Newcomer. (4) Lohr:560. (5) Brand-Lichtenfels II:1437. (6) Delp:61. Cf. D. S. Wilson:639. Possibly 15 to 20 survive in all.

**Half Dollar.** Normal date, fairly high, slants down to r., shield point above over left edge of 8, left back of 1 central; 2 lower arrowheads touch, space between heads filled, polish in only 2 small circle in upper left white stripes. Less than a dozen seen in all. Few auction records, some doubtless overdates (below). Lohr:755; T. L. Smith estate:542; Cass, "Empire": 1403; Brand-Lichtenfels I:1840; Miles: 1326; Delp:606; Reed Hawn: 185, \$6,250.

—1855/54. Date slants down to r., placed similarly. Crossbar of 4 shows within lower part of 5, not complete. Nothing within 8 (unlike business strikes of either die of 1855/4). Tiny rust pit on 1 of date, r. of upper left serif. Full drapery at elbow. Rev. Scattered horizontal die file marks in white stripes (which marks fade); die file marks between wing and leaves; other wing touches shaft (may not be constant if die repolished). (1) Ex Bowers. (2) Ted Clarke (the overdate specialist), impaired. (3) Julian Leidman, possibly same as (1). Others probably exist, mistaken for normal dates, but as even the latter are of great rarity there is not likely to be much price difference once the coins are identified as such. The overdate was discovered by this writer on business strikes, early 1971, the discovery piece (a cleaned EF) appearing in one of the Merkin auctions. Since then many others have been identified, mostly showing only faint traces of 4 within 5.



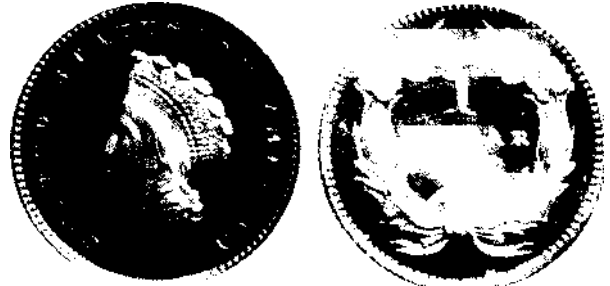
**1855 Silver Dollar.** Ex Boyd, Baldenhofer, Ostheimer colls.

**Silver Dollar.** Slanting 5's. \*B-1. Heavy date, rev. of 1854 proofs. Much more often seen than smaller silver; possibly 50 — 60 survive. Most great collections

have had one: Boyd, WGC: 149, Baldenhofer, Ostheimer, LM 9/68:352, LM 6/71:806; Olsen, Geiss:352; Neil:651; Dr. Green:1993; Fairbanks-Wolfson:1412; Randall, Garrett:273, \$4500; Landau:628; 1973 NASC, \$7500, 1974 ANA:26; etc. Most other auction records do not permit comprehensive pedigree tracing as many survivors were cleaned, obscuring photographic matching. Prooflike business strikes (B-3) have same obv., first four rev. white stripes clear except at tops and bases; stria through NE.

— \*B-2. Same obv. Rev. First white stripe clear, rest filled, stria from rim to E of UNITED. Ex Dr. Ruby, privately sold; 1977 ANA.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** Mintage unknown, guesses range from 50 to 150; my estimate is nearer to 50, most broken up. As more copper proofs are known than silver, individual coins were evidently sold to souvenir hunters. Cf. Mint — Stickney: 1796; D. S. Wilson: 1034; McCoy:386 — Ten Eyck; SI in its complete set. Col. Green had others, mostly broken up around World War II.



**1855 Gold Dollar.** Ex Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Bell colls.

**Gold Dollar.** Low date, thinner letters than on 1854 II proofs. (1) J. P. Morgan, ANS, probably from Brock. (2) Garrett, Johns Hopkins Univ. (3) Woodin:852, Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:9, "Memorable":9. (4) Roach, Neil:2303. (5) G. H. Hall: 1678, probably ex Bell I. (6) Mocatta Metals, cost \$50,000, early 1975, probably one of above. One of above, with nick on bust point, is ex Jenks 5822. Another (no. 3?) reappeared as Melish: 1743, to the "Statue of Liberty" — the N.Y. state specialist, who stood in that pose while these dollars were being offered. Number extant estimated 6 — 10. I am unable to confirm the existence of any others.

**Quarter Eagle.** Exceedingly rare, its very existence controversial. Wayte Raymond knew of one and had heard of others but could not trace any. A somewhat off-center example was in the Yale University collection, and was stolen in the great robbery of the Yale coins. It would be immediately identifiable and therefore may not appear on the market again. The badly impaired piece in the Dr. Conway Bolt sale has been doubted.

**Three Dollars.** Second design: large DOLLARS (through 1889). Polish shows in hollow areas of r.

wreath, 2:00 — 2:30, between corn leaves, etc. The apparent traces of recutting at and near knob of final 5 show on business strikes and may even be in the date logotype. (1) Eliasberg. Possibly ex Woodin: 1138, perhaps via "Golden Jubilee": 188. (2) Garrett:393, \$35,000. A third is reported.

**Half Eagle, Eagle.** Known only from Wayte Raymond's records which appear to indicate the existence of at least one each; untraced.

**Double Eagle.** Unknown, existence doubtful.

**Complete proof sets.** No record.

## 1856

In some ways this is one of the most difficult and complicated dates of the series. There is somewhat dubious evidence of restrike activity in several denominations, and several very curious varieties of originals. The Flying Eagle cents require a whole chapter (below, p. 243), so only the sketchiest mention is here made.

**Half Cent.** Only one obverse: closely spaced date, upright 5; tip of an effaced 5 (a tiny triangular mark) in field r. of 6. Three revs., two extremely rare, the other found only on proofs and known to exist on restrikes as well as on presumed originals.

— 1-A. First reverse, the only one recorded in die accounts as made for business strikes. No rust pit on upper part of I (TED); no double impressions on CENT or ribbon. Copper proof: Norweb collection.



**1856 Half Cent. Proof in copper-nickel 90:10. Ex 1974 GENA sale.**

— Same dies. Copper-nickel 90:10, pale gold color, 69.1 to 70.3 grains. Experimental alloy, not to be confused with that to follow. "Dupont": 1157; Norweb; 1974 GENA: 1234. Ignored by Judd; originally Adams-Woodin: 216. Less than ten ever recorded.

— Same dies. Copper-nickel 88:12. Struck on planchets intended for Flying Eagle cents. [50+] Weight 72 grains. Judd: 177; Adams-Woodin: 217. Pale gray toning to dusky reddish yellow exactly as on copper-nickel cents of 1856-64. Many examples have been cleaned, some drastically so; some few have been damaged, and I have seen two or three showing evidence of wear — apparently as pocket pieces. They originated as proofs, more or less, the dies being polished as were the blanks. Apparently three lots were made, time of the second and third unknown. First group of at least 50 examples coined July 1856.

This parcel of 50 was sent by Mint Director James Ross Snowden to the Secretary of the Treasury, July 11, 1856, to show what the new copper-nickel alloy would look like, and as souvenirs for distribution to interested parties in Congress, Senate and Treasury Department. The half cent dies were used because available, unneeded for coinage demands, and because they were the nearest regular dies to the size of the blanks. Longacre, always slow, had not as yet completed the dies for the Flying Eagle cents, though this particular task involved principally transfer by mechanical means (and slight hand modifications) of Gobrecht's flying eagle of 1836-39 and of Longacre's own wreath originally used on the 1854 three-dollar pieces and gold dollars of large size.

The initial group appears to be those hastily given a single blow apiece from dies that were not set quite close enough together in the screw press. Many of these, though showing beautiful proof surface, lack relief detail on parts of curls, leaves of wreath, and sometimes other areas. Denticles are never up, partly because of the improper die setting (adapted to much thicker flans), partly because the blanks were not wide enough to accommodate the die-impress properly and had to be rolled down a little.

Later examples from the same dies and on the same type of blanks show relief details properly up, though border denticles are never strong. The dies must have been reset to come together a proper smaller distance apart. These are much rarer than the original group of hasty weak strikes which I take to have been the original 50. The third group are still better struck, the dies apparently again repolished; occasional examples show knife-rims. Second and third groups occur only in proof state (some cleaned) and they are extremely rare compared even to the weak ones. All are likely to be products of 1856-58. I have no auction records enabling comparative value levels to be ascertained. Brobston's, \$650 asking price a dozen years ago, was one of the hasty weak strikes though in excellent preservation.

— \*1-B. Reverse of 1857 B, the die found also on restrikes dated 1840-49 small date and 1852. Probably most of the 1856 coins bearing this reverse were products of the 1856-58 period, struck on blanks intended for half cents rather than on restrike blanks made up later by mint workmen not having proper equipment, as weights are within normal limits. However, at least ten appear to belong to the "81.8" series of restrikes, and four are on unnatural thick flans, matching two of the known series of restrikes dated in the 1840's, and thus testifying to restrike activity affecting half cents of even this comparatively common date. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below.

— 1-C. Repolished reverse of 1854, rust pit on upper part of upright of I of UNITED. Extremely

rare. Copper only, usually much toned down. Not a late product, probably made in 1856-7; weights are within normal limits and there are no unnatural wire edges or die failures. (1) Philip M. Showers. (2) Holmes: 1356 ex J. G. MacAllister (the "drunken Irishman" dealer of Philadelphia, during the 1930's and early 40's). (3) T. J. Clarke: 492. (4) A Brand example went with the Ryder collection as NN44: 338. (5) One in the writer's collection, obtained many years ago from R. McAusland.



1856 Large Cent. N-5. Ex 1975 EAC: 1063

**Large Cent.** Only one variety. \*Newcomb 5. Slanting 5, date distant from device, three minute die file marks down from earlobe; curl point very slightly beyond 8, but without the spur from end of truncation found on the other variety (N-13) having this position of curl point. Rev. Die of 1857 \*N-3, with extra "berry" (die defect) on leaf left of 0 C, etc. One of the least rare large cent proofs; over 100 survive. Four were in "Dupont" (: 1015-18); T. James Clarke had at least three others; two more were in Newcomb II:753; Downing had several, of which two went as 1952 ANA; 2220-21. Popular because of comparatively early date, because many collectors want a large cent proof of no matter what date, because it is a good showpiece as such, because many examples come with a beautiful warm rosy or even tangerine brilliance possessing much eye appeal. Gardner's (1965) brought a then astonishing \$725; three times that figure would be appropriate today.

The N-7 of Lahrman:495 is unverified; the N-4 of Clarke:423 was a business strike.

**Flying Eagle Cent.** [485+] Really patterns, as the design and alloy were not officially adopted until the Act of Feb. 21, 1857 became law as of the following May. At least 5 obv. and 4 rev. dies; proofs are known from most of these. No one collection has examples of all obverses properly classified. Actual number of survivors unknown, estimated from 1,500 to 2,500 (the higher figure probably being nearer the truth), many Good to EF including some ex-proofs, a smaller number unc, somewhat over 1/3 proofs, the majority of which are restrikes from a single pair of dies. For variety details, see chapter XV, pp. 243-248. Auction records are up to date only for the common restrike variety; see *Value Guide*, below.

**Trime.** Shallow date, horizontal and

southeast-pointing striae. Star point nearer to 5 than to 8. Extra outlines to star thinnest and shallowest at the southwest re-entrant angle, about 7 — 7:30. Rev. Plain doubling on two stars below C and one at 1:00. Rare but not extremely so. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) ANS, ex Brock, Morgan set. (3) J. C. Morgenthau 10/5/39:552, Phila. Estate. (4) Essex Institute :314, \$3,100. (5) Garrett:87, \$3,250. (6) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:20, possibly later Golding:587. (7) Davis-Graves: 192. (8) Straus, NN 53:409. (9) NN 48:843. (10) Cass, "Empire": 460. (11) Wolfson:292. (12) Brand-Lichtenfels II:1663, Jay:377. There are other auction records. I am reasonably sure that the above dozen are all different; I have seen about 8 others not covered in the above enumeration. There may be 30 to 40 around, probably not many more, including some drastically cleaned or impaired pieces.

**Half Dime.** \*V-2. Date high, closer to base than to border but all digits free. Shield point left of tip of 1 — date farther right than usual; skirt pendant nearly over tip of 5 (usual position is between 56 or over 6). Upright 5 as always (first gold dollar logotype), 5 less strong than 18-6, 6 heavy. Full dentils, unlike business strikes in which they are usually quite weak. Possibly 30 to 40 around; seen about as often as the trime or minutely more often.

In the Neil sale, lot 1648 (ex sale of S. Hudson Chapman collection, 1929) was an 1856 described as follows: "1856. Recut date. Listed by Mr. Neil as an overdate, over 1854. Perfect brilliant proof. The date is larger than on the other varieties and it appears to be entirely recut. Broad borders with wire edge. . . . Memo by Mr. Neil states that this is the only specimen ever noticed having been offered at auction and valued by him in the three figure mark." It brought only \$10, not very high even in 1947. Since then, two pieces — now believed to be from an early die state of V-2, before repolishing — have been offered as possible overdates because of traces of another digit within the 6; yet neither of these has completely recut date, so probably the Neil piece is still waiting to be identified. They are Ruby I:864, at a reasonable \$575, and Herstal: 132, at \$4,400.

**Dime.** \*B-2. Small date, slanting 5; plain shift, the doubling most obvious at skirt. Rev. Plain line up to border from loop of R of AMERICA. In a rarity class with the smaller silver. (1) SI ex Mint proof set. (2) ANS, ex J. P. Morgan, Brock proof set. (3) WGC:556. (4) Reed Hawn:715 at \$750, ex 71 ANA:677, ex LM 4/66:160 at \$600, H.W. (5) George A. Powers:219. (6) MacMurray: 1189 ex Lohr:416. (7) NN54:1209. (8) NN50:404. (9) Jay:378 — Scanlon:60, \$575. (10) (11) Phila. Estate. Cf. also, among others, Atwater:951, Neil:1264, J. B. Wilson:717 (1908), Miles:678, etc. Q. David Bowers estimated about 35 extant, which is not too far from correct.



**1856 Quarter Dollar. Ex Merkin, Feb. 1971**

**Quarter.** Upright 5 only. Date about centered. Rev. \*Peculiar die failure showing as a bulge on coins, extending from AM through r. wing vertically down through field to arrows. Many survivors have been poorly cleaned. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) ANS, ex Brock, Morgan set. (3) Phila. Estate. (4) Woodin:456, Newcomer, Boyd, WGC: 190. (5) Davis-Graves: 373, very dull, probably subsequently cleaned. (6) Atwater:710. (7) B. Frank:685, cleaned to death, thence to Kagin. (8) MacMurray:1334. (9) Brand-Lichtenfels II:1441, Jay:379. (10) A. B. Stewart:815, S 3/74:64 at \$2,100. (11) James A. Stack estate:94, \$550, rev. drastically cleaned. (12) LM 2/71:575. Of four others examined, three are cleaned. Probably slightly rarer than the dime, less than 30 surviving.

**Half Dollar.** Beistle 2-Aa. Upright 5. Centered date, foot supported, toe enclosed, full drapery. Rev. Center red stripe not clearly joined to base of shield. Some have top of first red stripe hollow — different die? 1972 ANA:2145. (1) SI ex Mint, rev. not checked. (2) Elder 50th (6/6/11):1065, Ryder, Wayte Raymond estate, NN50:601. (3) Cass, "Empire": 1407. (4) Frank H. Chase:327. (5) Newcomb II:863. (6) Dr. Green: 1686. (7) Lohr:756. (8) Brand, Lichtenfels I:2845, R. E. Cox:1940, S 5/68:1473, \$1200, Louis Engel:349. (9) Maurice Bauman, poorly cleaned. (10) Miles: 1329, Winner Delp:607. (11) 1974 ANA:121, cleaned, \$1900. There may be a few duplications. At least three others seen, of which one is badly cleaned. One of the above reappeared as Reed Hawn: 189, \$1,800. Possibly the rarest denomination of the year.



**1856 Silver Dollar. Ex Baldenhofer, Ostheimer colls.**

**Silver Dollar.** \*B-2. Slanting 5. Date larger than on any other denomination, even the \$20. Style of

numerals more like those of 1854 than 1855. Reverse is a die used in later years. Early state: clear lines in field above ITE and between ES; on later impressions these lines become fainter though they do not vanish. Small unpolished curved areas at bottoms of rightmost and next to right white stripes as well as at upper corner of former. Two arrows join, claws almost join, extremely slight unpolished area between upper leaves only; lines join bases of AM and RI. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) ANS ex Brock, Morgan. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Phila. Estate. (5) Essex Institute: 1019, \$3,600. (6) Heman Ely, Garrett:274, \$3,600. (7) Boyd, WGC: 151, probably reappearing as one to follow. (8) Atwater:237, Neil: 52, ditto. (9) T. James Clarke, NN 48:661, Kagin. (10) Holmes:2289. (11) Brand, Lichtenfels II:1169, Jay:380, Scanlon:1745. (12) Davis-Graves: 1355. I have seen at least eight others and can well believe that these represent not much over half the survivors.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** Those originally issued naturally contained neither the copper-nickel half cents nor the Flying Eagle cents. Stickney: 1797, ex the mint in the year of issue, was complete from half cent to half dollar, the dollar apparently removed for inclusion in a denomination set.

**Gold Dollar.** Third design, "Wide Indian Princess" head 1856-89 — reduction of the three-dollar head. Upright 5, B. Al. Philadelphia Estate, ex 1941 ANA:586, thought to be the first of the new design, Feb. 17, 1856. No duplicate reported. Dies drastically lapped.



**1856 Gold Dollar. Slanting 5. Ex Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Bell colls.**

— Slanting 5. \*B.B3. Heavy 6, date begins low and slants up to right. (1) ANS ex Brock, Morgan, showing clash marks in rev. field. (2) Woodin:856, Newcomer, Boyd, WGC: 11, "Memorable": 11. (3) Brock, Univ. of Penna., P. H. Ward. (4) Eliasberg. (5) Lohr:967 to "Dr.L." (6) Melish: 1750, N.Y. state specialist. Jay:217 (\$1750) is probably a reappearance of no. 2 or 3 above; illustrations forbid certainty.

**Quarter Eagle.** Small date as on half dime. \*Date slants up, 6 farther from border than 1; letters more delicate than usual. (1) Mills:575, Clapp, Eliasberg. (2) A. Reimers (H. Chapman, 7/22): 840, Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:124, "Memorable": 116, "R", Wolfson:168, Ullmer:363, \$30,000. Wayte Raymond knew no third specimen, nor is any other now rumored.



**1856 Three Dollars.** Large DOLLARS over small DOLLARS. Ex Boyd, WGC:271

**Three Dollars.** \*B-3. Obv. Polish below ear and on throat. Rev. Large DOLLARS over small DOLLARS — evidently a die left undated in 1854 and not used until 1856. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Garrett:394, \$21,000. (3) Harry Bass. (4) Mike Brownlee. (5) Boyd, WGC:271, doubtless one of preceding.

**Half Eagle.** Large date, upright 5 as on the quarter dollar. No die variety data. Reported by Wayte Raymond, not now traced.

**Eagle.** Same comment.

**Double Eagle.** None reported, though formerly believed to exist as the smaller gold denominations certainly existed.

**Complete proof sets.** It is doubtful if any were made.

## 1857

Early sets of this year contained the half cent and copper cent; they must have been made up in January, as that was the time of manufacture of the copper coins. Early dealers repeatedly concurred with Snowden's eyewitness claim (*Mint Manual*, 1860) that many of the undistributed copper coins (presumably proofs and business strikes alike) were remelted at the mint. Later sets, those made after May 1857, contained the small cent instead of the copper coins; but very few were made. See Silver-Minor Proof Sets, below.

**Half Cent.** One obverse only, with date larger than on former half cents save for 1847-49, 52-53. Two reverse dies.

— B. 1-A, dot or chip on r. side of first A in AMERICA; the die used on all business strikes of this date. (1) N. J. Specialist. (2) Martin F. Kortjohn. (3) The former Stack specimen. One other reported, unverified. These are evidently the very earliest proof half cents made in January 1857.



**1857 Half Cent.** Breen 1-B, rev. used on coins dated 1856, and later on restrikes 1840-49 and 1852

— \*B. 1-B. Rev. is the B die of 1856, found also on coins dated 1840 through 1849 and 1852: double impressions on CENT and ribbon. About two dozen, possibly nearer thirty known. However, quite a number of these appear to be restrikes, the obverse die repolished and the date strengthened, knife-rims unusually plain, weights far off the 84-grain norm. I would guess that less than fourteen unquestioned originals now survive; the restrikes fall into two of the known series ("81.8", one of the earlier groups, and the unnatural thick ones). See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*. As a rule, since originals and restrikes come from the same dies, few dealers or collectors bother to weigh half cents, and many are unfamiliar with the appearance of the various series, even aside from the fact that labeling a coin a restrike is now likely to be a way of lowering the price realized (despite many restrikes being rarer than originals), most 1857's are sold without mention of status aside from the grade or label of "Proof". This date, though not much rarer than earlier years in proof state, uniformly has brought a higher price because the business strikes (a low mintage, high meltage final year coin) have long done likewise. Possibly the odd delivery of Jan. 24, 1857, \$1.33, may mean 266 proof half cents.



**1857 Large Cent.** N-3

**Cent.** \*N-3. Small date. Curl point above inner r. curve of 8, date away from device, die file marks at TY; very faint crack from 3rd star to end of nose, another from rim through 5th star to end of coronet, a third from curls to 13th star to rim; these cracks appear to be constant, but only the first named is ever plain and that seldom. Reverse is the same die used on 1856 N-5 proofs and in the same state. Often



warm rosy red like some of the 1856 coins mentioned, evidently from the same lot of planchets, and often slightly off center; sometimes with moderately high knife-rims. As weights are normal I hesitate to conclude that they were made later than 1857 though the possibility does exist that some may have been made in 1858 or '59 from leftover blanks. It might be of interest to begin checking weights on the coins with more pronounced knife-rims; any unusual deviants are probably on blanks surreptitiously made in the mint, at a time when large cents were no longer being minted regularly, i.e. restrikes. The N-3 is usually much exaggerated as to rarity, though it is actually in a class with the 1856 N-5. Three were in the Boyd and Gaskill remnants offered in the NN 51st sale, two in "Dupont". Homer Downing had several, two being lots 2223 and 2224 of the 1952 ANA Convention sale. The Patterson DuBois — "Eavenson" — Ryder:948 — Landau: 173 coin reappeared as TAD: 198. And so on, far into the night. I would guess that over 80 survive. Possibly the odd delivery of Feb. 7, 1857, \$2.38, may mean 238 proof cents. Record \$2200, 1974 ANA: 369.

— \*N-5. This is, on the contrary, a very rare coin and doubtless original. Small date, curl point midway between r. curves of 8, date away from bust, without the line through B found on N-2, without the die file marks down from earlobe of N-4, without the die file marks through TY of N-3. Rev.: Different from preceding. Faint line from between denticles to right upper corner of T in CENT. (1) Smithsonian, no. 1238 in Comparette's catalogue, from Mint collection proof set, Jan. 1857 — a valuable piece of evidence. (2) Morgenthau, June 1942 — H. C. Hines — Homer Downing-1952 ANA:2225 at a then astonishing \$190, at the time a world's record price by a factor of nearly 100% for any 1857 proof large cent, even though the piece was a gem. The price was legitimate and the coin did change hands, though I do not know its present whereabouts. (3) Brand, Ryder:949. (4) "Dupont": 1028. (5) Philip G. Straus estate: 416, to D. N. (6) CSNA: 1966, privately to W. K. Raymond at \$580. (7), (8) New Jersey Specialist. (9) The writer's example. (10) Philadelphia Estate. Others have been seen at various auctions, unattributed, or in private collections or dealers' bourse displays. Harold Bareford's has not been verified. Probably at least a dozen now survive.

— \*Obv. N-4, reverse new with numerous striae pointing southeast. Brilliantly polished dies but given apparently only one blow in the press. "Dupont": 1027 to D. N., TAD :199, Roy Rauch. Time of striking unknown; no duplicate reported. The reverse is not the same as that on the regular N-4 business strikes nor on either of the foregoing proofs.

**Flying Eagle Cent.** \* Perfect date, no doubling; *die file marks above NI*, one joins left upright of I to

rim. Borders narrow (rather than wide as on the 1858 patterns) but inner and outer rims are sharp. Top of D below E; small die defect joins Crosslet of same E to upper serif, closed E in STATES (Crosslet joins upper serif), open E in AMERICA, but two dots join crossbar to upper stroke. Faint line slants down to r. below beak. Sometimes recut within U (at r.) and first A. Rev. As in 1856, higher or long leaf flanking C of CENT and extending above base line; closed E in ONE; no center dot. Borders narrower at top obv. and upper left rev. (1) ANS. (2) Commodore W. C. Eaton, Phila. Estate. (3) Straus estate, NN 53:123, offered with comment "only 5 seen." (4) Bell II:515. (5) Private sale, 1964, \$2150, possibly ex Pelletreau. (6) A piece seen in stock of Dan Brown (Denver). (7) "Durham":121, spot between ES. (8) 1973 GENA:167. (9) LM9/67:187, spot below 57. Less than a dozen seen in all. Specimens from other dies than described above are automatically subject to doubt, as are any with rounded borders or any touch of frostiness or granularity in fields. Struck about May 1857 in limited numbers.



#### 1857 Trime. (Enlarged)

**Trime.** \*Heavy obv. striae pointing a little south of southeast. The extra outlines at southwest reentrant angle of star are thinner than on business strikes, as in 1856. In date 1 low, almost touches rim. Rev. Repolished and strengthened die of 1856. Slightly less rare than 1856. (1) ANS. (2) Newlin:245, Garrett:88, \$4,000. (3) Essex Institute:315, \$1,800. (4) Morgenthau 10/5/39:553, Phila. Estate. (5) Brand, Lichtenfels II:1665, cleaned. (6) Wolfson:293. (7) Walton, Jay:384. (8) NN 57:330. (9) Golding:588. (10) Cass, "Empire":460. (11) Gardner:1432. (12) 1975 ANA:96, ex lot 646 of a Mayflower sale. Others doubtless survive.



1857 Half Dime, V-3. Ex QS 11/76:1482



**Half Dime.** The only variety ordinarily encountered in proof is \*V-3. Date well to left, shield point about over left upright of 1 or minutely left of its usual position is above tip of left serif), skirt pendant over r. tip of 5 (its usual position is from left corner to r. of center of top of 5), date placed almost centrally and slanting up, left base of 1 slightly left of center of dentil, and much nearer dentil than base of 7; full border dentils (very unusual for 1856-7 coins except proofs), heavy date with 5 closed (corner touching knob); from retouched hub — note dent on inner point of 3rd star, wavy baseline and stronger drapery) as on all later dies through 1858. Rev. Die file mark from rim to top of first A of AMERICA. (1) ANS. (2) Essex Institute:424, \$1,050. (3) Garrett:113, \$1,300, E.L.Y. (4) Walton:490, Jay:385, Scanlon:589. (5) MacMurray: 1010. (6) Miles:457. (7) QS 11/76:1482. (8) One seen in the stock of Kenneth W. Lee, 1965. Others exist. The coin is in a rarity class with the trime. Newcomb I:506, II:812, KS 3/65:536 and some other have not been available for attribution.

— \*Not in V. Retouched hub; shield point r. of tip of serif, r. edge of skirt pendant over tip of 5, left base of 1 almost over r. edge of dentil. Rev. Similar, faint striae pointing a little west of south and widely spaced. (1) Eliasberg. (2) LM 9/68:190.

**Dime. \*B-1.** Low date, peak of 1 recut, shield point well to left of peak of 1, pendant slightly r. of left edge of top of 5, left base of 1 r. of left edge of dentil. Rev. of 1856 proofs, with the line up from R, and the faint die file marks over NIT and IC. (1) ANS. (2) Norweb. (3) Newlin, Garrett: 138, \$1,000, A.F.L. (4) Brand, Landau:457. (5) LM 4/66:162, H. W., 1971 ANA:680, Reed Hawn:720, \$550. (6) NN 54:1211. (7) Miles:681, huge C-shaped obv. lint mark. (8) Scanlon:693. Some of the above are probably duplicated in the following: (a) WGC:559; (b) Newcomb II:817; (c) Cass, "Empire":800; (d) NN 50:406; (e) MacMurray: 1190; (f) G. A. Powers:260; (g) Brand-Lichtenfels II:3020; (h) KS 3/65:1025. About as rare as the trime, possibly a couple more survivors.



**1857 Quarter. Ex QS 11/76:648**

**Quarter.** Date about centered but placed to left so that 7 is notably farther from border than is 1; shield point over r. foot of 1; left base of 1 r. of center. Rev. of 1856 proofs with the same vertical bulge from AM

to arrows. (1) ANS. (2) WGC:192. (3) Garrett:165, \$1,700. (4) Brand, Landau: 165. (5) Davis-Graves:374. (6) MacMurray: 1338. (7) Steckler:55, \$1,100. (8) Ron Gillio, from a broken set. (9) B. Frank:689, cleaned to death, to Kagin, to Pelletreau:699, to Robert Bashlow, reappearing as NN 54:650. (10) Gardner:1649, Speir:66. Compare Miles:952 — Scanlon:990, possibly ex Walton:736, Jay:387; also Newcomb II:835. Under 15, perhaps under 12 survive.

**Half dollar. \*Beistle I-A.** Date slants down to r.; shield point over r. foot of 1, left base of 1 about over left edge, the positions not necessarily diagnostic, lapped die, toe not enclosed, small unpolished patch joins chin to neck; microscopic recutting on bases of 8 7. Rev. Heavy letters, small unpolished patch joins wing and all leaves, another between two arrowheads; die defect joins wing and top arrow shaft; small thin hollow place above center of first red stripe, thin extra line at its left. (1) Col. Green (the coin Beistle described), probably one of following. (2) Newcomb II:865. (3) Wayte Raymond estate, NN 50:603. (4) Mehl 12/12/39:1418, Phila. Estate. (5) Anthon Part V (Cogan 10/20/84):239, Garrett:226, \$2,000, "C". (6), (7) Dr. Green:1688, 2811. (8) B. Max Mehl, MacMurray:1509 (same as one of last?). (9) Walton:911, Jay:388, Scanlon:1462, tarnish outlines eagle. (10) Miles:1332, Delp: 608. (11) Cass, "Empire": 1411. (12) Brand-Lichtenfels I:2848. (13) R. E. Cox: 1945, \$1,100, S 5/68:1474, possibly same as last. The above probably include a few duplications. Cf. also Reed Hawn: 193, \$1700; "Gilhausen": 1019; Glassenberg, 1975 ANA:603 (cleaned, tiny pre-striking chip below 5th star), also probably reappearances of earlier named ones. Except for the small cent, probably the most difficult denomination of the year.



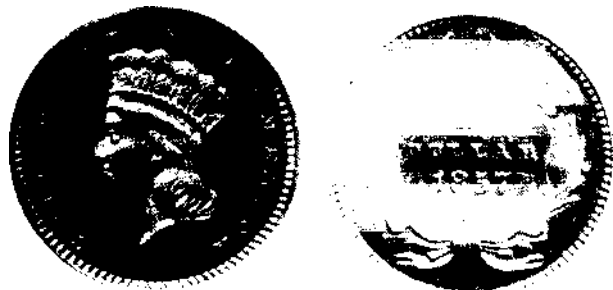
**1857 Silver Dollar. Ex Guggenheimer coll.**

**Silver Dollar.** Wide faced numerals. \*B-1. "Hair" below chin; shield point r. of left upright of 1, left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge of dentil. Rev. of 1856, the lines above ITE and ES sometimes weaker. (1) ANS ex Brock, Morgan. (2) Morgenthau 10/5/39:176, Phila. Estate. (3) Boyd, WGC:152. (4) Davis-Graves: 1357. (5) T. James Clarke, NN 48:662, Kagin. (6) "Dupont":2534, impaired. (7) Cass, "Empire": 1742, impaired (same?). (8) Landau:631, slightly impaired. (9) 1958 NY Metropolitan: 1635, gem. (10) Walton:1160, Jay:389, choice. (11) Baldenhofer,

Ostheimer, LM 9/68:354, LM6/71:807, 1974 ANA:28, \$2,500. (12) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (13) Wolfson:1413. (14) 1975 ANA:1080. (15) Guggenheimer:990, QS 11/76:1131. About a half dozen others seen, these and some of above probably duplications, mostly cleaned (obscuring identification), as was the Mougey-Bement example; apparently at least half the surviving proofs have suffered that or worse fates.

— B-2. Die file marks at left rocky base and foot. Rev. Irregular die file marks above UNITED and OF AME. Always with flat heads, as are the business strikings from this obv. die, but convincing surfaces. One is in Gillio's broken set; cf. "Gilhausen":1316. Others have been sold as first strikes. I now believe some of these were carelessly made proofs. This reverse was reused on 1858 proofs.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** These appear to be represented now only by broken sets containing the copper cent and half cent, e.g. ANS ex Brock, Morgan; Newcomb II (sold individually); Walton (ditto); others. My earlier guess that a few sets might have been made in or after May containing the new Flying Eagle cent or "nickel" is based on analogy and on the presence of varieties like the second half dime, much rarer than the first.



**1857 Gold Dollar.** Ex Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Bell colls.

**Gold Dollar.** \*Date low, slants up slightly to r.; delicate lettering. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Woodin:859, Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:12, "Memorable":12. (3) Dr. Green:12, possibly ex Belden Roach, Geiss:1335. (4) "J. H. South":817. (5) Jay:220, Dines:795, Scanlon:1745 at \$4,000. (6) Melish:1755, N. Y. state specialist, possibly same as (2)? (7) R. C. W. Brock, Univ. of Penna., P. H. Ward. (8) Morgenthau 6/16/42:113, Phila. Estate. Not impossibly a few of these are reappearances of the same coin; cf. also those in 1956 ANA, Stack 3/73, and RARCOA 4/75 sales.



**1857 Quarter Eagle.** Ex Woodin, Gaskill, Kagin

**Quarter Eagle.** Small date as on half dime, placed low; left base of 1 about over r. edge of dentil; 7 a little farther from border than 1. Judge Thomas L. Gaskill, NN 48:288, at a then high \$500, A. M. Kagin; believed ex Woodin:999. One other rumored, unconfirmed; was it traded out of the Mint Cabinet?



**1857 Three Dollars.** Ex Parmelee, Woodin, Boyd, Pierce, Jay, Ullmer colls.

**Three Dollars.** \*Obv. of 1856 proofs; date low, placed to right. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Parmelee:1280, Woodin:1144, Boyd, WGC:272, Grant Pierce:1242, C. Jay:275, Theodore Ullmer:411, \$21,000. Tiny planchet chip below truncation. (4) Wolfson:279. (5) Garrett:395, \$17,000.

**Half Eagle.** Date as on quarter dollar. The only one seen to date is in the Eliasberg collection; Wayte Raymond appears to have known of this piece and one other, now untraced. Cf. Ten Eyck:223.

**Eagle.** Large date as on the large date cents. Eliasberg, ex Ten Eyck:287, Clapp.

**Double Eagle.** Not known though long rumored.

**Complete proof sets.** Not known to have been made.

## VII. PUBLICLY SOLD PROOF COINS AND SETS, 1858-89

1858

In this year Mint Director J. R. Snowden began wholesale advertising of proof sets to the general public. This went side by side with the first boom in coin collecting, soon to rival the tulip craze of 1635-37 in the Netherlands, the stimuli being several popular best sellers devoted to the subject. Mint policy appears to have been to make silver dollars in somewhat greater quantity (1858-60 only) than the other denominations; in earlier years the extras were mostly cents and half cents, and beginning in 1861 it would appear that the silver coins were made in equal numbers, i.e. only in sets, minor coins probably in the same sets only, minor sets from 1865 on in perhaps slightly larger numbers.

**Flying Eagle cent. Large letters**, similar to 1857.

(1) Recutting on left foot of A(M). Rev.: High leaves at C T. (2) Minute doublings. Faint raised mark at border below first 8; left base of 1 above center; date slants up to r. Rev.: Similar; spur from dentil above top left wreath almost at 12:00, closed (N)E, die file marks in left bow (same dies?). Compare Pelletreau: 83, Jay: 390. Note also that the large letter coins found with the pattern reverses of the year are exceedingly rare and no complete sets including them are known today. There are many very deceptive early strikes masquerading as proofs. Most of these show some granularity or hidden mint frost around letters; borders are usually partly blurred into rims, rims are rounded. Some nefarious individuals have been known to take well struck uncirculated pieces and plate them with nickel, silver or chromium to simulate proofs. This practice is undesirable in the highest degree and is now contrary to Federal statutes, prosecutions being possible on grounds of mutilation

of currency as well as for fraud. All such plating, of course, not only produces unnatural color, but also tends to obscure fine detail, whereas a true proof would show much sharper detail than on normal uncirculated coins. Look at leaves and feathers as well as within letters.

— **Small letters.** Date rather low, left base of 1 left of center of a bead, no recutting visible on numerals or letters. Rev.: High leaves, E almost closed. ANS; S 5/68: 394. I have seen less than twenty in all that were beyond question proofs, though obviously more were made, probably over 80, possibly as many as 100 in all. Most probably some of these proofs were spent or suffered drastic cleaning.

The argument leading to the conclusion about the probable number minted is fairly complex. Specimens were struck for the proof sets of the year. If Chapman was right in his guess (from DuBois or some other mint official?) that about 80 silver dollars were minted, and that more dollars were made than smaller silver (as will be seen), then we might expect to find in all say 50 to 60 cents from the sets. But there were also small letter proof cents of regular adopted type sold as part of the sets of twelve pattern copper-nickel cents of the year. There were evidently a few dozen such sets, probably forty or fifty in all, most of them being since broken up. It follows that the total number of 1858 proof cents of regular type (die varieties aside) must at least be equal to the sum of these two sources together with, perhaps, odd specimens sold separately. The guess of about 100 proof cents is therefore not going to be very far from the truth; should some record of them survive in the Archives, the actual number will turn out to be something like 112 pieces (or possibly on the low side of 100 instead) rather

than 50 or 235 or any higher number.

Why so few survive today is as yet unsolved. Nickel cents were melted up in quantity after the Civil War, the bullion being converted into 3¢ and 5¢ pieces; but the coins melted up were primarily worn ones from circulation. As quite a few of the surviving proof cents show signs of improper cleaning, quite possibly they had developed unsightly sulfide tarnish while remaining in the paper wrappers in which the mint supplied proof sets. Others may well have been spent in later years — possibly even during the Civil War in which almost any form of hard money was prized far in excess of paper money. Relatively brief circulation of proof coins would make them unrecognizable as proofs. Remember that the same thing happened again and again with earlier proofs such as the half cents in the 1840's, and one of these worn down to VF is no longer obviously identifiable as having originally been made as a proof — aside from its being of a proof-only date. A Fine or VF 1831 original might well have originated as a proof rather than as a business strike. So too with the proof copper-nickel cents. In any event, whatever the reason, the surviving percentage ("Characteristic Ratio") for proof flying eagle cents is very low, whereas for all later minor and silver proofs it is comparatively high, in some cases in excess of 90%. Proofs were made to be saved, not to be spent; but in times of hardship proofs were spent and the *locus classicus* is gold proofs (see below during the 1880-1893 period especially in the eagles and double eagles). And some such cause may also explain the comparable situation in copper-nickel cents. Notice that though the survival ratio of 1856 Flying Eagle cents is reasonably high, probably in excess of 75% as this date has always been recognized as a collector's item, still the vast majority of specimens have seen circulation. We may need no further hypothesis, then, to explain the disappearance of proof 1857-64 cents. The VF or Fine coin in the dealer's tray may have originated as a proof rather than as an uncirculated piece — though nobody would ever be able to tell now short of evidence of die identity. Should a Fine or VF 1857 show up with the closed E and center dot, for instance, that would be clear evidence of proof origin, but unfortunately the proof dies of most other nickel cents are not so clearly marked.

The 1858 cents include various transitional coins, some made in considerable quantity over and above those struck for the mint's 12-piece sets; we suspect the sets were made up later. A full discussion of them is rather beyond the scope of this study, but at least I can record the varieties. All occur in proof, some also in unc, some got into circulation; die varieties exist of most.

\***Flying eagle, small letters** (A M apart). Rev. ONE CENT in **laurel wreath** — Regular obv., rev.

adopted 1859. "*First Transitional*." Judd 191, not in AW; 40 — 50 (?) known in all. One or another variety included in the 12-piece sets. The following varieties exist:

— Normal U (perfect serifs). Rev. Prototype die, leaves in clusters of 5, before repolishing; leaves normal. Ribbon ends differ from the other type (6-leaf clusters, adopted in 1859). 1971 ANA:277, where called "J-191A"; others. (The 1971 ANA consignment was from Willard C. Blaisdell.)



**1858 First Transitional Cent. Flying eagle, small letters / Laurel wreath of 1859. U lacks inner r. serif; prototype die, leaves in clusters of 5, before repolishing. Ex Wayte Raymond.**

— U lacks inner r. serif. Rev. As last. Wayte Raymond set; Austin: 1102; others.

— U lacks inner r. serif. Rev. "Regular" type, leaves in clusters of 6, as in 1859. J. M. Wade, W. C. Blaisdell, 1971 ANA:278 as "J-191B"; LM 9/70:615; others. This obv. comes also on other varieties in the 12-piece sets.

\***Flying eagle, large letters** (AM joined). Rev. **Laurel wreath.** The only illustration believed to be of this coin (in Judd) shows leaves in clusters of 5. Judd 196; AW 244, confused by Adams with the small letters coin. Not in the regular 12-piece sets. Exceedingly rare, under 6 reported. (1) Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Judd. (2) Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Kosoff, Guild. (3) Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Kosoff, Kaplan. (4) Woodin, Judson Brenner, Brand. Others offered as "AW 244" have proved to have small letters.

\***"Indian" head.** Rev. **"Cereals" wreath.** Obv. adopted 1859, rev. regular die of 1857-58. "*Second Transitional*." Possibly 40 — 50 known. Judd 213, A-W 270. Obv. displays the same "Venus Accroupie" head Longacre had been using ever since 1849. It was derived from a Roman marble copy of a Greek bronze, in one of the Philadelphia museums; the name means "Crouching Venus." Longacre added the anachronistic feathered headdress (according to a letter he wrote Mint Director Snowden) to give the whole composition "a more national character;" hence the misnomer "Indian head" — but no Native American ever bore that profile! The reverse, miscalled "tobacco wreath" by Adams — proving that he had never seen the weed growing — consists mostly of corn and cotton, and is the same one found on gold dollars and three-dollar pieces since 1854. One or another variety included in

the 12-piece sets. The following varieties exist:



**1858 Second Transitional Cent. "Indian head"/Regular die. Low date; low leaves at C T. Ex Wayte Raymond**

— Low date, 1 much nearer border than bust. Left base of 1 r. of left edge. Rev. Low leaves at C T (ending below base line of CENT), wide open E's, no center dot, this die found on some J-206's from the regular 12-piece sets. Rare. Wayte Raymond; Bolender 3/59:717, J. M. Wade, Blaisdell, 1971 ANA:286; others.

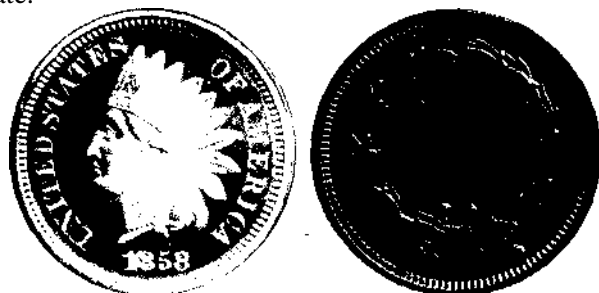
— Centered date, 1 equidistant between bust and border. Left base of 1 over left edge. No line joins dentils r. of date. Rev. As preceding. Judd illustration; Austin: 1108; 1974 GENA: 1243; many others.

The Adams-Woodin illustration shows low date and high leaves (that at C extending above base line of CENT); this combination we have not seen and tend to doubt as many A-W cuts take obv. and rev. from different coins.

**"Indian" head. Rev. Laurel wreath.** Types adopted 1859. "Third Transitional." Possibly over 100 known, some proofs, some uncs., some worn. Judd 208, A-W 264. One or another variety included in the 12-piece sets. At least four obverse dies. The following varieties exist (relative rarity not yet completely known):

— Low date. Rev. Prototype, leaves in clusters of 5. Woodin, Col. Green, J. M. Wade, W. C. Blaisdell, 1971 ANA:290, as "J-208A"; Scott: 1230 (AU); others.

— Low date. Rev. Leaves in clusters of 6. LM 9/70:622; "Gilhausen": 1493; others. Either of the low date varieties is believed scarcer than the centered date.



**1858 Third Transitional Cent. "Indian head" /Laurel wreath, types adopted 1859. Centered date; leaves in clusters of 5. Ex Wayte Raymond**

— Centered date, line joins dentils r. of date, left base of 1 over left edge. Rev. Leaves in clusters of 5, before repolishing. Woodin, Col. Green, J. M. Wade, W. C. Blaisdell, 1971 ANA:291, called "J-208B"; 1974

GENA: 1244; others, including Scott: 1231, VF. This obv. die is found on some J-211 and 212A coins from the 12-piece sets.

— Identical dies, but after rev. was drastically repolished, many leaves now incomplete, some as disconnected fragments. Restrike? J. M. Wade, W. C. Blaisdell, 1971 ANA:292 as "Judd 208C," others.

— Same obv. Rev. Leaves in clusters of 6. Woodin, Col. Green, J. M. Wade, W. C. Blaisdell, 1971 ANA:294 as "Judd 208E," others.

— Similar, but date farther to r., 1 far beyond truncation point, farther from it and from border. Rev. Leaves in clusters of 5, intermediate state, repolished but only a few leaves affected. *Copper*. Judd 209, A-W 265. "Dupont":1223; W. C. Blaisdell, 1971 ANA:295, few others. Very rare. May also exist in copper-nickel.

— Similar, but date in usual central position, to left; no line joins dentils r. of date; feathers more vigorously executed; left base of 1 over center. Rev. Leaves in clusters of 5, before repolishing. Parsons, Ryder, Wayte Raymond, NN 35:584, W. C. Blaisdell, 1971 ANA:293 as "J-208D"; others.

— Same obv. Rev. Leaves in clusters of 6. Found in various grades, no proofs lately seen.

Other varieties are possible.

The coins of this design — as adopted in 1859 — have long been more popular than the other transitionals, even though less rare. Like the others, they have tended to find their way into date sets of regular issues, by analogy with the 1856 Flying Eagle cent, 1836 Gobrecht design half dollar, 1863 2¢ of adopted type, 1882 Liberty head nickel of adopted type, 1865 silver coins with motto, 1865 shield nickel with rays, etc. On Nov. 4, 1858 Mint Director James Ross Snowden wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury, Howell Cobb, recommending this particular design, and proposing to adopt it as of Jan. 1, 1859, should the Secretary approve, which he did. The reason for selection of this particular obverse-reverse combination was a good technical one. When the highest relief parts of obverse and reverse designs are opposite each other on the coin, neither one will strike up well using single blows from the usual knuckle-action presses (as in business strikes); Flying Eagle cents, despite their aesthetic merits, usually were rather poorly struck up on parts of head and tail of eagle, as those areas were directly opposite relief areas of wreath. The "Indian head" design obverse was laid out in such a way that the relief areas were more spread out and did not directly oppose those on the (lower relief) wreath reverses. Probably Snowden's motive in striking extra quantities of the "Indian"/laurel wreath transitional design was to provide tangible evidence both of good design and of excellent striking qualities both on steam press (unc.) and on screw press (proofs).

**Trime.** Heavy date. Point of star nearer to first 8 than to 5, above r. edge of 8. Striae slant slightly down (they fade). Dies more brilliantly polished than on former proofs of this denomination. Rev.: Right corner of third I joins knob and leaf tip. Doublings as on 1856-7 die. Probably three to four dozen specimens survive at most out of an original mintage in the neighborhood of 60-75. Many of these have been cleaned, some drastically. The Delp — 1975 ANA: 98 example brought \$1200, the Newlin-Garrett coin \$1600.

**Half Dimes.** \*V-8. Date rather low and slanting slightly down; 8's have a rather soft, indefinite appearance, as does lower part of the 5. Shield point above serif of 1, slightly r. of tip; skirt pendant over r. tip of 5; left base of 1 above left edge of denticle. Rev.: Die file mark between IC. Lettering is comparatively light. ANS ex Morgan, Brock proof set; MacMurray: 1011-12; Holmes:2642; Cass — "Empire":688, Golden II:2681; Scanlon:592: 1975 ANA:177exDelp:764; LM9/68:192, DGP, etc.

— \*V-4A. Date higher, about central in exergual space; shield point well to left of tip of 1, skirt pendant left of tip of 5, left base of 1 r. of center of dentil. Rev. File mark or crack (?) from second T of STATES to rim. Much rarer, one of these seen for every 5 or 6 of the V-8. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Bullowa, May 1952. (3) Garrett: 114, \$850, S.B.Y. The Newcomb coin, exhibited at ANS 1914, may have been from these dies.

Total population of 1858 half dime proofs probably about equal to that of trimes; in fact, there is little difference among any of these silver denominations except for the dollar.



#### 1858 Dime. Ex Merkin June 1970:115

**Dime.** \*Low date, die lapped between elbow of pole arm and body, second 8 heavy. Rev. Die scratch from r. corner of left top of M of AMERICA to border. (1) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (2) LM 4/66:164, H.W., 1971 ANA:681, Reed Hawn:722. (3, 4) MacMurray: 1192-3. (5) "Dupont": 1596. (6) Scanlon:696. (7) Essex Institute:503. (8) Aulick (Cogan 4/12/83):201, Garrett:139, \$900, A. F. L.; others. Many survivors have been poorly cleaned. Same comment as in preceding paragraph about rarity.

**Quarter.** \*Base of 1 double (fades); polish at lower part of elbow drapery and near shield, traces of rust. Rev. Very faint striae slant slightly up to r., die file marks at ED IC. About as rare as the dime. (1) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (2) Dr. Conway Bolt:528. (3)

Wolfson:821. (4) Copeland — Scanlon:992. (5) Ruby I:1192, late state. (6) Garrett:166, \$1300; others. Also found poorly cleaned. Most survivors show lint marks (die poorly wiped or full of static electricity).



#### 1858 Half dollar. Low date. Ex QS 11/76:906

**Half Dollar.** Level date, called "low date," slightly below center of exergual space; left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge of dentil and slightly nearer to it than top of 1 is to rocky base. Full drapery, foot supported, toe lightly enclosed; small unfinished area between chin and nearest part of shoulder. Rev. No clash mark in shield; fairly lightly impressed lettering, adjacent letters do not join, beak thin and wide open (lapped die?), bottom of 3rd stripe incomplete, two spurs from r. edge of 5th, etc. Many survivors have been poorly cleaned. Most show lint marks, as made. Somewhat fewer auction records of this denomination than of the dollar of the smaller silver. Cf. "Gilhausen": 1022; 1974 GENA: 1586; Garrett:228, \$1900, E. E. Many other records but mostly unattributed.

— Two or three seen with clashmark in shield, normal stripes, but same obverse die. Cf. Reed Hawn: 197 at \$900, Miles: 1335 — Scanlon: 1464, hairlined; S 5/68: 1475.

— High date, 5 almost touches base, shield point slightly r. of left edge of 8, left base of 1 as on last; foot not supported. Rev.: File marks slant up in pairs in left two white stripes. 1975 ANA: 607.

\***Silver Dollar.** Only the one obverse. \*B-1: Rev. of 1857 B-2 (1975 ANA: 1082, others).

— \*B-2. Rev. of 1859. Traces of inner circle at beads above UNI. Claws touch, two lower arrowheads touch shafts; often, depressed mark (from foreign matter on die) in field near beak — thought a restrike by Stuart Mosher, though evidence is incomplete. This reverse remained rusting in the mint until 1876! 1975 ANA: 1083, many others. Long estimated to have been about 80 struck, this estimate originating apparently with the Chapman brothers of Philadelphia, who had it *supposedly* from mint sources (Patterson DuBois?). As the Chapmans began in 1877 as teen-age dealers under the tutelage of Capt. John W. Haseltine, knowing DuBois and presumably remaining in close contact with Haseltine's father-in-law (and silent liaison with the surreptitious element at the mint) William Idler, I take this estimate slightly more seriously than I would later ones, as it is close in time and place to the source. The majority of the 80, if that be the

correct number, still survive, many of them cleaned, some drastically so, a few quite seriously impaired.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** Quite a few of these are in existence, but the suspicion is always present that they were assembled later. Many were broken up at auction, even as with the complete proof sets. Probably 60 to 70 were originally made, with extras of the silver dollar and — oddly, as mentioned — the cent. Cf. Scanlon: 1290 at \$8,500, cent with large letters; Chapman 3/1/30, Phila. Estate, likewise.



**1858 Gold dollar. Normal small letters. Ex Woodin, Boyd (enlarged)**

**Gold Dollar.** \*B-4: date very heavy, low, near bows; second 8 and adjacent leaf normal, not recut. Less than 12 known today — a liberal estimate; several of these are impaired, usually nicked or scratched rather than merely cleaned. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set. (2) ANS, ex Morgan, ex Brock proof set. (3) Eliasberg, ex Clapp, 1942. (4) WGC: 13, probably from Woodin: 863. This may have reappeared as "Memorable": 13 and Lohr: 971 or Melish: 1762, latter to N.Y. Specialist. Modern pedigrees are all but untraceable on these proofs. (5) Philadelphia Estate, ex Mehl sale 12/12/39: 667. (6) Brock, University of Pennsylvania, P. H. Ward. (7) Jay: 224-Scanlon: 1950 at \$4,500. This, and/or nos. 4 or 6 reappeared as Ullmer: 365 at \$22,000; "Huge wire edge", border spots at lower r. (8) T. James Clarke, ca. 1944, Geiss: 1338, possibly same as last.



**1858 Gold Dollar. Large letters. (Enlarged) Ex an 1858 gold proof set, Randall, Morgan, ANS**

— \*Large letters. Really a pattern or experimental piece, by A.C. Paquet after Longacre, but as the discovery specimen (Judd 224) is in ANS, ex J. Pierpont Morgan (1908), not originally distinguished from the regular issues, it is possible that other examples might be discovered identified only as "1858 proof gold dollar". Larger head in lower relief, placed

lower in field; larger broad-faced letters in legend; heavier rim and borders; rev. broader faced 1, taller letters in DOLLAR similar to the style of obv. lettering, broad faced numerals in lower relief. This coin is probably ex J. Colvin Randall, Philadelphia; lot 472 of E. Cogan's sale of March 29, 1882, as part of an 1858 proof set! Note also that Ben G. Green's 1902 *Numismatic Reference and Check Book* lists the variety, not as a pattern, but as a rare variety of regular issue; possibly he had seen the piece. Pictured in Judd and in Howland Wood: *The Gold Dollars of 1858*. . . ANS, N.N.&M. 12, 1922.



**1858 Quarter Eagle. Ex Merkin, Sept. 1967**

**Quarter Eagle.** Date high, to left, as on one variety of business strikes. Chapman claimed that only five proofs were extant. This was a very reasonable guess. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg, ex Clapp. (4) Brand-Ira Reed-Gaskill: 294. (5) Ex Woodin: 1000, ex Parmelee. One of these reappeared in LM 9/67:334. There is also at least one impaired piece which was offered to me many years ago, and at least one more (possibly 2 or 3) in reasonably choice state.

**Three Dollars.** \*B-2. Obv. differs from 1856-7 proofs: serifs of (M)E very thin; three minute die file marks from back of head. Incomplete feather on forward edge of headdress. Rev. Date slants down to r., as on business strikes. (1) SI. (2) ANS, ex Brock, Morgan. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:396, \$14,000. (5) Boston Museum of Fine Arts, 1976 ANA:2886, \$12,000. (6) Wolfson:282. (7) Grant Pierce:1244, C. Jay:276, impaired. (8) Merkin 11/65:322, impaired, poorly cleaned. Cf. also KS 4/59:2636. One of the choice ones is presumably ex Parmelee: 1293, Woodin, and /or WGC:273, "Memorable":244. Three or four others are floating around, at least one in a complete set (minus the 1870 S of course), whose proofs begin with the 1858. The existence of more ones and threes than other gold proofs of this and some subsequent years suggests that a market for those individual denominations existed over and above the market for proof sets: ones because the smallest denominations, suitable for souvenir hunters, Christmas lists, and collectors unwilling or unable to afford complete sets; threes because of the very unusual denomination.

**Half Eagle.** \*Date high, close to device — unusually



so. (1) SI, ex Mint. (2) ANS, from Brock, Morgan set. (3) Ten Eyck:224, Clapp, Eliasberg. (4) Parmelee: 1292, Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:412, "Memorable":359, unknown intermediates, Ullmer:446, \$60,000, apparently the piece now in the Mocatta Metals reference collection, exhibited at 1976 ANA.



**1858 Eagle.** Ex Mint, Parmelee, Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Dr. Green, Amon Carter colls.

**Eagle.** \*B-1. Normal die, curls at back of neck join neckline. Date large, a little r. of center (logotype as on half dollar), r. edge of final 8 almost in line with r. corner of truncation. (1) SI, from Mint. (2) ANS, from Brock, Morgan set, supposedly obtained from the Mint in 1858; to Morgan in 1908. (3) Mint, Parmelee, Parmelee: 1292, Woodin: 1223, Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:663, Dr. Green:530, Amon Carter, Amon Carter Jr. (4) Jewett:847, Col. Green, not since traced. The 9 or 10 business strikes — mostly well circulated — are from the B-2 dies: incomplete curls at back of neck, disconnected; 1 minutely above center of space between bust and border, its left base a little left of center of dentil; rev. TEN D. heavier than other letters, field striae slanting south-southeast.

**Double Eagle.** Left base of 1 about over left side of dentil; final 8 apparently a little farther from border than is 1, but these positions may not be diagnostic. (1) SI, ex Mint. (2) ANS, ex Mint, Brock, Morgan. (3) Parmelee: 1291, Woodin: 1359, Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:861, "Memorable":684, present whereabouts unknown. No fourth specimen is reported.

**Complete proof sets.** The \$46 price tag seems to have kept demand way down. Parmelee had a set, which was broken up (lots 1291 — 1301). Brock's set is preserved in ANS via the Morgan bequest, but it is distributed in date sets of individual denominations. The Mint's own set is preserved in the Smithsonian. There is no evidence of a fourth — because no fourth double eagle has ever been reported. This is not too enthusiasm-provoking a result for even the first year of widespread public sale; proof gold was caviar then as now. After the financial panic of 1857, evidently few collectors were willing to risk tying up their capital in proof gold coins.



**1859 Cent.** Leaves in clusters of 6. Ex Wayte Raymond Cent.

Laurel wreath reverse; only year of this design on a large scale. Date rather low, well away from bust; numerals fairly thin and shallow; left base of 1 about over space between dentils, but this position is not diagnostic. Minute doubling on feathers, curls at r., and ribbon only (possibly not constant). Narrow rim breaks later develop from 5:00 leftward to 11:00. Rev. Leaves in clusters of 6 (may also exist with the 1858 prototype die having leaves in clusters of 5?). Later, die defects join ribbons to borders. All details sharper than on business strikes, including especially ends of feathers, diamond-shaped ornaments on obv. ribbon, all edges of leaves and berries. Borders broad, rims sharp, dentils completely distinct from borders. Few authentic proofs are available, though one would expect an unusually large number because first year of a new design; probably they met with the fate of the eagle cent proofs. Many deceptive early business strikes survive; they normally fail somewhere in sharpness or have borders blurring into rounded rims. ANS's, from the Brock, Morgan proof set, is a good comparison example. Auction records in recent years range from \$475 to \$825 depending on quality, with a high water mark of \$1,000 for a lintmarked piece in the Austin sale. Do as many as forty survive?

— Transitional piece, exact type adopted in 1860, with oak wreath and shield; several hundred survive in uncirculated, very few indeed in proof — I have, I think, seen one proof in the last 23 years, which may give you some idea: LM 6/71:877. Judd 228, AW312.

**Trime.** New design: narrow double outlines to star, small narrow letters closely spaced. Apparently two die varieties found on proofs, possibly more. Neil: 1777 is described as having star point above (curved top of) 5, the ANS coin and dozens of others have this point above extreme left corner of 5 with upper letters light (lapped die); rev. with clash marks. Not much more often seen than the 1858; total population for each denomination save the dollar also evidently less than 100 and probably less than 60, this presumably representing the majority of the original mintage.

**Half Dime.** New obverse hub: larger sharp pointed stars with hollow centers, taller Liberty seated with smaller cap, larger word LIBERTY, shield upright, slimmer arms, etc. V-1: Bases of 1 59 show recutting,



particularly 1 and 9 (logotype twice punched in, slightly obliquely or slanting up at first, then corrected to more level position). Compare Neil: 1661, NN 34: 492, Bullowa May 1952, Eliasberg, etc. This appears to be scarcer than the other variety in proof. The recutting on 5 wears down to microscopic level.

— V-2. Skirt pendant slightly left of tip of 5 (whereas in V-1 it is above the tip). Earliest examples show recutting on bases of 18, though this fades as the die wears down or is repolished. Date is placed slightly lower in field, a little below center. Rev.: Rust spot on left upright of U. Neil: 1660, Eliasberg, ANS and many others. This is the variety more often seen in proof.

Total population of the two varieties appears to be about equal to that of the trimes.

\*"Transitional" half dime and dime: see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

**Dime.** \*B-2. Centered date, 9 slightly farther from border than 1, left base of 1 over r. edge, pendant nearly over r. tip. ANS; LM 4/66:166, H. W., 1971 ANA:682; 1974 GENA:1304; others. About as rare as smaller silver.



**1859 Quarter. Ex QS 11/76:652**

**Quarter.** Date about centered, shield point minutely r. of r. upright, left base of 1 over center. Rev. Thin stripes, left line of 4th to second line of azure. ANS; SI; Eliasberg; WGC:197; others. About as scarce as smaller silver.

**Half Dollar.** New rev. hub, found on Philadelphia halves 1859-65, S mints 1862-66 no motto (earlier 0 and S coins were made with leftover 1858-60 revs.). Claws minutely shorter, sharper; shafts and arrowheads slenderer, letters thinner. At least three varieties:

First. Centered date slants minutely down; dot above peak of 1; shield point over r. foot, left base of 1 over r. edge. 1975 ANA:612.

Second. Date slightly high, 9 more noticeably; file marks over TES; r. line of 1st, 5th and 6th stripes into azure.



**1859 Half Dollar. Third variety. Ex QS 11/76:909**

Third. Low date slants up, dash just left of left top of 1, left base of 1 slightly left of center. Rev. Unpolished area between two arrowheads. Discovered by Jack Collins. QS 11/76:909. Most records are unattributed, many of poorly cleaned coins (e.g. Bauman's); Garrett:229, \$1050. About as rare as the quarter.



**1859 Silver Dollar. Ex QS 11/76:1134**

**Silver Dollar.** \*B-1. Base of 1 repunched. Rev. of 1858 B-2, now worn and repolished, though without the rust found on its 1876 reuse with pattern obvs. At least one other minor positional variety is possible. Garrett:277 brought \$1,800. A few more of these are around (mostly cleaned) than of the smaller denomination, reflecting mint policy 1858-60 of coining more proof dollars in expectation of a larger market for this denomination (among souvenir hunters, etc.) than for smaller denominations or for complete silver-minor sets. The much criticized policy of Mint Director Snowden whereby he sold individual silver dollars at \$1.08 apiece appears to reflect nothing more nor less than sales of individual proofs to the public, the 8¢ premium representing a proofing charge levied on individual dollars or on sets. Note that from 1861 on, according to the *Mint Cabinet Accounts and Memoranda 1857-1904* notebook now in custody of the Smithsonian, even the Mint Cabinet itself was charged this same 8¢ premium for yearly proof sets above their face value!

**Silver-minor proof sets.** These were probably first struck prior to February 21, 1859. A notation of this date in the above mentioned *Mint Cabinet Accounts and Memoranda 1857-1904* gives: "Feb. 21, 1859. \$119.67 specie, U.S. Coins of 1859, and sundries". These evidently included a complete proof set of the year (q.v. below) and seventy-odd dollars' worth of

unspecified coins, mineral samples, etc. Aside from that in Phila. Estate ex Hesslein, June 1923:1470, the existing silver-minor sets appear for the most part to have been assembled from individual coins — a curious state of affairs, as it were attempting to make time run backwards, as many of the original sets distributed by the mint were promptly broken up, the individual coins going into denomination sets. It is thus as yet impossible to guess whether the V-1 or the V-2 half dime came earlier in the year, though examination of the half dime proof in the Smithsonian might give a clue. The number of such sets made is unknown as yet, though evidently of the order of magnitude of 60-70 — perhaps slightly more than 1858, certainly less than 100.

**Gold Dollar.** First feather incomplete; dentils apart except near bottom; polish near eye, below ear; bold date as on 5¢, low, 18 repunched. (1) SI. (2) kANS. (3) Lohr:972. (4) Jay:227, ex Wolfson:41, left obv. field hairlines. (5) WGC:14. This or no. 3 may have reappeared in the 1965 PNG auction. (6) Melish:1769, Sloss. (7) Philadelphia Estate, ex NN 12/12/40, with plainly recut date. I would estimate that not more than 15 survive, and this probably represents the majority of the original mintage. Cf. also S 2/71: 771 at \$915 (Gilbert collection). NB: The copper and copper gilt Paquet type dollars are of far inferior workmanship to those of 1858; genuineness doubted, no gold known.

**Quarter Eagle.** Date low in field, whereas 1 is midway between bust and border on business strikes. New reverse hub: letters slightly smaller, spaced a little farther apart; arrowheads smaller. This hub appears on all subsequent Philadelphia coins of the design; branch mint reverses through 1865 are from the old (1840-58) hub because they are in fact leftover dies of previous years. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint proof set. (2) ANS, from Brock, Morgan proof set. (3) Atwater: 1963. (4) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., same as last? (5) WGC, to "Memorable": 118. Either of the last two may have reappeared as Wolfson: 179, possibly ex J. F. Bell. It is doubtful if more than 8 survive, possibly less. One of these is ex Col. Cohen: 227.



1859 Three Dollars. Ex Boyd, WGC:274

**Three Dollars.** [35+] \*B-3. Obverse same die as 1858 proofs. Rev.: Plain recutting on top of 1 and r.

side of 9, repolished state of B-1. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) WGC:274 to "Memorable": 245, possibly same as next. (5) Wolfson: 283 at \$1,200, reappearing as Grant Pierce: 1245 at \$1,300, later C. Jay: 277, Ullmer: 212 at \$9,000. (6) 1974 GENA: 1868, lower left obv. field nick. (7) Garrett: 397 at \$10,000. The actual mintage is not known but was at least 35 as that number of examples was sold at the mint — per R. W. Julian. I have also seen several impaired proofs of this date. One is ex Col. Cohen: 233.

**Half Eagle.** Date low in field, smaller than in former years. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) WGC: 413, possibly reappearing as "Memorable": 360, Kern: 383? In the same rarity class with the quarter eagle, possibly a little rarer? One is ex Col. Cohen: 180; another (?) ex Morgenthau 418:62 (10/9/40).

**Eagle.** Date rather thin and low in field. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) WGC:664. (4) Atwater: 1437, possibly later Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (5) Ex L. Merkin. (6) Kern:507, Rapoport:2095, Wolfson:675, cleaned to death. (7) KS 2/60:2790, probably same as no. 3 or 5. (8) Ten Eyck:289, Clapp, Eliasberg?

**Double Eagle.** Date low in field. New obverse hub: JBL much further to left, not below curls; 6th star points to left side of denticle, more of Y shows but without recutting, 11th star farther from curls, etc. There are also differences in shape of truncation and in some details of lower and back curls. Working dies from this obverse hub continued through 1876. (1) SI. (2) Ten Eyck:314, Clapp, Eliasberg? (3) ANS. (4) WGC:862, possibly reappearing as "Memorable":685, possibly ex Parmelee:1302. (5) Atwater: 1251. (6) The specimen in the first Bell sale, 1944. Any of the last three might have been the coin sold as Wolfson:869, and/or Menjou: 1797. One is ex Morgenthau 418:364(10/9/40). For long only four were believed to be known.

**Complete proof sets.** Struck around or prior to Feb. 21, by the line of reasoning given under *Silver-minor proof sets* above, in very limited quantity. (1) Mint Cabinet collection, now in Smithsonian. (2) Mint to R.C.W. Brock to J. Pierpont Morgan to ANS (1908). (3) Mint to L. G. Parmelee, broken up and resold as Parmelee: 1302-1306, H. P. Smith buying the coins in for unidentified customers. Daily records of gold coinage from 1858 through 1873, furnished me by R. W. Julian from the Archives, afford only slim grounds for conjecture. It is barely possible that the odd 13 (of 1513) double eagles minted Jan. 22, 1859 might have been proofs: no more twenties were coined prior to the date when the mint cabinet obtained its proof set. Some 3398 eagles were minted on Feb. 16, which might have included 13 proofs; likewise 2793 half eagles, Jan. 22, same comment; 12,518 quarter eagles, Feb. 18, with perhaps 18 proofs. But when applied to the ones and threes this notion breaks down. Threes were first reported coined Feb. 25 and the

mint cabinet had its proof before that date. Gold dollars: 24,535, Feb. 3, which might conceivably have meant 24,500 regulars and 35 proofs, but there is no supporting evidence; odd amounts recur in later months which could conceivably have included proofs of both ones and threes. If even as many as 13 complete sets had been struck, probably the unsold ones found their way to the Melter & Refiner even as did later unsold sets. Granting that hypothesis, the number originally minted might have been still higher: note the numbers of gold proofs minted in April 1860, based on *some* sort of expectation of sales based on previous years. Possibly, then, as many as 50 to 70 complete gold proof sets might have been made, with somewhat larger numbers of the quarter eagle, still more of the three and yet more of the one dollar gold; silver-minor sets in perhaps double the number of the complete gold. In which case the survivors would represent, as in later years, only a minority of the original mintage. But all of this is necessarily conjectural, pending discovery in the Archives of any sales records of proofs for 1859. A difficulty in the hypothesis of larger original mintages is that conditions changed after 1860: specie payments were suspended, fewer collectors were around and able to buy gold proofs, etc.

## 1860

**Cent.** [1000+, net 542+] Indian head, oak wreath and shield. Design standard through 1909. The limited number of proofs seen of this rare issue come from the first hub (1859-60) showing pointed truncation, though conceivably proofs may exist made later in the year (the plus mark above), some even from working dies sunk from the second hub (1861-64 no L): rounded end of truncation. The 1860 proof cent is rare though not quite in a class with 1859. Only a few dozen can be traced, and recent sales records of unimpeachable proofs are extremely few, mostly not recent enough to give a fair idea of valuations. Numerous deceptive first strikes are in collections, as with 1859 and some of the other copper-nickel issues. Authenticating purported proofs is a nightmarish task. Comparison with one known to be genuine, such as that in ANS, is the safest procedure. Obverse rim (outside beaded border) is wider on the real proofs than on the 1859's or for that matter the business strikes of this year; its outer and inner edges are sharp. Mere presence of a partial knife-rim or "wire edge" is *not* sufficient, as ordinary uncirculated pieces have been seen with this feature. Some 514 were sold with the sets, plus at least 28 individually = 542, the rest melted.

**Trime.** [1000, net 538+] The silver proofs of this year were struck March 8th. Rather heavy date, bases of 18 a little lighter than remaining numerals. Survivors represent only a small minority of the original mintage. Some 538 sold (514 in sets as with

other denominations), the rest melted.

**Half Dime.** [1000, net 535+] New design: modified Liberty seated figure, legend around it rather than stars. Rev.: Newlin's wreath of cereals enclosing value, this design the only survivor of the abortive 1859 pattern half dollars. V-3; heavy numerals, placed a little below center of exergual space, but level; shield point well to left of 1, left base of 1 almost over r. edge, pendant about over center of 6. Rev.: right end of ribbon barely clear of wreath. Other varieties may exist. ANS, Eliasberg, Smithsonian, Bullowa, May 1952 and many others. Some 535 sold, the rest melted. Same comment as to trimes but apparently more exist of the half dime than of the trime. For comment on the "transitional" see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

**Dime.** [1000, net 527+] Design identical to that on half dime. Thin rev. letters. Same comment. Some 527 sold, rest melted. Two obv. hubs:

Type I (1860-61): Almost none of third red stripe from right shows above LIBERTY scroll. The proof die from this hub has centered date, rather heavy, slanting minutely down; shield point well to left of 1, left base of 1 over left edges, pendant above left center of 6. Other dies may exist.

Type II (1860-91): Considerably more of third red stripe from right shows above scroll. This is rarer.

**Quarter.** [1000, net 542] New obv. hub: double hair ribbon, fingers more curved around pole, index finger longer; claws shorter. Possibly a little harder to find than the half dime or dime. Low date, shield point over r. edge of upright of 1, left base of 1 r. of center. Some 542 sold, rest melted.

**Half Dollar.** [1000, net 525] New rev. hub, showing much less of feather tip left of stem; tops of LF distant, whereas on the old hub (which was still in use for S mint coins) tops of LF almost touch. \*Beistle 1-A. High date, somewhat rounded contours on figures unlike those of 1859; some doubling on most stars. Rev. Traces of doubling on UNITED and HALF DOL.: are these constant? Possibly a little less often seen than the quarter. Some 525 sold of both varieties, rest melted.



**1860 Half Dollar. Low date. Ex QS 11/76:912**

\*Low date, normal stars, shield point about over left edge of 8, left base of 1 about over left edge, same reverse. QS11/76:912, others. Which is scarcer?

**Silver Dollar.** [1330, net 527] Revs, from now on are different working dies from previous years; same hub. \*B-1. Horizontal marks in stripes 5, 6, 7. Shield point midway tip and upright, left base of 1 over r. edge. The extra 330 minted over and above the 1000 for sets, all on March 8, appear to have anticipated extra demand for silver dollars by souvenir hunters not wishing to buy complete sets. This did not materialize. Some 527 sold, the rest melted.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** [1000, net 514] Minted March 8. Sales records are very incomplete, though R. W. Julian mentions a record of sales from March 1860 through March 1861, dated 1860: 514 sets (cent through dollar), plus 13 extra dollars, 11 extra halves, 18 extra quarters, over 13 extra dimes, over 21 extra half dimes, over 24 extra trimes, over 28 extra cents. Apparently not all the 1000 sets minted were sold as sets — only a few hundred as in later years. Hardly surprising, then, that many of the extant 1860 silver proofs are found only as individual coins — even aside from the common practice of breaking up sets. Extant surviving sets are mostly assembled, though that from Elder 7/5/30 in Phila. Estate may be original. Inasmuch as the dime and half dime represent new designs, a larger number of proofs could have been expected, though no evidence of extra coinage is extant. More likely, a larger number of individual dimes and half dimes went to the public from among the 1000 sets — resulting in a smaller number of sets available for sale, and probably a larger number of unsold cents, trimes, quarters and half dollars melted down in 1861 or 1862.



**1860 Gold Dollar. Ex Merkin, Oct. 1973:464**

**Gold Dollar.** [154] B-2, date low in field, far from DOLLAR. Between 20 and 30 survivors are thought to exist, four impounded: (1) SI, (2) ANS, (3) Eliasberg, (4) Phila. Estate ex 1941 ANA:599. This is the earliest date of gold dollar that shows up in proof as often as every year.

**Quarter Eagle.** [112] \*Date slants down to r., 1 slightly nearer bust than border, 0 nearer border than 1 (as on one var. of nonproofs), left base of 1 over left edge of dentil; rev. central stripes thin, attenuated, especially third and fourth stripes in middle and lower regions. Much rarer than the gold dollar, probably many being melted; several survivors are impaired. (1) SI, ex Mint. (2) ANS. (3) Brand, Ira Reed, Gaskill, NN 48:299 to the book. (4) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC: 128,

"Memorable": 119. (5) Atwater:1964, obv. field nick, possibly the coin reappearing in Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (6) Brand-Lichtenfels I:1038. (7) Golden I:2282. (8) Pelletreau:319, cleaned. (9) S 5/68:745, Scanlon:2086, Breen II:74, nick before nose, rubbed spot behind head. The following records are thought to be duplications of some of the above: (10) Ullmer:346, \$4,100; (11) "Westchester": 1360; (12) QS 9/73:1055; (13) Wolfson:182-Jay:231; (14) Melish: 1247. The ultimate source of a couple of these: Bell I. Illustrations forbid any more complete tracing of pedigrees. In all between 20 and 30 are thought to survive.

**Three Dollars.** [119] \*B-2. Upright of 1 wholly below left serif of L; partial slight extra outlines at r. ribbon and parts of r. wreath; minute spine down from jaw. The proofs were minted April 5, the 7,035 B-1's for circulation Jan. 31. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Wolfson:284, possibly same as next? (5) Grant Pierce: 1246, Jay:278, Breen I:113, \$4,000, few lint marks. Plus at least a dozen others, several being impaired.

**Half Eagle.** [62] Very low date. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Atwater:1681. (4) Flanagan: 1138, J. F. Bell. (5) Ullmer:447 at \$7,500, probably one of last two. (6) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. One ex Morgenthau 418:63 (10/9/40). Probably less than 12 surviving though more should be.

**Eagle.** [50] \*B-1. Low thin date. Not over ten specimens traced. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) ANS. (3) Atwater: 1438, possibly Amon Carter. (4) WGC:665, possibly same as next. (5) "Memorable": 559. (6) KS 2/60: 2790; same as one of last three?, cloudy. The others, including Wolfson: 678 and several impaired pieces, would be all but impossible to lay hands on now.

**Double Eagle.** [59] Date centrally placed, i.e. numeral 1 about centered between bust and border, but the logotype slopes down to right, the zero nearer border than is 1. Date shallow, lightly punched into die. The Smithsonian coin has not been checked. (1) ANS. (2) Wolfson: 872. (3) Atwater; 1252. (4) Lusk-Leonard (Mehl 12/9/30), Alto:418 (12/70). Ullmer: 521 at \$24,000. (5) Baldenhofer: 1521, apparently from a different obverse die: date looks low, nearer border and more boldly logotyped. WGC lacked the date in proof. Probably less than 10 survive in all.

**Gold proof sets.** [30+] All the gold proofs were delivered April 5. At least 30 were sold in sets, some of the lower denominations as individual coins, the remainder unsold being melted in January 1862 per R. W. Julian. There are not now 30 proofs extant of any of the higher denominations. What this indicates is that some of the remaining sets were given the usual treatment — division by their recipients, the individual coins being filed by denomination. Significance of mintage of gold proofs almost a month

after the silver-minor sets is uncertain.

**Complete proof sets.** The Mint Cabinet obtained its complete proof set on March 19 — an unrecorded special striking? This received no special comment in the Mint Cabinet Accounts book, only a charge of \$48.64 specie for these coins and a Bechtler half eagle (at \$5.12, included in the named amount). The only other complete original set known: ANS, ex Mint, Brock, Morgan.

## 1861

**Cent.** [1000+, net 400-] Rather heavy date. Scarcer than the mintage suggests, and many marketed as proofs are in fact early business strikes. Same comment as to 1860. Actual number surviving unknown but unlikely to be more than a couple of hundred, possibly only a little over 100. By April 30, 1861, some 134 had been sold from the mint, out of the mintage executed April 15. With and without small arc-shaped (convex upward) mark at top obv. border; left base of 1 over center, r. base of final 1 over space.

**Trime.** [1000, net 400-] Heavy date, well away from star point. Light die file marks at top and right obv. borders. Some 139 sold by April 30. In a rarity class with the 1860; survivors are only a minority of the original mintage. Fewer known than of 1862 and later years despite the mintage.

**Half Dime.** [1000, net 400-] V-1. Date almost centered, skirt pendant above knob of 6, left base of 1 about over left edge of denticle. Rev.: Right end of ribbon clear. The majority of surviving proofs are from these dies. Cf. ANS, Landau: 395, etc.

— \*Not in V. Date too far right: skirt pendant over left curves of 6, left base of 1 above center of denticle, both ends of ribbon well clear (lapped die). Eliasberg; Merkin 9/68: 199. This is much rarer.

Total population probably only a couple of hundred at most. Some 132 sold as of April 30, 1861.

**Dime.** [1000, net 400-] Type II (see 1860). Letters slightly heavier than 1860. One variety lacks rust pit on I of UNITED; high date, pendant over inner left curve of 6: e.g. that in Lester Merkin's April 1966 sale at \$110; without and (ANS) with rust pit on right upright of M in DIME. The other variety, very similar, has rust pit on I and perfect reverse die. Total population probably a little less than the half dime. Many examples are poorly cleaned.

**Quarter.** [1000, net 400-] New rev. hub: pupil of eye in relief. Low date, shield point minutely r. of r. upright of 1, left base of 1 left of center, r. base of 1 over left edge. Rarer than the dime; many examples are cleaned or impaired.

**Half Dollar.** [1000, net 400-] Date very slightly above center of exergual space, shield point minutely left of 8, left base of first 1 over left edge, r. base of last 1 over center. Beistle 1-A. Rarer than the quarter; doubtful if as many as 100 survive. This obv. was

reused on the first (original) GOD OUR TRUST patterns.

**Silver Dollar.** [1000, net 400-] \*B-1: Rather shallow date, minutely below center. Shield point minutely left of upright of first 1, base of first 1 r. of center of denticle, r. base of final 1 left of center of denticle. Rev.: Heavily impressed, arrows almost touch each other; small rough spot (unpolished) between upper and central pairs of leaves; later, cracked, rim to period, arrows. B-2: The same obv. was also used on proofs and coins for circulation with a different reverse, having arrows spaced well apart; and (\*B-3) with a third, having arrowheads heavily touching shafts. Relative scarcity unknown. Some 127 of each of the upper silver denominations sold by April 30; between 300 and 400 sets in all.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** [1000] All struck April 15. Probably only three to four hundred in all sold as sets, others as individual coins, the remainder (at least 600 sets, per R. W. Julian) melted in 1862. Despite the large mintage, the 1861 coins are all considerably rarer than those of 1862 or 63 or 64 with their mintages of perhaps half the size. One in Phila. Estate ex Hesslein 6/23:1472.

**Gold Dollar.** [349] B-5. Low date. Very rare, less than twenty now being traced, including SI and ANS coins, a few of them impaired (e.g. the Low-Wisner coin in NN 34: 12). Cf. 1974 ANA: 805 (cleaned) at \$2,100.

**Quarter Eagle.** [90] Date placed well to left of its usual position, last 1 farther from border than first 1. Very rare, much more so than the gold dollar. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) Gaskill — NN 48: 302 — R. Picker for an unidentified collector. (4) Atwater: 1965. (5) WGC — "Memorable": 120, possibly ex Woodin: 1003. Among these may have been the coins reappearing as Wolfson: 185, and/or Golden I: 2283, and /or Ullmer 347. Do as many as a dozen survive?

**Three Dollars.** [113] Coined April 5. \*B-2: Obv. brilliantly polished, without vertical striae. Rev.: Rather thin letters but not the die found on business strikes. Date a little nearer ribbon bows than DOLLARS and sloping slightly down to r.; leaves adjacent to date are intact though thin. Very rare. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Wolfson: 186 at \$1,700, reappearing as Grant Pierce: 1248 at \$2,200, Phila. Estate. (5) Ullmer: 367 at \$4,500. Probably less than 10 surviving.

**Half Eagle.** [66-] \*B-2: Low heavy date. Rev.: Attenuated spiny tail feathers. Very rare. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) WGC—"Memorable": 361. (5) Atwater: 1682, small spot on rev. border. (6) Elder 6/1/37:496. Phila. Estate. At least 10 melted, Jan. 1862.

**Eagle.** [69] Two die varieties. B-7: Date low in field, near border; no die file marks at 7th star. (1) ANS, ex J. P. Morgan, from Brock proof set, from

Mint in 1861. (2) Dr. Judd, Illustrated History: 136. Reddish rim tone. (3) 1976 ANA:3088, \$9000.

— \*B-1. Date about centrally placed, first 1 midway bust and border, second 1 much nearer border (date slopes down). The die used on GOD OUR TRUST patterns. I have seen at least two from this obverse. The coin in the Smithsonian has not been checked for die variety.

Total population possibly about the same as for the half eagle or even less.

**Double Eagle.** [66] Date about central, from the silver dollar logotype. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Atwater: 1253. (5) WGC: 864, reappearing as "Memorable": 686. One of the last two is presumably Wolfson: 875.

**Gold proof sets.** [60+] All the gold proofs were delivered April 5; note that this was ten days before the silver and minor proofs were made. Some of these remained unsold along with, probably, the majority of the extra gold proofs of the three lowest denominations, and the unsold coins were sent to the Melter & Refiner in January 1862. Cf. M. A. Brown: 98 (Chapman, 4/97), ex Cleneay, ex Col. Cohen (1875).

**Complete proof sets.** [60+?] Very few survive. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint Cabinet collection, obtained from Coiner, Sept. 24, 1861 at \$43.52 specie (=face + 8¢ proofing charge). (2) Mint to R. C. W. Brock to J. Pierpont Morgan to ANS, 1908. Parmelee's was broken up, the \$20 going to Woodin, the smaller gold and silver-minor sets to the auctioneers for unnamed customers. It is unlikely that as many as six sets could be assembled today even given unlimited funds.

## 1862

**Cent.** [550+] Rather light numerals with thin serifs; left base of 1 r. of left edge; rev. spine down from r. pendant of T. Other dies may exist. Same comment as to 1861. More of these survive than of 1860-61, despite the smaller mintages. A hoard is known.

**Trime.** [550-] Numerals lightly logotyped into die, away from star point, which aims minutely left of 6, microscopic scattered vertical striae below ES. Rev.: Knobs in upper recesses attenuated. A fairly good number of these survives, though probably not a majority. For the reason for the minus sign, see Silver-Minor Sets, below.

**Half Dime.** [550-] Amazingly, at least four die varieties. V-2. Date slightly above center of space, shield point minutely left of tip of 1, skirt pendant about over knob, small die defect on breast below hair (not always plain); both ends of ribbon clear of wreath. Valentine, ANS, and some others.

— V-3. Date minutely above center, shield point well to left of 1, skirt pendant minutely r. of center above 6, left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge, die defect partly fills upper half of final S in STATES.

Rev.: Right end of ribbon clear. Eliasberg, WGC: 266, Landau and others. Garrett set(?).

— V-4. Date slants so far upward as almost to constitute a blundered die, beginning well below center of space, ending well above center; shield point about over tip of 1, skirt pendant slightly beyond knob of 6. Rev.: Both ends of ribbon touch wreath. This obv. was later reused on uncirculated coins, though these are rare as the die suffered extreme clashing and was promptly discarded. Bullowa, May 1952, and only one other known to date.

— Not in V. Date about centered, shield point and skirt pendant as in V-1, rev. die same as V-2. One formerly in the writer's collection. Compare also the clashed dies coin in NN 51: 561.

Total population probably more than half the original mintage. Why at least four obverse dies were used is unknown, particularly if all these were made on the one day and no restrikes were made.

**Dime.** [550-] Light date. Many, including that in Lester Merkin auction, April 1966. Many of the survivors have been cleaned. Possibly slightly rarer than the half dime.

— Heavy date. Shield point far to left of 1, pendant over inner left curve of 6. "Gilhausen":394; Garrett set.

**Quarter.** [550-] Date very slightly above center. Shield point over left edge of upright, left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge. Same comment as to the dime. Garrett set.

**Half Dollar.** [550-] Beistle 1-A (rarer): Date below center of exergual space; spine from upper left serif of F.

B. 2-A: date above center, shield point minutely left of 8, left base of 1 over left edge. Hirt: 1224, Garrett set, others. Same comment as to the dime.



### 1862 Silver Dollar. Ex 1974 GENA: 1080

**Silver Dollar.** [550-] \*B-1. Date slants very slightly up. Rev.: Two arrowheads join each other; inner circle arc at beads over UNITE. This die was later used for 1853 proofs (restrikes).

**Silver-minor proof sets.** [550] Delivered Jan. 27. Some 430 sold as sets Feb. 1862 — Feb. 1863, rest melted. Garrett: 298, \$2700 — cheap. Other individual coins may have been sold. Most of the sets now extant were assembled in recent decades. This could be done very cheaply during the 1940's and early 1950's. Note

that on Jan. 13, 1862 the Melter & Refiner received from the Treasurer of the Mint some 1,061 silver proof sets of previous years together with "odd amounts" of obsolete proofs, these evidently being extra dollars and other denominations unsold in 1860-61.

**Gold Dollar.** [35] B-7. Obv. Polish in first feather (12:00). Rev. Some leaves hollow. Heavy low date. Less than 20, possibly less than 15 survive. Several of the known examples are nicked or poorly cleaned.

**Quarter Eagle.** [35] Very low date. Reverse of 1860-61. In a rarity class with preceding, probably a trifle rarer. The number of survivors may be as low as a dozen. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Boyd, WGC: 130, possibly "Memorable": 121. (4) Atwater: 1966. (5) Menjou: 1212. (6) Golden I: 2285. (7) Melish: 1255, J. W. (8) Jay: 271, Scanlon: 2091, \$1,700. (9) Ullmer: 368 (lint mark from F to wing tip), \$4,250. (10) Davis-Graves: 876, in set. This list probably includes a couple of duplications. Early catalogues did not illustrate proof quarter eagles except for 1841, 1863.

**Three Dollars.** [35] \*B-3. Obv. of 1861 proofs. Date a little below center of space and placed to left, slanting up minutely; r. edge of 2 about under r. foot of A; r. edge of 6 not appreciably beyond L, unlike nonproofs. Same logotype as quarter eagle. About equally rare with the quarter eagle. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Kern: 205, Grant Pierce: 1249, Jay: 279, Scanlon: 2210, \$5,250. (4) Eliasberg. (5) Garrett: 401, \$9,500. (6) Davis-Graves: 875, in set. (7) Melish: 1384, J. W. (8) Wolfson: 287, Ullmer: 413. (9) Breen I: 116, obv. lint mark near base of D. A couple of others were floating around in the 1950's, one somewhat impaired.

**Half Eagle.** [35] \*B-1. Low date, placed to r., nearer to 13th than to first star; left base of 1 above space; small date as on quarter eagle and three, but more heavily punched. Extremely rare. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Davis-Graves: 874 in set. (4) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC: 416, possibly reappearing as "Memorable": 363 and/or Menjou I: 1507. (5) Garrett: 400. (6) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (7) Baldenhofer: 1330. (8) Ullmer: 449, hairlined, \$7,000. (9) Eliasberg. There may be a couple of duplications above. Not over three others reported and even those may duplicate the above.

**Eagle.** [35] B-1. Large date, placed low, slanting down a little to r., 2 nearer border than 1; left base of 1 almost over r. edge; date nearer first than 13th star. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Garrett: 399, cleaned. (4) Eliasberg. (5) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (6) WGC: 667, possibly same as Menjou: 1603. (7) Melish: 2449 to Ben Stack. (8) Jay: 318, Dines: 826. (9) Davis-Graves: 873, in set. (10) Davis-Graves: 942, impaired. There are probably a couple of duplications among these. One was traded off by Dr. Sloss about 1959. The copper proofs with GOD OUR TRUST come not only with this obv. die (Judd 297-8 ills.) but also with a different obv., date about centered and too far right (as in

1863), the 2 almost in line with r. corner of truncation (AW 356 ill.). It is not known if any regular specimens (no motto) exist with this obverse; if so they are probably restrikes.



### 1862 Double Eagle. Ex Boyd, WGC:865

**Double Eagle.** [35] Shallow date, like the eagle; 1 about center of space between bust and border, left base over space. Border beads well apart. In the same rarity class with the eagle and half eagle. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Garrett: 398, \$20,000. (4) Eliasberg. (5) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., possibly ex Kern. (6) WGC: 865, "Memorable": 687. (7) Wolfson: 879, possibly same as last. (8) Davis-Graves: 872 in set. (9) Bell I, "H.R. Lee", NN 49:113, Jay: 327, Dines: 870. Tiny spot on head below 8th star. (10) KS 3/65: 183, same as one of last? At least one other impaired specimen known.

**Gold proof sets.** [35] All delivered Feb. 16. Parmelee's set (: 1322-26) was dispersed, going to Woodin, H. P. Smith and David Proskoy for unknown buyers. The Davis-Graves set (: 872-77), perfect and possibly original from Mint to R. Coulton Davis, was also dispersed. The Garrett set was also dispersed, totaling \$51,000. Proof gold of 1862 is all grossly undervalued in comparison to 1863-65, probably because the 1863 quarter eagle and the smaller denominations of 1863-65 have given these dates a glamor not present in the 1862 group.

**Complete proof sets.** One of the two known went to the Mint Cabinet on April 11 for \$43.52 (face value + 8¢, specie), and is now in SI. The other went to R. C. W. Brock at some unknown date, thence to J. Pierpont Morgan and ANS.

## 1863

**Cent.** [460+] Heavy numerals, left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge; tip of 1 minutely nearer bust than base is to border. Other dies may exist. Same comments as to 1861-62. Possibly a few more are around than of 1862, but not enough to make a great deal of difference in fair price levels. Many survivors have been cleaned, possibly to remove spots.

At least four experimental proofs were made with edges reeded, apparently for protection. By 1863, owing to soaring European prices and exhaustion of Joseph Wharton's nickel mines (the Mint's major source), nickel was already a precious metal, nearly as valuable as silver. The four proofs with this edge



(Judd 300): (1) Dr. Judd, "Ill. Hist.":262, probably ex either Newcomer or Judson Brenner. (2) Col. James M. Wade, W. C. Blaisdell, 1971 ANA:302. (3) "Gilhausen": 1499. (4) 1974 GENA: 1250. It is barely possible that either of the last two could be a reappearance of one of the first two. Business strikes with this edge are thought to have been altered after striking.

**1863 L.** Pointed bust as in 1864. Thought to be a piece de caprice made either at year's end or in 1864. Copper-nickel: (1) Olsen; (2) "Gilhausen": 260; (3) "Dupont": 1174; others. Bronze: (1) NN 35:590; others. Estimated 4 or 5 of each.

**Regular design, bronze, transitional issue.** [100+] Several hundred struck late in the year on order of Mint Director Pollock, for the Secretary of Treasury (Salmon P. Chase; letter of Dec. 8, 1863, cited in Judd, p. 70) and interested parties in Treasury, Senate, and House of Representatives. These were to give the lawmakers some idea of the appearance of Pollock's proposed "French bronze" alloy (adopted 1864-1942, 1946-62). Pollock's motives for proposing to replace the thick 72-grain nickel cent by the thin 48-grain bronze cent were threefold. (1) Joseph Wharton's original nickel monopoly — which had given the country nickel-alloy coinages since 1857 — had always kept the price to the mint very high; but now that Wharton's domestic sources were running out, and European sources were charging still higher rates in gold, cent coinage must stop unless some alternative could be found. (2) Bronze was far more malleable, easier to work, than the adopted nickel alloy. All nickel alloys so far tested had proved very destructive to dies, as well as very difficult to work (to make homogeneous ingots and strip for cutting blanks); the strip itself was hard enough to damage cutting presses. (3) As though to add insult to injury, private parties in many cities had begun making and circulating small copper tokens (the well-known Civil War tokens) of about the same size and weight as Pollock's proposed cent, often with evasive inscriptions such as NOT ONE CENT, without the issuer's name or address, and with no intention of redeeming the things in greenbacks, let alone lawful coins. Millions had gone into circulation and stayed there, while the mint's own copper-nickel cents were hoarded rather than spent, providing no relief whatever to the coin shortage. Pollock thought the 1863 equivalent of "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!" and proposed issue of bronze cents of the same size and weight, at once driving the Civil War tokens out of circulation and providing metallic currency to replace the "copperheads." His proposal was signed into law April 22, 1864.

The bronze proof cents of 1863, then, are true transitional coins. Dies are normally aligned **f f** or 180° from normal. Standard weight 48 grains = 3.11

grams. They are from regular dies but apparently not the same ones used on regular proof copper-nickel cents.

Pure copper cents also exist with the ordinary die alignment; weights vary: 63.3 grains (1974 GENE:1249), 65.6 grains ("Gilhausen":1498), 73.3 grains (1971 ANA:303), 76.7 grains (LM 10/72:937).



**1863 Prototype Two Cents. Type of 1864, large motto. Ex Wayte Raymond**

Another candidate for the honored role of prototype is the 1863 Two Cents of the identical large motto design adopted in 1864 (Judd 316, Adams-Woodin 416). These are very rare; cf. "Century": 1713. However, as they have the missing top serif on D of UNITED as on 1866-70 coins, they may date to that period rather than 1863.

**Trime.** [460] Normal date, thin numerals, no recutting on 3, no trace of overdate. Closed top to D of UNITED. Star point above r. curves of 8. Later, rev. clash marks. Still later, obv. bulge (die failure) between northeast part of star and TES OF; this develops, on the latest examples most of the upper field is involved as well as the star point. In the meantime, a rev. bulge has developed r. of C. ANS's coin has perfect dies, but specimens with some trace of obv. bulge are less rare. This reverse is not the same as the 1862. Under date collector pressure as business strikes are very rare.

Restrikes exist, in at least two varieties. One of these shows date logotype heavily double-punched over a lighter 1862, and open top to D; rev. is that of 1864. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces* below.

**Half Dime.** [460] V-1. Bases of 18 strongly double. Closed top to D. Ribbon ends touch above. This die was also used on the rare business strikes. Under date collector pressure, like the trime.

Restrikes have date low, not repunched, polish in drapery near pole arm, shield, etc., with open top to D; rev. of some 1870 proofs and 1870-71 patterns. They come in various metals. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below.

**Dime.** [460] Triangle of final A filled, pendant slightly r. of center of top of 6, left base of 1 above space. Rev. Left ribbon and barely free. Other varieties may exist. Under date collector pressure.

**Quarter.** [460] Date high, slants up. Shield point r. of r. upright, left base of 1 r. of left edge. Rev. Two arrows joined.



— Same obv. Rev. Lowest arrowhead touches middle shaft only; E of UNITED filled; faint die file marks above NITE and RIC; line from rim to left top of last S.

— Date very slightly above center, slants minutely up. Shield point above r. upright, left base of 1 over space. Rev. Arrows free of shafts; line from rim down to left top of first T of STATES. Which variety is scarcest? All are under date collector pressure.

Those with IN GOD WE TRUST (silver, copper, aluminum) are very rare, not over five reported (I have seen three including Judd — "Ill. Hist.":271). They may have been made in 1867 or 1868 to go with the halves and dollars, which see.

**Half Dollar.** [460] Three varieties, like the quarter; which is scarcest?

— Not in Beistle. Centered date, closed 6 (knob touches loop), shield point above r. tip of foot of 1, left base of 1 left of center, rev. of 1862 proofs.

— Beistle 1-A. Date above center of exergual space, closed 6, shield point over r. edge of upright, left base of 1 r. of left edge. Rev. Two arrowheads touch shafts. 1975 GENA: 1594-5; Garrett set.

— B.2-A. Date below center, open 6 (knob free of loop), this obv. apparently the die (re?)-used on GOD OUR TRUST patterns and those next described; no data about reverse.



**1863 Half Dollar.** Motto IN GOD WE TRUST. Ex Dr. Judd

A few specimens in silver (Judd 342) survive with motto reverse of type adopted in 1866. Time of manufacture unknown, believed 1868-9. Date minutely below center. Same comment as to quarter and silver dollar. Dr. Judd, "Ill. Hist.":294. earliest auction record? 1942 ANA:394, 361, 307 (25¢, 50¢, \$1), not later traced.

**Silver Dollar.** [460] \*B-1. Low date to r., shield point left of tip of 1, left base of 1 over space. Rev. Different from foregoing dies. Defect joins two arrows; unpolished or unfinished patch joins upper and center leaves, including a curved line. Business strikes (B-2) have centered date.



**1863 Silver Dollar.** Motto IN GOD WE TRUST. Ex Bolender, Ostheimer, Merkin Sept. 1968:453

— Motto IN GOD WE TRUST. Judd 345. Low date, shield point about over left upright of 1, base of 1 over r. part of dentil. Rev. of late 1867-8-9 proofs, q.v. Possibly four survive. (1) Woodin, Newcomer, Judd, "Ill. Hist.":295. (2) Atwater:225, Ewalt:44, Dines:790. (3) Bolender, Ostheimer, LM 9/68:453. Probably should have been in the chapter *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** [460] March 5, 100 struck; March 8, 160; May 26, 200. Garrett:299, \$3250. Most surviving sets appear to have been assembled. It is unknown if the restrikes of smaller silver came in sets. Incidentally, mint regulations specified that hereafter new proof sets would be available by March 1 of the current year. This promise was violated in 1863, 1865 for gold, 1867 for gold, 1887 and some later years. Note that I have been showing a mintage of at least as many cents as silver proofs: this is because (as R. W. Julian points out) silver sets contained cents, though proof cents probably were also individually distributed in addition to those in the sets.

**Gold Dollar.** [50] Very small date as in 1861-2 but heavy and looking even more minute. \*B-1: Tip of 1 about below left tip of first L, not below O. Extremely rare, probably under 15 known, possibly less than a dozen. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) WGC, "Memorable": 19. This may have reappeared as Lohr:977, selling to S.S. (4) Nate Shapero:703, slight rubbing. (5) Garrett:409. (6) Mehl 12/12/39, Phila. Estate. Few others. Restrikes may exist but decisive evidence is lacking. All proofs reportedly delivered March 23. A few may have been from B-2 dies (tip of 1 below O), used for business strikes between June 24 and Nov. 30, 1863.



**1863 Quarter Eagle.** (Enlarged) Ex Heman Ely set, T. H. Garrett, J. W. Garrett, John Hopkins University, Essex Numismatic Properties.

**\*Quarter Eagle.** [30] Only the one variety, no rumor of restrikes; struck March 23. Date below center. Rev. From the new hub, different from S mint coins, lighter lettering than on later proofs. The following enumeration is the most complete yet attempted, though it is probably a few short of complete. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Mint, Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Heman Ely, Woodward pvt. sale Sept. 5, 1888 (set), Garrett: 408, \$52,500, Essex. (4) John H. Clapp, Eliasberg. (5) Bell, I sale, Eliasberg, "H. R. Lee": 1035, NN 49:627, L. O. Ross. Gem, several lint marks. (6) H. P. Smith, Menjou: 1213, Davis-Graves: 714. (7) Atwater: 1967, Grant Pierce: 1179, choice, copper stains on bottom rev. rim. (8) Boyd, WGC:131, possibly ex Parmelee: 1328, Woodin:1006, Newcomer. (9) Farouk, Norweb. (10) Bell II:182, impaired, 1971 CSNS (RARCOA):425, 1973 ANA:827. Barely possibly same as (11) Nate Shapero:840, impaired — photographs do not permit certainty. (12) "Memorable": 122. Barely possibly as as (6) or (8) above, though the wording of the catalogue leaves an element of doubt. We can be certain at least that the above listing includes between 9 and 11 coins known to be different. The following records indicate existence of possibly as many as six more: (a) Belden Roach, (b) Dr. Green:111. (c) Col. Green, Kern:59. (d) Melish: 1256, to book bidder 909. (e) 1956 ANA. (f) Brand-Lichtenfels I:1040. (g) Wolfson: 189. (h) Miles:189, R. P., Ullmer:369, \$50,000. (i) Shuford. (j) Mocatta Metals — same as (h)? The alterations from 1863 S are botched jobs, poorly struck and worn; arrowheads on S mint coins are much longer. The alterations from 1868 need not deceive anyone, as the numerals on 1868 are in larger broad-faced figures wholly unlike 1863. The 3 on genuine 1863's is narrow with almost no distinction in thickness between knobs and curves left and right; on the 1868, final 8 has left the right curves several times the thickness of upper and lower parts, and any knobs produced in alteration to a 3 would be too big. The enlarged illustration should settle any doubts.

**Three Dollars.** [39] \*B-1. Eight or nine traced, few others possible. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) ANS ex Brock, Morgan. (3) Clapp, Eliasberg. (4) Norweb. (5) Garrett: 407, \$8,000. (6) John Zug, Eliasberg, NN 49:556. (7) Grant Pierce:1250, Jay:280, cheek rub. (8) Wolfson:288. One of the above, possibly either (4), (6), or (8), is believed ex Boyd, WGC, "Memorable." No report of restrikes.

**Half Eagle.** [30] \*B-1. Date slants up to right, left base of 1 slightly r. of center. Not over a dozen around. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Garrett:406, cloudy, \$8,500. (4) Eliasberg. (5) Amon Carter Sr. and Jr. (6) Baldenhofer: 1331, copper stains. (7) Melish:2119, choice, to the book. (8) "Memorable":364, probably same as one of foregoing. There are two impaired examples in private collections.

**Eagle.** [30] Date low, far to r., much nearer to 13th star than to first, the partly filled 3 nearly lined up with r. corner of truncation. Scattered rust pits on cheek and neck. Left base of 1 central. Rev. Top of second stripe thin. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) ANS ex Brock, Morgan. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:405, cleaned, \$19,000. (5) Davis-Graves:943, impaired. (6) Melish:2451, to A. M. Kagin, possibly ex Menjou: 1604? (7) Wolfson: 685, possibly ex Boyd, WGC:668, "Memorable":561. Sources of the last two lots possibly should be transposed. (8) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., probably ex Geiss: 1890. No ninth example definitely identified. The same obv. was apparently reused on two gold and many copper pieces with GOD OUR TRUST on scroll or in field.

**Double Eagle.** [30] Large heavy date, far to r., 3 close to border; left base of 1 over left edge, these positions possibly not diagnostic. Rev. Die obviously unpolished around arrows. Note similarity of date position to that on eagle. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) ANS ex Brock, Morgan. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:404, cloudy, \$18,000. (5) Melish:914, planchet chip near bust point. (6) Wolfson:881, probably cleaned as claimed to be brilliant on devices; possibly ex Menjou: 1801. (7) Boyd, WGC:866, "Memorable":688. (8) Dr. Judd, "Ill.Hist.":152. (9) 1974 ANA:995, \$32,500, possibly same as one of above. (10) 1976 ANA:3208, \$14,000, ditto. Cf. also Dunham:2305; Atwater: 1255; DiBello:1224; "H. R. Lee":1707.

**Gold proof sets.** [30] Delivered March 23, with the few extras of the \$1 and \$3. One, ex Heman Ely, went by private treaty via W. Elliot Woodward to T. H. Garrett, Sept. 5, 1883, thence to J. W. Garrett, Johns Hopkins, and the Garrett sale, in which it was broken up and realized a total of \$111,750. Others were in the J. B. Wilson sale (1908) and the Earle sale (1912) — the same? Cf. also M. A. Brown: 99, Wetmore: 148, and D.S. Wilson:323, the last two with the following notation which is reproduced for what it is worth: "The late John F. McCoy, one of the largest collectors of the time, stated to me [S. Hudson Chapman] that he knew only 30 pieces were struck and of these some were remelted at the mint." Despite Chapman's notorious unreliability, this much is true anyway: McCoy was very active in the 1860's, his collection was auctioned over nearly a week in May 1864, and he may well have survived long enough to tell either of the Chapman brothers something of the kind (perhaps as early as 1877). Records of remelting are known to be fragmentary. The same mintage figure, without mention of meltage, appeared in McCoy: 1992.

**Complete proof sets.** The SI and Brock-Morgan-ANS sets appear to be the only complete original ones; others may have been assembled. The extreme value placed on the quarter eagle makes it

likely that original sets would have been broken up. Note that the SI's set went from the Coiner to the Curator of the Mint Cabinet March 11, 1863, or twelve days before the gold proofs were supposedly delivered. Price same as in preceding years.

## 1864

1864 is one of the most difficult years of all, partly because only fragmentary information is available, partly because several of the coins are all but unobtainable. Confronted with situations like this and 1867 and 1856-58, not to mention earlier years, we are like children playing with brightly colored fragments trying to figure out the mosaic design they once made up. And all we can do is assemble our fragments in serenity in the hope that slightly larger chunks may eventually show up.

**Cent. Copper-nickel**, type of 1863. [370+] Rarer than mintage figure suggests. Borders tend to be broader than on 1862's or 63's, though not invariably. Patterson DuBois's coin (Eavenson: 128) was "one of a few struck on New Year's Day!". As with the earlier copper-nickel cents, there are many deceptive early business strikings around. Proofs that "carry their own credentials" — that are so far beyond doubt as to convince even the most skeptical on sight — brought prices well up in orbit a dozen years ago: Grant Pierce's, \$550 (1965); NASC, Feb. 1965, \$575; Lester Merkin, Nov. 1965, \$520, all these supported by others in the \$400 to \$475 range. I doubt if as many as 90 specimens can be located today about which there is not some uncertainty or controversy.

Die description for two varieties which do transcend any possible doubt may help collectors. \*Obv.: Top of 1 very close to bust, peak well to r. of tip of bust but close; an imaginary line joining top of 1 and end of peak or serif would be parallel to bust line. Left base of 1 above r. edge of denticle. Right base of 4 above space between denticles. Light but plain doubling on much of legend, most prominently on STATES OF. ANS's has perfect die; several, the first being one shown me by Lester Merkin, from the identical dies, have developed a very faint crack from rim between NI (touching r. serif of N and left base of I) into field towards chin, but not reaching device; on 1975 ANA: 83 the crack is plainer. Rev.: Heavy letters, E in ONE nearly closed (upper and lower outer serifs almost meet).

— Faint recutting on 86. NN 57: 53. Very rare, no more exact description available. Rims broad and sharp, both inner and outer edges, not anywhere blurring into denticles, on both varieties.

— **Bronze, no L.** [100+] This figure may possibly include some pieces with L, though certainty on this point is impossible. The division into 370+ copper-nickel and 100+ bronze is inevitable, given that (1) silver proof sets at the time included the cents.

(2) the mint issued 230 sets in February and 140 in March, total 370, (3) bronze cents were not coined until passage of the Act of Congress, April 22, 1864, (4) the next proof sets made were 100 in July 1864, (5) there were probably extra proofs made of cents and 2¢ pieces to commemorate the introduction of the new circulating medium and the denomination.

Very rare and very popular as a type coin: the only bronze cent without L. Blunt bust as in 1861-63. (Coins with L were made from late 1864 through 1909.) Some of these may come from the same obverse die as the copper-nickel, though I have seen none (they would presumably have the crack mentioned). Those I have seen have almost no extra outlines on letters, and peak of 1 considerably farther r. of bust point; date slants down, 4 nearer border than 1, left base of 1 over r. edge, r. base of 4 over left edge. Rev. of 1863 bronze cents, small spine down from Crosslet of E(N).

Pure copper impressions from these dies have been weighed at 50 grains: Judd.

Numerous deceptive early strikes are in numismatic circulation; some of these are offered as "with proof edge" or some similar weasel wording. Language of that kind is inexcusable. If there is doubt, the coin should not be sold as a proof. The danger is especially great for 1864's since many of the genuine proof cents and 2¢ pieces are dull. But striking quality, rims and borders of the alleged proofs should be at least equal to those on unquestioned proofs of later years, superior to those on some proofs in the 1870's (when the mint personnel became careless), and superior to uncirculated specimens of the whole period. In particular, proofs should have no frost in fields, no blurring of border denticles into rims, no weakly struck places — look at feather tips, shield, central curls, diamonds on ribbon, edges of letters in ONE CENT, etc.



**1864 L Cent. Ex Lester Merkin**

— **Bronze, with L:** pointed bust as on 1865-86 coins (same hub). Mintage unknown, less than 10 traceable. Obverse die is distinctive among the 18 or more known to have been used for 1864 L cents. Date is about centered, peak of 1 nearly even with bust point (unusual), left base of 1 above space between denticles, r. base of 4 above center of denticle. Spine *slants down to left, about 1.5mm in length, from curl below ear into neck*. Doubling on much of legend. Rev.: Spine to left from a round leaf tip at very top of r.

branch. Heavy letters, base of N in ONE not as strong as other serifs, left base stronger than r. base (respectively rounded and pointed). Compare Mass. Historical Society (S 3/73): 379, spotty; 1952 ANA: 2427, to a dealer; Geiss: 1112; Neil: 2950; Baldenhofer:214; Lahrman: 504; Scanlon: 158 at \$6,000, ex Jay: 434; "Dupont": 1177 (stain above head), later Miles: 234 at \$6,000; 1964 Central States auction at \$7,000. One with scratch in left obv. field was stolen from A-Mark Co.

**Two Cents. Small motto.** Mintage unknown. Thought to have formed an extremely small percentage of the 100 proofs issued in July 1864, but more likely to have been made in infinitesimal quantity (of the order of magnitude of a dozen or fifteen pieces?) late in April, outside the normal issue of proof sets; ANS's did not come from the Brock, Morgan proof set. Only the one obverse die used for proofs and nonproofs; very little distinction between vertical and horizontal and curved parts of letters in thickness. This working die was originally used on patterns, bearing the 1863 reverse with CENTS markedly curved (nearly a quarter circle) and lacking the long ribbon ends found on the adopted type. I once owned Parmelee's copper or bronze proof of that muling (Judd 366 or 367) and could have owned his aluminum proof at a comparatively low price but disliked the enormous unsightly planchet defect on the latter. Date is low and distant from ball; there are also differences in the die work on leaves of wreath above shield, the berry below final T in TRUST on large motto coins being absent, second leaf of group under TRUST (that in highest relief) having a long stem absent on the large motto hub, etc. Reverse of regular type with ER showing recutting on proofs — this die not used on uncirculated pieces. (1) ANS. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Philip G. Straus estate — 1959 New York Metropolitan Convention auction: 515 at \$1,150 — Wolfson: 249 at \$4,100 (1963). I know I have seen at least three others; the estimate of about ten known is unlikely to be bettered.

— **Large motto**, type of 1865-73. [100+] Included in the 100 proof sets minted July 12, probably others made late in April 1864 celebrating the new denomination. The actual number is probably more likely to be something like 200, though this is only an informed guess based on comparative frequencies of appearance. Several minor die varieties, all rare.

(1) Microscopic recutting on tip of left base of 1 and at left side of lower loop of 8. Ball entirely above 6.

(2) Plain repunching below base of 1 and at left of 8, different from last. Landau:264.

(3) Normal date, no repunching. Ball above 6. Left base of 1, r. base of 4 both above centers. Rev. Bent leaf r. of 2 almost disconnected.

(4) Normal date, no repunching. Ball above 6 and

space left. Left base of 1 well to r. of center, r. base of 4 over center. Chip on scroll near left fold left of W.

It is premature to guess which is rarer, which commoner. All are hard enough to obtain. Over 90% of survivors can be called at best dull; they quickly toned down in the mint wrappers, the mirrorlike finish itself often obscured. Deceptive first strikes exist; real proofs should have sharp rims, fairly broad borders distinct from beading, no trace of frost or "cartwheel" lustre in field, striking quality equal to that of later proofs and superior to that on business strikes (look at ends of leaves on both sides, borders of shield and horizontal stripes). Private sale records in excess of \$600 for the rare blazing red gems.

**Minor proof sets.** Said to contain nickel cent, bronze cent and 2¢. It is unknown if any contained either the small motto coin or the 1864L cent. None seen in original mint wrappers.

**Trime.** [470] Originals have base of 4 open, closed top to D, rev. of 1863. Later strikings (July 1864) develop a bulge in upper r. obv. field — cf. NN 54:174. (Restrikes have 4 without recutting, D almost or quite open at top. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.) Very popular, under intense date collector pressure, even though no longer believed a proof-only date as formerly (R. W. Julian proved that 12,000 business strikes were delivered August 30, 1864). However, this revelation did not depress the market, as business strikes are much rarer than the proofs.

**Half Dime.** [470] Originals (all varieties described below) have D of UNITED closed at top.

— \*B-4. Centered date slants up, left base of 1 and r. base of 4 well to r. of center of dentils. Rev. Left ribbon end touches wreath, r. end close; die of V-1 but struck earlier. Very rare, probably included in 100 of Feb. 6? 1974 GENA: 1224-5.

— V-1. Low date, 4 bold, skirt pendant above knob of 6 and minutely r., left base of 1 and r. base of 4 left of center of dentils. Rev. Same die. Probably comprises most of the 230 struck in February; least rare of the varieties. Rarely found in business strike form. A small hoard of proofs was broken up in 1974.

— B-2. Obv. as last, usually with increasingly heavy clash marks. Rev. Both ribbon ends away from wreath; clashed. Sometimes cracked from rim to wreath at 3:30. Proofs very rare: Merkin 9/68:203; Ruby, "Gilhousen":224; 1973 GENA:222. Business strikes are rare; one was in the Garrett proof set, without crack.

— \*B-3. Centered date; without and rarely with crack from rim to top of head. Rev. of B-2, cracked. Dr. Ruby I:872. Very rare.

(— \*B-5, date slants more up, top of D open, rev. both ribbon ends touching, die of 1870-71, is a restrike, known in silver, copper and aluminum. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below.)

**Dime.** [470] Shield point well to left of 1, pendant

over left edge of 6, left base of 1 over center, r. base of 4 over left edge. Dot on center of upright of F. Rev. of 1863, left ribbon end touching wreath, r. end barely free. No restrikes reported.

**Quarter.** [470] Date about centered. Shield point over r. foot of 1; left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge, r. base of 4 over space. Rev. Arrowheads free. No restrikes reported.

— Motto reverse, probably a die of 1868, thought to be an afterthought. Possibly as many as 5 struck, though we cannot trace so many today. Judd 386, AW 440. Compare Parmelee: 1338, Atwater:721.



**1864 Half Dollar. Beistle 1-A. Ex QS 11/76:922**

**Half Dollar.** [470] Beistle describes two varieties as occurring in proof; both said to have low date, his 1-A with 64 closely spaced (and lightly recut), shield point over r. foot of 1, left base of 1 over r. edge, r. base of 4 over left edge and lower; and his 2-A with 6 4 well apart. I have not seen the latter in proof state, though business strikes from both Philadelphia and San Francisco show this feature; dates are thinner. Is this merely a relapped die, or a lighter impression from the logotype?



**1864 Half Dollar. Motto. Ex Dr. Judd**

Those with the motto rev. of 1868-69 have a different obv. die (an afterthought?). Date a little above center, slanting slightly down to r., 64 apart; shield point between 18, left base of 1 central, r. base of 4 almost over r. edge. Exceedingly rare. (1) Dr. Judd, "Ill. Hist.":285. (2) William Guild coll. One of these is ex Parmelee: 1337 and/or the Woodside set.

**Silver Dollar.** [470] Large date, same logotype used on the double eagle. Amazingly for this low mintage, three obverse dies.

— \*B-1. Date well to r., shield point far left of 1, r. base of 4 nearly over r. edge of dentil. Rev. of 1863 proofs. Are these the 370 proofs of Feb.-March? "Gilhausen": 1327; 1975 ANA:1100; Garrett set;

others. Obtainable if you are content to wait, to pay more than expected, and to be prepared to receive cleaned coins.

—\*B-2. Centered date, shield point over tip of 1, r. base of 4 over left edge of dentil, same reverse. Very rare. QS 11/76: 1144, 1623.

— \*B-4. Low date to left, shield point slightly left of center of upright of 1, r. base of 4 slightly left of center of dentil. Rev. Arrowheads well apart. Are these part of the final 100 of July 12? Very rare. "Gilhausen": 1328; 1975 ANA:1101; 1976 ANA:703 set. Business strikes (B-3) have high date.



**1864 Silver Dollar. Motto. Ex Dr. Judd**

Those with the motto rev. of 1867-69 have a still different obv. die; centered date, shield point minutely left of left upright of 1, r. base of 4 nearly over r. edge. (1) Dr. Judd, "Ill. Hist.":286. (2) Atwater:256, Ewalt:45. One ex Parmelee:1336 and/or the Woodside set. In the Woodside sale (1892) a 3-piece set (quarter, half and dollar with motto) was offered with the remark "Not over 5 sets struck." This is probably correct.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** Mintages as follows:

Feb. 6	100
Feb. 13	30
Feb. 17	100
March 14	140
July 12	100
Total:	470

The above establishes that the 370 minted in February and March must have contained copper-nickel cents, the 100 of July the bronze cent and 2c, though naturally individual minor coins may have been struck in late April 1864 as earlier mentioned. Most existing sets have been assembled. Garrett:300 was a set from the Feb. or March emission, the 2C added, the half dime and dime uncirculated! That in 1976 ANA:703 included all three cents and small motto 2c and brought \$15,000. This date has been prized because all types of cents are rarer than previous years, the 2c rarer than later years, the smaller silver long believed proof-only and thus subject to date collector pressure.

**Gold Dollar.** [50] \*B-1. Date minutely larger than on 1860-63. Obv. of 1863 proofs, polish below ear. Rev. Heavy centered date, 64 touch, 6 wholly below L. About as rare as 1863; no restrikes reported. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Norweb. (4) Dunham: 1839, Phila. Estate. (5) Garrett:415, \$2800.

(6,7) "Memorable":20, 859, one probably ex Newcomer, Boyd, WGC. (8) Breen I:35, minute nicks. (9) "Gilhausen":55, slightly impaired, called "EF." Cf. also Lohr:978; 1962 N.Y. Metropolitan:2647; Wolfson:52; Jay:238; Mocatta Metals coll. Business strikes (B-2) have low date, thinner numerals, 6 4 apart.



**1864 Quarter Eagle. Ex Boyd, Bell, "Memorable": 123**

**Quarter Eagle.** [50] Rather heavy date, high, to left, slanting down; chipped serif to 1; left base of 1 over left edge, r. base of 4 over r. edge. Rev. Lighter letters; this new working die apparently continued for some years. As rare as the 1863 but in less demand as a few circulated business strikes survive. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Boyd, WGC:132, "Memorable":123. (5) Atwater:1968, Neil:2441. (6) Davis-Graves:715. (7) "Memorable":871. (8) Gaskill, NN 48:307. (9) NN 48:912, Kagin. (10) Garrett:414, \$8000. Cf. also Wolfson:191; Grant Pierce:1181; Bell II:184; Miles:193; Ullmer:414 and 370 (\$11,000), mostly believed reappearances of some of the above.

**Three Dollars.** [50] \*Obv. of 1865 originals; dentils in lower left quadrant a little farther apart than usual (lapped die); without or with minute rust pit left of the curl protruding below ear; striae point northeast in field. Rev. Normal date slants up, top of 1 below serif of L, upright of 4 below center of r. base of A. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:413. (5) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:279, "Memorable":250. (6) "Memorable":876. (7) NN 48:911, cleaned, small granularity at ER; to Kagin. (8) Wolfson:289. (9) Grant Pierce:1251. (10) Landau:716, R. P., small red tone spot at rev. rim. (11) Geiss:1609, tone spot lower r. obv. rim. Few others survive.

**Half Eagle.** [50]\*B-1. High date, left, left base of 1 over space, r. base of 4 nearly over r. edge; horizontal line below ear. Slightly rarer than the \$3. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:412, \$7,000. (5) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:418, "Memorable":365, possibly ex Parmelee:1334. (6) "Memorable":884. (7) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (8) Dr. Clifford Smith:1730, G. D. B. (9) Melish:2121, Garland Stephens. (10) Brand-Lichtenfels I:1202. (11) Gaylord:345. (12) Morgenthau 418:67 (10/9/40). A few of the above are possibly duplications.

**Eagle.** [50]\*B-1. Date well to left, 1 about midway

between bust and border or slightly higher, logotype slants down; left base of 1 minutely r. of left edge, r. base of 4 almost over center of dentil. Rev. Top of second and base of third red stripes thin. About as rare as the half eagle but brings more. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Garrett:411, \$16,000. (4) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:669, "Memorable":563. (5) Dr. Green:538, same coin? (6) NN 48:910, cleaned, to Kagin. (7) "Memorable":918. (8) Davis-Graves:944. (9) Eliasberg. (10) Walton:3132, Jay:319, Dines:827, Delp:811. The following are believed reappearances: (a) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr.; (b) Dr. Clifford Smith:1853 to Garland Stephens; (c) 1956 NY Metropolitan:1828; (d) Ullmer:490 at \$37,500, Mocatta Metals; (e) Kern:509.

**Double Eagle.** [50] Date slants down, 4 close to border, left base of 1 a little r. of center, r. base of 4 almost over r. edge; rev. of 1863. Rarest gold denomination. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Garrett:410, \$18,000. (4) Eliasberg. (5) NN 48:909, slight obv. field rub, to Kagin. (6) Boyd, WGC:687, possibly "Memorable":689 and/or Menjou I:1802. (7) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (8) Melish:917. (9) DiBello:1226, copper stains at border. (10) Mocatta Metals, probably same as one of foregoing. (11) KS 3/65:184, 5/66:1797. Same comment. One of these is ex Morgenthau 418:366 (10/9/40), another ex "H.R. Lee":1708.

**Gold Proof Sets.** [50] Reported as of Feb. 11. Parmelee's was broken up, probably the individual coins going to Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd successively. One set was in the J. B. Wilson coll., another (?) in Wetmore:149. Garrett's was broken up, totalling \$61,800. The source of that in NN 48 is not certainly known, but was possibly ultimately from Wayte Raymond.

**Complete proof sets.** That in SI ex Mint was obtained from the Coiner, Feb. 26, for \$43.52 = face + 8¢ proofing charge; it contained the copper-nickel cent but no bronze coins. That in ANS, ex Brock, Morgan, must have been bought from the mint prior to April 1864 as it also contains the copper-nickel cent; the bronze coins were added later. Why the gold is rarer than that of 1862 despite its larger mintage is unknown. A most frustrating year for collectors, between the gold and the bronze.

## 1865

**Cent.** [500+] Plain 5 (simple slight curvature — nearly straight, bent up at tip). The other and scarcer style of 5 (different logotype), "Fancy 5," found on a minority of business strikes including the 1865/4 but no proofs, has a wavy top to 5.

— Plain spine from ribbon onto neck, pointing up to left.

— Plain extra outlines on letters. Date begins low, slants up, left base of 1 over center of dentil.

—Thin letters, almost free of extra outlines; heavy ONE CENT.

Most 1865 proof cents have toned down and are now dull brown rather than the fiery golden red more often seen in later years. Undervalued. Beware deceptive early business strikes. Other varieties of proofs are possible. The above date positions may not be diagnostic.

**Two Cents.** [500+] Plain 5 only; same logotype as the cent. Same comments as to the cents, including the undervaluing, the toning, and the deceptive strikes.

— Ball above left center of 6, left base of 1 left of center.

— Ball similarly placed, left base of 1 almost over r. edge, date slants up. Rev. Leaf right of 2 broken, where it bends.

Other varieties of proofs are possible. The above date positions may not be diagnostic.

**Three Cents Nickel.** [400+] Authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1865, therefore not included in the 100 proof sets of February 25 and possibly not in some others. Extras presumably might have been struck to memorialize the new denomination, actually a new circulating medium as this was a true fiduciary minor coin designed almost solely to ease redemption of 3¢ paper fractional currency. Three die varieties.

— \*Breen 1-A. Without recutting on date, which is logotyped high and very close to device. Rev.: Very heavy ribbon ends, larger than on succeeding coins of this denomination, overlapping border. Generally considered a pattern, Judd 410; Adams-Woodin 511 and 517, but specimens have been seen in regular proof sets. There are supposed to be two minor varieties (of obverse?). Extremely rare, less than a dozen seen in all. Dr. Judd, "Illustrated History":283, LM 10/72: 736.

— \*B. 1-B. Obverse identical to preceding. Rev.: Ribbon ends thin and free of border. Very rare, much more so than that to follow. One from the Philip G. Straus estate went at auction to J. F. Lindsay. I have seen possibly six or seven others, but there are probably more around. Beware of deceptive first strikes. Proofs have broad rims, sharp edges, excellent relief, mirror fields. Also in copper, J-413.

— \*B. 2-B. Obv. Double date, first punched too far left, then effaced except for upper left parts of 65 and corrected; small spine to left from lowest curl into field, which fades. This is the variety most often seen, and well over 4/5 of the proof 1865's offered are from these dies. Compare Gardner: 1405 at \$530, "Century": 340 at \$410. Popular because first year of issue and because actually rare. Many of the survivors have been cleaned, some drastically enough to show light roughness or pitting where the chemical agent used has attacked the copper alloy leaving the more or less spongy nickel. The rarity of this piece has been exaggerated from time to time, but it is

legitimately hard to find choice, more so than the silver coins of this year despite a probably considerably larger coinage.

**Minor proof sets.** Said to contain cent, 2¢ and nickel 3¢. None seen, doubtless because they were broken up on behalf of collectors needing the 3¢.

**"Prototype" Five Cents.** Identical type adopted in 1866, shield, stars and rays. Judd 416, Adams-Woodin 506. Identical reverse used on 1866 proof nickels, with center dot. Date from nickel 3¢ logotype. Possibly eight known. Judd, "Ill. Hist.":291.

Second "Prototype" Five Cents, exact type adopted in 1867 without rays, Judd 418 = AW 508, is thought to be an afterthought, as its reverse is a die used in 1868. Possibly five known. Dr. Judd, "Ill. Hist.":292.

**Trime.** [500] State I: Perfect outlines to star. Touches of repunching on upper r. part of upright of 1, r. side of loop of 5. (Entirely unlike the rarer business strikes with repunched 65.) State II: Repolished. Upper r. border of star attenuated, recutting on date faded, and a crack — absent or faint on State I — is plain and becomes heavy, from rim into field just left of date.

A second variety has upper parts of 65 filled, no repunching, star outlines plain, TE of STATES join at top; rev. die file mark slanting down near border at 12:00. Very rare, thought to be a replacement for the broken die just described.

**Half Dime.** [500] V-1. Date a little above center, early impressions with all of 865 filled, later with part of 8 only filled. Skirt pendant about over knob. Left base of 1 just r. of left edge. Rev. Both ribbon ends clear of wreath. The usual variety.

— \*B-2, not in Valentine. Clear numerals, 1 heavily repunched, ribbon ends touch. Discovered by W. W. Neil. Neil:1681, NN 50:364, 51:564, few others. Note: The small lump found on lower r. part of upper loop of 8 in many denominations is a peculiarity of the date logotypes, not a die defect.

**Dime.** \*B-1. [500] High date slants up, line up from top of cap, skirt pendant left of center of 6. Very faint traces of repunching within lower loop of 865 (fade); r. ribbon end clear. Compare the piece in Lester Merkin's auction, April 1966, at \$85.

— Date similarly placed, no trace of recutting. "Gilhausen": 402.

**Quarter.** [500] Date roughly centered, level, shield point over left upright, left base of 1 over left edge.

— Low date slanting up to right. (Business strikes have recutting on 1 and between 65.)

The obverses found on the two supposed patterns of this year appear to be different.

— \***Transitional piece**, type adopted in 1866 with motto IN GOD WE TRUST on scroll. Judd 425, Adams-Woodin 499. [7?] Very rare, but at least three different ones are traced, one of them from the set of



three in Woodside: 161 (quarter, half and dollar of same design), apparently from Parmelee: 1347. Cf. Atwater: 722, Dr. Judd-"I11. Hist.": 294; 1976 ANA:3590, \$2800.

**Half Dollar.** [500] Beistle shows only a variety (his 1-A) with date above center of exergual space. None recently examined; probably rarer than following.

— Centered date slanting down, shield point between 18, left base of 1 above space, rev. of 1864 proofs. 1975 ANA: 635, others. Many of the survivors have been poorly cleaned.

—**Transitional piece**, type of 1866 with motto IN GOD WE TRUST on scroll. Judd 429, AW 494. [7?] Same comment as to the quarter; about of the same rarity. Compare Atwater: 500; "Dupont": 2428; Reed Hawn: 226 at \$1,900; 1976 ANA: 3610, \$3750. Note that the date on this coin is placed low in exergual space.

**Silver Dollar.** [500] \*B-1. Centered date minutely slanting up. Shield point minutely left of tip of 1. Rev.: As 1863 B-1 above, but with arc of inner circle at dentils above UNIT.



**1865 Transitional Dollar.** Ex Parmelee, Woodside, Woodin, Brand, Dr. Judd colls.

—\***Transitional piece**, type of 1866 with motto IN GOD WE TRUST on scroll. [7?] Obv. of \*B-1 above, rev. of 1866 B-3, B-4, 1867 B-1, B-2. Judd 434, AW 490. Same comment as to the transitional quarter; seven 3-piece sets thought to have been made. (1) Parmelee: 1347 (with half and quarter), Woodside: 161, Woodin, Brand, Judd, "Ill. Hist.":294, LM 6/70: 650. (2) Atwater:257, Ewalt:46. (3) "Dupont":2657. (4) O.K. Rumbel, 1952 ANA:2874. (5) "A Phila, coll., since before 1950." — Merkin. One of these brought \$10,000 as 1976 ANA:3616. Cf. 3-pc. set, 1942 ANA:397, 366, 310.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** Some 100 each made on Feb. 25, March 10, 16, 20 and 24. The first of these could not have included the nickel 3¢; I saw one of those in the original mint wrappers, bronze coins very dull, silver tarnished. Unfortunately the coins were dispersed before I knew of the varieties of 2c or silver coins. I have since seen one in original case of issue, black morocco, lined with blue satin and aquamarine plush; in three rows, left to right, 25¢, 10¢, 5¢, 3¢ nickel/ cent, trime /2¢, 50¢, dollar. The 2¢ was second variety, 3¢ 2-B, half dime V-1, dime B-1, quarter first variety.

**Gold Dollars.** [25 originals] \*B-2. Thin letters. Rev. Level date, from the repolished die of the Jan. 27 business strikes. Mostly from perfect dies, but one is known (ex Rawls, Russell Heim:777) heavily buckled across head from TA to FA. Under 15 survive today.

The restrikes (\*B-3) have date sloping up to right; obv. die not yet identified. Only two have been seen.

**Quarter Eagle.** [25] \*B-1. Date very high, nearly touching device. End of curl above 5 (not 6 as in nonproofs). Left base of 1 over space. Rust pits on neck. Very rare, but fewer nonproofs survive than proofs, counting as proofs the nicked, scratched and poorly cleaned survivors. A most difficult date. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) WGC, "Memorable": 124. (5) Wolfson:192, Ullmer:371, \$10,000, small stain on azure. (6) Davis-Graves:716. (7) T. L. Gaskill, NN 48:308, R. P. (8) John Zug estate, NN 48:531, Kagin. (9) Melish, impaired, possibly reappearing as Miles:194. Compare also Atwater: 1969, Grant Pierce: 1182 (hairlined); Menjou: 1215; Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. I have seen possibly a dozen in all counting at least three rather doggy ones which had left the mint as proofs and suffered badly in the meantime.



**1865 Three Dollars. Original.** Ex Merkin Oct. 1966:318

**Three Dollars.** [25 originals] Originals survive to the extent of possibly a dozen pieces or so, together with at least two different issues of restrikes. I know that these other varieties (representing two different date sides) are restrikes because only one pair of dies was made for the year. Originals are the coins from the pair of dies (B-1) used on uncirculated and circulated pieces (some 1140 coined, January 27, 1865); obverse has dentils in lower left quadrant weaker and more distant than usual, from die lapping; striae pointing northeast; minute rust pit on neck just left of the protruding curl next below ear. Rev.: Date low and level, extreme r. base of A about in line with tip of 5, minute recutting within 865 (which fades), faint die file marks sloping southeast to top of large 3 (they also fade). Compare LM 10/66:318 (minute nicks). Others doubtless exist.

The first coin here called a restrike may have been struck as early as the latter part of 1865 as one is in the ANS, ex Brock, Morgan proof sets: a clandestine or unreported late issue? But the obverse die is identical to that used on proofs of 1867 and 1868



in ANS, which leaves the question still open. Examples are known in copper as well as gold: Adams-Woodin 481, Judd 442. Date centered, placed farther to right than usual, very top of 1 below left serif of L, point of 5 beyond A and below left foot of R, the 5 beginning under center of A. Compare Wolfson: 290 (poorly handled); Grant Pierce: 1252 to Phila. Estate; Ullmer: 415 (rev. flan chip about 5:00) at \$9,000.

\*About the other variety, with obverse die of 1872 and date slanting up sharply to right, there is no doubt whatever. This was for long inexplicably listed as a pattern (Adams-Woodin: 480) and the gold piece is still so listed in Judd: 440; examples are also known in silver, copper (J-441, 442). See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below.

**Half Eagle.** [25] \*B-1. No die chip between 65. Probably under ten survive. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Geiss: 1733, Amon Carter Sr. and Jr. (4) Newcomer, J. F. Bell, "Memorable":367, possibly later Ullmer:450, \$17,000. (5) Flanagan: 1143, Randall. Possibly same as last or as one of next two. (6) Melish:2123. (7) 1976 ANA:2989, \$10,000. (8) Cicero: 180, EF ex-Proof.

— \* **Transitional.** [2]Regular obv., date slanting down to r., no die chip between 65, left base of 1 about over space, probably same as regular proof die. Rev. of 1866 with motto. Judd 445, AW 475. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Mason & Co. 6/1870:422 in set, unknown intermediaries, Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Farouk:317. Copper specimens exist and may come gilt; gold ones weigh 129 grains or 8.36 grams.



**1865 Eagle.** Ex Newcomer, Boyd, Bell colls.

**Eagle.** [25] \*B-1. Low date, centered between adjacent stars. Left base of 1 over center. No doublings on r. wing or letters. Possibly as many as eight survive. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:670, J.F. Bell, "Memorable":564, possibly reappearing as Wolfson:689. (4) Kern:510; (5) Ten Eyck:294, Clapp, Eliasberg. At least two others in impaired proof state.

— **Transitional.** [2] Identical obv. Rev. Motto die of 1866. Judd 449, AW 471. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Mason & Co. 6/1870:422 in set, unknown intermediaries, Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Farouk: 311. Copper specimens exist and may come gilt; gold ones weigh 258 grains or 16.72 grams.



**1865 Double Eagle.** Ex Newcomer, Boyd, Bell colls.

**Double Eagle.** [25] Low date, left base of 1 about over r. edge. Probably 6 or 7 survivors. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:868, J. F. Bell, "Memorable":690, probably reappearing as Ullmer:522, \$35,000. (4) Lester Merkin, E.I.U. (5) Kern:601; (6) Ten Eyck:318, Clapp, Eliasberg.

— **Transitional.** [2]Identical obv. Rev. motto die of 1866. Judd 452, AW 468. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Mason & Co. 6/1870:422 set, unknown intermediaries, Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Farouk:290, Dr. John Wilkison, Paramount, A-Mark. Copper specimens exist, at least one gilt; obv. die cracked, rim into bust left of 1. Gold ones weigh 516 grains or 33.44 grams.

**Gold proof sets.** [25] Delivered March 8. One was in the J. B. Wilson sale in 1908. Parmelee's was broken up; my priced and named copy of the catalogue lacks buyer's names for these last years, but I conjecture that these gold proofs mostly went to Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, and are individually mentioned above. It is unlikely that as many as two survive aside from the SI and ANS complete sets, below.

**Complete proof sets.** [25] Presumably distributed on March 10. That in the Smithsonian came from the Coiner on April 7; but its face value was given as \$43.46, specie price \$43.54, therefore it contained no nickel 3¢ piece. Why this was lacking is unknown; but the coin was later supplied without record being kept of date of acquisition. Date of acquisition of another set by R. C. W. Brock is unknown but very likely he obtained the gold later than the silver; this set went to J. P. Morgan, thence to ANS.

## 1866

**Cent.** [725+] Normal date. Generally available for a price; not much scarcer than later dates in the sixties, if at all, but very popular.

**Two Cents.** [725+] Date rather high, ball above 8 (left edge slightly left of 8), left base of 1 slightly r. of center; die file marks around shield and near lower r. border, which fade. Rev.: Top serif of D off (also on business strikes).

Another die: left edge of ball above inner r. curve of 8.

**Three Cents Nickel.** [725+] Often shows tops of 6's more or less filled, loop of second 6 recut though

this is not constant; hold 1 vertical and its left base is over center. Rev.: Fragmented leaves, incomplete ribbons; later relapped, bows also incomplete. Readily available though now priced much higher than later dates — possibly because of the influence of the five-cent piece?



**1866 Shield Nickel. Rays. ANS coll. Note the center dot on either side.**

**Five Cents Nickel.** [125+] Shield design, obv. similar to the 2¢ but with motto in field; shield surmounted by the Cross of the Order of Calatrava (or something enough like it to make no difference). Crossed arrows at base, not in saltire. Rev. 5 within circle of stars, rays between stars. Proofs are all from a single pair of dies: \*Obv. Plain center dot. Rev.: Plain center dot, minute recutting on upright of 5 at left. This reverse die is the identical one used in the prototype pieces dated 1865 of the design adopted. Coinage began around June 10, 1866, per Act of Congress of May 16, 1866, authorizing this denomination to replace the 5¢ notes portraying Spencer M. Clark of the Currency Bureau. Extras were probably made for minor sets (below), and surely the 50 silver-minor sets of June 11, 50 of July 25, and 25 of Sept. 17, included this denomination. The actual number made is possibly nearer to 175 than to 125, but the smaller figure would be a very liberal guess for the number of survivors. Rare and of late highly prized, several recent auction records in the neighborhood of \$1,500. Many show rounded borders. I authenticated one that somehow managed to pass mint inspection despite being struck on a slightly clipped planchet — die identity and surface were unequivocal. Many have been drastically cleaned to the point of dullness or roughness.

**Minor proof sets.** Said to contain cent, 2¢, nickel 3¢ and 5¢. None seen.



**1866 Transitional Shield Nickel, No Rays. Ex 1974 GENA: 1267.**

**Transitional Five Cents.** Regular obv., with center dot. Rev. Prototype die without rays, recut 5, two center dots. Probably less than a dozen known. (1) S 10/50:69, W. C. Blaisdell, 1971 ANA:346. (2) 1974 GENA: 1267. The other (rarer??) variety, with an 1868 reverse die (no center dots, stars differently placed) is believed a restrike — LM 9/68:431.

**Trime.** [725] At least two obv. dies, both with D open (hub worn down or chipped).

—\*B-1. Very light repunching at top second 6. Less rare than following.

— \*B-2. "Overdate," second 6 heavily punched over something else, not identifiable with certainty even at 90x stereo magnification. Much rarer. NN 51:349; Landau:335. This obv. die was later used on business strikes (rarer than proofs); they often show rim break over F, cracks from rim to star r. of date.

**Half Dime.** [725] V-1. Shield point about over tip of serif of 1, skirt pendant over thickness of left curve of second 6 (date low, to left); 6 much farther from border than is 1. Letters clear. Rev. Heavy HALF DIME, both ribbon ends clear. ANS, Valentine, others. Unknown if scarcer than following.

— \*(?) B-2, not in Valentine. Date more nearly in normal position — farther right. Shield point well to left of 1, skirt pendant between 66, all letters in AMERICA filled. Rev. Lapped die, thin letters in HALF DIME, both ribbon ends clear, right one *distant* from wreath. Eliasberg; NN 51: 565; Landau: 402; NN 54: 1279, others.

**Dime.** [725]. \*B-1. Date begins low, slants slightly up to r.; partial extra left base to 1; dot above base of middle white stripe. Rev. of 1865, both ribbon ends clear, mark on r. leg of M. Readily available for a price; more often seen proof or impaired proof than uncirculated or nearly unc. Compare that in Lester Merkin auction, April 1966. There may have been fewer than the full 725 actually made as proofs, as I have seen an uncirculated piece included in an 1866 proof set (cent through dollar) obtained from the mint in that year and still in the original brownish (aged) wrappers. This uncirculated coin was from clashed dies. See NN 57: 491.

**Quarter.** [725] First regular year with motto. Date nearly centered; shield point over left edge of upright, left base of 1 over left edge of dentil. Same comment as to the dime, the uncirculated piece from the proof set being in NN 57: 658.

**Half Dollar.** [725] First regular year with motto. First variety (Beistle 1-A): date begins slightly above center, slants slightly down; 6's not recut; one full and two partial drapery lines. Shield point minutely r. of upright, left base of 1 almost over r. edge; extra outlines on 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 7th stars. Rev.: RI joined as are two lower arrowheads; irregularities in final A; 2nd and 3rd red stripes thin; some wing and body feathers partially lapped off.

Second variety: date minutely lower, slants down, minute recutting atop final 6. Rev.: Possibly same as above.

There is as yet insufficient evidence to tell which is scarcer. The date is readily available for a price, but has become popular as a type coin. Same comment as to the dime; the unc. piece from the proof set was in NN 57: 965.

**Silver Dollar.** [725] First regular year with motto. Three varieties. B-1. Recut base of 1. "Gilhausen": 1330, ex Mehl, Dr. Ruby. (Also in copper.) [600?]. Note: The recutting on G W T (R) is in the hub. The date is very popular as a type coin, though not really rarer than others in the sixties. Same comment as to the dime; the unc. piece from the proof set was in NN 57: 1168.

— \*B-3. Low date slants up r. Rev.: No doubling on IN; spine slants up to left from top of 3rd leaf. Very rare. "Gilhausen": 1331, Hirt: 1245.



**1866 Silver Dollar. B-4. Ex QS 11/76:1147**

— \*B-4. Centered date, 1 normal. Rev. as B-3. Very rare, this and B-3 thought to comprise the final 125 of June-September as these have the first 1867 reverse. QS 11/76:1147.

NB: For the quarter, half and dollar without motto, see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** There were 725 in all: 100 apiece on January 17, 23 and 29; 200 on February 9, 100 on March 5, none of these containing the 5-cent nickel. On June 11 and July 25, 50 more apiece, finally 25 on September 17. At least one of the sets was filled out with uncirculated coins (from dime through silver dollar), the uncirculated pieces being offered in the NN 57th sale. I have also heard of at least one other set of the same date containing an uncirculated half dollar. Some of the sets now extant — there are quite a number — may have been assembled. Cf. Bartlett: 997 at \$2,700. This could have been done relatively cheaply until a few years ago, the only stumbling block being the 5\$ nickel; now the task would be somewhat more challenging because of the silver coins with motto, which have become very popular.

**Gold Dollar.** [30] Date from the half dime logotype, heavy, nearer to ribbon bows than to DOLLAR, and level. \*B-1. Heavy low date, wreath tops joined. Almost R-7. Very few auction records. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) WGC-"Memorable":22. (4) Scanlon: 1972. Compare "Cicero": 397, very faintly hairmarked; 1962

New York Metropolitan sale: 2640; that in the October 1965 PNG auction; Menjou: 432; Dr. Green; Delp: 774 ex Dines:799.



**1866 Quarter Eagle. Ex Merkin Oct. 1969**

**Quarter Eagle.** [30] \*B-1. Date as on dimes, about central between border and device, level (not slanting down as on business strikes), 1 not recut; rev. recutting in R. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) WGC — "Memorable": 125. (5) Atwater:2117, Grant Pierce:1184, clashed rev. die, possibly one of the 5 made on June 8. (6) Brand estate, Ira S. Reed, Gaskill, NN 48:310, R. P. (7) Merkin 10/69:402. (8) Nate Shapero:845, obv. field nick. Few others; possibly under 12 survivors in all.

**Three Dollars.** [30] \*B-1. Obv. of 1865 originals. Rev. Date as on the quarter, left upright of 1 below left serif of L, without excessive heaviness on 1 (unlike nonproofs, which have recut M and heavy 1 of date).

— \*B-2. Obv. of 1867 proofs. Rev. as preceding.

The following were not attributed. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Wolfson:291, possibly reappearing as Ullmer:416, \$7,500. (5) Impaired, Stadiem's nicked coin, Stadiem-Gardner:680. (6) Impaired, Grant Pierce:1253, field rubbing. (7) Impaired, Nicholson Family — Scanlon:2215, like preceding. (8) Breen I:117, lint mark before mouth, edge nick top obv. Several other more or less impaired pieces seen. The date is not quite as rare (proofs and nonproofs) taken together) as 1863-65, but proofs are at least as rare as the dollar and quarter eagle, and very few are choice. The number of alleged proofs has been inflated by first strikes intended for circulation.

**Half Eagle.** [30] First year regularly with motto. \*B-1. Date to left; left base of 1 over r. edge of dentil. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Dunham:2143. (4) Dr. Judd, "Ill. Hist.":322. (5) Menjou: 1511. (6) Dr. Clifford Smith: 1733, to a dealer. (7) Melish:2126, Garland Stephens. (8) 1969 ANA: 1970. (9) QS 9/73:1183 — 1974 ANA:881, \$9,750. (10) 1976 ANA:2990. These probably include some duplications; most likely under ten survive.



**1866 Eagle. Ex J. F. Bell, "Memorable":565**

**Eagle.** [30] First year regularly with motto. \*B-1. Date too far left; no recutting on it. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) "Memorable": 565, possibly the coin reappearing in Mocatta Metals reference collection. (4) Impaired, Davis-Graves:946. (5) 1976 ANA:3090, cloudy, \$15,000. (6) Geiss:1893. There are probably three others around; ten survivors would be a liberal estimate.



**1866 Double Eagle. Ex Atwater, Eliasberg colls.**

**Double Eagle.** [30] First year regularly with motto. Extremely rare. Obv. has date beginning very close to bust and slanting down to r. so that 6 is minutely closer to border than is 1. Top of extra 1 in raised rim below r. base of 1. Left base of 1 over left edge. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Atwater: 1258 — Eliasberg — "H. R. Lee": 1710 — NN 49: 116— J. Cohen. (5) Dunham: 2308. (6) WGC: 859—"Memorable": 691. (7) Baldenhofer: 1529, cloudy, but it may have been dipped in the interim. One of these: Texas private collection. (8) 1973 GENA: 546 — Breen I: 305, cleaned, nicked near tip of nose. There may be as many as a dozen around in all. Cf. "Alto": 423, cleaned; Dr. Judd, "Ill. Hist.": 326.

The dies with motto on reverse were Longacre's design.

**Gold proof sets.** [30] There were 25 gold sets (\$1 to \$20) minted on January 15, 5 more on June 8.

**Complete proof sets.** The complete set, cent to \$20, in the Smithsonian was obtained January 22 from the Coiner. A recheck of its half dime and trime would be of interest; it would appear to have contained silver and minor proofs from the initial delivery of January 17. The only other one is in ANS, from Brock, Morgan.

## 1867

**Cent.** [625+] Normal date, rather thin. This has been seen with very thin obverse letters (Lester

Merkin auction, November 1965), but it appears far more often with normal letters. I do not know if these are two different dies or the former is a heavily lapped or repolished state of the normal die.

**Two Cents.** [625+] Date nearer ball than border, left base of 1 over center. Rev. D minus left top, die of 1866. Readily available for a price, like the cent.

**Three Cents Nickel.** [625+] First variety: 7 almost touches curl, recut at right (fades), left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge. Garrett set.

— Second variety: 7 far from curl. Normal rev. on both; which is scarcer is not yet known.



**1867 Shield Nickel with Rays. Enlarged. Ex Merkin March 1969:828**

**Five Cents Nickel.** Type of 1866, *with rays*. [25+] Now known to have been issued only with the initial or February 5, 1867 delivery of silver proofs, with possibly at most a few more in minor proof sets at that time. Exceedingly rare, not over about a dozen survivors traceable, though other claimants have been offered — generally with surfaces so much inferior to 1867's without rays as to give rise to justified doubts of their proof status. The nickels without rays in proof were made as early as March 1867 per evidence presented below, i.e. the cased proof set coming from the mint in that year.

Obv. has outer leaf below U hollow; roughness at bases of all white stripes except first; rev. dentils from 2:30 to 5:00 weaker than remainder. Borders are wider at left obverse than at right. None *seen from other dies to date qualify as proofs*. Deceptive first strikes abound. Compare the illustration!

Reason for early changeover to the type without rays (and thus extreme rarity of the proofs with rays) is an order from the Treasury Secretary, Hugh McCullough, January 21, 1867, reproduced in NSM 11/61, p.2906. He gave no reason, but I suspect that the striking qualities of the coins with rays may be responsible — many of them are very weak on parts of shield and wreath, directly opposite stars and rays. We need not credit the silly rumors equating stars and rays with the Confederate Stars and Bars.

The estimate of a dozen includes (1) Eliasberg. (2) That in the Hydeman: 690 set. (3) S 5/68: 1098 ex Gardner: 1452 at \$4,800. (4) Lohr: 301, not impossibly same as either of foregoing, reappearing in Golden II: 2533, spotty. (5) Philip Straus estate to NN 53:298 to H. J. F.; cleaned. (6) Straus's other one, in the

1959 N.Y. Metropolitan Convention auction: 573, reappearing as Wolfson: 312; spots between tops of D S, S 0. (7) Garrett set. Compare also WGC: 72; KS 3/64:2802; LM 3/69: 828; Kagin's Nov. 1973 MANA sale; Delp: 243, ex Jay: 468; Miles: 492; Rothert: 721, ex Marks: 250. Of the others unmentioned, I can testify that at least two have been poorly cleaned.

— Type of 1868, *without rays*. [600+] Several die varieties of obverse; normal date and very faintly recut date. Reverse from the first hub of 1868: S's in STATES high, stars distant from 5. (This hub is also found on a very small number of nonproofs dated 1869 and not afterwards.) Some have spectacularly high knife-rims or "wire edges". The 1867 nickel without rays in proof is readily available for a price; the plus mark might cover an extra few dozen or even more.

**Minor proof sets.** As in 1866, none seen.

**Trime.** [625] Three minor varieties. \*B-1. Recut date: earliest state, recutting visible faintly at left of all four digits, later only at left sides of 67. Compare ANS's and those in NN 53: 422, 54: 176 (is it the same die?), 54: 1294, and 57: 342.

— \*B-2. Double date, high, extra outlines at right of all four digits, plainest at 1 7. Rev. Three die file marks from near top of C towards border, between 1:00 and 2:00. "Gilhausen": 127.

— \*B-3. Normal date, without any trace of recutting, minutely differently placed with respect to star from first die; hook-shaped raised line just below shield, r. of its base. Probably rarer. Cf. NN 53: 421. Even though the coin as a date is always available for a price, it is under considerable pressure from type collectors inasmuch as the business strikes are hardly ever encountered in any condition, being much rarer than the proofs.

**Half Dime.** [625] \*V-1. Date a little above center of exergual space; shield point left of tip of 1; skirt pendant above inner left curve of 6. Rev.: Both ribbon ends clear. Last ones show IME clashed on drapery, reground die (to remove clash marks); crack, rim to final S to drapery. This is very rare, extremely so with the crack. Ruby I: 878, Neil 2 (in 1927 list).

— V-2. Date a little below center of space, shield point over tip of serif of 1, skirt pendant almost over knob of 6. Rev.: Ribbon ends touch wreath. ANS and compare NN 51: 566. The majority variety. Garrett set.

— \*B-4. Same obv., rev. ribbon ends free.

— \*B-3. Date lower than last, close to border; shield point above upright of 1; skirt pendant central over 6. Landau, NN 52: 404 to F. S. C.

**Dime.** [625] \*B-1. Double punching shows on bases of 1 and 7 and sometimes also just within bottom of lower loop of 8; rev. ribbon ends touch. Always available at a price, though under considerable pressure from date collectors as business strikes are very seldom available. It is not impossible that the normal date die used on uncirculated coins (struck

January 29) might also have been used on the earliest proofs. See illustrations, *Gobrecht Journal* v3n7:15-17 (11/76).

Quarter. [625] B-1. Date a little above center, shield point minutely r. of upright, left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge. Rev.: Fold of scroll incomplete left of IN. Garrett set.

— B-2. Same obv., relapped; incomplete drapery and stripes. Rev.: Scroll normal, but contains diagonal line in fold left of IN, pointing to near base of I (N). Which is rarer?

**Half Dollar.** [625] First variety. Mostly full drapery, high date, slants up slightly, shield point over r. upright, left base of 1 about over left edge, most stars with extra outlines. Rev.: Arrowheads and R I apart, two slanting dashes near top of 5th white stripe. 1974 GENA: 1601. Garrett set.

— Second variety. One thin broken line of drapery; level, high date, shield point minutely left of r. upright, left base of 1 over space; tops of several white stripes rounded, many imperfect feathers. Often with crack through 2nd to 4th and last 4 stars, and through MERICA. "Gilhausen": 1046. Available for a price. Which is rarer?

**Silver Dollar.** [625] \*B-1. High date, shield point only minutely r. of tip of 1; border beads normal, not too small. Rev.: Same as 1866 B-3, B-4. [125?] "Gilhausen": 1332, 1975 ANA: 1113-14; Garrett set. The brass proofs are from these dies, including 1975 ANA: 1259.

— \*B-2. High date, shield point midway tip and upright of 1, beads from 12:00 to 2:00 usually very minute, spaced far apart (die excessively lapped). Rev. Repolished die of B-L "Gilhausen": 1333; 1975 ANA: 1115, etc. Least rare variety of date [400?].

— \*B-3. Obv. of B-2. Rev. of 1868, spine joins arrowhead and inner angle of L. Very rare.

— \*B-4. **Blundered date**, first punched high with small numerals (half-dollar logotype?), slanting down to right, then corrected with larger numerals lower and level, plainest at 18. On later examples the traces of small numerals are weaker (die relapped). Rev. Die of B-3, repolished at ribbon. Thought to have been part of the final 100, June 1867. Discovery coin, "Gilhausen": 1334, later 1975 ANA: 1112. To date 8 or 9 seen, mostly impaired. Late state, Hirt: 1246.

This date's low mintage is beginning to cause date collector pressure.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** [625] Minted in the following deliveries

Feb. 5	25
Feb. 18	100
Feb. 25	200
March 13	200
June	100

Note that the complete set in SI contains only the nickel without rays, though it was obtained from the

Coiner March 7. For confirmation, I have seen a cased set (buckram, with gold stamped inscription), obtained from the mint in March, with the nickel without rays and no space for the other type. Cf. Ramsay Bartlett:998 (\$1600) — the same set? Regrettably, when the set was shown me, I had not my notebooks at hand, so could not ascertain the die variety of nickel 5¢ (rev.), trime, half dime, or dollar. Garrett's set (nickel with rays) had the other nickel added, and brought \$13,000. Doubtless some sets now extant have been assembled. Certainly the few that contain both nickels have had one or the other added later; even as with the 1864 sets showing both types of cent. Incidentally, in a little black leatherette-bound book, *The Copper Coins of the United States, being the actual Prices realized for Coins at auctions during 1900-1901*: compiled by Albert R. Frey and Ed. Frossard: Volume I: New York, Ed. Frossard, 111 East 14th St., Nov. 1901, [i.e. Boston, W.T.R. Marvin, printer], there is a section devoted to minor proof sets dating from 1864 only, "sold per set", with an explanation to the effect that the 1864 set consists of nickel cent, copper cent and 2c, the 1865 of 1¢, 2¢, and 3¢, 1866-73 of 1¢, 2¢, 3¢ and 5¢, 1874-89 of 1¢, 3¢ and 5¢, and 1890-1901 of 1¢ and 5¢. If the mint actually began making up sets of minor proof coins beginning in 1864, that would justify a somewhat larger plus mark on the bronze cent and 2c piece of that year. It is possible, however that the extant sets of 1864-65 were made up later for uniformity with the minor sets actually sold in subsequent years. I have not seen a copy of the Mint Regulations brochure for 1864 or 1865, which would settle the question, so in the meantime it must remain open. I mention this booklet here because when I was writing up the 1864 issues I had not yet seen the reference.

**Gold Dollar.** [50] \*B-3. Date slants up very slightly. Very rare, more so than the mintage would indicate; in a class with gold dollar proofs of previous years despite the larger mintage. Several of the survivors have been badly cleaned, e.g. Wolfson: 55. There are probably less than 18 survivors in all. If it should develop that two varieties of proofs exist (though I have seen only one), a decision as to which is the earlier might be made on the basis of the known date of issue of the dollar in the Smithsonian proof set (from the Coiner, March 7, or only two days after the initial delivery of 25 proofs: the remaining 25 came on **July 2**). It is also possible that proofs were made from the dies earlier used for business strikes, but of this there is no evidence as yet.



**1867 Quarter Eagle. Ex Merkin Oct. 1969**

**Quarter Eagle.** [50] Date from the dime logotype, 7 touching truncation, 1 almost touching, often faintly cracked through 67. Rev. Die of 1866 proofs, with extra lines within loop of R. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Bell I. (5) WGC. (6) Atwater:2118. (7) "Memorable": 126. (8) Melish: 1263, J. W. (9) LM 10/69:403. (10) Garrett:420. (11) Ullmer:372, rev. rubbed. (12) S 9/75. Others are mostly poorly cleaned, nicked or scratched.

**Three Dollars.** [50] Two varieties, possibly identifiable with the earlier and later strikings of 25 apiece.

— B-1. Obv. of 1864-66 original proofs, described above. Rev. Date to left, left (upright) serif of 7 under r. tip of left foot of A. (1) Eliasberg, (2) and (3) others seen in private colls. Believed to constitute the 25 struck March 5, 1867. Confirmation awaits examination of the SI coin, obtained from the Coiner, March 7, 1867 (struck two days earlier). Nonproof impressions from this rev. were made Jan. 24 — Cf. KS 2/60:2663. Silver and nickel impressions, KS 2/60:2440-41.

— \*B-3. Obv. of 1868 proofs, with the tiny rust marks in D and R. Rev. Date to r., serif of 7 under left tip of r. foot of A. (1) Mint, 1867, Brock, Morgan, ANS. (2) Garrett:419, \$5,500. (3) Golden 11:1913. (4) Dr. E. Yale Clarke: 15, \$7,500, possibly same as preceding. (5) Grant Pierce: 1254 at \$1,900, a figure now too low but then high and based on someone's notion that only three unimpaired proofs survived. (6) 1974 GENA: 1875, impaired, now AU. Also known in copper, KS 2/60:2442. Believed to constitute the 25 struck July 2, 1867.

Probably from 15 to 20 survive in proof state, including impaired pieces, of both varieties. No rumor of restrikes.

**Half Eagle.** [50] Dale high, to left; left base of 1 almost over r. edge. Probably fewer than 10 survivors, some impaired, e.g. Dr. Clifford Smith: 1856 (EF); Ullmer:451, rubbed, brought \$5,500; Garrett:418, spotty but unimpaired, \$6,500.



### 1867 Eagle. Ex Garrett, Johns Hopkins, Essex

**Eagle.** [50] \*B-1. High date, left base of 1 just r. of left edge. Almost equally rare, possibly 12 to 15 surviving, some impaired. Ullmer:491, \$15,000; Garrett, \$10,000, Essex. Same dies used on copper and nickel strikes. Business strikes (B-2) have low date, slanting slightly up, corner of 7 near truncation.

**Double Eagle.** [50] Date from silver dollar logotype, high; left base of 1 over space. About as rare as the half eagle. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Amon Carter Jr. (4) WGC:870. (5) Menjou I: 1805. (6) Garrett:416, \$16,000. (7) Phila. Estate.

**Gold proof sets.** [50] Half delivered March 5, the rest July 2. Garrett's was broken up, totalling \$45,500.

**Complete proof sets.** [50] That in SI came from the Coiner, March 7, for \$43.62 specie represented by \$58.40 currency (depreciated greenbacks); face \$43.54. Its detailed die variety composition would be of interest for comparison with the Mint — Brock — Morgan — ANS set, evidently one of the later ones, possibly obtained in or after July 1867. No hint of restrikes for any of these denominations.

## 1868

In this year at least five complete sets (1¢ to \$20 inclusive) were struck in aluminum on behalf of Henry R. Linderman. One of the sets was intact within the last decade, possibly to the present day; others had been broken up but might have been reassembled with comparatively little cost (a statement possibly less realistic for the collector attempting it today!).

**Cent.** Normal date. [600+] Comes with dies normally aligned and sometimes with rev. 180° away from normal, i.e. aligned ↑↑. Significance of this is unknown. One was in LM 11/65:144, and I know I have seen others.

**Two Cents.** [600+] Apparently three varieties, all with rev. broken-off upper left serif of D restored by hand.

— Base of erroneously placed extra 1 below and r. of 1 of date. Much of detail at top of azure and part of leaves below and left of WE buffed off die. ANS; LM 11/65:194; others.

— No recutting at 1. Recutting within tops of 68. Ornament just below W lapped off die.

— No visible recutting at date, which is shallow, placed high, 86 especially close to ball. Ornament below left half of W incomplete. Possibly a little less

scarce than either of preceding. The date is always available for a price.

**Three Cents Nickel.** [600+] Date smaller than on former years, spaced very closely. At least two varieties. Normal size is 18 mm (compare patterns below).

— Thin date, lightly punched into die, 8 distant from curl. This obv. is apparently the die also used on patterns (Judd 615) with broad obv. rim, larger rev. die showing III in a wreath most like that on the gold dollar and \$3 pieces.

— Heavy date, very high; base of 1 repunched; OF and final A with extra outlines. Rev. of 1869, many incomplete outer leaves. Garrett set, others.

There are also many patterns with large date, larger dies, rev. a copy of the adopted type on a larger scale with smooth numerals (no ribbing on III), 19 mm; Judd 618. Apparently Joseph Wharton, via his friends and neighbors in the Mint (A. L. Snowden; H. R. Linderman) and Congress (Reps. William Darrah Kelley, R., Pa., and John Adam Kasson, R., Iowa), was attempting to obtain Congressional enactment of a uniform minor coinage in nickel (cent, 3¢ and 5¢), all with the same designs, larger than before, so that more bullion from Wharton's new Canadian mines would be required. The scheme fell through, like about two dozen similar ones emanating from that establishment, earlier and later; its sole remains are the cent, 3¢ and 5¢ patterns struck in nickel and bearing various dates and modifications of the same basic design, showing what his coinage would have brought the nation.

**Five Cents Nickel.** [600+] Reverse from first hub as in 1867: large stars away from 5, close to legend, some of them pointing at r. base of left foot of A in STATES, r. serif of E in STATES, between AM and between ER; one star very close to top of T in CENT. I mention this in detail because during 1868 a second hub was put into use, for this year only, having stars nearer 5, farther from legend and often looking a trifle smaller, pointing to center of A in STATES, left serif of final S, center of M and about center of R. I have seen no proofs from the second reverse though a die from it is found on copper strikes dated 1867.

There are apparently at least two obverse dies found on proofs. First variety: Normal date, scarcer.

Second variety: Base of 1 recut (fades), circle (lower loop of extra 8) overlaps middle of last 8, scattered lines slant a little down to r. in stripes. (This is the variety represented in the ANS set; cf. also NN 51:438.) Date is away from ball; on some nonproofs the date logotype touches or even overlaps ball. The Garrett set has much of date doubled — early state of above?

**Minor proof sets.** Cent, 2¢, nickel 3¢ and 5¢. None seen.

**Trime.** [600] Two obverse dies. Normal date, star



point over r. edge of 8. ANS and some others.

— Recutting on tops of 1 and 6, early plain, later quite faint. This is apparently scarcer. Which came first could only be decided by checking the Smithsonian set, obtained Feb. 20 from the Coiner.

**Half Dime.** [600] V-1. High date, top of 1 almost touching base, slanting a little down to r.; shield point between tip of serif and upright of 1, skirt pendant minutely left of knob of 6, left base of 1 r. of center of denticle. Rev.: Right end of ribbon clear of wreath. Valentine plate coin; Neil: 1685 and most others, including ANS, Garrett set.

— V-2. Lower date, slanting down much more to r.; shield point almost over left upright, skirt pendant above knob, left base of 1 above center or minutely left of center of dentil. Rev. Possibly the same die. Eliasberg. Much rarer in proof than V-1. The clashed or cracked die coin claimed in Neil: 1686 is unidentified. Same comment as to trimes.

**Dime.** [600] \*B-1. Blundered Die. Base and lowest part of upright of misplaced 1 run into drapery just r. of shield base, above space between 18. Very rare, discovered late 1965. (1) LM 4/1966:185. (2) Garrett set. (3) LM 6/70:131. (4) Kamal Ahwash, discovered at Feb. 1977 Long Beach convention. (5) Pvt. coll., Boston, same as (1) or (3)?

— B-2. Normal die. Date slants down to r., shield point about over tip, pendant almost over knob of 6. Rev. Both ribbon ends doubled, left one touches wreath. ANS, most others. Which came first (as with the lower denominations) might be ascertainable by checking the SI set.

**Quarter.** [600] B-1. Rust pit below B. Base of final 8 repunched (fades). Rev. of 1867, scroll incomplete at WE, etc.

— B-2. Same obv., polished at white stripes. Rev. Scroll normal. Which is scarcer?

**Half Dollar.** [600] Beistle mentions only one die: date below center of exergual space, some double punching showing. Rev. Without and with crack through AMERICA (the 1867 die?).

— Not in Beistle. High date, left base of 1 almost over r. edge, shield point minutely r. of 1, one thin line of drapery, toe not enclosed, stars without extra outlines. Rev. Similar to 1866, 2nd and 3rd stripes thin, incomplete at bases; minute doubling on STATES. 1974 GENA: 1602; "Gilhausen": 1049; 1975 ANA:646; Garrett set.

**Silver Dollar.** [600] Two obv. dies, both with rev. of 1867 B-3, 4, reused on 1863-64 motto coins, suggesting that the latter were made in this year.

\*B-1. Normal date, high, slants down to r., shield point slightly r. of tip of peak (left serif) of 1. Scarce. 1975 ANA: 1118.

\*B-2. Date high, slants down to r., showing double punching, which fades; shield point over left upright. "Dupont":2548, to D.I.; LM 9/68:368; 75 ANA:1117;

Garrett set; Hirt: 1247. Very rare.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** [600] Quite a few of these survive, some of them probably assembled. Cf. Bartlett: 999; Garrett: 302 at \$3,600. One cased set seen in the 1950's. Enough individual coins survive so that despite a moderately small mintage the date is not considered a real rarity. Only on trimes, half dimes and — to a lesser extent — cents do we find date collector pressure.

Deliveries:

February 14	200
March 2	100
March 25	100
April 28	100
July 9	100

For the large cent proofs (type of 1857) see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

Note also the duplicate proof set in Parmelee: 1364, containing "a pattern 3 cent nickel instead of the regular type" (not otherwise described), unlocated. Considering the relative unpopularity at the time of the overpriced 1868-9 nickel patterns, one may legitimately ask if some of the proof sets of the year were spaced out with these just the way others were with uncirculated coins?

**Gold Dollar.** [25] Small straight date similar to those on trimes and nickel 5¢ pieces. \*B-1. Date rather low, level, 6 wholly below L; terminal tassels attenuated. Probably about 15-18 survive, several impaired. Unappreciated; not often touted, and enough business strikes — and deceptive counterfeits — are around to relieve date collector pressure. Dies often aligned 180° from normal.



**1868 Quarter Eagle. Ex Merkin, Oct. 1969**

**Quarter Eagle.** [25] Date from dime punches. \*B-1. Date high, to left, 8 away from border; left base of 1 r. of center; no rust pits. Rev. of 1866-67. Those showing two rust pits on neck are early impressions from B-2 dies (business strikes). Very rare, possibly 15 to 17 survive, several badly impaired. Cf. Dunham (unverified); G. H. Hall (ditto); WGC: Atwater: 1119; NN 47:1487; LM 10/69:404, "Gilhausen;" and Garrett: 426 at \$5,000.





### 1868 Three Dollars. Ex Merkin, Nov. 1965

**Three Dollars.** [25] Obv. different from business strikes, and from earlier proofs except for the 1867 proof in ANS. Small rust marks develop in D R. Rev. Leaf left of date very thin, irregular; traces of recutting within 8's, possible fragments of 7 in final 8 (will the earliest impressions show plainer overdate?). Very rare. Dies often though not always aligned 180° from normal. Cf. LM 11/65: 330, which sale also included a cent with the same head-to-head alignment, which is also found on the aluminum threes — a clue to the date of manufacture? Of possibly 15 to 17 gold survivors, at least four are impaired, e.g. Kern — Grant Pierce: 1255. Garrett:425 brought \$9,000. Aluminum strikings came with both alignments: LM 9/67:511; LM 3/68:348.

**Half Eagle.** [25] \*B-2. Date to left. Rust above truncation; reversed C-shaped mark in hair r. of ear. Rarer than the lower denominations, doubtful if as many as a dozen survive. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Garrett:424, \$5,500. (4) KS 2/61:1203. (5) Ullmer:452 at \$8,000, possibly same as last. (6) Amon Carter Sr. and Jr. (7) 1976 ANA:2991. (8) 69 ANA: 1973.



### 1868 Eagle. Ex J. F. Bell

**Eagle.** [25] \*B-1. Date about centered, placed too far to left. Rev. Top of second stripe thin. Extremely rare, doubtful if more than eight survive. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Garrett:423, only \$9,500 (cleaned). (4) Ullmer:492 (few hairlines), \$21,000. (5) Pvt. coll., impaired. (6) Amon Carter Sr. and Jr. On the B-2 business strikes, date is very high, close to device, slanting down.

**Double eagle.** [25] Large date from silver dollar logotype, filling up space between device and border. B-2. Top of 1 nearer to bust than base is to border; left base of 1 left of center of dentil. Rev. As on some uncs., dentils plainly clash-marked left and right of tail to scrolls. Extremely rare, in the same rarity

class as the eagle. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (4) Garrett: 422, \$12,500. (5) Menjou I: 1806. (6) Impaired, Gilhousen:890. (7) Impaired, Nicholson Family — Scanlon:2647. (8) Mocatta Metals — is it ex (4)?

**Gold proof sets.** [25] All delivered Feb. 20. Garrett's was broken up and totalled only \$43,700.

**Complete proof sets.** [25] One of the gold sets was immediately added to a silver-minor set and delivered (for \$65.50 in greenbacks, equivalent to \$43.54 specie) from the Coiner to the Curator of the Mint Cabinet. It is now in the Smithsonian. A second complete set is in ANS. I would be curious to know if the complete aluminum set in original presentation case, offered in the Numismatic Gallery Monthly, May 1950, page 3, at \$850, is still intact and whether the coins are from the earliest dies. This particular set appears to have originated in the William Fewsmith collection: 1381 (1870), Fewsmith having obtained it by God only knows what kind of political influence or chicanery from Henry R. Linderman, directly or indirectly. There was also a similar aluminum set in the Woodside auction of 1892, lot 217, supposedly one of only two so made, having the pattern eagle with the 3¢ head rather than the regular eagle. I do not know if this set remains intact either.

## 1869

**Cent.** [600+] Normal date. With and without line from r. top of M to border. Under pressure from date collectors, mostly of the kind for whom proof is a more desirable "grade" than uncirculated but in the same scale. A rumored overdate proof has never been verified.

**Two Cents.** [600+] Two striae cross in field above WE; these fade. Left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge; date high near ball. Rev. top serif of D missing from now on except when hand-restored (hub chipped).

**Three Cents Nickel.** [600+] Wider numerals than in 1868. Recutting shows on 69. Date high, faint line from (I)T to border. ANS, and cf. NN 53:424. Later, recutting fades out, except for a faint trace within right curves of 9. Same rev. as last 1868's. These and the 5¢ nickel proofs are sometimes more brilliant than any earlier or most later nickel proofs, reason unknown, possibly quality of nickel strip.

**Five Cents Nickel.** [600+] Wide numerals, unlike 1868, date away from ball, or on a second die date is very close to ball (Garrett set). Rev.: Same as first **hub** of 1868, originally from 1867. Note: There are many nonproofs claimed as overdates, and I have heard a rumor of an overdate proof. The only true overdate 1869 nickel is a nonproof variety having narrow numerals as in 1868; reverse type of 1867-8. I have seen possibly three in all. Narrow numerals 1869 nickels are found only in nonproof, to date, 3 or 4 minor varieties known including the 1869/8, and they

are many times as rare as the wide numerals type. Wide numerals coins sometimes come with double date (often mistaken for overdate) and sometimes with a reverse hub found on nickels of 1870-83 with stars well away from legend, some pointing to extreme left foot of A in STATES, a little left of r. edge of E in STATES, r. foot of left bases of M and of R. No proofs known of this later type.

**Minor proof sets.** As in 1866, none seen.

**Trime.** [600] \*1869/68, narrow numerals. The overdate is very faint and difficult to see without high magnification, later disappears. Discovered by Don Taxay. R-7. Garrett set.

— Normal date, wider numerals, point of star very close to space between 86. Striae slant up in thin stripes. This is less rare, the variety usually encountered. Hardly a real rarity but subject to considerable pressure from date collectors as nonproofs are extremely rare.

**Half Dime.** [600] V-1. High date, shield point almost over left upright of 1, skirt pendant almost in line with knob of 6, left base of 1 over r. part of denticle; r. end of ribbon barely clear. ANS, Valentine, others.

— V-2. Date about centered, shield point about over tip of peak of 1, skirt pendant slightly left of center above 6, left base of 1 close over slightly left of center of denticle; date shows faint recutting, which fades out. Eliasberg; Valentine plate. This appears to be scarcer.

— B-5. Central date well to left. Rev. of V-4. Merkin 6/71: 700.

**Dime.** [600] Pendant between left curves of 6, shield point barely left of tip. Die file marks from (A)T and O to border. Rev.: Ribbons free. Lester Merkin auction, April 1966, others.

**Quarter.** [600] Spine through 4th and 5th stars, shield point over r. upright. Rev.: Line slants down to left from base of E(S) to scroll, scattered field striae. Few rust pits near ES OF.

**Half Dollar.** [600] Beistle shows only one variety (B.1-A) of proofs, that having first six stars doubled, date minutely above center of exergual space, shield point over r. foot, left base of 1 about central. Rev. The word GOD is sometimes weak (Beistle says absent).

— Same obv., earlier state? Most stars show extra outlines. Rev. of 1868. Garrett set, others.

— No extra outlines on stars. Rev. Last white stripe filled. Rust pit on tail of R. Which is rarest?

**Silver Dollar.** [600] \*B-1. Low date, shield point left of center of upright. Rev. of 1868. Very rare in silver. Also used for nickel strikings.

— \*B-2. High date, shield point over left edge of upright. Rev. Heavily lapped, scroll incomplete below IN G and ST; the die of 1870. Usually met with.

— \*B-3. Date a little above center, shield point

over tip of serif of 1. Rev. As last. Garrett set; 1974 GENA: 1085. Rarer than preceding.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** Quite a few are around, some doubtless assembled. Cf. Garrett:303, \$3,800; Bartlett: 1000; Phila. Estate.

Delivery dates:

Feb. 1	100
Feb. 18	200
March 10	50
March 26	50
May 12	50
July 12	50
Oct. 8	100

**Gold Dollar.** [25] \*B-1. Date about central (on business strikes it is low); narrow numerals; faint striae in field below AR, r. of large 1, etc. A small mintage of business strikes made Feb. 15, followed Feb. 19 by the proofs. Rarer than 1868.

**Quarter Eagle.** [25] \*B-1. Low date slants up to r.; line above base of L. Rarer than the dollar, possibly 12 to 15 known. Garrett's, cloudy, brought \$4,000. It has been impossible to distinguish most of them from the few catalogue photographs: Bell I, Atwater, WGC, Brand-Reed-Gaskill-NN48 to R.P.; Melish:1268-Sloss; LM 9/67:346, 4/70:670; LM 10/69:405; S 5/68:761. Scanlon:2099 (nicked, edge spot at 3:30).

**Three Dollars.** [25] \*B-1. Normal date, low, without recutting on 9, without traces of overdate; upright of 1 below r. curves of O. Very rare. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:431, \$8,000. (5) Wolfson:295. (6) C. Jay:281 ex Grant Pierce: 1256, flan somewhat granular, oddly double struck. (7) Ullmer: 418, cheek slide mark. Possibly as many as a dozen survive. Copper and aluminum strikings have the 1870 obverse.

**Half Eagle.** [25] B-1. Date a little high, well to left; left base of 1 r. of center. Possibly from the dies of the rare business strikes. Extremely rare, under pressure from date collectors; fewer business strikes known in acceptable condition than proofs. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Garrett:430, \$4,750, hairlined. (4) Ullmer:453; \$5,750. (5) Johnson (S 1/58):1943, imp. (6) Flanagan: 1147 to A(dolph?) F(riedman?). (7) Mocatta Metals, probably same as (4). (8) Amon Carter Sr. and Jr.



1869 Eagle. Ex J. F. Bell

**Eagle.** [25] \*B-1. Date from the half dollar logotype, thin (lightly impressed), placed to left, the

9 far from truncation; 10th star double. Rev. Partial "shift" (double entry from hub). (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Garrett:429, \$9,000. (4) Ullmer:493, \$12,000, ex Wolfson:698, possibly ex Neumoyer:2585. (5) PNG 10/65. (6) KS 2/60:2793, possibly same as one of last two, and/or DiBello:1078. (7) Amon Carter. Under great pressure from date collectors as almost unobtainable in business strike form. The latter are from B-2 dies: date low and left, 11th star double, thin letters, scroll incomplete around IN.

**Double Eagle.** [25] Silver dollar logotype for date, fills up space between device and border; date well to left, 1 touches bust and very close to border. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) PNG 10/65:693, possibly ex Baldenhofer:1532. (5) Garrett:428, \$14,000. (6) WGC:872, "Memorable":692. (7) Bell I, "H. R. Lee": 1713, DiBello:1235. (8) Amon Carter.

**Gold proof sets.** [25] All delivered Feb. 19. Garrett's, sold piecemeal, brought only \$42,250.

**Complete proof sets.** [25] One of the gold sets was joined to a silver-minor set and turned over by the Coiner to the Curator of the Mint Cabinet, March 8, for \$57 in greenbacks; it is now in SI. Another in ANS, ex Brock, Morgan.

## 1870

**Cent.** [1000+] Many have J-shaped raised line (lint mark in hub?) before earlobe, line from border towards top feather. Minute positional varieties probable. Hardly rare, but under date collector pressure. Often rather dull in color.

**Two Cents.** [1000+] Usually, date high, ball above 8 and serif of 7, ornament incomplete below W; stripes weak at center (die lapped). Rev. As usual, top serif of D missing. Like the cent, often rather dull in color, though not as much as in 1864-65.

**Three Cents Nickel.** [1000+] Planchets often rather granular on this and some later dates in the seventies. First die: Date high, not recut; two lines from rim to left top of M; rev. of 1869.

Second die: Date double punched, very plainly on r. side of zero. Left base of 1 above r. edge of dentils. Rev. Possibly the same die.

**Five Cents Nickel.** [1000+] Same comment as to 3¢ planchets. First die: Die file marks slant down to r. near cross; curved lines in lower white stripes.

Second die: Left arrow butt attenuated, right hand line in first two red stripes incomplete at top. Some outlines on shield and side ornaments incomplete.

**Minor proof sets.** Cent, 2¢, nickel 3¢ and 5¢. None seen.

**Trime.** [1000] First die: Star point well above date, about midway between 87. Light recutting within top loop of 8, below crossbar of 7. NN 53:425, others.

Second die: As above, no recutting, top of D more nearly closed than usual. ANS.

Third die: Heavier date, no recutting, star point

much nearer to 7 than to 8, though closer to both (higher date); line between F and A. NN 53:426, others.

**Half Dime.** [1000] V-1. Date about centered, shield point about over tip of serif of 1 or minutely left, skirt pendant well to left of center of 7; r. end of ribbon barely clear of wreath. Valentine; Bullowa, May 1952, others. This reverse (identifiable by pattern of faint striations, etc.) was also used on patterns of 1870-71 and restrikes dated 1863 and 1864 in various metals.

— V-2. high date, placed to left, slanting down very slightly. Shield point between tip and left upright, skirt pendant about over center of 7; rev. apparently as last. ANS, Valentine, Garrett set, others.

— \*(?) B-7, not in V. Low date, farther left; shield point above left upright, pendant r. of center of 7. Rev. as last two. Eliasberg. Rarer than others.

**Dime.** [1000] B-1. Date slants down to r., pendant left of center of 7. Rev. Ribbon ends free. Often with crack joining ribbons. Garrett set; Neil:1280; Merkin 4/66.

— \*(?) B-2. Date very high and level. ANS; Neil:1282, others.

**Quarter.** [1000] Date centered, shield point over r. upright, left base of 1 central. Rev. Fold of scroll left of TRUST vague. Other varieties are possible.

**Half Dollar.** [1000] At least two varieties; others possible:

— Beistle 1-A. Date well above center. One full and two partial drapery lines. Shield point slightly r. of upright of 1, left base of 1 r. of center; 11th and 12th stars often show extra outlines. Rev. Die of 1868, weak red stripes.

— Not in Beistle. Shield point over r. foot, left base of 1 over center; full drapery. Rev. as preceding. Which is scarcer?

**Silver Dollar.** [1000] \*B-1. High date, tiny rust pits in drapery and at crook of elbow of shield arm. Rev. of 1869 B-2, B-3. Other varieties possible.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** The 1,000 recorded were struck in small lots throughout the year. Many survive, some probably assembled, others original, e.g. Garrett:304 at \$3,400. One seen in case of issue.

**Gold Dollar.** [35] \*B-2. Obv. Polish around ERT and top feather. Rev. Date about central, not as low as on business strikes; DOLLAR thin. The first 25 came with the sets, Feb. 3; the others, not distinguishable, June 1. Under 20 survivors.

**Quarter Eagle.** [35] \*B-1. High date, left base of 1 r. of left edge. Same comments as to the gold dollars. Ullmer:373 brought \$4,750.

**Three Dollars.** [35] Only a single rev. die: low date, leaf left of it represented only by a fragment opposite upper half of 1, diagonal striae crisscrossing in field. At least some proofs have a different obv. die from that of 1869; others have apparently the identical obv. of 1869 and 1871. My own guess is that the 25 struck Feb. 3, 1870 have the repolished 1869

obv., the 10 made June 1 the different die — or vice versa? (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg, obv. different from 1869. (4) Garrett:437, \$4250, planchet defect, obv. not checked. (5) Kern, Pierce:1257, Jay:262. (6) Wolfson:296. (7) Ullmer:419, \$8500, same as one of last two? (8) LM 11/65, impaired. (9) 1971 NY Metropolitan: 1347, impaired. Possibly 15 to 20 survive in all including several other impaired ones. The Newcomer-Boyd-Farouk copper striking has double outline behind head, leaf left of date intact but thin: LM 9/67:519, LM 9/74:229.

**Half Eagle.** [35] High date to left, slanting down, left base of 1 about over space. Rev. Neck feathers sometimes weak. Exceedingly rare. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Garrett:436, \$5000. (4) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (5) Scanlon:2334, \$4400, as "finest." The estimate of 12 to 15 survivors is very liberal.



**1870 Eagle. Ex J. F. Bell**

**Eagle.** [35] \*B-1. Date very high, well to left, no recutting on 0; left base of 1 about over center. If anything, slightly rarer than the half eagle. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Garrett:435, cloudy, \$9500. (4) Geiss: 1896, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (5) Dr. Clifford Smith: 1859, DiBello:1079, cleaned. (6) Wolfson:700, Ullmer:494, \$9000. Possibly 10-12 exist?



**1870 Double Eagle. Ex D. S. Wilson, Atwater, Eliasberg, DiBello colls.**

**Double Eagle.** [35] Rather shallow date, to left; top of 1 close to bust, left base over space but favoring left edge. Rev. Middle arrow shaftless. About as rare as the eagle. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:434, \$11,000. (5) Atwater: 1262, Eliasberg, "H. R. Lee", NN 49:119, DiBello:1238, probably ex D. S. Wilson (1907). (6) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:873, "Memorable":692. (7) Menjou: 1808. (8) Wolfson:896, probably one of last two.

**Gold proof sets.** [35] Feb. 3, 25 sets; June 1, 10 more, probably from the same dies except for the \$3

obverse. Garrett's, dispersed, totalled \$36,850.

**Complete proof sets.** One of the 25 sets of Feb. 5 was joined with one of the early silver-minor sets and turned over to the Coiner for \$53.55 in greenbacks to the Curator of the Mint Cabinet; now SI. Another — time of striking unknown — went to Brock, thence to Morgan and ANS. No rumor of others.

**1871**

**Cent.** [960+] Two date logotypes, 7 1 apart or practically touching.

— 7 1 well apart. Thin letters, left base of first 1 slightly r. of left edge; r. base of last 1 just beyond r. edge, r. side of final 1 faintly recut. With or without faint line parallel border, left from arrow butt; heavy rev. letters. Garrett set.

— 71 almost touch. Left base of first 1 central, r. base of last 1 left of center. Which type is earlier, which rarer? Under continuous date collector pressure.

**Two Cents.** [960+] New hub: berry nearest left end of scroll elongated (not rounded as formerly), underside of left arrow butt straight; rev. less pronounced veins to leaves at left. At least two varieties. Doubling on r. arrows, motto at r. (especially TRUST), plainer on both dies than in 1872-3.

— 71 about touch, date high, ball above 8 and only very tip of serif. Left base of first 1 over r. edge, r. base of last 1 left of center; faint scattered striae. NN 57:202, ANS, many others.

— 71 touch, high date slanting down, left base of first 1 high and over r. edge, r. base of last 1 lower and over space, knob above r. half of 8 and serif. Garrett set, others.

**Three Cents Nickel.** [960+] 71 touch or about touch, date high, left base of first 1 just r. of left edge, r. base of 1 over r. edge; extra outlines on CA only; rev. long faint line slanting down to r. above center, r. ribbon end attenuated, second leaf above it only a tiny fragment. Other varieties possible including one with 7 1 apart. Often dull, on granular flans (especially near centers), and/or carelessly made. Under some date collector pressure, possibly because of the 1¢ and 5¢, partly because the business strike mintage is smaller than in neighboring years.

**Five Cents Nickel.** [960+] At least three varieties; others are possible, in particular one with 7 1 apart. Under inordinate date collector pressure, only because business strike mintage is lower than in neighboring years.

— First die. 71 nearly touch, date high to r., ball over 8 and space left and left third of 7; left base of first 1 just r. of left edge, r. base of final 1 minutely r. of center; unpolished areas at bases of white stripes, tops of red stripes incomplete at r. (especially first two). Rev. Extra outlines on all stars and many letters. Garrett set, others.

— Second die. 71 touch, date high to left, ball extends from above center of top of 8 to over r. corner of 7; left base of first 1 and r. base of last 1 just left of r. edges; tops of stripes incomplete similar to preceding. "Gilhausen":74, others. Which is rarer?

Third die. 71 about touch. *Double date*, placed well to r., first cut very slightly low, then corrected higher. Very rare.

**Minor proof sets.** As in 1870. None seen. Called "small money sets" by some dealers at the time.

**Trime.** [960] At least three obverses. May exist with 7 1 well apart.

— First die. 71 firmly touch. Star point above a point midway between r. curves of 8. ANS, others.

— Second die. 71 barely apart, star point almost touches 8 about midway between r. curves. Garrett set, others.

— Third die. 71 barely apart, star point almost in line with r. edge of 8, well to r. of midway between r. curves. Many almost horizontal striae at lower left and r. obv. Which is rarest?

**Half Dime.** [960] V-1. 71 almost touch. Date begins about centrally, slants a little down; left base of first 1 and r. base of last 1 about over spaces between dentils; shield point above tip of serif, pendant approximately central over 7. Top of D open. Rev. Right ribbon end almost or quite touches wreath. Without and with various degrees of rust on seated figure. This is the variety generally seen.

— Same obv. Rev. Right ribbon end away from wreath.

Other varieties may exist, in particular with 7 1 apart.

**Dime.** [960] At least two varieties; many also exist with 71 firmly touching or with 71 well apart.

— 71 nearly touch; normal date, shield point above tip of serif, pendant just r. of serif of 7, left base of first 1 over space, r. base of final 1 over center. Perfect and with crack joining ribbons below wreath (ANS, others). Neil: 1283; others.

— 71 close; 18 plainly double punched; shield point slightly r. of tip of serif, pendant r. of serif of 7, left base of first 1 r. of left edge, base of final 1 nearly over r. edge. Garrett set, others. This is apparently much scarcer.

**Quarter.** [960] At least two varieties.

— First die. 7 1 apart, shield point minutely beyond r. upright, left base of first 1 over space, r. base of final 1 over r. edge. Tiny rust pit on feathers well above top of shield, a little left of chief point (the middle cusp on top of shield). Later, worse rusted and drastically lapped; scroll incomplete left of IN, below GOD, and near WE. 1974 GENA: 1355; "Gilhausen":690; Rothert:435; Hirt:1197; Garrett set, others.

— Second die: 71 about touch. Rev. as last. This is probably scarcer.

**Half Dollar.** [960] At least four varieties.

— Beistle 1-A (the other varieties are apparently unlisted). 71 almost touch—barely free. Date below center. Rev. The weak incomplete stripes die of 1870.

— Obv. as last. Rev. Normal stripes. 1974 GENA: 1608.

— 7 1 apart. Date low, toe not enclosed (lapped die). Shield point over r. foot, left base of first 1 just barely r. of left edge, r. base of final 1 r. of center. Rev. of 1868-70. This obv. represented in Garrett set; rev. not checked.

— Not in Beistle. Same obv. Rev. Normal stripes. Which is scarcest?

**Silver Dollar.** [960] At least two varieties. As these larger dies lasted a shorter time than smaller ones, it is likely that others were made, but to date they have not been identified.

— \*B-1. 7 1 apart, date below center, shield point over left upright of first 1, left base of first 1 r. of left edge, r. base of final 1 over space and higher than first 1, or rather farther from border. Early state: normal dentils. Later state, after relapping: dentils at r. smaller, spaced apart. Garrett set. Rev. Some doubling on left wing feathers, though this is also found on many other dies of the period (is it in the hub?). Scattered faint die file marks in base of shield. Traces of inner line at dentils above E ST. 1974 GENA: 1088, Hirt: 1249, others.

— \*B-2. 71 about touch; normal border. Apparently scarcer; none examined recently enough to check other die differences.

Some of these, both business strikes and proofs, were coined from melted horns from the Diligent Fire Engine Co. #10, Philadelphia, according to the Chapmans, May 27, 1889: 921.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** The 960 coined were made in small lots throughout the year:

Jan. 16	75
Jan. 19	50
Feb. 9	100
March 2	200
March 24	100
May 25	100
July 31	50
Aug. 24	50
Sept. 20	25
Sept. 26	100
Nov. 11	110

Some are still intact, others evidently assembled.

**Gold Dollar.** [30] \*B-2. Obv. Thin letters, possibly the 1870 die relapped. Rev. 71 close, date low, some extra outlines on DOLLAR, no die file marks at DOL, tops of wreath attenuated. Coined Feb. 20, five days after the 3,900 B-1 business strikes. Same dies also used for copper, aluminum and nickel proofs. Ullmer:345, \$1,900; Garrett:445, \$2,600. Probably under 15 survivors.

**Quarter Eagle.** [30] \*B-1. Lump on neck below lovelock, very high date, 71 very close, left base of first 1 over r. edge, r. base of final 1 over left edge. Same date of mintage; these dies also used on copper, aluminum and nickel proofs. Some alleged proofs have turned out to be early B-1 business strikes. Equally rare. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Dunham:1970, impaired. (5) WGC, "Memorable":127. (6) Scanlon coll., unverified. (7) Garrett:444, \$3,750. Few others.

**Three Dollars.** [30] Obv. of 1869 proofs, extra outline from forelock almost to bust point. Rev. 71 almost touch, level date slightly low, r. edge of second 1 below left tip of R; terminal tassels well apart. Deceptive first strikes exist. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Wolfson:297. (5) Grant Pierce:1258, Jay:283, hairlined. (6) Garrett:443, \$8,000. Several others, at least three impaired; equally rare with above. Also with 1872 obv., same rev., latter combination rarer and used also to make the copper, aluminum and nickel proofs.

**Half Eagle.** [30] Low date, 7 1 apart, first 1 recut (fades), left base of first 1 minutely r. of left edge, r. base of final 1 over r. edge. Rev. Polish below WE and at ST of motto. Exceedingly rare. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg? (4) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (5) Garrett:442, opened at \$3,200, bid up to \$11,000. (6) Holmes:3549, impaired. (7) Wolfson:499, impaired. A few others supposedly survive—where are they? The same dies were later used on copper, aluminum and nickel strikings.



1871 Eagle. Ex J. F. Bell

**Eagle.** [30] \*B-1. Very low level date, 71 very close, left base of first 1 slightly r. of center, r. base of final 1 minutely left of center. Rev. Vertical die file marks left of first S, possibly not constant. Exceedingly rare. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg? (4) Garrett:441, \$10,500, hairlined. (5) Boyd, WGC:676, impaired. (6) Wolfson:703, impaired. Few others reported. The same dies were later used on copper, aluminum and nickel strikes. Business strikes are of the variety B-2, date centered between bust and border, rev. left line of second stripe incomplete. The odd delivery of 40 on Nov. 18 probably did not include proofs.

**Double Eagle.** [30] 7 1 apart; left base of first 1 left of center, r. base of second 1 over space; first 1

nearer to bust than to border. Rev. Middle arrow shaft gone but for one tiny fragment; possibly the die of 1870. Still rarer than lower denominations. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:440, \$10,500, cloudy. (5) Atwater:1263, Dr. Green:740, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. These dies were later used on copper, aluminum and nickel strikes.

**Gold proof sets.** All delivered Feb. 20. Garrett's was dispersed, totalling \$46,850. A triple set in copper, aluminum and nickel brought \$12,580 as Breen I:434.

**Complete proof sets.** Feb. 10 is recorded in *Mint Cabinet Accounts and Memoranda* as the date when the Coiner turned over a complete set, cent to \$20, to the Mint Cabinet Curator, for \$48.65 in greenbacks = \$43.54 face + 8¢ proofing charge. The only other complete set known is in ANS, ex Brock, Morgan, as usual.

## 1872

Straight dates are the rule from now through 1880 on most denominations, the nickel 3¢ and 5¢ being exceptions. Dates of 1872 come sometimes with 18 touching, sometimes with these digits free, which may not represent a second logotype (dies lapped?).

**Cent.** [950+] Numerals often rounded at edges and not in too high relief; one such die comes with a few rust pits on neck. Rev. E of CENT often closed, r. serif of T strengthened and unusually bold, shield filled with file marks. This rev., or its identical twin, recurs on proofs of 1873-75 and — apparently — 1878. No rumor of restrikes. This date is under continuous pressure from date collectors.

**Two Cents.** [950+] Date high, close to ball; ball above 8 and space to r.; left base of 1 above r. edge. Two reverses: without and with horizontal line from narrow leaf just left of 2, the former rusting progressively, the latter reused in 1873. In great demand because business strikes usually come very worn.

**Three Cents Nickel.** [950+] Several minor varieties. Same comment as to 1871 for quality; not in as much demand as 1871 though actually slightly scarcer.

— Date slants down, left base of 1 central, 72 lightly touching; clear 2. Rev. of 1871. Sometimes with light extra outlines on CA.

— Date more nearly level; double cut 72, date first cut lower then corrected. This is probably scarcer. Other dies may exist, especially with filled 2.

**Five Cents Nickel.** [950+] Several minor varieties. Same comment as to 1871 for quality, though quite a few extra brilliant pieces are around. Scarcer than 1871 but not nearly so much date collector pressure.

— Heavy date, partly filled 2.

— Thin numerals, clear 2. Doubling on shield so that many red stripes markedly overlap azure; but

motto and arrows are normal. Rare. Several dies of business strikes (much rarer) show similar blundering. 1975 ANA:127, 128; LM 11/68:204.

**Minor proof sets.** As in 1870, none seen.

**Trime.** [950] Only one variety on proofs and business strikes; top of D thin but present, evidently restored in the working die. Star point about midway r. curves of 8; stria from base of (N)I to star, spur to left from re-entrant angle at 5:00. This one ought to be in much greater demand from date collectors than it actually is; only 1000 business strikes were minted and I have seen exactly two of them in the past 25 years, one in the Ruby collection, but the proofs turn up with reasonable frequency — sometimes impaired.

**Half Dime.** [950] All three varieties have open top to D.

— V-1. Date above center, shield point minutely left of tip of serif, skirt pendant slightly left of center of 7, left base of 1 left of center of denticle, both ribbon ends touch wreath. Bullowa, May 1952 and others. Often carelessly made.

— V-2. Date about centered, double punched on early examples (Eliasberg, Neil: 1697, others), positions as on V-1 save that skirt pendant is about centered over 7 and left base of 1 is minutely nearer border than top of 1 is to base; r. end of ribbon clear of wreath. Cf. Garrett set.

— V-4. Date low, close to border, shield point well to left of 1, skirt pendant just r. of serif of 7, left base of 1 almost touches left side of denticle; reverse like V-1 and possibly same die. Rarer than the others. Note the Valentine illustration.

**Dime.** [950] Low date, very near border, skirt pendant above left serif of 7. Some of the specimens included in proof sets were carelessly enough made to have been given only one blow from the dies, so that some details (notably Liberty's head, part of rock, parts of drapery, etc.) were not properly brought up. Cf. that in Lester Merkin's April 1966 auction — and that in the ANS proof set (ex Mint, Brock, Morgan). This sort of carelessness is seen on various denominations during the 1870's; possibly inexperienced employees were on duty making proofs, possibly there was enough haste and chaos in the mint that nobody really cared a whistle in a high wind about quality control.

**Quarter.** [950] Shield point over center of 1, left base of 1 over r. edge. Faint border striae over 10th to 12th stars. Die cut from left border of shield. Same comment as to last, though there are no recent auction records for the carelessly made specimens.

**Half Dollar** [950] High date, scarcer.

— Low date, shield point r. of center of 1, left base of 1 almost over r. edge; 87 joined by defect, toe not enclosed. Rev.: Beak partly filled; rust pit in azure near chief point, others in E(D). Cf. Garrett set.



**1872 Silver Dollar. Ex QS 11/76:1625.**

**Silver Dollar.** [950] \*B-1. High date, shield point midway tip and upright, 18 about touch. Rev. of 1873, die file marks at claw and stem. Frequently enough offered so that one may well suspect that here, as with most of the other silver proofs of the period, the Characteristic Ratio (survivors/mintage) is well in excess of 50%. Popular with type collectors, like all this 1866-73 Liberty seated with motto series. Some were probably melted July 10, 1873.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** The 950 minted came in small dribbles throughout the year: January 31, 150; 100 each on February 20, March 4 and March 8; 150 more on April 9; 100 each on June 15, September 2 and October 18, finally 50 on December 11. Examination of the die varieties in the Smithsonian set would yield information at least about the initial delivery, as the date of transfer from the Coiner to the Curator (Feb. 9) indicates that the coins must have come therefrom. Quite a few sets survive, some of them presumably assembled. Owing to the date collector demand on the copper coins, many of the sets earlier extant were broken up. Compare also Bartlett:1001; Garrett:306 at \$4750. Some may have been melted July 10, 1873.

**Gold Dollar.** [30] \*B-1. Obv. of 1871 proofs. Date about centered, 7 wholly below L, 18 apart. The proofs were the first dollars minted, February 3. Very rare, survivors numbering less than 17. Several deceptive first strikes from B-2 (low date) dies are around; these do not have the "depth" of field, i.e., the true mirror quality of field of the real proofs, nor are the details of head and wreath struck up as well as they might be. Garrett's brought \$2100 (spotty).

**Quarter Eagle.** [30] \*B-1. Date high, to right, slanting up, 2 farther from border than 1, 18 apart, left base of 1 r. of left edge. Of possibly 15 or 16 survivors, at least three are damaged. Compare, for instance, Wolfson:207. This date is under some pressure from date collectors, as business strikes are much harder to find in any grade than those of the years 1867-71 inclusive. H. Bass, ex "Quality Sales" 9/73:1066; Garrett:450 at \$3500 (minute flan chip).

**Three Dollars.** [30] Two varieties in proof. \*B-1. Plain double outline on profile, from lower bead of headdress down to vertex of angle between chin and neck, and on back of head. Denticles rather widely

spaced; double outlines on r. sides of ITE; die scratch slanting down between top of L and middle of I (not always plain). Filled E in UNITED, some traces of filling in lower part of first S in STATES and in lower trapezoid of first A in AMERICA. About half of JBL visible. This is the obverse later used on 1865 restrikes and still later, in failed state, on the B-2 or dished restrikes dated 1873. Rev.: Date slants very slightly down to r., and is low; r. side of 2 below r. edge of upright of R. Originals only; no rumor of restrikes dated 1872, though they are not impossible. Compare Kern-Pierce:1249-Jay:284; Eliasberg; Ullmer:420 at \$5,500 (spot r. of 2). Several of the survivors are impaired: NN54:835; Wolfson:298 and others, Ex. rare.



**1872 Three Dollars. B-3, late state. Ex Merkin Nov. 1965**

— B-3. Repolished die of the regular issue, the business strikes having been made February 2 or one day before the first proofs, without the profile outlines or other distinguishing features of B-1; without the outlines at ITED AMERI of B-2. Early proofs have no bulge or other die failure, later proofs show traces of a bulge below U and truncation; LM 11/65:334. Rev.: Date level and heavy, fairly close to DOLLARS and r. ribbon bow, placed so that r. edge of 2 is about in line with left upright of R. Early state: KS 2/60:2668; Garrett:449, \$4750; LM 10/66:321. (When I catalogued it, I had not known that the proofs all followed the business strikes.)

**Half Eagle.** [30] \*B-2. Date slightly below center, left base of 1 over r. edge, 18 about touch. Scroll normal. Exceedingly rare. A very few brilliant proof like business strikes, not well struck up and showing field abrasion marks, may deceive collectors into thinking more of these are around. Probably under a dozen survive, some impaired. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Garrett: 448, \$5,750, obv. border stain. (4) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (5) Eliasberg. (6) KS 2/60:374. (7) Scanlon:2495, \$6,500, lint mark in field between 4th star and nose. Sources for the above presumably include Dunham:2149; WGC:426 and/or "Memorable":373; Gaylord:346.



**1872 Eagle. Ex J. F. Bell**

**Eagle.** [30] \*B-1. Date very slightly above center and to r., slanting down to r. so that 2 is a little nearer border than 1; 18 apart; left base of 1 left of center of dentil. Under 12 survive. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:447, \$8,500. (5) Golden I:2676, cleaned. (6) Jay:320, Scanlon:2495, light rub. (7) Miles:690, impaired. (8) KS 2/60:2794, possibly same as (5). (9) Wolfson:706. (10) Bell II:384. (11) "Gilhausen":703, 1974 ANA:914, choice, probably same as one of three preceding. (12) 1976 ANA: 3096. Sources for some of these include WGC:677, "Memorable": 571, and/or Menjou I:1613. The business strikes (B-2) are just about as rare as the proofs; date is about centered, left base of 1 well to r. of center of dentil.

**Double Eagle.** [30] Date well to left, 1 very close to truncation and left edge of dentil, 2 close to border, 18 almost touch. Rev. as 1871. Exceedingly rare, probably under eight survivors. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:446, \$14,000. (5) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (6) 1974 ANA: 1017, \$22,500. (7) WGC:875, "Memorable":694, possibly same as preceding. (8) Baldenhofer: 1536, Wolfson:902.

**Gold proof sets.** [30] All delivered Feb. 3. Garrett's, broken up, totalled \$38,600.

**Complete proof sets.** The Mint Cabinet set, now in SI, came from the Coiner Feb. 9 for \$48.31 in greenbacks. ANS has another, of course, from Brock, Morgan. The rest appear to have been broken up long since. I would be very curious to know if the B-3 three-dollar piece is to be found in any original gold set; it is not at all impossible that the variety is a restrike.

## 1873

There is more information available about the proofs of this year than about most others of the period; for much of it I have to thank Harry X. Boesel, who has made a special study of this date.

**Cent.** Closed 3 only. [1100+] On closed 3 coins save for the silver dollar and double eagle, knobs are large and nearly touch. Some of these, presumably the earlier ones, have the reverse die of 1872, above mentioned: some with this rev. have extra outlines on UNITE AMERICA, no other letters; polish around eye. I have never heard of an open 3 proof cent and find it singular that despite the formal complaint addressed by Coiner A. Loudon Snowden to the



Director, James Pollock, Jan. 18, 1873, there was no open 3 cent die polished for making the later proof sets. Pure copper impressions have weighed  $50 \frac{1}{4}$  grains, compared to 48 (standard) for bronze. One other weighed 44 grains — LM 9/67:528.

**\*Two Cents.** Originals. Closed 3. [600+] Reverse die is identical to that on some 1872 proofs, horizontal die scratch from leaf left of middle of large 2. Original status of these coins is confirmed by their appearance in proof sets of the year traceable back to 1873, such as ANS's (obtained by R.C.W. Brock in 1873), or that in the Smithsonian obtained from the Coiner on Feb. 11, 1873. The cased double set containing coins without and with arrows, presented to Charles A. Whitney (see below) by Mint officials and accompanied by a document dated Sept. 30, 1874 signed by eight of them, also contains only the closed 3 2¢.

For the very rare open 3 coins, see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

It is probable that some of the unsold originals were melted after April 1, 1873 when the new Coinage Act became effective, abolishing the denomination and changing weights of silver coins.

**Three Cents Nickel.** Closed 3 only. [1100+] Polish near eye. Scattered striae between NIT and chin. Many fragmented leaves; isolated leaf tip within wreath at 11:00. Same comment as to the cent. R. W. Julian turned up a reference to 100 "nickel" proof sets being issued on Oct. 23, 1873, but this is the same date as the issue of 100 silver sets so the presumption is that they were concurrently delivered, as heretofore. Note that many nickel 3¢ were carelessly struck on granular flans similar to those of 1871, though not so many as in 1871. Confirming Snowden's fear, specimens have occasionally been mistakenly offered as "1878."

**Five Cents Nickel.** Closed 3 only. [1100+] "Usually, with arrowhead, feather and leaves at left all partly attenuated — lapped die. Same comment as to the 3¢ piece for quality. Many deceptive early business strikes masquerade as proofs, but they are from different dies from the above. Occasionally, specimens have been offered as "1878", but the true 1878 coins have larger dates, both 8's alike.

**Minor sets.** One was in the A. M. Smith estate; many others formerly existed but have been long since broken up, on behalf of collectors wanting the 2¢.

**\*Trime.** [600] Closed 3. Only the one variety seen to date. Die file marks southwest of OF; curved lines through STATES OF, straight defect in round recess at 10:00, later lapped away with contents of all upper recesses. This last die state shows rust marks, and is very rare; 1973 GENA:204. Included with the no arrows proof sets (see below). Hoarders long since got to the issue; veteran Mint publicist A. M. Smith had at least 300 of them. Many survivors are richly toned, and some of these rainbow coins bring high premiums

over the more often seen brilliant white (dipped) examples. Many melted July 10, 1873. No hint of restrikes.

**Half Dime.** [600] Closed 3 only. Which of the varieties came first is uncertain, but might be decided by checking the coin in the SI set. Its Feb. 11 acquisition date suggests that it was from the initial delivery of 100 sets, Jan. 18, 1873.

V-1. Date about centered, 3 well above border. Shield point about over tip of serif of 1, skirt pendant minutely left of center of top of 7, left base of 1 left of center of denticle, small die defects above date — one of them joining 7 to base. Rev.: Ribbon ends touch. Bullowa, May 1952; rarer than V-2.

— New. Low date, like V-1 but pendant r. of center of 7, left base of 1 over space. Rev.: V-1. Very rare. Merkin 10/66: 241, 9/68: 221, J.R.: 9/67:280.

— Obv. V-2 (below), rev. V-1. Rarer than either V-1 or V-2. Merkin 3/68: 236.

— V-2. Date low, 1 and 3 much nearer to border than to base; shield point just to left of 1, skirt pendant just r. of serif of 7, left base of 1 above r. part of denticle, r. ribbon end barely clear. ANS (2), and cf. Neil: 1699 and 1700, the latter perhaps a heavier impression (or is the former from repolished dies? date less heavy).

The half dime in the double set presented to Charles A. Whitney was described as "one of the last made", but the illustration is so poor as to render doubtful the variety. (It does look much more like V-2 obv. than like V-1.) Many were melted July 10, 1873.

**Dime. Without Arrows.** Closed 3. [600] \*Breen 1-1. Pendant over left serif of 7, left base of 1 over left edge. Available for a price, and still undervalued in comparison with the coin with arrows because collectors of type coins — and some hoarders — have made increased demand for the latter. Some melted July 10, 1873.

— **With Arrows.** [800] Open 3 only. Harry Boosel has given the above mintage figure, based on documentary evidence seen by him but not available to me or to R. W. Julian. Julian found evidence of striking of 100 proof sets (coins with arrows and trade dollars, together with presumably the minor sets) apiece on July 31, August 11, September 19, October 23, then 50 apiece on December 12 and 24. This makes 500; the time of manufacture of the other 300 is not known to us but is likely to have been shortly after inception of the new coinage in April 1873. The 1873 dime with arrows in proof is not rare but has become very popular owing to its status as a type coin: first year with arrows of this design.

**Quarter. No Arrows.** [600] Struck with the sets, closed 3 only. Shield point over r. edge of upright of 1, left base of 1 over space — almost over left edge, tiny rust pit in die in drapery r. of wrist; rev. of 1872, die cut from left border of shield. The business strikes

have left base of 1 minutely r. of left edge.

Harry Boosel had a real anomaly, from one of the New Netherlands auctions: obv. proof, rev. unc, with open 3 and no arrows. I have not seen a simon pure proof open 3 quarter carrying its own credentials. If any quantity was made, presumably most of them were melted down July 10, 1873. The piece in the Whitney set, presented in 1874, has closed 3.

— **With Arrows.** [540] Open 3 only. Reverse same as preceding. Boosel gives this mintage figure; 500 were struck with the silver sets on the dates cited for the dimes with arrows, the other 40 at some unknown time probably during the final quarter year. Same comment as to the dime with arrows.

**Half Dollar. No Arrows.** [600] Struck with the sets. All I have seen have closed 3, date about centered or high (scarcer), latter with few rust pits in wing above L, in line with CA. Beistle, amazingly, lists a Col. Green coin as his number 1-A, with *open* 3, proof. This piece has never turned up, unless indeed it was the unseen WGC: 331. As for the closed 3 coins, same comment as to the dimes without arrows. If any open 3 halves were struck in proof, most were probably melted July 10, 1873. It is doubtless significant that the no arrows half in the Whitney cased set has closed 3.



1873 Half Dollar. Arrows. Ex QS 11/76:942

— **With Arrows.** [550] This mintage figure from Boosel. Some 500 of these were struck in the sets, the remainder presumably at some unknown date in the final quarter. Proofs have incomplete elbow drapery, centered date, shield point minutely r. of upright, left base of 1 almost central, triple stripes obv. and long arrows in addition to open 3's (Beistle 5-A), rev. same as No Arrows coins. Short arrows are found on a minority of nonproofs, quadruple stripes on a single obverse die (a shift) of very great rarity, also only known as nonproofs. Same comment as to dimes and quarters with arrows.

**Silver Dollar.** [600] Closed 3 only. \*B-1. Date about centered. Scattered rust marks on breast and neck. Rev. of 1872 B-1. Popular as final year of issue. Many of these were doubtless among the 2,258 silver dollars sent July 10, 1873 to the Melter & Refiner (together with some \$2,220 in trimes, half dimes and miscellaneous now obsolete silver coins).



1873 Trade Dollar. Note type I rev. (1873-76)

**Trade Dollar.** [865] This mintage figure from Boosel. Documents available to R. W. Julian show 40 regular trade dollars July 14 as the initial mintage, 100 proofs — initial proof mintage — on July 21, followed by 500 more on the dates named for the dimes with arrows, in the 500 sets of second type. Total 600 proofs; the extra 265 appear to have been made at some unknown dates, 200 of them between July 1 and September 30, 65 between October 1 and December 31, the 65 remaining on hand in the custody of the Superintendent, December 31, 1873. (R. W. Julian says 790 in his own study; I quote from Boosel's monograph "1873-1873," 1960, p. 40). Probably most of the extra 200 were made for presentation or publicity purposes — or for sale to souvenir-hunters.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** First Issue: Cent, 2¢, 3¢ nickel, 5¢ nickel, trime, half dime, silver coins without arrows, standard silver dollar. [600] On January 18 and February 18, 100 sets were made, then 200 each on February 28 and March 12. A considerable quantity of these appear to have been melted July 10, 1873 as unsold. Several original sets survive together with a somewhat larger number that appear to have been assembled. Cf. Charles G. Dodd exhibit, ANS 1914, p. 69. Many of the original 600 sets were broken up owing to date collector demands for the 2¢ piece and trime. Several copper and a few aluminum sets made.

— Second Issue: Cent, 3¢ nickel, 5¢ nickel, dime, quarter and half dollar with arrows at date, trade dollar. [500+] Mintage dates as given above under dimes with arrows. Most surviving groups of this sort appear to have been assembled. The coins in the Smithsonian were obtained from the Coiner as follows: \$2.25 for two proof trade dollars, July 17, 1873; 94¢ to Coiner September 12 for a set of the three silver coins with arrows (face 85¢). Note that the proof trades were obtained a week before they had been officially delivered. Cf. Charles G. Dodd exhibit, ANS 1914, p. 70.

Double sets, comprising first and second issue as above, with a single extraordinary exception, appear to be assembled in recent years. The exception is a cased double set consisting of two coins of each denomination together with two each of the arrows coins and the trade dollar, presented from the Mint to Charles A. Whitney, September 30, 1874. This is in a buckram case lined as usual with purple velvet,

inscribed with the recipient's name on top as on former sets. The accompanying document, describing the coins — 20 denominations and types in all, two of each to show obverse and reverse — is dated as above and signed by eight officials of the Philadelphia Mint: O. C. Bosbyshell, Assistant Coiner; N. B. Boyd, Assistant Melter & Refiner; Jacob B(ausch) Eckfeldt, Assistant Assayer; James Pollock, Superintendent; A. Loudon Snowden, Coiner; James C. Booth, Melter & Refiner; and William Barber, Engraver. There is no doubt of the genuineness of the document as the signatures identically match those on Archives documents. The silver dollar, half dime, trime and 2¢ (closed 3) coins are marked on the document as being "one of the last struck". This cased set appeared, without intervening pedigree, as lot 2968, Schulman-Kreisberg auction, April 1959, reportedly bringing \$7750. Present whereabouts unknown.

**Gold Dollar.** [25] Closed 3 only. Only the one pair of dies used on proofs (February 18). Feather incomplete below (A)T. Date about centered, its base (but not its top) seemingly sloping slightly up to r. Wreath tops apart. Real proofs have full mirrorlike fields, excellent definition on relief areas, typical proof borders, rims and edges, etc. There are deceptive early strikes (1800 minted, July 28) with closed 3 — and with open 3, some of them being occasionally offered as proofs. Some 1873 closed 3 proofs have been offered as "1878" — a situation also true with the 3¢ and 5¢ nickel, though the 1878's all have larger dates. (The same pair of closed 3 dies appears also on the copper and aluminum proofs.) Probably under 18 survivors, some impaired. Lint marks are usual.



**1873 Gold Dollar. Open 3. Clandestine special striking? Ex NERCG 1975 NENA:665**

On the other hand, the open 3 coin here illustrated has the striking quality of a proof, and may be a clandestine special striking of later date. NERCG 1975 NENA: 665. It is quite extraordinary: note the drastically repolished dies.



**1873 Quarter Eagle. Ex Merkin, Sept. 1967**

**Quarter Eagle.** [25] Closed 3. Low date close to border. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) In proof set in cornerstone of Capitol Building, Lansing, Michigan (thanks, Harry Boosel). (4) Eliasberg. (5) In proof set in collection of Government of India. (6) Judge Thomas L. Gaskill, NN 48:324, A. M. Kagin, impaired. (7) Melish:1279, Harry Boosel. (8) LM 9/67:350, 4/70:671, 6/72:393. (9) Lilly, SI. About 9 or 10 others have been playing Musical Chairs at auctions, several impaired = possibly 18 or 19 survivors in all, including the impounded ones. Early strikes are known from different dies masquerading as proofs.



**1873 Three Dollars. Original, open 3. Ex F. C. C. Boyd**

**\*Three Dollars.** [25 originals] Open 3, the die completed after the Coiner's complaint of Jan. 18. All other denominations had been completed and coined in business strike form in January save for the gold dollar and 2¢, and the dies for these were ready then. As restrikes exist with open 3, the distinction is fairly important. Originals have obv. (later used on 1874 proofs) with faint die scratch extending from left upper serif of F to border, its bases very thin, first S perfect. Die shallowly hubbed and heavily polished. Very little of JBL shows on truncation. E of UNITED, A of STATES, lower trapezoid of first A and loop of R in AMERICA are all open. (On the restrikes, first S fills, die scratch fainter.) Rev. Open 3, knobs small and more than their own diameter apart, date placed very low. Leaf left of date shows only as an extremely thin, detached wisp, slightly thicker nearest its upper end. Right terminal tassel (top of r. wreath) shows as faint detached dots. Straight vertical scratch from left end of crossbar of A in DOLLARS to between 73. Perfect die. (On the restrikes there is much rust around parts of wreath.) Extremely rare but undervalued because restrikes have helped take off

part of the date collector pressure. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) Omaha City Library, from Byron Reed bequest. (4) Harry Boosel. (5) Specimen in set, in cornerstone of Capitol Building, Lansing, Michigan. (6) The Government of India presumably retains its proof set containing an original. (7) Renz-Grant Pierce: 1260 at \$2,600, later C. Jay: 285. (8) Wolfson: 299. (9) Golden II: 1919, EF, former Proof. (10) Melish: 1397, VF. (11) Gaylord:246. The line of reasoning leading to the conclusion that the open 3 coins are the originals depends on the date of acquisition of the Smithsonian's proof set, which contains an open 3 specimen: from the Coiner, February 11, 1873, for \$49.70 currency. In the \$3 monograph I surmised that this date might have been the day of purchase order rather than the day of delivery, but in any event the three-dollar piece in the Smithsonian is clearly a February 1873 product. So, too, the coins in the R. C. W. Brock, J. Pierpont Morgan, ANS proof set, obtained directly from the Mint in 1873. There may be as many as 14 or 15 survivors.

Leaving aside the restrikes from the original (open 3) dies showing rust, the other three-dollar gold pieces dated 1873, *and showing closed 3*, are restrikes and vice versa. Curiously, quite a number of them were later mishandled, some apparently spent. The copper and aluminum specimens (B-2, closed 3 logotype placed below center, obverse die of 1872 earlier described, dished; this variety also existing in dished form in gold), were probably 1873 productions, possibly made earlier than the gold, and it is my guess that the appearance of the three-dollar and one-dollar dates (as well as the small silver and nickel coins) induced Snowden to register his formal complaint. We may, then, have the anomalous situation that closed 3 dies were made earlier for the \$3 gold but not then used, hidden away after the open 3 dies were made for the original proofs, and resurrected for clandestine strikings. Possibly the peculiar imperfection in the date side die of the B-2 variety led to its rejection as well. Rejected dies need not have been destroyed until the end of the year and they may not all have been then. For further details, see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

It would appear, from all records available to me, that besides the 14 or 15 originals, there are about seven dished restrikes and at least 50 B-3 restrikes (closed 3, not dished, date placed high); to date only Boosel's B-4, from rusted original dies, has been reported. That would make the total population of threes dated 1873 somewhere over 70 specimens, possibly a few more. Beware alterations from 1878!

**Half Eagle.** [25] Closed 3. Date placed to left, begins about at center and slants down slightly, the base of 3 slightly nearer border than 1. This obverse die was used on proofs and business strikes. As proof, extremely rare, much more so than the three-dollar

piece or smaller gold. (1) Smithsonian set. (2) ANS. (3) Lansing, Michigan cornerstone. (4) Wolfson: 505. (5) Ex Flanagan: 1151, J. F. Bell. (6) Ullmer: 454, hairlined, at \$6,500. (7) 1976 ANA:2996, \$6500. (8) Amon Carter. (9) Govt, of India set. Probably not more than 9 or 10 are around, no hint of restrikes.



### 1873 Eagle. Ex F. C. C. Boyd

**Eagle.** [25] Closed 3. \*B=1. Under extreme pressure from date collectors as nonproofs (800 made) are prohibitively rare. Date is a trifle below center, approximately equidistant between stars; left base of 1 about over center of denticle, no other notable peculiarities except that some of the proofs are not as well struck up on curls above ear as are those of earlier dates. Genuine nonproofs (B-2) have low date, left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge of dentil; cf. Miles: 693. Beware alterations from 1878, and — more often — coins with removed S mintmarks being offered — as "VF-EF, former proof." The area beneath eagle should be carefully scrutinized, and the numeral 3 should be identical (as in fact is the entire logotype) with that on the half dollar, no arrows. Proper logotype will exclude possible alterations from 1878; freedom from traces of monkey business below eagle may exclude alterations from 1873 S. There is also the more sinister possibility that here — as on the half eagle and double eagle — copper proofs may be gilt, inserted into elaborate plastic holders, and offered by strangers in poorly lit convention bourse rooms. Here die evidence fails as the identical dies were used as on gold. Who carries scales to every bourse? Who would insist on having the coin removed from its plastic holder before buying? The seller probably would object to either proceeding — and if he does, *don't accept the coin*. For genuine proofs at least the following records are unimpeachable enough: (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) Lansing, Michigan cornerstone. (4) That in the Government of India proof set. (Will some collector in the Calcutta area make an investigation to see if the set is still around? It may have been seized during the riots of 1930, 1946-7 or 1950, or destroyed by Japanese air raids of 1942-43.) (5) Wolfson: 709. (6) Davis-Graves: 953, ex H. P. Graves, ex Menjou:1614. (7) "Gilhausen": 706, impaired. (8) Amon Carter. It is unlikely that as many as nine survive.

**Double Eagle.** [25] So-called closed 3, though the

large knobs of 3 are actually only closely spaced, not nearly touching; on the open 3 type, introduced fairly early in the year, the knobs are smaller and spaced apart. (The closed 3 logotype is as on the standard silver dollar, the open 3 as on the trade dollar.) Only one pair of dies for proofs, those used also on copper and aluminum strikes as on the quarter eagle, half eagle, and eagle. Low date near border. (1) Smithsonian. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Lansing, Michigan cornerstone. (4) Government of India set. (5) Baldenhofer: 1538; possibly Kreisberg-Schulman 3/65:185, ex Stack's May 1957 auction:651; possibly ex Menjou: 1811, "superb". (6) WGC: 876. (7) Eliasberg. (8) "Memorable": 695, cleaned possibly Atwater:1264. (9) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (10) Harry Boosel, RARCOA 4/28-30/1972: 674, to ?, to Harry Bass, Mike Brownlee, A-Mark Co. Tiny nick behind curl opposite 11th star; hairline (?) from A(M) to D of value via crotch of r. wing; traces of cleaning — same as (8)?.

**Gold proof sets.** [25]Delivered as of February 18.

**Complete proof sets.** The complete set of first type (silver without arrows, including standard dollar, trime and half dime) is recorded as having come from the Coiner to the Curator, February 11, 1873. ANS's came from the Mint in 1873 to R.C.W. Brock, thence to J. Pierpont Morgan. In March 1873 the U.S. Government appropriated \$50 for cost of furnishing one complete proof set, cent to \$20 inclusive (therefore of first type, silver without arrows, etc.), for the Government of India, c/o The Honorable Col. Hyde, Master of Her Majesty's Mint, Calcutta, Bengal; the set may still remain in the Mint Museum at Calcutta. This was in exchange for a group of Indian proof coins dated 1862 and 1870 sent by Hyde for inclusion in the Philadelphia Mint Cabinet Collection. (Thanks, Harry Boosel.) Eliasberg has most 1873 denominations in proof but I am not inclined to believe that his source, John H. Clapp, had obtained them as a set — especially since he owned a restrike three-dollar piece.

## 1874

**Cent.** [700+] Two varieties at least. That more often seen has normal date. The coins are frequently of very light fiery brilliance, probably a peculiarity of the bronze alloy; same remark holds for 1875.

— The other and rarer variety has 4 first punched notably too low and then corrected; reverse is the die of 1872-73. ANS; NN 57: 71, NN 56:659; this last was the discovery piece, at a then high \$145. Cf. also LM 11/65:151. To date about nine of these have been seen as against over a hundred of the normal date. Which one came first is undeterminable but might be guessed at from examination of the piece in the Smithsonian, as the proof set from which it comes was bought from the Coiner, Feb. 10, 1874.

**Three Cents Nickel.** [700+] Frequently with granular planchet defects in centers. At least two minor varieties.

— High date, left base of 1 central, r. base of 4 over r. edge; weak LIBERTY; extra outlines on UNI CA. Scattered striae slant down. Rev. Scattered striae slant up and down. This is probably the commoner variety.

— Minutely doubled date, first cut to r., then corrected, plainest evidence on 4. MHS I:268, thence 1975 ANA: 119.

**Five Cents Nickel.** [700+] Often on granular flans like the 3c; often with partly rounded edges. Nickel metallurgy was still a source of great difficulty to the mint. At least two minor varieties.

— Strong date, usually with recutting atop 4. This is commoner.

— Weakly logotyped date. Scarcer. Which came first might be answerable by the procedure recommended for the cent. Other varieties may exist.

**Minor proof sets.** Cent, 3¢ and 5¢. Mostly broken up.

**Dime.** [700] Slanting arrows at date. The only variety seen to date has no visible recutting at date; faint striae at 74 and at border, 6:00 to 10:00. Rev. Clash marks around E of DIME. Some 400 struck during first quarter, 300 during third. By coincidence, this is the same as the number of proof sets delivered during the year. There were some 300 extra 1873 dimes with arrows on hand at the beginning of the year, which were presumably delivered during the first and third quarters; and 300 dimes were also on hand at the beginning of 1875, many if not most presumably dated 1874. The coin is hardly rare — in fact it is always available for a price — but the price has been forced up and up by continual demand from date collectors, who prize all coins with arrows.

**Quarter.** [850] Normal date, with arrows. Shield point almost over tip of r. foot. Left base of 1 and r. base of 4 over left edges of dentils. Rev. of 1872-73. The usually seen figure of 700 proofs arises from delivery dates of silver-minor proof sets: 400 during first quarter, 200 in second, 50 each during last two. However, there were 520 proof quarters made during the first quarter year, 70 in second and 260 in third (none in 4th), total 850. The others presumably were intended for sale as individual proof coins outside the sets. At the beginning of 1875, some 190 were left on hand, most of them presumably sold during the second quarter of that year. Now 850-700 leaves only 150, a discrepancy of 40, but these 40 were leftover quarters dated 1873 with arrows on hand at the beginning of 1874.

The 1874 quarter is also anything but rare, always available for a price, and the price is kept up by the same mechanism as with the dime. There are also numerous deceptive first strikes, most of them with bag marks, all with poor relief details compared to the proofs. The majority of 1874 proof quarters appear

to have been dipped or otherwise cleaned. I have heard this practice rationalized by dealers on grounds that toned coins do not sell as well. Unfortunately, the cleaning solutions used (or the baking soda powder or scrub brush, for that matter) cause the surfaces to become "activated" in the chemical sense so that oxidation from atmospheric contaminants proceeds much more rapidly than before — resulting in repeated cleanings, to the great detriment of the coins' surfaces. Some of them look positively porous by now.



1874 Half Dollar. Ex QS 11/76:945

**Half Dollar.** Short arrowheads at date only. Beistle 1-A. [750] Rather high date, shield point over center of 1, left base of 1 left of center, r. base of 4 r. of center; rev. of 1873. Some nonproofs show long arrowheads as in 1873. The usual figure of 700 proofs comes from the explanation given for smaller silver; the extra 50 were presumably intended for individual sales. There were 400 proofs struck in the first quarter, 250 in the second, 100 in the third, total 750; some 50 1873's had remained on hand at the beginning of 1874, some 100 (mostly 1874's?) remained on hand at the beginning of 1875. The same remark about cleaning holds for the half dollars as well.

**Trade Dollar.** [700] No special peculiarities. Some 100 each struck in January, March, April and June; 200 in February, and 50 each in September and December. Note that this works out to the same figures quarterly as for proof set deliveries; presumably the proof trade dollars were made only for the sets.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** [700] Delivery dates as for trade dollars. Some original sets survive, but the majority auctioned appear to have been assembled. The reason for earlier breakup would seem to have been the popularity of the coins with arrows — and, to a lesser extent, the desire of some collectors for trade dollars.

**Gold Dollar.** [20] LIBERTY on coronet. Rev. Date low and placed to left. Extremely rare, probably a dozen or less survivors, though some first strikes are deceptive enough to cause trouble. These normally have granularity at border dentils. Some have, but a greater number lack, LIBERTY on coronet (lapped dies; the hub had to be strengthened).

**Quarter Eagle.** [20] \*B-1. Date somewhat to left, 1 close to bust and border, 4 farther from bust. No rust pit at earlobe. Date collector pressure is only beginning on this one as people begin to realize that

there are few business strikes available. Possibly 12 to 15 survivors, of which at least three are impaired. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) "Memorable": 130, probably ex Boyd, WGC. (5) Col. Green, J. G. MacAllister, T. L. Gaskill, NN 48:326, R.P. for an unidentified buyer. (6) Davis-Graves:725. (7) Melish:1282. (8) Wolfson:211, Ullmer:374, \$10,500. One of the above is possibly ex Bell I; another ex Atwater: 1978. No. 8 may possibly be the same as no. 4, 5, 6 or 7.



1874 Three Dollars. Ex Merkin, Sept. 1967

**Three Dollars.** [20] \*B-1. Obv. earlier described, with the die scratch from left upper serif of F leftwards to border still visible, bases of F weaker, light crumbling below middle part of first S in STATES, filling within lower trapezoid of A in STATES, and in A R of AMERICA. Rev. Strong date, upright of 1 and 4 centered below O and A. LM 9/67:399. Later state, rusted on obv. device, LM 10/66:323. Ex. rare, in a class with the dollar and quarter eagle. Of maybe a dozen survivors, 3 or 4 are impaired (e.g. Grant Pierce:1261). Greatly unappreciated even in comparison with 1877-78, probably because date collectors have plenty of business strikes to content them.

**Half Eagle.** [20] \*B-1. No doubling on UNITED STATES. Exceedingly rare, no auction records in recent years. Probably under 10 survivors, of which SI and ANS have two. Almost a forgotten rarity.

**Eagle.** [20] Date about centered, base of 4 not recut. Same comment as to last; about of equal rarity. Same dies were used on copper and aluminum impressions.

**Double Eagles.** [20] Date very low, close to border, 1 nearer border than bust, left base of 1 left of center of dentil, r. base of 1 nearly over r. edge. Exceedingly rare, probably under eight survivors. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (5) Boyd, WGC:877, same as one of last two? (6) Baldenhofer: 1541, Wolfson:908, same comment? (7) Jay:328, Dines:896, ditto?

**Gold proof sets.** [20] Reported out Feb. 14. None traced except as below.

**Complete proof sets.** One from Coiner to Mint Cabinet, Feb. 10, for \$48.78 in currency (face value \$43.44, specie price presumably \$43.52). ANS's similar set, ex Brock, Morgan, also came from the Mint in 1874. Others were broken up long since.

## 1875

One of the most famous dates in American numismatic history, partly because of low reported mintages in most gold denominations; but it should be even more famous because of type changes in the silver, not to mention introduction of the 20-cent piece.

**Cent.** [700+] Two varieties. The commoner one has normal date, without recutting; rev. as in 1872-74, as mentioned in LM 11/65. Many show more or less rounding on digits; some also have rounded rims, a few are carelessly struck. Nevertheless, the surface establishes satisfactorily that they were from proof dies and on planchets given the usual proofing treatment. Color often exceptionally high or light golden.

— The other and rarer variety shows the thin, shorter top of an extra 5 just above top of 5 in date, but ordinarily no other signs of blundered logotyping. Compare NN 57:74, and the piece in ANS. Which one came first might be established by checking the coin in the Smithsonian, obtained January 30, 1875.

**Three Cents Nickel.** [700+] Two varieties. One has normal date, placed low, left base of 1 about over left edge. Spine from throat into field. Right ribbon end attenuated, many outer leaves almost gone. Hirt: 1076, others.

— The other (ANS and some others) shows fairly strong recutting at right of upright of 5, and a small dot within upper part of loop, apparently representing part of 5 cut first to right (obliquely and erroneously positioned logotype). This may be rarer.

Often found on granular flans with imperfectly struck borders.

**Five Cents Nickel.** [700+] Date often fairly shallow, left arrow butt attenuated; sometimes almost perfect, date higher. Borders often narrow and sometimes weak, rims (outside dentils) not always on planchet (flans narrower than usual), edges sometimes rounded. Planchets often granular. Proofs are often of below average quality in everything save striking quality of devices. Beware early strikes masquerading as proofs. This very popular year is extremely troublesome because of the shiny business strikes mislabeled "Proof." Reason for popularity of 1875 proof or uncirculated nickels is unknown; mintage of regulars is lower than 1874 or 1876 but much higher than 1879-81, 1883 which have listed much lower. The proofs are always available for a price, but top quality proofs are *not* always available.

**Minor proof sets.** As in 1874. Mostly broken up.

**Dime.** [700] Only one pair of dies seen for proofs, but more may exist differing microscopically in date position. Logotype as on cent. Comes without and with faint cracks at top of wreath. Cf. LM 4/66:203. Also at least one has been seen with obv. proof, rev. unc. and frosty though with striking quality of proofs; LM 11/65:268, LM 6/68:244. All 700 proofs

were struck during the first quarter of the year. There were some 300 1874's remaining on hand at the beginning of the year; 500, not broken down by date, were released with proof sets at the end of March, 200 more in sets at the end of September, leaving 300 on hand at the beginning of 1876. Quite possibly the 500 sets of the first quarter were all dated 1875, struck in January and March, and the 300 1874's were held over till 1876 for melting.



1875 Twenty Cents. Ex QS 11/76:1573

**Twenty Cents.** [2790] Obverse similar to the quarter, enough so as to cause confusion; reverse a small copy of the trade dollar. The only regularly issued denomination (aside from the trade dollar) designed by William Barber, and one of the most egregious failures in the history of American coinage. This denomination was coined solely to please Senator John Percival Jones of Nevada, the mine owners' fair-haired boy, in his misguided notion that it would solve the old short-changing problem. As Don Taxay has pointed out, for some years following the gold rush in the West, the inflationary price scales in effect, particularly in California, made even silver dollars into small change. Very little public use could be found there for half dimes and dimes, none at all for minor coins, prior to 1872-73. As the Mint Act of 1873 abolished the half dime, this intensified public dissatisfaction at an ancient swindle whereby venal storekeepers, pricing articles at a dime or "short bit", would allege shortage or unavailability of 5¢ or 2¢ or 1¢ pieces in making change, using that as the excuse for returning only a dime in change for a quarter, or a quarter and a dime in change for a half dollar. I suspect that Jones's real reason for introducing his bill (February 1874) was to afford more of a market for Nevada silver. Whatever the reason, Mint Director Linderman supported the Jones bill, and it was enacted March 3, 1875. There had been several patterns coined in the interim, the one finally selected being, naturally, that closest in design to the quarter dollar — to the public confusion despite the coin's plain edge.

The realistic solution to the short-changing problem would have been circulation of cents and nickels in the West and Southwest, though nobody even considered it. ("But that would have been *sensible!*", as my wife so often says.)



Twenty cent pieces — a fact realized by few — have the word LIBERTY *in relief* on shield, a feature purporting to eliminate, or at least to lessen, the confusion between them and quarters. The trouble was that common people go more by size and general appearance in making change, and they do not customarily examine coins with a magnifying glass. And relief lettering quickly wears down.

There were some 1950 proofs struck during the second quarter, beginning about May 19 (beginning of regular coinage), and 840 in the second half of the year. Of these, 1000 and 1200 were respectively delivered, leaving 590 on hand at the beginning of 1876. I recall only one die variety on proofs: Shield point minutely r. of left edge of 1; left base of 1 over center; scattered striae over head. In the Clapp collection as it came to Louis Eliasberg was a second 1875, this one having an unusually small date, reverse with leaves on olive branch narrow and those farthest right (about NT) much overlapping. This is a pattern, Judd 1411, AW 1453, probably about 15 being known. Possibly others have found their way into proof sets or into sets of 20¢ pieces.

**Quarter Dollar.** [630] No special peculiarities. Some 550 were made during the first quarter, 80 during the third; 500 were delivered during the first quarter (with sets), 200 during the third, leaving 120 on hand October 1 and remaining until the beginning of 1876. It becomes apparent that this denomination is a little rarer than the others. Were some of the 1875 proof sets favored with 1874 quarters? I have not seen any such. Were there fewer than 700, actually fewer than 600, proof sets dated 1875? No proofs seen from the "5 over small 5" obverse. Two rev. hubs: TATE close together or well apart, but no data on proof dies from them.

**Half Dollar.** [650] Some 450 struck during the first quarter, 200 during the third. It is tempting to identify these with the two varieties Beistle describes:

— Beistle 1-A. Date above center: several small spines up from edge of calf. Rev. of 1873, with the rust pits there described; unfinished or unpolished surface between arrow heads.

— B. 2-Aa (should have been called 2-B). High date. Rusted die, rust pits plainest between 5 and foot, at 87, on middle of calf, etc. Rev. Perfect die. This is scarcer. LM 9/67:259.

Deliveries for the year total 700 coins: 500 sets at end of first quarter, of which some 100 were 1874's on hand Jan. 1; 200 more in third, of which 50 remained on hand Oct. 1 and were held over until the beginning of 1876.

**Trade Dollar.** [700 reported in all] Two types of reverse, for business strikes and proofs, discovered by Elliot Landau, 1952. Type I (1873-76): *Berry below claw*, wing free of second arrow shaft, ES too close, heavy leaves, the three r. of eagle's leg closer together

than on Type II, and with the one nearest eagle pointing up and to left; berries not much heavier than their thick stems; berry extends above middle of top of E in FINE; arrow point extends between 20; zero very close to corner of T in TRADE; many other small differences from the Type II hub found on 1875-85 coins. First published by me, *Numismatist*, June 1953; cf, Paul Scherf's article in NSM, Oct. 1964.

— Type I proofs: Obv. High date, top of 1 below G and space to left, tip of 5 below S. Rev. Lumps on motto scroll. Extremely rare. (1) SI (must be verified; obtained Jan. 30 from Coiner). (2) T. L. Smith estate, June 1957. (3) "Gilhousen": 1459. (4) Ex W. L. Clark. (5) 1975 ANA:1196. (6) River Oaks (Bowers 11/76):239. Few others. One seen in copper from these dies. Judd 1430, AW 1418.

John M. Willem, in appendix I (p. 174-5) to the second or Whitman edition of his superb book on Trade Dollars, describes both types and says Type I is far rarer also in business strike form than Type II. In my experience both types of 1875 are grossly undervalued compared to other dates of Trades in all conditions.

Type I Trades probably constituted some part of the 300 delivered in Jan. 1875 (proofs) and some part of the 149,200 business strikes delivered in April-May.

— Type II (1875-85): *No berry below claw*, Tip of wing touches second arrow shaft, E S well apart, narrow leaves with lowest of the group of three above branch r. of leg far separated from the other two, heavy ovate berries sharply differentiated from their thin stems, berry extends over space between NE, arrow point extends above middle of 2, zero well away from T of TRADE, etc. These differences prove that a wholly new hub was created for this type.

— Type II proofs: Date a little above center and to right, top of 1 below GO, tip of 5 below T (about in line with upright). Rev. Few minute hollow places between feathers. ANS; Garrett set; many others. Other dies possible.

This type appears to have constituted the 200 struck in March, 50 each in July and August, 100 in September, and probably part of the 300 delivered in January, therefore at least 400 and probably well over 500 of the 700 total for the year.

**Silver-minor sets.** Generally supposed to have numbered 700, but the data on quarter and half dollar throw doubt on this. Possibly the correct figure should be something like 600 sets, only the last 200 (of July through September) containing the 20¢ piece. I have seen quite a few but all contained the 20¢ (added later?) and some were probably assembled.

**Gold Dollar.** [20] Struck Feb. 13 with the sets. \*B-1. No spine down from chin; polish at ERT and forward feather, similar to 1871. Rev. Heavy doubling on DOLLAR and wreath; corner of 5 slightly left of left tip of A. (Contrast B-2 below.) Extremely rare,



extremely popular. Probably 14 or 15 survivors, at least four of them nicked, scratched, or poorly cleaned. There are also some deceptive pieces made by gilding copper or aluminum proofs from these same dies. Genuine gold pieces weigh 25.8 grains (1.672 grams); base metal strikings are much lighter. If you are offered one by a person who will not allow the coin to be removed from its plastic holder and weighed, refuse it for that reason! There are also a few deceptive early business strikes from B-2 dies [400]: spine down from chin; corner of 5 in line with left tip of A.

Survivors are almost impossible to enumerate accurately, partly because of the wretched quality of coin photography in earlier catalogues, the reluctance of many dealers and collectors to preserve pedigree information, and the presence of deceptive first strikes. We can be sure at least of these: (1) Mint, SI. (2) Mint, Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Ely, Garrett:457, \$14,000. (4) Belden Roach, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (5) Jay:250, tiny planchet defect. (6) Walton:2745, cleaned, weak at C. (7) Boyd, WGC, "Memorable":32. (8) KS 4/59:2586, obviously cleaned, to J. Rowe. (9) KS 2/60:2541, cleaned, to J. Rowe. (10) NN 51:803, impaired. (11) 1957 Central States convention, impaired, different from last. The couple of dozen other auction records of coins ranging from cleaned proof to superb proof appear to testify to the usual Musical Chairs game among possibly 5 or 6 specimens in all, some mentioned above. The estimate of 14 or 15 is unlikely to be bettered.



**1875 Quarter Eagle. Ex Bell, Gaskill colls.**

**Quarter Eagle.** [20] \*B-1. Date well to right, tip of 5 extremely close to r. corner of truncation; left base of 1 left of center of dentil. As deceptive early impressions from the B-2 dies (business strikes) have sometimes been sold as proofs (usually as hairlined or impaired proofs), note the identifying details: B-2 has date to left, 5 well away from truncation, left base of 1 r. of center. The majority of survivors are worn or impaired. Same comments as to gold dollars; the genuine weigh 64.5 grains = 4.18 grams, base metal gilt pieces much less.

Survivors again are all but impossible to cover by census, for the same reasons mentioned under gold dollars. We can be sure at least of these: (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Clapp, Eliasberg. (4) WGC, "Memorable": 131, possibly to Farouk. (5) Atwater:

1979, Grant Pierce: 1201. (6) Bell I, Gaskill, NN 48:327, R.P., choice but rev. tone spot, believed LM 10/69:416. (7) Melish: 1283, cleaned, to Kagin, possibly later KS 4/59:2615, J. Rowe. (8) Ely, Garrett:456, \$21,000. The thirty-odd other auction records cover possibly 3 or 4 other proofs and a larger number of impaired pieces, some of which will probably turn out to be B-2's. The estimate of 14 to 15 known is unlikely to be bettered.



**1875 Three Dollars. Original. Ex J. F. Bell**

**\*Three Dollars.** [20 originals] One of the half dozen most famous rarities in American coinage. The 20 originals were delivered as of Feb. 13, 1875; but Wayte Raymond and I were able between us one day in 1951 to tabulate well over that number, and he told me that he had been able to trace exactly 31 different examples. It is not at present possible to break this number down into originals and restrikes. Beware gilt base metal specimens; standard weight for gold = 77.4 grains = 5.015 grams.

Originals have obv. die of 1873-4, with the die scratch from upper left serif of F only microscopically visible; lower half of first S filled. Rev. Low date, leaves left and right of it perfectly formed. Heavy point on bottom of upper serif of S in DOLLARS, microscopic lump on curve of S just below the point; usual extra outline within 3; plain die scratch running close to dentils at upper r. above two maple leaves; left bow mostly filled, r. bow clear; no flatness on lower wreath. Possibly 10 originals? (1) Mint, SI. (2) Mint, Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Byron Reed estate, Omaha City Library. (4) Ely, Garrett:455, \$91,000. (5) Melish: 1399, to Kagin. (6) Charles L. MacKenzie: 1030, KS 5/66:1686 set, KS 1/67:720, QS 11/72:1141, Carl S. Carlson, QS 11/76:45, rim nicks, field scratches. (7) Grant Pierce:1262, Jay:287, Ullmer:421, \$150,000. (8) Dr. Clifford Smith: 1638; Baldenhofer:1179; others. Copper and aluminum strikings are originals; some are gilt. Judd 1436, 1437; AW 1412-13. Boyd — Adolph Friedman; Bell II:285, Hydeman:973.

What I assume to be restrikes are the coins with prominent rust marks on OL (a little above center of r. curves of O and near top of upright of L); lower wreath flat, lowest of three maple leaves at left flat; extra outlines not only on large 3 (outer curves) but also at r. ribbons and much of r. wreath. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Wolfson:303(?). (3) Rinaldi, "Delta" coll., Miles:294, R.P., Dr. E. Yale Clarke:22, \$120,000. (?) I

have not had the opportunity to examine the Kern — 1951 ANA, or Dr. Emmons, or Atwater — Amon Carter examples. As most of these are choice proofs, half tone cuts in auction catalogues do not enable them to be distinguished either for pedigree or for checking die variety and/or original status.

**Half Eagle.** [20] Feb. 13, 1875, like the other gold denominations. \*B-1. Low date, left base of 1 slightly r. of center. Extremely rare, but more proofs survive than nonproofs, so that date collector pressure is very great on the rare occasions when one is offered in any quality. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Mint, Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Ely, Garrett:454, opened at \$65,000, bid up to \$81,000. (4) H. P. Smith set, Dunham:2153, possibly source of one or more to follow. (5) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:680, possibly from Parmelee, Woodin. (6) Clapp, Eliasberg. (7) Menjou:1520. This and following possibly same as no. 4 or 5. (8) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (9) Wolfson:511, EF, ex-Proof? Date appears possibly minutely lower, but the halftone cut is not clear enough for certainty.

Beware gilt copper or aluminum impressions (Judd 1441-2, AW 1409-10). Standard weight of gold, 129 grains = 8.359 grams.



**1875 Eagle. Ex Boyd, Bell colls.**

**Eagle.** [20] \*B-1. Low date slanting very slightly down to r., left base of 1 over left edge. Rev. Top of second stripe weak. Equally rare with the half eagle, and the same comments apply. Standard weight 258 grains = 16.718 grams. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Mint, Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Ely, Garrett:453, \$91,000. (4) H. P. Smith set, Dunham:2245, possibly source of one to follow. (5) Boyd, WGC, "Memorable":573, possibly ex Parmelee, Woodin. (6) Clapp, Eliasberg. (7) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., possibly same as no. 4 or 5. On business strikes date is much farther to right, stripes normal.

**Double Eagle.** [20] Date to left, close to border, top of 1 almost equally close to bust; left base of 1 over space. Rev. Middle arrow shaftless. Not under as much date pressure. At least one of the copper strikings from these dies is gilt. Standard weight 516 grains = 33.436 grams. Exceedingly rare. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Ely, Garrett:452, \$22,000. (4) H. P. Smith set, Dunham:2317, possibly source of one to follow. (5) Boyd, WGC:696, "Memorable":696, possibly ex Parmelee, Woodin. (6) Clapp, Eliasberg. (7) Amon

Carter Sr. & Jr., same as no. 4 or 5?

**Gold proof sets.** [20] Feb. 13, 1875. H. P. Smith's was broken up at the Dunham sale, 1941; Ely's, to Garrett, was dispersed and brought \$320,000.

**Complete proof sets.** One was adjoined to a silver-minor set and delivered from the Coiner to the Curator of the Mint Cabinet as of Jan. 30 (!) for \$49.84 currency (face \$43.44). Another complete set, cent to double eagle, was sold from the mint in 1875 to R. C. W. Brock, thence to J. P. Morgan and ANS. Parmelee's was also broken up, but it lacked the double eagle.

## 1876

**Cent.** [1150+] Small knob to 6. Polish around eye at base of top feather, top of ribbon. Rev.: Normal, open E's. Much like the 1875 though less brilliant. No recut dates noticed.

**Three Cents.** [1150+] Two varieties. First Die: low date, left base of 1 over r. edge, extra outlines on most of legend.

Second Die. Centered date, left base of 1 over left part of dentil, extra outlines on U and final A, rust pit on left part of O. Much like the 1875 and often on the same kind of imperfect or granular planchets. Sometimes not too well struck up. Hirt: 1077, others.

**Five Cents.** [1150+] Usually, normal date, left arrow butt slightly attenuated.

— Double date, first cut to right; crack, left base of 1 leftwards to border. This is scarcer. "Gilhausen": 79; 1975 ANA: 128.

The majority of specimens are somewhat dull; very much like 1875 in physical qualities, and the same comments apply here as there.

**Minor proof sets.** As in 1874, almost all long since broken up.

**Dimes.** [1250] Type I reverse only: wreath almost touches E in ONE as on other dimes 1860-76. (Only copper proofs reported of Type II reverse, standard 1877-91, with E in ONE distant from wreath; LM 9/67:533.) B-1: large knob to 6 — ANS and some others. B-2: small knob to 6, not much thicker than curve of top of 6 leading into the knob. This one is much rarer. Which type came first might be determined by examining the coin in the Smithsonian set. There were 750 proof dimes struck during the first quarter, 500 more during the second quarter, none later, total 1250. Source of the usually quoted figure 1150: 450 sets delivered first quarter, 400 second quarter, 200 third, 100 fourth. There were 300 dimes of 1875 on hand at the beginning of 1876, and accordingly 400 dimes — whether 1875's, 76's or mixed dates I do not know — on hand at the beginning of 1877. Many of the survivors have been cleaned.

**Twenty Cents.** [1260] Two pairs of dies made for business strikes for this year; one of them — that without doubling on wings and ITED STAT — may

have been also used on proofs. The report of 1150 proofs delivered comes from the same source as for the other silver coins, cited under the dimes. There were actually 590 proofs of 1875 on hand at the beginning of 1876, 360 struck in the first quarter and 900 in the second, 700 delivered in the first quarter and 700 in the fourth; 360 + 900 = 1260 struck, plus the 590 on hand January 1, 1876 making 1850, less 1400 delivered during the year, leaves 450 on hand January 1, 1877 — possibly mostly 1876's, probably mixed dates.

B-1. Shield point over left upright of 1, left base of 1 r. of center. Rev.: Scattered striae. Hollow places in wings where they join body. Hirt: 1190, others.

B-2. Shield point slightly r. of left upright, left base of 1 over left edge or minutely right. Rev: Many field striae, some slanting up to r.; many die file marks along left edge of leg at (observer's) right. Hirt: 1191, others.

There are many deceptive first strikes around, some of them enough even "to deceive the elect," and certainly enough to make 1876 seem less rare than it actually is. Real proofs will have reasonably broad rims, all feathers on eagle's breast clear, drapery and hair clear, and mirror-like fields without frost. As many have been cleaned, surfaces may not be too reliable a guide by themselves.

**Quarter.** [1410] At least some of these are from a curious reverse die with southeast-pointing dash in field just down from berry above Q. (ANS and others.) First quarter, 630 struck, second quarter 780, usual delivery figures of 1150 as in dimes. The year began with 120 leftovers from 1875 and ended with 380 on hand for the beginning of 1877. Many examples have been drastically cleaned; many first strikes exist.

**Half Dollar.** [1520] There are two reverse hubs, one called Type I as it is the hub used 1866-77, characterized by a split lower berry (or "opened bud") on branch (above H), the other Type II (1876-91), on which the berry is narrow and pointed (sometimes called "closed bud"). Half dollars were certainly made in proof for 1876 with Type I reverse, and they may have been made with Type II, but I have not seen any. Type I proofs: low date, separate arrowheads, defect in 2nd red stripe, line slants down in 7th white stripe.

The 1520 proofs were made to the amount of 580 in the first quarter, 940 in the second only. Usual delivery figures of 1150 as for dimes. The year began with 50 leftovers from 1875 and ended with 420 leftovers (mixed dates?) at the beginning of 1877. Many examples have been poorly cleaned; many prooflike first strikes exist, some of them quite deceptive, but they uniformly lack the striking quality of proofs.

**Trade Dollar.** [1150 reported] Type I. Berry under claw. Exceedingly rare. (1) 1975 GENA II: 1272. (2) Anomaly from the John Zug estate; obv. perfect proof, rev. uncirculated and frosty but with the striking

qualities, borders and rims of a proof. It may have been made in error using a wrong reverse.



#### 1876 Trade Dollar. Type II. Ex QS 11/76:1630

— Type II. Without berry under claw. Most regular proofs seen to date of the 1876 Trade are of this type. I have not seen the copper or aluminum proofs, Judd 1476-77, AW 1480-81, but surmise that they too would be of this type. Certainly the pattern trade dollar showing motto in cartouche above date and no stars, with reverse of regular issue, Judd 1474-75, AW 1492-93, has a Type II reverse. Minor positional varieties probable.

**Silver-minor sets.** It would appear that the mint report of 1150 sets includes a quantity delivered in 1876 but dated 1875. The true number made is likely to be in the neighborhood of 900 to 1000 dated 1876, with some extras of all silver denominations. If so, then the monthly reports of mintage of trade dollar proofs for this and preceding years cannot be trusted, as they apparently refer to the proofs delivered with sets. (Ex 1887 Director's report, quoted in Willem, 2nd edition.) The silver coins of 1876 in proof are certainly more often seen than those of 1875, but they are less than twice as common. I have seen quite a number of silver-minor sets, some of them probably assembled to judge from the variable quality of the coins. The larger number of sets for this year can be ascribed to the Independence Centennial celebration, even as with the gold proofs, below. Some were sold in cases with the official Centennial "dollar". Kern:2022.

**Gold Dollar.** [45] \*B-1. No rust pit on neck; some extra outlines on UNI MERICA; die file mark through base of A towards M. Date slants very slightly down to r. These dies used on proofs in gold (20, Feb. 19; 25, June 13), copper and aluminum. Probably two dozen survivors, some impounded, others dulled, badly cleaned, or impaired.

**Quarter Eagle.** [45] \*B-1. No bar on neck. Left base of 1 over r. edge of dentil. Date placed far to right and slanting up with respect to device, the 6 close to r. corner of truncation. Sometimes shows very faint traces of doubling on STATES OF. About as rare as the gold dollar. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) T. L. Gaskill — NN 48: 329. (5) Grant Pierce: 1203 at \$700, ex Atwater. (6) Wolfson: 214, also at \$700. (7) Davis-Graves: 727, irregularly toned. (8) Scanlon: 2114. (9) "Quality Sales" 9/73.

(10) Melish:1286, J. W. Some have been playing Musical Chairs for fifteen or more years. There are also some buffed coins around which have deceived more people than they should have. Business strikes (B-2) have horizontal bar on neck (foreign matter adhering to hub when die was sunk), left base of 1 over center of dentil.



### 1876 Three Dollars. Ex "Boss" Pendergast.

**\*Three Dollars.** [45] The earlier issue, 20 specimens struck on Feb. 19, shows perfect dies; the 25 made on June 13 have slight traces of die rust in feathers. Only the one variety seen (Harry Bass says there is another): obv. with two short parallel lines slanting down into lower part of left upright of I in LIBERTY, and a small curved line on neck paralleling second or lowest protruding curl (counting that below ear as first). Rev.: Date heavy and about centered, large knob logotype as on cents. Some 25 to 30 survive, but at least 7 or 8 are impaired. (1) Melish's, (2) NN 51, (3) Miles:295 — E. Yale Clarke:23, \$14,000 (scratched before neck, chip left of 3), (4) "Memorable" (badly cleaned), (5) Golden I: 2435, (6) Golden 11:1921, (7) Baldenhofer: 1180, (8) SI ex Mint, (9) ANS, (10) Eliasberg, (11) Roach, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., (12) Norweb, (13) "Boss" Pendergast, B. Max Mehl, LM 9/67:401, 9/70:470, 6/72:421, three minute rev. marks above R, (14) Wolfson:304, \$7,000, (15) Bell II:486, \$8,100, (16) Grant Pierce: 1263, \$7,750, Jay:288, Ullmer:422, \$21,000, (17) LM 10/66:324, a beauty. One of these is in the Mocatta Metals reference collection, possibly (16). There are at least two others offered as parts of "complete" (no 1870 S) collections of threes, and still others probably survive. The coin is actually very rare in gem state, but it comes up more frequently than others of equal objective rarity.

No rumor of restrikes.

**Half Eagle.** [45] Similar date. \*B-1. Low date, left base of 1 over left edge, lump on neck just below jaw, vertically above 1. (Business strikes, B-2, have lump on cheek, vertically below pupil, on level with earlobe; left base of 1 above space.) Much rarer than the lower denomination gold proofs. Very few records. (1) SI ex Mint. (2) ANS. (3) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (4) Boyd, WGC:430, possibly ex Parmelee, Woodin, Newcomer. (5) "Memorable":375. (6) Menjou:1521. (7) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., possibly ex Atwater: 1697 and/or Dr. Green:304. (8) Dr. Clifford Smith: 1743,

impaired. Probably fewer than 14 survive in all. At least two extremely deceptive B-2 prooflike business strikes survive: Straus:1443 (S 5/59), Bell II:736, unless they are the same coin. Gilt copper proofs are possible.



### 1876 Eagle. Ex J. F. Bell

**Eagle.** [45] \*B-1. Date very low, heavy; left base of 1 slightly r. of center of dentil; the 1 a little nearer border than the 6; rust pits on neck near jaw. Rev. Second red stripe thin at top, last white stripe filled. Survivors — proofs and ex-proofs — number 15 to 20, probably nearer the former; business strikes (B-2) are fewer still, resulting in extreme date collector pressure. They have no obv. rust pits; left base of 1 almost over r. edge; die file marks below LIB and through ERTY. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Clapp, Eliasberg. (4) Davis-Graves:956. (5) Melish:2465. (6) Breen I:242, nicked on jaw and field. No distinction in die state noted between earlier and later proofs. Gilt copper proofs may exist.

**Double Eagle.** [45] Exceedingly rare, probably under ten survivors. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Amon Carter Jr. (4) Boyd, WGC:879. (5) J. F. Bell, "Memorable":697. (6) "Alto":438, slight field rub. (7) Ullmer :524, "gem," \$45,000. Gilt copper proofs may exist; gold ones weigh 516 grains =33.436 grams.

—**First Transitional.** Repositioned head as in 1877, coronet markedly divides first 6 from last 7 stars; date low, left base of 1 about over left edge, 6 away from border; regular reverse with TWENTY D. In gold, apparently unique, obv. proof, rev. unc, Judd 1488, AW 1464. Discovered in 1909 by J. W. Haseltine, either among Idler's coins or as part of the A. L. Snowden transaction; via S. K. Nagy to Woodin at \$1,000, mentioned in the Adams **Official Premium List** and the June 1909 **Numismatist**; later to Newcomer, Boyd, Farouk:293, Spink's. Copper specimens exist and may come gilt.



**1876 Transitional Double Eagle, type of 1877. Ex Haseltine, Nagy, Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Farouk, Norweb**

—\***Second Transitional.** Repositioned head, as last but date farther left, 1 and 6 close to border, left base of 1 over r. edge; LIBERTY slightly farther from coronet beads; rev. of 1877, TWENTY DOLLARS. Discovered in 1909 by Haseltine in same group as preceding; via S. K. Nagy to Woodin at \$1,000; later Newcomer, Boyd, Farouk:292, New Netherlands, Dr. Wilkison, Paramount, A-Mark. Copper proofs exist and may come gilt.

It is possible that either of the above may exist mistaken for regular 1876's.

**Gold proof sets.** [45] Some 20 sets delivered February 19, 25 more on June 13. Some of these, presumably the later delivery in particular, appear to have been in some way connected with the Independence Centennial celebration in Philadelphia during the summer of 1876. In the Parmelee sale of 1890, lot 1401 was the gold set, six pieces, with the comment "sharp, perfect proofs — many inquiries having been made for this centennial gold set, we therefore offer it entire." It brought \$61, the corresponding prices for other gold proof sets from 1870 on being respectively \$37.35, \$41, \$36.60, \$38.65 (the 1873's already being recognized as rare), \$35, and \$77.60 for an 1875 set lacking the double eagle — the \$3 being labeled "exceedingly rare" and realizing \$51.

**Complete proof sets.** A complete set is in ANS, ex Brock, Morgan, and another in the Smithsonian, but no record of date of acquisition is in existence. Another complete set, shown as three sets — gold, silver and minor — though presumably obtained as one, was in the Charles G. Dodd exhibit in ANS 1914, page 70. It is not known if any of these sets still remain intact. Date collector pressure on the three-dollar piece and the eagle and half eagle may well have forced breakup.

## 1877

**Cent.** [510+] Shallow date, a little above center; left base of 1 over left edge, extra outlines on UNITED STATES. Both E's closed; unpolished within ribbon bows. Often dull, sometimes with partly rounded rims. Extremely popular and often simulated by buffed pieces, which can of course immediately be identified

by their lack of definition on relief details, those areas being replaced by shine of a most unnatural sort. Only one die variety seen to date.



### 1877 Three Cents.

\***Three Cents.** [510+] Borders often weak, rounded; planchets often granular and sometimes even porous. Many of the survivors have been dipped or scrubbed to remove streaks or spots. As many of the streaks and spots on nickel coins are inclusions in the original ingot from which the strip was rolled and the planchets cut, removal is sometimes impossible and the attempts leave very unsightly results. (If a spot will not yield either to alkali or hydrochloric acid, leave it alone; any stronger agents will corrode the alloy in nickel coins.) Numerous verified auction records in the \$575 to \$750 range, some higher reports. This can be ascribed largely to date collector pressure.

\***Five Cents.** [510+] Only the one variety. Date too far r. Borders on most are narrow, often no plain rim showing outside beads. Edges often partly rounded. Some were carelessly made, only one blow from the press, or on imperfectly polished blanks, leading to attempts to sell these as "hitherto unknown business strikes." Many are poorly cleaned. Not as rare as commonly supposed, but under continuous date collector pressure, affecting the minority of perfect specimens most of all. There are a few circulated ones, probably the result of some child's grubby hands on his father's proof set. Mid 1960's auction records in the \$850 — \$1000 range, seldom bettered even now, with higher retail quotations.

**Minor proof sets.** Cent, 3¢ and 5¢. Quantity unknown, survivors, extremely rare, most long since broken up for collectors of the individual denominations. If the "discrepancy of some 962 nickel blanks" (R. W. Julian in NSM 3/66) means proofs, the true figure may be something like 962 - 510 (for silver sets) = 442.

**Dime.** [490] B-3. Type II rev. only — E of ONE far from wreath. Proofs examined to date show repunching on ME of DIME, a single working die being used, but other may exist from different dies. No rumor of a Type I rev. proof. Grossly undervalued. All 490 coined in the first quarter. The usual figure of 510 (silver sets) comes from the following transactions. As of Jan. 1, some 400 dimes were left on hand, presumably dated 1876, then the 490 proof dimes were

struck, making 890 in all, of which 400 were delivered in sets as of March 31, and 110 more at year's end, total 510 silver sets. The remaining 380 dimes (mixed dates?) were left on hand at the beginning of 1878.



**1877 Twenty Cents. Ex QS 11/76:1575**

**Twenty Cents.** [350] Die lines from foot to border; 1 nearer border than 7; shield point over r. upright. Rev.: Leaf point extends down to C; spine, wing tip to S; incomplete wing feathers at left. Many of the survivors are cleaned, some drastically so; and I have seen several damaged and 3 or 4 circulated ones. All 350 were struck during the first quarter. There were some 450 coins dated 1876 on hand at the beginning of the year; the 400 delivered as of March 31 with the sets presumably contained mixed dates, the 110 at the end of the year probably were mostly 1877's. This left 290 (mostly 1876's?) on hand at the beginning of 1878. I shall attempt to analyze this situation in 1878 under the question of melting and survivors of the twenty-cent piece. The 1877 is a little rarer than its low mintage would suggest, but much less than three times as rare as 1878, probably less than twice as rare.

**Quarter Dollar.** [880] First die: Date to left, shield point between 18, left base of 1 over r. edge of dentil.

Second die: shield point minutely r. of upright, left base of 1 over space (almost over left edge). Rusted in drapery. Rev.: Extension from lowest arrow point. No polish in 7th white stripe or bottoms of 4th to 6th.

Third die: Same obv. as last. Rev.: No polish in any stripes; cracked through DOL., arrows, RICA. 1974 GENA: 1361-2.

Many survivors are impaired, and the total of alleged proofs is swelled by a considerable number of first strikes. Most of these have rather indefinite detail on drapery and many also show bag marks. All 880 proofs were struck during the first quarter. Adding these to the 380 1876's on hand at the beginning of the year, and subtracting the 510 sets delivered during the year, we get a remainder of 750 on hand at the beginning of 1878 — probably mixed dates.

**Half Dollar.** [580] Beistle describes only one variety: low date, die defects on base of O in DOL., often though not always with die cracks through leaves and HAL to rim, L in DOL. to arrowheads, final A and RIC. Most proofs seen are from the Type II hub

(pointed berry as on the later 1876 coins), including that in the set in LM 3/68:299 (below). One with Type I rev. was in LM 3/68:662; which obverse die is uncertain.



**1877 Half Dollar. Second variety. Type II rev. (1876-91). Ex 1974 GENA: 1616**

The second variety has centered date, shield point minutely r. of upright, left base of 1 central; Type II rev., arrowheads join; no polish in shield. 1974 GENA: 1616, others.

The 1876/77 change of hub appears to have been discovered by A. G. Heaton ("Mint Marks," 1893); this man, in that book, first alerted collectors to differential scarcity of Philadelphia and branch mint coins (changing history in so doing), but collectors to date have mostly ignored this particular type change even as they did that on the trade dollar. Possibly the Liberty Seated Collectors Club will publicize and popularize these changes.



**1877 Trade Dollar. New obv. hub. Repunched 18. Ex 1974 GENA: 1165.**

**Trade Dollar.** [510 reported] Actual mintage unknown; sole source for all these figures, J. P. Kimball, in 1887 Director's Report. I have seen the monthly reports which were his source (cited in Willem) but not the daily delivery figures which might clarify the matter. I mention this specifically because the 1877 Trade is a much rarer coin in proof state than its mintage suggests. All are from a new (1877-85) obv. hub, with first star much closer to horizon than on earlier years; apparently six fingers to branch hand, branch and wheat sheaf are modified in shape, etc. Some 1877 proofs have repunched 18 (1974 GENA: 1165-66).

**Silver Proof Sets.** [300+?] Under *Dimes* above, I indicated how the report of 510 sets originated, 400 being delivered during first quarter, 110 more at year's end. It is not at all clear that these were all dated

1877. Because the dime and 20¢, with their smaller known mintages, were part of the regular sets, clearly under 350 and probably not much over 300 sets were actually made dated 1877. Intact sets are exceedingly rare, most being promptly broken up for the 20¢, others later for the minor coins. One, from the 50 made in Oct. 1877, was sent from the mint Nov. 7, 1877, and reappeared in LM 3/68:299; it later became part of a large group of original sets, whereabouts now unknown.

**Gold Dollar.** [20] \*B-1. Date slants up to right. About a dozen to fourteen survivors, some of them impaired by cleaning, nicks or scratches. One in a Schulman-Kreisberg sale of 1960 was even bent. Compare also those in the Smithsonian; ANS; Eliasberg; Norweb; "Memorable": 34 and 860; the Melish piece; Golden I: 1466; NN 51: 805; LM 10/69:389; Scanlon:1991, etc. There are a few moderately deceptive early business strikes (B-2); these have rust pit before ear, date level, doubling on DOLLAR, and the definition on curls, feathers and leaves cannot be compared with that on proofs. A still undervalued date.

**Quarter Eagle.** [20] \*B-1. Date about centered between bust and border; left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge of dentil. Reverse has heavy letters — similar to that found on the 1863. In a rarity class with the gold dollar, though more appear to have been impaired. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Wolfson:216. (5) Brand, Ira Reed, Judge Gaskill, NN 48: 331 — gem with touches of rev. toning. (6) Melish: 1289, J. W. Either this or the Wolfson piece may have originated with the "Memorable" sale. (7) Hairlined, KS April 1959: 2616. (8) Impaired, KS Feb. 1960: 2609, to S.L.M. (9) That in the 1964 ANA Convention auction at \$1,150. (10) S 5/68: 776-Scanlon:2116, impaired. Date collector pressure is on this one even as on the gold dollar.



**1877 Three Dollars. Early state. Ex Merkin Oct. 1973:474**

**Three Dollars.** [20] Low date, only one reverse die. \*B-1: Obv. shows less than half of JBL on truncation, S's free of filling, striae pointing northeast most prominently at ME, filling in most of first A in AMERICA, right upper part of M, part of loop and part of space below in R; a light line joins bases of final A. The 10 coined February 24 appear to be those

without any rust pits on neck; the 10 coined May 31 appear to be those showing first one, then two or more rust pits on neck, one being just in front of second protruding curl, the second just below jaw; as this die continues in use through 1879 and on restrikes dated 1873, other rust pits develop: on curls on a line that would join E of UNITED and final C, on cheek before upper part of earlobe, just below and to left of eye, etc. The striae fade out. Extremely rare, especially in the earlier state. Earlier state: Lester Merkin auction, October 1966, at a reasonable \$1,700. Compare also those in Smithsonian, ANS, Eliasberg, Wolfson: 305 at \$2,200, Jay: 289 ex Grant Pierce: 1264 at \$2,000; Holmes: 3382; Dunham: 2049, "Memorable": 263; LM 10/66:325; LM 10/69:418. I have seen at least three different nicked-up ones and one EF ex-proof, the latter NN 51:961. One in the 1964 ANA Convention auction, which I did not have a chance to examine, is reported as bringing a then incredible \$4,500. Nonproofs are prohibitively rare and have a different obverse die lacking the named stigmata.



**1877 Half Eagle. Ex Merkin, March 1969:326**

**Half Eagle.** [20] \*B-1. Rust pits on chin, date a little low, left base of 1 r. of left edge of dentil. Extreme rarity. Proofs are rarer than of the smaller denominations, it being doubtful if as many as a dozen survive. At least one of these (Wolfson: 516) is impaired, though perfect ones survive in Smithsonian and ANS. No auction records recent enough to be meaningful. Cf. LM 3/69:326. On the extremely rare nonproofs (B-2), date is centered, rust pits are on neck, left base of 1 over left edge.



**1877 Eagle. Ex J. F. Bell, "Memorable":575**

**Eagle.** [20] \*B-1. Low date, close to border, left base of 1 about over left edge of denticle. Rev.: Die of 1876 proofs, polish above space between IN. (On the extremely rare B-2 business strikes, date is about centered, left base of 1 r. of center of denticle, scroll



has weak outlines, IN ST in field.) Exceedingly rare and under extreme date collector pressure; less than a dozen survive. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) Wolfson: 718, two small rim stains. (4) 1964 ANA Convention sale, \$2,500. (5) "Memorable": 575. (6) Impaired, Davis-Graves: 957. It is possible that some of the coins in circulated condition believed to be nonproofs may have originated as proofs; die identity should decide that when the coins show up again.



### 1877 Double Eagle. Brock, Morgan, ANS

**Double Eagle.** [20] New design. Head higher, dividing first 6 from last 7 stars; TWENTY DOLLARS spelled out. Low date near border. Proofs are of the highest rarity. No recent auction records, aside from WGC:880 and/or Ullmer:525 (tiny black spots lower r. obv.), at \$22,000.

**Gold proof sets.** [20] Delivered to the amount of 10 on February 24, 10 on May 31, released June 2.

**Complete proof sets.** Two survive. There is no record of when one of them went from the Coiner to the Curator of the Mint Cabinet, nor of when R. C. W. Brock bought the other from the Mint; they are now in the Smithsonian and ANS.

## 1878

**Cent.** [2350] Heavy date, to left, tip of 1 almost in line with bust point; left base of 1 central. Rev. E of CENT lightly closed, ribbon clear. Deeper red color on many of this year than formerly. Some have the reverse die used on coins of 1872-73, with recutting on T of CENT, or if it is not the identical working die it is indistinguishable therefrom. Rounded borders also occur on this date.

— \*Base of 1 recut, small rust spot before ear. Rare. LM 10/66:214.

**\*Three Cents.** [2350] Some have second 8 filled (ANS; Lester Merkin auction, November 1965, Garrett set, others). Those with both 8's clear may be from a repolished or more worn state of the same die. Very popular; sometimes with weak or rounded borders or on granular flans. Date larger than on 1873's which have sometimes been mistaken for 1878's. Both 8's identical in size and shape.

**\*Five Cents.** [2350] Only one variety seen; rare earliest state ("Gilhausen": 81, Garrett set) has shaft of 7 in lower loop of last 8. Borders often very narrow as on the 1877; physical qualities very similar to that

issue but a somewhat larger number are sufficiently brilliant. Auction records in the \$600 to \$750 range. Date larger than on 1873 — see comment to 3¢.

**Minor proof sets.** [2350] The report of 2350 minted of the 3¢ and 5¢ together with common knowledge that these pieces were sold in sets spells out the probable mintage figure of 2350 for cents and sets. Most of these have been long since broken up, owing largely to date collector demands for the nickel coins.

**Dime.** [750] Type II only: E in ONE far from leaf, from now on. All proofs were struck in the first quarter. The report of 800 each of dimes, quarters and halves comes from this transaction: 380 dimes of 1877 on hand at the beginning of 1878, 750 proof dimes of 1878 struck, 600 sets delivered during the first quarter and 200 more during the second quarter (total 800, some of them doubtless dated 1877), leaving 300 (mixed dates?) on hand at the beginning of 1879. Some of these were probably among the 1130 dimes melted at the beginning of 1880.

**Twenty Cents.** [760 less an unknown meltage] Date very slightly below center. Rev. Counting from left, second, 4th and 5th leaves stemless and detached. Few incomplete feathers in wing at left and crotch. Some 290 1877's (or possibly mixed dates 1876-77) were on hand at the beginning of the year. Some 760 were made in the first quarter; 600 were delivered with the sets (mixed dates?). The remaining 450, evidently mixed dates, were melted June 29, 1878 on abolition of the denomination. It would be over-optimistic to guess that all the 600 delivered were dated 1878. If they were, then the 450 melted in June 1878 would have consisted of the remaining 160 1878's and 290 mostly of 1877's. If all the 290 had been 1877's, that would mean that only 60 1877's survived the meltings — which is manifestly less than the truth. More probably about 300 of the 1877's escaped the melting pot and the 600 delivered in 1878 included some of these. The ratio of known 1877's to 1878's is not far from 3 to 5, so we may speculate that about 500 1878's might have been issued — possibly a few less.

**Quarter Dollar.** [1232 minted, an unknown quantity melted] Shield point over r. foot; left base of 1 over left edge; low date, 1 nearer border than 8, extensions from all 3 arrow points, rust pits in 3rd, 4th white stripes, no polish in any, rust in azure above 3rd red stripe. All the proofs were made in the first quarter. Some 750 1877's were left over in Jan. 1878, and 800 sets were delivered as above, leaving 1152 (mixed dates?) on hand Jan. 1879. Some were evidently melted early in 1880. The date is not too scarce.





**1878 Half Dollar. Beistle 1-A. Ex QS 11/76:954**

**Half Dollar.** [820] Two varieties, both with Type II rev. (pointed berry above H), though I have a vague recollection of seeing a single example with the old 1876 split berry or Type I die.

— Beistle 1-A. Low date, left base of 1 over left edge of dentil; shield point almost over 8. Rev. Normal. Garrett set, others.

— B. 1a-Aa (actually different dies). Low date, left base of 1 left of center, shield point between 18. Rev. of 1877, minor "shift" or doubling, thin line closes final A. Hirt: 1228, others. Which is scarcer?

As SI obtained its proof set from the Mint Cabinet, originally from the Coiner, Jan. 9, 1878, probably its half dollar would represent the earlier variety of these two. Some 460 halves (1877 or 1876-77?) remained on hand in Jan. 1878; all 820 proof halves were struck during the first quarter, 800 sets were delivered as described under Dimes, leaving 480 on hand in Jan. 1879. These all seem to have been sold during that year, none recorded as melted. The 1878 half dollar has begun to rise in popularity for unknown reasons, evidently not date collector pressure; recent auction records have exceeded some lower mintage dates 1879-91.

**Standard Silver Dollar.** Morgan design. Two major types, three minor.



**1878 Morgan Dollar. Eight feathers. First variety, with spine from eyeball; not in VAM.**

**Eight tail feathers.** [500] Some 100 struck each on March 12 and 15, 300 more March 18, though two were turned over by the Coiner to the Mint Cabinet March 7! First hub: VAM type combination I-A1 (ear folds evenly divided, blunt beak, one group of 6 leaves (rather than 5) in left wreath. Two minor varieties:

(1) Small spine out from eyeball; doubling on bases of I UN. Rev. Some doubling on wreath and much of legend; die file marks at border near AR.

Not in VAM, rev. like VAM 14-3.

(2) No spine from eyeball. Obvious doubling at base of M, less obviously also on most of legend. No rev. die file marks, no other data. This is probably scarcer.

The 500 were delivered in sets during the second quarter.

— Seven tail feathers. Two types. Total [500] of which many must have been melted in 1880. Many times rarer than mintage suggests; fewer than 15 seen in all despite extensive search. However, probably over 5,000 prooflike early business strikes survive. Real proofs have broad rims completely distinct from dentils, with sharp inner and outer edges; sharpness on central curls and feathers exceeds that on business strikes. Even when cleaned as usual, fields have more mirror quality than business strikes; compare with any later proof dollars.



**1878 Morgan Dollar. Seven tail feathers, parallel arrow feathers. ANS**

**Seven feathers, parallel arrow feathers** (VAM type II-B1: Van Allen believes [200] March 26). The ANS example has 4th from bottom right star imperfect (one point much too short), I free of wreath (die defect joins it to wreath on some others), M filled, left base of 1 over space, lower loop of 8 filled, top of r. serif of E recut; many dentils joined at upper r. Rev. short arrow stem end. Left star repunched, showing some inner detail; ribbon bows filled or space within unpolished, with light die file marks left and right; A firmly joins wing; top left berry joined by bar to adjacent leaf; obv. type of VAM II-2, rev. Bid (?). Garrett set, others.



**1878 Morgan Dollar. Seven tail feathers, slanting top arrow feather. Ex Hughes, NERCG.**

**Seven feathers, slanting arrow feather** (VAM type III1-C3). [300 struck between June 28 and 30, mostly melted.] Obv. Recut within both 8's below tops;

doubling on second and fourth stars on r. from bottom, Rev. Doubling below top D of DOLLAR and on bases of MER CA; middle of s in trust broken. This type combination not in VAM, both working dies unlisted. *Exceedingly rare.* (1) LM 4/70:599. (2) Herstal:599, \$4,600. (3) Hughes, NERCG, possibly same as one of first two? Also reported: VAM 215, unseen.

**\*Trade Dollar.** [900 reported] Only one variety noticed. Supposedly 300 struck in January, 200 each in February, March and May. Rarer than the mintage suggests; many may have been melted in 1879. Many of the survivors have been poorly cleaned.

**Silver proof sets.** The usual figure of 800 struck was explained under *Dime*. Probably [700] would be a liberal estimate, the earliest 500+ with 8-feather dollars, only the last few with 7-feather dollars. Unbroken sets are now very rare: cf. Garrett's at \$5,750, Bartlett: 1003 (8-feather dollars, Trades). Others offered are likely to have been assembled. Reason for breakup of original sets: date collector pressure on 20c, to a lesser extent also the Trade; more recently also, silver dollar (first year) and nickel coins.

**Gold Dollar.** [20] \*B-3. Normal date, final 8 usually not filled, extra outlines on DOLLAR. Extremely rare, under 15 survivors, which still makes this the least rare gold proof of the year. Garrett:463 (final 8 filled) brought \$2,190; Scanlon:1993, \$1,700. Several others are impaired, e.g. "Memorable":35 (rim nick).

**Quarter Eagle.** [20] \*B-1. Date slants slightly up to r., left base of 1 over r. edge. Rev. Dentils well spaced apart. Rarer than the \$1 but undervalued by comparison. No perfect specimen offered recently enough to afford a reasonable basis for valuation, and not many doggy ones. Wolfson's was impaired, the Col. Green — MacAllister — Gaskill specimen cleaned, Garrett's (at \$3,500) hairlined.

**Three Dollars.** [20] \*B-1 (not in original monograph, later called B-3, but precedes the rest). Obv. of 1877, rust pits as described there. Rev. Date slightly below center of space, level; no rust marks. As rare as the \$2 1/2 but grossly undervalued — no date collector pressure. Garrett's realized \$12,500.

**Half Eagle.** [20] Low date, open mouth, polish in ERT, chip below E. Rev. Hollows below I WE ST on scroll. *Exceedingly rare*, more so than the lower denominations. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:460, \$4,750. (5) Philip G. Straus estate — 1959 NY Metropolitan:2444. (6) Mocatta Metals — possibly ex (4). Probably less than nine survive.



**1878 Eagle, rev. of 1876-77. Ex J. F. Bell, "Memorable":576**

**Eagle.** [20] B-1. Date low, close to border. Left base of 1 slightly r. of center. Rev. Repolished die of 1876-77 proofs. Top of second stripe thin, hollow at IN, left scroll end fragmented. Same comment as to the half eagle. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:459, nicked, \$8,000. (5) "Memorable":576. (6) Straus estate (S 5/59):2505, later 1976 ANA:3101, \$6500. About equal in rarity to the half eagle, but will bring more.

**Double Eagle.** [20] Low date, left base of 1 almost over r. edge. Same comment as to the half eagle and eagle. Apparently under ten survive. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:458 (spotty), \$12,500. (5) Bell II:907 (impaired). (6) WGC:881. (7) "Memorable":576.

**Gold proof sets.** [20] All were delivered as of Feb. 9 despite the Jan. 9 date of the transaction between Coiner and Mint Cabinet Curator, earlier cited, which set (cent to double eagle, minus dollars) is now in SI, the other coins being added later in the year as above mentioned. All 20 gold sets were sold, none held over into 1879. Garrett's was broken up, totalling \$43,350. One is in Texas pvt. coll.

**Complete proof sets.** [20] SI (as above) and ANS, ex Mint, Brock, Morgan. No others now traced.

## 1879

**Cent.** [3200] At least two varieties. First die: Date left, serif of 1 nearly in line with bust point; polish around eye, below ear, and at bases of all feathers. Rev. E of CENT almost closed. The var. usually encountered.

\*Second die: Date repunched. Base of 1 slightly double, part of another 8 within loops of 8, part of another 9 within 9. NN 57:81, others. Rare.

The cents of this date often come dark red or iridescent; a minority have brilliance similar to that found on some 1874-75 coins.

**Three Cents.** [3200] Three varieties. First die: Filling in both 8 and 9. Scarce. Pvt. colls.

Second die: Heavy date, filling in 9 (not 8), earlier states with recutting on 9, extra outlines on UNITED ST and final A. Left base of 1 over left of center of dentil. Rev. Normal leaves, not fragmented. ANS, others.

Third die: Thin numerals, clear 8 and 9, date higher and to right, left base of 1 above space; letters thin except for TES 0. Rev. Die of 1880, fragmented ribbon and leaves. ANS, others.

It is not known which of these is rarer. Examination of that in the Smithsonian set (obtained in January) might establish which is earliest. More proofs are around than business strikes. Some are granular or not well made. The A.M. Smith estate included 40 aside from those in sets.

**Five Cents.** [3200] Date collector pressure has been brought to bear on this issue as business strikes are hardly ever seen. Hoards exist; the A. M. Smith estate had 27 outside of his sets. Several die varieties, some decidedly odd.

\*1. Overdate, 1879 over 78. As the 9 is narrower than the 8, faint traces of 8 can sometimes be seen on either side, but usually only within top and bottom. Use a microscope; the traces of 8 are always faint. Rare. 1973 GENA: 187. Later strikings show that die was repolished, most of overdate effaced.

2. Normal except for light recutting in 9, 7 about touches ball; left base of 1 over r. edge. ANS; and cf. NN 53:324. Scarce only; second commonest.

\*(?) 3. Date plainly doubled (twice logotyped). Cf. "Gilhausen":83, Melish:632 and NN 40:761. Rare, though not so rare as the overdate.

\*(?) 4. Different double date. Plain doubling on left upright of 1; triple outlines on 8, the outermost one broken at base. Rare. Landau: 279.

5. Normal date, no recutting. Majority variety.

**Minor sets.** [3200] Apparently 2100 sold outside of silver sets. Some 34 were in the A. M. Smith estate; mostly broken up by now.

**Dime.** [770] Those seen in recent years appear to be all from the B-1 die, with pendant very slightly r. of serif of 7, excessively lapped with drapery incomplete near shield, polish in stripes. Hoarders have gotten to this issue (the A.M. Smith estate had 208!), and date collectors exert much demand. Some 250 struck before March 1, there being 330 (1878's) already on hand; 1650 between then and June 30, none after; of these 1900, some 1130 were melted at the beginning of 1880, leaving net coinage 770. The commonly seen delivery figure of 1100 arises from deliveries of 200 sets (mixed dates?) prior to March 1, 250 more before June 30, 100 more in the 3rd quarter, 550 in 4th.

**Quarter.** [250(?) less unknown meltage] First variety: centered date, polish on LIBERTY and drapery, and stripes; shield point over r. upright, left base of 1 over space. Rev. of 1878.

Second variety: Same obv., rev. similar to 1872 with same line left from border of shield. Which is rarer?

The low mintage has not been taken seriously (was a delivery omitted from official reports?)

because many deceptive early strikes exist, some enough "to deceive even the elect." Hoards exist, or did exist. A. M. Smith had at least 26 outside his sets. Philip G. Straus (1951) had a mixed hoard including some real proofs and many early business strikes of varying degrees of deceptiveness. The 250 were all struck in the first quarter. At the beginning of January some 1,182 quarters were on hand, evidently mixed dates 1877-78 (possibly 1876 as well); deliveries were as in dimes, leaving some 332 for melting in January 1880.



**1879 Half Dollar. Type I reverse of 1876. First obv., Beistle 1-A. Ex QS 11/76:955.**

**Half Dollar.** [620] \* First variety: Only one slender faint line of drapery at elbow (lapped die); centered date, shield point between 18, left base of 1 over center. Rev. of 1876, Type I, split berry, line slants down to r. in last stripe. Beistle 1-A. 1974 GENA: 1620.

\* Second variety: Full drapery, shield point over left edge of 8, left base of 1 above space. Rev. of 1876 as last. Beistle 2-A. LM 3/68:301 set; "Gilhausen": 1085.

Third variety: Obv. as last, rev. Type II, pointed berry above H. Claws at left separate; normal scroll. Which is rarer?

Deceptive early strikes exist with Type II reverse.

Some 250 were struck in first quarter, 120 in second, 250 in fourth. The explanation for the usual delivery figures is as in the dimes. Some 480 halves of 1878 (or 1877-78?) were on hand Jan. 1879 but all were disposed of in proof deliveries during the year. Hoards did exist; A.M. Smith had 94 outside of his sets.

**Silver Dollar.** [650] Full breast, slanting top arrow feather. Cloud 9, left base of 1 left of center. VAM 1. Less rare than mintage figure suggests, even aside from the deceptive early strikes. Some 250 coined in first quarter, 500 in second, total 750; of these 100 were melted in Jan. 1880, leaving 650 net mintage. The usual figure of 1100 was explained under Dimes, some 450 leftover dollars being on hand Jan. 1879 to account for the difference.

\***Trade Dollar.** [1541] Both varieties seen to date are from an obv. with very top of 8 imperfect. First reverse: Normal feathers. "Gilhausen": 1477.

Second reverse: Many incomplete feathers in legs and lower belly. "Gilhausen": 1478; 1974 GENA: 1181.

No apparent difference in rarity nor is it known which came first.

Nothing is revealed by the monthly coinage figures in Willem.

**Silver proof sets.** Number minted unknown but likely to have been around 250 or even less, given the mintage of quarter dollars. I have not seen any original sets traceable to the mint in the year of issue, probably the extant sets being assembled in later years. This is naturally aside from the complete (cent to double eagle) sets in Smithsonian and ANS.

**Gold Dollar.** [30] Same dies unfortunately found on proofs and business strikes — including the deceptive first strikes. BER always weak; filling sometimes visible within 8 and 9. Real proofs are very rare, probably less than 18 surviving including impaired pieces. Most are state I [20, Jan. 25]: no clash marks, no bulge below head; plain crisscross die file marks in left bow, horizontal line in r. bow. Few are state IV [10, Nov. 22], drastically repolished dies, curl ends and leaves attenuated, die file marks almost visible; no bulge below head. Nine seen in state I, four in state IV. Cf. Ullmer: 346 at \$1,900.

**Quarter Eagle.** [30] \*B-1. High date, left base of 1 over r. edge of dentil. In a rarity class with the gold dollar; same comment. Compare Gaskill — NN 48:338; 1968 ANA; "Quality Sales"\* 9/73:1078.



**1879 Three Dollars. Ex Merkin, Oct. 1973:476**

**Three Dollars.** [30] Obv. same as 1877-78 proofs, always with varying stages of rust pits on neck and cheek. The 20 coined on January 25 (e.g. Smithsonian, Lester Merkin, October 1966) are from an early state with not all the rust marks earlier described; the 10 of November 22 show them all. Very rare, occasionally imitated by deceptive first strikes. As uncirculated threes of 1879 are very rare, this problem has been perhaps a little less acute than it might have been. Survivors number probably 15 to 18 including several impaired pieces such as that in Lester Merkin's November 1965 sale.

Auction records are not frequent. Landau: 726, really choice, went to J. F. Lindsay. Baldenhofer's reappeared as Grant Pierce: 1266. Jay: 290 brought \$1,400 (1967), Ullmer: 424 went at \$6,000.

**\*Four Dollars or Stella.** Not properly part of the proof sets of the year, and despite the comparatively large mintage of the 1879 Flowing Hair type properly a pattern (Judd: 1635, AW: 1575), this unique denomination is mentioned here because often

collected with regular issues, because extremely famous and certain to attract plenty of public interest in an exhibit, because one of the most sought after of U.S. coins. It is one of the international coinage proposals that almost got through. The Hon. John Adam Kasson, formerly Chairman of the House Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, but in 1879 U.S. Minister to Austria, already remembered by the mint people because he had helped overcome Congressional opposition to the 1864 bill authorizing the bronze cent, at the beginning of 1879 sent a dispatch to the Secretary of State, John Sherman, recommending mintage of a \$4 gold piece. His motive was convenience in international trade, as this coin would be within a few cents of the values of the Austrian 8 Florins, French 20 Francs, Italian 20 Lire, Spanish 20 Pesetas, and Dutch 8 Florins. The Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures favored the proposal. Perhaps unfortunately, it in some way became tied up with the "metric" gold alloy proposed by one of the Mint's perennial eccentric hangers-on, Dr. Wheeler W. Hubbell. This called for 60 parts gold, 3 parts silver, 7 parts copper per 70 parts total composition — amounting to 5% debasement (offset by overweight) in the vain hope of stabilizing the world market ratio between gold and silver (something no coinage whatever could do, as it depends wholly on the available supplies of those metals and market manipulations thereof). The proposal might have become law had it not been conjoined to the Hubbell alloy.

**\*Flowing hair.** By C. E. Barber. Rev. Large star. Originals, 15 to 18 struck, weight about 7 grams or 108 grains; *no striations or file marks in central obv.* Very rare.



**1879 Four Dollars or Stella. Flowing hair. Official restrrike of 1880 (central striations). Ex QS 11/76:61**

— \*Restrikes, made in 1880 pursuant to joint resolution of Congress, said by Adams to number 400; by R. E. Preston of the Bureau of the Mint (April 30, 1895) "about 500" in a memorandum accompanying Dunham: 2062; or by W. Elliott Woodward in various catalogues in the 1880's, 600. Identifiable by striations or something looking like file marks in centers, central curls weaker than on originals. Weights vary, 103 to 109 grains (6.67 to 7.06 grams), but the striations — which are constant on 1880 Stellas — are decisive. Cf.

Breen I: 134 at \$17,000 on a \$19,000 limit. Lightweight coins are much rarer than standard weight restrikes, which latter are usually offered as originals!

Many survivors are impaired, some by drastic cleaning, others by nicks or scratches, or even honest wear — being carried as pocket pieces. Several dozen have been seen with traces of solder on edges from removal of loops. These ex-jewelry items (e.g. Stack's 5/1974: 434, to mention only the most recent offering) were reported at the time (during the 1880's) to be adorning the persons of Washington, D.C. madams who received them from congressional visitors to their bordellos. Choice proofs are now rather infrequently seen.



**1879 Four Dollars or Stella. Coiled hair. Ex J. F. Bell, "Memorable": 280**

**\*Coiled hair.** Attributed to Morgan, same star reverse by Barber (?). Judd: 1638, AW: 1578. About 10 struck, possibly a few restrikes from some dies. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Lilly, SI. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Part of complete stella set, Texas coll. ex Dr. Wilkison. (5) Part of another complete set, ex Neil:2603, Grant Pierce, 1976 ANA:2920. (6) Kern:243, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (7) "Rio Rancho":133, \$105,000, said to have striations as in 1880. (8) Garrett, Johns Hopkins Univ. (9) Armand Champa:521. (10) QS 9/73:1154.

**Half Eagle.** [30] \*B-4. Polish around ERT, eye, just below ear, and on scroll at WE ST. Traces of recutting atop 9. Exceedingly rare, seldom offered. Wolfson:522 was impaired, like several others seen. No auction records for unimpaired ones recent enough to give a fair idea of value; Ullmer:455 at \$3,900 was hairlined, possibly ex Melish:2160, Garland Stephens. Survivors probably number less than a dozen, possibly less than nine.

**Eagle.** [30] \*B-7. Date low, to left; "floating" curls behind neck. Exceedingly rare, seldom offered. Survivors number about 10.

**Double Eagle.** [30] Date begins about equidistant between bust and border; placed to right. Exceedingly rare, like the \$5 and \$10. (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Wolfson: 923. (5) Amon Carter, Jr. (6) "Memorable": 699 ex WGC: 882. Probably not more than 10 survivors.

**Gold proof sets.** [30] Some 20 (no stella) were made as of January 25, 10 more on November 22. The Director's Report, covering the fiscal year (July 1, 1878 to June 30, 1879), says 26 were made of which 17

had been sold: but this is not immediately reconcilable with the figures here quoted. What probably happened is that 6 of the November delivery had already come out as of the issuance of the Director's Report, and that the reference to "31 sets sold" in the 1880 Director's Report means the 20 of February 14, 1880 plus some of the remaining 1879's.

**Complete proof sets.** One is in ANS, ex Brock, Morgan. The other one now known is in the Smithsonian, from the Mint Cabinet, obtained from the Coiner some time in January 1879 for \$44.50 currency (face \$44.44).

## 1880

**Cent.** [3955] Date straight as heretofore since 1872, but this is the last occurrence of a straight logotype on cents. Two varieties: that less often seen has faint traces of recutting on upper surfaces of upper loop of second 8, the commoner one lacks them. There may be minute positional variants of the latter. Often deep red or iridescent, occasionally with rounded rims.

**Three Cents.** [3955] First die: Heavy date, left base of 1 over left edge; partly filled 8's. Rev. of 1879, fragmented leaves.

Second die: Heavy date, high, close to bust, left base of 1 over r. edge; minute recuttings in 8's, later visible only in upper loop of second 8. Rare earliest states show that date was first cut too low, then corrected. Rev. as preceding. Hirt: 1082, others.

One of the above shows irregular narrowing of wreath stems: repolished state of regular reverse? Different die?

Always available for a price; business strikes are very seldom seen. The Virgil Brand estate contained a hoard of several hundred proofs, many carelessly made. Some of these have doubtless been resold as rare business strikes. The A. M. Smith estate had 30 proofs outside the sets.

**Five Cents.** [3955] First die: normal date, first 8 touches ball.

Second die: Second 8 first cut far too low, then corrected; first 8 about touches ball. "Gilhousen": 84, many others.

Same remark as to the 3¢. Often with partly rounded rims; varies from brilliant to comparatively dull and granular, carelessly made. Many of the latter quality are resold as the very rare business strikes. Often hoarded; A. M. Smith had 21 outside sets.

**Minor sets.** [3955] Apparently 2,600 outside silver sets; mostly long since broken up on behalf of collectors of the nickel coins. A. M. Smith had only nine sets.

**Dime.** [1355] The usual variety has incomplete drapery near shield, pendant over inner r. curve of 8, shield point about over peak of 1. Often carelessly made, and of late often offered as rare business strikes. (The real business strikes have low date, 0 much

farther from border than 1, pendant left of center of 8.) Often hoarded; A. M. Smith had 15 outside the sets, a midwest dealer far more. Under date collector pressure owing to speculators' notice of the low business strike mintage; date collectors are usually content to buy a readily available proof rather than wait some years for an unquestioned business strike. All the proofs are from (broken) sets. Some 1000 were minted in first quarter, 355 in second, 200 in fourth, total 1555, of which 1355 were delivered in sets: 600 in first quarter, 500 in second, 255 in the fourth. The 200 leftovers were melted at year's end.



**1880 Quarter Dollar. Rev. of 1879. Ex QS 11/76:685.**

**Quarter.** [1355] Shield point minutely r. of upright, left base of 1 slightly r. of center, date minutely above center; polish in stripes and nearby drapery; rev. of 1878 (Ruby) or of second 1879 variety. Hoarders have also gotten to this issue, as indeed to the later low-mintage business strikes 1882-87. There are quite a few deceptive early strikes even as of 1879. They have less relief detail than the proofs; obv. different, shield point over r. foot, left base of 1 over left edge, centered date slanting down, rev. stripes filled (unpolished). Same remark about set deliveries as to dimes. Some 1,000 struck in first quarter, 460 in second, total 1,460 of which 1,355 were delivered in the sets, the remaining 105 melted as unsold.

**Half Dollar.** [1355] Several varieties. First variety: Centered date, 1 nearer border than 0, shield point over r. foot of 1, several stars with extra outlines. Rev. of 1876, Type I, split berry above H.

Second variety: Obv. as last. Rev. Type II (pointed berry above H), lump in wing in line with both H and N, tiny rust pit in second red stripe, scroll normal. "Gilhausen": 1086.

Third variety: Beistle 1-A. Obv. not described, probably same as last. Rev. Small northeast-pointing corner at left end of scroll is broken away; this die said to recur in 1881. Not identified, same as first?

Same remark about set deliveries and hoarding here as to the quarters; comparatively few survivors of the 8,400 business strikes, though alas some remain in collections or dealers' stocks mislabeled "Proof, not in full brilliancy" (or sometimes without that qualifying phrase). Adding to the confusion, now that gem business strikes are beginning to sell for more than cleaned proofs, some proofs are being sold as

"Gem prooflike Unc." Some 1,000 proofs struck in first quarter, 400 in second, 1,355 delivered with the sets above, the rest melted.

**Silver Dollar.** [1355] VAM 13. Minutely doubled 1. Deceptive early strikes exist. Some 750 proofs coined in first quarter, 590 in second, 100 in fourth, of which total of 1,440 some 1,355 went with the sets, the rest melted. Clear-cut accounting of this kind does not long continue, regrettably: see 1882-83.

**\*Trade Dollar.** [1987] The monthly coinage figures for proofs are in Willem. Nothing much can be learned from them or the other figures on trade dollars through 1883 inclusive, save that around Christmas time large quantities were made presumably for stocking stuffers, and the bulk of the year's coinage came in the first quarter to fill proof sets orders. From now through the clandestine 1885, the obverse hub shows increasing signs of wear: head and stars are *routinely* flat.



**1880 Trade Dollar. First die. Ex QS 11/76:1632**

First die: Top of 1 below G. Left base of 1 slightly r. of center of dentil. "Gilhausen": 1479, others.

Second die: Top of 1 below GO. Left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge of dentil. Same reverse. "Gilhausen": 1480, 1974 GENA:1182, others. Which is scarcer?

**Silver proof sets.** [1355] Deliveries as under Dimes above. Original proof sets exist but they are quite rare; many sets today extant appear to have been assembled. Compare also Bartlett: 1004 at \$900 (cent to trade dollar).

**Gold Dollar.** [36] The coins of this date are enough to give a conscientious cataloguer or authenticator nightmares, ulcer attacks and premature gray hair. Proofs and many business strikes come from the same dies, and most of the extant business strikes come from brilliantly polished dies on polished blanks! It follows that anything from mediocre eyesight to poor lighting to sheer venality or unscrupulousness — or a heavy tax bill — can suffice to induce a dealer or collector to offer his shiny 1880 as a brilliant proof without stopping to ask himself if it was intentionally made that way. And it will usually sell so. Auction records are no help, and I do believe that the very rare proofs were for many years kept down in price because the first strikes have increased the apparent number around (as with the 1879 quarters). To a certain very small extent the problem has been

mitigated in that many business strikes have been kept off the market by hoarders, but there are still enough around to make trouble. I see no reason to withhold further the names of the departed hoarders of 1880's: Lammot duPont owned hundreds of them, proofs and prooflike first strikes together; Horace Louis Philip Brand and Charles E. Green had similar holdings. These two, I understand, have been only partly dispersed. Real proofs (B-4) have no die file marks at ATES; upper serif of 1 *below* adjacent leaf tip; wreath tops join; but other varieties are possible. Auction record \$1,600 for one which *may* have been a real proof; I did not see the piece and cannot therefore swear to it. (I would more probably swear at it instead. . .)

**Quarter Eagle.** [36] Very rare, but probably at least two dozen survive, some impaired (e.g. Holmes:3291). There are also several deceptive first strikes, but the problem here is not nearly so severe as with the gold dollar. Ullmer's brought \$3,250.

**Three Dollars.** [36] \*B-1. Line in dentils above 0; rust marks as in 1877-79. Rev. Centered date, almost no extra outlines on 3. May also exist from the B-2 (business strike) dies, with lower date slanting down. Very rare, though the surviving proofs may seem a little more frequent in appearance than they actually are, because of deceptive early business strikes from the B-2 dies. Business strikes have faint die file marks above RICA and at bottom rev.; all three obv. A's and E partly filled. Fortunately there are fewer of these deceivers around than with the gold dollars. Several proofs are impaired, e.g. Wolfson:380, Neil-Grant Pierce:1267 — Jay:291. Ullmer:425 brought \$10,500.



**1880 Four Dollars or Stella. Flowing hair. Ex J. F. Bell, "Memorable":281**

**\*Four Dollars or Stella. Flowing Hair.** Said to be 15 struck. All are on the same kind of centrally striated blanks as the 1879 - dated dies. Full weight, 7 grams. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Kern:244, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (4) Johns Hopkins. (5) Part of complete set, Texas coll. ex Dr. Wilkison. (6) Neil:2604, Grant Pierce, 1976 ANA:2920 as part of complete set (\$225,000). (7) Dr. Conway Bolt at private sale, Merkin 9/68:543. (8) 1974 ANA:873, \$40,000. (9) "Rio Rancho": 134, \$35,000. In addition to these nine, probably at least six and possibly as many as a dozen more are

represented by over 20 auction records, impossible to disentangle here because of the quality of illustrations.



**1880 Four Dollars or Stella. Coiled hair. Ex J. F. Bell, "Memorable": 282**

— **Toiled hair.** Said to be 10 struck. All are on the same kind of centrally striated blanks as on the 1880 strikings from 1879 — dated dies. Popularly supposed to be somewhat rarer than the 1879 Coiled Hair type, and prices reflect the belief. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Lilly, SI. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Johns Hopkins. (5) Texas coll., ex Dr. Wilkison. (6) Kern:245, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (7) Neil:2605, Grant Pierce, 1976 ANA:2920 in complete set (\$225,000). (8) Delp:792, \$35,000. (9) Davies-Niewoehner:547, \$67,500. The Neil piece is thought to be ex Grinnell or Olsen; the J. F. Bell piece in the "Memorable" sale has not been identified, nor has that in the Farouk sale, which may well account for one or two more.

**Half Eagle.** [36] Exceedingly rare, no recent records. Melish:2166 went to New Netherlands, not later traced. Do as many as nine survive?

**Eagle.** [36] If anything, slightly rarer. Ullmer:495 (small rubbed spot on chin) brought \$5,500, possibly ex Melish:2477.

**Double Eagle.** [36] About as rare as the eagle. Many gold proofs of this period were spent during the panic of 1893. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (5) Boyd, WGC. (6) J. F. Bell, "Memorable":700. (7) "Memorable":932, possibly same as (5). (8) S 9/30/66:17 (in Wilson S. Rise catalogue).

**Gold proof sets.** Some 20 coined Feb. 14, and 16 more late in September (delivered Oct. 2), \$1 to \$20. Director's Report specified that 31 were sold as of the end of June 1880, obviously mixed 1879's and 1880's. No stella included.

**Complete proof sets.** Despite the date specified for release of the gold, that in SI was bought from Coiner as of Jan. 10, at face value (\$44.44) in currency, quoted at par; no proofing charge. No Stella. Only two original sets traced: Mint, SI; Brock, Morgan, ANS.

## 1881

**Cent.** [3575] All known proofs and uncirculated coins have 81 out of line, evidently from use of an 1880 logotype with last two digits filed off to make the



1881 logotype, an attempt to produce a curved date. No special peculiarities for proofs. Color tends to be paler than on some earlier years; many survivors, 1881 to about 1905, come spotty or poorly cleaned.

**Three Cents.** [3575] Several varieties. First die: Normal date, no filling, no recutting. Not rare. Is this a later state of following?

Second die: Filled 8's; final 1 very close to curl. Rev. Normal or with crack from rim to wreath at 11:00. ANS, "Durham": 155, many others.

Third die: Parts of r. curves of mispunched 8's within loops of 8's, base of extra 1 below final 1. Extra outlines on OF AM. Rev. Normal or, later, lapped, incomplete leaves at lower r. Later, obv. lapped, effacing parts of extra digits. Discovered by Lester Merkin years ago. Rare. "Durham": 154; Garrett set. The later states with less and less of extra digits (or none) are less scarce.

Auction records have not been as high as on some other dates in the eighties because of lack of date collector pressure: 1881 is the only date in this period in which business strikes are common.

**Five Cents.** [3575] Outline of ball broken near first 8; outline in upper loop of second 8 (fades); later, top inner r. berry detached (at 2:30). Left base of first 1 slightly r. of center; r. base of last 1 barely r. of left edge. Rev. without or with tiny rust pit on thick part of 5 at r. Same comment as to 1880 5¢. Date collector pressure accounts for most of the activity here. As in 1880, many of the better ones show beautiful pale blue tone, but too many also are spotty. Rounded rims are almost the rule.

**Minor sets.** [3575] Evidently 2600 outside silver sets. Most were long since broken up on behalf of collectors wanting the 5¢.

**Dime.** [975] Those seen lately are from lapped dies similar to the 1880 but not nearly so incomplete in appearance. Few business strikes available, so that date collectors and hoarders have snapped the proofs up. Some 675 minted in first quarter, 50 in second, 460 in fourth, total 1185; 975 went in the sets (see Silver Proof Sets, below), leaving 210 to be melted in 1881. Survivors therefore are from broken sets.

**Quarter.** [975] Low date slanting up to r. Minute recutting in top of lower loop of second 8. Shield point over r. foot of 1, left base of 1 minutely r. of left edge. Rev. Faint striae above TED STATES. Often found, when untampered, with an amazing rainbow toning, as on a minority of the better 1880's. Comparatively few of the 12,000 business strikes survive, most of them apparently being, per Murphy's law, deceptive first strikes offered as proofs; no recutting in 8, shield point over center of 1, left base of 1 over space. 1974 GENA: 1364, "Gilhausen": 723. These generally have less relief detail than proofs, and bag marks; but they sell today at nearly as much and sometimes more. But a real proof, once killed by a dose of cyanide,

or lacerated by the scrub brush, or excoriated by abrasive pastes of baking soda or jeweler's rouge, naturally can be identified thereafter only with extreme difficulty. Drastic cleaning of this kind naturally impairs relief detail. I am aware that many dealers insist that toned coins do not sell. The history of New Netherlands, Merkin and Pine Tree auctions will provide ample refutation. Treating rainbow toned or blue and gold proofs this way is comparable to using sandpaper on human skin just because one is a little suntanned! And to the discriminating eye the results are just about as distressing.

Some 625 proofs were minted in first quarter, 100 in second, 420 in fourth, total 1145; 975 went with the sets, the remaining 170 melted at year's end.

**Half Dollars.** [975] First variety. High date, shield point between 18, left base of 1 left of center, r. base of 1 over center of dentil. Rev. The 1876 Type I die, split berry above H; sometimes with left end of scroll broken away. LM 3/68:670.

Second variety. Same obv. Rev. Type II, pointed berry; normal.

Third variety. Centered date, unpolished area at throat; shield point over tip of r. foot of 1, left base of 1 central, r. base of final 1 a little r. of center, extra outlines at stars 1, 10, 11, 12. Rev. Type II, normal. Later, obv. repolished, no unpolished area at throat; only one thin line of drapery. Business strikes apparently from these dies between earliest and latest proofs; most survivors are deceptively prooflike.

Same comment as to quarters. The majority are scarred from cleaning. Date collector pressure is strong, but then some toned proofs are sometimes sold as the rarer business strikes. The same remarks hold for quarters and halves at least through 1888.

Some 650 proofs were minted in first quarter, 75 in second, 350 in fourth, total 1,075; 975 were delivered with the sets, the remaining 100 melted.

**Silver Dollar.** [984] VAM 8, lightly doubled 18-1. Later, often hollow around engraver's initial M on obverse. Dangerously deceptive first strikes are numerous. Real proofs from now through 1904 have rims (outside beaded borders) broader than uncirculated counterparts, and these rims are sharp on inner and (usually) outer edges. Relief details are also sharper than on uncirculated coins. The key points for checking this are central curls, eagle's breast feathers, and details of wreath. Poor definition here, or any trace of frost in open field (not necessarily inside ribbon bow), should be grounds for rejecting the coin. Once again, poorly cleaned pieces may give trouble; in a few instances it is all but impossible to say whether a badly cleaned coin began as uncirculated or as proof. This reason by itself should be a deterrent to wielders of the scrub brush and the buffing wheel, but to date it has not been.

Some 700 proofs minted in first quarter, 40 in



second, 349 in fourth; total 1089. There were 975 delivered with sets, but only 105 of the remaining 114 melted, leaving a discrepancy of 9 pieces. These extra 9 — three delivered with the 200 sets of second quarter, the other 6 at the end of the year — appear to have been individual coins ordered outside sets.

**Trade Dollar.** [960] Only one variety seen; flat head and stars must be expected as in 1880. Obverse die retouched in partial repair attempt. Drapery incomplete at sea. Rev. Incomplete feathers at inner edge of r. leg, this rev. reused in 1882. The majority are victims of cleaning — usually more than one dose. It is odd and unexplained that fewer proofs were minted than the number reported of the regular sets (see below). Monthly reports of proof mintage are in Willem, but they afford no clue. Quarterly they break down to 475 first (i.e. presumably 25 of the silver sets then delivered lacked the trade dollar), 195 second (5 silver sets lacked the denomination), 35 third, 255 fourth (did 20 sets lack it?) If the answer to these questions is yes, then the extras of the third quarter must have been sold individually even as with the extra trades of former years.

**Silver proof sets.** [925+?] Number complete with both silver dollar and trade dollar not definitely known but — from the above delivery data on trade dollars — possibly as few as 925 may have contained both dollars. There were 500 sets delivered during the first quarter, 200 during the second and 275 during the third (all dime to silver dollar inclusive and presumably containing minor coins as well); total 975. Extant sets, aside from those in Smithsonian and ANS, mostly appear to have been assembled. (But compare Bartlett:1005; Garrett:309 at \$3100.) The reason for breakup of most sets would appear to be date collector demand for the low mintage silver coins. From here on through about 1889, aside from a couple of years of large dime mintage, the mint's principal output consisted of Morgan dollars, pleasing nobody except the owners of the western silver mines who had found an enormous captive market for their bullion; this coinage of dollars interfered drastically with the economy, producing relative and finally absolute shortages of subsidiary silver, and trapping the available silver bullion in non-current form. The dollars went from mints to banks, promptly being returned to Treasury vaults, where they stayed, while banks, merchants and paymasters petitioned for dimes, quarters and halves, and got very few. The dismal history is told, in part, in Taxay's *U.S. Mint and Coinage*, Chapter 20 — in a most tragicomic manner.

**Gold Dollar.** [87] Widely spaced date. B-1. Heavy letters, partial extra outlines. Rev. 1 centered below 0, second 8 below L; wreath tops joined; recuttings within 8's at r. (also on uncs.); cf. Garrett:469 at \$1800. The coin appears rarer than it actually is, and

one reason doubtless was the Leon T. Lindheim hoard. Lindheim found himself with several of the proofs, and conceived the idea of seeing how many he could assemble (to put it delicately); his adventures in this enterprise, resulting in a hoard of 54 pieces, are described in the *Numismatic Scrapbook*, December 1965: 3308ff. His No. 22 is described as obv. proof, rev. unc.; I have not seen it and cannot vouch for the striking qualities. (But when Paramount bought the hoard, only eight turned out to qualify as proofs.)

Mintage: 60, March 16 (of which 40 went with the sets), 10 on Sept. 30, 17 on Dec. 31. These are not distinguishable.

**Quarter Eagle.** [51] \*B-1. Hollows (die polish) at eye, BER, in and below ear; curl away from brow; left base of first 1 r. of center, r. base of final 1 left of center. Rev. Filling in AMER, slight doubling at AM. Very rare, under strong date collector pressure. Many survivors are impaired, some drastically cleaned, e.g. Wolfson:224 (impaired), Bell II:215 (likewise), NN 51:871 (ditto), Dr. Bolt:841 (scrubbed). A perfect proof is possibly harder to find than the \$3 in similar condition, and it would be one of the most undervalued of the quarter eagles of this decade. Cf. LM 9/67:360. However, as the 1968 N.Y. Metropolitan — Dines — Scanlon piece brought \$2,200, Ullmer: 377 \$4,250, and Garrett:468 \$6,250, at this rate it may be less undervalued by the time you read these words. The still rarer (and sometimes deceptive) B-2 business strikes have none of the mentioned hollows, doublings or fillings; curl joins brow as usual; r. base of final 1 about over space, otherwise date similarly placed.

Mintage: 40 with the sets, Feb. 19 (delivered March 26), 9 in second quarter, 1 each in third and fourth quarters, total 51. These are not distinguishable. None melted, 1874-89; presumably the extras outside the sets were all separately sold.

**Three Dollars.** [54] \*B-1. No chip between RT; no die file marks; A's and R clear. Rev. Top of wreath barely open; r. edge of upright of 1 directly below r. tip of r. foot of A; no rust marks around wreath; no clash mark between RS. One of the more coveted rarities, owing largely to date collector pressure. Probably less than 25 proofs survive, some nicked up, cleaned or otherwise impaired. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:467, \$6,500. (5) NN 51:966, R.P. (6) Wolfson:309, choice. (7) Merkin 11/65:340, gem, small red stain at bottom rev. border. (8) Grant Pierce:1268, Jay:292, Scanlon:2232. (9) Ullmer:426, possibly same as no. 6 or 7. A number of others continue to play Musical Chairs at conventions (the music being provided by the jingling of common double eagles or silver dollars as the threes go from one dealer to another to another in the bourses). At least four are in "complete" sets (no 1870 S) in plastic holders, possibly more. As some early B-2 business strikes retain prooflike surfaces and could be deceptive

as AU "impaired proofs", we append a description: Obv. Tiny chip between RT; fragment of extra crossbar in lower part of A of STATES; JBL weak. Rev. Die failure line like rust, at first partial and parallel to inner edges of wreath, later around most of wreath; clash mark from center of ear between RS (not constant). All B-2's were made on June 4 — unusually rapid die deterioration.

Mintage: 40, Feb. 9, for sets; 10 more, March 26; 4 in last quarter. These are not distinguishable unless the last 4 were from rusted or repolished dies. (That in SI is no help — it came from a set, Feb. 25.)

**Half Eagle.** [42] Date slants up to r., left base of first 1 over left edge, r. base of final 1 almost over r. edge; polish at IBERTY and in ear. Possibly 10 to 12 survive including a couple of nicked pieces. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:466, \$4,000. (5) Atwater:1702. (6) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:435. (7) "Memorable":380, possibly same as either of last two. (8) Melish:2177, ditto. (9) QS 9/73:1186, ditto. (10) Ullmer:456, \$4,250, ditto. A few deceptive first strikes exist from various dies.

Mintage: 40 with sets, Feb. 19, delivered March 26; 1 each in June and December.

**Eagle.** [42] Date to r., incomplete curls behind neck. Left base of first 1 r. of center, r. base of final 1 over left edge. At least equally rare; mintage in same amounts on same dates. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:465, \$5,500, hairlined. (5) Atwater:1459. (6) WGC:686. (7) "Memorable":579, same as last? (8) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., ex (5)? (9) Ullmer:497, \$5,250, same as one of last few?



### 1881 Double Eagle. Ex J. F. Bell, Eliasberg, Cohen

**Double Eagle.** [61] Centered date to r., left base of first 1 over center, r. base of final 1 nearly over r. edge. Rev. Right tail feather broken, lys below beak fragmented. Under intense date collector pressure as few of the 2,220 business strikes survive. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Bell I, Eliasberg, "H. R. Lee", NN 49:140, J. Cohen. (4) Clapp, Eliasberg. (5) Garrett:464, \$19,000. (6) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:884. (7) "Memorable":701. (8) Menjou I:1820. (9) Atwater:1273 (source of one of last three?). (10) Dr. Green:750. (11) Dunham:2324. (12) KS 3/65:191. (13) S 6/73:1193, \$21,000. (14) Alto:448. (15) Ullmer:529, \$40,000. (16) 1976 ANA:3250, \$15,500. (17) Melish:983. (18) Wolfson:929, two small rim stains. The last 9 are thought to duplicate earlier

listings.

Mintage:40 with sets as above, 4 in second quarter, 17 in December. These are not distinguishable.

**Gold proof sets.** [40] Minted as of Feb. 19, delivered March 26, all sold by June 30. Garrett's was dispersed, totalling \$43,050. Unknown intact except as below.

**Complete proof sets.** SI, from Mint, from Coiner, Feb. 25, at \$44.44 face (no proofing charge from now on). (2) Brock, Morgan, ANS, purchase date unknown.

## 1882

**Cent.** [3100] Minute positional variations only. Date closely spaced, nearly straight. Physical appearance like 1881's, some darker, some with attractive iridescence; these latter from the Wayte Raymond hoard (1880's-90's mostly).

**Three Cents.** [3100] Close dates. At least three varieties, possibly more, and the carelessly made ones are now being offered as the very rare business strikes. No die variety data as yet available on the latter. Often hoarded; A. M. Smith had 48 outside his sets.

First die. Clear 2, no trace of filling anywhere within the digit. Not rare.

Second die. Top of 2 (only) filled, left base of 1 minutely left of left edge.

Third die. Both 8's and top of 2 filled. Which is scarcest? Beware of specimens being offered as alleged overdates. See below, under Five Cents.

**Five Cents.** [3100] Regular shield design, with ball above date (for exceptions to both see below). Same comments as to 3¢; Smith's hoard contained 23.

First die. Clear 2. Not rare.

Second die. Filled 2. Date low, well to r., ball above all of first 8 and left third of second. Garrett set, many others.

Third die. Filled 2 and lower half of second 8. ANS, others. The filled 2 coins, unc. and proofs, have been repeatedly offered as "1883/2" in error (the 1883 date is much wider) and sometimes as "1882/1." The roughness within 2 is large enough to conceal a 1 and the spacing is approximately as in 1881; but no definite traces show even at 90x stereo magnification.

— Same design. **Five raised bars on edge**, equally spaced: "nickel for the blind." Judd 1697. (1) J.C. Michelson estate, Conn. State Library, Hartford. (2) Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Col. Curtis, 1958 ANA:1964. (3) Woodin, Newcomer, Dr. Judd, "Ill. Hist.":577. One of these reappeared in Kagin Sale of 70's:1363 at a reported \$16,000. Others may exist; not everyone looks at the edges of his regular 1882 proof nickels — **have you?**

— Similar design, **no ball above date**. Clear 2. Judd 1693=AW 1678. Very rare, might be mistaken for regular dies.

— **Transitional, exact type of 1883: Liberty head, no CENTS.** Judd:1690, AW:1675. Rare and in demand

for the same reason as 1856 nickel cents. Catapulted into popularity in 1957 at the St. Louis Central States convention by Bernie Marshfield, who won an exhibit prize with the one coin. Usually impaired — were these spent?

**Minor proof sets.** [3100] Some 2000 separately sold, the rest with silver sets. A few original sets survive, possibly from A. M. Smith's hoard of 17, but most were broken up.

**Dime,** [1100?] At least three varieties; first two not rare. First die. Excessively lapped — skirt incomplete. LM 11/65:270; 4/66:219; 9/67:221.

Second die. Normal drapery. Normal 2. LM 3/68:303 in set.

Third die. Plainly recut 2. Rarest of the three.

Mintage: First quarter, 760; second 180, fourth 105, total 1045, some 45 melted at year's end. But Coiner's quarterly reports omit any 3rd quarter transactions, while other official documents say 700 sets delivered in first quarter, 100 in second, 100 in third, 200 in fourth, total 1100. This implies at least 1100 dimes as no 1881 's were on hand in January 1882. Probably 100 more were *struck* 3rd quarter but unrecorded through error, giving 1145 less 45 melted = [1100].

**Quarter.** [1180?] Shield point about over left edge of 8, low date to left, polish in stripes and much of drapery. Some deceptive first strikes long masqueraded as proofs, as in earlier and later years in the 80's; now more often vice versa for price reasons.

Mintage: 780 first quarter, 100 second, 80 third, 190 fourth, total 1150; supposedly 1100 sets delivered at year's end. Coiner's quarterly reports again omitted any third quarter transactions, which would give the result as 1070 coined as against 1100 sets delivered. Most probably again 100 extras were made in the third quarter and unrecorded, giving 1250 of which possibly 70 might have been melted. In this case the net mintage would be [1180].

**Half Dollars.** [1140?] Type II from new on. Beistle lists two varieties, both with date more or less central. B. 1-A: Perfect die, toe enclosed. High date. Line between dentils below 18. Rev. Minor "shift", traces of doubling on many letters; small "return" on left end of scroll separated as in 1880-81, but not the same die. Faint small die file marks above T(ES).

— Same obv.; rev. of 1883 (?), same irregularities on O(F) but no line through AME.

— B. 2-A. Lapped die, toe not enclosed; minute extension (part of misplaced I) from upper serif of I. Rev. Same die as first variety. This one is rarer. Which came earlier might be ascertained by checking the Smithsonian set.

Same comment as to preceding half dollars. Popular, subject to date collector pressure and to

hoarding, as there are not many of the 4000 business strikes still around aside from several dozen gay deceivers masquerading as proofs. These, as usual, are inferior in relief details to untampered proofs, and often have bag marks.

Mintage: 770 first quarter, 110 second, 40 third, 160 fourth, total 1080, supposedly 40 melted at year's end. But official sources give 1100 sets delivered during the year. Coiner's quarterly reports omit any third quarter transactions. Probably again 100 extras were made then, giving 1180; if the 40 reported melted are a correct figure, this leaves net mintage [1140].

**Silver Dollar.** [1101?] Same comments as to 1881 dollars. VAM 10. Doubled 82, "closed" 2, left base of 1 left of center.

Mintage: 750 first quarter, 101 second, 100 third, 200 fourth, total 1151; supposedly 50 melted, leaving 1101. Of these 1100 would have gone with the 1100 sets, the singleton for some unknown purpose. Not impossibly here as with the smaller silver coinages, a third quarter delivery might have been omitted.



**1882 Trade Dollar. Ex QS 11/76:421. The best struck example seen to date; head usually flatter.**

**\*Trade Dollar.** [1097] Only the one variety seen; rev. of 1881. Flat head and stars are routine. Same comments as to 1880-81 Trades. It appears that some of the silver proof sets of the year must not have contained this by now unpopular denomination. Monthly coinage figures (from the Willem book), combined into quarterly figures and compared with the silver proof set deliveries, yield the following: first quarter, some 670 Trades coined (and presumably delivered) as against 700 silver sets; second, 142 as against 100 sets; third, 60 as against 100 (or 200?) silver sets; fourth, 225 as against 200 sets. So probably 70 and possibly as many as 170 silver sets of this year lacked the trade dollar, the odd pieces of the second and fourth quarters being sold separately. See below.

**Silver proof sets.** Apparently at least 1100 made, but probably no more than 1030 of them included the trade dollar. In the A. M. Smith hoard, one of his six silver sets lacked it, evidently as obtained from the mint. I recall, long ago, seeing various old auction records of silver sets of 1882-3 minus the trade dollar, but did not then realize the significance of these short sets. Those now extant (outside SI and ANS) are mostly assembled, in some cases perhaps the trade

dollar added to an original set lacking it. Cf. Garrett:310, at \$3400.

**Gold Dollar.** [125] B-1. Clear 2, date slants up to r., upright of 1 below inner r. curve of 0. Generally considered to be very rare, but there are many cleaned and nicked pieces around, and many more deceptive first strikes. Garrett's brought \$1300.

Mintage: 25 with the sets Feb. 4, 33 more before March 31, 24 in second quarter, 15 with sets Aug. 12, 16 more before Sept. 30, 12 in fourth quarter, total 125, none reported as melted.



### 1882 Quarter Eagle. Ex QS 11/76:1281

**Quarter Eagle.** [67] \*B-1. Low date, left base of 1 left of center of dentil; polish in and below ear and around BERTY; no recutting in 82. (The deceptive B-2 early business strikes have left base of 1 nearly over r. edge; part of another 8 within upper loop of first 8; traces of recutting above 2, which fade.) Probably over 30 survive, some impaired. The high water mark is probably "Rio Rancho":101 at \$3,700, ex Gilhousen:243; earlier ones are hardly worth quoting for prices.

Mintage: 25 with sets Feb. 4, 8 more before March 31, 1 in second quarter, 15 with sets Aug. 12, 10 more before Sept. 30, 8 in fourth quarter, total 67.

**Three Dollars.** [76] Normal 2, leaf left of date very thin; obv. of 1881. Any "proofs" claimed so far from the common "closed 2" blundered die (curved line above 2) are early business strikes. Possibly fewer impaired survivors than in some former years. Cf. Garrett:473, \$4,500; Roach, Geiss:1640, Grant Pierce:1269, Jay:293, Scanlon:2234, \$2,600. Probably over 30 survive in all.

Mintage: 25 with sets Feb. 4, 17 more before March 31, 8 in second quarter, 15 with sets Aug. 12, 2 more before Sept. 30, 9 before year's end, total 76.

**Half Eagle.** [48] Polish around BERTY and eye; date slants minutely up; left base of 1 r. of center. Probably under 15 survive. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Morgenthau 5/5/39:157, Phila. Estate. (5) Boyd, WGC: 436. (6) "Memorable":382, same coin? (7) Melish:2187, possibly same as one or both of foregoing. (8) Garrett: 472, fingermarked, slept at \$3,750.

Mintage: 25 with sets Feb. 4, 3 more before March 31, 4 in second quarter, 15 with sets Aug. 12, 1 more before Sept. 30, total 48.

**Eagle.** [44] Slightly low date, slanting die file marks through T, left base of 1 over r. edge. Rev. Red stripes thin and shallow. Rarer than the half eagle. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:471, \$5,000. (5) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (6) Boyd, WGC:687, possibly source of last. (7) Melish:2499. Grossly undervalued.

Mintage: 25 with sets Feb. 4, 2 in second quarter, 15 with sets Aug. 12, 1 more before Sept. 30, 1 more at year's end, total 44.



### 1882 Double Eagle. Ex Bell, Eliasberg, Stack

**Double Eagle.** [59] Very low date, left base of 1 minutely r. of left edge. Rev. Feathers at back of neck attenuated, not reaching scroll; lys below beak incomplete; both scrolls exceptionally thin; two red stripes at r. thin; these dies apparently also used on the (still rarer) 590 business strikes. Rarer than the more highly touted 1883 and 1884. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (5) Bell I, Eliasberg, "H. R. Lee", NN 49:142, Stack, possibly for Lilly. (6) Garrett:470, \$25,000. (7) Newcomer, Boyd, WGC:885, "Memorable":702. (8) Menjou:1821. This or no. 4 believed ex Atwater: 1274, originally from D. S. Wilson. (9) Melish:986. (10) Miles:907, Ullmer:527, \$42,500. Stain above first star. (11) Wolfson:931, possibly same as no. 8. One of these is believed ex Dunham:2325. (12) Davis-Graves:878 in set. (13) KS 3/65:192, possibly same as one of foregoing. (14) Bell II:918, EF ex-proof, apparently from "Cicero":22. At least three others are in numismatic circulation, one from a set broken up about 1961 (probably not the Davis-Graves set), but tracing pedigrees is impossible because so few of these have been illustrated.

Mintage: 25 with sets Feb. 14, 2 more before March 31, 2 in second quarter, 15 with sets Aug. 12, 5 more before Sept. 30, 10 in 4th quarter, total 59.

**Gold proof sets.** [40] Some 25 were struck on Feb. 4, 15 on Aug. 12; these cannot be distinguished. Director's Report says 34 sets sold between July 1881 and June 1882, which probably means the remaining 4 of 1881, all 25 of Feb. 1882, total 29 — whence the other 5? Were some made up of individual coins of the last two quarters of 1881 and the second quarter of 1882? One complete 6-piece set was offered as Davis-Graves: 878-883; Garrett's was dispersed for a total of \$41,950; and I saw a third around 1961.

**Complete proof sets.** That in the Smithsonian, cent to double eagle, came from the Coiner for face value as of Feb. 2, or two days before it was supposed to have been made. The date when Brock got his from the mint is unknown, but it went to J. Pierpont Morgan and is now in ANS.

## 1883

**Cents.** [6609] At least two varieties, both with date much more widely spaced than on any previous mintage. First: Normal die, common; physical properties like those of 1881-82, often pale or weirdly iridescent, sometimes dull brown. The weirdly iridescent ones came from Wayte Raymond.

— Second: Plainly recut 3. Very rare; Lester Merkin sale, Nov. 1965.

**Three Cents.** [6609] At least two varieties. First die: Normal date, high, left base of 1 r. of left edge; cracks, rim to wreath at 12:00, 3:00, 8:00.

— Second die: "Overdate." Curve of 2 (?) within top of 3, die file marks in 883. 1973 GENA: 602. Ex. rare.

Usually tones gray to gray-blue and often comes spotty. This should be subject to more date collector pressure, as business strikes are almost unknown, but enough proofs are around to supply the demand. The A. M. Smith hoard had 61.

**Five Cents. Shield.** [5419] Some 3919 minted as of March 31, 1500 delivered as of June 26. (These figures from R. W. Julian.) Several die varieties. First: Overdate, top of 2 including upper curve and part of knob visible *within* upper part of 3. Rare, though not extremely so. Compare NN 57: 251 where one was sold for the first time given a proper description, for \$150, then over three times value of the normal date.

— Second: First double date, first misplaced to right. Outlines are plainest at right sides of 83, less plain at r. sides of 18. The die of NN 57:253. Scarce and often unnoticed.

— Third: Second double date, first misplaced low. Outlines at bases of all four digits. Scarce only.

— Fourth: Partly recut date, outline at base of second 8 and top of 3. Die of lot 252, NN 57th sale. Much rarer than two preceding.

— Fifth: Normal date. Lower halves of both 8's and many letters filled (not constant). There may be more than one minor positional variety. Common enough. Garrett set.

As a date the 1883 shield type has been hoarded for reasons unknown. It often comes comparatively dull and with rounded borders and rims. Broad rims outside beaded borders are all but unknown. There are deceptive first strikes, and carelessly struck proofs, and when spotty ones have fallen victim to the cleaner, it is sometimes impossible to tell what they were originally.

— **Liberty Head, no CENTS.** [5219?] Some 3519 minted as of March 31, 1700 more delivered as of

June 26. Much hoarded; often seen dull and carelessly struck, sometimes also poorly cleaned. There are deceptive first strikes and occasionally it is all but impossible to tell if a shiny piece was intended as proof — sometimes absolutely impossible if it has been scrubbed. On proofs, unless scrubbing has obscured this feature, edges of digits are sharp, not rounded; this is less the case on uncirculated pieces. Several die varieties:

— First: Odd die crumbling within top of 3. Rare, seen in Lester Merkin's office.

— Second: Spine extends to left from middle of left upright of 1, probably part of a misplaced 1. Landau, NN 52:287, rare.

— Third: Plain doubling on 18. Lester Merkin auction, November 1965. This is very rare; I have seen only one other, and it is a naked eye variety.

— Fourth: Normal date, several positional varieties: 1 touching bust (very rare); close to bust (usual); distant from bust and near border (also rare). That makes at least seven obverse dies used on proofs, and probably more than three normal date positional varieties exist.

— **Liberty Head, with CENTS.** [6783?] Julian cites deliveries of 2850 on June 26, 1000 on October 11 (both probably this type), 2933 on December 31 (almost certainly this type). Several minor positional varieties; often dull or spotty. Should be much more often seen than the coin without CENTS, but enough examples are impaired (scrubbed, nicked or badly spotted) to justify the conclusion that perfect examples are harder to find than of the No CENTS. Fewer were hoarded, certainly, though this too could be termed a type coin — first year of the design. The A. M. Smith hoard contained only 12 of these compared to 45 shield nickels and 21 No CENTS nickels, aside from the sets.

**Minor proof sets.** [6609?] It is unknown how many contained each type of nickel, nor can I account for the long-accepted erroneous figures for the nickels (5419 Shield, 6609 No CENTS, 2543 CENTS). The figure for the shield type is actually correct, but the others are irreconcilable with delivery dates as the latter were discovered by R. W. Julian. Apparently the earliest minor sets had only the shield nickels, and those of fall and winter had all three. In the A. M. Smith hoard, obtained by this veteran Mint publicist directly from the Mint, there were 34 minor sets, of which two had only the shield nickel, 6 only the shield and No CENTS, and the other 26 all three nickels. Oddly, the Frossard-Frey Copper Coins booklet of 1901 says nothing of 4- or 5-piece 1883 minor sets, nor does it specify which nickel was contained in the various minor sets sold in 1900-01!

**Dime.** [1039?] Always available for a price; mediocre impressions. At least two varieties.

First die: \*B-2. Date slants down, pendant almost

over center of 8, first A of AMERICA solid. First publicized in LM 4/66. The majority variety.

Second die: Normal A's; incomplete drapery (lapped die). LM 9/67:222. Rare.

Mintage: First quarter 690, second 242, third 60 (?), fourth 102, total 1094. Some 1039 were delivered in the proof sets of the year leaving 55. By Coiner's records, 45 were melted at the beginning of 1884, which would mean 1039 from sets + 10 extras = 1049 net mintage. But the same strange accounting error took place here as in 1882: the Coiner simply omitted any mention of third quarter transactions. It is possible, as will be seen under Quarter Dollars (below), that in this instance a pair of compensating errors occurred, that ten dimes were included with the quarters for melting, and that consequently only 1039 net mintage could be counted for all denominations.

**Quarter.** [1039?] Date left, shield point about over left edge of 8, left base of 1 almost over r. edge. Rev. Tiny mark in first white stripe, crisscross lines at shield base. Once again, comparatively few of the 14,400 business strikes have remained to collectors save for deceptive prooflike first strikes. These have swollen the numbers of alleged proofs enough to keep this date from listing as high as earlier dates in the 1880's. The first strikes, as usual, have inferior relief detail and are often bag marked.

Mintage: First quarter 660, second 240, third 40 (?), fourth 154, total 1094, of which 1039 were delivered in proof sets, leaving 55. But the Coiner's records say that 65 were melted. Note that in the third quarter the available records give 50 silver dollars, 50 halves, 40 quarters and 60 dimes struck, but 50 complete sets delivered; nevertheless the Coiner's records ignore any transactions whatever for that quarter and proceed as though (for instance) all the pieces then struck had been delivered, leaving totals on hand June 30 unchanged as of October 1. It is possible, then, that ten quarters were counted as dimes in the resume of coins struck in the third quarter, and ten dimes were counted as quarters in the Coiner's Vault Account listing of coins melted or to be melted at year's end.

**Half Dollar.** [1039] First die: Extra lock of hair, convex downwards, on decollete; date slightly below center; slight extra outlines on first three and last 4 stars. Rev. Faint die file marks up to left from O(F); line slants up through AME (fades).

Second die: No extra lock; centered date; extra outlines in first 4, last 4 and 7th stars; same reverse.

Many deceptive first strikes survive masquerading as proofs; some of these show the doubling on 3rd, 4th, 7th and last four stars mentioned by Beistle for nonproofs (his variety Ia-A, but it is not the same obverse die as on the proofs), others do not. Date collector pressure has begun to make itself felt more or less indiscriminately on the coins of this year, not too many hundreds of the 8000 business strikes

remaining in addition to the proofs; the business strikes have date slightly high, shield point between 18, left base of 1 over left edge. Still a little undervalued in comparison with some other dates of the period.

Mintage: First quarter 675, second 210, third 50, fourth 140, total 1075, of which 1039 were delivered with the proof sets, leaving 36 which were all melted at year's end.

**Silver Dollar.** [1039] Only one variety seen (minute wart on cheek, rev. of 1882) but others may exist. Deceptive first strikes are regrettably plentiful; same comment as to earlier years of the Morgan type. Some of the surviving proofs are badly cleaned, many are nicked and scratched, suggesting that on this date (as on others through the early and middle 1890's) some of the proofs were spent during the panic of 1893.

Mintage: First quarter 650, second 195, third 50, fourth 175, total 1075 of which 1039 were delivered with the proof sets, leaving 31 which were all melted at year's end.

**Trade Dollar.** [979] Only one variety seen; flat head and stars are routine. Final year of legitimate issue and beginning to be coveted as such. Quite a few have been poorly cleaned, comparatively few really impaired by scratching or signs of circulation. (By that time Trade Dollars could hardly be spent at all.) Rarer than mintage figure suggests — possibly some were melted.

Mintage: Monthly coinage figures are given in Willem and there is no reason to doubt them. From them we learn little except that only 575 were made in the first quarter, as against 619 proof sets delivered, and only 152 in the second quarter compared with 200 proof sets. (See below). As in 1882, some 52 or more proof sets must have lacked the Trade.

**Silver Proof sets.** [947+?] It appears, from all that can be learned of delivery dates, that the 1039 sets delivered in this calendar year comprised 619 in first quarter, 200 in second, 50 and 170 in the other two = 1039. At most 947 of these, possibly fewer, could have contained the trade dollar in addition to the regular silver dollar. (The other Trades, of course, were sold separately.) These sets all naturally contained the minor coins, but as in former years extra minor sets were separately made. I have seen many proof sets of this year but most were obviously assembled, others built up from original sets by adding one or both Liberty nickels and possibly the Trade as well. Garrett's, at \$3,600, had only the shield nickel. No cased sets are reported.

**Gold Dollar.** [207] Date wider than in former years. Two varieties.

— B-1. Rust in hair behind ear. Rev. Normal 8's, first almost wholly below L; tops of wreath usually join; extra outlines to DOLLAR. R-5. Garrett:481, \$1,600.

— B-2. Recutting in 8's. R-6. Breen II:47, \$750.

Deceptive early business strikes exist; borders granular on these but not on proofs. Often cleaned or nicked.

Mintage: Quarterly, 70, 29, 26 and 82, total 207, of which 40 went with the sets, Feb. 10. None recorded melted, 1874-89.

**Quarter Eagle** [82] Two varieties. Subject to great date collector pressure and possibly speculator interest as well, owing to rarity of business strikes.



**1883 Quarter Eagle. B-1. Ex Garrett, Essex**

— \*B-1. Polish in ear hole. Low date, left base of 1 over left edge of dentil; no polish in first stripe. Garrett:480, \$3,600, others.

— B-2. Date higher, left base of 1 over r. edge. 1974 GENA: 1820. The business strikes from these dies are sometimes very deceptive.

Mintage: Quarterly, 45, 14, 10 and 12, total 82; 40 went with the sets, Feb. 10.

**Three Dollars.** [89] \*B-1. Obv. as on some 1882 proofs, sometimes with rust in feather above T, different from business strikes. Rev. Low date slanting down to right, very top of 1 entirely below serif of L. Owing to low mintage of business strikes (900) this date has become almost as famous as 1881. There are a few deceptive early strikes (fortunately from B-2 dies: obv. of 1882 B-2, rev. centered date), and some proofs are carelessly made — enough to give a conscientious cataloguer the cold sweats complicated by the crawling heebie-jeebies. An impaired proof sold cheaply in Merkin 11/65, another — less cheaply — in Ullmer at \$2,000; records for unimpaired, \$5,500, Garrett:479; \$6,050, "Rio Rancho": 129.

Mintage: Feb. 10, 40 with sets; 13 more before March 31, 11, 7 and 18 in the other three quarters, total 89.

**Half Eagle.** [61] Date slants crazily up to r., odd minute raised marks in both loops of second 8, left base of 1 r. of center. Rev. Tiny marks in second white stripe. Much rarer than lower denominations. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Morgenthau 5/5/39:261, Phila. Estate. (5) Beck I:471, cleaned. (6) Garrett:478, \$2,700, pin scratch. (7) NN 40:369, R. J. Lathrop, impaired. (8) Wolfson:534. (9) Melish:2194 to NN. It is doubtful if as many as 20 survive.

Mintage: Feb. 10, 40 with sets; 2 more in first quarter, 14 in second, 3 and 2 in last two, total 61. These are not distinguishable.

**Eagle.** [49] Low date slanting up, left base of 1 over left edge. Rev. Incomplete feathers below shield. Rarer still. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett: 477, \$4,400. (5) Phila. Estate, impaired. (6) Amon Carter Jr. (7) Davis-Graves, DiBello:1097, lint mark before face. Probably under a dozen survive, including the impaired pieces. Far rarer than the double eagle; one of the most undervalued gold coins of the period.

Mintage: Feb. 10, 40 with sets; 1 more before March 30; 5 and 3 in second and third quarters, total 49.



**1883 Double Eagle. Ex Bullowa 11/76:48**

\***Double Eagle.** [92] Numeral 1 centered between bust and border, left base of 1 over r. edge; date to right, r. side of 3 about in line with r. side of lowest curl. Rev. Back of neck has a rough appearance; lys below beak fragmented. Extremely famous, long erroneously believed the rarest of all double eagles because mint reports included only the 40 with the proof sets. Nevertheless, less rare than the smaller denominations, or than the 1884. There may be as many as twenty survivors. (1) SI, ex Mint. (2) SI, ex Lilly, possibly same as one to follow. (3) ANS. (4) Eliasberg. (5) Garrett: 476, \$72,500. (6) Davis-Graves:884, from the set. (7) Bell I, Dr. Green:752. (8) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., possibly same as last. (9) Golden I:2829, nicked on cheek and between 4th and 5th stars, believed reappearing as S 5/68:988, Dines:919. (10) Wolfson: 934. (11) Bell II:921. (12) WGC:886, believed same as "Memorable": 703. (13) Atwater: 1275, Eliasberg "H. R. Lee": 1726. (14) Menjou: 1822, possibly same as last. (15) Melish:992. (16) QS 9/73: 1296, \$42,000, possibly same as one of above. (17) Bullowa 11/76:48, no previous auction history.

Mintage: Feb. 10, 40 with sets; 3 more before March 30, 15, 13 and 21 in the last three quarters, total 92.

**Gold proof sets.** [40] All minted Feb. 10. One was dispersed as Davis-Graves 884-889, another as Garrett:476-481, totalling \$91,400. Two more form part of the two complete sets below. Most others have been long since broken up owing to demand for the \$3 and double eagle.

**Complete sets.** That in SI went from the Coiner to the Mint cabinet as of Feb. 13, at \$44.49 face; the other is in ANS, ex Mint, Brock, Morgan. Others were long since broken up. The SI's set composition is odd:

all three nickels are present, yet there is no mention when the third nickel was obtained, nor any indication of any other nickel without CENTS being issued as early as February! Note that references to 4-piece minor sets are lacking, yet one must somehow have been included here. Was the Mint's No CENTS nickel a prototype? To quote the King of Siam, "It's a puzzlement!"

## 1884

**Cent.** [3942] Date normal or occasionally with very faint traces of recutting. Often strangely and wonderfully iridescent. Many of the iridescent ones — featuring greens and lilacs and mauves — came from Wayte Raymond's stock before 1953. They got their toning from the mint wrappers, which must have differed in chemical composition from the earlier ones.

**Three Cents.** [3942] Heavy date. No peculiarities. Often comes toned gray to iridescent blue or gunmetal, sometimes spotted. Date collector pressure exists on these as only 1,700 business strikes were minted and almost all vanished long ago. Regrettably, dull or carelessly made proofs are now being touted as rare business strikes. The A. M. Smith hoard contained some 154 proofs, outside his sets.

**Five Cents.** [3942] Normal date. Always available for a price, often hoarded (A. M. Smith had 34) and for some unknown reason often believed rare. Date collector pressure is acute despite a mintage of over eleven million regulars. Whoever promoted it was remarkably quiet and remarkably successful.

— Normal date. Positional varieties exist: cf. NN 51:460-61.

— Double punched 1. Rare. The earliest state, with doubling on base of 1 very obvious even to the naked eye, is especially rare; cf. NN 51:462. This die either wore down or was repolished as later impressions show the misplaced 1 only very faintly (ANS and others). Seen about once for every 20 to 30 normal dates.

**Minor proof sets.** [3942] Apparently 2667 separately from silver sets. Few original sets survive now, though A. M. Smith had 59 and Wayte Raymond had more than that. They appear to have been broken up for the nickel coins. Other have been assembled recently as part of silver sets.

**Dime** [875] All lately seen are from \*B-2 dies: rust pit on r. side of lower half of 8 between right curves; this increases in size. LM 11/65:271; 4/66:221 to H. W. May also exist from normal dies.

**Quarter.** [875] Shield point over r. foot of 1, left base of 1 over left edge, r. base of 4 over r. edge, 84 touch; polish in stripes and drapery. Rev. Minute scattered dots (rust pits?) in upper parts of white stripes. Under immense date collector and speculator pressure owing to the low mintage of business strikes (8000), comparatively few of which have survived

aside from deceptive early impressions mostly masquerading as proofs (though more recently carelessly made proofs are masquerading as rare business strikes). The situation here is almost the same as with proof-only mintages. Once again, the first strikes I have seen have mostly shown inferior surfaces (often peppered with tiny nicks), poor borders and shallow relief details compared with any proofs of the period; unfortunately, date is identically placed to that on proof obverse.

Mintage: First quarter 570, second 240, fourth 133, total 943, of which 875 went with the proof sets, leaving 68 to be melted.

**Half Dollar.** [875] First die: bases of 84 faintly recut, left base of 1 over r. edge, rev. of 1883 proofs. 1974 GENA: 1629; Garrett set (from Mint, 2/7/84). Also on business strikes, alas!



**1884 Half Dollar. Second die, rev. of 1885 proofs. Ex QS 11/76:960**

— Second die: recutting above left base of 1, which is above left edge; rev. of 1885 proofs, 1st white stripe polished, left end of scroll broken away. 1974 GENA: 1630, others. Which is rarer?

Identical comment as to quarters; the date collector pressure was stimulated by speculation during the late forties and early fifties — with the discovery that not very many could be assembled. This was to have been expected, as only 4400 business strikes were made, and most of the survivors are deceptive first strikes. They have base of 4 recut, left base of 1 over r. edge, hollow center punch on thigh. No polish in rev. stripes. Some have reverse "shift" on letters; e.g. "Gilhousen": 1090. In 1963 I saw a beautiful date set of uncirculated halves from 1879 through 1891, and three of them were sharp enough to make me wonder if they were not carelessly made proofs. Three such sets have sold since and the question is still open for some dates.

Mintage: First quarter 590, second 240, fourth 114, total 944, of which 875 went with the sets, leaving 69 to be melted.

**Silver Dollar.** [875] VAM 1. No peculiarities. None of the famous "dot" coins are known in proof state or even reliably reported. Many now around have been poorly cleaned. Same remarks otherwise as to 1883. Recently subjected to speculator pressure.

Mintage: First quarter 560, second 210, fourth 150,



total 920, of which 875 went with the sets, leaving 45 to be melted.

**\*Trade Dollar.** See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

**Silver proof sets.** [875] Some 510 of these were delivered in first quarter, 200 in second, 165 in fourth, total 875. These sets did not include the trade dollar. Most extant sets appear to have been assembled, though formerly many original sets were around. We can attribute their breakup to collector and speculator demand for the quarter and half dollar.

**Gold Dollar.** [1006] At least three of the five varieties come in proof state.

B-1. Normal date, no recutting, perfect dies. R-4.

B-3. Plain double outlines to letters though not to device; short line within polished area below ear. Rev. Low date, minute traces of recutting. R-5.



**1884 Gold Dollar. Double date. Ex 1975 Suburban Washington: 478**

B-5. The Double Date. Obv. as B-3 but no die line below ear. Rev. Date first cut low, slanting sharply up to right, then partly effaced, repunched higher and level. Later examples show progressively less of the extra digits. The earliest die state, with *all eight* digits plain, is extremely rare. Eleven seen to date in all states, some impaired. Discovery coin: NN 51:813. Cf. 1974 GENA: 1791; Garrett:487, \$1,150.

Many survivors of each variety are cleaned or impaired, some showing evidence of circulation (spent during the 1893 panic?). Some date collector pressure as only 5,230 regulars were made. Robert W. Julian has discovered one reason for the unusually large mintages of proof gold dollars 1884-89. It appears that a fad had developed about 1882-3 for use of small gold coins as jewelry (watch fobs, tie pins, cufflinks, etc.), and Mint Superintendent A. Loudon Snowden took advantage of it. Because "Silver Dick" Bland's act of Feb. 1878 required enormous coinages of Morgan dollars, fractional silver and low denomination gold coins were not being made in any quantity, and speculators were buying gold dollars for resale at a premium to jewelers and others. Snowden therefore recommended that would-be buyers purchase proof gold dollars at \$1.25 apiece. Some applicants did so through local banks, mostly in blocks of 50 to 100. These facts account not only for the high mintages of proof gold dollars but also for the impaired condition of many dollars (proofs and business strikes) in this period.

Mintage: 30 in sets Jan. 19; 153 on Leap Year Day, 196 on June 28, 174 in late September (delivered Oct. 4), and 453 in December (delivered Jan. 10, 1885), total 1,006. No record of meltage, and under the circumstances it is unlikely that any were melted as unsold.

**Quarter Eagle.** [73] \*B-1. Hollow at BER. Centered date, left base of 1 about over r. edge, r. base of 4 about over space. Very rare, probably fewer than 30 survivors. Subject to considerable date collector pressure as only 1,960 regulars were made and rather few survive. Speculators have found too few available for hoarding, though it has been tried. Auction records are really not too representative: Garrett:486 (tiny flan chips) slept at \$2,600; Ullmer:380 brought \$3,750. Cf. also Holmes:3296, Golden II:1842, Scanlon:2131 (imp.), QS 9/73:1083.

The rare business strikes (B-2) have no hollow at BER; r. base of 4 left of center; die file mark through MER, which fades.

Mintage: 30 in sets Jan. 19, 13 on Feb. 29, 9 on June 28, 4 in September (delivered in October), 17 in December (delivered Jan. 10, 1885), total 73.

**Three Dollars.** [106] \*B-1. Soft faint traces of extra outlines at RICA. Rev. Right edge of upright of 1 barely below tip of serif of L; 84 touch. Much rarer than this mintage would suggest, and subject to much date collector pressure as only a small percentage of the 1,000 business strikes remain. Some of the latter, e.g. the two in LM 11/65 and 10/66, are very deceptive. Probably less than 35 survive in proof or impaired proof state. Undervalued in comparison to 1881, 1883 and 1885, the latter three still more popular because of lower reported total mintages, but the 1884 may not remain a Cinderella. Possibly all that will be necessary is a few offerings with trumpeting of "Excessively Rare!" Garrett:485 made a good start at \$6,500; it was one of the first 30 made (see Gold Sets below).

Mintage: 30 for sets Jan. 9, delivered Jan. 19; 42 on Feb. 29, 13 on June 28, 21 before Dec. 31 but delivered Jan. 10, 1885, total 106.

**Half Eagle.** [48] Low date, left base of 1 r. of center, r. base of 4 about over r. edge; polish at RT, die scratch slanting up from r. base of T. Heavy 1 in date, rust pit on lower end of upright, between and above serifs. Extremely rare, without recent auction records except for Ullmer:457 at \$5,000, Garrett:484 at \$3,000. One of the great sleepers of the decade. Catalogue listings speculative. Probably under a dozen survive. What happened to the rest?

Mintage: 30 in sets Jan. 19, 8 on Feb. 29, 8 on June 28, 1 each in September and December for deliveries in Oct. and Jan. 10, 1885, total 48. Source of the old (1949-65) published figures of 18 minted unknown, but significantly it is the exact remainder after omission of the 30 sets of Jan. 19, exactly as

with the eagle and and double eagle. Were these 30 sets another holdover dated 1883? It does not appear so from the Coiner's records in the National Archives.

**Eagle.** [45] Low date slanting up, incomplete curls behind neck. Left base of 1 left of center, r. base of 4 about over r. edge. Exceedingly rare, much more so than the mintage would suggest; probably fewer than ten survivors. (1) SI, (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) "Memorable":580. (5) Garrett:483 (nicked at eyebrow), opening at \$7,000, bid up to \$15,000. (6) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (7) Geiss:1906, same coin? One of the few lacking from both WGC and Bell I.

Mintage: 30 for sets Jan. 19, 4 on Feb. 29, 4 on June 28, 1 in September, 1 in December, for deliveries respectively in October and on Jan. 10, 1885, total 45; see comment to half eagles.



**1884 Double Eagle. Ex Atwater, Melish, Merkin Sept. 1968:553**

**\*Double Eagle.** [71] Date rather low, to left; 4 somewhat farther from border than is 1; left base of 1 over left edge of dentil, r. base of 4 almost over r. edge; peculiar color discontinuity on neck before hair, on face before ear. Reverse die possibly that of 1883. This date has been subject to hysterical trumpeting of rarity since the fact came out in 1946 that the extraordinary F. C. C. Boyd collection lacked an 1884. There are fewer around than of 1883, to be sure. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Amon Carter Jr., hairlined, ex Bell I, Dr. Green:753 and Amon Carter Sr. (5) Garrett: 482, at \$72,500. (6) C. David Pierce — 47 ANA, possibly "Memorable":704, Menjou:1823. (7) Wolfson:937, field nick r. of date. (8) Atwater: 1276 — Melish:997, Eliasberg, "H. R. Lee":1927, believed reappearing as LM 9/68:553. Minuscule rev. rim nick below rightmost serif of W. Atwater's twenties in this period mostly were ex D. S. Wilson (1907). (9) Norweb. (10) SI ex Lilly, possibly same as (6) or (7). (11) Ex Shuford. (12) Ullmer:528 at \$110,000, ex Miles:912.

Mintage: 30 sets January 19, 12 each Feb. 29 and June 28, 5 in September and 12 in December for deliveries respectively in October and Jan. 10, 1885, total 71. We have read claims in auction catalogues that thirty or forty of the 71 were business strikes; these claims may now be consigned to the same trashpile as testimonials to the therapeutic value of Dr. Fagin's Patent Elixir of Snake Oil.

**Gold proof sets.** No 6-piece sets are now traced aside from the two complete sets (below). The rest

were doubtless broken up, mostly for inclusion in denomination sets, owing to collector demand for all the higher denominations. Garrett's set, from the mint as of Feb. 7, 1884, totalled \$100,750. This particular set is the reason why we are unwilling to guess that the 30 sets delivered Jan. 19 were dated 1883. It is, nevertheless, unknown if more than those original 30 sets were made as such though some could certainly have been assembled at the mint late in the year — and probably were.

**Complete proof sets.** Smithsonian, from Mint, from Coiner, February 6 (no trade dollar); ANS, from Mint, Brock, Morgan. Others appear to have been broken up for the higher silver and gold denominations. A most frustrating year to collect. There was something realized as unusual about the date very early. Two copper proof sets, from cent through \$20 *including the trade dollar*, were clandestinely made. One of these was presented by the Mint Superintendent (at Philadelphia) to A. M. Smith, veteran publicity agent for that institution, author and publisher of many annual *Visitors' Guides*, in that year, and offered at auction in Feb. 1936 by M. H. Bolender as part of the Smith estate. Mr. Bolender told me that the set remained intact, going to a collector. I know that at least one other set must have been made and later broken up as I have seen individual coins from it. It is barely possible that others may exist, perhaps gilt, but they have not turned up. The cent and nickel in copper from the sets appear to be unknown to Judd; all were unknown to Adams, Woodin, Newcomer or other early specialists.

## 1885

**Cent.** [3790] Often with traces of die crumbling within 5; these are not evidence of an overdate. Same interesting color varieties as for 1884, and same source.

**Three Cents.** [3790] No peculiarities. Fabric much like that of 1884. Subject to some date collector pressure because almost none of the 1000 business strikes have survived — I have seen one uncirculated piece from the Brand hoard, twenty years ago, and two worn pieces since then, which may give you some idea. A. M. Smith had 41 proofs outside his sets.

**Five Cents.** [3790] Normal date only. Much hoarded and speculated in. One of the most overrated of all 19th century coins. For some odd reason, despite a mintage of almost 1/2 million business strikes (which should supply most of the collectors with specimens in some grade or other), the 1885 has long been hysterically touted as a great rarity. In terms of its actual frequency of appearance at auction, this date is less rare than several in the 1890s in proof state, and it is often hoarded in quantity. The A. M. Smith estate contained 31 proofs aside from the 45 in his minor sets! Wayte Raymond and A. C. Gies had other hoards, mostly proofs with some business strikes.

Another hoard exists — or did into the 1960's — in the south and still another in the West Coast, these also being a mixture of proofs and business strikes. Mint state business strikes are scarcer than proofs, accounting for date collector pressure; many of the proofs are spotty or cleaned, many are carelessly made.

**Minor proof sets.** [3790] Apparently 2,660 outside the silver sets. Some 45 were in the A. M. Smith hoard. Formerly often enough offered, now almost all broken up because of collector demands for the 5¢ nickel.

**Dime.** [930] Mediocre strikes are frequent. Always available but all too often found badly cleaned.

Mintage: 460 first quarter, 625 second, total 1085, of which 930 went with the sets, leaving 155 to be melted at year's end.

**Quarter.** [940] Shield point over r. upright, left base of 1 about over center. Stars often flat. Rev. Rough at feather ends nearest upper leaves; often no polish in first white stripe or bases of 4th, 5th or 6th. Dull ones now masquerade as rare business strikes. Very much like the 1883 and 1884, though date collector pressure is not quite as great and hoarding far less. Odd what a slightly higher reported mintage of business strikes [13,600] will do, even when most survivors are cleaned or nicked coins long masquerading as proofs. They have shield point over r. foot, left base of 1 almost over r. edge.

Mintage: 440, 170, 40 and 300 in the four quarters, total 950, of which 930 went with the sets, leaving 20 for melting at year's end.



**1885 Half Dollar. Early issue. Ex QS 11/76:961**

**Half Dollar.** [930] Only one variety seen, without the doubling on stars encountered on some business strikes. Centered date, shield point just left of r. upright, left base of 1 left of center of a dentil. Later, elbow drapery almost gone (die repolished). Rev. of last 1884 proofs. There may be another minute positional variant. Same comment as to the quarter and as to the halves of the last couple of years. Date collector demand and speculator hoarding pressure have been fairly heavy on the 1885; 5200 business strikes, mostly surviving as prooflike first strikes, most of them having doubling on stars (Beistle la-A), have not done much more than whet the profiteers' appetites.

Mintage: 450, 108, 60 and 320 in the four quarters, total 938, of which 930 went into the proof sets and the other 8 into the melting pot.

**Silver Dollar.** [930] 1) VAM 5, bases of 85 double (plainest at 5). 2) VAM 2, top of 5 recut, LM 9/68:386. Which is rarer? Dangerously deceptive first strikes abound. Many of the proofs have been scrubbed so badly as to be nearly unrecognizable; a human being treated that way would be hospital bait. Much speculated in of late.

Mintage: 475, 120, 40 and 298 in the four quarters, total 933, of which 930 went into the sets and remaining 3 into the melting pot — or the Coiner's pocket?

**\*Trade Dollar.** See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

**Silver Proof sets.** [930] Some 400, 150, 50 and 330 of these were delivered in the four quarters. Most of them appear to have been broken up on behalf of the quarter, half dollar and — more recently also — the dollar. None of the sets contained the trade dollar. Garrett's brought \$2800. Most of the sets I have seen appear to have been assembled in recent years — of late an expensive pastime owing to speculator activity in several denominations.



**1885 Gold Dollar. Ex Garrett set, Essex. Border dentils here are as on other proofs and unlike business strikes (which are often granular): compare yours.**

**Gold Dollar.** [1105] Proofs are known of all four varieties of the date, as are business strikes — many deceptively prooflike. Many of the proof survivors are carelessly made, others have been poorly cleaned or impaired in other ways. Few collectors appear to have taken gold dollars seriously in those days as worth holding on to. Record \$1,400 in "Rio Rancho": 67, ex "Gilhausen": 88.

Mintage: 248, 106, 111 and 640 in the four quarters, of which some 30 were intended for sets (January 17), total 1105.

**Quarter Eagle.** [87] \*B-1. Open 5 (knob free of corner), top of 1 very close to bust. Left base of 1 over center of dentil. Rev. Nearly horizontal die file marks near tops of white stripes. Very rare, subject to extreme date collector pressure as only 800 business strikes were coined, most long since having vanished, a few still masquerading as proofs. These are from B-2 dies, with 1 nearly touching bust, its left base r. of center; round "hole" in ear with vertical line through it. Certainly less than 30 proofs survive, many impaired; for some reason, the proofs of this date

usually change hands not by auction but by private treaty. We have only three recent auction records: Scanlon:2133 at \$4,250 ex Van Roden:789; Garrett:492 at \$4,000; S 9/75.

Mintage: 41, 11, 4 and 31 in the four quarters, total 87; of these 30 were intended for sets, Jan. 17.

**Three Dollars.** [110] Obv. Recutting on upper surfaces on AM. Small faint line from dentils above ED. Rev. Only the one die for proofs and business strikes; on early proofs (54, Jan. — March), leaf left of date is normally strong; cf. Breen I:130, 75 ANA: 1486. On the 56 proofs coined from June through December, die was repolished, leaf left of date very **thin**: ANS, others. The 800 business strikes were coined in March; the obverse die lacks the stigmata of that described above. As more proofs have survived than business strikes, date collector pressure has been intense. (There are too few around for speculators to do much with, which is just as well.) Unfortunately, some few business strikes are deceptively prooflike, e.g. Neumoyer:2466-7 or that in LM 11/65. Auction record for unquestioned proofs: \$6,000 for the Pierce-Jay-Ullmer coin, \$5,750 for Garrett's.

Mintage: January 17, 30 for the sets; Jan. 31, 8; March, 16 with the 800 business strikes; June, 15; September, 4; October, 1; December, 36 — not very many stocking stuffers. Total, 110. No record of meltage.

**Half Eagle.** [66] Date placed to left, peak of 1 much nearer to bust point than tip of 5 is to r. end of truncation; closed 5; left base of 1 over left edge. Extremely rare, more so than its mintage suggests; enough so as to be almost a forgotten coin. Auction record, Ullmer:458, \$4,000; the Garrett and 1971 ANA coins were not even close, let alone Melish:2202. If anything, this is rarer than the quarter eagle. I have seen only two even moderately deceptive first strikes.

Mintage: Quarterly, 35, 1, 1, 29, total 66; no meltage.

**Eagle.** [67] Date about central, left base of 1 barely left of r. edge. Rev. Incomplete feathers below second white stripe, die file marks within first two white stripes near top. Rarest denomination of the year; same comments as to the half eagle. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Amon Carter. (5) Garrett:489, nicked, \$5,250. (6) Beck I: 534. Probably under 9 survivors in **all**.

Mintage: 33 in first quarter, of which 30 went with the sets; 5 in third, 29 in fourth, total 67, none recorded as melted.

**Double Eagle.** [78] Date begins about centered between bust and border, but too far right; left base of 1 above left of center of dentil; rust on neck above first 8; r. tail feather broken. Seen less often than the 1882, 1883 or 1884; unappreciated compared to these, though under intense date collector pressure as only about 8 or 9 survive of the 750 business strikes made

— far fewer than the proofs (cf. Melish 1005). (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:488, \$25,000. (5) Ullmer:529, \$40,000. This and Garrett's both have tiny mark above head below 8th star, from foreign matter adhering to die. (6) Atwater:1277, Dr. Green:754. (7) Boyd, WGC:887. (8) "Memorable":705, cleaned. (9) Neil:2689, possibly same as one of foregoing. (10) Menjou:1824, ditto. (11) Wolfson:940, dull, nicked behind nostril (barely noticeable). (12) Bell II:926, much impaired. (13) "Gilhausen":934. (14) S 6/73. There may be a few duplications. At least one of these is ex Dunham:2328, spots top obv. edge and on rev.

The far rarer business strikes have date lower, not so far r., left base of 1 nearly over r. edge, tail feathers normal. Finest of these is probably Melish: 1005, S 10/64, S 5/68:993, sold at least once as a proof.

Mintage: Quarterly, 35, 5, 3, 35, total 78, the first group including 30 in sets.

**Gold proof sets.** All 30 made Jan. 17, all long since broken up; Garrett's totalled \$43,850. Demand for all higher denominations accounts for the breakups.

**Complete sets.** SI, from Mint, from Coiner Jan. 21 (!); other ANS, ex Brock, Morgan. It is obvious enough why the rest were broken up.

## 1886

**Cent.** [All kinds 4290] Proofs are known of both types; minor positional varieties probably exist in both. No special difference in rarity; available for a price.

Type I: Hub of 1864L — 1886, by Longacre. Final A close to curl, lowest feather points to C (Redbook says between IC). Garrett's set, from mint 2/2/86, has this type.

Type II: Hub of 1886-1909, by C. E. Barber after Longacre. Final A distant from curl, lowest feather points to A (Redbook: between CA). Time of change unknown.

**\*Three Cents.** [4290] Two minute positional die varieties, no difference in rarity noted. One later shows a crack from rim to wreath at 10:00. Hirt:1092, others. A. M. Smith's hoard included 27. Occasional dull proofs are offered as "unlisted rare business strikes."

**Five Cents.** [4290] At least three varieties.

— Normal date. ANS, many others; majority variety. Positional varieties possible.

— Second 8 partly recut. Recutting fairly plain. Scarce. LM 11/65:204-5. The original set in LM 3/68:306 has this variety with a Type I cent and "second variety" half dollar.

— Left side of second 8 and 6 (within loop and knob) repunched. Rare. Garrett set, 1973 GENA:604, "Gilhausen":92, others.

Date collector and speculator demand for the 1886

has been nearly as intense as for the 1885; reason unknown aside from That Five Letter Word ("Gimme a G! — Gimme an R! — Gimme an E! E! D!"), as the coin is in no sense rare (3.33 million made). Some have been heard to claim that the 1886 is rarer than the 1885; we may take this as presumptive evidence that they are hoarding 1886's, like A. M. Smith (who had 21 outside his sets). As in 1885, many show iridescence or bluish tone, others have been cleaned to death, many are carelessly made with rounded rims. I have also seen buffed pieces brazenly offered as proofs by ignoramuses or — to be charitable — by people who may have been trying to finance the purchase of badly needed new eyeglasses.

**Minor proof sets.** [4290] Formerly available and hoarded (A. M. Smith had 17), but mostly long since broken up by collectors wanting the 5¢. Many have more recently been reassembled for inclusion in silver-minor proof sets. "Everything that goes down must come up", or something like that.

**Dime.** [886] No notable peculiarities. Too many of these have been cleaned to near unrecognizability. Many also come with flat heads, apparently from careless manufacture involving only one blow from the press. This makes easier their simulation by business strikes from dies retaining polish.

Mintage: 420, 139, 136 and 231 in the four quarters, total 926, of which 886 went in the proof sets and the other 40 in the melting pot.

**Quarter.** [886] Base of 1 minutely recut, 6 about closed, shield point over center of 1, left base of 1 over space. Subject to hysterical trumpeting of "rare", to some date collector pressure, and to far too much speculator activity based on the low mintage of 5000 regulars. As with the last few years, too many of the few surviving business strikes simulate proofs (though 1 is not recut, 6 is wide open, shield point over r. edge of upright, left base of 1 over center). For further confusion, too many of the proofs were carelessly made, or have been scrubbed and chemically bathed, to simulate the rare business strikes! Cleanliness may be next to godliness in one sense anyway — too vigorous cleaning can send the creatures altogether out of this world, but the perpetrators hardly deserve heaven. (I would recommend for them a dose of their own medicines instead.)

Mintage: 390, 177, 98 and 221 in the four quarters, all of them going into the 886 proof sets.

**Half Dollars.** [886] First variety: Without more than microscopic doubling on stars; date a little above center, shield point over r. foot, left base of 1 a little r. of center, rev. of 1885. Rarer than the other variety.

— Second variety: High date, slanting down minutely, closed 6, all stars with extra outlines except 6th, 8th and 9th, shield point minutely r. of upright, left base of 1 almost over r. edge. Rev. of 1885 (?)

repolished; feathers later partly detached from outer edge of left leg. Beistle 1-A. Garrett set, Feb. 2, 1886. Business strikes are from these dies after they clashed. Same comment as to the quarter. Possibly the most heavily speculated in, and most eagerly hoarded, silver coin of the decade, since most survivors of the 5,000 business strikes appear to be spending much of their time trying to join the chorus line of proofs. There is as little individuality in these as among the Rockettes.

Mintage: Quarterly, 400, 155, 110 and 221, all going into the 886 proof sets.

**Silver Dollar.** [886] 1) VAM —: double cut date, first cut low, plainest below base and peak of 1 and below bases of both 8's. 1974 GENA: 110. 2) VAM 4, recut 1 only. Same comments as for 1885 dollars, even to speculation and first strikes.

Mintage: Quarterly, 410, 155, 110 and 216, total 891, of which 886 went into the sets and the other 5 supposedly into the melting pot.

**Silver proof sets.** [886] Of these 360, 165, 100 and 261 were issued in the four quarters, total 886. Presumably the first-quarter coins went to the annual collectors, and many of the final-quarter ones went as Christmas presents, that being then an apparently common pattern. Garrett's, from Mint 2/2/1886, brought \$2,700. That in LM 3/68:306 had Type I cent, 5¢ with recut second 8, and "second variety" half dollar.

**Gold Dollar.** [1016] B-1. Normal 6; leaf left of date normal, neither abnormally thin nor showing doubling. Second 8 wholly below L, first begins minutely left of L. Other varieties are possible. Many survivors have been scrubbed to within an inch of their lives. I can to a certain extent understand this for silver coins kept in sulfite paper mint wrappers and suffering ugly black blotches, but gold? Who could reasonably object to the interesting orange, red, purplish, or iridescent toning? Cloudiness can normally be removed by bathing in soapy water (or mild detergent), rinsing *thoroughly*, then bathing in alcohol, following if necessary by another rinse and a similar treatment with ether or household ammonia or acetone or MEK (never mix solvents!), following always by additional rinsing and drying with ether or absolute alcohol. (Harry Bass uses an ultrasonic bath even on proofs; I have not enough details of solvent or timing, and do not recommend trial-and-error as the errors can be too costly.) The bathing is of course not to be done with cloth or Q-tip or any other applicator: hold the coin in the solutions by a tea strainer. Clearly, this sort of treatment is not responsible for the scrub marks marring too many of the gold dollars of the period.

On the other hand, we *do* have the explanation for many of the nicks and scratches, mentioned as common to many gold dollar proofs in the 1880's. The following document is self-explanatory:

Harlan P. Smith, being duly sworn, says that he resides in the City of New York and that he called on the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia in June 1886 and went to the Coin and Medal Clerk and requested to be furnished with a Proof gold dollar of the current year. The clerk opened a small writing desk and took out a round paper box which contained numerous gold Proofs. He scraped them over with his fingers and rubbed them together, upon which proceeding deponent looked with utter astonishment as it defaced the coins with pin marks and scratches. Deponent had always believed and still believes that Proof coins are struck by the government for the benefit of coin collectors who are required to pay a premium for such perfect coins, and that from the improper manner in which they were handled by this clerk they were blemished and therefore collectors ought not to be compelled to pay a premium for such ignorance and incompetence displayed by the clerk in charge of that department.

Deponent further states that the clerk informed him that there were no Proof gold dollars to be had, and that he [deponent] then requested to be furnished with two silver Proof sets and twenty minor Proof sets, and when said request was made the clerk made some remark which left the impression in deponent's mind that the clerk was conferring a great favor upon him and acted as though he owned the entire Mint and the contents thereof. Deponent therefore claims that the government should not employ clerks unless they are fully competent for such position and said clerk, having been shown to be clearly incompetent, should be removed.

6th day of December 1886.

(signed) H. P. Smith

(notary's seal and notice)

The above document was furnished by Robert W. Julian; it is here reproduced courtesy of Q. David Bowers, by permission. Julian mentions that the medal clerk (presumably the same party about whom Smith was swearing out his complaint) was removed "prior to Feb. 28, 1887, as on that date someone else was applying for the position."

As for that medal clerk's claim that no proof dollars were available, it is most likely to have been a lie, or else the remainder of the March mintage was already shipped out to banks: see below.

Auction record: Garrett:499, \$1,250.

Mintage: 204, 112, 270 and 430 in the four quarters,

total 1,016; of these, 25 were intended for the proof sets of February.

**Quarter Eagle.** [88] \*B-1. Left base of 1 about over r. edge; base of 1 not recut; very little polish in stripes; extremely faint shadowy striae over MERI. Many of the survivors show nicks and scratches, like so many graduates of German university dueling clubs, most probably thanks to the above mentioned Medal Clerk. Two auction records of \$3,500 (Ullmer:381, 1976 ANA:2842). Some of the survivors of the 4,000 regulars have enough mirror surface to give trouble to cataloguers, especially those who follow old Tom Elder's example and refuse to use magnifying glasses, on the ground that collectors don't use them at exhibits (no longer true, friends!). These are from B-2 dies: base of 1 faintly recut (fades), left base of 1 a little r. of center of a dentil; polish in stripes.

Mintage: 41, 10, 13 and 24 in the four quarters, total 88; of these, 25 were intended for the proof sets in February.

**Three Dollars.** [142] Two varieties.

\*B-1. Upright of 1 below r. curves of O. Are these the 88 proofs of Feb. — Sept.?



**1886 Three Dollars. B-2. Ex Merkin, Oct. 1973:478**

B-2. Upright of 1 between OL; date seems to slant down slightly. Gilhausen:321, "Rio Rancho": 131, \$5,600; Texas pvt. coll.; others. The dies of the 1,000 business strikes (including, alas, some deceptive first strikes) plus a minority of proofs — the 54 of December? Auction records for unattributed examples: Pierce-Jay-Ullmer, \$5,500; Garrett, \$5,250, latter spotty. As with the gold dollar and quarter eagle, many survivors are nicked and scratched, probably from the same cause.

Mintage: February, 25 for the sets; March, 22; May, 13; September, 28; December, 54, total 142.

**Half Eagle.** [72] Date slants up to right; die file mark to left from base of B; left base of 1 over left edge; almost no polish in stripes. Very rare and seldom offered. Much rarer than the lower denominations, rarer even than the quarter eagle, but unappreciated. Probably fewer than 20 survive in proof state, of which too many are impaired by nicks and scratches, doubtless due to the attentions of the aforementioned Medal Clerk. Ullmer:459 (obv. rim spots at 1:30 and 3:30) brought \$3,000, which is low compared to other dates in the period; Garrett's slept at \$2,900. I have

not at this writing learned the prices of 1976 ANA:3003-4. Those of Melish:2206 (to N.N.), Dunham-Alto:259, Gaylord:354, Wolfson:542 (minute rim stain on either side), or KS 2/60 from the set, are too old to be relevant. I have the impression that the large mintages of business strikes of some of these dates have militated against collector — or speculator — interest in the tiny handful of surviving proofs.

Mintage: Quarterly, 32, 7, 12 and 21, of which 25 were for the sets in February; total 72.

**Eagle.** [60] Low date well to left, left base of 1 central. Rarest denomination of the year. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:495, eyebrow rubbed, \$5,000. (5) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (6) 1976 ANA:3112. (7) DiBello:1105, cleaned. (8) Ullmer:498, obv. field rubbed, \$4,750. (9) KS 2/60 set. (10) Melish:2514. The last two are believed to be duplications of earlier listings. I believe that possibly 15 to 20 survive at most. Almost no private sale offerings in recent years.

Mintage: 25 with the sets in February, 2 in March, 6 in June, 7 in September, 20 before year's end, total 60.



**1886 Double Eagle.** Ex Boyd, Dr. Green, Amon Carter colls.

**Double Eagle.** [106] Extremely popular because only at Philadelphia were any double eagles made for this year; only 1,000 business strikes were coined and they are now rarer than the proofs. Low date, left base of 1 about over left edge. It is difficult to estimate the number of survivors. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:494, \$29,000. (5) Dunham:2329, cloudy. (6) Norweb. (7) Atwater:1278. (8) WGC:888, Dr. Green:755, Amon Carter Sr, & Jr. (9) "Memorable":706, possibly same as (5) or (7), not since traced. (10) Dr. Clifford Smith: 1969, possibly same as one of foregoing. (11) Amon Carter's duplicate. (12) Menjou:1825. (13) KS 2/60 from set. (14) KS 3/65:196. (15) KS 5/66:1800. (16) KS 4/67:923, gem. (17) Bell 11:929, much impaired. (18) S 10/64. (19) S 6/73: 1200, \$25,000. Some of the above are believed to be duplications. There have been, by contrast, fewer offerings of business strikes, notably the unc. Dr. Bolt example, which might well some day be resold as a proof, and the impaired Walton coin.

Mintage: Quarterly, 31, 15, 15 and 45; 25 were for the Feb. sets. Total 106.

**Gold proof sets.** Some 25 were made in February,

probably others later assembled. There might have been as many as 60 in all, no more. One 6-piece set, apparently original, appeared as KS 2/60:2975-2980; two others, of course, survive in the complete sets mentioned below. Garrett's, from the Mint Feb. 2, 1886, totalled \$46,100.

**Complete proof sets.** Only two: Smithsonian, from Mint, from Coiner September 2 (!); ANS, from Mint, Brock, Morgan. Others may exist, but they have not been exhibited or traced.

## 1887

**Cent.** [2960] Variations are trivial. Often with oddly irregular concave areas in field and devices not perfectly struck up (carelessly made). Often toned to an odd assortment of pinks and greens, different from the 1884-5-6 group; did the mint again use a different supplier for its paper wrappers?

**Three Cents.** [2960] \*1887/6. The earliest die state of this popular proof-only overdate is quite rare, showing plain impressions of both 8's and *almost the entire 6* in addition to the final 887, respectively at bases of 8's and within them, occupying almost the entire space below arm of 7. I have seen very few of these. Dies clashed and were drastically repolished. The vast majority, struck after repolishing, show only part of left curve of 6 below arm of 7, sometimes only a small fragment, sometimes also with part of loop of 6, but always weak in this state. Probably 3/4, possibly as many as 4/5 of the extant proof 1887 3¢ nickels are from this obverse die, in its later states. Popularity as a naked-eye overdate in the proof series has given the 1887/6 a spurious claim to rarity and a not-so-spurious group of auction records in the \$260 to \$335 range.

— Normal date, 7 considerably farther from curl, date low and level. Rev. Fragmented leaves at left. The die used also, apparently, on the very rare business strikes (5000 minted of those). Rare, seldom offered; not more than one out of four proof 1887's seen, possibly one out of five or six, is from this obverse, suggesting that it might have accounted for possibly the first 700 to 750 of the original proof mintage. Compare NN 51: 429, NN 53: 291. Some of the survivors are badly cleaned, some carelessly made, and some of the latter are simulated by early business strikes from dies retaining polish. No recent enough auction records to give a fair idea of value. The lower quotations reflect only relative unpopularity. Garrett's proof set, from the Mint Jan. 25, 1887, contained this variety.

**Five Cents.** [2960] Normal date, possibly more than one minute positional variety. ANS and others. Often dull, spotty, streaked or peculiarly mottled; still more often badly cleaned, possibly in an attempt to improve the appearance of coins that never were very brilliant. Sometimes seen with rounded rims. As

a date, twice as rare as 1886 in terms of actual frequency of appearance, but brings about one third as much at auction. For this state of affairs we may credit the speculators, if we are collecting, or perhaps damn them if we have coins to sell.

— \*Second 8 plainly recut. Very seldom seen; cf. that in LM 11/65:206. This is not an overdate, not a different logotype, and the explanation for recut second 8's in several years of this decade is still unknown.

— Base of 1 recut. Also rare.

**Minor Proof Sets.** [2960] I have in recent years seen several that are presumably original, the nickel pieces having the same sort of toning coming from the mint wrappers. Others seem to have been since broken up for date sequences or else to retrieve the overdate 3¢, and later reassembled into silver-minor sets. The image comes to mind of a crystal, say of rock candy, gradually growing in the solution which gave birth to it; some molecules dissolve back into the solution, others return to the crystal and sooner or later someone plucks the fully formed prism or rhombohedron out of the liquid and admires it, unknowing that hardly one percent of its weight then consists of the same molecules as a few days earlier. An assembled proof set may not have the historical value of an original set preserved from the Mint, but it makes just as impressive a display.

**Dime.** [710] B-1. Normal skirt, the contours of drapery complete. There may be minute positional varieties of date. LM 4/66:217.

— \*B-2. Incomplete drapery, a blank area above shield. (The die was too vigorously lapped.) One wonders if the collectors of the day did not raise a few eyebrows at the nakedness here implied. Not rare. Cf. LM 11/65:274, etc.

Mintage: 420, 120 and 170 in first, second and fourth quarters, total 710, all of which went into the proof sets.

**Quarter.** [710] Left base of 1 just r. of left edge. Rev. Left red stripes thin. Here as in former years many of the limited number of survivors of the 10,000 business strikes are still trying to join the chorus line of proofs (and vice versa), and some have just about made it, being all but indistinguishable (once scrubbed) from the less carefully made proofs accorded the same treatment. The rare business strikes have date slanting minutely down, left base of 1 over space, normal rev. stripes, no polish in those at r. Speculator activity has driven up prices on this date though not to the extent of 1884 or 1886 — though there are actually more of those dates around, affording the speculators more opportunity for the Big Lie technique of shouting "Very Rare!" hundreds of times a year.

Mintage: First, second and fourth quarters, 400 145 and 165, total 710, all of them going into the proof sets.

**Half Dollar.** [710] Date below center of exergual space; no doubling on stars. Beistle 1-A; WGC: 353. I do not know if this is actually a proof-only variety. I have seen some pieces from this die which are virtually impossible to diagnose, so carelessly have they been made — rounded rims and edges, flat stars, sometimes flat heads, no real improvement over the partly frosty business strikes. And even the better struck ones, once drastically cleaned (usually once is not enough for the owners of these), can no longer be told for certain.

— Second die: Date minutely above center of 1 microscopically recut, left base of 1 above r. edge. Rev. Die file mark above space between ER, no polish in stripes. 1974 GENA: 1636.

The business strikes (5000) seem to be largely from another die, date still higher, left base of 1 left of center, doubled stars, rev. faint die file marks in AT, TES, ER. (Beistle 1-A, but should have been called 2-A.) Compare WGC: 354. It is possible that proofs may also exist from this obverse die; cf. LM 9/67:265, LM 3/68:676. In the period 1884-1888 in many different denominations — nickel 3¢, 5¢, quarters, halves, silver dollars, gold dollars, quarter eagles, three dollar gold pieces — the mint was so careless about distinguishing proofs from business strikes, not by the Canadian technique of improving the latter, but by the counterfeiter's technique of sloppiness on the former, that sometimes accurate diagnosis stops even being a nightmare and becomes an impossibility. And it remains so even on the coins which have not had their proof surfaces and their highest relief details scrubbed away. *O tempora, O mores.* Auction records for coins labeled proofs — I cannot guarantee that they actually were ever part of the proof sets — in the neighborhood of \$325; and \$350-400 up for business strikes, which are possibly four to six times as rare. The date is actually a little rarer than 1886 in proof, but try and get any speculator to believe it. What was that Latin phrase again?

Mintage: First, second and fourth quarters, 440, 75 and 195, total 710, all going into the proof sets.

**Silver Dollar.** [710] VAM —: top of 7 slightly doubled. Same comments as to 1885, word for word. Mintage, quoted, 450, 105, 0, and 155, total 710.

**Silver proof sets.** [710] In the four quarters there were delivered 380, 90, 40 and 200, total 710. I have seen one set in the original mint wrappers, cent to silver dollar, 1952 ANA:4446, to Ralph J. Lathrop. Its 3¢ is the overdate. Unfortunately there was no dated invoice. Some other sets survived intact, e.g. Garrett's, from the Mint 1/25/1887, at \$2,900; its 3¢ is the rarer perfect date, suggesting that the overdate came later in the year.

This is also the year in which the then Mint Director, the notorious, sanctimonious, and numismatically malodorous Dr. James Putnam



Kimball, defined proofs in his Annual Report as "A coin specially struck by hand-press instead of by steam-press from a polished planchet." (Quoted in NSM 8/65, p. 2177 footnote.) To which all I can say is that some of the mint employees using the hand-press must have had hangovers; and that Kimball — over 100 miles from the scene — either did not know or chose to ignore the use of polished dies and multiple impressions for making proofs. He is better known — or rather, worse — for having had the Humpty Dumpty *chutzpah* to redefine "pattern" to mean *only* the first proofs of a newly accepted design — e.g. 8-feather Morgan dollars, 1866 coins with motto, 1877 new type twenties. He had no precedent and no follower outside the Treasury in this particular misguided excursion into lexicography; yet the Treasury adhered to his dictum for decades. His purpose, of course, was to define all other irregular mint products as illegal and subject to seizure — even those which had been publicly sold by the mint before his own day!



**1887 Gold Dollar. Ex Bullowa 11/76:14**

**Gold Dollar.** [1043] Top of wreath closed, 7 wholly below A. One other minute positional variant is possible. Many deceptive first strikes exist. Garrett's brought \$1,350.

Mintage: March, 227; second quarter, 375, of which 266 were delivered then and 105 in third quarter, leaving 4; fourth quarter, 441, total 445; total, 1043. The March delivery evidently included 25 for complete sets.



**1887 Quarter Eagle. Ex 1975 Suburban Washington:494**

**Quarter Eagle.** [122] \*B-1. Tops of 1 7 almost touch bust. Left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge. (In the deceptive B-2 business strikes, date is lower, left base of 1 above r. edge.) Garrett:504 (three minute nicks) brought \$2,500, trailed by the "Groves" sale example at \$2,000. Still undervalued; date collectors are largely taking up the remainder of the 6,160

business strikes.

Mintage: March, 45, of which apparently 25 were for the initial sets; second quarter, 34, third, 3; fourth, 40, total 122. Of these 22 had been delivered in the second quarter. 15 in third, 40 in fourth.

**Three Dollars.** [160] \*B-1. RICA normal, not doubled. Rev. Tops of wreath join; leaves normal, traces of usual recutting in large 3, left part of right bow only outlined, both bows clear; r. edge of 1 minutely left of tip of L, r. tip of 7 slightly left of r. tip of foot of R. (The 6000 business strikes — including some deceptive prooflike coins — are B-2; RICA doubled, B-RTY doubled, all over letters heavy. Rev. Date slightly below center, r. edge of 1 slightly beyond tip of L, tip of 7 in line with tip of R.) Over 30 survivors. Garrett's realized \$5250. A few exist with dies aligned

↑↑:1971 CSNS (RARCOA):433.

This year is remarkable for an extraordinary anomaly amounting to a blue chip mint error among blue chip mint errors. In Lester Merkin's November 1965 auction, lot 346 at a very reasonable \$1,225 (later Russell Heim estate, S 6/72:825) was a gem proof 1887 three which had first been given an impression or two with dies aligned ↑↑ or 180° from normal. After which occurrence, the press operator or someone discovered the error, realigned the dies in the press, *replaced the struck coin therein*, gave it two or three more blows — about 5° away from what would have been normal alignment — and passed the resulting mishmash as a coin suitable for inclusion in proof sets. As a result, obverse shows weak extra lettering about 5° away from normal position, especially plain around TES OF AMER, and reverse shows the original date, inverted and somewhat slanted, joining OLLAR and large 3, a second DOLLARS between final DOLLARS and date (naturally also inverted), and large 3 at ribbon bow, as well as traces of wreath at appropriate parts of field. An excellent enlarged illustration of this coin is in the Lester Merkin catalogue; there has been very slight retouching on the print to make sure that the faint extra impressions show up, but the retouching is correctly positioned, not misrepresenting the appearance. I spotted that some kind of odd double striking was present with the naked eye when I began cataloguing that group of threes, but naturally did have to use a glass to find out what had happened. Since then, Lester and I have been examining every proof 1887 three-dollar piece on which we could lay our hands to discover if any others had been made in similar error and similarly corrected. In the ensuing eleven years to date we have found two others, one of them ex Leo A. Young. One was in LM 9/68:541, 10/69:420, 6/71:847, choice, lint mark left of 3; the other LM 10/73:479, nicked, Breen I:132. All three specimens differ minutely in the amount and direction of misalignment in press (3° to 5°) but the general effect is the same. Nineteen

other 1887 proofs seen in private hands since 1965 have proved normal, including the Wolfson, Grant Pierce, Garrett and Ullmer coins, the latter at \$8,000. Eliasberg's is normal, as I would have noticed the double striking when I was examining his threes for die variety information. ANS's is also normal and I am informed that so is SI's. Unfortunately, illustrations of proof 1887's in auction catalogues are generally not clear enough to permit guesses as to whether any show the double striking. Probably very few were made.

Mintage: March, 55, of which 25 were for initial sets; all delivered that month. June, 42, of which only 30 were delivered. September, 3 (the error coins?), these and the remaining 12 from the June coinage being delivered together. December, 60 proofs plus the 6,000 business strikes.

**\*Half Eagle.** [87] Only one variety of the genuine. Date slants a little up to right; left base of 1 quite close to dentil (about center), base of 7 well away, top of 7 close to corner of truncation. Rev. Almost no polish in stripes. *Beware forgeries made by removing mintmarks from the common 1887 S and huffing fields* (using the technique devised in the 1960's for making jewelry out of Peace dollars). Probably between 20 and 30 survivors, of which at least a half dozen have been cleaned or otherwise impaired. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Norweb. (5) Garrett:502, \$14,500. (6) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (7) Ullmer:460, \$18,000. (8) Breen I:192, hairlined, at \$13,505 on \$15,000 limit. (9) Schulman, ca. 1943, Eliasberg, NN 49:478. (10) Melish:2212, Kagin. (11) Baldenhofer: 1364, badly cleaned, believed reappearing in Kagin Fall '73 sale, \$15,000. (12) Wolfson:544, impaired. (13) Bell II:765, impaired. These two are believed to have reappeared as "Alto":263 and Miles: 529, but photographs forbid positive identification. (14) "Alto":262, same as no. 7, 9 or 10? The following records are believed to include some earlier appearances of the above plus possibly six others: (a) Dunham:2166, (b) WGC, (c) "Memorable":388, (d) Bell I, "H. R. Lee": 1310, (e) Flanagan, (f) Atwater, (g) Dr. Green, (h) Menjou, (i) Kern, (j) Hydeman:665.

Mintage: First quarter, 25 for the March sets; second, 27, of which 17 were delivered then and 10 in third quarter; fourth, 35 struck and delivered, total 87.

**Eagle.** [80] \*B-1. Date slants up, 7 much farther from border than 1, left base of 1 about over left edge; four stripes thin, feathers attenuated below second. (On business strikes date is centered and level.) Much rarer than smaller denominations. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:501, \$5,000. (5) 1976 ANA:3113. (6) Phila. Estate. (7) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (8) Ullmer:499, \$6,250. (9) Melish: 2517. (10) DiBello:1108. Either of these may have reappeared above. Do a dozen survive?

Mintage: First, second and fourth quarters,

respectively 25, 25 and 30, the first group for March sets. Of the second quarter group, 15 (for sets?) were delivered then, the rest in the third quarter.



### 1887 Double Eagle. Ex Merkin Sept. 1967, Dines

**\*Double Eagle.** [121] Date below center, to r., left base of 1 almost over r. edge. Rev. possibly of 1886; tiny break in r. tail feathers just below arrow, less than in some other dates; left leaf of lys below beak disconnected. Possibly thirty survivors. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:500, \$22,000. Is this the Mocatta Metals piece? (5) Merkin 9/67:449, Dines:927, few small spots. (6) Melish: 1005, obv. field nick. (7) KS 2/60:2902, rev. field nick. (8) Miles:919, hairlined, possibly ex Dr. Green:756. (9) Dr. Bolt: 1349, S 5/68:997, cleaned to death. (10) LM 6/72:486, obv. (only) hairlined. The following records are believed to include some duplications and possibly 7 other examples: (a) Dunham:2330. (b) Bell I, to a dealer, (c) WGC:889. (d) Atwater: 1279. (e) "Memorable":707. (f) Menjou:1826. (g) Eliasberg, NN 49:148, DiBello:1271, choice, (h) Wolfson:943. (i) "Alto":455. (j) Gilhousen:938. (k) Ullmer:530.

Mintage: Quarterly, 26, 28, 10, 57, total 121. Some 25 of the first quarter delivery were intended for the sets assembled in March. They were, however, struck in January.

**Gold proof sets.** Though these were reported in March, apparently they were made up not later than Jan. 25, as that was the date on the invoice for the Garrett set, directly from the mint; it was dispersed, totalling \$50,600. Other sets may have followed later in the year, possibly as many as 75 to 80 in all. Little can be learned from the reference in the 1887 Director's Report to 35 sold between July 1886 and June 1887, as some of these were surely dated 1886.

**Complete proof sets.** Only two as usual: SI, from Mint, from Coiner as of Jan. 25 (coincidentally: see above), at face value; ANS, from Mint, Brock, Morgan.

## 1888

**Cent.** [4582] Often with the same peculiarities as the 1887. One in Merkin 11/65 was of the carelessly made persuasion, showing evidence of only one blow from the dies. Many of the other survivors are, or were, dull — the past tense refers to those which became victims of the scrub brush, the cyanide jar, or the commercial dipping solution. In Boston and Minneapolis are at least two establishments — there

are almost certainly others elsewhere — making a quantity business out of turning honestly toned brown coins into unnatural red ones, too often resold without mention of the treatment, for which their proprietors ought to spend some time turning big ones into little ones.

**Three Cents.** [4582] At least two varieties, possibly three.

— Final 8 filled or partly filled, two horizontal marks within lower loop. 1975 ANA:123-4, others.

— Second 8 repunched, final 8 normal. HR 11/69:919, others. Which is rarer?

Some of these are so dull as to be almost indistinguishable from business strikes; and conversely, some business strikes have attractive proof surfaces. The series is enough in the doldrums that nobody particularly cares.

**Five Cents.** [4582] Without or with double date, latter rare (LM 11/68:218). The majority of survivors of this date and 1889 can only be obtained in very dull state. This appears to be a peculiarity of the nickel alloy available from the mint's suppliers in this year. No explanation is known, and no cure; even the most efficient detarnishing agents have no effect on this particular dullness. Under a microscope the metal is alternately granular and pebbled, taking polish only locally; its crystalline structure is anomalous and entirely unlike that of 1887 or 1890. Possibly some trace element is responsible, though this speculation has not yet been investigated. Really brilliant nickels, like those of 1887, are scarce. The dull proofs are sometimes mistakenly sold as business strikes, but they can be readily identified by having the usual broader rims sharp on both inner and outer edges. Many have been cleaned to death in a vain attempt to cure the dullness, which admittedly has deterred potential buyers.

**Minor proof sets.** [4582] Mostly assembled. Original sets are now very scarce.

**Dime.** [800] \*B-2. Lapped die, shield above drapery incomplete, UNITED thin. Merkin 4/66:229, others. May also exist from normal dies. Same comment as to 1887.

Mintage: First, second and fourth quarters, 400, 100 and 300, respectively, in sets, all delivered at the time. No explanation exists for the figure 832 commonly published — assay pieces?

**Quarter.** [800] Date slightly low, shield point slightly r. of upright, left base of 1 just r. of left edge. Same comment as to 1887 though this time more frosty unc. pieces survive of the business strikes — putting less date collector pressure on the proofs and for some reason not encouraging speculator activity.

Mintage: As with dimes. The figure of 832 proofs usually seen possibly includes assay pieces; no explanation is in any Archives documents seen by me.

**Half Dollar.** [800] Only one variety seen; date

about centered, shield point over r. tip, left base of 1 over r. edge; rev. shield unpolished, left end of scroll broken away. Same comment as to quarter dollars.

Mintage: As with dimes. The usual 832 figure possibly includes assay pieces, as with dimes and quarters. Business strikes have date slightly below center, shield point over r. foot, left base of 1 r. of center; heavy clash marks; scroll normal.

**Silver Dollar.** [800] First variety: Normal date slants up. VAM 1. Garrett set.

Second variety: *Double Date*, first punched to left, partly effaced, repunched. Top and base of extra 1 shows at left of 1, traces of extra 8's at lower left or below base. Not in VAM. Ex. rare. "Dupont":2586; 1973 GENA:605. Same comment as to the 1885's, regrettably.

Mintage: As with lower silver denominations; same comment.

**Silver proof sets.** [800] Original sets used to be shown around even in the early 1950's; these had dull nickels. Most have probably been broken up, some possibly reassembled. Garrett's, ex Mint 2/17/1888, brought \$2,600.



**1888 Gold Dollar. B-3. Ex QS 11/76:1280**

**Gold Dollar.** [957] Normal dies. ERT normal (B-2) or weak (B-3); light (not heavy) extra outlines on DOLLAR. Of the 957 made, 200 went July 19 (from the April proof mintage) to the Medal Clerk for "exchanges," whatever that might mean; no other details. Garrett's brought \$1,300, "Rio Rancho":68, ex "Gilhausen":93, \$1,800.

Mintage: 170, 537 and 250 in first, second and fourth quarters, total 957.

**Quarter Eagle.** [92] Date to right; left base of 1 nearly over r. edge. This die appears to have been used on some business strikes; deceptive early strikes exist. Undervalued though not extremely rare; several dozen survive. Ullmer:383 went for \$2,000; Garrett:510, \$2,100.

Mintage: Quarterly, 40, 12, 20 and 20, total 92. Fiscal year reports seem to indicate only 48 struck rather than the indicated 52 in the first two quarters — reason for discrepancy unknown. The first quarter coins, made in February, include 30 intended for proof sets; third quarter coins, all made in September, appear to have been used for assembling more proof sets.

**Three Dollars.** [291] Beyond doubt the three-dollar proof most often seen, excellent specimens adorning many type sets as well as date collections which may or may not include any other proofs. Some 200 of these, made in April, went (with an equal number of gold dollars) to the Medal Clerk for "exchanges," this evasive expression covering God alone knows what since there is no record of 1888 accessions to the Mint Cabinet conceivably construable as worth the \$800 involved in this transaction. Two varieties.

— \*B-1. Normal letters, no doubling on UNITED. Long rust patch on neck — is this constant? Rev. Date slightly low, level, and placed well to left, the 1 below left center of 0, the three 8's respectively wholly below L, L, A, not extending beyond any letters in either direction. Believed to include the first 256 made. Auction records: Pierce-Jay-Ullmer:432, \$6,000, trailed by Garrett's at \$4,200.

— B-2, dies of business strikes. UNITED doubled; heavy date slanting up, r. edges of 8's slightly beyond r. edges of L and A. Very rare, possibly the 35 of May-June. Fortunately most business strikes are not deceptively prooflike this year.

Mintage: Feb. 1,1; March, 55; April, the 200 to the Medal Clerk; May, 33; June, 2; total 291. The Feb.-March proofs were probably made earlier; that reported Feb. 1 appears to have been the one included in a proof set "exchanged for cabinet coins" Feb. 29. However, Garrett's was shipped out as of Feb. 17, 1888.

**Half Eagle.** [94] Date very low and to left, slanting up slightly to r.; polish around eye, mouth and ear; left base of 1 over left edge. Rev. Polish within stripes, unlike the last few years. Rarer than lower denominations, much rarer than its mintage figure suggests, nearly as rare as the eagle, but survivors probably number thirty-odd including nicked and/or cleaned ones. Few late auction records: Ullmer:561, \$3,250, followed by Garrett:508, \$2,700. The former may have come from the Alto or DiBello collections.

Mintage: Quarterly, 30, 25, 20 and 19, total 94; first quarter coins were intended only for the complete sets.



**1888 Eagle. Ex QS 11/76:1235**

**Eagle.** [72] Low date, slanting minutely up to right; left base of 1 left of center; rev. as 1887. Rarest denomination of the year, seldom offered, probably between 20 and 30 survivors at most, possibly fewer. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:507,

hairlined, \$4,600. (5) Ullmer:500, nick before chin, spot behind neck, \$4,750. (6) DiBello:1111, impaired. (7) Wolfson:754, tiny obv. field spot. (8) KS 2/60:2502, choice. Plus those in the sets mentioned below. Earlier auction records cannot be matched up with present survivors (too few were ever pictured).

Mintage: Quarterly, 30, 12, 20 (Sept.), 10, total 72, all in sets.

**Double Eagle.** [102] Low date, left base of 1 about over r. edge, light polish around ear. The least rare proof double eagle of the decade; several dozen survive (which is still not too many), several impaired. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett:506, \$8,000. (5) Amon Carter Jr. (6) Atwater:1280, Dr. Green:757, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., hairlined. (7) 1976 ANA:3262, scratch below chin. (8) Kern, DiBello:1273. (9) Ullmer:531, \$10,000, possibly same coin. Several dozen other auction records. Others have sold at private treaty or have gone on playing the usual convention game of musical chairs — er — musical bourse tables. Most survivors have from three to twenty-odd nicks, but I should add that any double eagle proof prior to 1908 without any nicks is a freakish rarity. The reason of course is that the paper mint wrappers disintegrated over the years, the double eagles eventually sliding or falling out and jangling against other coins when the safe deposit box was either opened or closed or the sets moved to or from any other storage places. Also, being by far the heaviest regular denomination, they are the most prone (by Murphy's law) to drop from anyone's hands — even in the mint.

Mintage. Quarterly, 40, 16, 20, 26, total 102.

**Gold proof sets.** Quarterly, 30, 12, 20 and 10, total 72. One set was auctioned in NN51:1002-07 at a then high \$1,683; this went, for once, to a single dealer and therefore possibly still intact. Cf. KS3/64:2262. I have seen three other similar sets outside the ones included in the two surviving complete sets. Garrett's totalled \$22,900. Director's Report says 52 sets sold, July 1887-June 1888 — probably 10 1887's being included, 42 1888's?

**Complete proof sets.** Two survive: Smithsonian and ANS, as always. Former bought from Coiner as of February 19 for face, \$43.44; actual date of delivery of either one not known, of course. One full set had been transferred to the Curator February 29 "exchanged for cabinet coins".

## 1889

**Cent.** [3336] Varies from red to brown. Microscopic positional differences only; 9 sometimes looks partly filled.

**Three Cents.** [3436] Some have 1 plainly recut. The extra hundred appear to mark the final issue of this denomination. Identical remarks to 1888; sometimes sold as "Unc, rarer than proof" these days.

**Five Cents.** [3336] Many of these come with the

same dullness found on 1888's. Normal date, no recutting; at least two obverse dies with microscopic positional differences in dates. Same remarks as to 1888.

— Second 8 partly recut. Lester Merkin sale, November 1965. Rare.

**Minor proof sets.** [3336] A few of these are still around that can be reasonably accepted as originals rather than assembled sets. Most of these few have the dull nickels.

**Dime.** [711] Thin date, knob of 9 well away from loop (unlike many business strikes). Often rather carelessly made, flat heads and rounded rims being frequent.

**Quarter.** [711] Shield point minutely r. of upright; left base of 1 left of center. Rev. of 1888. Same remarks as to 1886-1887. Speculator activity has been evident here though not to the degree of the named earlier dates. Business strikes have date slightly below center, slanting slightly down; shield point minutely left of 8, left base of 1 slightly r. of center.



**1889 Half Dollar. Beistle 2-A, the die miscalled "overdate." Ex QS 11/76:965**

**Half Dollars.** [711] Only two die varieties seen. Beistle 1-A has date about centered, left base of 1 almost over r. edge, some doubling on stars except 6th, 8th, and 9th. Beistle 2-A (see below) has date slanting down and no appreciable doubling on stars. Rev. of 1890, crisscross marks in first white stripe, curves in others. Same comment as to 1887 though speculator activity has been a little milder. Business strikes often have crack through 6th to 9th stars; shield point about over 8.

It is about time that someone finally exploded a superstition and exorcised the numismatic ghost giving rise to it. I am referring to the alleged overdate, "1889/88". In October 1944 a New York dealer, now retired in California, noticed that a business strike showed knob of 9 more or less joined to loop. He immediately thought "overdate!" kicked up his heels a few times and wrote an enthusiastic description of the coin. It brought a then high \$62.50. What seems to be the same die appeared in WGC: 357 on a proof, its cataloguer referring to it as such and estimating it at a then fantastic \$100. It brought \$115. W. W. Neil was puzzled by this feature (which is not constant on 1889's) and in the sale of his collection in 1947 the proof 1889

was called 1889/88 in lot 534. The lamented Stuart Mosher, my guide and mentor, doubted the existence of any true overdate as early as 1947-48. I examined that in the Smithsonian's set (1951) and various others, and recognized the force of Mosher's argument — namely that the die defect, or whatever it is, joining the knob to the loop is not of the same curvature as any part of either of the 8's; the 9 is too narrow to conceal an 8; there is no visible recutting anywhere else on the date as would have shown had two logotypes been used; there is no other sign of an 8 anywhere around the 9. Extant examples showing this peculiarity — proof and unc. — are only a little less often seen than later die states in which the extra line has been worn off or ground off the die; Beistle 2-A. And so we have heard less and less often about "1889/88" of late, even with the current hysteria for overdates, in whose development I regretfully confess I played some part by discovering a couple of dozen real ones. Even the original promoters of the alleged "1889/88" have not been making much noise about it in recent years. Let us hope that this particular error remains in deserved oblivion.

**Silver Dollar.** [711] VAM 1, closed 9, date slants up to r., left base of 1 r. of center.

**Silver Proof sets.** [711] I have seen possibly four sets, cent to dollar, which came in original mint wrappers. Others doubtless exist. The mintage figures are accepted, though monthly and quarterly coinage records are not available aside from the 300 sets struck and delivered in the first quarter.

**Gold Dollar.** [1779] B-1. Obv. of 1888, ERT weak; lower normal date. This is the gold dollar most often encountered in proof, many extras being made for souvenirs, possibly after announcement of intended discontinuance of the denomination. Many of them were reported melted, but the coin is available for a price. Some 825 were coined in June, no other details.



**1889 Quarter Eagle. Ex Merkin, Sept. 1967:372**

**Quarter Eagle.** [48] \*B-1. Centered date, left base of 1 over center of dentil. Very rare (more than mintage suggests) and seldom offered. QS9/73; Gilhousen; others too old to mean much. The deceptive first strikes are from B-2 dies; date lower, 9 close to beads, left base of 1 left of center.

Mintage: 26 struck in June, the other 22 evidently in the second half of the year.

**Three Dollars.** [129] On the other hand, though this denomination was also discontinued at the end of 1889, there do not appear to have been made extra proofs as souvenirs, unlike the gold dollars, and proofs are many times rarer than those of 1888 — rarer in fact than most of the earlier proof threes of the decade. Only one die variety known, used on proofs and possibly also on uncirculated pieces; date centered. Ullmer's brought \$4,750 in May 1974, which is low compared to some less rare earlier dates. It is likely that the old S. Hudson Chapman story (D. S. Wilson, 1907 sale: 349) claiming that large numbers of threes were melted at the Philadelphia Mint after discontinuance of the denomination is true, as this date is far rarer than its mintage suggests.

Mintage: June, 35 proofs; 20 other proofs during the first half year; 7 more in September, 51 in October, 16 in December plus 2300 business strikes. The extant souvenirs are almost always uncirculated pieces.

**Half Eagle.** [45] Low date slanting slightly up. Rev. No die file marks in white stripes. Very rare, seldom offered; subject to great date collector pressure as comparatively few of the 7,520 business strikes survive. (1) SI. (2) Eliasberg. (3) Bell I, Eliasberg, "H. R. Lee":1313, NN 49:481. (4) Geiss:1649. (5) Holmes:3603. (6) Golden II:2302. (7) Scanlon:2368, \$2,600. (8) Ullmer:462, \$3,250. Few others mostly at private sale.

Mintage: Nothing known except that 26 were struck in June, the others probably in the last half year.

**Eagle.** [45] Rarest denomination of the year except possibly for the double eagle; possibly a dozen survivors. Under immense date collector pressure as very few of the 4,440 business strikes survive. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Davis-Graves:967. (5) Melish:2524. (6) DiBello: 1114, hairlined. Few others, none lately offered. Date high, to right.

Mintage: Nothing known beyond that 35 were coined in June, the other 10 probably in the second half year.

**Double Eagle.** [41] Date about centered. In a class with the eagle; same comments. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., possibly ex Atwater:1281 and/or Dr. Green:758. (5) Amon Carter Jr. duplicate. (6) Boyd, WGC:898, "Memorable":709. (7) Bell I, Eliasberg, "H. R. Lee", NN 49:152. Tiny rim flan defect opposite 4th star. (8) Brand, Geiss:2014. (9) Melish:1010, obv. field nick. (10) Wolfson:947, possibly same as one of last three. (11) DiBello:1276, field rubbed.

Mintage: 28 in June, the other 13 probably in the second half year.

**Gold proof sets.** Number minted unknown, probably under 40, mostly dispersed on behalf of collectors needing the higher denominations. No 6-piece sets reported aside from the two included in the complete sets, below.

**Complete proof sets.** (1) SI, ex Mint, from Coiner Oct. 26 (!) at face; ANS, from Mint, Brock, Morgan.

# VIII. STEREOTYPY RULES, 1890-1906

After the Act of Sept. 25, 1890, there were no more nickel 3¢, gold dollars or \$3 pieces. Designs remained stagnant and stereotyped; this was recognized in 1891, and the Treasury sponsored a public competition to improve coin designs, only to witness Mint Engraver Charles E. Barber (by now in his heyday — St. Gaudens ironically said that he had been there since the foundation of the Mint and would probably remain there until its end!) arbitrarily tossing out every entry. Forced to redesign the coins himself, he merely reversed the Morgan head and made niggling modifications. Variations hereafter are minimal.

**Cent.** [2740] Usually grayish brown to red, mostly toned — or cleaned.

**Five Cents.** [2740] Not seen with the intractable dullness of 1888-9. The mint must have found another supplier of nickel blanks. Mostly brilliant or pale gold to blue.

**Minor proof sets.** [2740] Many survive from mint wrappers, others integrated into silver sets.

**Dime.** [590] Usually date slants down to right; too often cleaned. Always available for a price; unaccountably neglected by speculators.

**Quarter.** [590.] Shield point between 18, left base of 1 over space. Rev. Left stripes thin, no polish in 7th white stripe or bases of next three. Same comments.

**Half Dollar.** [590] Several minor varieties.

— Beistle 1-A. High date slants down, shield point between 18, left base of 1 over left edge, foot not supported (lapped die). Rev. of 1889, extra outlines on most of legend.

— Not in B. Centered date, shield point almost over 8, left base of 1 over space. Rev. As preceding. Without or with clash mark below wing at r.

— Not in B. Same obv. Rev. Die of 1891, curves filling white stripes. LM 9/67:266.

Little difference in rarity among these. Numerous deceptive early business strikes. Less speculator activity on this date than on 1881-88; why?

**Silver Dollar.** [590] Same remarks as to 1885, speculator activity having become quite intense on this date. VAM 1, closed 9, left base of 1 over 1. edge.

**Silver proof sets.** [590] Wayte Raymond had some original sets as late as 1954. Most have since been dispersed on behalf of collectors wanting the quarter, half or dollar. Garrett's brought \$2,300.

**Quarter Eagle.** [93] \*B-1. Date slants up, left base of 1 left of center, horizontal striae through MERIC. Garrett:515, \$2,500; 1974 ANA:839, \$2,300, etc. The deceptive B-2 business strikes have date further r. and no striae at MERIC.



**1890 Half Eagle. Ex Merkin Sept. 1967:440**

**Half Eagle.** [88] \*B-1. Date to left, left base of 1 about over left edge; polish at eye. Rev. Only very slight incomplete polish in stripes. Rarer than mintage figure suggests, seldom seen; under great date collector pressure because few survive of the 4,240 business strikes. Garrett:514 brought \$3,700; earlier there were the Dunham coin, Geiss:1758 (same?); Melish:2221 to the book; Gaylord: 357; Merkin

9/67:440; and "Alto\*":267.

**Eagle.** [63] Date to r., slanting up; polish at ear, eye and TY; incomplete curls behind neck. Rev. Rather thin stripes. Slightly rarer than the half eagle, though not subject to quite so much date collector pressure as a few more business strikes survive. Garrett's brought \$4,750; Ullmer:501, \$6,000; 1976 ANA:3118. Earlier, there were the 1923 Mehl, Ryder, Melish:2126 example, and the Eliasberg, "H. R. Lee", DiBello: 1116 coin, and very few others.

**Double Eagle.** [55] Low date slants up, placed to r.; left base of 1 over space — almost over left edge; 1 not recut. Rev. Heavy ray below E incomplete; double punching on 3rd star is unusually obvious (traces are on most dates). Possibly as many as 15 survive; subject to intense date collector pressure. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr., possibly same as one of next few. (5) Dunham:2334. (6) Boyd, WGC:892, "Memorable":710? (7) Atwater: 1282. (8) Col. Green, Geiss:2015. (9) Dr. Green:759. (10) Menjou I:1829. (11) Baldenhofer: 1572, Wolfson:950, PNG 10/65. (12) Gilhausen:945. (13) QS9/73:1304. (14) Ullmer:532, \$9,500. (15) Garrett:512, \$9,000. (16) 1976 ANA:3266. The above list is believed to include several duplications.

**Gold proof sets.** Not over 55, possibly under 50. Garrett's, dispersed, \$19,950.

**Complete proof sets.** SI, ex Mint, ex Coiner May 24, \$39.41 face; ANS, ex Mint, Brock, Morgan.

## 1891

**Cent.** [2350] Toning as in 1890, more often brown.

**Five Cents.** [2350] Usually brilliant to gray when not cleaned to death.

**Minor proof sets.** [2350] Same comment as to 1890.

**Dime.** [600] Always available for a price; should be more popular, as final year of the design.

**Quarter.** [600] Ditto, low date, placed as in 1888.

**Half Dollar.** [600] Ditto. Two varieties.

— Date level, above center of exergual space.

— Date low, first 1 nearer border than last 1, shield point r. of left edge of 8; comes with both the 1890 reverses.

No rarity difference noted. Too often comes cleaned to death. The business strikes have date about central, slanting minutely down, left base of 1 r. of left edge; double clash marks below wings, different from the 1890 reverse.

**Silver Dollar.** [650] Since the middle 1960's, subject to much speculator activity, at least partly owing to similar games by horse traders in the uncirculated run. "Monkey see, monkey do." VAM 1.

**Silver proof sets.** [600] A few of these are traceable to original mint wrappers, some via Wayte Raymond. Many more have been dispersed and reassembled. Far too many have been given enough cyanide to kill 600 collectors.

**Quarter Eagle.** [80] \*B-1. Bases of 891 faintly recut; high date. Rev. Without the obvious shift on OF AMERICA characterizing the B-2 nonproofs, which should enable a few dubious pieces to be more easily given an accurate grade. Ullmer:384, called "superb!", brought a record \$2,700.

**Half Eagle.** [53] Extremely rare, seldom offered. The most recent auction records appear to be S 5/68:863, Scanlon:2373 at \$2,400, and Ullmer:464 at \$4,250.

**Eagle.** [48] Date slants up. Exceedingly rare, rarest denomination of the year. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) KS 2/60:2806, vertical field scratch down from tip of nose. (5) Stoddard, Col. Green, DiBello:1119, scrubbed. (6) Wolfson:762, possibly same as next. (7) N.Y. state private collection. Do as many as a dozen survive?

**Double Eagle.** [52] Date centered, slanting a little up. Rays below TE thin, r. tail feather broken. Bottom obv. border often heavy with marked knife-rim. Subject to extreme date collector pressure as very few remain of the 1,390 business strikes. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Atwater: 1283, Geiss:2016, Dr. Green:760, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (5) WGC: 893, cleaned. (6) Menjou: 1830. (7) "Memorable":711, possibly reappearing as DiBello: 1281. (8) Melish: 1018, cleaned, nicked. (9) Wolfson:953. (10) Dr. Bolt: 1353, cleaned to death. (11) KS 5/58:2798, cleaned, possibly same as one of foregoing. (12) Walton:3312, Jay:331, Dines:934, Delp:819. (13) Miles:929, Ullmer:533, \$23,000. (14) Bell II:939, EF ex-proof. The above may include as many as three duplications. In compensation, there are at least three others, possibly more, outside this group.

**Gold proof sets.** Not over 48 made, possibly under 40. None survive intact aside from those in the complete sets, below.

**Complete proof sets.** Smithsonian, from Mint, from Coiner April 6; ANS as usual.

## 1892

**Cent.** [745] Much like the 1891's; no special peculiarities.

**Five Cents.** [2745] Same comment.

**Minor proof sets.** [2745] As presumably 1500 were made outside the silver sets, unsurprisingly many have survived (some ex Wayte Raymond), some integrated into assembled silver sets, others broken up into date collections.

**Barber silver coinage.** "Created" — if that is the proper word — by Barber's reversing the Morgan dollar portrait of Miss Anna Willess Williams, removing the vegetable matter, modifying her cap, cropping her hair, adding the statutory legend on the dime, motto and stars on the quarter and half. Reverse of the dime is redrawn from Newlin's (1859) "Wreath of Cereals" after Longacre; reverses of the quarter



and half are copied from the Great Seal, but minus the heraldic blunder of placing arrows in dexter claw.

**Dime.** [1245] Despite contrary claims, only one type for the year, only one working hub for either side. S. Kabealo, in his 11/58 Penn-Ohio sale: 1089-90, showed two rev. varieties, 1089 with both ribbon ends free of wreath (lapped die), 1090 with r. ribbon end touching, latter said to be very rare, "only two seen." They are from the same hub. The free ribbon ends feature comes on proofs with perfect dates (e.g. Lester Merkin, November 1965) as well as on uncs. I would guess that the die, or die state, with ribbon end touching wreath, is scarcer than the other. There are also very minute variations in date position. The wreath is redrawn — not the same hub as 1876-91.

— Double date, placed far to left, first cut lower and still farther left. 1975 GENA: 72. Very rare.

**Quarter.** [1245] Two types, found on proofs and on uncirculated coins from all three mints; the first type is rarer, representing a hub used only through part of 1892, the second a hub continued apparently throughout the Barber series. Type I: wing at left covers less than half of E in UNITED, allowing middle serif to be plainly visible; wing at r. free of upright of R in AMERICA. Cf. WGC: 259. Scarcer than Type II, though not rare.



**1892 Quarter. Type II. Ex a complete set in QS 11/76:1275**

— Type II: Wing at left covers more than half of E in UNITED, including middle serif; wing at r. covers much of upright of R. WGC: 258. This is the one more often seen, probably twice as often as the first. Minute positional die varieties of obv. (placement of date only). Rainbow toning found often on examples of both types. Much hoarded and popular as first year of issue.



**1892 Half dollar. Ex a complete set in QS 11/76:1275**  
**Half Dollar.** [1245] No type change and only two

microscopic variations in position of date. Too many beautifully toned examples have fallen victims to cyanide or baking soda paste. Hoarded as first year of issue but not to such a large extent as the quarters. Always available for a price.



**1892 Dollar. Ex a complete set in QS 11/76:1275**

**Silver Dollar.** [1245] Subject to speculator pressure, like the 1891 and for much the same reasons. Equally subject to poisonous dips or scouring. VAM 1.

**Silver proof sets.** [1245] Relatively few of these can be traced today, probably most of them having been broken up for the Barber silver coins, others being reassembled as usual.

**Quarter Eagle.** [105] \*B-1. Date to left, left base of 1 about touches center of defective dentil. Very popular owing to date collector pressure affecting the 2,440 business strikes, whose survivors have date to r., 2 close to end of truncation, left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge of dentil. Fairly often seen in proof state, usually nicked up; rare perfect. Auction record \$2,300 for "Rio Rancho":103 ex "Gilhausen":256, followed by \$1,700 in Ullmer:506, but I could not swear to anything about the latter coin, as I saw none of these. Some early business strikes are masquerading as proofs, or trying to.

**Half Eagle.** [92] Date very low and to left. Possibly under thirty survive. Few auction records, most recently \$2,700 in Ullmer; plus those in the sets, below.

**Eagle.** [72] Low date. Rarest denomination of the year. Auction records: Wolfson:764; Golden II:2152; PNG 10/65; Ullmer:502, nicked, \$3,250; few earlier ones, not traced to present or recent owners; plus those in the sets (below).

**Double Eagle.** [93] \*B-1. Date minutely above center, slanting up a little to r., left base of 1 above space. Rev. First line of 6th stripe thin; top of r. claw and r. tail feather broken. Knife-rim plainest at upper r. obv. Under heavy date collector pressure because few survive of the 4,430 business strikes. Possibly 17 or 18 proofs survive. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Dunham:2336. (5) Boyd, WGC:892, probably reappearing as "Memorable": 712. (6) Atwater: 1284, Geiss:2017, hairlined, nicked. (7) Bell I, Eliasberg, "H. R. Lee", NN 49:158, cleaned. (8) Dr. Green:761, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (9) 1962 N.Y. Metropolitan: 1542. (10) Wolfson:956. (11) PNG 10/65:696. (12) Ullmer:534, \$16,000. (13) Breen II:131, \$10,000. Plus those in the

sets. These probably include a few duplications.

The rare business strikes — some of them proof like — have 1 centered between bust and border, its left base nearly over r. edge; rev. stripes progressively thinner to r., neck feathers fragmented, lys below beak fragmented.



#### 1892 Gold proof set. part of complete set in QS 11/76:1275

**Gold proof sets.** Not more than 72 could have been made, that being the mintage of eagles. At present seven are traced (which is above average), three in the complete sets below, the others as follows: (4) PNG 10/65, probably broken up; (5) Eliasberg, (6) E. Coast private collection, (7) a set traced from the Mint to the father of an old California collector, thence to the Gauglers in Long Beach (ca. 1963), offered at a then high \$5,500, the coins being perfectly preserved, even the double eagle.

**Complete proof sets.** SI, from Mint, from Coiner Feb. 1; ANS, ex Brock, Morgan. The set in QS 11/76:1275 has every appearance of being original but no documentation is available; its quarter dollar is Type II. In addition to the full 10-piece set, the Mint Cabinet received two sets of Barber silver, Jan. 7, at \$1.70 (face \$1.75!), and on June 30 "for exchange" one gold proof set with four extra double eagles at \$117.50 face. It is not known who got these from the Mint nor for what rarities.

**Commemoratives. Columbian Half Dollar.** SI (no accession date); Newcomb II: 869; and possibly a dozen others seen to date. No record of proof mintage, no reliable guess available. The proofs show that only mirror fields but broad flat rims with sharp inner and outer edges, all central details brought up including ends of Columbus's hair and *complete seams on sails* as well as complete lines on globes, hull, and waves. There may be two pairs of proof dies. Many deceptive early business strikes exist.

### 1893

**In this year, the Philadelphia Mint installed its first hydraulic press for striking proofs. No change in appearance of the coins.**

**Cent.** [2192] Several microscopic positional varieties only. Similar to 1892 in physical properties.

**Five Cents.** [2195] Recut 1. Very scarce. LM 11/65:211.

— Normal date, high with 1 close to bust. LM 11/65:212.

— Normal date, lower with 1 nearer border than bust. LM 11/65:210; Garrett set, others.

Which of the latter two is scarcer cannot yet be determined. There may be other positional varieties. Examples of the three above named were in Lester Merkin's November 1965 auction; the last two varieties brought lower amounts.

**Minor proof sets.** [2192] Much the same comment as to 1892.

**Dimes.** [792] B-3. Normal date. There may be two minute positional variants. This is the variety usually seen.

— \*B-4. Die file marks in 93, especially the 3, very strongly — to obliterate traces of overdate? Edward Piontkowski collection, and no duplicate seen despite examination of many dozens of specimens since. This one is evidently rare. I bring up the suspicion of why the die file marks, because several plain overdates exist (the discovery coin being an uncirculated piece I found in New York and sold to Henri Heller; it was illustrated on the front page of *Coin World* some years ago).

— \*B-5. 1893/92. Heavily repunched date, some traces of 2, mostly effaced, 93 filled. (1) Ruby I: 1051 at \$2,500. (2) Hirt (1975 GENA II): 1163. Two others

reported.

**Quarters.** [792] No notable varieties. Much scarcer than 1892 but not as popular. Too often comes badly cleaned.

**Half Dollar.** [792] Same comment as to quarter.

**Silver Dollar.** [792] VAM —: closed 9 and 3, no recutting, left base of 1 over center. Priced high due to much speculator activity both in proofs and in uncirculated. The 1893's were formerly considered very rare, then John Ford and two others obtained a quantity of bagmarked unc. examples from Treasury sources in New York during the late 1950's. But the speculators have absorbed most of these since then and the price has once again climbed, to the pleasure of those who had been holding on to their proofs.

**Silver proof sets.** [792] Originals from mint wrappers appear to have mostly gone into obscurity since the mid 1950's. Most of the 792 were broken up on behalf of collectors wanting the silver dollar. Garrett's brought \$2,500.

**Quarter Eagle.** [106] \*B-1. Lower knobs of extra 93 left of bases of those digits; not an overdate. For some reason, rather less often seen in proof than the 1892, though the latter is a lower mintage item in proof and non-proof. Possibly more 1893's are impounded in estates, bank vaults or dealers' stocks. Auction record \$1,700 in Ullmer:386.

**Half Eagle.** [77] Date well to left. Very rare, seldom offered. Only one recent auction record — Ullmer:466, \$5,250. Cf. Kern:404.

**Eagle.** [55] Date low, slanting up; left base of 1 almost over r. edge; disconnected curls behind neck. Rev. Missing feather below second red stripe, like the 1894 (same die?). Extremely rare, less than two dozen survivors, possibly under 15. Auction record \$4,500 in Garrett:384, but this piece was rubbed on eyebrow.

**Double Eagle.** [59] Less rare than the eagle, but surely under 30 survivors. Two varieties. Date low, placed to left: Wolfson 959; 76 ANA:3276; date to right, Ullmer:535, \$20,000; 76 ANA:3275.

**Gold proof sets.** Not over 55 and possibly not over 50 made. One of these was probably represented by the four Wolfson coins. Two others survive as part of the complete sets. Cf. Ten Eyck:334.

**Complete proof sets.** SI and ANS as usual. Former from Coiner, March 13, at face. Latter from Mint, R. C. W. Brock, J. Pierpont Morgan.

**Commemoratives. 1893 Columbian.** Proofs exist of this also; SI (no accession date on record), Newcomb II:870 and about two dozen others. No reliable basis for guessing at mintage. Deceptive early strikes abound, and the only way to be sure your coin — or that being offered in a catalogue, etc. — is a proof is the method described for the 1892 Columbian.



### 1893 Isabella Quarter

— **Isabella Quarter.** First struck June 16, 1893. Real proofs are very rare, less than fifteen seen in all. The mirrorlike fields are at least equal to those found on proofs of the regular designs of the year; relief details are extremely sharp, most notably on head and drapery and line of yarn from spindle to distaff on reverse, and on *all* parts of hair and headdress, jewels, etc., on obverse. Rims are unusually broad, sometimes a full half mm. wider than on normal examples, with sharp inner and outer edges. Compare Smithsonian, Newcomb II: 836, Dr. Green: 1448. I have seen nine in the past 15 years in dealers' hands, but there are dangerous early strikes. No record of mintage, but certainly the number would be smaller than of the halves. The documented fourth specimen issued, very deeply toned, called "prooflike", was KS 5/66:1430.

### 1894

**Cent.** [2632] Normal date only. Golden to brown, usually. In much speculative demand because of pressure on unc. coins.

**Five Cents.** [2632] Normal date. Always available for a price.

— Plainly recut 4, scarcer.

Favored, if that is the appropriate word, with much speculator activity because of the mintage of ONLY 5.4 million business strikes. O joy, O bliss, O rarity, O hogwash. And so one of the four largest proof mintages from 1890 through the end of the series was pushed up to \$125 listings and auction records, like the cent, long before the neighboring dates caught up.

**Minor proof sets.** [2632] Most of these have been broken up and divided among hoarders of cents and hoarders of nickels.

**Dime.** [972] All proofs seen so far have 4 free of truncation, but as some business strikes have the 4 touching truncation it is possible that this kind of positional variant may also exist on proofs. Always available at a price, but the growing unavailability of business strikes (mintage 1.33 million) save in About Good or cleaned Unc. has contributed to date collector pressure on the proofs. A hoard of nearly 100 specimens was broken up in New York in the middle 1960's; many were handled by Lester Merkin and Q. David Bowers. Many of these have rounded rev. borders.

For the 1894 S dime see *Branch Mint Proofs*, below.

**Quarter.** [972] Very popular and too often offered badly cleaned. Same comment on die varieties as to the dime. A peculiarity of proof and nonproof coins of this denomination, ca. 1893-1909 and possibly later, is the frequent appearance of a peculiar knife-rim ("wire edge") following the curvature of flutings or reedings on edge, even on coins not outstandingly well struck up: collar failure? dies minutely too small?

**Half Dollar.** [972] Some have recutting within triangle of 4. 1974 GENA:1647. Others have normal date high, to right. LM 9/67:268. Same comments as to 10¢, 25¢. Usually only available badly cleaned.

**Silver Dollar.** [972] Low mintage of business strikes and lower availability initiated intense date collector pressure on proofs, resulting in auction records of \$575 to \$630. Unfortunately, many proofs have been cleaned to death. VAM —: Date far r., left base of 1 over space, closed 9. Rev., reused on 1895 coins, has two spines slanting down to r. through two lowest outer berries on left branch (which fade); tiny bar joins two outer leaves next to stem nearest U, at the angle where they meet.

**Silver proof sets.** [972] Most were broken up long ago, to accommodate collectors needing the silver dollar. Some have since been reassembled. Garrett's, \$3000.

**Quarter Eagle.** [122] \*B-1. Centered date to left, left base of 1 very close to r. edge of dentil, r. base of 4 r. of center. Microscopic wart on chin (fades). Rev. scattered die file marks around periphery of shield. The deceptive early strikes are from B-2 dies: date high, left base of 1 left of center of dentil. Popular, as only 4000 regulars were coined, so that date collectors have put pressure on proofs. Garrett:519 brought \$2,000; Ullmer:387, \$1,900.

**Half Eagle.** [75] Date slants up to right, 4 unusually close to truncation, left base of 1 center, r. base of 4 over r. edge. Rarest proof half eagle 1892-1907; seldom available. Garrett:517, cleaned, \$1,900; Ullmer:467, hairlined, \$2,500.

**Eagle.** [43] Low date slanting up, left base of 1 r. of left edge, r. base of 4 over center. Rev. Four stripes thin, feathers incomplete below 2nd red stripe. Very rare. High water mark, 74 ANA:926, \$10,000! Few earlier records, notably Wolfson:774, KS2/60:2743, S 10/70. Garrett's brought only \$3600, but it was not well struck up on eyebrow, coronet or upper stars.

**Double Eagle.** [50] Date about centered, left base of 1 and r. base of 4 over r. edges of dentils, 4 farther from border than 1. Not quite as rare as the eagle, but many of the couple of dozen survivors are cleaned or nicked up. (1) SI. (2) ANS. (3) Eliasberg. (4) Garrett's, \$6,500. (5) Boyd, WGC. (6) Atwater:1286, Dr. Green:763, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (7) Baldenhofer:1578, probably to Wolfson:963. (8)

Neumoyer:2684, nicked and scratched. (9) KS 2/60 set. During the 1960's several others were playing Musical Bourse Tables.

**Gold proof sets.** No more than 43, possibly under 40 made, mostly broken up. Besides the two in the complete sets below, Garrett's was dispersed at a total of \$14,000, and another was KS 2/60:2981-84.

**Complete proof sets.** SI, from Mint, from Coiner Feb. 7, at only \$39.40 (face \$39.41). Also ANS, from Mint, Brock, Morgan, as usual. Others may survive. I suspect, in particular, that the Clapp-Eliasberg coins from now through about 1907 represent complete sets directly from the mint. No auction records.

## 1895

**Cent.** [2062] Several minor varieties.

— Repunched 895. Very rare. NN 51:749. Is this a proof-only variety?

— Recut 9. Merkin 11/65:173.

— Normal date. This is the one usually found. Brilliant golden to brown when not poorly cleaned.

**Five Cents.** [2062] Normal dates, minute positional varieties only.

**Minor proof sets.** [2062] same comment as to 1892.

**Dime.** [880] Without repunching on date. Auction records \$230 to \$325, explainable by a more intense version of the story given for 1894, which see; lower business strike mintage also has something to do with it.

**Quarter.** [880] Same comment as to 1894. Date heavy.

**Half Dollar.** [880] Several minor varieties.

— Normal date. The one usually found.

— Upper serif of 1 plainly repunched. 1974 GENA:1648.

The majority of these have been poorly cleaned. A "one-sided proof" was in "Gilhausen": 1107.

\* (?) **Silver Dollar.** [880] As of June 30 some 12,000 business strikes were reported coined. By law these had to bear the 1895 date. Yet no business strike has been positively established to exist — aside from forgeries created by altering date (transferring a 5 from an 1885, or a 9 from some later date) or more often by removing mintmarks. However, some of the proofs were spent; at least three impaired or frankly circulated ones were recovered from bank sacks in the 1960's. I authenticated two of these and saw the third. A similar event doubtless accounts for the "authenticated business strike" recently publicized; I examined this coin and it is from B-2 dies (below). Forgeries can be spotted by using a microscope (preferably binocular) at the 95 and where a mintmark might have been. Any indication of tooling is grounds for suspicion, but the critical area is where numerals meet the field. It may be necessary to tilt the coin up to nearly a vertical plane to check this. In the absence of a binocular microscope, the following may help:

All genuine 1895's examined to date come from one or other of the following dies.



**1895 Dollar. Breen 1. Note the filled 9. Ex QS 11/76:1234**

\* **B-1.** Base of 1 slightly more than thickness of upright of 1 above dentils, but still closer to them than are star points. Date slants up to right. Left base of 1 well to r. of center of dentil, r. base of 1 a little r. of left edge; knob of 5 mostly over r. half of dentil, top of 5 points well above top of adjacent star. *Recutting below top left serif of 1*, which may fade out. *Lower part of 9 filled* but may exist normal. Die file marks slant up to r., plainest in toe of L and upper left serif of B. Reverse of 1894 above described, with the spines. Rothert:378, Paxman:829 (enlarged ill.), QS 11/76:1234. This is the less scarce of the two varieties.



**1895 Dollar. Breen 2. Ex QS 11/76:1627.**

\***B-2.** Base of 1 less than thickness of upright of 1 above dentils. Left base of 1 almost over left edge, r. base of 1 about over center; knob of 5 above space, top of 5 points at top of a star. *Hollow near initial M*, at ear and parts of hair. Rev. Similar but spines not visible. Marks:691 (enlarged ill.); QS 11/76:1627. This is scarcer, possibly half as often met with as preceding.

Probably all 12 bags of business strikes (1,000 each) were included in the meltage of 270,232,722 dollars for export to British India as ingots and for domestic coinage, pursuant to the Act of April 23, 1918. The 1963-65 run on the Treasury and later searches located no 1895 Philadelphia dollars. Rumors that a Chicago underworld syndicate turned up a sack about 1960 have remained unverified, not even one specimen showing up. Underworld characters seldom bother to wait 16+ years to take their profits. Had even one such coin been released, it would have been front page news. We may guess that the Chicago sack either contained coins of some other date and/or mint, or

that it was a figment of someone's imagination. That would not be the first time some such rumor reached print, giving birth to excited speculations and "Lo, here!" 's, only to be forgotten when the fabulous coins proved to be something quite other than drunken imagination would insist.

A very old Westchester County collector maintained for many years (1940's — 60's) that he owned an uncirculated 1895, but he never got around to exhibiting the coin. His own mention that its color and surfaces were atypical rouses my suspicion that it was either a drastically cleaned ex-Proof or a forgery. In this instance, it is definitely unsafe to presume genuineness until falsity is disproven.

As a result of this total disappearance of business strikes, date collector pressure on proofs has sent pieces into orbit somewhere over the heads of most of the astronauts; one might even say well into the Van Allen belt, though Lord knows if the co-author of the dollar book ever owned an 1895. Auction records have recurrently been in the \$6,000 to \$8,500 range. Several small hoards exist. The coin is always available for a price — but what a price!

Van Allen cites quarterly mintages: 290, 180, 90 and 320, all for sets.

**Silver proof** sets. [880] These used to be offered fairly frequently — perhaps the same six or eight sets being reoffered — between about 1947 and 1953. Now the original sets have mostly been broken up in order to sell the dollar separately. Some have naturally been reassembled. Garrett's brought \$11,500. Quarterly mintages as above.

**Quarter Eagle.** [119] B-1. Date slants up to r., left base of 1 r. of center of dentil, minute point down from lower part of bun. Same dies used on, apparently, all proofs and some business strikes. Other business strikes — including, alas, some very deceptive prooflike ones — are from B-2 dies: date higher, 5 close to bust, left base of 1 over r. edge. Many proofs are nicked up. Ullmer:388, "perfectly splendid," brought \$1,800; "Rio Rancho":104, ex "Gilhausen":259, \$2,200; Breen II:664, \$2,450.

**Half Eagle.** [81] Rare, though sometimes available for a price — generally now in low to middle four figures. Garrett:522 brought \$2,200.

**Eagle.** [56] Date begins low, slants up to r., left base of 1 left of center; polish at IB, Y and eye; floating curls behind neck. Under 30 survive, possibly under 25. Not many auction records recent enough to mean anything: KS 2/60:2814; Wolfson:778; S. S. Forrest; Ullmer:503 ("rainspot" between 4th and 5th stars), \$6,250; Garrett:521; Kern:527; Rovensky:1672.

**Double Eagle.** [51] In date 1 about central between bust and border, its left base slightly r. of center. In the same rarity class as the eagle, give or take 3 or 4 coins each way. Wolfson:965 may possibly have been a reappearance of Bell I — Baldenhofer: 1580.

Garrett's (one tiny spot) realized \$7,250. Others have been playing Musical Bourse Tables, mostly nicked up.

**Gold proof sets.** Not more than 51 could have been made and probably 45 to 50 would be more nearly correct. No late auction records, except Garrett's, totalling \$15,500. Sets are included in the complete sets. Cf. Ten Eyck:336.

**Complete proof sets.** Smithsonian, from Mint, from Coiner; ANS, from Mint, Brock, Morgan. Probably others exist: see under 1894.

## 1896

**Cent.** [1862] Normal date; much like 1894-95 in physical properties. Has been hoarded, as apparently have 1894-95. Sometimes with faint recutting atop 6.

— Normal 6. Rarely, scattered horizontal die file marks on lower bust, neck, curls; plain die file mark nearly vertically down from eye.

**Five Cents.** [1862] Hoarded and speculated in to a preposterous extent so that auction records of \$100-\$125 recurred in the middle 1960's (not much higher since). There is not even the excuse of low mintage here; this date has only the sixth lowest mintage of proof nickels of this design, and only the fifth lowest mintage of business strikes, yet it has the highest listing among Philadelphia nickels aside from the 1885, 1886, and 1894. See comment to 1894.

**Minor proof sets.** [1862] Formerly fairly frequent, mostly now broken up on behalf of nickelheaded — er — knuckleheaded nickel speculators.

**Dime.** [762] Date without recutting only. Available for a price.

**Quarter.** [762] Same comment.

**Half Dollar.** [762] Same comment. Usually comes poorly cleaned. There may be more than one minute positional variety.

**Silver Dollar.** [762] Same comments. This and the next few dates have lower proof mintages than others since the design began (save for 1887, 1890-91) but the speculators have not put quite so much pressure on them. VAM —: "near date," left base of 1 over space.

**Silver proof sets.** [762] Formerly available, some even in the original wrappers, but these have apparently mostly been dispersed, others assembled from individual coins. Garrett's went at \$2,500.

**Quarter Eagle.** [132] Date far to r., knob of 6 close to end of truncation, left base of 1 over left edge. Ullmer:389 brought \$1,800; Garrett's, \$1,700. As the mintage of business strikes is fairly low, the surprise is not to find more date collector pressure. Possibly there are enough uncirculated ones to go around.

**Half Eagle.** [103] Low date to left. Same comment; rarer coin, few auction records, much rarer than its mintage suggests. Garrett:526 brought \$2,200.

**Eagle.** [78] Date placed to left, about centered

between bust and border. Rarest denomination of the year in proof; few recent auction records. KS 2/60; Wolfson:782; DiBello: 1132; Garrett:525, \$4,800.

**Double Eagle.** [128] In date 1 minutely below center of space between bust and border; left base of 1 well to r. of center. Same comment as to 1894. Ullmer: 139 brought \$19,000, but the 3 or 4 others making the rounds of convention bourses have been uniformly quoted 20% to 30% below that depending on how many nicks show through the plastic holders. Breen II:139, ex Wolfson:967, obv. pin scratch opposite chin, slept at \$5,000: an expensive scratch.

**Gold proof sets.** Not over 78 could have been made, probably under 75; most have doubtless been dispersed. Garrett's totalled \$14,950 as individual coins. Cf. Ten Eyck:337.

**Complete proof sets.** SI; ANS; and for the rest see under 1894.

## 1897

**Cent.** [1938] Normal date. No peculiarities. Available in almost any color desired, natural or otherwise, the latter more often.

**Five Cents.** [1938] Normal date. Possibly 2 or 3 minute positional variants. Available in almost any color desired, though many of the more beautifully toned ones, traversing the rainbow, have gone to the cleaners — and come back again unrecognizable, the glory departed.

**Minor proof sets.** [1938] Same comment as to 1892.

**Dimes.** [731] Several positional varieties. B-1. 7 touches bust. Landau: 489.

— B-3. 7 free of bust, date not recut. Proofs are less often seen. There is also the anomalous piece sold as Landau:490, showing very weakly hubbed wreath; this had brilliantly polished dies on a blank of the same kind normally used for proofs, but the planchet received only one blow from them. I have not seen another example of this variety.

**Quarter.** [731] No special peculiarities. Too often cleaned.

**Half Dollar.** [731] Same comment, only more so.

**Silver Dollar.** [731] Ditto. Doubled and redoubled. VAM —: repunching on 1 below upper serif, microscopically on 8 near where loops join; "near date," closed 9. 1974 GENA: 1130, others.

**Silver proof sets.** [731] Same comment as to 1896. There may be still some few available as obtained from the mint, in estates and old collections; this remark holds true for the remaining years through 1915. Garrett's brought \$2500.

**Quarter Eagle.** [136] \*B-1. Two tiny dots in center at ear. Date slightly below center, left base of 1 left of center. Identical comment to 1896. Ullmer: 390 brought \$1,500; Garrett:531, \$1700; 1974 ANA:840, \$1950.

**Half Eagle.** [83] Date quite low, to left, slanting



up to r. Most recent auction records appear to be Garrett:530 at \$2,100, and Ullmer:468 at \$2,200. Compare also Wolfson: 2744 and KS 2/60. About as rare as 1895 and other low mintage dates in the earlier nineties. One of these is ex Kern:407.

**Eagle.** [69] Similar to B-3; low date, slanting up, base of 1 double punched. The rarest denomination of the date, probably under 40 surviving. Compare Schulman-Kreisberg, February 1960: 2819; Golden II: 2164, which may or may not be a reappearance of the same piece; Atwater, DiBello:1135; Ullmer:504 ("tiny blemish before face"), \$3,100; Garrett:529 at \$3800. Not often seen in the bourse display cases.

**Double Eagle.** [76] Low date slanting up. Rarer than 1896 but unappreciated. Not as often seen as some other dates in the nineties, but usually nicked up, e.g. Garrett:528 at \$6250. Compare Wolfson:969, which may be a reappearance of Baldenhofer: 1585; DiBello :1295; LM3/67:487, gem. All these are white — er, golden — elephants and there have been, so far, fewer collectors than coins available.

**Gold proof sets.** Not more than 69 could be made, as that was the mintage of eagles; 65 would be a more likely number. Garrett's totalled \$13,850. No other records for any four-piece sets unless indeed one was represented by the Wolfson coins.

**Complete proof sets.** Same comment as to 1894.

## 1898

**Cent.** [1795] No notable peculiarities. Very much like earlier dates in the decade; the date looks too wide for proper proportion to devices. There may be minuscule positional varieties.

**Five Cents.** [1795] Normal date, ANS and most others. Available in almost any color desired; most often available in unnatural white with scrub marks.

— Final 8 exceptionally heavy and in higher relief than 189, probably cut over another digit. Very rare. Hirt:1120 (Pine Tree 11/75).

— Recut date, the logotype twice punched in imperfect alignment. NN 51:479. Very rare, less than six seen.

**Minor proof sets.** [1795] Same comment as to 1892. Some of these were floating around as late as the mid fifties.

**Dime.** [735] Normal date, without recutting. Identical comment as to the nickel.

— "Overdate." Part of another digit slants up to r. within lower loop of final 8. "Gilhousen":494.

**Quarter.** [735] No special peculiarities. Same comment.

**Half Dollar.** [735] Ditto. It is now very seldom that one is offered that has *not* been cleaned.

**Silver Dollar.** [735] Ditto, only worse. VAM 2.

**Silver proof sets.** [735] Same comment as to 1897. Except for Garrett :323 at \$2,600, no records for original sets traceable to the mint recent enough to quote.

**Quarter Eagle.** [165] Date well to r. Rarer than its mintage suggests, and quite a few are damaged. Record undamaged, Ullmer:391, \$1,600; Garrett:535, \$1,500.

**Half Eagle.** [75] Low date, very rare and seldom offered; a sleeping golden elephant. Record \$3,750 in Ullmer, trailed by \$2,300 in Garrett:534.

**Eagle.** [67] \*B-4. Low date slanting up to r., left base of 1 r. of center, last white stripe partly filled. Same comment only doubled. Wolfson's was badly cleaned and therefore slept on; Delp:813 was hairlined, possibly ex S 5/68:865; Ullmer:505 brought \$7,250; Garrett:533 remained somnolent at \$4,200, as did Breen II :280 at the same figure. Cf. Kern:530.

**Double Eagle.** [75] \*Low date placed too far r.; left base of 1 minutely r. of left edge of dentil; rev. line slants down to r., grazing r. point of 6th star (in upper row). This is one of the low mintage Philadelphia dates which has lately begun to stimulate date collector pressure. There are about enough proofs to satisfy the blue chip specialists, though. Auction record \$7,250 in Garrett:532. Not too many have lately shown up in the bourses. Possibly 30-odd survive, including the really badly nicked ones and the hairlined pieces such as S 5/68:868, or QS 9/73 reappearing as **Hirt:1731**, etc. Cf. Kern:618.

**Gold proof sets.** Probably not more than 64 or 65 minted. Garrett's was dispersed, totalling \$15,250; no others lately offered. Cf. Ten Eyck:339.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1894. I saw one offered about 1952 allegedly as original but am not prepared to swear that it actually was.

## 1899

**Cent.** [2031] Normal date only. There may be minute positional variants. Record \$160, Garrett coll.

**Five Cents.** [2031] Normal date only; same comment. Often with lovely blue tone, or at least this used to be true.

**Minor proof sets.** [2031] As in 1898. Several times in the late 1950's I had opportunities to buy sets in envelopes labeled by former owners as having come directly from the Mint. These normally showed golden to brown toning on the nickels and irregular toning on cents.

**Dime.** [846] Normal date only. No special peculiarities.

**Quarter.** [846] Same comment. Too often available only cleaned.

**Half Dollar.** [846] There may be as many as three minute positional variants; one with minute recutting on base of 1 (1974 GENA: 1653). Uncleaned ones are the exception and deserve to be cherished.

**Silver Dollar.** [846] Ditto, VAM 1, hollow below M, open 9's. Records a little higher than for other dates in this period (except 1904) owing to vigorous speculator activity in uncirculated pieces. One may be charitable

and say that the speculators' squirreling of the latter has forced date collectors to seek proofs — or perhaps more realistic and guess that here, as before, the date collectors have continued to regard proofs erroneously as a sort of super-unc. grade and bid them up accordingly.

**Silver Proof sets.** [846] Formerly quite a few were available. Now most of them appear to have been dispersed owing to collector demands for the silver dollar. Others, as usual, have been assembled from individual coins. Wayte Raymond had quite a few of this and later sets, most of them though not all similarly dispersed. Garrett's brought \$2500.

**Quarter Eagle.** [150] Two varieties. B-1. Centered date, left base of 1 over r. edge.

B-2: Date slants up, left base of 1 r. of center, die file mark through TY, many others in first white stripe. Same comment as to 1898; not much date collector pressure here, though. Ullmer's was nicked but brought \$1,300; Garrett:539, \$1,800. Many others lately offered have been cleaned to death.

**Half Eagle.** [99] Low date to left, 9 farther from border than 1. Rarer but unappreciated. Garrett:538 brought \$2,300. Wolfson's may have been a reappearance of Baldenhofer: 1888. Almost a forgotten coin.

**Eagle.** [86] \*B-5. Centered date, base of 1 (and, microscopically, also of 8) repunched; left base of 1 almost over r. edge of dentil. Breen II:281 brought \$4,000; Garrett:537, \$4,500. Much rarer than commonly believed; seldom shows up.

**Double Eagle.** [84] Date low and placed to right. This one is practically the archetype of the golden elephant. Auction record \$5,750 (slide marked on cheek) in Ullmer, trailed by \$5,000 in Garrett:536, \$2,900 in 1964 ANA, \$2,425 in PNG 10/65; and about eight other records 1956-65 in the \$1,400 — \$1,900 range. Most of these coins do not appear to have found even semi-permanent homes (what the Social Register calls "dilatatory domiciles"); they show up again and again in bourses, or else their twin sisters do, moving if at all only to other dealers.

**Gold proof sets.** Probably about 80 made. Garrett's totalled \$13,600. Col. Green had another (assembled?) which was dispersed after its half eagle turned out to bear an S mintmark (see *Branch Mint Proofs*, below). I have seen at least three others but am reasonably sure these too have been broken up.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1894. Several were being offered as original sets back about 1951-53 but there was no documentation on them.

## 1900

**Cent.** [2062] No peculiarities. The figure of 2262 in standard references appears to be a typographical error originating with the Bureau of the Mint, but of this we cannot be absolutely certain.

**Five Cents.** [2062] Normal date. Coins in this decade too often come spotty, perhaps accounting for redoubled activity on the part of the scrub brush boys.

**Minor proof sets.** [2062] Same comment as to 1899.

**Dime.** [912] Normal date, no recutting. Too often cleaned.

**Quarter.** [912] Same comment.

**Half Dollar.** [912] As in 1899. Minor positional varieties possible.

**Silver Dollar.** [912] VAM —: obv. VAM 7, low "very near" date, rev. C4 like 1901, large stars. At least the speculators have not bothered with this one, the only nineteen-hundred-and-anything Morgan dollar of which that can be said. (Now watch them start.)

**Silver proof sets.** [912] As in 1899. Garrett's, \$2,400.

**Quarter Eagle.** [205] \*B-1. Base of 1 and parts of 9 repunched; die file mark down from base of T; left base of 1 almost over r. edge. Usually available for a price. That used to be \$275 to \$300 but is now five to six times as much. Uncleaned ones are probably worth it: Ullmer's, "sensational," brought \$1,900, and S. S. Forrest:540 — Breen II:668, \$2,200. Compare "Cicero":345, Golden II:1862, Wolfson:243, Garrett:543. Possibly the least rare proof of the design.

**Half Eagle.** [230] \*B-1. Plainly doubled stars. Rare. Discovery coin: NN 51:991.

— B-2. Normal stars and date. Ullmer:470 (nicked) at \$1,350 may have been this variety; ditto those in KS 2/60, Wolfson, Stadiem, and Garrett's at \$2,200.

**Eagle.** [120] B-4. Low date, to right; left base of 1 almost over r. edge. Less often seen than its mintage suggests, and might legitimately be called rare. Auction records, Ullmer:506, \$6,250, trailed by \$4,400 in Garrett. Too many are impaired, e.g. Golden II, Merkin 9/74, and the ghastly eraser job in KS 2/60. Why do people do such things to coins?

**Double Eagle.** [124] New hub from now on through 1907: back of eagle's neck smooth. Date centered and placed too far to right. Same comment as to 1899 and more are available, though too many of them are nicked and scratched. Auction record \$6,250 (cloudy, cleaned) in Ullmer: 538, probably the high water mark. Another was in the 1964 ANA Convention sale. Two were in the Feb. 1960 Schulman-Kreisberg sale, first with a cheek scratch, second choice. There are probably twenty floating around the bourses now, maybe 70 or 80 surviving in all.

**Gold proof sets.** Probably between 115 and 120 made, many of them broken up, e.g. Garrett's, totalling \$13,650. These used to be fairly often seen, and they are not unknown even now. Schulman's 1951 auction of material from the B. G. Johnson estate, etc., had such a four-piece set as lot 1389. Compare also that in the J. W. Schmandt offering of February 1956 and those in S 5/57:658; 1976 ANA:2917. This is entirely aside from Wayte Raymond's dispersed holdings and those included in the complete sets.



**Complete proof sets.** Same comment as to 1899. No Lafayette dollars known in proof.

## 1901

**Cent.** [1985] No special peculiarities.

**Five Cents.** [1985] Ditto. Several minuscule positional variants.

**Minor proof sets.** [1985] Same comment as to 1899.

**Dime.** [813] New obverse hub; leaves longer, N in UNITED notably farther from ribbon. Really a type coin but not yet so recognized. Some proofs have bases of 01 plainly recut: "Gilhausen":505.

**Quarter.** [813] New obverse hub: leaves longer, berries larger and in apparently higher relief; more details in ear and part of hair; same comment as to the dime. Now that I have publicized the design change, type collectors may eventually start looking for this relatively neglected date. Too often available only cleaned.

**Half Dollar.** [813] New obverse hub, the changes the same as in the quarter; same comment. Auction record for a Simon pure gem *virgo intacta*, beautifully toned, a then extraordinary \$135 in Merkin 11/65; it would probably quadruple that figure today. So much for claims that toned coins won't sell.

**Silver Dollar** [813] VAM 4: obv. hollows below M and in hair, rev. type C4. Too often available only rubbed and scrubbed. Under severe date collector pressure because business strikes are seldom available in mint state, almost none having shown up in Treasury sacks; available pieces are usually worn.

**Silver proof sets.** [813] As in 1899.

**Quarter Eagle.** [223] \*B-1. Date about central, left base of first 1 left of center, r. base of final 1 r. of left edge; minute chip on temple, scattered criss-cross die file marks in shield, which fade. Ullmer's brought \$1,700 — about current market value.

**Half Eagle.** [140] Rarer than mintage figure suggests; no auction records recent enough to give a fair idea of value. Private sale records 1974-5 said to exceed \$3,000.

**Eagle.** [85] \*B-4. Minute recutting on bases of 19 and inside top of 0; hollow below ear; low date slanting up, left base of 1 left of center, r. base of final 1 almost over r. edge. Too often available only nicked or cleaned. Auction record \$3,250 for Ullmer's slightly impaired one; a perfect piece might bring 50% more.

**Double Eagle.** [96] Date collector attention has pushed this one up a bit. Auction record and probable high water mark, \$6,250 in 1974 ANA, followed by \$4,750 in Ullmer (few minute nicks as usual), trailed by the Dines-Delp coin at \$3,300. Perhaps between one third and one half as many were recently offered as for 1900, and they have exceeded the latter except for Wolfson's and 1964 ANA's. John J. Ford is probably

to be credited with calling collector attention to the fact that in choice mint state these late Philadelphia twenties are anything but "common gold" (except for 1904), stimulating spirited auction bidding since the early 1960's.

**Gold proof sets.** Probably about 80 to 85 were made. For some reason, fewer are around than of 1900, though one was offered in Schulman's 1951 auction of the B. G. Johnson material, and another (the same?) in QS 9/73:998.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1899.

## 1902

**Cent.** [2018] From now on through 1909 Indian, devices are semi-brilliant, though less noticeably so than in higher denominations. No special peculiarities. Always available for a price.

**Five Cents.** [2018] From now through 1912, devices are semi-brilliant, though not as noticeably as on higher denominations. At least two positional varieties.

— In date 1 centered between bust and border. LM 11/65:213, others.

— Low date, 1 almost touches border. LM 11/65:214; ANS; others. It is premature to say which is scarcer. Other minute positional varieties may exist. Too many of the date have been cleaned, and some of the scrub brush boys did not even bother to remove the scouring powder traces from around stars, numerals, and letters. Back in the middle and late fifties I attempted to remove this foreign matter from several hundred proofs ca. 1895-1912, using organic solvents or degreasing agents. Success was dubious. Why do so many proofs in this period come with unsightly stains — or evidence of cleaning to remove them? Did the mint begin using even more sulfurous paper to wrap them?

**Minor proof sets.** [2018] As in 1899.

**Dime.** [777] No peculiarities. Same comment as to the 5¢. From now through 1915, devices are semi-brilliant (not frosty as before) on all silver denominations.

**Quarter.** [777] Ditto.

**Half Dollar.** [777] Double ditto. Same comment as to 1899 except no recut dates.

**Silver Dollar.** [777] Likewise. The speculator activity now centers mostly on proofs. VAM 2.

**Silver proof sets.** [777] As in 1899.

**Quarter Eagle.** [193] Often available for a price. That in the Ullmer sale was \$1,300. From now through 1907, devices are semi-brilliant on all gold denominations, not frosty.

**Half Eagle.** [162] Rare, no recent enough auction records for unimpaired ones to give a fair idea of value; Ullmer's, cleaned, went at \$2,600. Private sale records supposedly in excess of \$3000, like the 1901; not much attention paid to minor differences in rarity among these.

**Eagle.** [113] Low date. Favored with date collector attention of late, as the business strikes have turned out to be hard to find choice, the mintage low enough to raise some eyebrows, highlighted by much commoner neighbors. Compare Ullmer: 508 (slide mark on jaw) at \$3,200; that in the February 1960 Schulman-Kreisberg sale: 2826, which was a beauty; Wolfson's; and that in 1964 ANA Convention sale.

**Double Eagle.** [114] Date a little above center. By now famous from date collector attention; lowest business strike mintage of the period (1893-1907). Auction record \$4,500 in Ullmer (field rubbing) followed by \$2,700, 1964 ANA Convention. Wolfson's was not even close. Most of the small number floating around the bourses have been nicked up.

**Gold proof sets.** Not more than 113 could have been made, probably fewer, say 105 to 100. Cf. lot 1391, B. G. Johnson estate, in Schulman 1951 sale; J. W. Schmandt's; and that in the May 1957 auction.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1899.

### 1903

**Cent.** [1790] Minute positional variants only.

**Five Cents** [1790] Minor positional variants, at least three. Normal date, no recutting on 3. Same comment as to the 1902. Sometimes with rev. 180° from normal; 1973 GENA: 188.

**Minor proof sets.** [1790] These used to be common and were seen as late as the middle fifties, but most appear to have been broken up.

**Dime.** [755] Normal date only. No notable peculiarities.

**Quarter.** [755] Ditto. Many have been absolutely ruined by cleaning, perhaps a little more than other dates of the period.

**Half Dollar.** [755] As with the quarter.

**Silver Dollar.** [755] Speculator activity in uncirculated coins has once again forced up the price level on proofs. In very slight justification one might argue that there actually are fewer of them than of proof dollars of 1898-1902, to which I would add that more of the survivors have been cleaned to death. Why 1903 has been so hard hit I cannot even guess, unless exceptionally sulfurous mint wrappers were again in use this year. VAM 1, "near" date.

**Silver proof sets.** [755] Formerly common enough, of late hardly ever offered save as obviously assembled groups mostly of poorly cleaned pieces. The breaking up of earlier sets apparently was mostly on behalf of collectors of silver dollars. Garrett's brought \$2300.

**Quarter Eagle.** [197] Two minor varieties, date low and to r. on both, with and without obv. border die file marks 6:00-8:00. Often seen nicked, scratched and scrubbed. Auction records: \$1,000 in the Ullmer sale of May 1974, for one not described as impaired, \$1600 for Garrett's (cloudy).

**Half Eagle.** [154] Not nearly so often seen, but

too many have been cleaned and nicked, e.g. Wolfson's, Ullmer: 472, Garrett:506 at \$2000. No auction record unimpaired recent enough to give a fair idea of present day valuation. Same comment as to 1902.

**Eagle.** [96] Rare; identical comment as to half eagle. Uncleaned, this is a sleeper; Ullmer: 509 woke up at \$4,250, followed by Garrett's at \$4200.

**Double Eagle.** [158] Date slightly above center, slanting slightly down. Left base of 1 a little r. of left edge of a dentil. Same comment as to the half eagle. I cannot go along with the claim in the Wolfson catalogue that the date is so rare in proof as to suggest error in the mintage figures. Plenty of older records exist, but the modern ones are mostly of cleaned pieces. (Why 1903 has been so hard hit in the gold is more a mystery than with the silver: did the sulfurous mint wrappers affect the alloy?) Aside from Garrett's at \$6250, and Wolfson's, almost the only choice one auctioned in the last twenty years was that in KS 2/60; most others have been scrubbed or nicked up. Quoting the pathetic records on these would be a waste of time.

**Gold proof sets.** Not more than 96 could have been made, probably a few less. One was in the B. G. Johnson material, lot 1392 of the 1951 Schulman sale. Raymond and other early farsighted people had others. Garrett's, dispersed, totalled \$14,050.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1899. Those lately seen and privately offered (well into four figures) appear to have been assembled in recent years.

**Commemoratives. Jefferson Gold Dollar.** [100] (1) Smithsonian, from Coiner, April 18, 1903; see notice below McKinley. (2) ANS. (3) Dunham: 1886. (4) Neil: 2574. (5) "Memorable": 77 set. (6) 1951 Schulman sale: 1339, ex B.G. Johnson estate. (7) Miles: 310. (8) 1973 GENA; 575 at \$1,300. (9) Beck I: 597, \$2,300. I have seen about seven others privately offered. They are true brilliant proofs and show considerably more hair detail on both portraits than do the uncirculated coins, even the early strikes. At least three of these proofs are accompanied by framed affidavits certifying each to be one of the first 100 struck, signed by Supt. Landis and the Chief Coiner.

— **McKinley Gold Dollar.** [100] As above including the affidavits. (1) Smithsonian, from Coiner April 18, 1903 (see notice below). (2) ANS. (3) Neil: 2575. (4) "Memorable": 77 set. (5) Miles: 309. I have seen slightly fewer of these but do not consider the difference in rarity of much significance. A note in *Mint Cabinet Accounts and Memoranda*, dated April 18, 1903, is revealing enough: "Two pesos Filipinas: One gold dol. St. Louis Expo. "Jefferson"; One ditto, "McKinley" — from the Coiner. Gave 5 old Mexican Dollars in ex'ge for same — 5.00". The Philippine peso now in the Smithsonian is a proof, as are these commemoratives. We may take April 18 as the approximate date of issue of proofs. As June 28, 1902

was the date of the authorizing act, plainly the mint personnel took their jolly old time even from the beginning of 1903. This was perhaps understandable in that the coins were intended for a 1904 event.

Of tangential interest may be the remainder of the 1903 entries relevant to American accessions in the Mint Cabinet: "May 11. 2—50¢, 2—20¢, 2—10¢ Filipinas. Paid for same 2 old Mex Dol's 1806, 1807 @ 1.00 (each)". These Philippine coins are also proofs; but there is no reference to the centavo or half centavo.

## 1904

**Cent.** [1817] No peculiarities. Quite a few of these show flaming golden brilliance, the untarnished original color. Others come toned brown or various other hues, or have been cleaned to artificial pink.

**Five Cents.** [1817] No peculiarities. Same comment as to 1902.

**Minor proof sets.** [1817] As in 1903.

**Dime.** [670] No variations noticed. Lowest proof mintage of the design so far, but not really rare nor favored by speculators.

**Quarter.** [670] Normal date, two minuscule positional variants. The 4 does not quite touch truncation on either of these, though it does on some nonproofs. Same comment as to dime.

—Bases of 19 recut, date well to left, left base of 1 about in line with corner of truncation, "Gilhausen": 781.

**Half Dollar.** [670] As above. Most specimens have been cleaned to death. A little higher in auction records than the last few dates because of date collector attention.

**Silver Dollar.** [650] This lower figure is apparently not a typographical error. Has been in almost hysterical demand; several small hoards exist. Most of those now making the rounds of the bourses have been poorly cleaned. Prized as the last ordinarily available proof Morgan dollar, cleaned or not. VAM 1, closed 9.

**Silver proof sets.** [650?] It is possible, also, that some sets were issued without the dollar. Short sets of this description seen to date, however, have apparently been assembled. It is because of vexing questions like this, and like the earlier one of whether sets were issued in 1882-3 lacking the trade dollar, that I have stressed the composition of original sets. You can put anything into a set if you are building it up from an empty plastic holder; but we can all learn a great deal more from one found in the mint wrappers or original presentation case, especially if the dated mint invoice accompanies it. Garrett's (with the dollar) brought \$2,300.

**Quarter Eagle.** [170] \*B-1. "Center dot" at ear; low date left. Generally available for a price, more often than not nicked and scratched and/or cleaned.

— \*B-4. Similar "center dot"; date slants up to

right; base of 4 recut. Dr. Ruby, ex Wayte Raymond 2/47:699. Which is rarer? Records for the date (which varieties?), Ullmer \$1,700, Garrett \$1,600.

**Half Eagle.** [136] \*B-1. Date slants slightly up to r.; spine down from toe of L, left base 1 r. of left edge, r. base of 4 left of center. Rev. Outer leaf in upper group short, thin; upper outer berry clawlike; hollow in wing below (I)N. Much less often seen than the quarter eagle, or than the 1903 coin; a sleeper. Garrett's slept on at \$1,250. Most seen in recent years were marred by nicks and scratches.

**Eagle.** [108] High date slanting down, left base of 1 r. of center, r. base of 4 almost over r. edge. Same comment as to the half eagle, only more so. Very rare choice. Garrett's (nicked) brought \$3,400; 75ANA.1569, lintmarked, \$3,500; Ullmer's, slightly impaired, \$2,400. Not many other records — all too old for a price basis: Wolfson:803, Golden II:2176, Scanlon:2571 (from a set broken up in S 10/70).

**Double Eagle.** [98] Date to r., slanting down; left base of 1 barely r. of left edge, r. base of 4 r. of center of dentils. On the other hand, many more of these seem to have survived, even though most are nicked and scratched. Record \$7,500, Ullmer sale, trailed by \$5000 in Garrett, \$3800 in Breen II — not that much more than the \$2700 one brought in 1964 ANA.

Gold proof sets. Not over 98 could have been made, and the true number is probably a little smaller. One was in the B. G. Johnson estate (Schulman 4/51:1393). Another was in the Johnson consignment (coincidentally), S 1/58:353. A third was broken up in S 10/70. Others have been around from time to time mostly eventually dispersed. Garrett's totalled \$11,250.

**Complete proof sets.** Same comment as to 1903. In addition to the SI and ANS institutional sets, there is a *double* set in the Alipore (Calcutta) Mint Museum; occasion of presentation unknown.



1904 Lewis & Clark Gold Dollar

**Commemoratives. Lewis & Clark Gold Dollar.** Mintage unknown; exceedingly rare in proof. (1) SI, from Mint Cabinet, from Coiner Dec. 19, 1904 at face. There were originally two specimens, but the other one may have been since traded off. (2) ANS. (3) Neil:2376, possibly reappearing as Lahrman:538. (4) "Memorable":77 set. (5) A coin I saw at one of the

local conventions about 1958, possibly Central States. This may have been same as either of last two. Probably under 10 survive. It would be incorrect to characterize the odd 28 of the original coinage of 25,028 as proofs; they were almost certainly assay pieces instead.

### 1905

**Cent.** [2152] No special peculiarities. Often a little paler than 1904.

**Five Cents.** [2152] Ditto. As in 1903.

**Minor proof sets.** [2152] As in 1903.

**Dime.** [727] The peculiar marks within the 5 on proofs and on unc. examples of all mints are *not* evidence of overdate; they are characteristics of the date logotype made up for this year. Minute positional variants only, except for one die in which the 5 is actually double punched: "Gilhausen":518.

**Quarter.** [727] As in 1904.

**Half Dollar.** [727] As in 1904. Now popular because of a lower mintage than usual of business strikes, the lowest prior to the three famous and much hoarded final years. Too bad the popularity did not induce possessors to leave the coins Uncleaned.

**Silver proof sets.** [727] Many of these used to be around; many have been broken up in recent years on behalf of collectors wanting the half dollar. Garrett's brought \$1,600. Others seen lately are assembled.

**Quarter Eagle.** [144] \*B-1. Low date slanting up to right; left base of 1 over center. Rev. Scattered die file marks in shield. Usually available for a price — badly nicked or scrubbed. As a result, the prices realized do not reflect a reasonable market value for even reasonably nice ones, let alone gems. Ullmer:398 brought \$1,800, Garrett's \$1,600.

**Half Eagle.** [108] \*B-1. Top of 5 recut; date centered; left base of 1 over r. edge. Rev. Unfinished stripes. More often seen than the 1904 coin despite the mintage, but usually more or less impaired, e.g. Ullmer:475 at \$1,500. Garrett:554, not impaired but cloudy, went reasonably at \$2,000. Compare Wolfson:584, Scanlon:2408, Gilhausen:572, 1976 EAC: 1617.

**Eagle.** [86] Date too far left, closer to first than to last star; 1 much nearer to left end of truncation than 5 is to r. end; left base of 1 left of center. Rev. Missing feathers below second white stripe. Rare but unappreciated. Garrett:553 brought \$3,700. Cf. also 1973 GENA:540 and Scanlon:2574, latter ex S 10/70 ex LM 10/69 (nicked, spotted).

**Double Eagle.** [92] Centered date, left base of 1 left of center of dentil. Another of the low business mintage dates, therefore subject to recent date collector pressure. Record \$6,750 in Garrett, trailed by \$5000 for Ullmer's rubbed one. Not so often seen nowadays as some of the other dates of the period.

**Gold proof sets.** Not over 86 could have been made, and the true number is probably lower. Garrett's was dispersed, totalling \$14,150. Another was in the B. G. Johnson estate, Schulman 4/51:1394. Cf. KS 3/64:2263.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1903.

**Commemoratives. Lewis & Clark Gold Dollar.** Mintage unknown but evidently of infinitesimal size. Exceedingly rare, all but unobtainable. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint Cabinet. (2) "Memorable": 77 set. A possible third is in ANS though there is some doubt of its status — it is not equal to the 1904 coin. I have heard of one other in private hands, said to have come from the John R. Sinnock estate, and of still another from the C. E. Barber estate, but these have not been available for examination.

### 1906

**Cent.** [1725] As in 1905.

**Five Cents.** [1725] As in 1903.

**Minor proof sets.** [1725] As in 1903.

**Dime.** [675] Normal date only, without recutting on 6. There may be more than one minute positional variety.

**Quarter.** [675] No peculiarities. Always available for a price.

**Half Dollar.** [675] As in 1903.

**Silver proof sets.** [675] As in 1905. Garrett's brought \$1650.

**Quarter Eagle.** [160] High date close to device. Always available for a price. Record \$1,800, May 1974 Ullmer sale and March 1976 Garrett sale, five times what a similar piece had brought in the 1964 ANA Convention sale.

**Half Eagle.** [85] As in 1905. High date, left base of 1 over left edge of dentil. Auction record \$2,500, May 1974; \$2300 in Garrett. That might not be quite enough to buy a perfect one now. Actually rare.

**Eagle.** [77] Date high and too far to left, as in 1905. Rare, seldom seen unimpaired and not too often then. Cf. Garrett:557 at \$4200; Scanlon:2577, ex Dr. Wilson S. Rise; Ullmer: 511 at \$6,000; Wolfson: 808, Golden II: 2178, but those records would not be a fair representation of current markets.

**Double Eagle.** [94] "Broken nose" (lapped die); left base of 1 slightly r. of left edge of a dentil. Last of the low mintage Philadelphia group and popular though hardly a great rarity. Records: Garrett, \$6500; Ullmer:544, \$6000, scrubbed; "Rio Rancho":359, \$5,900; Gilhausen:982; 1964 ANA, \$2900, then high record; Stadiem, \$2200 (ex Baldenhofer: 1602, ex Bell I); Wolfson:987, etc. In trying to track down some stolen merchandise I examined eleven different 1906's at the Chicago 1966 ANA Convention, exonerating them all. (The stolen piece did turn up later.) That may give some idea of the availability of this date, if not of proof twenties in general; to the dozen pieces just alluded to, some of which may possibly represent

coins mentioned in the named auction records, add those in the surviving complete proof sets, in Eliasberg and major institutional and private gold collections. In short, possibly 50 to 60 could be traced. That is not an attempt to cut down the value of the date; rather, it is an attempt to give a realistic appraisal of the approximate proportion surviving of the original mintage. Reference to the valuation guide will show that from 1/3 to a little over half the original mintage

survives of the majority of proof gold, sometimes more, sometimes less.

**Gold proof sets.** Not more than 77 could have been made, probably a few less. One was lot 1395 of the B. G. Johnson material in Schulman 4/51; cf. Johnson Consignment, S 1/30/58, alluded to under 1904. Garrett's totalled \$14,800.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1903.

# IX.

## EXPERIMENTAL FINISHES, 1907-16

This period is notable for at least a dozen variations on the French matte or sandblast proof finishes, first on gold, then on copper, though not on publicly sold silver.

### 1907

**Cent.** [1475] No peculiarities.

**Five Cents.** [1475] Lowest proof mintage of the design. In the middle 1960's it was much hoarded, several hundred specimens (temporarily?) off the market. The syndicate drove the price up to \$70-\$82½, then very high, but other dates have since caught up. The coin is not in any sense rare.

**Minor proof sets.** [1475] Mostly broken up in the 1960's by nickel speculators.

**Dime.** [575] Many of these are the so-called "whisker" variety, showing a spine from junction of chin and neck into field, e.g. LM 11/65:281. The 7 is free of truncation, but may exist touching truncation also as on some nonproofs.

**Quarter.** [575] No special peculiarities. Very minor hoarding activity on this date and 1908 owing to the comparatively low proof mintage.

**Half Dollar.** [575] Ditto.

**Silver proof sets.** [575] Many formerly available; most of them now believed to have been broken up on behalf of collectors wanting the half dollar. Those lately seen are all apparently assembled sets.

**Quarter Eagle.** [154] \*B-1. Date slants up, 1 and 7 just free of border and device. Rev. Two horizontal lines in second white stripe. Final year of the design and therefore lately in demand. Many survivors have been impaired.

**Half Eagle.** [92] Ditto. Auction record \$3,750, May 1974. Rare but not prohibitively so.

**Eagle. Liberty Head.** [74] Date high to left, floating curls behind neck, polish at LIBERTY. Rev. End of scroll below ST vague. Popular final year of the

design. Rare and now becoming appreciated as such. Record \$4,000, May 1974, Ullmer sale, "borderline gem". Cf. also that in 1964 ANA sale; Wolfson:813; Golden II:2128; S 5/68; 866; KS 2/60: 2831 (choice); NN 47:1411; "Memorable":728, etc., etc., some of these doubtless current appearances of the same coins.

— **St. Gaudens "Indian Princess" design.** So rare in proof as to be controversial. As proofs are claimed of all three types it is necessary to deal with the claims in detail.

I. First design. "Wire edge, periods." [50] Wave of hair partly covers BE, truncation nearly straight, soft feathers, LIBERTY closely spaced, plain raised rim of extreme narrowness culminating in a knife-rim or "wire edge." Rev. Small triangular periods before UNITED, after AMERICA, before TEN, after DOLLARS, and before and after all three words in Latin motto; two small leaves just above claw at left. The 500 originally minted were uncirculated pieces but they usually show not mint bloom but a peculiar reticulated surface. (1) Col. Green supposedly owned one in proof; not traced. (2) Wayte Raymond said he had seen one in satin finish proof, similar to the double eagle with Roman numerals (mentioned below); this may or may not be the same as following. (3) A satin finish proof was described as being G. H. Hall: 2223 (1945). I have not seen this piece and cannot verify it. Possibly same as following. (4) A "satin finish proof" was offered with the S. A. Tanenbaum collection, January 30, 1958: 381 at \$625. The price makes me doubt the coin, though I did not see it and Tanenbaum did have a considerable number of matte proof gold pieces. (5) In the cased St. Gaudens 1908 set. One offered in the February 1960 Schulman-Kreisberg sale, lot 2934, alleged to have come from F.C.C. Boyd, I did examine; this was regrettably no different from

the other wire edge pieces commonly offered as unc. Real proofs, of course, should have a great deal more sharpness in central curls, central feathers of wings and breast, arrows, headdress feathers, etc. A letter of Mint Superintendent Frank Landis, September 25, 1907, cited in Taxay, *U.S. Mint and Coinage*, 316, alludes to 50 such proofs. What happened to the rest?

II. Second issue. Same type, now altered in the borders. So-called "rolled edge, periods." [1+] Borders fairly broad, raised with sharp inner and outer edges, similar to those on matte proof cents and nickels of later years. As the 42 specimens released (of which 2 are in the Smithsonian) were presentation coins, claims have been made that many are proofs. I have examined at least nine different ones and the striking characteristics are not at all improved over the foregoing; they show no evidence of more than one blow from the dies, though their relief detail would have been much improved thereby. At least two do qualify as proofs: Harry Bass's ex 1972 ANA: 2585 (the documented first one struck, Sept. 13, 1907) and that in the cased 1908 St. Gaudens set.

III. Second design. "No periods." By C. E. Barber after St. Gaudens. Regularly accepted design without motto. Truncation much more prominently curved, wave of hair below IBE free of E, feathers more clearly defined, LIBERTY wider spaced; rev. without periods before or after legends or Latin motto words; feathers sharper, branch with narrower leaves (none above claw), arrows longer, etc., many niggling alterations to no artistic purpose, merely impressing Barber's personality on the coins. Border rounded — a plain raised lip as in 1793 Chain cents and 1909 Lincoln cents. Business strikes are more vague and indefinite in centers than previous types, which disposes of the official claim that these modifications were to improve striking quality.

Proofs are of two types, both with very broad (1+ mm) flat borders:

— Satin finish, higher relief than later issues. DiBello: 1170. Unique? Is there another one in the cased St. Gaudens set?

— Matte finish, like 1908, lower relief. DiBello: 1170. Unique? Melish:2601 was offered as another, but I examined it and found it to be another of those eraser jobs. At least one other such coin has been around in recent years.



1907 Double Eagle. Liberty head. Ex Merkin Sept. 1967:452

**Double Eagle. Liberty head.** [78] Popular final year of the design; becoming appreciated as such. Date almost centered, slants up; "broken nose" as in 1906. Ullmer's brought \$9,500. Many survivors are impaired. LM 9/67:452 was a gem.

— **St. Gaudens.** As proofs have been claimed of all the various versions of this Standing Liberty design, it is necessary here too to investigate the claims in detail.



### MCMVII St. Gaudens ultra high relief prototype Double Eagle. ANS

I. *Ultra High Relief.* [22?] Date MCMVII; excessively concave fields, double the normal thickness at edge; no border at all, only a knife-rim. MCMVII distant from drapery; Capitol building very small; star well to left of E; star above extreme left corner of T; *star above end of left arm of Y*; only 2, rather than 3, narrow folds in skirt just past Ms. Liberty's r. leg (at observer's left), and oval section of underside of skirt beyond those is very large. Rev. 14 rays in sunburst. As all these were made by 9 or 10 blows apiece from the dies, at 172 tons force in the hydraulic press, they are technically made like medals and count as proofs. All have satin finish. All were intended for presentation purposes, mostly via Theodore Roosevelt, as his "pet crime." Originally only 16 were to have been made; the true number is unknown but was probably 24 minus two remelted. Each took many hours to complete, as the coins had to be annealed between successive impressions to remove stress - hardening and prevent cracking or shattering. Listed as Judd 1778, AW 1741. A reported silver impression (AW 1742) has never shown up. Two were found in the Barber estate, per note of T. L. Comparette to Farran Zerbe, July 28, 1920. Aside from these, Wayte Raymond and I were able in 1951 to trace 10 different survivors.

— Lettered edge. (1) Mint, SI. (2) C. E. Barber, ANS. (3) Theodore Roosevelt Museum. (4) Cased 1908 set, ex "a Mint employee" (Barber?), via St. Gaudens family, S 1952, 56, 62, exhibited at 1956 ANA. (5) Theodore Roosevelt, unnamed close personal friend, Ullmer:546, \$200,000, Manfra Tordella & Brookes, to nationwide newspaper publicity. (6) Eliasberg. (7) Lilly, SI. (8) 1956 ANA:1773, Dr. Wilkison, Paramount, A-Mark. (9) Bell I:867A. (10) KS 2/61:1417. (11) Farouk:296, (12) Kern:626. Any of the last four may

duplicate nos. 7 or 8.

— Plain edge. Cracked rev. die. Cased 1908 set.

The above handful of coins represent, beyond doubt, the supreme triumph of medallic achievement at the Philadelphia Mint, though issued over the most vigorous objections of Mint Engraver Barber, despite administrative and technical difficulties almost beyond belief, including officious interference overtly intended to sabotage the project, on behalf of the dying St. Gaudens, who never got to see any of the finished coins, but who is remembered for them today far more than for his lifesize sculptures all over New England. The art expert Cornelius Vermeule has justly compared this issue to the Nike of Samothrace.

II. Normal MCMVII. [5+] Different hubs. Broad flat borders both sides; earlier impressions without knife-rim, later ones with. MCMVII close to drapery; large Capitol; star partly above left upright of E; star centered above left arm of T; *star nearly centered above Y*; 3 narrower folds in skirt just beyond left leg (at observer's r.); small oval section of underside of skirt left of those. Rev. 13 rays in sunburst. The 11,250 (some say 12,153) struck received an average of 5 blows apiece from the dies. As the blanks were not thereafter routinely given any kind of special chemical treatment, the coins show typical mint bloom though in finer detail than most. Even with the multiple blows, some details of Ms. Liberty's hair, drapery, face, oak leaves, sunburst, and eagle's tail feathers frequently show local softness or indefiniteness, and edge lettering is not to plain.

True proofs do exist, though, and these appear to have received 6 or 7 blows from the dies rather than the normal 5. They do not have pronounced knife-rims; generally no trace of any, though rims are not as rounded as on normal impressions. Fields are most often satin finish, nearest to that on some proof 1909-10 Lincoln cents, but on one coin are sandblast type. Inner and outer edges of flat border sharp, relief details fully brought up, berries rounded, all Capitol pillars countable, clear ends to tail feathers; edge lettering much bolder than on normal strikings, with horizontal striae between edge letters. Charles E. Barber gave out the information that only 5 were struck on the medal press, but this was an outright lie as he owned seven or more himself. Proofs were evidently made on several occasions for presentation purposes, from more than one of the pairs of dies used for this issue, with two different edge collars, and in several different finishes.

Sandblast (similar to 1908): DiBello: 1317.

Satin finish. Dies 1-B (with tiny spine from left edge of L of LIBERTY), collar I (bases of M level).

1. Ex Mint, Charles E. Barber, Barber estate, William H. Woodin ca. 1918, Waldo Newcomer, Wayte Raymond ca. 1933, F.C.C. Boyd, Boyd estate, John J. Ford, Abner Kreisberg, KS2/4/60:2934, Max L. Justus

for Jack Collins, KS 3/65:207, various intermediaries including one alleged thief, "Gilhausen": 991, Julian Leidman, Joe Flynn, private collection. This was involved in litigation 1974-75 but the case has been settled out of court and title is deemed clear.

2. Mint, Barber estate, Woodin, Newcomer, Raymond, Joseph Spray.

3. Mint, Barber estate, Woodin, Newcomer, Raymond, consigned to James Kelly, 1951 ANA:770A.

4. Mint, Barber estate, Woodin, Newcomer, Raymond, James Aloysius Stack estate.

5. Mint, Barber estate, Woodin, Newcomer, Raymond, NN 49:1411, R.P. for an unidentified Southern collector, KS "Golden II":2279 (1/63).

6. Breen II:156 at \$29,000 to a dealer. Is this same as 2 or 3?

As preceding, dies 2-D: no spine from L, many curved striae around stem end, many nearly horizontal striae in rev. sun. Collar II: bases of M not level. Hirt: 1746. Minute pre-striking planchet chip in border above r. edge of O (F).

Dies and collar unchecked as yet on those to follow:

A. Mint, Charles E. Barber, Mrs. Barber before his death, Adolphe Menjou (1950): 1846. In that sale is mention of Mrs. Barber's duplicate, privately sold, possibly another of these.

B. That included among coins stolen from Lester Merkin in the Railway Express robbery of 1965. Rim dent at top obverse.

C. Long coll. (Bryant-Mathey sale, S 2/73:871), possibly same as A or the Mrs. Barber duplicate, or as no. 3 or 5 above.

D. "Golden I" (KS 3/62):2848, Jack Collins, KS 3/65:206 where misidentified as to pedigree, thereafter the same chain of pedigree as no. 1 above, "Gilhausen":992, Leidman, Flynn, to another private collection at a reputed \$75,000; different finish from any of foregoing. Involved in litigation as no. 1 above, settled out of court, title clear.

E. That in the cased 1908 St. Gaudens set, which also included the unique plain edge coins and an Ultra High Relief.



**1907 "Arabic" Double Eagle, by Barber after St. Gaudens. Ex Wayte Raymond.**

III. "Arabic" date (a misnomer) 1907. Low relief. By C. E. Barber imitating St. Gaudens. Time of issue



unknown, probably Dec. 1907, which would make it a contemporary rival of the MCMVII. (1) Edge lettering too large (same dollar as the MCMVII), in 1908 St. Gaudens cased set. (2) J. Kelly, Nov. 1957. I did not see this piece, but the illustration is quite remarkable and indicates striking quality far and away above that of production coins. (3) B. Max Mehl, Kern:629, "first seen," 1958 ANA:2052, same as (2)? (4) That pictured here, provenance unknown, apparently from Wayte Raymond, and probably one of the two preceding. Baldenhofer: 1610 was supposed to be another, but I saw the coin and it was not — possibly switched before the sale?

**Gold proof sets.** Liberty head design only. Not more than 74 could have been made, probably a few less. (1) KS 2/60:2985-88. (2) Lichtenfels II:2264. Both have probably been broken up since.

**Complete proof sets.** The Brock, Morgan, ANS set is of the early type with Liberty head gold only. That in SI is similar but with the ultra high relief MCMVII coin added. Several others were offered in the early 1950's but I cannot swear they were not at least partly assembled.

## 1908

**Cent.** [1620] No special peculiarities.

**Five Cents.** [1620] Ditto.

**Minor proof sets.** [1620] As in 1903.

**Dime.** [545] Several varieties.

— Normal date. Positional varieties possible. Relapped die of next?

— Minor repunching on 908. LM 4/66:286, others.

— "Overdate," over 1906? Hirt:1181. Not same as preceding.

**Quarter.** [545] Normal date only. As in 1907.

**Half Dollar.** [545] Normal date only. Speculator activity ten years ago drove records as high as double neighboring dates, though the coin is anything but rare in cleaned proof state. (Uncleaned is another story.) The neighboring dates have since caught up.

**Silver proof sets.** As in 1907.



**1908 Quarter Eagle. Indian head, by Bela Lyon Pratt. Dark Matte finish. Note location of knife-rim. Ex QS 11/76:1298**

**Quarter Eagle.** Indian head design. [236] Rather dark matte proof only. Extremely popular as first year of the design; least rare Indian proof. Genuine matte proofs have sharpness far and away superior to that of regular quarter eagles (look at feathers on both sides — on the proofs they are needle sharp), and there is normally a knife-rim or "wire edge." The somewhat brownish color is distinctive, though obscured by dipping; it is quite different from that obtained by applying acid or eraser to regular quarter eagles with fraudulent intent. Record \$2,600 (5/74).



**1908 Half Eagle. Indian head by Bela Lyon Pratt. Dark matte finish. Ex the gold proof set in 1974 GENA: 2111**

**Half Eagle.** Indian head design. [167] Same comments as to the quarter eagle. Ullmer:478 brought \$3,500.

— In ANS 1914 exhibition, Woodin loan, was a group of Liberty head half eagles *ending with 1908*, described as all proofs. This is the only report of a 1908 Liberty head half eagle in proof (presumably the old style brilliant proof); if it is not a typographical error, it would represent one of the rarest of all U.S. gold proofs.

**Eagle.** "Indian Princess" head. No proofs reported of the type without motto.

— With motto IN GOD WE TRUST. By C. E. Barber after St. Gaudens. [116] Three types of finish, all very rare; popular as first proof mintage of the design, and even the regular dark matte type is rarer than mintage suggests.

**Light matte finish.** Pale orange-yellow, many shades lighter than next. Only one seen (Lester Merkin, 1965). The color difference is plain enough to be visible clear across the room! Not the same as the "Roman Finish" below; granular, not satiny.



**1908 Eagle. "Indian Princess." By C. E. Barber after St. Gaudens. Motto IN GOD WE TRUST. Dark matte finish. Ex QS 11/76:1333**

**Dark matte finish.** Between khaki and olive color, similar to the \$2 1/2 and \$5. I have seen a couple of dozen in all, nearly half of them with nicks or shiny spots.

**"Roman Gold" finish,** as in 1909-10. Light yellow color; satiny, sometimes called semi-brilliant (entirely unlike the light matte finish first mentioned), and often described as a hybrid between matte and brilliant when on coins of 1909 or 1910. Only one reported: Boston Museum of Fine Arts, later 1976 ANA:3151, \$7500.

**Double Eagle.** None reported of first design without motto, either of the short rays type (as in 1907) or the long rays (as in Motto coins and 1909-33). (Short rays: ends are plain and make an arc, the nearest one missing end of Ms. Liberty's branch by over 1 mm. Long rays: ends rather indefinite, the nearest one almost touching ends of branch.)



**1908 Double Eagle.** By C. E. Barber after St. Gaudens. Motto IN GOD WE TRUST. Dark matte finish. Ex the gold proof set in 1974 GENA: 2111

— Motto IN GOD WE TRUST. By C. E. Barber after St. Gaudens. Long rays as just described. [101] Three types of finish. The date is now very rare, more so than the mintage would suggest, and extremely popular because first obtainable proof of the design, initial year with motto.

**Light matte finish.** Pale orange-yellow, matching the eagle of the same finish. Three reported: one owned by Lester Merkin in 1965 from the set which yielded the similar eagle; two others observed by Ronnie Carr. The color difference from the next is plain enough to be visible across the room, as with the eagle.

**Dark matte finish.** Between khaki and olive color, similar to lower denominations, identical to the eagle. I have seen at least 20 different, mostly nicked up; some from sets broken up very recently. Record \$9,000 in Ullmer, May 1974; private sale records allegedly still higher.

**"Roman Gold" finish,** as in 1909-10. Light yellow color; satiny or semi-brilliant exactly as with the similar eagle. Boston Museum of Fine Arts, later 1976 ANA:3302, \$10,000. No duplicate reported.

Some explanation for the undue rarity of 1908 proof gold may be found here: "Less than 100 sets of proof gold (2nd type with In God We Trust) struck at

Philadelphia. Five collectors and one dealer purchased these sets, the remainder destroyed at the mint, 1-2-1909." (*Green's Mint Record and Type Table*, 1936, p. 139.) No other record of meltage but it is probably correct. Note that in 1909 far fewer proof gold coins were made, reflecting poor sales in 1908.

**Gold proof sets.** Not more than 101 could have been made, and if the above mentioned notation is correct, the true number is probably 90 to 95, of which some were melted. One such set appeared in the B. G. Johnson estate remnants offered in the 1951 Schulman auction: 1397. (Either Johnson or H. Chapman was probably the dealer alluded to by Green.) This or another one showed up in KS 5/66: 1830 and/or S5/57:660. A similar set was in Pine Tree's 1974 GENA: 2111; another (offered singly) was in Breen II: 162A, 301, 485 and 680, total \$16,800.

**Complete proof sets.** Smithsonian and a few others, but I cannot swear that these are as obtained from the mint.

## 1909

**Cent. Indian head.** [2175] Now popular as final year of the design; available in almost any color desired, natural or unnatural.



**1909 VDB Lincoln cent. Matte finish.**

— **Lincoln, VDB.** [420] By Victor D. Brenner. This is one of the three proof Lincolns least often available free of doubt. There appear to be two styles of finish, which makes matters worse. The ANS coin is doubtless authentic owing to its striking qualities (far sharper on all details, notably Lincoln's beard and curls, than regular unc. coins) and its borders, which are unusually broad and flat with sharp inner and outer edges. Yet its surface is satin finish, unlike that on any other VDB's yet examined, nearest to that on the 1909 plain Lincoln proofs below. It is unusually light in color.

All other VDB's examined to date which qualified as proofs by the same criteria have a modified matte finish unlike the 1909 plain Lincolns, more like those of 1911-12, and sometimes rather hard to tell from the uncirculated coins. As hundreds, possibly thousands, of well struck 1909 VDB's have been offered through error or cupidity as matte proofs (including several broken out of rolls), certainty is as important as it is elusive. Most dealers have never seen a genuine one. Look first for the broad flat borders with sharp inner

and outer edges; rounding on inner edges is grounds for rejecting the coin. There may or may not also be knife-edges outside. Edges (cylindrical surface) will be very brilliant, though this does not necessarily hold true of cleaned pieces. There will be no shiny spots in field — look especially near E PLU. Surfaces may be more difficult to use as evidence as cleaning has modified some of them — a cleaning perhaps understandable in that many of the VDB's and later Lincoln cent proofs, retrieved from the mint wrappers, showed up as markedly discolored, often streaked, stained, spotted or with a peculiar granular deposit ranging from reddish brown to sepia. Sharpness on all relief details must be demonstrably superior to that on uncirculated pieces, and you'd better have one there for comparison.

Auction records \$330 (Gardner) to \$360 (1964 ANA Convention) for pieces "carrying their own credentials", not much higher since. Unverified private sale records above \$400. At various times in the 1950's I owned eight or nine of them, cherrypicked as "gem unc." or "toned unc." or "stained unc."; the coin is rare but not prohibitively so.



**1909 Lincoln cent, plain. Satin or "Roman Gold" finish. Note inner rims and location of knife-rim.**

— **Lincoln, plain.** [2198] Two types of finish. (I) The ones usually seen have satin finish quite unlike the uncirculated, most like "Roman Gold" finish. I once owned one with obv. proof, rev. unc; it had the full striking characteristics of proofs. (II) The **ANS coin** is again an anomaly — matte surface with unusually pronounced grain. As its 1910 is similar, possibly it was one of the last 1909's.

**Five Cents.** [4763] Brilliant proof as in former years, of course. Too often available only cleaned.

**Minor proof sets.** [4763?] I have seen original 2-piece sets from the Mint of two types, one with the Indian cent, the other with Lincoln plain. Most of the sets appear to have been broken up on behalf of collectors of the cent. It is rather unlikely that 3-piece sets (with both cents) were made, though assembled silver-minor proof sets are now known with both cents.

**Dime.** [650] No peculiarities.

**Quarter.** [650] Another one too often found cleaned to death, almost as often as 1903. No peculiarities of die work.

**Half Dollar.** [650] Same comment.

**Silver proof sets.** [650] As in 1907.

**Quarter Eagle.** [139] So-called "Roman Gold" finish, so designated since the early 1940's (I have been unable to find the actual source of the term). Surfaces light in color, midway between satiny and mirrorlike, entirely without the granularity of matte or sandblast. Wayte Raymond used to call them "brilliant matte proofs." Rarer than the mintage figure suggests. Record \$3,250, Ullmer sale. A few fraudulent instances of buffing on regular quarter eagles have been seen. Genuine proofs have much sharper design details than these, of course.

**Half Eagle.** [All kinds 78] Matte finish, dark color, like 1908. DiBello: 1004. No duplicate reported.

— "Roman Gold" finish, like 1910. Very rare, same as the quarter eagle.

**Eagle.** [All kinds 74] Matte finish, dark color, like 1908. (1) DiBello: 1177. (2) Beck I:548. Exceedingly rare, but see next entry.



**1909 Eagle. Satin or "Roman Gold" finish. Ex QS 11/76:1277**

— "Roman Gold" finish, like 1910. Very rare; similar to the quarter eagle. Cf. G. H. Hall:2227, S. A. Tanenbaum:384, etc., etc. Most of these late proofs are traded privately. A collector could probably assemble a complete set 1908-15 for a price, lacking the variant finishes within any one date, but he might have to wait a good while for some of the lower mintage coins, especially in \$10 and \$20 denominations.



**1909 Double Eagle. Satin or "Roman Gold" finish. Ex QS 11/76:1276**

**Double Eagle.** [67] Perfect date only, no rumor of the 1909/8. All seen so far are of "Roman Gold" finish, as above. Very rare, but there are more auction records than for the eagle (the same coins playing Musical Chairs?). Wolfson: 1002; Bell I, "H. R. Lee": 1755, Baldenhofer: 1618; "Memorable": 735; Tanenbaum: 360; Jay-Dines-Delp: 823; Mocatta Metals

(source?), etc. I have the impression that fewer 1908-15 double eagles survive of any one date than of most dates 1893-1907. They certainly do not show up so often.

**Gold proof sets.** The actual number is unknown. It could not be larger than 67 and is probably smaller. Most sets were long since broken up, of course. Cf. lot 1398 of the B. G. Johnson material, Schulman 4/1951, and QS 11/76: 1276-79; Ten Eyck:349, called "glossy proofs."

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1908.

## 1910

**Cent.** [2405] Two varieties. ANS's has very grainy matte surfaces; others have been seen with the same finish, still others with the satin finish seen on many 1909's. Which is rarer?

**Five Cents.** [2405] Brilliant, as formerly. Two or more minute positional varieties.

**Minor proof sets.** [2405] Formerly offered every once in a while; now mostly broken up.

**Dime.** [551] No notable peculiarities. The low proof mintage on this and the next five dates has stimulated marked speculator activity; several hoards exist.

**Quarter.** [551] Ditto. Resulting auction records up to \$450.

**Half Dollar.** [551] Double ditto. As the business strike mintage is also lower than usual, speculator activity on unc. and proof coins has been particularly intense on this date. Private sale records up to \$800 or so. Most specimens offered of late have been poorly cleaned, as usual; speculators seem to share the delusion that toned coins won't sell.

**Silver proof sets.** [551] Mostly broken up on behalf of hoarders. A minority have been, or are being, reassembled; mostly cleaned coins, these.

**Quarter Eagle.** [682] Almost all of these have the same "Roman Gold" finish as in 1909. Much scarcer than 1908, despite the mintage; not nearly as often seen as that figure would suggest.

Lighter matte finish, nearest to some rare \$10's, \$20's of 1908: Hirt:1440.

Dark matte finish of 1911: reported, but I have not seen the coin.

**Half Eagle.** [250] "Roman Gold" finish as in 1909. Rumored to exist also with dark matte finish of 1911; unverified.



**1910 Eagle. 'Roman Gold' finish. Ex QS 11/76:1334**

**Eagle.** [204] Mostly "Roman Gold" finish as in 1909.

— Two seen with satin finish, both in Pine Tree auctions: Breen I: 276 (at \$1,050) and 1974 GENA: 2100.



**1910 Double Eagle. 'Roman Gold' finish. Ex QS 11/76:1339**

**Double Eagle.** [167] Identical comments. Far more rarely offered at auction than one would expect with this mintage; cf. Baldenhofer:1620; Tanenbaum:362; WCC:916; "Memorable":736; Bell I, "H.R. Lee":1756.

**Gold proof sets.** Not more than 167, probably fewer were made. One such set was in the B. G. Johnson material: lot 1399 of the 1951 Schulman sale.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1908.

## 1911

**Cent.** [1733] Most often seen with matte finish, similar to that of 1912-13. Less often seen with satin finish as in 1909's, some 1910's. ANS has a real anomaly: obverse satin finish, reverse matte (quite grainy). I do not know what to make of this one: were different workmen preparing proof cents simultaneously by two different methods?

**Five Cents.** [1733] Brilliant, as formerly. At least two minute positional varieties.

**Minor proof sets.** [1733] As in 1910.

**Dime.** [543] Subject to much speculative hoarding.

**Quarter.** [543] Ditto, only worse. Usually poorly cleaned.

**Half Dollar.** [543] Double ditto. Here it is not even low business strike mintage that could be alleged (however irrelevantly) as cause.

**Silver proof sets.** [543] As in 1910.

**Quarter Eagle.** [191] Matte finish, dull and darker than unc, nearest to 1908 but differing minutely in texture of grain. Auction record \$1,900, May 1974 Ullmer sale.

**Half Eagle.** [139] Ditto. Scanlon's brought \$1,800, Ullmer:480 \$3,750; others, mostly lower. Rare, seldom offered.

**Eagle.** [95] Two varieties. Matte, similar to 1908, and fine sandblast similar to 1912, darker in color than 1908. I do not know which is rarer. A census, or even a representative sample, of these coins has been extraordinarily difficult. Photographs are no help whatever; black-and-white usually cannot be subjected to strong enough magnification to distinguish the types of grain in surfaces, color photos invariably have chromatic aberration or poor dye fidelity in the yellow to orange range so that little can be judged therefrom.



**1911 Double Eagle. Dark matte finish. Ex QS 11/76:1340**

**Double Eagle.** [100] All seen to date are of the matte type, nearest to 1908 and of nearly the same color. Do even 20 survive? Compare Wolfson: 1008, Tanenbaum: 363, Baldenhofer: 1623, etc.

**Gold proof sets.** Not more than 95 could have been made, probably fewer. Lot 1400 of the B. G. Johnson material in the 1951 Schulman sale was such a 4-piece set. It was called "sandblast proof" but that is no evidence of the actual appearance of the coins. There was evidently much experimentation going on at the mint with the object of providing surfaces enough unlike the uncs, to be readily identifiable and pleasing to collectors, without impairing the relief detail. Reversion to the old style brilliant proofs with frosted designs would have been desirable but very difficult given the unusual curvature of fields. One such set: Phila. Estate.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1908.

## 1912

**Cent.** [2145] Pronounced matte finish only. Usually stained as are most other years.

**Five Cents.** [2145] Popular final year of the design; subject to type collector demand and also to some hoarding. Brilliant, of course.

**Minor proof sets.** [2145] As in 1910.

**Dime.** [700] No peculiarities. Hoarded almost as much as 1911 for less reason.

**Quarter.** [700] Ditto. Usually poorly cleaned.

**Half Dollar.** [700] Likewise and worse, though the speculators have not been quite so insatiable. Auction records \$200 to \$260.

**Silver Proof sets.** [700] As in 1910.

**Quarter Eagle.** [197] Fine sandblast finish. Different from all previous matte coins; under a microscope the surfaces show millions of minute shiny facets. Much rarer than its mintage figure would suggest. Record \$2,200, Ullmer sale.

**Half Eagle.** [144] Same finish as quarter eagle. Same comments. Ullmer: 481 brought \$3,750.

**Eagle.** [83] Now with 48 stars on edge. Same finish. Same comments. Very rare. Cf. S. A. Tanenbaum:387; Wolfson:257; Menjou-Lahrman:895.

**Double Eagle.** [74] Obv. now with 48 stars. Same finish. Same comments. Very rare. Cf. Baldenhofer:

1626, ex Bell I; Tanenbaum: 364; WGC: 918; "Memorable": 739; those in sets, in Philadelphia Estate and the usual museums. Very few of these are in dealers' stocks now.

**Gold proof sets.** Not more than 74 minted, probably fewer. One was lot 1401 of the B. G. Johnson material sold in the 1951 Schulman auction. Another was Stadiem: 746 at \$5,200, 1965.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1908.

## 1913

**Cent.** [2848] As in 1912. Possibly the most easily obtained of the matte proof cents, with 1911, 1912, and 1909 plain coming close. I used to make lunch money buying unrecognized examples of these dates as uncirculated, but that was many years ago. In the meantime various sharp-eyed youngsters have gone and done likewise, pretty well exhausting the supply. Now the problem is to find coins offered as matte proofs that are not mere uncirculateds.

**Five Cents.** Liberty head. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.



**1913 Type I Buffalo nickel. Note borders and details of devices — Indian's skin and feathers, rugosity of bison's hide. ANS.**

— Buffalo. **Type I. Bison on mound**, no distinct exergual line. By James Earle Fraser. [1520?] Rather dull matte finish. Authentic proofs are rare and sometimes hard to distinguish from well struck business strikes. Plain raised borders, completely distinct from field, inner and outer edges sharp (inner less so). LIBERTY in low relief but entirely clear. All details of Indian's hair, feathers and bison's skin very sharp, much more so than on uncirculated coins.

On Jan. 13, 1913, some 17 specimens were minted from a pair of dies almost identical to the regular Type I but *lacking designer's F below date*. Diameter 0.839" = 21.3mm (standard 21.2mm). Two went to Mint Cabinet, now in SI. Six more were destroyed, the remaining 9 going to Fraser and mint officials. On Feb. 13, 4 were struck from almost identical dies, *without F* and with *round topped 3*. Diameter 0.869" = 22.1mm. One was destroyed, two went to Mint Cabinet and remain in SI, the fourth to some mint official. The purpose (Taxay, 346n) was to show the effect of a small space between design and border. Possibly some of either may survive masquerading as normal unc. or proof Type I's. Did you look at

yours lately?

— **Type II. Bison on straight baseline**, exergue pronounced. By C. E. Barber, after Fraser. [1514?] Surfaces about as on Type I, fields less irregular, dull matte finish, borders as Type I, though usually with some traces of rounding on inner borders. However, proofs have more definition there than do uncs., which have instead what looks like the plain lip on Chain cents and Indian eagles.

**Minor proof sets.** Mintage unknown. Most were broken up to add nickels to silver sets. One with Type II nickel, from the mint June 27, 1913, was LM 3/68:322.

**Dime.** [622] Normal date. Much hoarded. Auction records \$160 to \$210, depending on how badly cleaned and how many speculators were present.

**Quarter.** [613] Lowest Philadelphia business strike mintage of this design, therefore hoarded in quantity by speculators, unc. and proof. Auction records \$450-\$575. Usually cleaned.

**Half Dollar.** [627] Third lowest Philadelphia business strike mintage of this design. Vigorously hoarded; some of this date — as of 1914-15 — put up at auction and protected with artificially high bids during mid 1950's. Of late auction records have clustered in the \$550-\$625 range. Too many have been cleaned, as usual.

**Silver proof sets.** No more than 613 could have been made. As in 1910 only more so.



**1913 Quarter Eagle. Fine sandblast finish. Ex QS 11/76:1303**

**Quarter Eagle.** [165] As in 1912, same finish. Less rare than 1912. Ullmer's went for \$1,900.

**Half Eagle.** [99] Same comment. No recent auction records.

**Eagle.** [71] Identical. Ullmer: 517 went at \$5,250.



**1913 Double Eagle. Modified design (1912-33): 48 stars. Fine sandblast finish. ANS.**

**Double Eagle.** [58] Identical. About as rare as the

1912. Cf. S. A. Tanenbaum: 365, Baldenhofer: 1628; Geiss: 2063, ex Col. Green; WGC: 919, "Memorable": 740. Others are in Amon Carter collection and the usual museums.

**Gold proof sets.** Not over 58 made, probably fewer. Cf. lot 1401, B. G. Johnson material, 1951 Schulman sale.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1908.

## 1914

**Cent.** [1365] Similar to 1913, very minute differences in grain of matte finish, possibly slightly finer texture. Often strangely and wonderfully iridescent or toned to rainbow shades.

**Five Cents.** [1275] Same design as 1913 II. Brighter matte finish, of finer grain. Disputed examples, which are numerous, can be decided by the same criteria described for 1913. Auction records around \$400, e.g. 1974 ANA:461. Private sale records reportedly well above that. Many of those seen in bourse displays are of dubious authenticity.

**Minor proof sets.** None encountered in the last 15 years, probably most having been broken up long before. Mintage unknown, probably less than 1275.

**Dime.** [425] Subjected in recent years to intense hoarding and speculative activity, affecting only proofs; low reported mintage is the obvious reason. Auction records reported in the \$300 to \$400 range.

**Quarter.** [380] Same comment as to the dime. Auction records range from \$320 to \$575, the lower prices for too drastically cleaned ones.



**1914 Half Dollar. Ex QS 11/76:1042**

**Half Dollar.** [380] Lowest reported mintage of Philadelphia business strikes of this design. Speculator activity has therefore been particularly intense. As the original two bags (nearly 2% of the original business mintage) have long since been dispersed, the speculators have been buying up proofs as well. One such individual in Norfolk, Virginia, is known to own about a hundred proofs of this date alone, possibly by now well over that amount. Other smaller hoards exist. A spurious glamor of alleged rarity has become attached thereto and auction records went into orbit in the 1960's. Record a then mind-boggling \$825 in a Northern California convention auction in the fall of 1964, presaged by \$625 at the 1964 ANA convention sale; \$800 in Dr. E. Yale Clarke:429, Oct. 1975.

**Silver proof sets.** Not over 380 made, possibly fewer. These appear mostly to have been long since broken up on behalf of the speculators.

**Quarter Eagle.** [117] Coarse sandblast finish, darker than 1913. Under a microscope the facets appear larger than on 1913. Ullmer: 408 went at \$2,200. Rare and not often available; much harder to find than earlier years of this type with the possible exceptions of 1909-10.

**Half Eagle.** [125] Identical comments. If anything, less often seen. Ullmer: 483 brought \$3,500. Cf. Atwater; S 5/68: 864, Delp: 808 (rev. hairlined).



**1914 Eagle. Coarse sandblast finish. ANS.**

**Eagle.** [50] Identical comments. Cf. Geiss: 1934, S. A. Tanenbaum: 389. Ullmer: 518 (rim nick at 12th star) brought \$5,000. This could almost be called extremely rare.

**Double Eagle.** [70] Identical comments. Rarer than the mintage suggests. Record \$3,200, 1964 ANA Convention sale. Cf. Wolfson: 1015, reasonably at \$2,400; Baldenhofer: 1632, ex Bell I (the same coin?); S. A. Tanenbaum: 366; Geiss: 2065; WGC: 920; "Memorable": 741; Mocatta Metals.

**Gold proof sets.** Not more than 50 could have been made, possibly fewer. The only set to be offered in recent decades was B. G. Johnson's, lot 1403 of the 1951 Schulman sale.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1908.

## 1915

**Cent.** [1150] Surface as on 1914. Many very dubious coins have been offered as matte proofs. Reread the criteria elaborated for 1909 VDB. Record \$310, 1964 ANA Convention sale, supported by several private sale reports which apparently are reliable. At least part of the price level so implied is attributable to the speculative activity affecting uncirculated pieces, but much of it is nevertheless a matter of the rarity of this date in proof. Toning as on 1914; often spotty.

**Five Cents.** [1050] Surface as in 1914. Border often a little narrower at right obv. than elsewhere, but still sharp. Very rare, seldom available without some doubt attached. Use the criteria elaborated under 1913 for dubious coins. Good luck: you'll need it.

**Minor proof sets.** There may have been a thousand or so made, but none seen in the last 15 years or more; evidently they were broken up long ago for date collectors of cents and nickels.

**Dime.** [450] Numerals on all 1915 dimes cruder than on any preceding years. No variation noticed, save in the amount of cleaning inflicted on the coins. Auction records range from \$275 to \$320, most of this level due to speculator activity.

**Quarter.** [450] Auction records \$325 to \$450 from the same source. Much hoarded, and here we cannot ascribe any part of the hoarding to a shortage of uncirculated coins.

**Half Dollar.** [450] Second lowest reported mintage of Philadelphia business strikes of this design. Same comment therefore as to 1914, even to the two bags and the location of the biggest hoard. Auction record \$825 in the same Northern California 1964 sale; \$850, Sept. 1974. Has been price-bracketed with 1914 since a Norfolk, Virginia hoarder, ca. 1956-62, succeeded in removing nearly half the available survivors from the market.

**Silver proof sets.** [450] Evidently long since broken up on behalf of speculators, but a few are being reassembled.

**Quarter Eagle.** [100] Identical finish to 1914. Ullmer's brought \$2,300. Rarest date of the design in proof state; unappreciated.

**Half Eagle.** [75] Identical finish to 1914. Cf. S. A. Tanenbaum: 395, but no recent auction records are known. Extremely rare, few survive. Many rumored to have been melted in 1916-17.

**Eagle.** [75] Identical comments to half eagle. A most elusive coin, probably rating the Extremely Rare label. Cf. Wolfson: 840; Menjou-Lahrman: 897; S. A. Tanenbaum: 389. No recent auction records.

**Double Eagle.** [50] Identical comments to half eagle. Extremely rare, no recent auction records; possibly a dozen survive. (1) Smithsonian, ex Mint. (2) Smithsonian, ex J. K. Lilly. (3) Eliasberg. (4) WGC: 921. (5) "Memorable": 742. (6) Menjou: 1858-Lahrman: 897 in set. (7) Col. Green — Geiss: 2067. Compare Baldenhofer: 1635, S. A. Tanenbaum: 367. Probably some of these were melted.

**Gold proof sets.** Not over 50 could have been made, probably fewer and very likely some of these were melted, most others broken up. Only auction records in the past couple of decades: B. G. Johnson estate: 1404, Schulman 1951 sale; Menjou-Lahrman: 897. Note that in the 1948 *Scrapbook* article giving proof mintage figures is a mention of 175 gold sets between July 1915 and June 1916, and - most paradoxically - 175 more between then and the end of 1916. If these figures mean anything at all, they can only mean sets held over from earlier years, probably to be melted in 1916 or 1917. There were no regular gold coins minted in Philadelphia in 1916, of course, and the only gold proof sets emanating from that mint with that date are Cuban - in far smaller numbers, to be sure.

**Complete proof sets.** As in 1908.



**Commemoratives. Panama-Pacific Half Dollar.** Without S mint mark. Two gold, 6 silver (at least) and 3 or 4 copper proofs minted at Philadelphia, supposedly from one of the pairs of working dies later shipped to San Francisco, before the mintmark was punched in. The proofs are supposed to be satin finish. There is also a report of at least two more or less brilliant silver proofs bearing the S mint mark at date. Any purported proofs would necessarily have exceptionally sharp central details — on drapery, liberty cap, child's head, eagle's breast, etc. At least one of the coins in silver without S mint mark was bought as a regular uncirculated piece.

— **Panama-Pacific Gold Dollar.** At least one and probably two reeded edge gold proofs without S mint mark, brilliant like the silver one; one gold piece without S with plain edge. Also reportedly (not verified) at least one brilliant proof with S mint mark. No auction records.

— **Panama-Pacific Quarter Eagle.** Rumored to exist in brilliant proof in gold without S mint mark (the S is far to right of date). Not verified.

No rumor of any Pan-Pacific fifties in proof, though trial pieces exist without S, in various metals. (The S is r. of pine cone next to ornamental border, some distance below dot following UNUM.)

1916



**1916 Cent. Matte finish. Note device details, borders, and rims. Ex 1975 Suburban Washington: 80**

**Cent.** [1050] Very rare and seldom offered, though many sharp business strikes have been masquerading as proofs. The finish differs very slightly from that on the 1915 or earlier matte proof cents and as a result authentication is very difficult. In part one must use the broad borders, exceptional sharpness on devices, sharp edges (inner and outer) on raised rims, together with the completely uniform texture which does not resemble mint bloom or frost. Processed coins will not have the sharpness of the genuine. The enlarged illustration may help. Private sale records above \$400.

**Five Cents.** [600] Extremely rare. Type III (as on regular issues 1916 and later): taller profile, longer nose, sharper LIBERTY. Surfaces as on 1914-15 coins. Auction record \$400, Merkin, Nov. 1965.

**Minor proof sets.** Mostly broken up. In LM 3/68:325 was one directly from the mint, which contained

(elsewhere offered) dime, quarter and half dollar of the new type, unc, in lieu of the ordered proofs.

**Dime.** Not even a rumor of a brilliant proof of the Barber design.

— **Mercury design.** By Adolph Alexander Weinman. Satin finish proof, similar to the 5¢ in surfaces. Regular type. (1) Mint, SI. (2) Ex Dr. James O. Sloss. I was only a few hours late in attempting to obtain this coin (1950) from a Philadelphia dealer, Asher Leatherman, who then informed me that Sloss had bought it. (3) Private coll., East Coast, early 1960's. These all have extreme detail sharpness, sharp inner edges to borders, even surface without a trace of mint bloom or frost.

There are also several patterns for this design; the only ones which concern us here are slightly modified versions of the adopted type, with smaller date, *but lacking Weinman's monogram AW*. One of these, from Newcomer, Green and Wayte Raymond, was offered as NN 35:392, but unfortunately not illustrated; it reappeared as 1958 ANA: 74. The differences from the adopted design were very slight indeed, enough so that conceivably others might exist masquerading as regular issues. (Have you checked your 1916 unc. dime for initial W lately?)

**Quarter. Liberty Standing design.** At least two modified versions of regular design exist, in matte proof, *without designer's initial M*. One of these (badly cleaned) is in the Smithsonian; I saw the other many years ago, kept no record of it for fear of possible involvement in a seizure action, and am now sorry I could not at least obtain a photograph. It is also likely that more than two specimens of the adopted type may exist in matte proof state outside the Smithsonian. Have you looked at yours lately for the M? If it does have the M, check key details of design — drapery at lower belly, eagle's wing and breast feathers, details of inescutcheon on shield, etc. — as well as striking qualities of head, shield, knee and feet. Extreme sharpness of these usually partly weak areas together with unusually broad rims with sharp inner and outer edges may be reason for having the coin authenticated as a possible matte proof.

**Half Dollar. Walking Liberty design.** Aside from the easily recognizable patterns, there is a modification of the adopted type with date unusually closely spaced (entirely fitting below Ms. Liberty's foot); this exists in proof to the extent at least 4 examples. I have also seen four or five pieces of the regular design that quality as matte proofs; the central details are needle sharp (even branch hand!) and the borders are as typical of matte proofs as one could wish. Same comment as to quarters.

**Commemoratives. McKinley Gold Dollar.** Brilliant proofs exist. (1) Smithsonian. (2) Neil: 2380. (3) "Memorable": 77 set. (4) A piece I found some years ago and sold to Catherine Bullowa at one of the



conventions.

The proofs show more detail on the President's

hair than do regular uncirculated pieces. Possibly more than four are around.

# X. THE CLANDESTINE YEARS, 1917-1935

At first ostensibly because of the war, later more likely because of the administration changes (there being no coin collectors in high office until William H. Woodin became Secretary of Treasury, 1933), no proofs were publicly sold. The few made went to VIPs, and most are controversial. The only ones to reach public notice were the 1921 dollars and 1928 Hawaiian commemorative halves.

## 1917

**Cent.** One seen, from a set (below), rev. not proofed, drastically cleaned; obv. has matte finish, like 1916.



**1917 Five Cents (enlarged). Matte finish. Ex Ira Reed set, Joel Rettew**

**Five Cents.** Two seen, the broken die coin (break from rim through L into field) from the same set as the cent, the perfect die coin a later discovery. Both have matte finish, like 1916, with the same detail definition. Both have knife-rims in the same part of circumference.

**Dime.** Probably exists from the set but not verified to date.

**Quarter.** Type I (no stars below eagle). Two seen, one from the same set, cleaned, but sharp enough on relief details to make the usual "full head" coins look weak; dozens more drapery folds near waist than

usual; all ten toes clear. Matte finish, similar to 1916 cents and nickels.

**Half Dollar.** Two seen outside the set, matte finish; full head, sharply defined branch hands. A third, from the set, has not been available for examination.

**Set.** Ex Ira Reed in 1930's, to a collector in Philadelphia who stopped in 1942, and whose holdings were sold early 1976 to Joel Rettew. The set has been broken up. No duplicate is reported.

**Commemoratives. McKinley Gold Dollar.** Brilliant, similar to 1916. Three seen. (1) Phila. Estate. (2) Miles:315. (3) Private collection.

## 1918



**1918 Lincoln Half Dollar. Satin or semi-brilliant finish. Private collection.**

**Commemoratives. Lincoln Half Dollar.** Semi-brilliant or satin finish. Two seen. May also exist with matte finish.

## 1920

**Commemoratives. Maine Half Dollar.** Reportedly at least one in matte finish, ex John R. Sinnock estate; one other allegedly ex Ira Reed, unverified.

— **Pilgrim Half Dollar.** Reportedly at least one in matte (?) finish, ex John R. Sinnock estate; one other allegedly ex Ira Reed. Also unverified.

## 1921

**Silver Dollar. Morgan design,** modified (note parallel arrow feathers). *Zerbe strikings:* \*Obv. Small die scratch up to r. from left tip of serif of left upright of second U in UNUM to border (hold coin so that this U is upright). Left base of first 1 above center of dentil, r. base of second 1 slightly r. of left edge. Central details far sharper than on regular uncirculated pieces. Rev. Very faint recutting visible on left upright of T in UNITED. Horizontal die file marks plainly within ribbon bows and at left and right of them; vertical die file marks at inner berries nearest to left base of N and T in UNITED. Eagle's breast feathers unusually sharp. Brilliant proofs as in 1904 and earlier years, carelessly made, almost all cleaned to death! (1) Smithsonian. (2) ANS, purchased May 10, 1921 — source not named. (3) Neil: 101, ex Philadelphia Mint, 1921. (4) Newcomer collection: 1263 in his private catalogue, where claimed that only 20 were struck; cost him \$50 at some time prior to 1926. This piece later reappeared in the Major Lenox R. Lohr collection, auctioned in 1956: 908 at a low \$175. It has been cleaned, like most of these. (5) One, really brilliant, authenticated about 1965 for Don Thompson, then of the New China Club, Reno, Nevada; this was part of his personal set of dollars. I have since learned that when he moved away from Reno, he disposed of the set of dollars, and young dealer Philip Moore sold this 1921 together with the brilliant proof 1895 and the uncirculated 1893-S, all authenticated, for \$15,000. At then current (1966) price levels for the other two, that would mean that his customer must have valued the 1921 in excess of \$5,000, which is not unreasonable for a brilliant proof. This coin occasioned several slanderous attacks by persons convinced that no genuine 1921 Morgan proofs were made. The coins in Smithsonian and ANS should be sufficient evidence to the contrary even if all the rest are unreasonably disbelieved. (6) One I authenticated for Stephen Ruddel. (7) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. I have since seen and authenticated six others, impaired to varying degrees by cleaning and scrubbing. Some of the above may be reappearances of earlier numbers, e.g. 1975 ANA: 1179, 1975 GENA II: 1268. Compare also lot 244, 1955 New England Numismatic Association auction — followed by two first strikes accompanying it for comparison. The story has been told that Farran Zerbe had these proofs made — some say 20, some 24, some 25, other 200, exact quantity not known — as a kind of consolation for his not being able to get the Peace Dollars into the public's hands during the calendar year 1921.

The twelve Chapman proofs are from a different pair of dies and are very brilliant.

**Peace Dollar. Regular dies.** (I) Satin finish proof, different from the matte proofs below. Obv. Scattered die file marks, slanting up and down, crossing each

other in upper left fields and through and around upper parts of letters in LIBERTY, these mostly parallel to horizontal elements of letters; others in approximately concentric arcs of circles. Triangular pellet stop after (S)T in unusually high relief, even more than the other stops. Rev. Rays in high relief; similar die lines. Two seen, one discovered at the 1975 ANA Convention.



## 1921 Peace Dollar. Matte proof. ANS.

(II) Fine grain matte proof. (1) Smithsonian Institution, from Mint Cabinet; dull gray tone, lacquered and with a rim nick. (2) ANS, found April 11, 1963 in a tray of medals with the label "By Anthony de Francisci". (3) Geiss: 407, ex Col. Green. (4) The former Kagin specimen. (5) That in LM 6/71: 813 at \$9,000, now in a midwest coll. Note that the central details are much more boldly struck up on this coin than on any uncirculated Peace dollar.

**Commemoratives.** Unverified rumors have been heard of 1921 Pilgrim, Missouri 2x4 and Alabama 2x2 half dollars in matte or sandblast proof. These would be identified by exceptional central sharpness and matte surfaces, but authentication would be necessary.

## 1922



## 1922 Peace Dollar. Type of 1921, high relief. Ex Rhodes, Moorman, Breen, midwest collection.

**Silver Dollar.** Type of 1921, concave fields, high relief. Fine grained matte. Five known. (1) Chase Manhattan Bank Museum of Moneys of the World, presumably ex Farran Zerbe. (2) Lester Merkin, obtained on the West Coast many years ago. (3) The specimen bought by this writer from Grace A. Moorman shortly after her husband's death, November 1960. Lewis Moorman had been one of my closest friends in the coin business for several years, and I could think of no finer way of expressing my appreciation for his memory than by vindicating him

in his widow's eyes. Mrs. Moorman had not approved of Lew's purchase of the coin for \$3,100 in a 1958 auction of the late Donald Rhodes. This piece has been illustrated several times, including NSM July 1961, p. 1722, and Taxay, U.S. Mint and Coinage, 357; it was exhibited about a dozen times by Moorman and twice by me. Note that Hydeman: 696, represented as a proof, turned out to be a regular 1922 dollar ruined by acid or the like. One eastern specialist flew out to Los Angeles specifically to see that coin; he did not bother to bid on it. The slur in the Hydeman catalogue against the Moorman coin was based on misunderstandings; Mrs. M. had offered the coin to several dealers before I bought it.

There was a standing offer (1965-70) of \$15,000 for the Merkin specimen from an East Coast dollar specialist, and there have been other nibbles at it and at the Moorman coin. Two others have since shown up, both impaired.



**1922 Regular type Dollar. Satin finish. Ex Beck III: 530, Robert J. Riethe, NERCG.**

Regular type, satin finish. No mint frost, no "cartwheel" (cold flow radial lines), no monkey business; finish similar to the 1921 satin finish dollars. Rims are built up far more strongly than on business strikes. Inner coronet line exceptionally strong. Full central hair, full feathers, even on upper wing and breast! Lettering is all in noticeably higher contrast with fields, apparently higher relief, than on business strikes; edges of letters sharply defined, especially in mottoes on both sides. NERCG, ex Beck III:530 as part of a lot of four 1922 Peace dollars, via Robert J. Riethe. I examined this piece at the Feb. 1977 Long Beach (California) convention, and it "carries its own credentials."

Not to be confused with the "processed" coins emanating from the Los Angeles area (1965), with mirrorlike fields; those deserve no comment but a Bronx cheer loud enough to be heard on both coasts.

**Commemoratives. Grant Half Dollar with star.** Sandblast type. Exceptional sharpness on beard, hair, and leaves. (1) Ex J. R. Sinnock estate. (2) Ex C. E. Green. (3) S. A. Tanenbaum:417 ("Under 6 known"). Others reported.

Reports recur of the Grant Star gold dollar; unconfirmed but probable.

## 1923

Reports recur of at least two Monroe commemorative half dollars in matte proof; unconfirmed but probably true. These coins would have exceptional sharpness on portraits and on the allegorical figures on reverse — a sharpness never present on uncirculated pieces.

## 1924

A rumor of a single Huguenot commemorative half dollar in matte proof has been heard, from the same source as last.

## 1925

Reports recur of matte proofs of the Lexington, Stone Mountain, California Diamond Jubilee (without S mint mark on reverse) commemorative halves. Same source and I tend to credit these.

— **Fort Vancouver Centennial half dollar.** One matte proof seen, two others reported. Surfaces entirely different from the regular; extreme and unwonted sharpness on Dr. McLoughlin's hair and the frontiersman's buckskin suit.

## 1926

**Sesquicentennial Half Dollar.** (1) The former Farouk coin, reappearing in Hydeman: 695, then in R. E. Cox: 2124 (1962 New York Metropolitan Convention sale); present whereabouts unknown. Fine matte proof, relief details plain here both of portraiture and lettering which are hardly visible even with a magnifier on the regular uncirculated pieces. (2) Reportedly ex J. R. Sinnock estate. Russell Nering swears he had seen a third before 1965. possibly a reappearance of the Sinnock coin.

**Sesquicentennial Quarter Eagle.** Matte proof. Lester Merkin saw this coin about 1952 in the possession of David M. Bullowa, probably the coin reappearing as S 5/68: 823. One other has been rumored to exist, ex J. R. Sinnock estate. In examining your coins for suspected matte proofs, look especially closely for unusually sharp relief details on both sides, compared to regular uncirculated coins with mint bloom. There will, of course, be no mint bloom on a matte proof.

There is no report of any of the Oregon Trail pieces in proof though those would be beautiful coins indeed.

## 1927

One Vermont Sesquicentennial half dollar reported in matte proof, said to be from the Sinnock estate; not traced.

## 1928



**1928 Hawaiian Sesquicentennial Half Dollar. No. 47 of 50 sandblast proofs. ANS.**

**Hawaiian Sesquicentennial Half Dollar.** [50] Sandblast (?) proof. Possibly coarse grained matte: the ANS piece is so deeply toned as to make it hard to be certain, especially within a display case. Arlie Slabaugh says that at least ten of the fifty were impounded in museums. Most of these are probably in Hawaii. One of the others, probably a Newcomer coin, appeared in R. E. Cox:2125. Some of the survivors are said to be in original presentation cases. I have not a complete description of any such case of issue. The proofs, as expected, show considerably greater relief detail — look especially on reverse where much of the landscape is more clearly defined than on any uncirculated specimen, as are details of the warrior chief's regalia.

The following list of recipients of the 1928 Hawaiian matte proofs from the Commission is derived from the December 1928 *Numismatist*, p. 734, though I have also seen a copy of the original typed list preserved in the Archives of Hawaii (courtesy Gordon Medcalf). These proofs were all presented, along with 200 of the regular uncirculated pieces, by Oct. 8, 1928, according to Bruce Cartwright, member of the Commission, simultaneously with the brief sale of the remaining 9,750 to the general public via the Bank of Hawaii, Ltd., Honolulu.

1. Edgar Henriques, Executive Secretary.
2. Bruce Cartwright, Commissioner. (Later, Newcomer, Green, R. E. Cox?)
3. Dr. Herbert E. Gregory, Commissioner.
4. Albert Pierce Taylor, Commissioner.
5. Bishop H. B. Restarick, Commissioner.
6. Col. C. P. Iaukea, Commissioner. (Seen at 1976 ANA Convention.)
7. Prof. Ralph S. Kuykendall. (Recently seen in New York.)
8. Miss Juliette Mae Fraser, designer.
9. Hon. Wallace R. Farrington.
10. Miss Marie von Holt.
11. Hawaiian Historical Society.
12. Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.
13. Hon. Gerald H. Phipps.
14. Archives of Hawaii.
15. B. C. Stewart.

16. U.S. National Museum, "not delivered." (Now in SI.)
17. British Admiralty.
18. Rt. Hon. S. M. Bruce.
19. The Hon. T. R. Bavin.
20. British Museum.
21. President Calvin Coolidge. (Sold in recent years.)
22. King George V of England.
23. Lord Sandwich.
24. Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of Treasury.
25. Rear Admiral George S. Marvell, USN.
26. Major General Fox Conner, USA.
27. The ANA. (Where is it now? Not seen at Colorado Springs.)
28. Capt. Leveson-Gower, R.N., DSO.
29. Capt. Gerald Cartwell Harrison.
30. Commodore Swabey.
31. Capt. John Greenslade.
32. Hon. Dwight Davis, Secretary of War.
33. Sir Joseph Carruthers.
34. Sir Henry Newbolt.
35. Prof. Frank A. Golder.
36. Judge F. W. Howay.
37. Verne Blue (not delivered).
38. Kauai Historical Society.
39. James A. Wilder.
40. Unassigned. Later given to Hon. Lawrence M. Judd.
41. Theodore B. Pitman.
42. Dr. Peter H. Buck.
43. Hon. Maurice Cohen.
44. Rt. Hon. J. G. Coates.
45. National Museum, Wellington, New Zealand.
46. Hon. John C. Lane.
47. ANS Museum.
48. Edward L. Caum, later John Dean Coin Co. (See below).
49. J. Frank Woods.
50. Hon. V. S. K. Houston.

No. 48 of the above was authenticated for John Dean Coin Co., in May 1972, and sold March 30, 1973 by Mitchell Proctor of that firm to Chattanooga Coin Co., then on June 5, 1973 by Gary Filler of that firm to James N. Anthony of Arkansas.

The R. E. Cox coin (1962 N. Y. Metropolitan:2125) has not been traced with certainty to its original source. Its cataloguer cited others which had been ruined by mistaken attempts at cleaning. These have not been traced in recent years.

At least one counterfeit exists; this was shown me in a convention a few years back. It appears to have been fraudulently manufactured from a regular and originally genuine business strike, by crude sandblasting; the nicks on rims and fields show sandblast surface within them, proving that the nicks preceded the operation — which would surely not

have been the case with a genuine proof. In confirmation, relief details are not as good as on regular uncirculated specimens, whereas on the proofs they are considerably sharper. I mention these facts in order that nobody else will be deceived by anything similar.

### 1934

**Maryland Tercentenary Half Dollar.** At least three matte proofs reported. Wayte Raymond had one many years ago; two others reportedly came from the J. R. Sinnock estate, via 1962 ANA:2053-4. Much more relief detail shows on Calvert's hair and on arms and supporters than on regular uncirculated specimens.

No report as yet of any of the Texas Centennial halves in matte proof, nor of any of the Boone Bicentennial coins.

### 1935

**Connecticut Tercentenary Half Dollar.** Two matte proofs reported, one of them from the Sinnock estate, via 1962 ANA: 2055. Whereabouts unknown to me, though someone evidently had either shown or reported one to Arlie Slabaugh as it is mentioned in his book *United States Commemorative Coinage*, Whitman, 1963, p.87. In checking coins suspected of being matte proofs, look especially for unusual clarity on oak leaves and on breast and wing feathers; letters on reverse also should be in higher relief than on regular uncirculated pieces. A real matte proof of this design, rarity aside, would be one of the finest display coins

of the twentieth century.

**Arkansas Centennial Half Dollar.** One matte proof reported of the 1935 date.

**San Diego-Pacific Exposition. (1935-S) Half Dollar.** Wayte Raymond had seen a splendid matte proof of this coin; one other, ex Sinnock estate, has been subsequently reported. I have not seen either piece and therefore cannot be certain whether the proofs actually bear the S mintmark, unlike the 1915 Pan-Pacific coins. It would be interesting to learn if any proofs are included in the enormous hoard.

**Hudson, N.Y., Sesquicentennial Half Dollar.** Two matte proofs reported, one ex Sinnock estate. I have seen neither one but the informants for these as for the preceding ones are reliable enough. There are presumably more details showing on Neptune's hair and beard, triton, and obverse ship's hull than on the regular unc. coins, though it is dubious if the original design contained much detail to begin with.

**Old Spanish Trail 1535-1935 Half Dollar.** Two matte proofs reported, one of them seen by Wayte Raymond, the other from the Sinnock estate; more may exist. I was shown one of these during the middle 1950's. It is fine grain matte and has an almost chalky look; more relief detail on cow's head (the lovely punning device for *Cabeza de Vaca*) than on regular uncirculated pieces; reverse details, even the flowers surmounting the yucca tree, are needle sharp. A most remarkable coin.

# XI. BRILLIANT PROOFS MAKE A COMEBACK: 1936-1964

## 1936

Proof sets were once again made for public distribution beginning April 28, 1936. The earlier and later types are reputedly a result respectively of inexperience of mint personnel in making proofs, or difficulty in making old-style brilliant proofs with the equipment at hand (notably on the 5¢ dies), and too vigorous attempts to imitate the oldstyle brilliant proofs.



**1936 Cent. Satin finish, first issue. Note location of knife-rims. ANS.**

**Cent.** [5569 total] Type I. Surfaces satin finish, sometimes nearly matte. Needle sharp inner and outer edges to rims, obv. and rev. Occasionally mistaken for uncirculated coins or vice versa. Usually dull red in color. Cf. NN 43: 754-55 for comparison with the Type II (lot 756). An excellent comparison piece is in ANS. An estimate from the then Mint Superintendent in Philadelphia, transmitted to me by Lester Merkin, was that — contrary to common belief — approximately 2/3 or between 3500 and 3700 of the proof cents made this year were of this kind. They were not popular, did not sell well, and in some instances were evidently mistakenly spent as business strikes, as I have seen specimens showing evidence of brief circulation.

At the moment most of the traceable 1936 proof cents are Type I's. Perfect coins lacking nicks or scratches are quite rare — and it is not often that one can call a "modern" proof (1936 and after) rare.

— Type II. Extra brilliant mirrorlike surfaces, some mirrorlike finish even on devices, exactly as in 1937; needle sharp inner and outer edges to rims. Brighter color than Type I, usually fiery orange similar to 1937 unless stained or cleaned. Mintage, by subtraction, in the neighborhood of 1800 to 2000. Now highly prized for appearance; popular though not of great rarity. *Dangerous forgeries exist* made by buffing or copperplating regular uncirculated coins. Beware of any offered that have less relief detail in Lincoln's hair and beard than uncirculated coins of the same period — or that do not have sharp inner and outer edges to rims.

**Five Cents.** [Total 4420] Type I. Satin finish, sometimes almost matte; unusual sharpness on Indian's hair and details of bison's skin as in former matte proofs; sharp inner and outer edges to rims. Edges (cylindrical surfaces) are, by contrast, mirrorlike as in the later years — the close collar was brilliantly polished, perhaps unintentionally by use. Mintage of this type (from the same source) was also supposedly close to 2/3 the total, say 2600 to 2800 specimens, possibly somewhat smaller. Many of these coins were, like the cents, mistaken for uncirculated pieces and spent; not so many have been recovered from among circulated coins. The Type I nickel is now rarer than the Type II; Lester Merkin has estimated it as five times as rare, i.e. about 1/6 as often seen, about 1/6 of the total of traceable 1936 proof nickels, individually or in sets. Comparison piece: ANS. Cf. also NN 43: 768-769 (with a Type II as lot 770).

— Type II. Extra brilliant, similar to the cent and to the 1937 issue. The vast majority of these show nicks and scratches, and quite a few were recovered from circulation. I myself have at various times between 1947 and about 1953 owned nine or ten so found — those were the days! Perfect coins are very uncommon. *Dangerous forgeries exist*, made in the same manner as the cents, though buffing is more common than nickelplating. Beware of any offered that do not have sharp edges to rims. The majority even of unimpaired 1936 nickel proofs are of Type II, but these bring higher prices than Type I for appearance.

It is barely possible that frosted devices might exist on a few Type II's, as on some later years, but none are reported.

No minor proof sets are known to have been made, though individual proof coins were certainly sold outside sets.

**Dimes.** [4139 total] Type I. Satin finish, somewhat similar to the cent. Extremely sharp relief details and rims. *Extremely rare*, not over six seen in the last 15 years. Cf. NN 43:783 (lot 784 was a Type II), and the set in LM 3/68:369 (below).

— Type II. Extra brilliant, even the devices showing some mirrorlike surface, exactly as in 1937. Relief detail and rims extra sharp, which at once distinguishes them from the buffed and plated pieces sometimes offered. Over 99% of 1936 proof dimes examined are of this type. Many are impaired.

**Quarter.** [3837] Extra brilliant finish only, as in 1937. All are from the third hub as seen on the last 1934 coins ("Type III" or "Type of 1936"), showing heavy wide motto with middle stroke of W highest. Rev. Lower relief than 1937-64, ES about touch. Very popular as the lowest mintage of proofs of this year. Several small hoards exist. No frosted heads are known. Many survivors are impaired.

**Half Dollar.** [3901] Extra brilliant finish only, as in 1937. No frosted devices known. All are from the second hub (1918-36) showing large stars and incised garment details at throat, none from the 1937 hub. *Dangerous forgeries exist*, buffed or plated. These are ordinarily identified by loss of relief detail at Ms. Liberty's head and branch hand and flag stripes, compared to even the best uncirculated specimens. In particular, branch hand should be well defined, all fingers clear — never the case on buffed or plated pieces, almost never on business strikes.

**Proof Sets.** Not more than 3837 could have been made and the number is probably more like 3750 or less. No figures have been published on actual numbers of coins or sets released, sold, or melted, or when the change to Type II began. A set with Type I cent, nickel and dime was LM 6/68:369. Barlett:1007 had Type I cent and nickel. Most sets either are completely Type II or not described. Usually, the distinction is

not made at all, perhaps because dealers or speculators fear that mention of type will adversely affect prices. Many sets have been assembled, some having a Type I cent and Type II nickel or vice versa. Or, more ominously, one or more coins in the set will prove to have been manufactured by buffing or plating.



**1936 "Robinson" Half Dollar. Satin finish. Wayte Raymond estate, NN61:572.**

**Commemoratives. Arkansas "Robinson" Half Dollar.** Made in January 1937, despite the date. Wayte Raymond owned four of these, of which one went cheaply in NN61. The illustration in that catalogue is extremely revealing compared to an ordinary specimen, as the relief details are sharp enough to make business strikes look worn by comparison! Lester Merkin reports a "brilliant" proof, which may have been satin finish; I have not seen it. The matte proofs, despite their sharpness, may be the original of Arlie Slabaugh's comment that they are hardly distinguishable from uncirculated pieces. But after seeing the Raymond coins, I could not disagree more. Though Stack's distributed this issue, they have no record of the proofs.

Rumors persist of most of the other 1936 commemoratives in matte, sandblast, or satin finish proof, but reliable information is still lacking.

## 1937

**Cent.** [9320] Extra brilliant, even the devices partly mirrorlike, as on the later or Type II coins of 1936.

**Five Cents.** [5769] Exactly as the cent.

**Dime.** [5756] Likewise.

**Quarter.** [5542] Likewise. From the 1936 obv. hub only. Rev. Higher relief ("Type II", 1937-64). E S apart, leaf extends above top arrowpoint, different from business strikes. Lowest proof mintage this year, thus vulgarly termed a "key" coin for assembling sets. Forgeries similar to 1936 may exist.

**Half Dollar.** [5728] Similar finish. Third hub (1937 only). Only one ray almost vertical (preceding types have two rays nearly vertical and touching or about touching flag). This ray almost touches flag, its r. hand neighbor entirely free. All rays thinner than



before. Two varieties, normal or extra thin letters in motto (lapped die) — 1973 GENA:617-619. Which is rarer? Often found nicked and scratched. Forgeries similar to 1936 may exist.

**Proof sets.** Not over 5542 could have been made, probably fewer. Hoarded and subjected to much speculation.

**Commemoratives. Arkansas Centennial Half Dollar.** At least two semi-brilliant proofs reported with this date. Fields were not well adapted to burnishing of dies. Rumors exist of proofs (matte?) of the Roanoke Island and Antietam halves; unconfirmed.

## 1938

**Cent.** [14,734] Similar to the 1937 issue.



**1938 Jefferson Five Cents. Normal letters. ANS**

**Five Cents.** [19,365] Jefferson design. Brilliant fields; rarely seen with frost on portrait, still more rarely with frost on both portrait and building. Two notable varieties:

— Letters normal, star of irregular shape. Not rare. Much hoarded as first year.

— Letters extremely thin, ERTY mere wisps, the star a mere dot. Very scarce.

Some 150 are on large (8" x 12") cards reading "First Prize Winner among 390 Competing Artists in the National Competition for a New Five Cent Coin, April 20, 1938. Felix Schlag, Sculptor" with Schlag's autograph, a serial number, a notarized statement about the number so issued, and a drawing of the original reverse (far better artistically than the version adopted). During the middle and late 1960's these historically desirable cards sold between \$150 and \$250 apiece after a Chicago dealer's hoard (possibly 2/3 of the original issue) was dispersed.

**Dime.** [8728] Similar to the 1937 issue.

**Quarter.** [8045] New hub, profile sharper. Similar to the 1937 issue.

**Half Dollar.** [8152] Fourth hub, a reversion to the 1918-36 type but with more incised detail at drapery at outstretched arm below stars; two nearly vertical rays touch flag. Similar to the 1937 issue in finish.

**Proof sets.** Not over 8045 could have been issued, probably fewer. Much speculated in, like the 1937's.



**1938 New Rochelle Half Dollar. Satin finish. Private collection.**

**Commemoratives. New Rochelle Half Dollar.** Arlie Slabaugh reports "matte" proofs. Hydeman:694, apparently ex 1958 ANA: 1707, was described as a proof, supposedly brilliant, with a document certifying that this was the 8th coin struck, presented to William S. Dewey, then President of the Westchester County Coin Club. I did not see the coin. Dewey was certainly a well known collector in that club, but he was not in any way connected, to my knowledge, with the New Rochelle celebration committees; he is not mentioned in Amy Skipton's "you were there" chronicle *One Fatt Calfe*, nor indeed are any of the coin club people, nor is there any allusion to special presentation of the coins. Therefore, if any such presentation was made, it presumably took place somewhere else than New Rochelle — e.g. the Philadelphia Mint? A "matte" proof ex Sinnock estate was in 1962 ANA:2056. I have seen one other, satin finish.

## 1939

**Cent.** [13,520] Much like the 1937's. Date normal or with second 9 small and thin. 1973 GENA: 621.

**Five Cents.** [12,535] Like the 1938's. No presentation coins and no thin letters coins, though.

**Dime.** [9321] Like the 1937's. Single or double rev. ribbon end, the former with "broken nose", the latter normal. 1973 GENA: 620-1.

**Quarter.** [8795] Like the 1938's. Popular as lowest mintage; in demand for assembling sets.

**Half Dollar.** [8808] Like the 1938's.

**Proof set.** Not more than 8795 could have been made, probably less. Many sets now extant have been assembled. Small hoards exist even as of former years.

## 1940

**Cent.** [15,872] Like the 1937's.

**Five Cents.** [14,158] Like the 1939's.

**Dime.** [11,827] Like the 1937's. Sometimes with "broken nose" (lapped die).

**Quarter.** [11,246] Like the 1938's.

**Half Dollar.** [11,279] Like the 1938's. Sometimes with only microscopic traces of AW monogram, with normal or open D in GOD, later with tail of R in TRUST too short, all these from excessive lapping or polishing of the dies.

**Proof Sets.** Not more than 11,246 could have been made, probably less. First year of over 10,000 mintage. Much hoarded.

### 1941

**Cent.** [21,100] Like the 1937's.

**Five Cents.** [18,720] Like the 1939's. Letters on some are thinner than usual but nothing like the 1938 variety.

**Dime.** [16,557] Like the 1937's.

**Quarter.** [15,287] Like the 1938's.

**Half Dollar.** [15,412] This design is normally found with Weinman's monogrammed AW at lower right reverse. Many specimens, individual and in sets, lack the monogram. I have examined these and they are all from the same working die which had been much repolished or lapped, probably to obliterate clash marks. An earlier state shows weak AW. Not an intentional variety. Somewhat commoner than those with the AW showing, in a ratio of possibly 5 with to 8 or 9 without it. However, as there are thousands of 1941 halves in hoards of individual coins or hoards of proof sets, examination of these might alter the ratio somewhat. The variety is nevertheless common enough so that any collector wanting it for comparison can get it for a price — not unusually high at the moment.

**Proof Sets.** Not more than 15,287 could have been made, probably less. First year of 15,000 or more mintage of proof sets.

### 1942

**Cent.** [32,600] Like the 1937's.

**Five Cents.** Type I: Nickel alloy, similar to preceding years. Without large mint mark above dome. [29,600] Like the 1939's.

— Type II: Wartime silver alloy. Large P above dome. [27,600] Many of these were added to existing proof sets. A large number went into hoards. Genuinely a type coin: first year of the new alloy, only domestic coin of the Philadelphia Mint showing a P mintmark. The high Guidebook listing and recent market quotations reflect hoarding based on those considerations.

**Dime.** [22,329] Like the 1937's.

**Quarter.** [21,123] Like the 1938's.

**Half Dollar.** [21,120] Like the 1938's.

**Proof Sets.** Not more than 21,120 could have been made, probably fewer. These had the Type I nickels, but many of them were converted into 6-piece proof sets by collectors buying the new Type II proof nickels as soon after the issue date of October 8, 1942 as possible. Five-piece proof sets are now very seldom offered and when available usually have the silver nickel added thereto. Such is conformity. Hoards of 6-piece proof sets exist; I myself have seen one hoard of nearly 900 sets and one other nearly as large, and

I can well believe that others are around.

Experimental cents were made dated 1942 in various metals and compositions. At least two of these have a matte finish but the other coins so far offered do not have the earmarks of proofs.

Proof coinage was discontinued at the end of 1942 because increased wartime demands for coins (to meet payrolls, principally) strained the mint's facilities to a then unprecedented degree. Various wartime proofs have been reported but authentication is lacking. Judging by previous mint history, however, almost anything is possible.

### 1950

The first proofs coined this year had a comparatively dull finish but sharp inner and outer edges to rims. Later proofs were far more brilliant. The analogy is not quite to the two types of 1936 proofs, as the first ones were not nearly matte in surface. They are, nevertheless, easily distinguishable. As in 1936, the second issue — more brilliant — brings a higher price. No information is available on respective amounts coined.

From now through 1964 proofs were coined only in sets, no extra individual specimens being issued. Dies were brilliantly burnished; only the first few impressions from each die show frost on head or other relief device, though that was the intention for all. It is rare to see more than one frosted-head coin in a set, uncommon to see even one, all but unheard of to find 3 or 4. Frosted coins are known of all dates and denominations, however.

**Set.** [51,386] Hoarded in vast quantities as the first year of the new series; the first year to show the Roosevelt dime or Franklin half dollar. The quarter is from the retouched hub introduced in 1944 with back hair (queue) sharper than previously; designer's initials JF large and well formed as on those made from 1945 on. The half dollar has the first style eagle (1950-55 and early '56 proofs, 1950-63 unc. except 1959), with low relief and 4 feathers left of perch, the lower wing feathers somewhat indistinct.

### 1951

**Set.** [57,500] Same comments, but without the "first year" glamor.

### 1952

**Set.** [81,980] As in 1951. Half dollar sometimes has incomplete back curls. 1973 GENA: 636.

### 1953

**Set.** [128,800] As in 1951. Speculation on unc. half dollars may have affected proof set prices.

### 1954

**Set.** [233,300] As in 1951.

## 1955

**Set.** [378,200] As in 1951. Speculation on unc. half dollars may have affected proof prices; note that less than six times as many business strikes of this denomination were made as there were proofs.

Owing in part to discovery of a singularly crude abuse, sometime during April or May — exact date and amounts appear not to have been recorded — the mint changed over from shipping sets in boxes to shipping them in polyethylene plastic envelopes. During about 1953-55 there had been a growing business in "mint sealed" proof sets, which term was taken by some of the more stupid element to mean unopened boxes. The demand was met in part by enterprising specialists in fraud, who steamed open the boxes, filched the proof sets, replaced them with junk foreign coins, small pieces of lead pipe, or reportedly lumps of coal or stones of approximately proper weight, and afterwards resealed the boxes replacing the buff paper tape in as near the original position as possible, so that the mint's rubber stamp designations would not be disturbed in position. Exposure of this practice produced a rather messy scandal. Unfortunately, the market in "mint sealed" proof sets continued even after the switch to plastic envelopes. Some of the aforementioned more stupid element continued to insist that the term had to mean unopened *mailing envelopes*, and one may guess what happened . . . ! I have seen several such envelopes which revealed that the proof sets had been replaced by small zinc sheets of about the proper weight. Exposure of this practice has helped quiet down the moronic insistence on "mint sealed." If people are going to buy, sell, hoard and speculate in the things unopened, why not keep them in some central vault and sell shares of stock in them?

## 1956

**Set.** [669,384] Two types.

— Half dollar of Type I as in previous years.

— Half dollar of Type II, 1956-63. Eagle in higher relief, 3 feathers left of perch, all wing feathers distinct. It is not known which is scarcer. The late Sol Kaplan had hoarded these and some earlier years by the tens of thousands.

## 1957

**Set.** [1,247,952] Nickels for this year and 1958 only have a much larger star in legend than former years. I have also seen one with extremely thin letters (overpolished die); this is evidently quite rare. As less than 4 1/8 times as many business strike half dollars were made as proofs, conceivably this might have helped in the recovery of prices on 1957 proof sets some years later. For awhile the large mintage made this date difficult to sell, especially after Prudential Insurance Co. dumped over 100,000 sets. During the next few months these sets could be bought at well

below issue price, but there were few takers. One set known, evidently assembled, with all five coins showing frosted devices. Usually there are not more than one or two, generally none.

## 1958

**Set.** [875,652] As in 1957, but no nickels seen with extra thin letters, and the remarks about half dollars and massive hoarding do not hold. Nickels are not as dark as business strikes of this year.

## 1959

**Set.** [1,149,291] Cents have the new (and still, alas, current) Gasparro design for reverse — no improvement at all. Nickels have smaller star in legend; tie more rectangular, queue in higher relief and farther from neck.

## 1960

**Set.** [All kinds 1,691,602] Claims have been made for true varieties on the dimes ("pointed" and "blunt" tails to 9). So far as I can tell, this variation on dimes 1960-64 comes from lighter or heavier hubbing on dies; or sometimes from relapped dies, which procedure would naturally thin out date elements, preferentially those already narrowed in design such as serifs or tails.

On the other hand, small and large date cents prove two different working hubs. Small dates have thick digits, short tails to 9 and 6, small circle within zero, and top of 1 is noticeably about top of 9. Only a comparatively small number, probably between 100,000 and 200,000 pieces (promoters would like to believe still fewer than that), managed to leave the mint in proof state; exact statistics have never been released. The large dates have thin digits, long tails to 9 and 6, large opening in zero, top of 1 below top of 9; they are sufficiently common.

When two different hubs are used to make coins of the same denomination in the same year, mixups occur such that a working die, given one blow from a hub and then sent to the annealing furnace, may return in the wrong batch to the hubbing press and receive a second blow from a different hub. This is what produced the well-known 1918/7 nickel and quarter obverses and the 1942/41 dime dies. By the middle 1960's eagle-eyed specialists had discovered the same kind of hubbing error on 1960 cents: large over small dates. Uncirculated specimens are numerous. Later on (about 1966) proofs were reported from at least one working die with this same error. The Steiner-Zimpfer book *Modern Mint Mistakes* (Whispering Pines Ptg., Box 16, Wanatah, Indiana 46390, 4th ed., 1974, p. 74) lists proofs with this blunder at \$50-\$75: say 50 to 60 times the value of a regular large date proof, 3 to 4 times the value of a regular small date proof cent.

**1961**

**1961**

**Set.** [3,028,244] As in 1959.

**1962**

**Set.** [3,218,019] As in 1959.

**1963**

**Set.** [3,075,645] As in 1959. Queue on nickel retouched.

**1964**

**Set.** [3,950,762] As in 1959, save that the half dollar

is of the Kennedy design obv. by Gilroy Roberts, rev. by Frank Gasparro. These were delayed in coming out, and as a result some speculators were selling futures in Kennedy proof sets even as in rolls of half dollars. This seemed to me at the time to be one of the most cynical events in numismatic history. I understand that some of these, shall I say, enthusiasts lost their neckties, if not their shirts, and serve them right. The sets are now easily obtained for a price. Hoarding has been done with perhaps more of what JFK used to call "vigah" than on most other post-1950 dates: not that hoarders will grow rich from it.

## XII. AFTERMATH: SANDWICH METAL, "SMS" AND S MINT PROOFS

This period is marked by the introduction of the ersatz coinage metal euphemistically called "nickel clad" and more picturesquely known as "sandwich metal," layers of cupro-nickel (as in regular 5¢) bonded to a copper core, a combination chosen by the Battelle Institute to avoid forcing the Mafia-controlled vending machine industry to suffer any inconvenience. My objection to this metal has been in print more than once: it eases the counterfeiter's task, and makes his product harder to detect, discarding anticounterfeiting tests in use for thousands of years. The coins are underweight, ring poorly and briefly, have bad color and greasy feel, and relief detail — even on proofs — is inferior to that on earlier years. The quarter from 1965 on is from redesigned obv. and rev. hubs copying 1935 (though the 1968S and later proof quarters have a better reverse).

Nor can this section be complete without mention of the ersatz proofs called, again euphemistically, "Special Mint Sets," made 1965-67 at the reactivated San Francisco Mint, and sold in quantity at about double the price of former proof sets. Striking quality is inferior to proofs and to pre-1965 uncirculated pieces; nicks and scratches are the rule.

But the following proofs are the real thing.

### 1966

Five Cents. [2] Initials FS added to obverse. Struck to honor the late Felix Schlag, one presented to him at a ceremony. One wonders if his widow has already been harassed by ambulance-chasers in search of the coin.

### 1968

Set. [3,041,509] S Mintmark on obv. in all denominations henceforth. A few lack the S on the

dime; mintage unknown but very small, survivors extremely rare and unpriced in standard references. No late auction records. The majority of sets have "Type III" quarters: leaf does not extend above point of topmost arrow. "A substantial minority", issued Nov.-Dec. 1968, have "Type II" quarters (as in all following dates of proofs): leaf extends well above arrow points; leaf joins A; M (of UNUM) directly below IB.

### 1969

Set. [2,934,631] S Mint. Nothing remarkable except the year itself, notable for the first moon landing and the Woodstock Festival. Head on cent slightly smaller.

### 1970

Set. [2,632,810] S Mint. Several variations. Type I: Small date cent (tops of digits even, base of 7 about in line with that of 0). Much scarcer than following.

Type II: Large date cent (tops of digits uneven, top of 7 below 9-0, base below 0).

Some 2,200 were made with dime lacking the S (which type cent?).



1970 S Quarter Dollar, silver, overstruck on a 1900 quarter. Ex a 1970 proof set, Winthrop:1020, NERCG Cambridge Sale: 1440

A quarter is known in *silver*, overstruck on a 1900 quarter (clear date)! Winthrop: 1020, \$3,000, later NERCG "Cambridge" Sale: 1440 (12/76).

### 1971

**Set.** [3,224,138] S Mint. The 5¢ is from a remodeled (slightly modified) hub, the design a little strengthened. Half dollars, formerly 80% silver clad to a 21% silver core, are from now on made of the same nickel/copper sandwich metal as dimes and quarters. The Ike dollars (below) were not included in these sets, though many were later added by buyers of the sets.

Some 1,655 sets lack mintmark on the 5¢. Very scarce and in great demand.

**Dollar.** Eisenhower design, silver-clad. [4,265,234] So-called "high relief" dies. Sold separately from sets. Average die life 3,500 impressions.

### 1972

**Set.** [3,267,667] S Mint. The 5¢ was again slightly remodeled. No dollars included.

**Dollar.** Silver-clad. [1,811,631] "High relief" dies as above. Sold separately.

### 1973

**Set.** [2,769,624] S Mint. The cent was slightly remodeled, Frank Gasparro's initials FG enlarged. Quarter reverse details are sharpened. Sets include nickel-clad Ike dollars for the first time. These have "Type C" reverse, no incuse outline behind lower r. crater; three distinct Caribbean islands left of Florida.

**Dollar.** Silver-clad. [1,005,617] "Modified high relief" type. Sold separately from the sets.

### 1974

**Set.** [2,617,350] S Mint. Includes the nickel-clad dollar.

**Dollar.** Silver-clad. [1,314,609] Sold separately.

### 1975

**Set.** [2,909,369] S Mint. Six pieces: quarter, half and nickel-clad dollar of Bicentennial design only, dated 1776-1976; other denominations as before. The dollars in this set are of Var. I: low relief, bold rev. lettering, straight tail to R of DOLLAR.

### 1976

**Six-piece Set.** [4,149,730] S Mint. Same composition as 1975, nickel-clad Bicentennial dollar included. Dollars come in both Var. I (above) and Var. II, latter with sharper design, more delicate rev. lettering, curved tail to R of DOLLAR, some other letters altered in shape.

**Three-piece Set.** [1,045,412] Quarter, half and Var. II dollar only, all of Bicentennial designs; silver-clad.

### 1977

**Set.** (Still in production) S Mint. Nickel-clad quarter, half dollar and dollar; designs revert to those of 1974. As this is written there is talk of discontinuing the dollar; orders are nevertheless being accepted from April 1, 1977 for the above described sets, not over five per person, at \$9 apiece compared to the former \$7. Although the \$2 increase would seem to have dampened collectors' enthusiasm still the rumors are that well over 2 million have been ordered.

## XIII. BRANCH MINT PROOFS

If early presentation pieces and pre-1858 proofs are caviar to the average collector, then branch mint proofs are perhaps to be compared to dishes of peacocks' tongues. Most collectors have never seen one; many have doubted the existence or authenticity of any of them, as I did until I saw several in the Smithsonian and learned of the circumstances of their presentation. The list to follow is the most nearly complete attempted to date. This is, naturally, confined to coins issued by the official branch mints, *not* including the U.S. Provisional Mint at San Francisco (U.S. Assay Office, 1851-53).

Now that it is known that proofs were made prior to 1893 by giving coins additional blows on an old screw press, rather than by using a hydraulic press, the appearance of branch mint proofs is quite understandable. Many of the employees of branch mints went to them from Philadelphia where they would have learned the techniques for making proofs. Any branch mint could have struck proofs, though there is no evidence that Charlotte or Dahlonega actually did. Facilities for buffing dies, strip, or blanks certainly existed, or could be improvised, and the trick of replacing a coin onto the lower die within the collar (with gloved hands, first deactivating the automatic feeder mechanism or making sure no blanks were in the hopper) was well known.

The tests for real branch mint proofs are the same as for Philadelphia proofs.

### NEW ORLEANS MINT



**1838-0 Half Dollar. Ex Col. Green, "Dupont," Gotschal**

**\*1838 O Half Dollar.** [20] These were struck in January 1839, ostensibly to test a recently arrived press of the largest size. No accounting of them was made in reports by the superintendent of the New Orleans Mint to the Director at Philadelphia. The mintage figure comes from Rufus Tyler, at that time Coiner — what person in a better position to know? Long ago believed to be of the highest rarity. Beistle (1929) claimed only three struck, which meant only that Col. Green was unwilling to show him his others. Green eventually owned at least seven specimens, according to Wayte Raymond. Between us we were able (1951) to enumerate eleven different ones.

(1) Superintendent, N.O.Mint, Mint Cabinet (in the 1858 layout, no. 6, division III), SI. Proof.

(2) Col. Green, B. G. Johnson, Wayte Raymond, J. G. MacAllister, Menjou: 1073, R. E. Cox: 1873 \$9,500, Empire Coin Co., "Century": 1151, \$8,250. Proof.

(3) John H. Clapp, Louis Eliasberg. Proof.

(4) J.N.T. Levick, W. Elliot Woodward, Oct. 1884, R. Coulton Davis:655, J.B. Wilson:346, Waldo Newcomer, Henry Chapman (1928), \$2,000, Col. Green Maurice A. Ryan, Mehl 6/45, \$1,875, W.W. Neil:580, J.A. Stack estate:415, \$50,000. Proof.

(5) Col. Green, B. Max Mehl, Atwater:555, unknown intermediaries, Reed Hawn:122, \$41,000. Proof, nicked up.

(6) Col. Green, unknown intermediaries, Baldenhofer:708, Pelletreau:783, \$3,800, Jerry Cohen, Lester Merkin, private coll., Lester Merkin, Q. David Bowers, Charles Jay:181, Dr. E. Yale Clarke:253, \$43,000. Impaired proof.

(7) Col. Green, Wayte Raymond, F. C. C. Boyd, WGC:410, "eastern collector," F. S. Guggenheimer:830. Impaired proof.

(8) Col. Green, unknown intermediaries, "Dupont":2104, Gotschal, 1957 ANA sale, \$4,450, believed bought by D.N. for the owner of the "TAD" collection. Impaired proof.

(9) C. A. Cass, "Empire":1344, \$4,000, playing Musical Chairs for awhile, later to New Netherlands at \$6,500, by whom resold at \$7,750 to Jerry Cohen, later KS 4/67:1065. EF, impaired, obviously formerly proof.

Those owned by Col. Green certainly included nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, and possibly either no. 3 or no. 9, unless indeed no. 9 was a more recent discovery.

The original W. M. Friesner coin (Friesner:583, Frossard, 1894), recorded in *Numismatist* 4/94, p. 198, "The 1838 Half Dollar New Orleans Mint," was a proof, accompanied by an old piece of paper inscribed as follows:

"The enclosed specimen coin of the U.S. branch mint at New Orleans is presented to Pres. Bache by Rufus Tyler the Coiner. It may be proper to state that not more than 20 pieces were struck with the half dollar dies of 1838."

When this was published, nobody had seen the New Orleans Mint records outside the Mint Bureau itself. In 1951 I found them in the Archives, and among them were many documents sent by the New Orleans Mint superintendent to the Director in Philadelphia, in which Rufus Tyler's name figured prominently as Coiner in both 1838 and 1839. Note also the use of the term "specimen coin" to mean proof. This particular example is not now identified, though as it was in 1894 an unimpaired Proof, it may be no. 2 or 3, or even part of some estate, ready to spring a surprise on the numismatic world. I have been unable to trace the other two examples known to Wayte Raymond, though they are doubtless still around, probably in estates.

**1839 O Dime.** WGC:675. Unseen, die variety data lacking, unconfirmed.



**1839 O Half Dollar. Ex Merkin Feb. 1971:736**

**1839 O Half Dollar.** Repunched mintmark, Beistle 2-Aa (the variety usually seen and forming the majority of the large hoard which drove up the prices on this popular mintmark). (1) Boyd, WGC:411, Allenburger, R. E. Cox:1875. (2) Philip G. Straus (1951), dies aligned ↑↑ — is this constant for these proofs? (3) Krouner, LM 2/71:736 — is it same as (1)? (4) Private collection. These proofs have the same striking quality and surfaces as the 1838 O half dollars.

**1844 O Half Dime.** Atwater: 1193. Unverified.

**1844 O Half Eagle.** Parmelee: 1152, Woodin, various intermediates, later history uncertain. Believed to be the piece now in a Texas pvt. coll., though one other is around in a plastic holder identifying it as the Parmelee coin. The Texas piece is even more convincing. In the Parmelee catalogue was the notation "As it is allowable to strike proofs only at the Philadelphia mint, it would seem that [these two] must be extremely rare."

**1844 O Eagle.** Parmelee:1151, Woodin, since untraced, occasion unknown.

**1845 O Half Dollar.** Double date. Newcomb II:856. Not seen, but if Newcomb called this a proof, it must be something quite extraordinary. Newcomb's criteria for proofs exceeded the mint's own. On the other hand, if the label originated with MacAllister while he was drunk . . . .

**1851 O Trime.** 1976 ANA:482, \$7,500. I did not see this. Occasion obviously the new denomination.

**1851 O Half Dollar.** Represented by 1975 ANA:586, poorly cleaned, possibly ex Col. Green, Mason Williams?



**1852 O Half Dollar. Ex Merkin Feb. 1971:755**

**1852 O Half Dollar.** Drastically repolished dies, foot not supported, rev. upper part of first red stripe and lower part of third attenuated. Die file marks



between UNIT and wing, leaves and wing, arrows and wing and final A. (1) Krouner, Merkin 2/71:755. (2) A-Mark, 1972. (3) Pvt. coll. All three poorly cleaned.



**1853 O Eagle. Ex Merkin March 1969:421**

**1853 O Eagle.** Very low date slanting up to r. Rev. 0 above center, much nearer feather tip than claw. LM 3/69:421, where called a presentation piece.

**1854 O Half Dollar.** Date slants up to r., 54 touch. Reed Hawn: 183, \$1,300, unverified.

**1854 O Quarter Eagle.** Ronnie Carr, unverified but I trust his judgment.

**1856 O Half Dime.** Unattributed. Unusually broad flan. Wayte Raymond, NN 33:464. Occasion unknown. I saw the piece and thought it very remarkable at the time, but Wayte and I preferred not to list it then in the Standard Catalogue as our policy then was to confine such listing to coins either documented or made for known occasions.

**1857 O Half Dime.** Unattributed. Golden I:921, unverified.

**1859 O Dollar.** "Heavy mintmark, placed high." (1) Amon Carter Sr. estate, ex Roe:523, Kern:912, unverified. (2) "Newport" sale, \$1,450, unverified.

**1860 O Half Dime.** Thin mintmark, unattributed. (1) "Dupont": 1411, beautifully sharp, perfect surfaces. (2), (3) Ex this writer's collection, in 1950's, in one instance offered as a Philadelphia coin! The dealer had failed to notice the mint mark.

**1860 O Dollar.** Garrett:278, \$1,050. I did not see this coin. Cf. Roe:525.

**1861 O Half Dollar.** Beistle 2-C. (1) Mass. Hist. Society, S 3/73:603, \$3,000. (2) J. A. Stack estates:494, \$3,400. (3) Ex V. L. Arrington ca. 1956. (4) One I formerly owned, possibly same as (3). (5) "Dupont":2168. (6) R.E. Cox:196, possibly same as (3) or (4). One of these, possibly (2) or (3), is believed to have been Col. Green's, the only one known to Beistle. All are of similar quality to Philadelphia proofs, even to knife-rims.

For the Confederate proofs, see the following chapter.

**1879 O Dollar.** [12] Struck Feb. 20, 1879 on reopening of the New Orleans Mint as a coining facility. Two seen; neither would ever be questioned by a collector seeing only the obverse! They compare well with Philadelphia proofs; they are among the most carefully made New Orleans proofs. They were

first reported in *Coin Collector's Journal* about 1880, the listings continued for several years in pocket-size vademecums for collectors, but afterwards listings were dropped and the coins forgotten. One is in SI, the New Orleans Mint Superintendent having presented it to the Mint Cabinet. Two others are in private hands, one reportedly bringing \$7500 (imp.) in RARCOA 1973 CSNS sale, the other Kagin 'Sale of the 70's': 1342 at \$8250.

**1883 O Dollar.** [12] Made for presentation to officials of some local celebration, possibly having to do with the cotton industry, though equally likely having to do with the establishment of Tulane University as the State University of Louisiana. The Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint called them proofs in *AJN*, 1884, p. 46. The only one I have seen "carries its own credentials" like the 1879. I authenticated it for Harry Forman about 1964; it reappeared in HR 11/69:1136 at \$1,600. A possible duplicate, nicked up, is — or was — in the Amon Carter Sr. estate, per Mehl's ms. catalogue (1955). Cf. 1942 ANA: 65; 1950 ANA: 858A.

**1890 O Dollar.** "Dupont":2592.



**1891 O Quarter Dollar. Ex Merkin Oct. 1969:173**

**1891 O Quarter Dollar.** (1) Dunham:629, Atwater:800, Cass, "Empire":1144. (2) Pvt. coll., ca. 1968. One of these was in LM 10/69:173, later Kamal Ahwash coll. Occasion: resumption of coinage of this denomination at New Orleans (interrupted 1860).

**1891 O Dollar.** "Dupont": 2594. A second reportedly in Amon Carter coll., unverified.

**1892 O Dollar.** Amon Carter Sr. estate, unverified.

**1893 O Dollar.** "Dupont":2600.

**1895 O Quarter Dollar.** LM 10/69:182. Excellent quality.



**1895 O Half Dollar. Ex Merkin. June 1970:311**

**1895 O Half Dollar.** Perfect match for the quarter. LM 6/70:311. It is not known if the dime or the dollar exists in proof state, let alone the eagle.

**1898 0 Half Dollar.** 1976 NERCG Publick II:1140. Slightly impaired.

**1899 0 Quarter Dollar.** Mason-Dixon 10th Sale:841 (10/31/56), "superb."

## SAN FRANCISCO MINT



**1854 S Double Eagle.** Ex Robert Aiken Birdsall, J. R. Snowden, Mint Cabinet, Smithsonian.

**1854 S Double Eagle.** [1+] Unique, probably the first piece coined. Robert Aiken Birdsall (S.F. Mint Superintendent), Mint Director James Ross Snowden for Mint Cabinet, No. 26, Division V ("Coinage of 1852-59") in Mint Cabinet display system, Feb. 1858, SI. When I saw it in 1951, neither Stuart Mosher (then curator as well as *Numismatist* editor) nor I had any idea it was a branch mint coin, and great indeed was our astonishment at finding the S mintmark. It would have passed as a Philadelphia proof had I not looked at the reverse. (It was then convenient to check in detail, as the case was specially left open; I had just finished checking the 1849 for hub differences from 1850, and tested Coiner Franklin Peale's claim that the 1849 would not stack — which claim proved false.)

**1855 S Quarter Dollar.** [1+] Supt. Birdsall, W. W. Long Museum as "first quarter dollar minted in California," Dr. Edward Maris; probably same coin reappearing as Grant Pierce:655, \$2,100, "Groves" sale at \$6,500.

**1855 S Half Dollar.** [1+] Occasion, first coinage of the denomination. Variety without drapery at elbow. (1) Supt. Birdsall, J. R. Snowden, Mint Cabinet, Div. V, no. 79 (an odd place for it, as this section consisted mostly of patterns and pioneer gold), SI. (2) Bolender, March 1956; I saw this, and it too could have passed for a Philadelphia proof. (3) Baldenhofer: 723, Reed Hawn:188, \$3,900, a Hollywood firm, reoffered at \$25,000.

**1870 S Silver Dollar.** There is some reason to believe that either 10 or 12 were made, that they were intended as proofs (accounting for their absence from coinage reports), the occasion being the new mint building cornerstone — note that one of them plus the gold dollar and \$3 went into it. Unfortunately, none is well enough preserved for certainty, though at least three survivors show some signs of proof

surface, and none show any mint lustre.

**1870 S Gold Dollar.** Amon Carter Sr. estate, ex Belden Roach. Unverified.

**1871 S Dime.** Neil:1391, selling at the then stupendous price of \$217.50. Neil's notation on the coin seems to indicate that Newcomb had seen it. I have not, unfortunately. Occasion unknown.

**1871 S Half Dollar.** "Dupont":2192, ex one of the Chapmans about World War I. Doubtful.



**1875 S Twenty Cents.** Roy Rauch coll.

**1875 S Twenty Cents.** [12] Obv. Horizontal die file marks in shield below BER, spine left from pole just below little finger. Rev. Left pendant of T and left foot of adjacent S broken away in CENTS. Die file mark from leaf point above that T runs into S. Broad borders, knife-rims, quality comparable to Phila, proofs. Struck about June 3, 1875; occasion, the new denomination. Discovered by Emerson Gaylord, but the discovery (in the early 1930's) was promptly forgotten by the numismatic world. Rediscovered at the 1964 ANA Convention (Cleveland), when one James Studley turned up one and claimed to have positive knowledge of a second (which did not materialize, as Studley later vanished). This coin was authenticated by the present writer as the discovery piece (no. 3 below). To date the following are traced, all showing some impairment. (1) Emerson Gaylord, B. Max Mehl, R. Byron White. (2) "Midwest dealer," R. Byron White. (3) James Studley, Jonah R. Shapiro, 1973 GENA:248, \$5,800, Mark Leach. Long lint mark on upper rev. from top of wing to M. (4) Roy Rauch, discovered at 1975 N. Y. Metropolitan Convention. By far the best of these. (5) Harold Whiteneck, November 1950, Joe Eisel, not seen. The sixth specimen listed by Rauch (ex Steve Ivy) has been drastically cleaned and no proof surface remains. Unfortunately, as the same dies were later used for business strikes, both before and after the rev. cracked through legend (at least four seen in all states), the presence of these dies must be taken only as a *necessary* condition of proof status, but not as *sufficient* evidence thereof. The entire subject was lucidly treated in the March 1974 *Numismatist* by R. Byron White, and in *Gobrecht Journal*, vol. 1, no. 3, August 1975, by Roy Rauch. (It is as yet unknown if the Carson City mint struck any proof 20¢ pieces for the same purpose June 1, 1875.)



1893 S Quarter. Ex 1975 Suburban Washington:186  
1893 S Quarter. 1975 Suburban Washington sale:186.



1894 S Dime Ex Hallie Daggett, Jerry Cohen, World-Wide.

**\*1894 S Dime.** [24] The most mysterious of all San Francisco coinages. Conceivably an occasion for mintage of proofs of any denomination existed in the golden jubilee of regular coinage operations; yet no quarters, halves, dollars, or gold proofs are reported. The story of the dime mintage is extremely fragmentary. Dr. Heath, in NUM 6/1900, alluded to J.C. Michelson of Kansas City (presumably the one who left his collection to the Connecticut State Library) as having "uncovered an 1894 S dime," and as quoting unnamed "mint authorities" as saying that "while 24 were originally struck, only 14 went into circulation, the remaining 10 being restruck" (apparently meaning recoined!). What nobody realized until recently is that all were made as proofs.

In COIN WORLD, 6/27/1973, James Johnson (Collectors' Clearinghouse) gave a quite different story, to the effect that in 1894 a banker friend, learning that no dimes were to be struck, asked Mr. Daggett (the Superintendent) to make some special strikings for a group of their friends. Of the 24 struck (reported as of June 30), each of eight persons received three, including Mr. Daggett. Daggett gave his three to his daughter Hallie, telling her to put them away until she was as old as he was, at which time she would be able to sell them for a good price. On the way home, little Hallie spent one for a dish of ice cream, but put the other two away until 1954 when she sold them to Earl Parker. Johnson was unable to learn the identities of the other friends who received these dimes.

The following is the most nearly complete roster attempted, but it is far from exhaustive. All are in proof state unless otherwise noted.

1. Waldo Newcomer, F.C.C. Boyd, WGC:756, Neil:1433, B. Max Mehl, Hydeman:387, \$13,000, Empire Coin Co., "Century":724, \$12,250, Paramount, Leo A. Young.

2. John H. Clapp, Eliasberg.

3. John H. Clapp, Eliasberg, "H.R.Lee":348, S, N.Y. pvt. coll.

4. S, James Aloysius Stack estate.

5. Mintmaster Daggett, Hallie Daggett, Earl Parker (1954), Dan Brown, S, a Chicago pvt. coll.

6. Mintmaster Daggett, Hallie Daggett, Earl Parker (1954), W.R. Johnson, Abner Kreisberg, World-Wide Investments, lately offered by Bowers at \$97,500.

7. CA. Cass, "Empire":881, Bowers, Norweb. Maple leaf below D weak, flat.

8. J.C. Michelson, Conn. State Library, Hartford. Unverified.

9. Rappaport, Kagin, Reuter, Kreisberg, Bowers, "eastern pvt. coll." Unseen.

10. Kagin "Sale of 70s":1114, \$52,000, EF, rev. scratch. Unverified.

11. Friedberg (bought over the counter, allegedly found in circulation, 1957), Kagin, NN 51:581, Kagin, HR 11/69, midwest coll. Good.

12. Romito, Montesano, consigned twice to S in 1942 but withdrawn for "personal reasons"; worn, circular obv. cut. Unverified.

Earl Parker had another one, offered in the Guggenheimer sale in 1953; doubted as mintmark is oddly shaped and obscured by some kind of defect, dies entirely different from any of foregoing.

All genuine specimens show a very minute rectangular die defect on base of E of DIME, just beyond upright and a little left of center of base; mintmark is upright, bold, slightly above center of space between border and knot, noticeably to right of center of space between ribbons.

Though supposedly only one pair of dies was furnished for dime coinage, there are apparently two obverse dies! That found on nos. 1, 2, 3 above has left tip of serif of 1 nearly in line with back of neck (hold coins so the neckline is upright), 4 away from truncation, strong serifs to base of 4, left base of 1 close to r. of center of dentil.

That found on nos. 6, 7 and 11 has left tip of serif well to right of neckline, top of 4 almost touching truncation, base of 4 weak with thin indefinite serifs, left base of 1 well above a point a little r. of center of dentil.

**1895 S Dollar.** (1) "Dupont":2605. (2) Amon Carter Sr. estate, not verified. (3) Midwest collection, verified.

**1899 S Half Eagle.** (1) Dr. Green:473. (2) Ronnie Carr, extracted from an 1899 gold proof set from the Col. Green collection, which set had no Philadelphia half eagle — previous owners had never noticed the S! Frosty devices, similar to Philadelphia proofs.

**1921 S Dollar.** Morgan design [24?] Recutting on top of left serif of both l's (plainer on first); faint scattered rev. striations, plainest at TED, AME and nearest parts of wings. Wayte Raymond told me in 1951 that Farran Zerbe had those coins made at San Francisco to go with the Philadelphia proofs from the first dollar dies received at the mint. (1) Seen at 1975 ANA Convention, later Hirt: 1269, illustrated in that catalogue. I have not yet had the opportunity to check the ANS or Chase Bank specimens.

### CARSON CITY MINT

**1870 CC Dollar.** Dietrich-Morgan: 134 (Woodward, 4/19-21/82), "extremely rare," untraced but undoubted. Several of the better looking survivors of this issue have brilliant prooflike surfaces but enough rubbing to obscure their original status — unlike the mint state specimens seen to date. Were those given out as souvenirs of the first dollar coinage from this mint, Feb. 10, 1870, later spent?

**1871 CC Half Dollar.** Both specimens are "one-sided" — perfect proof obv., frosty unc. rev. with proof striking quality. (1) Maurice Bauman: 176, "Groves": 442, \$3,750. (2) Reed Hawn, \$4,000.

**1883 CC Dollar.** Amon Carter Sr. estate, not verified.

**1884 CC Dollar.** Kagin. I authenticated it many years ago. Cf. Brock, U. of Pa., Rovensky: 125.

**1892 CC Dollar.** Col. E.H.R. Green, Jack Roe, B. Max Mehl, R.T. McPherson: 1457, unverified.



**1893 CC Dollar. MT&B coll.**

**1893 CC Dollar.** [12] Wayte Raymond reported this mintage; occasion, souvenirs given out at some ceremony associated with the closing of the mint. Two have been authenticated, both from the VAM 2 dies. Slight recutting at r. of 3, traces of extra curve between two outer loops of 3, faint cracks at several stars both left and right, and on reverse through some letters.

Rev. Second C distinctly lower, CC to r. of center below wreath, first C nearer wreath. Striking characteristics and surfaces similar to Philadelphia proofs. (1) Bruce Todd, RARCOA 1973 FUN: 753, including my authentication letter (Aug. 14, 1972). The piece realized \$18,000. (2) Manfra, Tordella and Brookes, 1976. (3) Amon Carter Sr. estate, not verified. (4) Pvt. coll.

### DENVER MINT

We might begin with the bronze double eagle sized token, obv. DENVER 1905 in elaborate lettering, rev. blank with beaded borders. Reputedly forty of these, all proofs, were made for presentation purposes when the mint was being readied for coinage production — over 40 years after the government had bought it from Clark, Gruber & Co. Counterfeits have lately appeared — dull porous things, lacking detail sharpness.

**1906 D Dime.** Top of 6 recut. Seen at San Francisco convention, Sept. 1976.

**1906 D Eagle.** Mintage unknown. Reportedly struck for presentation purposes, March 12, 1906. No documentation available. Cf. Breen II: 288 (B-7 dies, date high to left, D very high and equally close to claw and feathers).

**1906 D Double Eagle.** [12] Struck for presentation to mint officials and other dignitaries at inception of this denomination, April 4, 1906. (1) Menjou II: 2608. (2) Dan Brown, of Denver, had another before 1963, complete with presentation document, priced at \$7500. Ronnie Carr saw and vouched for both. The others are probably in estates.

**1907 D Double Eagle.** First coined Sept. 30, 1907. Only one reported: KS 10/2/59: 1844, KS 2/60: 2931, Ronnie Carr.

Proofs might exist of other denominations for 1906 but to date none is reported.

It is not claimed that this list is complete, but new claimants must be subjected to severe scrutiny, and I am quite prepared to find that some of the "unverified" listings will have to be deleted by the time the second edition of this book goes to press.

For branch mint proofs of commemorative design, 1915 and later, see the main sequence above, as these were apparently mostly made in Philadelphia before the dies reached the branch mints.

# XIV.

## CAVIAR: MINTMASTERS' PROVISIONALS



**1861 Original Confederate Half Dollar. Ex New Orleans Mint, Prof. Biddle, Lester Merkin**

### 1. The Confederate Half Dollar Proofs:

The story has been told many times and need only be briefly summarized here about how the Secession Convention of 1860 included a resolution that the mint at New Orleans should be taken into trust on behalf of the Southern Confederacy. At the end of February 1861 the actual transfer took place, the incumbent officials being confirmed in their offices by the Confederate government on swearing allegiance. These officials were William A. Elmore, Superintendent; A. J. Guirot, Treasurer; Howard Millspaugh, Assayer; M. F. Bonzano, M.D., melter and refiner. Bonzano remained on duty as a Union spy, transmitting reports to the Treasury Department; we assume that his oath of allegiance to the CSA was done with his fingers crossed behind his back, or else in the manner of Euripides: "My tongue an oath took, but my heart's unsworn."

In the meantime, there had been some 330,000 half dollars and 5,000 twenties struck from normal dies on behalf of the Union (through February 27, 1861). It is not known if the extant proofs (Beistle 2-C) were made then or later. In March 1861 some 1,240,000 half dollars and 9,750 double eagles were

made on behalf of the State of Louisiana. In April 1861 some 962,633 half dollars and 2,991 double eagles were made on behalf of the CSA.

During the same month orders came from CSA Secretary Memminger to the mint to submit designs for a distinctive Confederate coin of half dollar design. That approved was the design hand-cut and letterpunched into a die blank by A.H.M. Patterson, local engraver and diesinker (there naturally being no engraver at the New Orleans Mint), who was still living as late as April 1879 in Commercial Place, New Orleans. The die suffered the usual defect of too high relief so that the central devices had difficulty in being brought up by a single blow with available equipment. Conrad Schmidt, foreman of the coining room, also said to have survived into 1879, prepared the die (with its accompanying obverse of regular design, Beistle 5) for the coining press, burnishing both dies. Four proofs were struck on a hand press, the obverse die having cracked from rim to bridge of nose close to seventh star and more faintly elsewhere (foot to border and through various stars). These proofs were presented to appropriate officials at detailed below. The project was probably at first suspended pending Memminger's approval, then tabled while more regular half dollars were made (of Union design — Beistle 5-D and probably many other varieties). Instead of orders to go ahead with the coinage of more Confederate halves, Memminger sent a ukase suspending all operations at the mint because of anticipated difficulty in obtaining further bullion, and the mint closed April 30, 1861. There was a considerable amount of uncoined gold and silver bullion still on hand; this was taken over by CSA authorities. Dr. Bonzano stood guard at the mint until

## Confederate Proofs

Union forces captured New Orleans, but even then was unable to prevent vandalism by those same troops. B. F. Taylor, M. D., Chief Coiner, had taken the die and one of the four proofs with him, and its subsequent history is given below. It is probable that any issue of Confederate half dollars would have been very limited owing to difficulty in multiplying dies, appropriate facilities not being available locally.

Of the four original Confederate proof halves the history follows:

1. New Orleans Mint, Chief Coiner B. F. Taylor (with the die), to E. Mason, Jr. 1879, to J. W. Scott (who used the die to make his restrikes — see below), offered repeatedly at auction but always protected and retained by Scott, finally sold to J. Sanford Saltus for \$3,000. Saltus presented it to the ANS museum, where it remains. Choice toned proof. Perfect edge reeding. No rust on reverse die, no flattening on leaves or other details. Odd bulge with incuse marks within white stripes of shield.

2. N. O. Mint to Professor Biddle of Tulane University. Transmitted to Biddle's descendants with other coins of the period. This, rather than either of the two following, is believed to be the piece brought in by a noncollector to a New Orleans coin dealer with a large assortment of (mostly common) coins of the Civil War period and earlier, tarnished black but undamaged. The dealer paid little attention to it and swears he did not even turn the piece over, not thinking of Confederate coins at the time; but when he got around to classifying the coins after buying the collection, dipping the blackened silver pieces in order to see the date and mintmarks, he found not only that he had a Confederate half dollar but that it showed good edge reeding and no obverse flattening. Lester Merkin bought it from him on a flying trip. I have examined it; it is better than EF, obviously former proof, and on comparison with the ANS coin shows all the peculiarities of the former. Its weight is about two grains less, which is insignificant. Henry Grunthal disbelieved it at the start, but when I brought it back for rechecking, various curatorial officials (in Grunthal's absence) agreed with me that the coin was a good struck piece from the same dies as ANS's obviously authentic one. It is here described and illustrated for the first time.

3. New Orleans Mint to Dr. E. Ames of New Orleans, to his son; mentioned (without name) in Dr. B. F. Taylor's letter of April 7, 1879: "in the possession of a Confederate Officer of this city, who transmits it to his son as a souvenir of his father's services in the Confederate cause." (This letter, to Hon. Marcus J. Wright of the Adjutant General's Office, War Dept., appeared first in the New Orleans *Picayune*, April 9, 1879, and is reproduced in G. G. Evans's *Illustrated History of the U.S. Mint*, 1885, 1888 and later editions, as well as in Beistle, 253ff.) This is apparently the

"worn" specimen known in 1923 to David Proskey, per Proskey's letter to Beistle, September 25, 1923, reproduced in Beistle, 254ff. Its intervening owners are not known, but it was during the 20th century owned by H. O. Granberg, William H. Woodin, Waldo Newcomer, Burdette G. Johnson, thence to Eric P. Newman about 1940. Newman still has it. I examined it at the Central States convention in St. Louis, 1957. It is also EF, former proof. Identical traits to first two.

It is barely possible that "Ames" and "Biddle" should be transposed in the last two coins.

4. New Orleans Mint to Jefferson Davis via Memminger. This coin was Davis's pocket piece, and was on his person when Union soldiers captured him (in woman's garments) and imprisoned him in Fortress Monroe. The Union soldiers confiscated it, presumably taking little cognizance of it being a rebel coin, and caring still less. As a pocket piece, it was probably already well worn. In Don Taxay's *Counterfeit, Misstruck and Unofficial U.S. Coins* the story is told that some vestpocket dealer brought the piece to a bleary-eyed John J. Ford at a convention, and Ford bought it as a restrike, promptly turning it over to Paul Franklin, only to receive the news that the coin was an original. This story now appears to have been oversimplified as in King Lear: "mar a curious tale in the telling" indeed, as the dealer is Theodore L. Schnur, who long ran a coin shop on West 44th Street in New York City, and Ford presumably would have known enough at the time to see, even through smoke and stupor, that the piece has an unusually bold obverse and no flattening of edge reeding. The coin later became the subject of acrimonious litigation, Schnur suing for an extremely high figure to recover the coin plus costs and damages. The case was later reportedly settled out of court.

J. W. Scott's plan to make restrikes of the Confederate half dollar quickly was bruited about and became occasion for libels on him, some of them justified. A couple of the more amusing and less often seen ones may be appropriate to quote here:

### The Confederate States Half Dollar

Is it true that "Our publisher" (*The New York Great Boaster?* Ed.) is about to issue copies of the so-called Confederate States half dollar? The obverse of that coin being from a regular United States mint die, it is an interesting question whether a private individual can legally issue a facsimile or cut, and "in this connection" as the preachers say, the inquiry is pertinent whether, as heirs at law of the defunct Confederacy, the reverse die of that coin ought not to be in possession of the United States government. — W.

(From Frossard's *Numisma*, September 1879. "Our publisher" was the designation used for J. W.

Scott in Scott's *Coin Collector's Journal*. "The N.Y. Great Boaster" is Frossard's own epithet for Scott; cf. *Numisma*, December 1878, p.3, article "The Boaster," which reads quaintly and chucklesomely now, but must have been then enough to raise Scott's blood pressure by 70 or 80 points. The signature W. is doubtless W. Elliot Woodward, who frequently appeared in the Frossard journal.)

#### The Confederate States Half Dollar

It is said that the Fulton St. postage stamp dealers intend using the reverse die of this piece, at present in their hands, to re-stamp the reverse of genuine 1861, Orleans half dollars. A copy of the obverse die, which is, in fact, the identical obverse of the 1861 0 halves, could not be manufactured with perfect safety, because of certain clauses of a well known U.S. law, which bear rather heavily on these points, but the wonderful fertility of resources of the head of the firm led him to adopt the clever dodge of simply restriking the reverse of genuine 1861 O half dollar with the so-called Confederate States half dollar reverse die, thus producing exact facsimiles of the original. Unfortunately for the scheme, there is another clause which forbids the wilful defacing, altering, etc., of U.S. coins, and the plan of thus increasing the number of Confederate States Half Dollars will moreover meet, as soon as known, with the marked hostility of the mint authorities, the numismatic societies, and the collecting fraternity. The mint authorities should take immediate steps to recover this reverse die, which being made in a government building, with government tools, and by workmen paid with money stolen from the United States, clearly belongs to the United States, and place the same on permanent free exhibition in the mint cabinet, instead of allowing it to become the means of misleading and of deceiving collectors, in the hands of present or possible future speculative individuals.

This one was unsigned, but may well also have been by Woodward, to judge by style and subject matter. "Fulton St. postage stamp dealers" was intended as an insult — as though any fool could sell stamps, while it took some knowledge of history and numismatics to write coin auction catalogues. J. W. Scott's establishment was at 146 Fulton St., New York City. What Scott's plan met with, for the most part, was indifference. The history of his promotion is well enough known. He bought 500 1861 half dollars (supposedly 0 mints, but of this there is no proof),

had the reverses ground off reducing the weight to about 185 grains apiece, affixed a steel ring collar to the CSA die to prevent its breaking (it was already rusted at rim and at various parts of design), and struck 500 white metal store cards with a new obv. reading 4 ORIGINALS STRUCK BY ORDER OF C. S. A. IN NEW ORLEANS 1861. \*\*\*\*\* REV. SAME AS U.S. (FROM ORIGINAL DIE: SCOTT), this die breaking during the process. Proskey says this was to supply something in case the CSA die should break before the restrike half dollar operation went to completion. Scott offered these cards at 50¢ apiece. He then had a plain collar made for holding the half dollars at striking, a piece of brass being used to support the obverse, and struck the 500 restrikes as planned, in an old screw press, Proskey supervising the workmen to make sure nothing went wrong. Scott then annealed the die and mutilated it with a chisel mark, making a couple of thin uniface brass splashes from the defaced die. In the meantime he had issued circulars offering the 500 restrikes. (I have not seen one of these circulars.) When he began sending out the coins to the subscribers, Scott enclosed with each one a second circular, dated October 17, 1879 and quoted in Beistle (pp.255-6). This circular offered the white metal cards at 50¢, the defaced original die at \$50; claimed that the die had broken at the first trial necessitating manufacture of the collar to protect it from further damage (no break shows on extant restrikes aside from the rusting and chipping at rim, which is progressive); claimed falsely that up to October 10, 1879 there had been orders for 567 pieces, and offered to pay \$2.50 for any returned to him so that he could supply disappointed subscribers! Proskey in 1923 doubted that over 250 had been sold, averring that Scott had plenty of them for thirty years afterwards, on which he gradually raised the price to \$15 each. The defaced die was bought by J. Sanford Saltus, and supposedly went — with one of the splashes — to the Louisiana Historical Society, but it is not there now; whereabouts unknown. The other splasher was last seen in the F. C. C. Boyd estate, ex Elliott Smith. (Reference W. A. Philpott, *Numismatist*, April 1950.) There are at least two, possibly three, copy dies of the CSA half dollar reverse, muled with medallion obverses; one of them is the only known copy die made by the notorious and much overrated spark-erosion process (a poor thing, indeed, with its ragged edges to letters), the other has very modern lettering unlike the original.

**2. Proofs of the United States Provisional Mint at San Francisco.** It would have been feasible to list in this section all proofs of pioneer gold such as the thirteen Kellogg & Co. fifties, the Bechtler restrikes, the Massachusetts and California Co. fives (various varieties, some certainly restrikes, some possibly of early manufacture), etc. With present policy of

## San Francisco Provisional Mint

restricting this text at present to proofs connected in some official way with the United States government, about the only California proofs that would qualify are those of the United States Assay Office of Gold (1852-53) under Augustus Humbert in association with Curtis, Perry & Ward of Moffat & Co., San Francisco. This firm operated officially as a provisional mint, submitting monthly coinage reports to the Treasury Department on much the same basis as the Southern branch mints. Its status as "provisional" follows from the unclear legality of gold coins at other than 900 fineness and in designs not uniform with those of the Philadelphia Mint. This was originally a subterfuge to evade provisions of the 1837 Mint Act which limited the permissible amount of silver in gold coins to under 50 parts per 1000. California native gold contained from 90 to about 120/1000 silver, and to remove the silver and substitute copper to reach legal fineness required vast quantities of "parting acids" (concentrated nitric and sulfuric acids), which could not then be imported either overland or via Cape Horn nor until 1854 made locally. Proof that the Philadelphia Mint regarded the U.S. Assay Office of Gold as a provisional mint: it sent the latter five pairs of regular half eagle dies dated 1853, for use should parting acids become available!

It follows that the U.S. Attorney's 1966 (informal?) opinion that these U.S. Assay Office \$50, \$20 and \$10

ingots represented, then or later, no obligation of the federal government, constitutes repudiation without due process of law.

Proofs of the regular design of U.S. Assay Office twenties come in various varieties. The Zabriskie coin differs from all others and is believed to have been made at the Philadelphia Mint before the hubs went west. Others, of similar 1853 design but from different working dies and using a different edge collar, turned up in the 1950's together with many different kinds of experimental pieces: round \$50 coins using altered dies from the same hubs, ingots of various denominations, proofing pieces (999+ fine, used for raising melts to legal 900 fineness), trials of various design elements, etc. These pieces were condemned in 1966 on grossly insufficient grounds; but the details of such grounds — and their errors — would require over 50 pages of text plus dozens of enlarged illustrations, at best tangential to our purpose here. The controversy has died down in recent years. Many are pictured in Scott. For the moment, all that need be said is that their manufacturer must have had (like Humbert) access to means of multiplying working dies by the dozen, and that he must also have had access to some of Albert Kuner's punches, in both perfect and progressively chipped states, which punches were destroyed in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.



# XV. THE 1856 FLYING EAGLE CENTS

From the day the mint began operations in 1792, copper was the bane of its existence, even as it had been for British and European mints for centuries before. Long expensive and difficult to come by in acceptable purity, usually requiring difficult refining when its chemistry was imperfectly understood, often available only in hard-to-work forms such as nails or machine parts, or more often still alloyed as brass, copper was a critical raw material both for cent planchets and for gears in the Philadelphia Mint's rolling mills. By the end of 1795, copper prices had risen high enough so that the mint lost 22% on its cent coinage; that is, 100 cents cost \$1.22 to manufacture. As a result, on Dec. 27, 1795 George Washington verbally authorized Mint Director Boudinot to begin making lightweight cents at 168 grains apiece (instead of the former 208). This was a fairly daring step at the time, since copper was considered a precious metal when pure, and lightweight coins were likely to be rejected as worthless — less than seven years after the floods of lightweight copper coins in New York caused the value of even good heavy FUGIO and Connecticut and Jersey coppers to fall to about 1/4 their former rate.

The Mint people melted down older blanks, clippings, scrap copper, sheets and pigs, grains and lumps, and began making blanks at the new weight. As of Dec. 31 they struck 45,000 cents (Sheldon 76b) and in the next few weeks another couple of hundred thousands from the same dies. Washington signed a retroactive proclamation on Jan. 26, 1796 announcing the new weight standard, after which the new cents were distributed to banks.

In the meantime, mint efforts to obtain usable copper took stranger forms. Some 50,000 TALBOT, ALLUM & LEE tokens (altogether weighing 1,076 lbs.) went directly to the Coiner's Department rather than

to the melters. They were mostly rolled down to proper thickness, then cut into half-cent planchets, forming a slight majority of the common 1795 No Pole variety. Apparently a few were used as is for coining cents, for two specimens are known today which show their impress and British edge lettering: the gem Sheldon 75 in the Smithsonian (alluded to above under 1795), the other the unlisted 1795 variety discovered by this writer in 1969 and sold in one of Lester Merkin's auctions.

Elias Boudinot's major accomplishment during his Directorship, however, was negotiating a contract with Boulton & Watt (Birmingham, England) for copper cent planchets ready for press. Bypassing the rolling mills and cutting presses at the Mint was desirable if only to save wear and tear and time; but Boudinot also figured that it would save the country more than the cost of shipping the blanks from England, as well as guaranteeing quality higher than the Mint's own fairly primitive technology could then provide. Boulton & Watt (the most prestigious of the Birmingham coiners, Watt being the steam-engine inventor) was the third factory Boudinot had contracted with for the purpose, and by far the most successful; the others' product (though domestic) had been entirely unsatisfactory — more expensive and with a very high percentage of porous, cracked, rough or even split blanks. Eventually Boulton & Watt continued to have the majority of the Mint's orders, though in later decades Revere Copper & Brass and Crocker Bros. & Co. of Taunton, Mass., were to surpass the Boulton & Watt output. All this provided a precedent followed by the Mint to the present day: buying blank planchets for coinage from outside firms.

Once the problem of planchet supplies was solved, the Mint believed its troubles with minor coinage were over; but they had hardly begun. Banks and

## 1856 Flying Eagle Cents

merchants seldom called for large cents in trade. Many refused them outright — which they were legally entitled to do, as large cents were never legal tender during their entire period of issue. (They achieved legal tender status, along with half cents, in April 1864; they are legal tender today.) Underweight foreign minor coins and tokens circulated freely while full weight large cents were hoarded. Objections to the tokens centered around their manifest lack of bullion value, unredeemability, etc.; objections to large cents mostly stressed their lack of legal tender status, their unwieldy size (even at the 168-grain standard), and their tendency to become filthy after relatively brief circulation, all of which objections were to become by 1856 arguments in favor of abolishing them in favor of the copper-nickel cents. Many company stores would accept large cents only at a discount; others priced the same items differently according to the kind of money used for payment — least for gold or silver, much higher prices in shiplasters, copper or "country pay" (barter goods). Redemption of accumulated cents by banks could not be counted on, and even then was likely to be done not in silver or gold but in banknotes which might be acceptable at a discount or not at all. By the 1840's, copper prices were again rising enough to make the cost of making cents approach their face value. By 1851-53, the 1795 situation had come round again, so that the Mint lost a fraction of a cent on every cent it coined, while the large mintages satisfied nobody except the firms supplying blanks. Something had to change, and quickly.

At this juncture enter Joseph Wharton, with brighteyed schemes for Getting Rich Quick by selling the proceeds of his nickel mine monopoly to the United States Mint. Nickel had then almost no commercial use; it was a chemical curiosity almost as unfamiliar as platinum or selenium. As early as 1837, Dr. Lewis Feuchtwanger, an eccentric New York dentist, had proposed the use of "argentan" (a variety of German silver, consisting of unspecified proportions of copper, nickel, cobalt, iron, arsenic, zinc, tin and some other elements, often present only as trace impurities) for cents; his altruism in the matter may be gauged by his offering to supply the mint with unlimited quantities of the stuff. Mint authorities quickly ascertained that no two batches of argentan assayed the same, and used this fact as a conclusive argument against adoption of Feuchtwanger's proposal; but it was not forgotten, coming as it did at a time when privately made tokens circulated in quantity while the Mint's own products clogged bank vaults.

Late in 1853, when the Mint's losses on cent coinage had reached serious levels, Melter & Refiner James C. Booth — one of the foremost chemists of the day — proposed two modified versions of argentan, the lighter consisting of 40% nickel, 40% copper, 20% zinc, the

darker 30% nickel, 60% copper, 10% zinc. Pattern cents, using a proof obverse of the 1853 quarter eagle, followed in both alloys, and later in a third experimental composition — 40% nickel, 60% copper (very slightly affected by a magnet). All these were eventually rejected. The ternary alloys, when bright and new, were readily confused with silver; when dull or tarnished they more nearly resembled respectively tin and lead: an open invitation to counterfeiters to use tin and lead for making cents. The copper-nickel alloy was impossibly difficult to make into homogeneous ingots and strip, and blanks fabricated from it were hard enough to damage dies. Moreover, this alloy also resembled silver when bright and new. Nevertheless, these same alloys were tried again in 1854 on experimental cents with a Liberty seated obverse. Demonstration of the danger of adopting argentan (viz. confusion with silver) was made by coining a few 1854 half dime proofs from the regular Valentine 2 dies in argentan; they are slightly broader than normal and have a plain edge. (Judd 166, miscalled nickel.)

Other proportions of copper to nickel were being tried out through 1855, 8-piece sets of experimental cents being made comprising copper, several types of bronze, argentan, and copper-nickel alloys.

Though Joseph Wharton's name was not being mentioned in mint correspondence or congressional papers, this man was nevertheless the prime mover behind all these experiments. Col. James Ross Snowden, then Director of the Mint, was one of at least a half dozen highly placed officials who were neighbors and schoolmates of Wharton, from the Delaware Water Gap area of Pennsylvania. All knew of his monopoly and of his numerous pamphlets advocating nickel for worldwide coinage.

Snowden's historic letter of July 11, 1856 to Treasury Secretary Guthrie, quoted in full by Taxay (*U.S. Mint and Coinage*, 235-7), recommended cent coinage at 72 grains weight in an alloy to consist of 88% copper, 12% nickel. This letter mentioned that Treasury Agent Colmesnil was bringing to the Treasury Department some 50 half-cents struck on blanks of this new metal, to show the physical properties. Cents so made would yield an 8% seignorage (face value less the sum of bullion value and manufacturing costs), high enough to benefit government but not high enough to encourage counterfeiting.

And on the following December 4, Snowden again wrote Guthrie suggesting that, with official approval, the Director should furnish samples of the proposed new cent to every senator and congressman — with, presumably, additional samples for treasury officials. These are the original 1856 Flying Eagle cents.

The Flying Eagle device is a mechanical reduction of that made by Gobrecht for the 1836 silver dollars.

The reverse wreath, commonly miscalled tobacco, contains corn, cotton, maple and possibly tobacco; it was similarly derived from the model Longacre had made for the 1854 three-dollar pieces. As usual with Longacre's earlier original productions, relief details were too high, entailing difficulties in stacking finished coins, and far greater difficulties in getting the design to strike up properly by a single blow of the press.

Most collectors — especially less experienced ones — are concerned about the genuineness of alleged 1856 Flying Eagle cents offered them, owing to alterations from 1858 (rarely 1857). In actuality, these should be no source of trouble. All digits are totally different in 1856 from later years; the 1857 and 1858 dates are much wider spaced, being constant in each year (because a four-digit logotype or gang-punch was used, as it had been since 1840 on other denominations). Most collectors use the shape of the 5 as a distinguishing feature; on the 1856 the slanting stroke points into the knob, whereas on the 1858 the slanting stroke points into field to left of the knob, which knob itself is differently shaped. A few alterations of 1858's to 1856 exist in which the 5 has also been tampered with, but even slight familiarity with the appearance of the genuine (as in the Guidebook illustration, regrettably dropped in recent years), will enable your kid brother to spot the phony at a glance. Struck counterfeits are known with dates crudely imitating the genuine.

We are now in a position to tell approximately how many were made and where they went. Unfounded rumors have circulated since the 1860's about the mintage: supposedly from "a few hundred" to "nearly 2000" were made, the figures 1,000 and 1,500 recurring; and from 300 to "nearly 1,000" are, or were, said to survive in hoards. And so forth. The truth is rather different, though we still have only approximations.

Letters surviving in the National Archives indicate that of the original mintage, the following were officially dispersed:

- Treasury Secretary Guthrie — 2
- President Franklin Pierce — 4
- Representative S. D. Campbell — 200 (sent Feb. 2, 1857)
- Treasury Secretary Guthrie (again) — 100 (Feb. 4, 1857)
- The Senate — 62
- The House of Representatives — 264 or more
- The Mint Cabinet Collection — 2

The above 634+ are naturally exclusive of these retained by Snowden and other mint officials, those sent unofficially to friends, those given to visiting dignitaries, those obtained from the Chief Coiner by Longacre for gifts to friends, fellow artists, and political patrons. They also exclude several hundred held in stock in the Mint for later distribution to coin

collectors, or to trade to them for Washington medals for the Mint Cabinet Collection. As the 1856 proof sets had been distributed in January-February, their recipients would have had to add the nickel cents later on, which did happen (see 1856, above). The full number is still unknown, but a fair estimate might be 800 originals, many of which found their way into circulation or were kept as pocket pieces. The problem is complicated because originals and restrikes have not been distinguishable until recent years; the number of restrikes is greatly in excess of originals, so much so that an estimate of 2000 would be on the low side, even if we assume that most of the restrikes survived in top grades while most of the originals were spent. One variety of restrike alone forms the vast majority of surviving 1856 nickel cents.

An unknown number of these were said to have been issued attached to pasteboard cards bearing a description of "The New Nickel Cent," the "attachment" presumably countersunk recesses as with the special cases for proof sets. I have not seen any of these descriptive cards; the last person to describe one was the late Paul Volk, Boston coin dealer, who claimed (1948) to have handled several.

Until 1974 no survey of the present population of 1856 nickel cents (or "nickels," as they were then called) was possible. Many specimens even now remain in bank vaults and estates; but the main reason was that the hoard of 531 specimens accumulated before World War I by Col. John A. Beck of Pittsburgh remained inaccessible until fall 1974. Beck was a hoarder of the Virgil Brand or Col. Green persuasion. The full extent of his holdings has not yet been published as of this writing, despite the sale in January 1975 by "Quality Sales" (Cohen-Kreisberg) of a sizable fraction of them, which did not include many of his cents. Among manuscripts preserved in ANS is an inventory by George H. Clapp (1931) verifying examination of over 100 \$50 "slugs" and 531 1856 Flying Eagle cents.

Examination of part of the Beck hoard (courtesy of Jerry Cohen and Abner Kreisberg), Nov. 13, 1974, has enabled a satisfactory tentative answer to the question of original and restrike varieties, for the first time in numismatic history; the following enumeration replaces any previously published.

At present, five obverses and four reverses were used in eight combinations (others are possible but as yet unverified) to make 1856 nickel cents of the design adopted in 1857. In addition, there are mulings with a different reverse die (oak wreath and garnished shield) and with two variant obverses (dateless with legend, and dateless without legend), all of which are believed to be 1858 productions. Of the regular reverse dies, one was apparently reused for some 1857 regular proofs, and two are suspected to be 1858 products. One is a prototype die and the others represent two

## 1856 Flying Eagle Cents

entirely different hubs most commonly known as "short leaves" and "long leaves" (alluding to the two leaves nearest to bases of C T). Reverses from both hubs are found on coins dated 1856, 1857 and 1858, the short leaves or low leaves type being commonest on 1857 business strikes, the long leaves or high leaves type found on the vast majority of 1858 business strikes. The 1858/7 cents have a high or long leaf reverse. The two hubs differ in shape of lettering, wheat stalks, tassels, ribbons and stems, and in having incuse or relief veins on maple leaves at top of wreath.

Obverse variables are as follows: Heavy or thin numerals, open or closed 6 (on the closed, a line joins knob and loop), open or closed E's (in UNITED STATES, the crossbar touches upper serif on the "closed," but is smaller and free of it on the "open").

Reverse variables: "High" or "long" leaves extend above base line of C-T, "low" or "short" extend only to a point well below base line. E's in ONE CENT come closed, almost closed, or wide open, the last only with low left leaf. A center dot may or may not show, just under or just above top left serif of N of CENT.

The following enumeration of varieties is believed to be approximately chronological, though this is subject to revision as the remainder of the Beck hoard becomes available for study.

1. Obv. 1. Closed E's. Thin date, open 6. *Part of an extra 5* (slanting stroke) *shows immediately to left of 5*, slightly below normal position. Left base of 1 about over space or extreme left edge. Rev. A. Prototype die, *left leaf low, right leaf high, both E's wide open*, relief veins in maple leaves, center dot not visible on the coin seen by me. Copper, thick flan. Beck, ex Henry Chapman.

2. Obv. Same die. Earlier impressions (very rare) show the part of extra 5 plainly, later ones have it very weak or hardly visible. Rev. B. *Left leaf high, r. leaf low* (left leaf in fact unusually high, extending over double the thickness of serif of E above base line); *closed E's*; rare earliest state has microscopic *center dot above N*, usual later states have none. Scarce, usually nonproofs; proofs rare. Few seen double struck (die chatter earlier thought to be double entry from hubs): NN 57:38, "Dupont": 1161, two others in Beck. Some 26 normal ones were among the first 116 seen from the hoard.



**OBVERSE 2. Thin date, open E's and 6**

3. Obv. 2. Open E's, *very thin shallow date*, open 6; left base of 1 over r. part of dentil. Rev. B. (a) Three or four seen in experimental nickel alloy, silvery color (AW 204); cf. Ten Eyck — Neil:2921. (b) Copper, thick flan, one seen at 1966 ANA Convention, (c) Three in Beck, 5 or 6 outside the hoard to date, normal copper-nickel alloy. The 1857 proof die believed to be a repolished state of B, with second kernel on open wheat stalk at top r. disconnected; unconfirmed.



**REVERSE C. "Low leaves," no center dot, open E's. Note incised veins in maple leaves.**

4. Obv. 2, above. Rev. C. *Low leaves, open E's*, thin letters, no center dot, incised veins (as in 1857 and a few 1858 coins), (a) Copper or bronze, called Judd 181, 182 (we cannot tell them apart in this issue); thick flan, AW 207 "bronze" and 205A "copper" (latter number given privately by Adams to the Judson Brenner coin in ANS 1914); thin, AW 208 "bronze", 205 "copper." Thin coins are about of same thickness as later bronze cents 1864-1909; weights not recorded, (b) Copper-nickel. NN 57:311, two in Beck, six others seen, proofs and worn coins, no uncs., probably no business strikes. Restrikes? Barely possibly NN 57:37 may have been from these dies in different state of repolishing; 1 heavier than 856.



**REVERSE D. "High Leaves," center dot below serif of N. Note relief veins in maple leaves.**

5. Obv. 3. Closed E's, heavier date, closed 6, plain recutting within loop of 6 and on top left serif of 1, and on bases of CA (not double striking). Left base of 1 r. of left edge. Rev. D. *High leaves, closed E's*, with *center dot just below top left serif of N*; no plain double outlines on lower r. ribbon or below top of E of CENT; perfect die, no cracks, no rim crumbling. One in Beck hoard. Very rare.

6. Obv. 4. Closed E's, heavier date, 6 almost closed (later states have it open — repolished die), left base of 1 over space; none of the stigmata of obs. 3 or 5.

Rev. D. Nonproofs only seen to date, about seven in all. Rare.

7. Obv. 5. Closed E's, heavy date, closed 6, left base of 1 left of center; faint recutting atop 8, at very tip of 6, atop 6 and below top of hollow of loop. Die file mark up to border from r. upright of I (TED); small mark about joins two dentils above N. On earliest states (rare), the recuttings are fairly clear (they are never pronounced, usually blurry, and on later states not visible); no cracks, no repolishing, no marks through U. Rev. B, above. Two in Beck hoard, few outside; it is uncertain if these began life as proofs.

8. Obv. 5 above; rev. D above, or something that answers its description; no cracks, no rim breaks, but with many extra outlines, most prominent on lower part of bow and of r. ribbon, and below top of E(NT). This may possibly be a different working die, but we are not yet convinced one way or the other. Many die states, of different degrees of rarity.

I. With the die file mark at I as above; recutting on date shows. Ten in Beck hoard, nonproofs, often worn. Rarer than later states.



**OBVERSE 5. State II.**

II. Die repolished, recutting blurry, mark above N weaker, that above I only microscopically visible or not at all. Rev. Repolished; no double outlines; E of ONE no longer quite closed. Eight in Beck hoard, both unc. and proofs, rare.

III. As above but obv. again repolished, no trace of recutting on date. At least 16 in Beck in this state.

IV. Obv. again repolished; new die file mark through U to border above N; the earlier die file marks almost or completely invisible. Varying strengths of a crack from beak nearly vertically down to border; this becomes plain. Rev. Perfect, repolished. Less rare.

V. Obv. crack now extends through beak and UNI (base of U, middle of N, nearer to top of I). Rev. Crack from cotton leaf to rim, about 11:00. Less rare.

VI. As above, a second crack from cotton leaf to rim, about 1:00. Less rare.

VII. As above, several rev. rim breaks outside dentils, tiny crack from rim below r. side of 5. Less rare. At least 53 were in the Beck hoard in these late states, and this variety constitutes over 3/4 of the 1856's seen outside it, uncs. (?) and proofs — often it is very difficult to tell if a perfectly preserved coin originated as a proof; also found worn. Believed to be restrikes,

from the fabric, though they must have been made in 1857-58, and no small cent dies were among those seized and boxed by Snowden (see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*).

*For quick finding purposes, check the following variables.*

**Date** — very thin on obv. 2, thin on 1, heavier on the others.

6 — open on obvs. 1 and 2, closed on the others.

**E's** — open on obv. 2, closed on others.

Part of extra 5 left of 5 — obv. 1

Recut CA — obv. 3

Die file mark or crack through beak — 5

**E's in ONE CENT** — open on A, C; closed on others.

**Center dot** — microscopic above serif of N on B, plainer below serif on D.

**Leaves at C T** — both low on C; left low and r. high on A; left high and r. low on B; both high on D.

In addition to the above regular design coins, the following three anomalies exist:



**REVERSE X. Oak wreath, garnished shield**

"2-X". Obv. 2 above described, the date a little stronger than on 2-B or 2-C. Rev. Oak wreath and garnished shield. Center dot on at least one. Broad rims. Restrike? (a) Copper-nickel, Judd 184, A-W 209. Three known, one ex Judson Brenner, exhibited ANS 1914. (b) Copper or bronze, Judd 185, A-W 210. Three known, one the Judson Brenner coin in same exhibit.



**OBVERSE 10. Flying eagle, no date or legend**

"10-D." Obv. Flying eagle, no letters or date. Rev. D as above described, (a) Copper-nickel, Judd 178, A-W 213 or 211. (1) Olsen, Neil:2922, Wm. Guild. (2) Woodside:71, Woodin, Judson Brenner (ANS 1914), Brand, B. G. Johnson, Dr. Judd, "Ill. Hist." T88. Discovery: Bangs & Co. 10/18/60:324. (b) Copper. J-179, A-W 212. About four known.

"11-D." Obv. Flying eagle, large letters, no date

## 1856 Flying Eagle Cents

(an 1858 product?). Rev. As last, (a) Copper-nickel. Judd 201, A-W 215. Existence long controversial. Olsen:512, Col. Curtis:1050. (b) Copper. Col. Cohen:478, E. Cogan 5/79:134, Crosby: 1730, unlocated.

Other and still more obscure rarities in this series are reported. The unverified records are cited here for what they may be worth, which is probably only as a stimulus to further research.

A. Regular issue, "silver," "broken dies." Redlich:580 (March 4, 1878). Possibly a mint error on a dime or half dime blank? Unlocated.

B. Copper, "trime size." Zabriskie:237.

C. Die trial of reverse, apparently in copper-nickel. Bache II:1511 ex Bache I:2940 (the two great Woodward sales of 1865). May be an imperfectly described prior appearance of following.

D. Die trial of reverse, large square brass flan. Mickley:2202 (1867); no. 3 in John F. Jones list, *Numismatist* April 1944.

E. Identical but incuse, probably a hub trial. No. 4 of the Jones list just cited.

F. Mule of obv. "10" and "11" above. Copper-nickel proof. Adams-Woodin 251, Judd 219. One known: Fewsmith:1219 (1870), A. S. Jenks, E. Cogan sale (4/77):420, Woodside:70, W. F. Gable, unknown

intermediaries, Dr. Judd.

The remarkable price history of the cents of this date has had much to do with hysterical claims about their alleged rarity. In actuality, the 1857 and 1858 proof cents are many times rarer; but then these dates are much commoner in uncirculated business strike form than the 1856, and many collectors are still under the dealer-fostered illusion that proof is the name of the grade higher than uncirculated, rather than a different method of making coins. Instability of the market for 1856's has been evident whenever even a half dozen show up at once. The Beck hoard has been very carefully handled so as not to depress the market (1975). But then, even George W. Rice's hoard (before World War I) of some 756 pieces was absorbed. For long the presence of the Beck hoard not only kept the price artificially high, it deterred many from collecting this date owing to fear that its value might collapse when the Beck hoard came onto the market. These fears appear to have been groundless; the coin remains overvalued in comparison to other patterns and to other proof small cents 1857-64, though as the new knowledge of varieties becomes disseminated, the rarer ones may appreciate markedly compared with no. 8.

# XVI. RESTRIKES AND FANTASY PIECES

Excluding alleged patterns, or pieces embodying on one or both sides designs never adopted by the United States, the following chapter is devoted to irregular and largely incredible productions of the United States mint for diplomatic presentation or for collector whimsy. In short, coins more or less associated with regular designs, but now known to have been specially made, in the year of date or some later year, not for legitimate pattern or experimental purposes, nor as part of the regular yearly proof sets, not as true transitional proposed issues, but for purposes of surreptitious sale on behalf of venal employees in the Coiner's Department.

It is not impossible that a few coins already mentioned in the regular sequence of proofs may, through subsequent research, turn out to be products of the "workshop for their gain" which Taxay has so brilliantly exposed to the discredit of the Snowdens, Linderman, Theodore Eckfeldt, Franklin Peale and company.

These activities appear to have begun on a small scale in the 1830's, and reached an apogee in 1858-60 with subsidiary peaks in the mid 1860's, 1867-68, 1870-78, 1884-85, and brief flareups thereafter. At their height they included manufacture of simulated series coins of impossibly early or impossibly late dates as well as sundry mulings and pure fantasy pieces. To what category any given item belongs will become apparent from the description. It is perhaps singular that among these questionable coins reside some of the most highly publicized and highly valued items in the numismatic

history of the United States. For proof, one need only allude to the silver dollars dated 1804, the 1884-5 trade dollars, and the 1913 Liberty Head nickels.

This is essentially a nightmare world in which one never knows what will show up next, or what a supposedly familiar item will suddenly change into. I say this without automatically executing moral judgments on these coins, their bona fide owners, or the dealers who sell them honestly for what they are. The moral judgments come only against the original perpetrators, especially when they misrepresented the pieces, and against those who would exploit them as other than what they are. I leave to Don Taxay the task of playing Saturn (the Grim Reaper) and executing moral judgments against all connected with such coins in any form; his views have been made abundantly clear in his various books. My task here is to record them as accurately as I know how and let later researchers complete the task of identifying the remaining undated dies as to actual year of manufacture (as I had done with the silver dollar reverse of 1858-59, used in rusted state as late as 1876, and the three-dollar obverses of 1872 and 1877-79, used on restrikes of 1865 and 1873). Perhaps by then either a vengeful Treasury Department will have made all further researches a matter of might-have-beens, as Taxay might wish, or at the other extreme we might have something like the British amused tolerance of collectors holding their mints' former vagaries. For convenience, listings herein are in order of date on coin, not order of emission.

## Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces



**1801 "Restrike" dollar (copy obv., rev. of original 1804 dollar) Ex F. C. C. Boyd; WGC: 112**

**1801. Silver Dollar.** \*Novodel (made from copy dies). Obv. of regular design but date punches are of modern type, top of 1's curved, somewhat similar to that on dimes after 1820, and some half dollars of 1821 and later dates; marked *vertical* thick parts in 8 and 0; stars squeezed close together so that they are very distant from L, Y and drapery; heavy crack through date and left stars; reverse of 1804 dollar of first type. Beaded borders within plain broad rims. Silver proofs. Listed as Bolender 5. Struck at the same time as the 1803 dollar novodel. Eric Newman has mentioned (*Fantastic 1804 Dollar*, 48) a small depression in space between UM and shield on all known specimens, from a sliver of metal adhering to die; this is found on the 1801's and 1803's, not on the 1802's, indicating common origin in time. As the reverse is the undamaged one of 1804 class I, these coins must have been struck between about 1836 and some time in the 1850's, but perhaps not as late as 1858 because by then the reverse die had been destroyed (a replacement had to be made for the plain edge dollars made in 1858 bearing the 1804 date). However, edges are blundered as on some 1804 dollars. Left surreptitiously in the hands of William Idler. Introduced to the numismatic world, doubtless via Idler, by his son-in-law, Capt. John W. Haseltine. Probably mint personnel, as likely as not some of the Eckfeldt descendants who dared not peddle these with the 1804's after the 1858 debacle with the plain-edged coins, held them unsold until 1876 when they felt the heat might be off. First record: *Coin Collector's Journal*, I, 83 (March 1876), wherein Edouard Frossard described Haseltine's showing around a set of dollars dated 1801, 02, 03, in brilliant proof state. Offered with the 1802 and '03 in sets by Haseltine in various sales, 1877-80 and in later years. Compare also Cleneay: 944; Lyman: 13 (where S. H. Chapman says, November 7, 1913, that these were being offered in May 1876 by mint officials when he entered the coin business — as a Haseltine protege! — and that they were from discarded, unused or newly made dies); WGC: 112; Newcomer-Green-Jack Roe: 426-Neil: 28. Less than 9 now known.



**1802 "Restrike" Dollar. Copy obv., rev. of original 1804. Ex Boyd, WGC: 119**

**1802 Dollar.** \*Novodel. In every respect similar to last. Old date punches except for the 2 which is nearest in style to the Fancy 2 of 1824-27 half dollars. Reverse as preceding. A few more exist of this than of the 1801. Cf. Cleneay: 949; Lyman: 14, WGC: 119, Dunham: 1005, Neil: 29 (same pedigree as the 1801, Neil: 28); "Groves":443 at \$37,000.



**1803 "Restrike" dollar. Ex Boyd, WGC: 125, Golden II:3049**

**1803 Dollar.** \*Novodel. Large 3 type, from old date punches. Small raised line, slanting a little down, just above center dot on obv. Heavy rust marks around 4th star, lighter ones at 18. Reverse as preceding. In a rarity class with the 1801. Cf. Cleneay: 954; Lyman: 15; WGC: 125 reappearing as Golden II:3049; Neil:30 (same pedigree as the 1801-2 above mentioned, Neil: 28-29); Dr. J. Hewitt Judd. This last has an old sales record of \$3,000 and in the mid 1960's was offered at a then incredible \$7,500. One of these was Lichtenfels II: 1146.

All foregoing have beaded borders surrounded by raised rims. All show a rust pit midway between next to lowest feather of wing at r. and top leaf on olive branch. This is very minute on the 1801 and 1803, and larger — nearly half the size of a berry — on the 1802, showing that the order of manufacture was probably 1801 and 1803, then afterwards 1802. This rust pit is not visible on any of the known 1804 Class I dollars, which have the same reverse die. It follows that the 1801-2-3 coins must have been made after all the known 1804 Class I dollars, which the Newman-Bressett book effectively dated to November 1834 for diplomatic presentation purposes (see below). There is no certainty of order of manufacture of the dies, but my own guess is that the reverse was made first (fall 1834, for the 1804), then the 1801 obverse as



this shows the most amateurish spacing of stars, together with horizontal and vertical die scratches on bust to enable location of center point for drawing temporary guide arcs of circles for placement of stars, letters and numerals. Note that this 1801 obverse has broken curl tip. The 1802 and 1803 dollar obverses may have been made together at some later date as they share letter, numeral (except the 2) and star punches with each other and the 1804 but not with the 1801. They may well have been replacements. The 1804 dollar die has the missing curl tip, like the 1803 as hubbed *but corrected in hand finishing these obverses*. Note that the uppermost locks on all these dollars differ in detail, from extensive handwork, probably by Kneass or Gobrecht. A set of the three (Neil's?) was in the Amon Carter coll.



**1804 Dollar. "Original," issue of November 1834. Ex Adolph Weyl (?), Chapman Bros, J. V. Dexter, H. G. Brown, W. F. Dunham, Charles M. Williams, Harold Bareford.**

**\*1804 Dollar. Class I. Antedated Fantasy. [4+]**  
 Obv. Type of 1803, from bust puncheon with missing curl tip (though hand finished differently from the 1801 die). LIBERTY and stars as in the 1803 obverse just described, but Y nearly touches 8th star. The 4 punch in date is of the style found on various 1834 coins and no earlier ones (half eagle, half dollar, cent, half cent and various others): top of upright *flat*, plain crossbar without Crosslet, right serif of foot nearly as long as crossbar. Borders of beads surrounded by raised flat rim, similar to the 1801-2-3 novodel dies. Die cracked through tops of LIBERT, this crack faint on the Class I's but varying slightly in strength. Rev. As preceding. The dies are slightly smaller than the finished coins so that a close collar could be used, but the pieces were struck on planchets of normal weight, approximately 416 grains. (The 1801-2-3 novodels come on overweight flans, 419 to 423 grains apiece.) At least four specimens were struck, November 1834 through possibly early 1835 (perhaps **all** in November 1834), for inclusion in diplomatic presentation sets for the King of Siam, the Imaum or Sultan of Muscat, the Emperor of Cochin-China; duplicates were made on that occasion for possible subsequent presentations of the same sort, or perhaps for exchanges or surreptitious sales. The die remained in custody of the Coiner, Adam Eckfeldt, and subsequently with his successor in office, Franklin

Peale; for its later use and history see below. At present eight examples of Class I are known; not enough development in obverse die crack is visible to justify a conclusion that they were struck on separate occasions, though all were certainly struck before the 1801-2-3 pieces with the same reverse, as the reverse with the 1804 obverse has no rust pit.

(1) Smithsonian, from U.S. Mint. No. 568 in the Comparette catalogue, 1912-1914 editions. Placed in the Mint Cabinet presumably by Adam Eckfeldt in June 1838 at the time of the original gift. First known to outsiders in 1842; one of two on display when Matthew Stickney came to the Mint to make his trade (see below). Badly cleaned proof, nicked around ERT.

(2) Louis Eliasberg, ex Atwater: 213 (1946) at \$10,500, ex Wayte Raymond, March 1923, ex Col. James W. Ellsworth, ex Stickney: 849, ex Curator, United States Mint Cabinet, May 9, 1843, in trade for various specimens of Massachusetts silver and other coins including a 1785 IMMUNE COLUMBIA in gold over-struck on a 1775 guinea. Pictured in Eckfeldt & DuBois, *Mint Manual*, 1842. Cleaned, rubbed, somewhat impaired proof.

(3) Undisclosed present owner, included in the 1834 proof set in special presentation case (yellow morocco leather with American eagle design on top), given to the King of Siam April 5, 1836 by Edmund Roberts, Special Diplomatic Agent of the United States Government as part of a series of exchanges of presents in connection with establishment of the first U.S. — Siam trade treaties; set was made up by Mint personnel acting under orders of the State Department, November 1834, and finally got into Roberts's hands April 21, 1835. Brilliant gem proof, exhibited in the set at the 1962 ANA Convention by David Spink.

(4) Childs estate, Chicago, ex C. F. Childs, ex C. E. Green, 1945 at \$5,000, ex Armin W. Brand, 1945, Virgil M. Brand estate, 1937, Virgil M. Brand, June 20, 1918, Henry Chapman, 1917, ex Glendining & Co. sale, London, June 14, 1917, lot 227, of the C. A. Watters, Liverpool, England, collection, almost certainly as part of the 1834 proof set given by Edmund Roberts to the Imaum of Muscat, Sayid Sayid bin Sultan, October 1, 1835; made up under the same circumstances as the Siam proof set. Brilliant proof, blue tone, flat stars.

(5) Harold Bareford, 1950 to present day, from Charles M. Williams via Abe Kosoff and S. Kaplan at a reported \$10,000, ex Dunham: 1058 at \$4,250 (1941), ex H. G. Brown (Lyman Low, October 11, 1904), lot 431, ex Roland G. Parvin, 1903, executor of the estate of James V. Dexter, Denver, Colorado; Dexter had obtained it from J. W. Scott in 1885, his agent at the Chapman sale of their own collection, May 14-15, 1885: 354; Chapman Brothers had it from the Adolph Weyl auction of October 13, 1884: 159, earlier source unknown, rumored to have been placed with Weyl by

## Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces

the Chapmans in order to give it a foreign pedigree. Brilliant proof, dipped once but not scrubbed; one of three finest.

(6) Omaha City Library, ex Byron Reed bequest, 1891, ex Parmelee: 817, ex E. H. Sanford (E. Cogan, November 27, 1874):99; Sanford bought it about 1868, earlier history unknown though said to have been bought from the mint "during President Polk's administration" (1845-49) by one of those ubiquitous little old ladies. (Whether or not she was wearing tennis shoes the rumor has not specified.) Brilliant proof, flat stars. I examined this piece in 1953 at the Omaha Library. It was then kept in a small round black box sealed with tape, in one of the display cases but never opened for inspection. I had the box in my hand and nearly dropped it a moment before one of the curators told me what was in it! Apparently previous curators, probably fearing theft like the one which afflicted the Boston Public Library in 1948, had been unwilling to display so spectacular a coin — not realizing that the Reed bequest includes many other more easily negotiable items, and that any thief wanting the latter could just as easily have walked out with the little box too.

(7) Unknown private owner, October 1970, ex Massachusetts Historical Society, 1905-1970, ex William Sumner Appleton, ex Edward Cogan, February 1868 in trade, ex W. A. Lilliendahl in trade a few days before, ex Mickley: 1696, ex Teller Henry C. Young, Bank of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, about 1850; supposedly taken in by Young at face with a deposit. EF-AU, former proof, cleaned to death.

(8) Stolen (1967) from the Lamot du Pont family, Wilmington, Delaware, via bequest from Lamot duPont, 1952, ex Elmer S. Sears (1922) via B. Max Mehl at \$3,200, ex Manning: 778 (Mehl, May 1921), ex Chapman Bros., 1906, ex William B. Wetmore:208 (Chapmans, June 27, 1906), ex H.G. Sampson, 1878, ex Lorin G. Parmelee privately, ex Henry S. Adams auction (Bangs, Merwin & Co., November 1, 1876), ex Col. Mendes I. Cohen of Baltimore at the auction of the Cohen collection, by Edward Cogan, October 15, 1875: 535, ex the Colonel's nephew Edward Cohen, Richmond, Virginia, ca. 1865, over the counter at his exchange office. Fine, evidently kept as someone's pocket piece; nicked, scratched and banged up.

**\*1804 Dollar.** Class II. Surreptitious restrrike of 1858. Obv. as preceding. Rev. Similar, some letter punches as Class I rev., but ST much closer, F about centered over space between clouds (in the "original" reverse S T are widely spaced, space between clouds under left serif of E). Beaded border, raised plain rim around, probably a replacement die made at the same time as the issue of 1834, but not then put into use as the first reverse die held. (Note the same differentiae of wide and close ST on the half-cent reverses of 1833-45 Gilbert 2 and 1835 Gilbert

1 respectively.) The reverse must have been surreptitiously held, at first probably by Adam Eckfeldt, later by his successor Franklin Peale, still later by other employees in the Coiner's Department upon the sudden departure of Peale (1854), together with the cracked 1804 obverse. It should have been thoroughly greased up to prevent oxidation, but evidently the process was not entirely successful as a rust spot shows at U of UNITED on all specimens from this die of Classes II and III.

Class II consists of the unique plain edged coin, so struck because at the time either the surreptitious makers did not know how to letter edges, or had not noticed that the Class I 1804 had a lettered edge, or more likely had not yet found the Castaing edge device bars for the old lettered edge dollar blanks of 1794-1803. As the rust spot on reverse varies in size on the Class III's, these coins may have been struck on several occasions; as the die alignment is approximately the same on all examined of Classes II and III, Newman believes all were made on the one occasion, but it is also possible that the die alignment was accomplished by use of the set screw on a slightly misplaced flat or groove — a fairly common occurrence on regular and proof coins early and late.

The only surviving Class II coin is now in the Smithsonian Institution, from Mint Cabinet, where placed by J. R. Snowden in 1859 on recovery of a reputed four such specimens, the other three having been destroyed in the presence of W. E. DuBois, a fifth supposedly being still unrecovered. These plain edge coins had been bought by Major C. P. Nichols (Springfield, Mass.) from William Idler, and by Edward Cogan (the New York City coin dealer) from, probably, Theodore Eckfeldt in 1858 or '59; the source of the third piece was not named. This Eckfeldt, barely 21 at the time, was the same one whose practice in peddling restrikes of various other issues made him notorious by 1860. The going price then was \$75.00. The Class II dollar was examined by me in 1951, courtesy of my mentor the then curator Stuart Mosher, on which occasion I discovered that it was overstruck on something, and made a drawing of as much of the undertype as I could make out, devices and lettering. This enabled me to identify the coin, with Stuart's help in supplying books on dollar size coins and with a prolonged search in the Smithsonian's collection of dollars of the world, as a cut-down 5 Franken Schutzenfesttaler or Shooting Festival Thaler of Bern, Switzerland, 1857, now known as Yeoman 4-S. (The piece had had its edge device shaved off in order to prevent identification of the 1804 as a recent restrrike, reducing weight from standard 392 grains to 381.) Numerous electrotypes were later made from it in the Mint.

An interesting sidelight on its history is that it and the Mint's Class I were for long transposed in the

display case in which both were shown, as it has better striking quality and more convincingly prooflike surface. For which reason — or possibly with malice aforethought — various unscrupulous individuals, beginning with William Ewing DuBois and his successor in the Mint Cabinet Curatorship, Patterson DuBois, at various times claimed that this plain edge fabrication was the "original" 1804 in order to support authentication of various Class III 1804s. It was retransposed before 1912, however, and was listed as No. 569 in the Comparente catalogue.



**1804 Dollar. Class III. Restrike, lettered edge. Ex Haseltine, Davis, Klein, Randall, Hale, Fullerton, "Fairbanks," Wolfson colls.**

**\*1804 Dollar. Class III. Restrike.** Same dies, edge lettered *after striking* by Castaing edge dies, probably in order to prevent seizure by Treasury authorities after the 1858 scandal. At least 6 now known, and generally acknowledged today (after the Newman-Bressett publication) as a restrike, though Haseltine's Type Table of 1881 and some later catalogues attempted in the interest of higher prices to slur over any distinction between restrikes and originals, sometimes speaking only of first and second varieties. These Class III's may have been leftovers from Class II coins of 1858, lettered on edges to conceal their origin. All have reverse die slightly misaligned, the 0 in date approximately aligned with second T in STATES; the Berg coin, and to a lesser extent others of Class III, show reverse die chatter. Some specimens were carried as pocket pieces or the like, possibly in order to give them an appearance of age and to distinguish them from new-looking brilliant proofs.

(1) Johns Hopkins University, since 1942, by bequest of John Work Garrett, ex T. Harrison Garrett estate, 1921, ex Thomas Harrison Garrett. 1888, ex O. H. Berg collection, J. W. Haseltine, May 23, 1888; same to have come from Koch & Co., Vienna, about 1875, though more probably ultimately from William Idler. EF, former proof, marked die chatter; blundered edge lettering; rust spot on U small, sharp.

(2) Last owner of record Amon Carter, Jr., though said to have been sold by him in recent years; ex Amon Carter, Sr., estate, ex Percy A. Smith via Mehl "Golden Jubilee" sale of 1950: 804, ex F. C. C. Boyd, 1946, ex A. J. Allen, 1940, Col. E. H. R. Green probably via either Mehl or B. G. Johnson, ex Waldo Newcomer,

about 1932 or '33, ex Lyman: 16 (1913), ex Henry Ahlborn, ca. 1880, ex Phineas Adams, 1880, Adams having obtained it privately from Haseltine in 1876. This is the dollar exhibited by Haseltine at the Jewett sale of January 24, 1876, with a supposed English pedigree, but more probably from Idler. EF or better, dark toned, formerly cleaned and obviously originally a proof; centers weak, some nicks and dents, edge lettering better than usual, very slight reverse die chatter, rust mark at U plain. The coin is not a true cylinder, it being somewhat dished, bent or buckled, evidently from the edgewise compression inflicted by the Castaing machine.

(3) Wolfson: 1394, published as having sold at \$36,000, buyer unknown; ex "Fairbanks Collection": 576, December 10, 1960 at \$28,000, ex Davis-Graves: 1333, ex H. P. Graves estate, 1954 via Mrs. Fullerton (Graves's daughter), who bought it at the Parke-Bernet sale of R. H. Mull et al. material, May 11, 1950, that part of the catalogue prepared with the help of Charles M. Wormser; ex John N. Hale estate, Hale (d. 1897) having bought it at the 1890 sale of R. Coulton Davis coins. Davis, who had originally bought it from the ubiquitous J. W. Haseltine, October 23, 1877, reselling it to that dealer in 1883, bought it via J. Colvin Randall (longtime associate of Haseltine) from the G. M. Klein "Vicksburg Cabinet" sale of May 21, 1888. Klein had it of Haseltine in 1883. EF, former proof, weak at centers, cleaned and retoned; blundered edge lettering; rust spot on U smaller than on some others; less die chatter than on some others.

This dollar, though correctly described as a restrike in most of its auction appearances, was misdescribed as an original in the Davis-Graves catalogue, 1954, on the basis of a document reproduced there and in the Wolfson catalogue, consisting of a letter from William E. DuBois, Assayer and Curator of the Mint Cabinet, September 17, 1878, in which DuBois says "Upon comparison with the specimens in the Cabinet of the U.S. Mint, I have no doubt that this *Dollar* is one of the *original issue* — and not a *restrike*" from Mint dies." Presumably by 1878 the dollars had been transposed and DuBois had conveniently forgotten about the difference in edges. At the time of its 1954 sale I was approached with threats of a \$1,000,000 lawsuit should I publish anything adverse to this or any other "1804." Unfortunately, I could not find anyone who could get anything into print fast enough with the truth!

(4) Stolen (1967) from the Lamot duPont family, ex L. duPont estate, ex Ten Eyck: 394, 1922, Ten Eyck (d. 1910) having obtained it in 1888 at the Scott sale of the Linderman collection, February 28, 1888; Linderman, Director of the Mint 1873-78, had it of either Idler or some mint employee at some unknown date before that, probably during the late 1860's while he was Director at the Philadelphia Mint rather than

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during his Mint Bureau Directorship days in Washington. The price to him was high enough that he had to pay it in installments. Brilliant proof; blundered edge lettering; rust spot on U present but available illustrations do not permit judging its extent; die alignment unknown but probably like the rest.

(5) Chase Manhattan Bank Money Museum, ex Farran Zerbe, 1929, via Gutttag Bros., ex Wayte Raymond, 1925, ex Col. James W. Ellsworth, 1923, ex Isaac Rosenthal (Joseph Rosenthal's Sons), via O. C. Bosbyshell (late Mint Director), 1894; said to be ex W. Julius Driefus of Alexandria, Virginia, allegedly from a freed slave, but more probably from some disreputable source like Haseltine or Idler. Accompanied by a document from C. E. Barber, Engraver of the Mint, and R. A. McClure, Curator of the Mint Cabinet, 1894, attesting to its genuineness; Bosbyshell, then Mint Superintendent, had been for long Coiner. VF, former proof, rubbed and scrubbed, with some nicks; probably carried at some time as a pocket piece; blundered edge lettering; plain die chatter; die alignment same as on others; rust mark at U small and sharp; "dished" like the Amon Carter coin.

(6) Last owner of record Edwin Hydeman, offered with the Hydeman collection at the NASC Convention, Statler Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles, March 3, 1961, and reportedly sold at \$29,000; reoffered with the Dr. J. Hewitt Judd material: 45b, "Illustrated History," with confused pedigrees and no indication of restrike status, 1962; ex Neil: 31, ex Atwater: 214, ex William H. Woodin via unknown intermediaries (Edgar Adams? Wayte Raymond?), ex H. O. Granberg. Granberg had bought it in 1908 from J. W. Haseltine at the dispersal of part of the William Idler holdings. EF, former proof, weak in centers, rubbed and scratched, excellent edge lettering, dished like the Amon Carter and Chase Bank coins; rust mark at U present, extent not ascertainable from available photographs; die alignment like the rest.

The 1804 reverse die of first issue appears to have been destroyed in 1858, though the obv. was not then recovered. (Were the 1801-2-3 dies destroyed at the same time? It would seem likely as this reverse was doubtless kept with them.) The 1804 obverse was not traced until 1860, well after the 1858 scandal and any subsequent strikings. No reverse was found with it, but this particular dated die was included in a box sealed up by J. R. Snowden, Mint Director, July 30, 1860, later opened up and resealed May 18, 1867 by his successor H. R. Linderman. The inventory of dies in this box was found in the Archives by the late Walter Thompson in 1961; it is quoted in the Newman-Bressett book, p.85. These dies, together with the pattern dies 1836-55 in a box sealed by Snowden July 8, 1859 and reopened and resealed by Linderman May 18, 1867, were destroyed — after impressions were taken of

some of them — in 1868. Newman points out that no more 1804 dollars were made at that time (probably to the distress of Linderman) as there was no reverse in this group. The list of dies (all called "experimental" by Linderman, which is pure whitewash) is partly reproduced here in order to give some interpretation. I suspect that Thompson read some of the dates wrongly, handwriting at that period especially on sand-blotted copies being sometimes very difficult, but as I had not seen the document during my own visits to the Archives, I cannot guarantee the correct readings as yet.

Dollar Die . . . 1804. = Obverse only.

Silver Dollar Dies . . . 1838.= Probably obv. and starless rev.

Silver Dollar Dies . . . 1836.= Probably two obverses, name on & name below base.

Silver Dollar Dies . . . 1839.= Probably obv. and starred rev.

Dollar Dies (Silver) . . . 1851 & 1852. = Obvs. only. The rev. was of the 1858-59 proofs, retained in the Coiner's Department presumably with knowledge of Chief Coiner George K. Childs; this die was still in use as late as 1876.

Half Cent Dies . . . 1836, 51 [40?], 52 [42?], 44, 46, 47, 48, 42 [49?], 52 (Obverse). The 1841 was missing because it had broken; the 1843 and 1845 for reasons unknown. Presumably the three reverses were not recovered.

Quarter Dollar Die . . . 1827. = No mention of reverse, which had broken. It follows that all the known restrikes of the above coins, where only obverses were in the inventory, must have been made before July 30, 1860; some Gobrechts may have been made at the final strikings in 1868.



**1804 Eagle. Plain 4. Issue of Nov. 1834.**

**\*1804 Eagle. Novodel.** Plain 4, style of 1834 and of 1804 dollar. (Judd 33) [4+] Made originally in 1834 for inclusion in the diplomatic presentation sets intended for Siam, Muscat, Japan and Cochin-China. Possibly as many as eight were originally made, like the dollars, but not that many are now traced. (1) Eliasberg, from John H. Clapp, ex Woodin: 1200, Steigerwalt, Parmelee: 814. (2) Col. Green, Eliasberg duplicate, offered with the "H. R. Lee" sale of 1947, later Baldenhofer: 1459. (3) The former Brand specimen, offered by C. E. Green of Chicago. (4) The King of Siam proof set in case. There are also several proofs in silver, at least one of them with a plain edge (Ed Schuman), the others with reeded edges. (Judd 34, AW 23) Cf. Baldenhofer: 1460, Dr. Bolt: 1609, Hydeman: 979. First illustrated in the 1869 AJN by Benjamin Betts on a plate depicting various changes in the conception of the Liberty head, 1793-1869. It was not given any special attention in that display; no mention of the beaded borders, which are similar to those on the 1804 obverse and the Gobrechts.



**1811 "Restrike" half cent. Rev. of 1802. Ex "Dupont": 1107, D. N., "TAD," S 3/75:844**

At this point, because there has been controversy and confusion over this coin, it may be appropriate to mention, and dismiss, the so-called restrike half cent of 1811. This is a muling, made in 1858 or 1859 for Joseph J. Mickley, from the original obverse (now badly rusted) of the 1811 close date half cent with the reverse of 1802 (badly rusted from the time of striking, with edges chipped). Only six were made, outside the mint only; they are bright red and the dies show some evidence of polishing in an attempt to remove the rust, not too successful. They have sharp knife-rims or "wire edges." However, they are not true proofs. Five of the six are now located: (1) "Dupont": 1107

to D. N., to the owner of the "TAD" coll.; S 3/75: 844 at \$4,750. (2) Brobston. (3) Showers. (4) R. L. Miles:34, at \$1,900, ex Lester Merkin. (5) Jon Hanson, ex Alfred Bonard, ex "Century": 89; this or preceding presumably the former B. Max Mehl private collection specimen. The dies were seized by the Treasury Department agents at the sale of Mickley's estate by Moses Thomas & Sons, 1878, repayment going to his widow.



**1823 "Restrike" cent. Rev. of 1813. Late striking (after 1879). Ex Hines coll.**

In almost the same breath we can allude to, and dismiss, the so-called restrike cents of 1823. These, though made from dies much repolished, are not proofs, and were also made outside the Mint; the first 49, for J. J. Mickley before the obv. die cracked across, in 1862, the remainder for various parties (Taxay mentions M. W. Dickeson, on unknown authority), including a reputed 12 for John W. Haseltine early in 1879 in silver, and more copper ones in subsequent years. The dies have been offered clandestinely since 1960, but it is not known if they are in condition to strike any more of the things. For one of the rare "original" 49 of 1862, see Helfenstein:99; first record of a silver specimen, S. K. Harzfeld's December 10, 1879 sale: 414; no recent record in silver, except for one in a Bowers & Ruddy FPL about 1973 (no mention of metal), at \$149, more recently sold in four figures.



**1827 Restrike Quarter. Rev. of 1819. Late rusted die state. Norweb coll.**

**\*1827 Quarter.** Restrike, made in the mint ca. 1858-60. Regular obv., rev. of 1819 with crack through U and various stages of rust marks. State I: Unrusted obv. die. (1) Neil: 898. (2) Eliasberg, from J. H. Clapp?, overstruck on an 1806 quarter; the edge is that of the quarter, suggesting that these were made about the same time as the Class II 1804 dollars

## Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces

of 1858, before a Castaing machine had been set up to letter or reed planchets with appropriate old devices. (3) J. A. Stack: 30, \$14,500. One other similar overstrike reported.

State II: Dies with increasing signs of rust. About 9 or 10 in silver, at least 3 and more probably 5 in copper. (1) Atwater: 679, later Grant Pierce: 612 at \$6,000, KS 4/67: 1321, C. Jay: 180 at \$6,400, Winner Delp: 56. (2) Atwater: 680, since untraced. (3) WGC: 90. (4) "Dupont": 1803, apparently reappearing as Baldenhofer: 403, Cass — "Empire": 1026; small mark points southeast, midway between 4th star and tip of nose. (5) Wolfson: 789 at \$8,250 (1963), possibly no. 2, 3 or 4? (6) "Century": 855. The report that only 3 were known in copper stems from Parmelee: 22. Cf. NN 35: 390; Olsen: 203, possibly ex Woodside: 13 (the Parmelee coin?); Roach: 2387; Miles: 899, etc.

**1830 Half Dime.** Early restrike. Valentine 5. Struck in 1831, probably in response to a request in some official quarter for a proof 1830 half dime to fill a set or date sequence; a reverse intended for business strikes (and later used for them) was burnished and put into the screw press, an old 1830 obverse, faintly cracked, being fished out of the Coiner's stock of old dies not yet ready to be melted down, also reburnished, and a few pieces struck off, at least three being known; see Chapter IV above under 1830. No evidence here of chicanery.

For the half cents to follow it is necessary — to gain some idea of chronology — to pay some attention to the fabric, i.e. to the kind of blanks from which they were made. My assumption is that coins of various dates having identical physical properties (weight, manner of patination, texture, striking characteristics, etc.) and identical reverse die state were made on the same occasion; and that when subsequent orders came in for half cents, a new piece of copper strip was made up and cut out into blanks. In a given "series" — group of half-cents of various dates made from one and the same batch of blanks — presumably the reverse die was left in place and anywhere from 3 to a dozen impressions were made from each successive obverse as it was inserted into the press, the whole group afterwards being assembled and sold in sets or as individual dates. There were three different reverses, the large berry die (original of 1840-48) being used only very late, probably in 1860 and most likely only after long search in the Coiner's vaults where Peale had stored it in 1849. A description of the seven distinct "series" follows.

Series I. Early. "81.8 grains". Actual weights run about 81.8 grains plus or minus 2, but generally the coins from this series stay quite close to the named figure. They patinate light iridescent brown, blue or blue-green. Only two reverses were used, the coins of 1831 and 1836 having the original reverse die of 1836 (which later cracked), those of 1841, 42, 52, 56 and 57

having a single reverse die among them, that earlier called "B" of 1856, showing double impressions on CENT and ribbon.

Series II. Thick, 87 grains average. Brown, irregularly mottled. Weights range from 85.3 to 91 grains. Reverse B of 1856, obvs. of 1842, 49, small date, 52, 56, 57.

Series III. Late light 1-B's. Average 76.5 grains, range 75.6 to 81.4. Dies usually bulged (caved in centrally, producing convexing on coins), in some cases cracked or rusted as well; unnatural-looking knife-rims or "wire edges," sometimes filed down; streaky, irregularly patinated. Always weak in centers of both sides. With reverse B of 1856 in late state, this series includes coins dated 1840 through 1848 inclusive, the latest ones known being dated 1848; there are also a few 1831's with the badly cracked reverse die of 1836.

Series IV. Early thin 1-C's. Weight average 77.2 grains, plus or minus 0.6 grains. All dates, 1840 through 1848 inclusive, with the reverse commonly called C or "Second Restrike", showing die file marks above RICA. Variable patination. Not as rare as II, III above. Variable tone.

Series V. Thick 1-C's. Weight, extraordinary, 96 grains (95.7 to 98.1 grains). The C reverse comes with obvs. 1840 through 1848 (except 1844) and 1852, 4 or 5 being seen of each. Usually dark brown.

Series VI. Late light 1-C's. Rather like III. Average 77.5 grains, range 68.2 (an 1842) to 79.0. Always bulged, with weak centers and wire edges. Dates 1831, 1836, probably as the original 1836 reverse was now completely *hors de combat*; 1840-42, 1844-47 inclusive. Variable toning.

Series VII. Large berry restrikes. Dates 1840, 43, 45, 47, 48, 49 small date, 1852, and possibly others. Weight range 78.8 to 87.9 grains. May have been made on more than one occasion.

We can now proceed to the description of the half cent restrikes in greater detail than anywhere previously, based on the material in the unpublished ms. which I completed in 1956 together with the other data since assembled.

**\*1831 Half Cent.** Large berries. Restrikes. Rev. of 1836. State B. Series I. Published by Gilbert in a rare supplement to his 1916 book as the "original", contrary to all evidence. High leaf ends left of center of final S, whereas on the originals (rev. of 1832) high leaf ends under r. side of final S. Uncracked, but repolished and strengthened; broader borders than on 1836 originals, often with some trace of wire edge. Gardner's brought \$1,300, Brobston's had been offered at \$850; Garrett: 9, \$1900 to J. E. I. Not over fifteen or so known, possibly about a dozen.

— Same dies, state C. Series III. The reverse is now cracked from rim through r. serif of T in UNITED, to leaves, to HA and upwards through wreath to F in OF to border. Obverse now caved in. (1) Martin

Kortjohn. (2) Eric P. Newman. (3) Brobston at \$925, ex "Dupont": 1119. Compare H. P. Smith: 1213, Stickney: 1743, D. S. Wilson, etc.



**1831 Restrike Half Cent. Rev. of 1836, state D, series III. Advanced rev. breaks. Ex Showers coll.**

— Same dies, state D. Series III. Additional crack through L of HALF through NT to wreath, final A and border. About four of these are known, one of them in the Philip M. Showers collection. Unnatural knife-rims on at least two.

\***1831. Half Cent.** Small berries. Rev. C of the 1840-48 group; type adopted with the Coronet Heads, 1840-57, die file marks above RICA. *Series VI.* Disclosed to the numismatic world by John W. Haseltine (who else?) about 1879, with claim that only 12 had been struck; this claim is quoted in the Frossard monograph on cents and half cents (Irvington-on-Hudson, New York, 1879). Specimens appeared in Haseltine sales in June, July-and October 1879 and some later years. At the moment only four can be traced. (1) Eliasberg, ex J. H. Clapp, ex Steigerwalt (1907). (2) Omaha City Library, ex Byron Reed bequest. (3) Miles: 42 at \$2,200 ex Brobston at \$1,750; 76.6 grains. (4) The former King Farouk coin. Where are the other eight? It is possible that Haseltine meant that only 12 were made of the 1831 and 1836 small berry coins taken together?

**1832. Half Cent.** Early restrike. Gilbert 3, recutting on D ES. Badly rusted reverse die. Possibly made late in 1832 or early 33 under circumstances analogous to the 1830 half dimes earlier mentioned. No hint of chicanery. Both proofs are badly cleaned. One is the former B. M. Doubles example, the other is in the writer's collection; I have heard of a third.

**1833. Half Dollar.** Restrike. \*Obv. Large beads in border, a wide flat rim around. Rev. most like 1836 D, with spine on end of stem, first T in STATES too low, small beads in similar border. Struck on old lettered edge planchet in a close collar, the edge lettering squashed almost to invisibility. Probably made late in 1836 together with coins dated 1834 and 1835. Extremely rare. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint Cabinet. (2) R. E. Cox had one of these. This may possibly be Winsor: 525. (3) The piece pictured on page 59 of the Newman-Bressett book, provenance not known to me. I have seen one other I believe to

be different from any of the above.



**1834 Restrike Half Dollar. Plain raised rim outside beaded borders. Note fancy 5 as in one 1836 die.**

**1834. Half Dollar.** Restrike. Type IIIa: small date, large stars, small letters. \*Obv. Apparently an original die, the border reworked to show small beads within wide flat raised rim. Rev. Same die as last. Struck on old lettered edge planchet in close collar, edge lettering squashed almost to invisibility. Fabric identical to last. Probably made on the same occasion. Extremely rare. (1) Davis-Graves: 527. (2) Davis-Graves: 528. (3) Allenburger, McPherson: 887, — CA. Cass — "Empire": 1338. (4) Smithsonian, from Mint Cabinet. (5) Brand-Lichtenfels II: 1311, to Phila. Estate. Cf. also Winsor: 526; two others reported — reappearances of above?

**1835. Half Dollar.** Restrike. Obv. Apparently an original die, the border reworked as on the 1834. Rev. As preceding. Struck the same way, same fabric, probably same day. Extremely rare. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint Cabinet. (2) Specimen pictured on p. 59 of Newman-Bressett. Two others reported. Compare Winsor: 527.



**1836 Restrike Half Cent, from original dies. Series I. Note pronounced borders and knife-rims. Ex Peter Gschwend, Woodin, Ryder: 315, S. J. O.**

\***1836. Half Cent.** Restrike. Original obv. and reverse die, not yet cracked. Series I. Uniform with the Series I coins of 1831 sharing this reverse and the 1841-2, 52, 56, 57 with reverse B of 1856. Weight average 81.8 grains. Very rare, more so than the originals. (1) 1962 New York Metropolitan Convention sale: 229; Wolfson II: (1963), and/or Miles: 48 (82 grains) may be a reappearance of the same coin. (2) Eric P. Newman, 81.8 gr., ex Col. E. H. R. Green. (3) Ryder: 315 to S. J. O., ex Peter Gschwend (1908), Woodin, 79.8 grains. (4) Brobston's, 77.3 grains, was offered at \$600. (5) Norweb, 82.4 grains, from an Elder sale in



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1935. Others probably exist, mistaken for originals. One of them reappeared in 1976 ANA at \$2000.



**1836 Restrike Half Cent. Small berries. Series VI. Ex "Dupont": 1128, D.N., TAD: 855.**

\*— **Small berries** — reverse C of 1840-48 series. Series VI. Bulged obv. die, the convexity showing in field at r. stars and at curls below ear, these details now weak. Borders wide and heavy. Extremely rare, first known to the numismatic world in 1879 when — you guessed it — John W. Haseltine offered a specimen (7/29/1879:101) as "the only one I ever saw." Two more were in the Linderman sale of 1888. At present I can trace five. (1) Omaha City Library ex Byron Reed bequest. (2) Lyman:560, Martin Kortjohn, 77.3 grains. (3) Woodin:811, Malcolm Jackson, Newcomer, Col. Green, B. G. Johnson, Eric P. Newman, 77.6 grains. (4) Joseph Brobston, at \$1,650 (1963). 78.1 grains. (5) "Dupont": 1128, TAD:855, \$4,750. 79 grains.



**1836 Gobrecht restrike dollar. Name below base, starry reverse, cracked. Usually sold as original. Note die alignment (horizontal eagle) and location of knife-rims. Rev. pictured in A-W above no. 41. Ex Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Baldenhofer, Ostheimer, Merkin Sept. 1968:328.**

\***Gobrecht Dollars.** 1836. Name below base, starry reverse. Restrike. Obv. repolished, rev. faintly or plainly cracked through bases of OLLA and tops of NITED STATES O. Later examples have high knife-rims. Silver. Dies aligned ↗ (Woodin, Newcomer, Ostheimer coin) or ↖ (Kosoff 2/55:1333, Ruby, "Gilhausen": 1284). Cf. also Mehl-Clarke-NN 48:655-Kagin; KS 2/60:1527; NN 57:1106; that in Golden II; others. Some were possibly struck in 1868 on reopening of the sealed carton containing the dies, others in 1858. Reported in copper (A-W 47) but not seen since Woodside: 16 (1892).



**1836 Gobrecht restrike dollar. Name below base, starless reverse. No originals made. Note die alignment and knife-rims. Ex Major Lenox R. Lohr.**

\*— Obv. Name below base, starless rev. of 1838. Same die alignments, physical properties. Silver. Judd 63, A-W 48. Three known (in 1892 only one). (1) Anthon Part V:117, T.H. Garrett, J.W. Garrett:252, \$19,000, "C". (2) Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Farouk, Baldenhofer, Ostheimer, LM 9/68:329. (3) Major Lenox R. Lohr.

\*— Name on base, starry rev. of 1836, usual type, silver, but *reeded edge*. A-W 41. Supposedly three known; I have seen only one, ex Granberg, Woodin, Newcomer, Baldenhofer:993.



**1836 Gobrecht restrike dollar. Name on base, starry rev. Note die alignment and knife-rim. Ex Milton Holmes, Baldenhofer, Ostheimer, Merkin Sept. 1968:330.**

\*— Same but plain edge, usually offered as originals. Early: die alignment ↗, line up from top of wing points between AT, no cracks. Later: ↖, partial knife-rim, line up from top of wing points to O(F), cracked as described, light rim crumbling, (1868 strikings?). Obv. repolished, recutting at 83 fading out. Commoner than originals, on which eagle flies (in Patterson's words) "onward and upward"; on restrikes, eagle's placement is as on 1856-58 cents — horizontal, the two circular ornaments flanking ONE DOLLAR not level. Over 2/3 the Gobrechts offered are of this variety with these die alignment, suggesting a mintage of at least a couple of thousand. Some are found cleaned, nicked, scratched or even worn (pocket pieces?).

\* — Same obv. Starless rev. of 1838. Silver. Judd 65, A-W44. Only one seen, ex Ralph J. Lathrop, 1952 ANA:1236, C. Jay:173; cf. W. J. Jenks:117 (6/25/1883).



No record of the copper striking from these dies.

\* **1838 Dollar.** Starless rev., reeded edge, usual type. Restrike from original dies, though usually sold as originals. Judd 84, A-W 65. Over 99% of 1838 dollars sold are of this restrike issue, with either of the two die alignments,  $\uparrow/\nearrow$  or  $\uparrow/\swarrow$ . Later examples show knife-rims, obv. occasionally with field rust marks, rev. cracked through NITE and AMERI. Louis S. Werner (ca. 1958) discovered an early impression overstruck on an 1859 silver dollar, date plain, and sold it to Art Kagin for a price well into four figures.

\* — Same. *Plain Edge.* Judd 85; A-W 64. Possibly three known. I have been unable to sort them out from available illustrations: a) John Zug, Ralph J. Lathrop, 1952 ANA:1287; b) Olsen:1765; c) Atwater:219; d) KS 2/60:1531; e) Wolfson:1397; f) Jay:176; g) Miles:1571. No record of the copper impression, though it is priced in Judd book.



**1838 Dollar.** Starry rev., plain edge. Ex Maris, Parmelee, Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Curtis, Farouk, Baldenhofer, Ostheimer, Merkin Sept. 1968:332; pictured in Adams-Woodin.

\* — Same. *Starry rev. of 1836.* Silver, *plain edge.* No originals of this combination. 1) Maris:149, Parmelee:1086, Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Col. Curtis:1031, Farouk:1721, Baldenhofer, Ostheimer, LM 9/68:332, pictured in AW. 2) Lohr, Miles:1572. The reeded edge coin has not been verified to exist (A-W 62).

\* **1839 Dollar.** Regular type, starless rev., restrikes from original dies. Silver, reeded edge. Die alignment  $\uparrow/\swarrow$  and may also exist  $\uparrow/\nearrow$ . Later strikings have high knife-rims. Various stages of cracks through many letters, beginning at NITE and AMERI. Judd 104; A-W 84. Usually sold as originals, but at least twice as often seen as real originals. Cf. Zug, Landau:621; "Gilhausen":1290, many others. No record in copper.

\* — As last but *plain edge.* Judd 105, A-W 83. Two known. (1) Granberg, Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Menjou:2083, Curtis:1032, Farouk:1728, Baldenhofer, Ostheimer, LM 9/68:334. Lint mark below O of ONE; many adjustment marks at rounded rims. (2) Jay:177, Miles:1574. A third reported but not confirmed. The unique (?) copper striking with plain edge was in the Farouk collection.



**1839 Dollar.** Starry rev. of 1836. Restrike (no originals of this combination). Note cracks and die alignment. Ex Lenox Lohr.

\* — Same. **Starry rev. of 1836.** Silver, plain edge. The three records, Parmelee:1101, Lenox Lohr, Miles:1575 (\$5,500), probably refer to a single coin. Also reported with reeded edge; I have long since lost track of that one. The Brand estate had a copper impression but I do not recall its edge.

\* **1840 Half Cent.** Restrike, large berries. Series VII. Knife-rims, dies worn and repolished. Not on the "plain over reeded edge" flans characterizing originals. (1) Brobston, 81.8 grains. (2) Norweb, 81.3 grains.



**1840 Half Cent.** First restrike. Series I. Ex Bryant, Ryder

\* — Small berries, dies 1-B, "first restrike," *double impressions on CENT and ribbon.* Series I. Six known, including Brobston's and the Bryant-Ryder piece, latter at 82.7 grains, to a book bidder.

\* — Similar, dies 1-C, "second restrike," die *file marks over RICA.* Series IV: early thin 1-C's, no knife-rim or central weakness, all details sharp. Four seen, including Garrett:10, \$950.

\* — As last but Series V, thick flans. (1) "Dupont":1130, 98 grains, D.N., TAD:857, \$1,200. (2) Eliasberg, 96 grains. (3) T. James Clarke:470, weight not ascertained but probably still heavier.

\* — As last but Series VI. Heavy high knife-rims, central weakness, die failure. (1) Brobston, \$700. (2) Wolfson:28, \$600, Century:105, \$550; others.

**Silver Dollars.** It is possible that *some* of the proofs of 1840-49 and 1852 with the original reverse (chip between dentils above space between TE of UNITED, claws not joined, arrowheads not touching, space between arrows clear, *tiny defects on r. side of final*

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A, parts of 1st, 2nd and 6th stripes extend into azure) may be restrikes, though many are certainly originals. Those with unusually pronounced knife-rims are thought to be restrikes.



### 1841 Half Cent. First restrike, Series I. Ex Davis-Graves, Brobston colls.

\* **1841 Half Cent.** Restrikes. Small berries, "first restrike," dies 1-B (see 1840). Series I. Obv. crack heavier than on originals. Four seen, including (1) Davis-Graves: 117, Brobston, 83.2 grains, \$900; (2) "Dupont": 1132, D.N., TAD:859, \$1900, 83.5 grains.

\* — Similar. Dies 1-C, "second restrike." Series IV, early: no high knife-rims, no marked die failure, etc. Obv. crack heavier. Only 5 seen. Cf. NN 56:461; Garrett: 11, \$1,500.

\* — As last but thick flans, Series V. Weight about 96 grains. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Eric P. Newman.

\* — As last but Series VI, late die state, thin flans, heavy knife-rims, central die failure. Four seen. "Century": 107 may have belonged to this group.

\* **1842 Half Cent.** Restrikes. Small berries. Dies 1-B, "first restrike." Series I. About 5 seen.

\* — As last. Series II. Wt. 87 grains. Only one seen.

\* — Same, but Series III. Very late strikings, knife-rims, central die failure, very light weight. (1) Dunham:1284, Phila. Estate. (2) "Dupont".1134, believed later Wolfson:30. (3) Omaha City Library ex Byron Reed bequest. (4) Pvt. coll.

\* — Dies 1-C (see 1840), "second restrike." Series IV, early. (1) Norweb. (2) Showers, 87 grains (very atypical, but planchet like other Series IV coins).

\* — As last, but Series V, weight about 96 grains. (1) Garrett, Johns Hopkins. (2) Eric P. Newman. (3) Bryant, Ryder: 319, S.J.O., 96.9 grains.



### 1842 Half Cent. Second restrike. Series VI. Ex Haseltine, R. Coulton Davis, Davis-Graves: 118

\* — As last but Series VI, late strikings, high knife-rims, central die failure, light weight. (1)

Brobston, 68.2 grains. (2) Haseltine, R. Coulton Davis, Davis-Graves: 118, H.O., 70.0 grains. (3) Dunham: 1285, Phila. Estate, knife-rim filed down. (4) T. James Clarke, believed reappearing as "Century": 109.

\* **1843 Half Cent.** Large berry restrikes, Series VII. Knife-rims, rev. die in similar state to the 1852, worn, strengthened, repolished. (1) Cass, "Empire": 108. (2) Showers. (3) Norweb. (4) Brobston.



### 1843 Half Cent. First restrike. Series I. Ex Davis-Graves: 119

\* — Similar, small berries, dies 1-B or "first restrike." Series I. About 15 seen, possibly more, including Byron Reed; Davis-Graves: 119.

\* — Same, series II, 87 grains. Two seen.

\* — Same, series III. Late lightweight strikings, knife-rims, central die failure. Bryant, Ryder:320, S.J.O. "Century": 111 may be another.

\* — Similar, dies 1-C, "second restrike." Series IV, early. Johns Hopkins.

\* — As last. Series V, very thick flans, about 96 grains. (1) John Story Jenks, John H. Clapp, Eliasberg. (2) Pvt. coll.

\* — As last. Series VI, very late, thin, die failure, knife-rims, etc. The Alvord-Brobston coin is typical. Two or three others reported.



### 1844 Half Cent. First restrike. Ex Showers, "Cambridge": 107

\***1844 Half Cent.** Restrikes. Dies 1-B or "first restrikes." Series I only to date. (1) Showers, NERCG "Cambridge" sale (12/76): 107, 82.4 grains. (2) Eliasberg. (3) "Dupont":350, D.N., TAD:865. (4) B. Frank:28, R.P. (5) Pvt. coll., seen in late 1950's.

\* — Similar, dies 1-C, "second restrike." Series IV, early. (1) Garrett: 12, \$1,050. (2) TAD:866. Three others in private collections.



**1844 Half Cent. Second restrike. Series V. Ex Bryant, Ryder**

\* — Same, series V, very thick flans. Bryant, Ryder:322, 96.2 grains.

\* — Same, series VI, thin flans, late die state, high knife-rims. (1) Brobston. (2) T. James Clarke:476. (3) "Century": 113. Three others seen.

\* **1845 Half Cent.** Restrikes. Large berries, series VII. The only one definitely identified is Brobston's, 79.5 grains, repolished dies.

\* — Similar, small berries, dies 1-B. "First restrike." Series I, early. (1) Norweb. (2) Leon Bookman, Kagin. (3) "Dupont": 1140, D.N., TAD:868, \$2900. (4) Cass, "Empire":111, Brobston, \$1,450.

\* — As last but late state, Series III. High knife-rims, central die failure, etc. Two seen, pvt. colls.

\* — Similar, dies 1-C, "second restrike." Series IV, early. (1) Mehl 12/12/39:311, Phila. Estate. Three others seen.

\* — As last. Series V, weight about 96 grains. (1) Garrett:13, \$1,150, A.M. (2) T. James Clarke. Plus three others, pvt. colls.

\* — As last. Series VI. Very late state, underweight, central weakness, knife-rims. (1) Byron Reed, Omaha City Library. (2) "Century": 115, possibly.

\***1846 Half Cent.** Restrikes. Small berries, dies 1-B, "first restrike," early, Series I. (1) Norweb. (2) Leon Bookman, Kagin. (3) 1962 N.Y. Metropolitan sale.

\* — Similar, dies 1-C, "second restrike." Early, Series IV. Two seen, pvt. colls.



**1846 Half Cent. Second Restrike. Series V. Ex Bryant, Ryder.**

\* — Same, series V, 96 grains. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Martin Kortjohn. (3) Eric P. Newman. (4) Bryant,

Ryder: 326.

\* — As last, series VI, very late state, underweight, central failure, knife-rims. (1) Garrett:14, \$1,100, Joe Flynn. (2) Brobston, (3) "Dupont": 1142, D.N., TAD:871. (4) Wolfson:33, \$600, "Century": 117, \$525, possibly ex either Clarke:479 or Holmes: 1340. Four others seen in private collections.

\***1847 Half Cent.** Restrikes. Large berries, series VII, late state, knife-rims. (1) Norweb, 80.9 grains. (2) Showers, 86 grains.

\* — Small berries, dies 1-B, "first restrike," early (?). (1) Bowers, ca. 1955, \$300. (2) Kagin, 1973. (3) One seen by me at a Los Angeles convention about 1972, possibly same as either of foregoing. This is the most elusive of these dates.

\* — Similar, dies 1-C, "second restrike," early, Series IV. About seven seen.

\* — Same, thick, 96 grains. Series V. (1) Brobston. (2) "Dupont": 1144, D.N. Plus four others in private colls.

\* — Same, thin, late state, Series VI. Nine or ten seen.

\***1848 Half Cent.** Restrikes. Large berries, series VII. (1) Brobston, 79.3 grains, offered (understandably) as an original. (2) Ex King Farouk, exceptionally thick flan.

\* — Small berries, dies 1-B, "first restrike," early, Series I. About 12 seen.

\* — Same, about 87 grains, Series II. Four seen.



**1848 Half Cent. First restrike, series III. Ex Ryder.**

\* — Same, very late, Series III. (1) "Century": 121. (2) Grant Pierce:28. (3) Garrett:15, \$1,100, D.W. Plus six or seven others.

\* — Similar, dies 1-C, "second restrike," early. Series IV. (1) Merkin. (2) Pvt. coll.

\* — As last, very thick, 96 grains. Series V. (1) Eliasberg. (2) Norweb.

\***1849 Half Cent. Small date.** Restrikes. Large berries. Series VII. As none (even among the claimed originals) weighs correctly, all have been questioned; but the piece in the Stickney set (ex Mint, 1849) establishes that originals were made. The only obvious restrikes are (1) Norweb, 81.3 grains, and (2) Showers, 85.3 grains.



**1849 Half Cent. Small date. First restrike, series I. Ex Ryder.**

\* — Same obv.; small berries. Dies 1-B, "first restrikes." Series I, early, average 81.8 grains. About 7 or 8 known, two damaged (JHU and Farouk).

\* — Same dies, series II, thick flans, 87 grains. Four seen, pvt. colls.

**1850 Silver Dollar. Restrike. \*B-2.** Base of 0 repunched; light to heavy crack through base of date. Original rev., with the minute flaws on r. side of second A of AMERICA. Some from these dies are originals, but restrikes exist, with heavy crack, heavy knife-rims. (1) 1951 ANA:984, nicked on its knife-rim. (2) T. James Clarke, NN 48:660, Kagin. (3) Pvt. coll. Cleneay:988-89 were not identified as to variety and status.



**1851 Dollar. Centered date. Ex F.C.C.Boyd**

**1851 Silver Dollar. \*Centered date. Restrikes only.** Rev. of 1858-9 proofs in late state, the lines joining AM and RI faded out. Other reverses may exist. Silver, 15 to 20 known; early specimens normal, later ones with high knife-rims. Typical specimens: Sampson:71 (June 5, 1883), T. H. Garrett, J. W. Garrett:269, \$6,750, Joe Flynn; Farouk, Dr. Clifford Smith, 1976 ANA: 1445, \$7,500. There are also four or five copper proofs from the same dies.

\* **1852 Half Cent. Large berries. Restrike, series VII.** Long believed original, but the physical appearance (unnaturally high knife-rims, repolished dies) matches other Series VII restrikes, and the resurrection of an old die discarded in 1849 would have been irrational in 1852 but very understandable in 1858 or '59 — once the small berry die had been identified as a restrike by potential customers. (1) Mills, Clapp, Eliasberg. (2) George W. Rice, Dunham, Brobston, \$7,500 as "original." (3) Brock, Univ. of Penna., "Piggy" Ward, C. J. Dochkus, R.L. Miles: 69, \$6,000. (4) Alvord, F. C. C. Boyd, damaged (in a

fire?). (5) James Aloysius Stack estate, unseen.

\* — Similar, small berries, dies 1-B. "First restrike." Early, series I. Possibly 40 to 50 known. Three separate 1965 records of \$625; only recently has begun to climb — TAD: 879, \$1050, March 1975.

\* — As last, thick, 87 grains, Series II. Two seen.

\* — As last, thin, advanced die state, Series III.

(1) "Dupont": 1152. (2) Pvt. coll.

\* — Similar, dies 1-C, "second restrike," thick flan, about 96 grains, Series V. (1) Johns Hopkins.

(2) Ex Q. David Bowers, before 1966. (3) Byron Reed, Omaha City Library. (4) Norweb.

(5) Ex R. Schonwalter, before 1965. Two others in private collections.



**1852 Silver Dollar, Restrike. Rev. of 1858-59. Note the extraordinary knife-rim. Ex F. C. C. Boyd**

**1852 Silver Dollar. Restrike. Only one obv. die. \*Rev. of 1858-9 proofs. B-3.** Small unpolished curved areas at bottoms of last two white stripes, top r. corner of last. Two arrows join, claws almost join, extremely slight roughness (unpolished area) between upper leaves; lines joining AM and RI may have faded out. Possibly 15 to 20 known. The E. Cogan (1/29/83) — Garrett: 270 example brought \$6,250. There are also 4 or 5 copper proofs.

It is as yet unknown if the ANS example with rev. of 1840-49 is original or restrike, though the coincidence of resurrection of an old reverse die suggests restriking.



**1853 Silver Dollar. Restrike.**

**1853 Silver Dollar. Obv. \*Die file marks from rocky base above 53. Shield point slightly r. of upright of 1; left base of 1 over center of dentil. Rev. of 1862-3 (q.v.), now with upper edge of wing (left of beak) usually not brought up. Supposedly 12 struck. First reported in the McCoy sale, 1864. (1) E. E. Lamb, Geiss: 350, Phila. Estate. (2) Boyd, WGC: 146, "J. H.**

South": 814. (3) Ely: 122 (Jan. 1884), T. H. Garrett, J. W. Garrett: 271, \$8,500, "X." (4) McPherson, Cass, "Empire": 1738, possibly same as (2). (5) NN 49: 1375, \$1,000. (6) Ostheimer, LM 9/68:350, possibly same as (2), (4) or (5), deeply toned. (7) Very slightly impaired, Parmelee:1233, to Chapman, now unidentified.

Four or possibly five copper examples are reported, one in Woodside:57 (1892).

**1856 Half Cent.** Restrike. \*Dies 1-B, double outlines on CENT and ribbon, as on coins dated 1840-49, 1852. Series I: over 10 known, though apparently original impressions are more often seen. The average weight of 81.8 grains rather than 84.0 is the main difference.

\* — Same. Series II, weight average 87 grains. Four seen.

**1856 Flying Eagle Cent.** See Chapter XV above. If the variety therein called no. 8 in late states actually is a restrike, it must have been made by the hundred, possibly over 1,000 in all, as it constitutes the majority of survivors of this issue.

**1857 Half Cent.** Restrike. \*Dies 1-B, double outlines on CENT and ribbon, as on coins dated 1840-49, 52, 56. Obv. repolished, date and stars strengthened. Series I. Degree of rarity unknown, normally sold as originals. Patterson DuBois, "Eavenson", Ryder:341, J.W., others. Average 81.8 grains.

\* — Same dies, series II, average 87+ grains. "Dupont": 1159, F.K.Saab, 91.5 grains; others. Same die state.

\* **1858 Silver Dollar.** Stuart Mosher and others claimed to have examined specimens with "high unnatural wire edges and rev. field depression near beak." Unconfirmed.

\* **1859 Half dime, without UNITED STATES.** Obv. similar to regular design with stars, date higher than on normal proofs, without recutting. Rev. type of 1860, but heavy letters unlike regular 1860 proof dies. Judd 232, A-W 309. Generally miscalled a transitional issue; actually a piece de caprice, probably an afterthought for collectors who wanted an earlier counterpart of the 1860 item. Possibly 15 known. (1) 1976 ANA: 649, \$8,000. (2) "Dupont": 1408, Miles:461, Dr. Caldwell:95, \$5,750, 1975 ANA:182. (3) Lohr:276. (4) Cass, "Empire":692; others.



**1859 Dime. Without UNITED STATES.** Ex 1952 ANA, Reed Hawn

\* **1859 Dime, without UNITED STATES.** Identical

to above. Obv. different from regular proofs, date higher; pendant almost over center of 5. Rev. Different from regular 1860 proofs; ribbons away from wreath. Judd 233, A-W 308. Piece de caprice, as above, though usually marketed as a transitional item. (1) Olsen, Neil: 1269. (2) 1952 ANA: 572, Reed Hawn:723, \$7,250. (3) "Dupont": 1601, Miles:686, \$4,000. (4) "Gilhausen":389; others, possibly a dozen known.

**1860 Half Dime,** piece de caprice, identical type to preceding. [100] Usually flat at upper left reverse. Claimed to exist in proof, e.g. Lohr: 277 (1956), which I saw and identified as a first strike from imperfectly polished dies (vertical striae), lacking the striking qualities of a proof. On the other hand, by some mischance I missed examining 1952 ANA: 516, ex Allenburger: 1212, called by J. J. Ford and previous owners a proof; the plate looks quite remarkable. If so, this is the only one known, to date. The regularly seen ones are uncirculated; 100 made by J. R. Snowden for collectors, as pure pieces de caprice, not transitionals. The reverse die is not identical to any known to have been used on 1860 proofs or business strikes. Judd 267, silver, reeded edge.

\* **1863/62 Trime.** Restrike. Only eight seen so far; bold date twice punched over lighter 1862. Rev. Rust spot in center of third I of III; struck after original 1863 and 1864 proofs, but before at least some 1864 business strikes. NN 57: 336 at a then high \$280; cf. Don Taxay's article in October 1962 *Numismatic Scrapbook*. Reverse is in state III of four states known of the same die, first used on 1863 proofs (Clashmarks from star; line joins bases of first two I's, line from 3rd I to leaf), then relapped for 1864 proofs so that spearhead-like devices and inner circles in C smaller (II), then further relapped for this 1863/2 so that point of spearhead in first recess is gone (state III). On the unc. 1864's the die was again relapped and has developed a crack from rim at 4:00 (state IV). This establishes an 1864 date for these restrikes, apparently between early July and late August.

\* **1863 Half Dime,** 1 not recut, open D as in 1871-73. Rev. Die of 1870-71 pattern 5¢ silver. One seen in silver, several in copper. There used to be a small hoard of these and of the trimes (both 1863-64) in copper proofs, but this was broken up before I had any opportunity to examine it. An aluminum example was Dr. Caldwell: 132.

\***1864 Trime.** No recutting on 4. Top of D open or virtually so. Different rev. from foregoing (?). Silver, Phila. Estate and one other. Others in copper and aluminum (Olsen: 398 copper, 399 aluminum).

\***1864 Half Dime.** Restrike. High date; top of D open. Rev. same as 1870-71, ribbon ends touch wreath. Silver, Phila, estate and one other. Also in copper and aluminum.

\***1865 Gold Dollar.** Date slants up to right. Restrike. (1) Stack's, about 1958. (2) Pvt. coll. Cf. Scanlon:

## Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces

1970 (not so identified), possibly ex Jay: 239. Not from original dies (the only ones made for 1865).



### 1865 Three Dollars. Restrike. Date slants up to r. Ex Dr. Judd coll.

\*1865 Three Dollars. Restrike. Date slants up to right. Obv. of 1872. Judd 440, AW 480. Gold: (1) Woodin, Newcomer, Boyd, Judd, "Ill. Hist."; 297, Dr. Wilkison, Paramount, A-Mark. (2) Farouk: 324. One known in silver, several in copper, Judd 441-2.

The other variety, with obv. of 1867-8 and high level date, must have been in existence no later than 1870, as a nickel striking from these dies was in Fewsmith: 1336. Cf. also Woodside: 160. Gold strikings include Grant Pierce: 1252, others.

We can probably exonerate the 1865 transitional nickel with rays from any claims of restrike status by noting that its rev. die is that of 1866 and it was first reported in Mickley: 2241 (1867).

On the other hand, the nickel of 1865 without rays has an 1868 die for reverse and sounds like an afterthought. In Parmelee: 149 it was claimed that only two were known; that is not very far from the truth even now.



### 1866 Dollar. No motto. Ex Woodin, Boyd, Wayte Raymond, Col. Green, Lamot du Pont.

\*1866. Quarter, half dollar and dollar, without motto. Pieces de caprice. Long listed in the Standard Catalogue and elsewhere as "transitional" pieces, solely as a favor to F. C. C. Boyd (who owned the set), these must now be debunked. The quarter, half and one silver dollar formed a set in the Woodin collection, thence to Newcomer, Boyd, Wayte Raymond, Col. E. H. R. Green, again to Boyd, later to King Farouk. The quarter and half dollar were sold to the same customer as Hydeman: 1107 and 1108; the dollar reportedly went via a western dealer to the same buyer. A duplicate dollar turned up, identified as "ex Farouk," and was offered in the

"Fairbanks" auction of December 1960, then to Samuel Wolfson at \$13,000; later Wolfson II: 1425 at \$18,000, C. Jay: 182 at \$15,000, Winner Delp: 91, A-Mark. Calling them transitional pieces destroys the meaning of the term; the true transitionals are the 1865 coins with motto as adopted in 1866.

1868 Large Cent. Type of 1844-57. Piece de caprice. Nickel, 2 known. Copper, 4 or 5 known: record \$7,250 claimed, about 1/3 of that verified.



### 1873 Two Cents. Open 3. Ex NERCG "Publick II":567

\*1873 Two Cents. Open 3. One of these is seen for every 9 or 10 of the closed 3. Die file mark through base of T(R). Reverse same as late 1872 and closed 3 1873's, or sometimes a different die. Some are rather carelessly made proofs. Compare "Century": 339 at \$750, Gardner at \$650 (both 1965), Lester Merkin April 1966, etc.



### 1873 Three Dollars. B-2, dished restrike, obv. convex, rev. concave. Ex Merkin Oct. 1973:473

\*1873 Three Dollars. B-2, first restrike: obv. of 1872, late; rev. closed 3. dished, obv. convex, rev. concave, as though subjected to sidewise pressure after striking. All seen in gold are granular through obviously made as proofs. About 8 or 9 seen, one in Eliasberg, one in NN 51:957, one in Lester Merkin sale of October 1966, one ex KS 2/60:2670, one other lately making the bourse rounds.

\* — B-3, second restrike: obv. of 1877-79, closed 3, normal without dishing; many specimens damaged by abrasion or nicks, dents, etc., at least 30 seen so out of possibly 50 known.

\* — B-4. Rusted original dies, open 3. Boosel.

\* — B-5. Worse yet, ANS has an extra 1873, not from the Brock, Morgan set, with closed 3 and an obv. not identical to any of the surrounding dates or to any of the other restrikes.

\*1875. Three Dollars. Restrike from original dies, rusted on OL — a little above center of r., curves of



O, near top of upright of L; lower wreath flat, lowest of 3 maple leaves at left flat; extra outlines on outer curves of large 3, r. ribbons and much of r. wreath. Eliasberg, several others, possibly including Wolfson:303 at \$17,000. I do not know if the copper and aluminum pieces are originals or restrikes.

The official restrikes of the 1879 Flowing Hair Stella [400+] have been discussed with the originals, p. 164.



**1884 Trade Dollar. Ex Menjou, Baldenhofer, "Fairbanks", Wolfson, QS 11/76:426**

**\*1884 Trade Dollar.** Simulated series coin. Unknown to the numismatic world before 1908 when John W. Haseltine brought out several specimens from the collection of proof sets in the estate of his father-in-law William Idler. Only one variety. Centered date from double eagle logotype, slanting slightly up to right. Thin die scratch above r. side of F in OF, faint crack joins tops of AM. [10?] (1) Menjou I:2040, \$765, Baldenhofer: 1039, \$2,200, "Fairbanks":698, \$6,500, Wolfson: 1541, \$8,750, unknown intermediaries, QS 11/76:426, \$52,500. (2) Dunham: 1150, \$315, Phila. Estate. (3) Eliasberg. (4) "Dupont":2652. (5) Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (6) Col. Green, B.G. Johnson, Jack Roe:627, \$665, Atwater:377, \$800, Neil:296, \$551, Pelletreau: 1054, \$3300, J. Cohen, unknown intermediaries, S at 1974 ANA, J. Leidman (at \$165,000 with an 1885), Jim Halperin for NERCG, offered in NERCG FPL 12/74 and 2/75 at \$75,000, 1975 NENA:639, \$39,000, Mulford B. Simons. (7) Olsen:977, George Sealy Ewalt:42, \$3600, cleaned, Dr. Calvert L. Emmons:814, \$5,000, pvt. coll., 1972 at \$16,000, Western Numismatics. (8) Pvt. coll., late 1940's, unnamed estate, 1976 ANA: 723 in assembled proof set, \$34,000 for the set. (9) Chicago estate (*allegedly* since 1890's?!), RARCOA, Worldwide Investments, Steve Ivy, Robert Marks, 1972 pvt. sale, Hollywood FPL offered at \$24,975, Herstal:734, \$30,000, M. B. Simons and Donald Apte; Simons bought out Apte's interest, thence to pvt. coll. at \$42,500. Light rubber band mark, knee to 4th star. One of foregoing was ex Granberg I:392 (Mehl, 1913). The report that Josiah Lilly had one has not been verifiable.

This is listed as a piece de caprice as no accounting exists for bullion, dies, or distribution of specimens. The fiscal year report for 1884 which might be interpreted as meaning 264 struck (as claimed in the NERCG offering) actually covers the 264 proofs struck

between June and December 1883. The monthly accounting, in Willem from the 1887 Director's Report, yields respectively 12,10, 39, 25, 60, 8 and 110, total 264. This division harmonizes entirely with remaining fiscal year reports (1883 and earlier), all of which have been checked; no loophole exists.

There are at least two silverplated copper pieces, both of which have been offered at auction as silver, and apparently two more not so treated. Weight of silver, 420 grains; copper is apt to be lighter and will ring differently, whereas all silver trade dollars will ring alike. (1) KS 5/66:1302, 1975 ANA:1218. Rim flaw between first two stars, defect r. of date. (2) Dr. Emmons:813, Delp:761, consigned to QS 8/76 for 11/76 auction, at which time Jack Collins discovered it to be a plated copper piece. Edge nicks top obv. (3) A. L. Snowden, 1884, in complete copper proof set to the Mint's publicist A. M. Smith, Smith estate, Bolender 2/3/36:25. Bolender told me the set remains intact. (4) As I saw an unplated one about 1958, either it is a fourth specimen or else one of the first two must have been plated since that time.

**\*1885 Trade Dollar.** Simulated series coin. Silver only; might conceivably exist in aluminum, as all other denominations of the year were struck in that metal. Allegedly [5]. From the identical source which yielded the 1884's, which is reason enough to characterize them as pieces de caprice even aside from the entire absence of accounting for dies, bullion, or striking. (1) Mrs. R. Henry Norweb, ex Atwater:378, ex pvt. coll. in 1920's. (2) Menjou I:2041, \$1350, Baldenhofer: 1040, \$4,000, unknown intermediaries, NERCG, Forecaster. A bonafide offer of \$250,000 for this coin was made, and refused, in my presence, at the 1974 ANA Convention; Jim later offered the piece for \$300,000. Cf. CW 3/30/77, p. 11, where offered at \$165,000. (3) Col. E.H.R. Green, B. G. Johnson, Jack Roe:628, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (4) John H. Clapp, Louis Eliasberg. (5) Olsen: 1767. \$1150, Ewalt:43, \$11,000, badly cleaned, Leo A. Young. One of the foregoing is ex Granberg I:393 (Mehl, 1913).

An earlier listing credited (if that is the word) the Josiah K. Lilly estate with one of these. This has not been verifiable.



**1913 Liberty Head nickel. Ex Samuel W. Brown, Col. Green, B. G. Johnson, James Kelly, J. V. McDermott, 1967 ANA: 2214, A. E. Bebee.**

## Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces

**1913 Liberty Head Nickel.** [5] Fantasy coin. Taxay (1963) has told the story in detail; I can only summarize here, recommending interested readers to his book. In the Dec. 1919 *Numismatist* was a small advertisement by one Samuel W. Brown (ANA808), of North Tonawanda, NY, offering to buy these pieces, "In Proof condition, if possible. Will pay \$500 cash for one." This was the first hint that anything of the kind might exist. Brown, who had joined ANA membership in 1906 with recommendations from Dr. Heath (the founder) and Stephen K. Nagy, was a mint employee from Dec. 18, 1903 through Nov. 14, 1913, through 1907 as Assistant Curator of the Mint Cabinet Collection and later as a "storekeeper," and afterwards he occupied a number of prominent positions in North Tonawanda, including several terms as mayor; he was once on the Assay Commission. In the Jan. — March 1920 issues he raised the offer to \$600. In August, at the 1920 ANA Convention, he exhibited one of them, but refused to disclose the source; the fact was published in the Oct. 1920 *Numismatist*, which also mentioned that he reiterated his offer to buy any others at \$600 in proof state.

In January 1924, August Wagner, dealer, of 31st & York Sts., Philadelphia, placed a small advertisement offering "Five (5) Five-Cent Liberty Head 1913 Coins. Proof. The only Five-Cent Liberty Head coins of this design and year in existence." This was doubtless on Brown's behalf. Col. E. H. R. Green purchased the set. At the breakup of part of the Green estate in 1942, the set went to Burdette G. Johnson, who dispersed the five coins; their subsequent history follows.

1. F. C. C. Boyd, A. Kosoff, King Farouk, Nasser's government. Included in the Sotheby (1954) sale of the "Palace Collections of Egypt," withdrawn, sold privately via S. Kaplan and A. Kosoff to Mrs. R. Henry Norweb. Proof.

2. Eric P. Newman, A. Kosoff, Louis Eliasberg. Proof.

3. James Kelly, Fred Olsen, Mehl sale of Olsen

collection (Nov. 7, 1944), King Farouk, B. Max Mehl, Neil:2798, Edwin Hydeman, Hydeman:280 (not sold), A. Kosoff; then on Oct. 3, 1972, sold by him (with an 1804 dollar) to John B. Hamrick Jr. and Warren Tucker of World-Wide Investments for \$100,000; this firm later resold it to a Hollywood firm, which offered it at three times that figure in 1975. Unc. Tiny mark between second and third stars.

4. James Kelly, Dr. Conway A. Bolt, R. J. Reynolds (the tobacco tycoon). This is the one George Walton used to exhibit at conventions; he was Reynolds's agent. Unc. Minute handling marks.

5. James Kelly, James V. McDermott, McDermott estate, 1967 ANA:2214, Aubrey E. Bebee, who later refused the trade of an 1804 dollar for this coin. Ex. Fine, nicked and scratched, This is the famous one McDermott used for bar-room betting and exhibited in conventions nationwide.

A rumored sixth specimen has not been confirmed and is extremely improbable. The original presentation case in which August Wagner sold the above five to Col. Green had space for a sixth example, which space contained, at last report, a Buffalo nickel without F, said to be (in some accounts) an "experimental" piece assayed at 95% copper, 5% nickel and zinc, and in other accounts an electrotype. Case and coin are in the Eric Newman collection.

Older collectors may remember that throughout the 1930's B. Max Mehl used to have large advertisements in the Sunday comics pages, offering to pay \$50 apiece for 1913 Liberty head nickels, though Mehl obviously knew none would be forthcoming; the campaign — which in the Neil catalogue he admitted had cost him over \$1,000,000 — was actually promotion of his "Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia" (over 30 editions), and its main result was proliferation of alterations from 1903, 1910 and 1912. It is unknown if the proofs preceded or followed the uncs.; we must leave the subject wrapped in the same mystery as before.



# VALUATION GUIDE

The subjoined prices are not a retail quotation of coins held by any dealer. They are not an offer to sell at any figure, not a solicitation of an offer to buy at any figure. They are not claimed to be anything more than estimates of what ordinary quality proofs, of the mentioned dates and varieties, might bring if they were to appear at auction within the next couple of years, based on what comparable proof coins have brought at auction within the last few years, or in some instances on what they have actually commanded at retail sales.

Where actual auction records are cited, the abbreviated forms are as in the Bibliography. In general, such auction records are either the only ones available, or the highest ones encountered. Usually the context will make clear which; if in doubt, refer to the main text. However, prices quoted without auction citation are not necessarily equal to the highest auction records located. Sometimes a freakishly high figure reported from an auction is a misprint; more often, perhaps, it is the result of two or more people executing unlimited bids. Similarly, abnormally low auction records may reflect typographical error, or someone's temporary absence from the sale, or a non-aggression pact among several competitors to the effect that "if you'll lay off lot 318, I'll lay off 324." In a few instances they have reflected changes announced on the floor by the auctioneer (such as typographical error in the cataloguing).

Omitted prices mean that there are no auction or

retail records recent enough to afford a safe basis even for guessing. Italicized figures mean that there is some ground for doubt about the price levels, e.g. very recent discovery of hoards, or very recent realization that a coin has not shown up in years and is therefore much rarer than formerly believed.

The term "ordinary quality proofs" above is meant to distinguish the quality generally encountered from both other extremes. Pristine (Uncleaned) gem coins may bring double or triple the mentioned figure; this is notorious in eagles and double eagles. Obviously cleaned, nicked or scratched pieces — or circulated ones — will bring lower amounts, perhaps half the mentioned figures or less. There is no safe formula for estimating how much cleaning takes off the value of a proof, as so much depends on the aesthetic quality of the result.

Colonial proofs vary in condition even more than later U. S. proofs; they are in general rare enough that grade is irrelevant, with the exception of the Castorland original half dollar and the Washington draped bust restrikes, in which quality means a great deal in establishing price.

Asterisked dates, denomination, or varieties refer to proof-only issues; brackets refer to recorded mintages. In case of any uncertainty, refer to the main text. Some auction quotations herein are more recent than any named in the text, because this section was completed long after the latter and there was no time for extensive rewriting.

COLONIAL AND AMERICAN COINS

n.d. (1659) Lord Baltimore Shilling. Variant dies. Silver. ANS . . . . .	
n.d. (1659) Same. Copper. Five known . . . . .	
n.d. (1722) ROSA AMERICANA. Twopence. Motto not on label. "Very fine dies." 2 known . . . . .	
1722 ROSA AMERICANA. Penny. GEORGIVS/VTILE. 2 or 3 known . . . . .	
1722 Similar Penny. GEORGIUS/VTILE. Long ribbons. Unique? . . . . .	
1722 ROSA AMERICANA. Halfpenny. ROSA AMERI:VTILE 5 or 6 known . . . . .	
1722 Similar Halfpenny. D:G:REX/ROSA AMERI:UTILE (U over V). 5 or 6 known? 1973 Breisland sale . . . . .	475
1723 ROSA AMERICANA. Twopence. Aged head/ Cross after ROSA 2 known . . . . .	
1723 Similar Twopence. Normal head, no stops after X or 3, large knobs to scroll. "German silver" (?) and Bath metal, one each, unlocated. . . . .	
1723 ROSA AMERICANA. Halfpenny. GRATIA: REX / Large motto, small crown, colon after date 1723: Silver. Unique? . . . . .	
1723 Similar Halfpenny. Normal type. Silver. 2 or 3 known . . . . .	
1724 ROSA AMERICANA. Twopence. MA in obv. legend. Bath metal. 4 or 5 known. 1968 Merkin sale	3600
1724 Same. Copper. 1973 Breisland sale. . . . .	3500
1724 Same. Silver. Unique . . . . .	
1724 Similar Twopence. M. in obv. legend. Bath metal. 2 or 3 known . . . . .	
1724 As last. Copper. 3 known . . . . .	
1724/23 ROSA AMERICANA Penny. D:GRATIA Copper. Unique? . . . . .	
1724/23 Same. Bath metal. Unique? . . . . .	
1724/23 Similar Penny. DEI:GRATIA Without or with stop after X. Copper. One known of each . . . . .	
1724/23 As preceding. Bath metal. 2 known . . . . .	
1724/23 Same. Silver. Possibly 2 known? . . . . .	
* 1733 ROSA AMERICANA Twopence. Copper. Four known . . . . .	
1733 Same. Lead. Elizabeth Morton sale, 1975 (impaired). . . . .	2400
1733 Obv. of last, uniface, steel. 6 known . . . . .	1973 Breisland sale 3200
1722 Wood's HIBERNIA Halfpenny. Harp left. Copper. Untraced . . . . .	
1722 Same. Silver. 2 known . . . . .	
1722 Similar Farthing. Copper. 5 or 6 known . . . . .	1976 Park sale 1200
1722 Similar Halfpenny. Harp right. Silver. Untraced . . . . .	
1723 Similar Halfpenny. Large head. Three rev. dies. Diam. 27 — 30 mm, wt. 116 — 125 grains = 7.51 to 8.09 grams. 10-12 known . . . . .	1500
1723 As last. Silver. 2 known . . . . .	
1723 Regular Halfpenny. Copper. Full beaded borders. 2 or 3 known? . . . . .	1975 Dr. Spence sale 1500
1723 Similar Farthing. Copper. Full beaded borders. . . . .	1975 Dr. Spence sale. 1100
1723 As last. Silver. About 6 known . . . . .	1975 Dr. Spence sale 3300
1724 Similar Halfpenny. Silver. 2 vars. Possibly 2 known . . . . .	
1724 Farthing. Silver. Untraced . . . . .	
* 1773 VIRGINIA Proof Halfpenny, commonly miscalled "Penny." Small 7's, 6 harp strings, beaded borders. 131 to 135 grains = 8.48 to 8.75 grams. Possibly 12 to 15 known? . . . . .	1976 Park sale 5000
1783 CONSTELLATIO NOVA. Blunt rays, one L. Unique? . . . . .	
1794 TALBOT, ALLUM & LEE Cent . . . . .	Orr (S 5/74) 2300
1795 TALBOT, ALLUM & LEE Cent. 3 or 4 known . . . . .	
(Beware deceptive early business strikes of both dates)	
n.d. (1795-97) THEATRE AT NEW YORK Penny. 6 to 8 known . . . . .	3000
* 1796 MYDDELTON Kentucky Pattern Cent. Copper, 4—5 known . . . . .	1976 Publick I sale 6250
* 1796 Same. Silver. 8 or 9 known . . . . .	1975 Dr. Spence sale 7000
1796 CASTORLAND Half Dollar. Original. Silver. Thick. Reeded edge . . . . .	3000
Same. Copper original. NO break at S. Reeded edge. 4 or 5 known . . . . .	
Same. Silver restrikes \$8 to \$20. Copper restrikes \$5 to \$10. Gold . . . . .	
* 1783 (i.e. 1851-58) Washington Draped Bust. Restrike. Copper, plain edge . . . . .	1975 Dr. Spence sale 360
* 1783 (i.e. 1858-60?) Same. Copper, "engrailed" or "center-grained" edge . . . . .	250
* 1783 As last. Silver. Same edge . . . . .	450
1791 Washington Small Eagle Cent. Untraced. Beware deceptive early business strikes. See text . . . . .	
1792 Washington "Roman Head" satirical cent. About 12 known . . . . .	Orr(S 5/74) 16,500

n.d. (1795) Penny, LIBERTY AND SECURITY, corded rims. Unverified. . . . .	1976 Publick II Sale	1050
1796 Washington REPUB.AMERI. Penny. Baker 68. Copper. . . . .	Orr (S 5/74)	925
n.d. (ca. 1800) Similar, birth and death dates below bust. Baker 69. White metal. 1975 Dr. Spence sale. . . . .		440

### HALF CENTS

1811 Wide date (Gilbert 2). Norweb coll. . . . .		
1825 2 vars. 2 or 3 known. Unlocated. . . . .		
1826 Unlocated. . . . .		
1828 13 stars. 3 known. Unlocated. . . . .		
1829 4 known. Unlocated. . . . .		
1831 Original. Rev. of 1832. Point of high leaf under r. side of S. 5 or 6 known. 1975 Dr. Spence/TAD sale. . . . .		2700
* 1831 First restrike. Rev. of 1836. Point of high leaf under left side of S. (Pictured in 1976 Guidebook as "original", p. 64.) Possibly 35—40 known?. . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	1900
* 1831 Second restrike (rev. small berries, style of 1840-57). 4 known. . . . .		
1832 3 vars. 9 or 10 known. . . . .	1975 TAD sale	1900
1833. . . . .		750
1834. . . . .		900
1835 2 vars. . . . .		900
* 1836 Originals and early restrikes; rev. similar to 1835. . . . .	1976 ANA sale	2000
* 1836 Restrike. Small berries, style of 1840-57. 5 known. . . . .	1975 TAD sale	4750
* 1840 Large berries. Originals and restrikes. . . . .		1000
* 1840 First restrike. Rev. of 1856. Small berries. Double impressions at CENT, ribbon. About 6 known. ("First restrikes" of later dates have same rev.). . . . .		1750
* 1840 Second restrike. Small berries, die file marks over RICA. 10-12 known. . . . .		1100
* 1841 Original. Large berries. . . . .		1000
* 1841 First restrike. 5 or 6 known. . . . .	1975 TAD sale	1900
* 1841 Second restrike (die of 1840 second restrike) About 12 known. . . . .	1976 ANA sale	1100
* 1842 Original. Large berries. About 12 known. . . . .		1200
* 1842 First restrike. About 13 known. . . . .		1100
* 1842 Second restrike. About 10 known. . . . .	1975 TAD sale	1150
* 1843 Large berries. Originals and restrikes. . . . .		1000
* 1843 First restrike. . . . .		1000
* 1843 Second restrike. About 7 known. . . . .		1750
* 1844 Original. Large berries. About 16 known. . . . .		1000
* 1844 First restrike. About 5 known. . . . .	1975 TAD sale	1500
* 1844 Second restrike. 8 to 10 known. . . . .		1600
* 1845 Large berries. Originals and restrikes. . . . .		1200
* 1845 First restrike. 5 or 6 known. . . . .	1975 TAD sale	2900
* 1845 Second restrike. About 10 known. . . . .	1975 TAD sale	1350
* 1846 Large berries. About 16 known. . . . .		1000
* 1846 First restrike. Three known. . . . .		
* 1846 Second restrike. About 14 known. . . . .		1000
* 1847 Large berries. About 16 known. . . . .		1000
* 1847 First restrike. 3 reported, only one seen. . . . .	1973 Kagin Sale of the 70's	5750
* 1847 Second restrike. About 24 known. . . . .		1000
* 1848 Large berries. Originals and restrikes. . . . .	1976 ANA sale	1700
* 1848 First restrike. . . . .		1000
* 1848 Second restrike. 4 or 5 known. . . . .		
* 1849 Small date. Large berries. Originals and restrikes. . . . .	1976 ANA sale	1800
* 1849 Small date. First restrike. . . . .	1975 TAD sale	1150
* 1849 Small date. Second restrike. Unverified. . . . .		
1849 Large date. 3 known. . . . .		
1850 About 12 known. . . . .	1976 ANA sale	1700
1851 About 8 known. . . . .	1976 ANA sale	1250
* 1852 Small berries, original (not rev. of 1856, see text) Unverified. . . . .		
* 1852 Small berries. First restrike, rev. of 1856. . . . .		950

**Valuation Guide: Half Cents, Large Cents**

* 1852 Small berries. Second restrike, die file marks over RICA. 6 or 7 known. No recent auction record.		
* 1852 Large berries. Restrikes only. 5 known	1969 Miles sale	6000
1854 Copper		.850
1854 Copper-nickel. Two known	1975 TAD sale	1800
1855		.750
1856*Double impressions on CENT and ribbon		.700
1856 Other reverses. Copper. 6 or 7 known		
1856 Same. Copper-nickel. [50+] Possibly 70-80 known?	1975 TAD sale	1700
1857*Double impressions on CENT and ribbon	S 2/77 sale	1100
1857 Die chip on r. side of first A in AMERICA. 3 or 4 known		

**LARGE CENTS**

1793 Chain, with periods. Unique		
1793 Wreath. Large date and LIBERTY. 3 or 4 known		
1793 Wreath. Broad leaves (Sheldon 6) 2 or 3 known		
1817 Newcomb 6, 8. 3 or 4 known		
1819/18 3 known		
1819 Other varieties. Untraced or unverified		
1820/181 Large date. One known		
1820 Large date. Connected Stars. Unique?		
1820 Large date. N-10. 2 known		
1820 Small date. N-6. 1 or 2 known		
1821 Compact date, second 1 low. 16 to 20 known		2000
1821 Wider date, low 8. 1 or 2 known		
1822 Wide date. N-10 (other dies unique or nearly unique)		2000
1822 Close date. N-1, 2. One known of each		
1823/22 4 known		
1823 Normal date. Unique		
1825 Small A's. N-6. 2 known		
1825 Large A's. N-9; N-2 (latter unverified)		.750
1826 Unverified		
1827 N-7. 8 and E's in ONE CENT recut under tops. 4 known		
1827 N-4. 7 directly below curl. About 14 known. 1976 TAD sale (imp.)		.650
1827 Other varieties		
1828 N-8 2 known. (Other vars, untraced)		
1829 N-6. Large letters. 6 or 7 known. (Other vars, unverified) TAD sale (nicked)		.850
1830 2 var. About 5 known		
1831 Small letters. N-11, 3. About 14 known. 1976 TAD sale (nicked)		.700
1831 Large Letters. 3 var. 5 or 6 known		
1832 N-1. 2 known. 1976 TAD sale		2500
1833/2 N-4. Unique		
1834 *N-7. Large date, stars, letters. 3 known		
1834 N-3. Large date, small stars and letters. 9 or 10 known		
1835 Head of '34, small date and stars. 2 var. 3 known		
1835 Head of '36. Unique		
1836 Four varieties. 7 known		
1837 Head of '36. 2 vars. of 6 or 7 known		
1837 Wider rounded bust. N-6, 8. 3 known		
1837 Head of 1838 (beaded hair cord). N-10. 3 or 4 known		
1838 N-11. 9 or 10 known (other vars, untraced). 1976 TAD sale		1600
1839 Unverified		
1840 Small date over large 18. N-2. About 15 known. TAD sale		2300
1841 *N-1. About 24 known		1500
1842 Small date. N-1. About 6 known		
1842 Large date. N-3. About 4 known		
1843 Type of '42. *N-14 (other var. is unique), about 12 known		2000
1843 Obv. of '42, rev. of '44. Unverified		

1844 *B-8 (other var. untraced) 15 to 18 known? 1976 TAD sale	1700
1845 *N-14 (other vars, unique or almost unique) 9 or 10 known	
1846 Small date, closed 6. *B-22 (other vars, unique or almost unique) About 6 known	
1846 Small date, open 6. N-10. 3 known	
1846 Tall date. *B-27. Four known. 1976 TAD sale	2100
1847 Four vars. About 10 to 12 known	1977 Blauvelt sale 1600
1848 *N-19. 14 to 18 known	2000
1849 *N-18. About 12 known. 1976 TAD sale	1500
1849 N-1. 5 known	
1850 2 vars. 8 to 10 known	
1852 *B-23 (other vars, nearly unique) About 7 known. TAD sale	1350
1854 N-12. About 20 to 25 known	1975 NENA sale 2600
1855 Slanting 5's. N-10, chip from front coronet line	QS 9/73 sale 2100
1855 Slanting 5's. *N-11, no coronet chip. About 12 known	
1856 Slanting 5. *N-5	2000
1857 Small date. *N-3. Die file marks through TY	2200
1857 Small date. *N-5, *new (no die file marks at TY)	2750
*1868 Piece de caprice. 4 or 5 known in copper (2 or 3 in nickel)	

### FLYING EAGLE CENTS

1856 Unattributed. Copper-nickel	2200
1856 Unattributed. Copper, thick or thin flans	2000
1856 Unattributed. Extra nickel in alloy (nearly white, weak date)	
1856*Rev. Oak wreath, garnished shield. Copper-nickel. 3 or 4 known	
1856*As last. Copper. 3 known	
n.d.*(1856) No inscription. Regular rev. Copper-nickel. 2 known	
n.d.*(1856) As last. Copper. 4 or 5 known. 1975 Beck I sale	1700
n.d.*(1856) Large letters. Regular reverse. Copper-nickel. Unique?	
n.d.*(1856) As last. Copper. Untraced	
1857 Possibly 10 to 12 known	2500
1858 Large letters. Possibly 10 to 12 known?	2500
1858 Small letters. Possibly 15 to 20 known?	1976 Beck II sale 2500
1858 Transitional. Small letters. Rev. Laurel wreath, die of 1859	500
1858 Transitional. Large letters. Rev. Laurel wreath. 2 or 3 known	

### "INDIAN HEAD" CENTS

1858*Rev. of 1857. "First transitional Indian" 3 obv. dies.	400
1858 Rev. of 1859. "Second transitional Indian" 3 obv. dies	375
1859 Laurel wreath. Leaves in clusters of 6. 40-50 known?	750
1859 Oak wreath, shield. Unverified in proof state	
1860 Oak wreath, shield. [1000, net 542]	500
1861 [1000, net 400-]	550
1862 [550+, net 430+]	375
1863 Copper-nickel, plain edge. [460+]	375
1863 Copper-nickel, reeded edge. 4 or 5 known	
1863*Bronze, wt. 48 grains = 3.11 grams. About 200 known?	1976 TAD sale 480
1863-L*3 or 4 known in copper-nickel or bonze. Pointed bust	
1864 Copper-nickel. [370+]	1975 ANA sale 625
1864 Bronze. No L. Blunt bust. [100+]	700
1864-L Pointed bust. Possibly 10 to 12 known?	6000
1865 Plain 5. [500+]	325
1865 1873 Closed 3 only. [1100+]	250
1866 [725]	325
1866 1874 [700+]	225
1867 [625+]	325
1867 1875 [700+]	225
1868 [600+]	325
1868 1876 [1150+]	200
1869 [600+]	525
1869 1877 [510+]	1976 ANA sale 1100
1870 [1000+]	350
1870 1878 [2350]	175
1871 [960+]	400
1871 1879 [3200]	150
1872 [950+]	500
1872 1880 [3955]	120

**Valuation Guide: Small Cents, Two Cents**

1881 [3575]	120	1895 [2062]	120
1882 [3100]	120	1896 [1862]	120
1883 [6609]	120	1897 [1938]	120
1884 [3942]	120	1898 [1795]	120
1885 [3790]	150	1899 [2031]	120
1886 Type I [4290 both types]	120	1900 [2062]	120
1886 Type II	120	1901 [1985]	120
1887 [2960]	120	1902 [2018]	120
1888 [4582]	120	1903 [1790]	120
1889 [3336]	120	1904 [1817]	120
1890 [2740]	120	1905 [2152]	120
1891 [2350]	120	1906 [1725]	120
1892 [2745]	120	1907 [1475]	120
1893 [2192]	120	1908 [1620]	120
1894 [2632]	120	1909 "Indian" [2175]	120

**LINCOLN CENTS**

1909 VDB [420] Satin finish or matte	450
1909 Plain. [Both types 2198] Satin or matte	100
1910 Coarse matte. Very rare	
1910 Satin finish. [Both types 2405]	100
1911 Satin finish. Rare	
1911 Coarse matte finish. [Both types 1733]	100
1912 As last. [2145]	100
1913 [2848]	100
1914 [1365]	175
1915 [1150]	250
1916 [1050] Very rare	300
1917 As in 1916. Not officially released. 1 or 2 known	
1936 Type I, satin finish. Both types [5569]	140
1936 Type II, extra brilliant	150
1937 Extra brilliant. [9320]	40
1938 [14,734]	30
1939 [13,520]	25
1940 [15,872]	22
1941 [21,100]	21
1942 [32,600]	21
1960 Small date Mintage unknown	20
Others, 1950 to date: see Proof Sets	

**TWO CENT PIECES**

*1863 Exact type of 1864, large motto. 5—6 known? 1975 Scott sale	2400
1864 Small motto. 10 to 12 known?	6000
1864 Large motto. [100+]	400
1865 Plain 5. [500+]	360
1866 [725+]	375
1867 [625+]	375
1868 [600+]	375
1869 [600+]	390
1870 [1000+]	375
1871 [960+]	400
1872 [950+]	400
*1873 Closed 3. Originals. [600+]	700
*1873 Open 3. Restrikes? Possibly 60 to 100? 1976 Publick II sale	1025

**THREE CENTS NICKEL**

1865*Heavy ribbons. 10 to 12 known?	
1865 Normal date and ribbons. 8 to 10 known? See next	

**Valuation Guide: Three Cents, Five Cents Nickel**

1865 Recut date, normal ribbons. [400+] . . . . .			550
1866 [725+] . . . . .	220	*1877 [510+] . . . . .	700
1867 [625+] . . . . .	175	*1878 [2350] . . . . .	250
1868 [600+] . . . . .	175	1879 [3200] . . . . .	175
1869 [600+] . . . . .	175	1880 [3955] . . . . .	175
1870 [1000+] . . . . .	175	1881 [3575] Normal or double date	175
1871 [960+] . . . . .	175	1882 [3100] . . . . .	175
1872 [950+] . . . . .	175	1883 [6609] . . . . .	185
1873 Closed 3. [1100+] . . . . .	175	1884 [3942] . . . . .	220
1874 [700+] . . . . .	175	1885 [3790] . . . . .	250
1875 [700+] . . . . .	180	*1886 [4290] . . . . .	220
1876 [1150+] . . . . .	185	*1887/6 Total [2960] Estimated 2500+	275
1887 Included in above. This var. estimated under 460.			250
1888 [4582] . . . . .			175
1889 [3436] . . . . .			175

**FIVE CENTS NICKEL**

* 1865 Rays. Exact type of 1866. 8 to 10 known? . . . . .			
* 1865 No rays. 4 or 5 known? . . . . .			
1866 Rays. [125+] . . . . .			1500
* 1866 No rays. 6 to 8 known? . . . . .			
1867 Rays. [25+] 12 to 15 known? . . . . .		S 9/74, 1965 Gardner sales	4800
1867 No rays. [600+] . . . . .	200	*1877 [510+] . . . . .	1000
1868 [600+] . . . . .	200	*1878 [2350] . . . . .	300
1869 Wide numerals. [600+] . . . . .	200	* 1879/8 . . . . .	350
1870 [1000+] . . . . .	200	1879 All kinds [3200] . . . . .	250
1871 [960+] . . . . .	300	1880 [3955] . . . . .	250
1872 [950+] . . . . .	200	1881 [3575] . . . . .	250
1873 Closed 3 [1100+] . . . . .	200	1882 Plain edge [3100] . . . . .	200
1874 [700+] . . . . .	200	* 1882 Bars on edge. 3 known . . . . .	
1875 [700+] . . . . .	250	1883/2 . . . . .	
1876 [1150+] . . . . .	200	1883 Normal or recut date. All kinds [5419]	200

**LIBERTY HEAD NICKELS**

* 1882 No CENTS, exact type of 1883. Usually impaired. 10-12 known? . . . . .		1976 Krugjohann sale	2600
1883 No CENTS. [5219] . . . . .			180
1883 With CENTS. [6783] . . . . .			125
1884 [3942] . . . . .			120
1885 [3790] . . . . .			350
1886 [4290] . . . . .			225
1887 [2960] . . . . .			115
1888 [4582] Usually dull. Add 30% for really brilliant ones			100
1889 [3336] Same comment	100	1901 [1985]	115
1890 [2740] . . . . .	115	1902 [2018]	115
1891 [2350] . . . . .	115	1903 [1790]	115
1892 [2745] . . . . .	115	1904 [1817]	115
1893 [2192] . . . . .	115	1905 [2152]	115
1894 [2632] . . . . .	130	1906 [1725]	115
1895 [2062] . . . . .	120	1907 [1475]	120
1896 [1862] . . . . .	140	1908 [1620]	115
1897 [1938] . . . . .	120	1909 [4763]	115
1898 [1795] . . . . .	120	1910 [2405]	120
1899 [2031] . . . . .	120	1911 [1733]	115
1900 [2062] . . . . .	115	1912 [2145]	115
1913 Unc. and proof together, 5 known. Piece de caprice. 1976 private sale reported			135,000

**BUFFALO NICKELS**

- 1913 No F. Round top 3 [Net 1]
- 1913 No F. Flat top 3 [Net 9]

**Valuation Guide: Five Cents Nickel, Trimes**

1913 Type I. [1520?].	375
1913 Type II. [1514?].	350
1914 [1275].	350
1915 [1050].	350
1916 [600].	350
1917 2 known.	.7/76 Publick Sale Part II 1100
1936 Type I, satin finish.	350
1936 Type II, extra brilliant. All kinds [4420].	375
1937 Extra brilliant [5769].	325

**JEFFERSON NICKELS**

1938 In card of issue [150].	500
1938 [19,365] (includes above 150).	25
1939 [12,535].	22
1940 [14,158].	22
1941 [18,720].	20
1942 Type I [29,600].	20
1942 Type II [27,600].	65
1966 [2].	—

Others, 1950 to date: see Proof Sets

**TRIMES OR THREE CENTS SILVER**

1851 4 known.	.1973 Gilhousen sale 4200
1851 O Only one reported.	.1976 ANA sale 7500
1852 Unique? ANS.	-----
1853 Type of 1854. Unlocated	
1854 Three outlines to star; arrows and olive branch in C.10 to 12 known.	.1975 Essex Institute sale 6500
1855 Recut 5's. 20 to 25 known?.	.1976 Garrett sale 6500
1856 About 30 known?.	.1976 Garrett sale 3250
1857 Possibly 18 to 20 known?.	2250
1858 Possibly 40 to 45 known?.	1250
1859 Two outlines to star. Possibly 50 to 60 known?.	.1975 ANA sale 375
1860 [1000- Net 538].	350
1861 [1000- Net 400-].	350
1862 [550- Net 430].	350
1863 Originals. [460].	425
*1863/2 Restrikes. 10-12 known?.	QS 9/73 sale 1450
1864 Originals. Recut 4, closed D. [470].	400
*1864 Restrikes. Open D; 4 not recut.	-----
1865 [500].	425
1866 [725].	360
1867 [625].	375
1868 [600].	360
*1869/8 Narrow numerals. 6 to 8 known? .	-----
1869 Wider numerals. All kinds [600].	375
1870 [1000].	360
1871 [960].	360
1872 [950-].	375
*1873 [600-].	425

**HALF DIMES**

1794 3 or 4 known.	-----
1795 3 or 4 known.	.1974 Winter sale 4400
1796/5 Possibly unique.	-----
1796 3 known.	-----
1797 15 stars. Unique.	-----
1829 Triple stripes. 3 vars. 15 to 20 known.	750
1829 Double stripes. 4 vars. 8 to 10 known?.	750
1830 3 vars. 6 to 8 known?.	.1973 Reed Hawn sale 1150
1831 4 vars. 15 to 20 known?.	.1976 ANA sale 1000
1832 About 5 known.	-----
1833 3 or 4 known.	-----



Valuation Guide: Half Dimes, Dimes

1834 2 vars. 12 to 15 known?.....	750
1835 Large date and 5 C. 5 or 6 known.....	
1835 Small date, large 5 C. 2 or 3 known.....	
1835 Small date and 5 C. 2 or 3 known.....	
1836 Small 5 C. Eliasberg coll.....	
1836 Large 5 C. 7 or 8 known?.....	800
1837 Bust. Large 5 C. 5 or 6 known?.....	
1837 Liberty seated, no stars. [20+] "Large" date.....	2500
1837 Similar. "Small" date. Unverified.....	
1838 Large stars. 5 or 6 known.....	
1839 4 or 5 known.....	
1840 No drapery. 4 or 5 known?.....	
1840 Drapery. 2 known.....	
1841 *V-1. 5 or 6 known.....	
1842 2 vars. 6 to 8 known?.....	
1843 Normal date. 4 or 5 known.....	
1843 Double cut date. 6 to 8 known.....	
1844 4 vars. 10 to 12 known.....	650
1844 O. Ex Atwater coll. Unverified.....	
1845 2 vars. 6 to 8 known.....	
1846 *B-2. 10 to 12 known.....	S 6/73 sale 1700
1847 *V-2. 8 to 10 known.....	750
1848 3 vars. 8 to 10 known.....	750
1849/8 3 known.....	
1849 2 vars. 7 or 8 known.....	1976 Garrett sale 3500
1850 2 vars. 7 or 8 known.....	1976 Garrett sale 2600
1851 *V-1. 3 or 4 known.....	
1852 2 vars.....	1976 Garrett sale 2000
1853 Arrows. [5].....	1976 ANA sale 3200
1854 V-2. About 16 to 20 known.....	1975 Newport sale 3500
1855 V-6. 25 to 30 known?.....	1976 Garrett sale 2500
*"1856/4" Early state of V-2?.....	1974 Herstal sale 4400
1856 V-2. Later state, repolished die, lighter date. 35 to 40 known; possibly includes a few more of "1856/4"?.....	S 5/75 sale 1600
1856 O Ex Wayte Raymond, NN 33:464. Untraced.....	
1857 *V-3. 16 to 20 known?.....	1976 Garrett sale 1300
1857 O Unverified.....	
1858 2 vars. 40 to 50 known?.....	1976 Garrett sale 1850
1859 2 vars. 60 to 75 known?.....	500
* 1859 Rev. of 1860. Piece de caprice. 12 — 15 known?.....	1976 ANA sale 8000
1860 Obv. Stars. Unverified in proof state.....	
1860 Legend obv. [1000- Net 535].....	3000
1860 O 4 or 5 known.....	
1861 [1000- Net 400].....	300
1862 [550- Net 430].....	300
1863 Originals. Closed D in UNITED [460].....	375
*1863 Restrikes. Open D, one seen in silver.....	
1864 Originals. [470].....	500
*1864 Restrikes. Open D. 1 or 2 seen in silver.....	
1865 [500].....	375
1866 [725].....	375
1867 [625].....	375
1868 [600].....	300
1869 [600].....	300
1870 [1000].....	300
1871 [960].....	300
1872 [950-].....	300
1873 [600-].....	300

DIMES

1796 10 to 12 known?.....	
1820 Large 0. Oldstyle or modern letters. 1 each, untraced.....	
1821 Large date. 1 recorded, untraced.....	

**Valuation Guide: Dimes**

1821 Small date. 3 or 4 known . . . . .			
1822 2 or 3 known . . . . .			
1823/2 Large E's. Possibly 2 known? . . . . .			
1824/3/2 2 or 3 known . . . . .			
1825 10 to 12 known . . . . .			
1827 5 vars. 16 to 20 known . . . . .		1600	
1828 Small date. 4 or 5 known . . . . .	1975 Essex Inst. sale.	1800	
1829 Extra large 10 C. Possibly unique? . . . . .			
1829 Small 10 C, round 0. 8 or 9 known . . . . .	1973 Reed Hawn sale	2000	
1830 Narrow 0 in 10 C. 5 or 6 known (one claimed 1830/29, 1976 ANA) . . . . .	1975 Essex Inst. sale	1600	
1831 10 to 12 known . . . . .		1500	
1832 2 reported . . . . .	1975 Essex Inst. sale	1500	
1833 4 known . . . . .			
1834 Large 4. 5 or 6 known . . . . .	1976 ANA sale	1600	
1834 Small 4. 1 or 2 known . . . . .			
1835 Tall 0, wide date. 7 or 8 known . . . . .	1977 Blauvelt sale	2000	
1835 Small 0. 2 or 3 known . . . . .			
1836 Tall 0. 3 known . . . . .			
1837 Bust. 1 reported, untraced . . . . .			
1837 Liberty Seated, no stars. Large date. [30+]. . . . .		2500	
1838 Large stars. 2 known . . . . .			
1839 Normal date. 2 known . . . . .	1976 ANA sale	3000	
1839 O WGC:675. Untraced . . . . .			
1840 No drapery. 5 or 6 known . . . . .			
1841 *"No drapery." 2 known, one circulated . . . . .	EF: 1973 Kagin sale of the 70's	52,000	
1842 3 or 4 known . . . . .			
1843 Normal date. 5 or 6 known . . . . .			
1844 *B-2. 7 or 8 known . . . . .	1976 Krugjohann sale	2850	
1845 *B-6. Recut 45. 5 or 6 known . . . . .			
1846 *B-2. 7 or 8 known . . . . .	1974 Austin sale	1750	
1847 7 or 8 known . . . . .			
1848 *B-2. 7 or 8 known . . . . .			
*1849/48 Unique? . . . . .			
1849 Normal date. 3 known? . . . . .			
1850 *B-5. 3 or 4 known . . . . .			
1851 Unique? . . . . .			
1852 5 or 6 known . . . . .			
1853 Arrows. [5]. . . . .			
1854 5 or 6 known . . . . .			
1855 *B-4. 20 to 25 known? . . . . .		1750	
1856 Small date. *B-2. 30 to 35 known? . . . . .	1976 Montgomery sale	1150	
1857 *B-1. 20 to 25 known? . . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	1000	
1858 40 to 45 known? . . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	900	
1859 50 to 60 known? . . . . .	1975 ANA sale	475	
* 1859 Rev. of 1860. Piece de caprice. 12 to 15 known? . . . . .	1973 Hawn sale	7250	
1860 [1000- Net 527]. . . . .	275	1874 [700]. . . . .	700
1861 [1000- Net 400-]. . . . .	275	1875 [700]. . . . .	275
1862 [550- Net 430]. . . . .	275	1876 [1150] Rev. Type I (1860-77). . . . .	275
1863 [460]. . . . .	350	1877 [490-] Rev. Type II (1876-91). . . . .	275
1864 [470]. . . . .	350	1878 [750]. . . . .	275
1865 [500]. . . . .	375	1879 [770]. . . . .	275
1866 [725]. . . . .	350	1880 [1355]. . . . .	275
1867 [625]. . . . .	350	1881 [975]. . . . .	275
1868 [600]. . . . .	275	1882 [1100]. . . . .	275
1869 [600]. . . . .	275	1883 [1039]. . . . .	275
1870[1000]. . . . .	275	1884 [875]. . . . .	275
1871 [960]. . . . .	275	1885 [930]. . . . .	275
1871 S Neil collection. Untraced. . . . .		1886 [886]. . . . .	275
1872 [950-]. . . . .	275	1887 [710]. . . . .	275
1873 Closed 3. No arrows. [600-]. . . . .	275	1888 [800]. . . . .	275
1873 Arrows [800]. . . . .	700	1889 [711]. . . . .	275

1890 [590]. . . . .	275	1902 [777]. . . . .	275
1891 [600]. . . . .	275	1903 [755]. . . . .	275
1892 [1245]. . . . .	275	1904 [670]. . . . .	275
1893/2 4 or 5 known? . . . . .	1974 Ruby I sale 2500	1905 [727]. . . . .	275
1893 All kinds [792]. . . . .	275	1906 [675]. . . . .	275
1893 0 Unverified . . . . .	1975 Winthrop sale 850	1906D One seen . . . . .	_____
1894 [972]. . . . .	275	1907 [575]. . . . .	275
1894 O Unverified . . . . .	1975 Winthrop sale 875	1908 [545]. . . . .	275
1894 S [24]. . . . .	1974 private sale 97,000	1909 [650]. . . . .	275
1895 [880]. . . . .	360	1910 [551]. . . . .	275
1896 [762]. . . . .	275	1911 [543]. . . . .	275
1897 [731]. . . . .	275	1912 [700]. . . . .	275
1898 [735]. . . . .	275	1913 [622]. . . . .	300
1899 [846]. . . . .	275	1914 [425]. . . . .	350
1900 [912]. . . . .	275	1915 [450]. . . . .	325
1901 [813]. . . . .	275		
1916 "Mercury" (Weinman design). Matte proof. 3 or 4 known . . . . .	_____		
1917 Unverified . . . . .	_____		
1936 Type I. Satin finish . . . . .	_____		
1936 Type II. Extra brilliant. All kinds [4130]. . . . .			160
1937 Extra brilliant. [5756]. . . . .			120
1938 [8728]. . . . .			115
1939 [9321]. . . . .			85
1940 [11,827]. . . . .			80
1941 [16,557]. . . . .			75
1942 [22,329]. . . . .			75
1950 and later. See Proof Sets			

**TWENTY CENTS**

1875 [2790]. . . . .			1200
1875 S [12] 5 traced . . . . .		1973 GENA sale	5800
1876 [1260-]. . . . .			1350
* 1877 [350-] Est. 300 . . . . .			1500
* 1878 [760-] Est. 500 . . . . .			1400

**QUARTER DOLLARS**

1796 2 vars. 8 or 9 known . . . . .		1975 Cornell-Oglethorpe sale	27,000
1818 B-8. 1 or 2 known . . . . .	_____		
1820 Large 0. 2 vars. 4 or 5 known . . . . .	_____		
1820 Small 0. Large 5. B-4. Unique? . . . . .	_____		
1821 Small 5. B-4. 2 known? . . . . .	_____		
1822 Normal dies. 6 to 8 known . . . . .	_____		
1822 25/50 3 known . . . . .		1975 James A. Stack sale	7500
1823/2 Probably unique . . . . .		S 3/8/74 sale	44,000
1824/22 Unique . . . . .	_____		
1825/23 Rev. Small 5. B-2. 8 to 10 known . . . . .	_____		
1825/24 Rev. Large 5. B-3. One recorded, untraced . . . . .	_____		
1827 Original. 8 or 9 known . . . . .		1975 James A. Stack sale	50,000
* 1827 Restrike. About 12 known . . . . .		1975 Kensington sale	18,000
1828 3 vars. 12-15 known . . . . .		1976 Montgomery sale	3850
1831 Small date and letters. Two berries. B-1. 2 or 3 known . . . . .	_____		
1831 As preceding. No berries. 2 vars. 6 to 8 known . . . . .	_____		
1831 Large date and letters. B-5. 8 to 10 known . . . . .	_____		
1832 Long arrowheads. 2 known . . . . .	_____		
1832 Short arrowheads. 3 known . . . . .	_____		
1833 25 C. with period. 3 or 4 known . . . . .	_____		
1833 25 C without period. 2 known . . . . .	_____		
1834 25 C without period. 3 or 4 known . . . . .	_____		

**Valuation Guide: Quarter Dollars**

1834 25 C. with period. 2 vars. 6 to 8 known	.....	1973 Gilhousen sale	2900
1835 25 C. with period. 3 or 4 known	.....		
1835 25 C without period. 2 or 3 known	.....		
1836 Small 6. B-2. 3 or 4 known	.....		
1837 2 vars. 5 or 6 known	.....		
1838 Bust type. Possibly unique	.....		
1838 Liberty seated. Possibly 2 known	.....		
1839 Probably unique	.....		
1840 No drapery. 2 or 3 known	.....		
1840 Drapery. 2 or 3 known	.....		
1841 4 known	.....		
* 1842 Small date. 6 known	.....	1975 James A. Stack sale	50,000
1842 Large date. 2 or 3 known	.....		
1843 7 or 8 known	.....		
1844 4 known	.....		
1845 Recut date. 5 known	.....		
1846 10 to 12 known	.....		
1847 7 or 8 known	.....		
1848 Normal date. 7 or 8 known	.....	1973 Reed Hawn sale	1200
1848 Double date. Unique?	.....		
1849 3 or 4 known	.....	1976 Garrett sale	3000
1850 2 known	.....		
1851 1 reported. Untraced	.....		
1852 2 reported. Untraced	.....		
1853 Arrows and rays. [5]	.....		
1854 10 to 12 known	.....		
1855 15 to 20 known?	.....	1975 Newport sale	5500
1855 S Unique	.....	1974 'Groves' sale	6500
1856 20 to 25 known?	.....	S 3/8/74 sale	2100
1857 12 to 15 known?	.....	1976 Garrett sale	1700
1858 35 to 40 known?	.....	1976 Garrett sale	1300
1859 50 to 60 known?	.....	1976 Garrett sale	800
1860 [1000- Net 542]	.....		550
1861 [1000- Net 400-]	.....		550
1862 [550- Net 430]	.....		550
1863 [460]	.....		575
* 1863 IN GOD WE TRUST 4 or 5 known	.....		
1864 [470]	.....		575
* 1864 IN GOD WE TRUST 4 or 5 known	.....		
1865 [500]	.....		575
* 1865 IN GOD WE TRUST 7 known	.....	1976 ANA sale	2800
* 1866 No motto. Unique	.....	1879 [250+]	500
1866 Motto. [725]	.....	525	1880 [1355]
1867 [625]	.....	525	1881 [975]
1868 [600]	.....	500	1882 [1180?]
1869 [600]	.....	525	1883 [1039?]
1870 [1000]	.....	500	1884 [875]
1871 [960]	.....	450	1885 [930]
1872 [950-]	.....	450	1886 [886]
1873 No arrows. Closed 3 [600-]	.....	450	1887 [710]
1873 Arrows. [540]	.....	800	1888 [800]
1874 [850]	.....	800	1889 [711]
1875 [630]	.....	450	1890 [590]
1876 [1410-]	.....	450	1891 [600]
1877 [880-]	.....	475	1891 O 2 known
1878 [1232-]	.....	450	
1892 Barber. Type I (Wing less than 1/2 on E of UNITED)	.....		400

1892 Type II (Wing covers most of E) Both types [1245].	400			400
1893 [792].				400
1893 S.			.1975 Suburban Washington sale	1400
1894 [972].	400	1904 [670].		400
1895 [800].	400	1905 [727].		400
1895 O Merkin 10/69 sale.		1906 [675].		400
1896 [762].	425	1907 [575].		400
1897 [731].	400	1908 [545].		400
1898 [735].	400	1909 [650].		400
1899 [846].	400	1910 [551].		400
1899 O Unique?		1911 [543].		400
1900 [912].	400	1912 [700].		400
1901 [813].	400	1913 [613].		525
1902 [777].	400	1914 [380].		500
1903 [755].	400	1915 [450].		500
1916 Liberty Standing. 3 or 4 known. Matte proof.				
1917 Type I. Matte proof. Unique?			.1976 Private sale 20,000+	
1936 [3837].				500
1937 [5542].				75
1938 [8045].				90
1939 [8795].				50
1940 [11,246].				30
1941 [15,287].				25
1942 [21,123].				25
1950 and later years. See Proof Sets				

**HALF DOLLARS**

1796 15 stars. 3 known.		.1975 James A. Stack sale	29,000
1796 16 stars. 2 known.		.1973 Reed Hawn sale	32,000
1807 Bust right. 1 or 2 known.		.1973 Reed Hawn sale	8500
1807 Bust left. 1 or 2 known.		.1975 James A. Stack sale	2700
1809 1 seen.			
1817/13 Possibly unique			
1818/17 Large first 8. Unique?			
1818/17 Small 8's. Unique?			
1818 Normal date. 4 or 5 known.		.S9/75 sale	1500
1819 One reported, untraced.			
1820 Four varieties, 5 or 6 known.			
1821 5 or 6 known.		.1975 E. Y. Clarke sale	1450
1822 2 vars. 6 or 7 known.		.1973 Scanlon sale	1500
1823 Untraced.			
1824 2 known.			
1825 Plain 2. 5 or 6 known.			
1826 Fancy 2. 6 to 8 known.		.1973 Gilhousen sale	2500
1827 Flat based fancy 2. 5 or 6 known.			
1828 Large 8's, curve based knobless 2. Unique?			
1828 Small 8's, flat based 2. 3 or 4 known?			
1829/27 One reported, untraced.			
1829 Large C. Possibly unique?			
1829 Smaller C. 5 or 6 known.			
1830 Small 0. 6 to 8 known.		.1974 Herstal sale	2300
1831 3 or 4 known.		.1973 Reed Hawn sale	1250
1832 3 or 4 known.			
1833 *Restrike. 5 or 6 known?			
1834 Large date, stars and letters. 6 to 8 known.			
1834 *Restrike. Small date and letters. 5 or 6 known?			

**Valuation Guide: Half Dollars**

1835 2 varieties. 5 or 6 known? . . . . .		
1835 *Restrike. 4 or 5 known? . . . . .		
1836 Lettered edge. Normal dies. 2 vars. 6 or 7 known? . . . . .		
1836 Blundered date 1836/1336. 2 known? . . . . .		
1836 50 over 00. 4 or 5 known . . . . .	1973 Reed Hawn sale	3500
1836 Reeded edge. [10+] 9 or 10 known . . . . .	1973 Terrell sale	3200
1837 3 known . . . . .		
1838 Regular, HALF DOL. 4 or 5 known . . . . .	1973 Reed Hawn sale	9500
* 1838 Transitional. Liberty Seated / regular die. Unique . . . . .		
* 1838 Transitional. Lib. Std. Rev. of 1837. 3 known . . . . .		
* 1838 O. [20] . . . . .	1975 James A. Stack sale	50,000
1839 Bust. 2 reported. Untraced . . . . .		
1839 Liberty seated, no drapery, [1+] 3 known . . . . .	1973 Hawn sale	10,500
1839 Similar. Drapery. One reported, untraced . . . . .		
1839 O 4 known . . . . .		
1840 6 or 7 known . . . . .	1973 Reed Hawn sale	1800
1841 7 or 8 known . . . . .	1973 Reed Hawn sale	2100
1842 Small date. 5 or 6 known . . . . .		
1842 Large date. Unverified . . . . .		
1843 7 or 8 known . . . . .	1975 ANA sale	1500
1844 9 or 10 known . . . . .		1500
1845 3 or 4 known . . . . .		
1845 O Double date. Untraced . . . . .		
1846 Medium date. 9 or 10 known . . . . .	1973 Terrell sale	2200
1846 Tall date. Unique? . . . . .		
1847/6 Unique . . . . .	1975 E. Yale Clarke sale	9000
1847 Normal date. 10 to 12 known . . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	2300
1848 6 or 7 known . . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	2300
1849 6 or 7 known . . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	4000
1850 8 or 9 known . . . . .	1973 Reed Hawn sale	1200
1851 O One seen, impaired . . . . .		
1852 2 known? . . . . .		
1852 O 3 known, all impaired . . . . .		
1853 Arrows and rays. [5] . . . . .	1973 Reed Hawn sale	6500
1854 Arrows. 8 to 10 known . . . . .	1973 Reed Hawn sale	6750
1854 O . . . . .	1973 Reed Hawn sale	1300
1855/4 3 or 4 known? . . . . .	1974 Austin sale	3250
1855 Normal date. 15 to 20 known? . . . . .	1973 Reed Hawn sale	6250
1855 S 3 known . . . . .	1973 Reed Hawn sale	3900
1856 12 to 15 known? . . . . .		2000
1857 12 to 15 known? . . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	2000
1858 30 to 35 known? . . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	1900
1859 40 to 60 known? . . . . .		800
1860 [1000- Net 525]. . . . .		575
1861 [1000- Net 400-]. . . . .		575
1861 O 5 or 6 known . . . . .	1975 James A. Stack sale	3400
* 1861 Confederate States. Original [4] . . . . .		
1862 [500- Net 430]. . . . .		550
1863 [460]. . . . .		550
* 1863 IN GOD WE TRUST 4 or 5 known . . . . .		
1864 [470]. . . . .		550
* 1864 Motto 4 or 5 known . . . . .		
1865 [500]. . . . .		550
* 1865 Motto 7 known . . . . .	1976 ANA sale	3750
* 1866 No motto. Unique . . . . .		
1866 Motto. [725]. . . . .		525
1867 [625]. . . . .		500

Valuation Guide: Standard Dollars

1868	[600].				500
1869	[600].				500
1870	[1000].				475
1871	[960].				475
1871	S Unverified. "Dupont" coll.				
1871	CC. 2 known, both with Unc. reverse.			1973 Reed Hawn sale	4000
1872	[950-].				475
1873	No arrows. Closed 3. [600-].				485
1873	Arrows [500].				1100
1874	[750].				1100
1875	[650].				460
1876	[1520-] Rev. type I (split berry above H, 1866-77).				450
1877	[580-] Rev. type II (pointed berry above H, 1876-91).				480
1878	[820] Rev. type II.				480
* 1879	Rev. type I. [All kinds 620].				500
1879	Rev. type II. Actually rarer, still unrecognized.				500
* 1880	Rev. type I.				
1880	Rev. type II. All kinds [1355].				500
1881	Rev. type I or II. All kinds [975].				500
1882	Rev. type II henceforth [1140?].				500
1883	[1039].	500	1899	[846].	600
1884	[875].	500	1900	[912].	600
1885	[930].	500	1901	[813].	600
1886	[886].	500	1902	[777].	600
1887	[710].	500	1903	[755].	600
1888	[800].	500	1904	[670].	600
1889	[711].	500	1905	[727].	600
1890	[590].	500	1906	[675].	600
1891	[600].	475	1907	[575].	600
1892	[1245].	600	1908	[545].	600
1893	[792].	600	1909	[650].	600
1894	[972].	600	1910	[551].	600
1895	[880].	600	1911	[543].	600
1895	O. Unique?		1912	[700].	600
1896	[762].	600	1913	[627].	650
1897	[731].	600	1914	[380].	750
1898	[735].	600	1915	[450].	700
1898	0.			1976 Publick II sale. Unverified	
1916	Walking Liberty. 4 to 6 known. Matte proof.				
1917	As last. 2 or 3 known.				
1936	[3901].				500
1937	[5728].				225
1938	[8152].				175
1939	[8808].				165
1940	[11,279].				160
1941	Without or with AW monogram. [15,412].				155
1942	[21,120].				150
1950	and later years. See Proof Sets				

SILVER DOLLARS

1794	Copper. Unique.				
1795	3 Leaves. 4 or 5 known.				
1795	2 Leaves. 2 or 3 known.				
1795	Draped bust. 6 to 8 known.				
1796	Small date, large letters. 2 known				
1801	*Restrike. 7 to 9 known.				
1802	*Restrike. 10 to 12 known?.			1974 'Groves' sale	37,000
1803	*Restrike. 7 to 9 known.				

**Valuation Guide: Standard Dollars**

*1804. Class. I. [4+] 8 known. Private sale (Appleton coin) 1974	150,000
*1804. Class II. Plain edge. [4+] Unique. SI	
*1804. Class III. Blundered lettered edge. 6 known. The Idler-Hydemann coin was offered in 1974 at \$165,000 and reportedly sold privately at \$225,000.	
*1836 Name below base. Starry reverse. Supposedly 18 originals + unknown number of restrikes; possibly under 30 in all?	1976 Krugjohann sale (restrike) 8500
*1836 Name below base. Starless rev. Restrikes only. 1976 Garrett sale	19,000
*1836 Name on base. Originals, Dec. 31 issue (see text) [1000] Usually impaired. Now rare in full proof state.	1976 Garrett sale 5750
*1836 As last. Originals, March 31, 1837 issue. (See text) [600] Very rare; restrikes often mistaken for this.	
*1836 As last. Restrikes. Plain edge. Two die alignments. Over 1500 made?	4000
* 1836 As last. Reeded edge. 3 reported; only one seen.	
* 1836 Name on base. Rev. Starless. Restrikes only. One seen, 1967.	
* 1838 Rev. Starless. Originals. (See text) [25] Reeded edge	
* 1838 As last. Restrikes. Reeded edge. Two die alignments. Possibly a couple of hundred known	.5500
* 1838 As last. Restrike. Plain edge. 3 known	
* 1838 Rev. Starry. Restrike. Plain edge. 3 reported.	
* 1838 As preceding. Reeded edge. Untraced	—
* 1839 Rev. Starless. Originals. Reeded edge. [300] See text	
* 1839 As last. Restrikes. Reeded edge. Two die alignments. See text	.5500
* 1839 As last. Restrike. Plain edge	1976 Montgomery sale 7750
* 1839 Starry rev. Restrikes only. Plain or reeded edge. 3 or 4 known?	
1840 8 to 10 known.	1976 Garrett sale 5250
1841 *B-1. 8 to 10 known.	3000
1842 8 to 10 known.	1974 Herstal sale 2200
1843 8 to 10 known.	2700
1844 8 to 10 known.	1974 Austin sale 4100
1845 *Recut 84. 6 to 8 known.	1976 Garrett sale 3200
1845 Normal date. 2 or 3 known	
1846 *Blundered date. 12 known.	1976 Garrett sale 3300
1846 Normal date. 5 or 6 known.	
1847 *B-1. 8 to 10 known	2500
1848 8 to 10 known.	3000
1849 6 to 8 known.	1976 Garrett sale 7500
1850 6 to 8 known including restrikes.	1976 Garrett sale 6250
1851 Original. High date. 5 known	
* 1851 Restrike. Centered date. About 20 to 25 known?	1976 ANA sale 7500
* 1852 Four rev. vars. 20 to 25 known?	1976 Garrett sale 6250
1853*Rev. of 1862. restrikes only. [12].	1976 Garrett sale 8500
1854 15 to 20 known?	3600
1855 40 to 50 known?	1976 Garrett sale 4500
1856 35 to 40 known?	4000
1857 20 to 25 known?	1975 Newport sale 2600
*1858 [80?].	1976 Garrett sale 3750
1859 80 to 100 known?	1976 Garrett sale 1800
1859 O Unverified.	1975 Newport sale 1450
1860 [1300- Net 527].	.1300
1860 O Unverified.	1976 Garrett sale 1050
1861 [1000- Net 400-].	.1350
1862 [550- Net 430].	.1400
1863 [460] Usually impaired.	.350
* 1863 Motto 4 or 5 known	
1864 [470] Usually impaired.	.1350
* 1864 Motto 4 or 5 known	1975 Newport sale 3500
1865 [500].	1974 Paxman sale 1400
* 1865 Motto 7 known	1976 ANA sale 10,000



Valuation Guide: Standard Dollars

* 1866 No motto 2 known	1963 Wolfson sale	18,000
1866 Motto [725]		1400
1867 Normal date. All kinds [625]		1350
* 1867 Large date over smaller date. 10 to 12 known?	1973 Gilhousen sale	1600
1868 [600]		1350
1869 [600]		1350
1870 [1000]		1300
1870 CC Unlocated		
1871 [960]		1300
1872 [950-]		1300
1873 [600-]		1400
1878 8 tail feathers [500]		800
1878 7 tail feathers, parallel arrow feathers. [200-]. Much rarer than this figure suggests.	1975	
Suburban Washington sale		2300
1878 7 tail feathers, slanting arrow feather. [300-] 2 seen, a 3rd reported	1974 Herstal sale	4600
1879 [650]		550
1879 O [12] 3 reported, one in SI	1973 Kagin Sale of the 70's	8250
1880 [1355]		500
1881 [984]		550
1882 [1101?]		550
1883 [1039]		550
1883 O [12] Only one verified		
1883 CC Unverified		
1884 [875]		550
1884 CC Only one seen		
1885 [930]		550
1886 [886]		550
1887 [710]		550
1888 [800]		550
1889 [711]		500
1890 [590]		550
1890 O "Dupont" coll		
1891 [650]		550
1891 O 2 reported		
1892 [1245]		560
1892 O Unverified		
1892 CC Unverified		
1893 [792]		600
1893 CC [12] 3 known, a 4th reported	1973 FUN sale	18,000
1894 [972]		1250
*1895 [880]		8500
1895 S Two seen, a third reported		
1896 [762]		550
1897 [731]		560
1898 [735]		560
1899 [846]		575
1900 [912]		550
1901 [813]		750
1902 [777]		500
1903 [755]		500
1904 [650]		500
1921 Morgan. Zerbe strikings [24+?]		2000
1921 Morgan. Chapman strikings. 12 reported. 7 seen	1974 Austin sale	6250
1921 S [24 struck?] 2 known	1975 GENA sale	1900
1921 Peace. Satin finish. 2 seen		
1921 Peace. Matte finish. 5 known		20,000
* 1922 Type of 1921. Matte finish. 5 known		20,000

**Valuation Guide: Standard Dollars, Trades, Gold Dollars**

1922 Regular type. Satin finish. Unique? .....	
1971 S Silver clad [4,265,234] .....	5
1972 S Silver clad [1,811,631] .....	6
1973 S Nickel clad. See Proof Sets	
1973 S Silver clad [1,005,617] .....	22
1974 S Nickel clad. See Proof Sets	
1974 S Silver clad [1,314,609] .....	8
1976 Bicentennial. See Proof Sets.	

**TRADE DOLLARS**

1873 [865] .....	1300
1874 [700] .....	1200
1875 Type I Berry below claw .....	
1875 Type II All kinds [700] No berry below claw .....	1400
1876 Type I .....	
1876 Type II All kinds [1150] .....	1250
1877 [510-] .....	1300
*1878 [900-] .....	1450
*1879 [1541] .....	1250
*1880 [1987] .....	1250
*1881 [960] .....	1350
*1882 [1097] .....	1300
*1883 [979-] .....	1450
*1884 [10] .....	.1975 NENA 39,000
*1885 [5] A bonafide \$250,000 offer refused for one, 1974 .....	

**GOLD DOLLARS**

1849 Type I. Small head, no L. 9 or 10 known .....	2400
1849 Type IV. Closed wreath. 3 known .....	
1850 [1+] Untraced .....	
1851 Untraced (2 recorded) .....	
1854 Type I. [1+] Unique? .....	
1854 Type II. [5] .....	
1855 9 or 10 known .....	.1975 private sale 50,000
1856 Upright 5. Unique .....	
1856 Slanting 5. 7 or 8 known .....	
1857 7 or 8 known .....	.1973 Scanlon sale 4000
1858 Regular type. 10 to 12 known? .....	.1973 Scanlon sale 4500
* 1858 Large letters. Unique .....	
1859 12 to 15 known? .....	3500
1860 [154] 20 to 25 known? .....	2750
1861 [349] 15 to 20 known? .....	.1974 Rio Rancho sale 2800
1862 [35] 15 to 20 known? .....	2750
1863 [50] 12 to 15 known? .....	.1974 Rio Rancho sale 5100
1864 [50] 12 to 15 known? .....	3500
1865 Original [25] 12 to 15 known? .....	3500
1865 Restrike 2 or 3 known .....	
1866 [30] 12 to 15 known? .....	.1976 Publick II sale 3100
1867 [50] 15 to 20 known? .....	2500
1868 [25] 12 to 15 known? .....	.1974 Winter sale 2300
1869 [25] 15 to 20 known? .....	2250
1870 [35] 15 to 20 known? .....	2250
1870 S Unverified .....	
1871 [30] 12 to 15 known? .....	.1977 Blauvelt sale 2100
1872 [30] 15 to 17 known? .....	2000
1873 Closed 3 [25] 15 to 20 known? .....	2000
1874 [20] 10 to 12 known? .....	2250
1875 [20] 14 or 15 known? .....	.1976 Garrett sale 14,000

Valuation Guide: Quarter Eagles

1876 [45] 25 to 30 known?.....	.1974 Groves sale	2300
1877 [20] 12 to 14 known?.....	.1976 ANA sale	2300
1878 [20] 12 to 15 known?.....	.1976 Garrett sale	2190
1879 [30] 15 to 20 known?.....	.1976 ANA sale	2100
1880 [36] 20 to 25 known?.....		.1750
1881 [87] 35 to 40 known?.....		.1600
1882 [125].....		.1500
1883 [207].....		.1400
1884 Normal date. All kinds [1006].....		.1250
* 1884 Double date.....	.1975 Breen II sale	1600
1885 [1105].....		.1250
1886 [1016].....	.1975 ANA sale	1250
1887 [1043].....		.1250
1888 [957].....		.1250
1889 [1779].....		.1000

QUARTER EAGLES

1796 No stars. Unique?.....		—
1796 Stars. 2 known?.....	.1974 Winter sale	33,000
1798 4 berries. Unique?.....		.....
1821 6 or 7 known.....	.1974 Groves sale	23,000
1824 4 or 5 known.....		.....
1825 2 known.....		.....
1826/5 2 or 3 known.....		.....
1827 Unique?.....		.....
1829 8 to 10 known, many impaired.....		.....
1830 4 known.....		.....
1831 8 or 9 known.....		.....
1832 3 or 4 known.....		.....
1833 3 or 4 known.....		.....
1834 Motto [2+] 3 or 4 known (2 impaired).....		.....
1834 No motto [2+] 8 to 10 known.....		.....
1835 [2+] 5 or 6 known.....		.....
1836 4 known.....		.....
1837 3 known.....		.....
1840 2 or 3 known.....		.....
*1841 10 to 12 known (5 or 6 imp.) VF 14,000.....	.1976 ANA sale	41,000
1842 2 or 3 known.....		.....
1843 4 known.....		.....
1844 3 known.....		.....
1845 2 or 3 known.....		.....
1846 3 known.....		.....
1847 Unique.....		.....
1848 6 known.....		.....
1848 CAL. 3 or 4 struck? Unlocated.....		.....
1850 [1+] Untraced.....		.....
1854 [1+].....	.1974 private sale	35,000
1854 O Unverified.....	.1976 ANA sale	1450
1855 1 or 2 known. Unlocated.....		.....
1856 2 or 3 known.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	30,000
1857 1 or 2 known.....		.....
1858 6 or 7 known.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	22,000
1859 8 to 10 known?		
1860 [112] 15 to 20 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	4100
1861 [90] 12 to 15 known?.....	.1975 Scott sale	5500
1862 [35] 12 to 15 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	4250
*1863 [30] 12 to 15 known?.....	.1976 Garrett sale	52,500

## Valuation Guide: Quarter Eagles

1864 [50] 12 to 15 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	11,000
1865 [25] 12 to 15 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	10,000
1866 [30] 10 to 12 known?.....		4500
1867 [50] 15 to 20 known?.....	S 9/75 sale	4000
1868 [25] 15 to 20 known?.....	.1976 Garrett sale	5000
1869 [25] 12 to 15 known?.....		4500
1870 [35] 15 to 20 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	4750
1871 [30] 12 to 15 known?.....	.1976 Garrett sale	3750
1872 [30] 15 to 17 known? .	QS 9/73 sale	3700
1873 Closed 3 [25] 15 to 20 known?.....		3500
1874 [20] 12 to 15 known?.....		4500
1875 [20] About 14 or 15 known.....	.1976 Garrett sale	21,000
1876 [45] About 25 known?.....	.1974 Groves	3900
1877 [20] 12 to 14 known?.....		4200
1878 [20] About 12 known?.....		4000
1879 [30] 15 to 20 known?.....		3000
1880 [36] 25 to 30 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	3250
1881 [51] 25 to 30 known?.....	.1976 Garrett sale	6250
1882 [67].....		3000
1883 [82].....	.1976 Garrett sale	3600
1884 [73].....	.1974 Ullmer sale	3750
1885 [87].....	S 9/75 sale	6000
1886 [88].....	.1974 Ullmer sale	3500
1887 [122].....	S 9/75 sale	2800
1888 [92].....	.1974 Herstal sale	2700
1889 [48] 25 to 30 known?.....		3250
1890 [93].....	.1976 Garrett sale	2500
1891 [80].....		2200
1892 [105].....	.1974 Rio Rancho sale	2300
1893 [106].....		2000
1894 [122].....		2300
1895 [119].....		2200
1896 [132].....		2000
1897 [136].....		1900
1898 [165].....		1800
1899 [150].....		1800
1900 [205].....		1700
1901 [223].....		1700
1902 [193].....		1700
1903 [197].....		1700
1904 [170].....		1700
1905 [144].....		1700
1906 [160].....		1700
1907 [154].....		1700
1908 Indian [236].....	.1975 Breen II sale	3000
1909 Matte finish.....		
1909 "Roman" finish All kinds [139].....		3500
1910 "Roman" finish All kinds [682].....	.1975 Kensington sale	3000
1910 Light matte finish.....		
1910 Dark matte finish, type of 1911.....		
1911 Dark matte finish [191].....	.1975 Kensington sale	2600
1912 Fine sandblast finish [197].....	.1975 Kensington sale	3000
1913 Fine sandblast finish [165].....	.1975 Kensington sale	3100
1914 Coarse sandblast finish [117].....	.1975 Kensington sale	2800
1915 As last [100-].....	.1975 Kensington sale	3300

### THREE DOLLAR PIECES

1854 Small DOLLARS. [15+].....		
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**Valuation Guide: Three Dollars, Stellas**

1855 Large DOLLARS. 3 or 4 known.....	.1976 Garrett sale	35,000
1856 *Large over small DOLLARS. 4 known.....	.1976 Garrett sale	21,000
1857 5 known.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	21,000
1858 8 to 10 known.....	.1976 Garrett sale	14,000
1859 [35+] 10 to 15 known?.....	.1976 Garrett sale	10,000
1860 [119] 25 to 30 known?.....		.7500
1861 [113] 8 to 10 known?.....		.8000
1862 [35] 10 to 12 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	11,000
1863 [39] 10 to 12 known?.....	.1976 Garrett sale	8000
1864 [50] 12 to 15 known?.....		.7500
1865 Original, low date [25] 12 to 15 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	9000
*1865 Restrike, date slants up. 2 or 3 known?.....		
*1865 Restrike, centered date. 5 known? Not distinguished in price from originals.....		
1866 [30] 12 to 15 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	7500
1867 [50] 15 to 20 known?.....	.1975 Clarke sale	7500
1868 [25] 15 to 20 known?.....	.1976 Garrett sale	9000
1869 [25] 12 to 15 known?.....	.1976 Garrett sale	8000
1870 [35] 15 to 20 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	8500
1871 [30] 12 to 15 known?.....		.8500
1872 [30] 15 to 20 known?.....		.7000
*1873 Original. Open 3 [25].....	.1974 Dr. Paxman sale	21,000
*1873 Restrike. Closed 3. "Dished", 8 to 10 known.....		
*1873 Restrike. Closed 3. Normal. Over 100 known. Usually EF; rarely seen in the quality of other proofs. Estimate for proof.....		.8000
1874 [20] 12 to 15 known.....		.7500
*1875 [20 originals] About 31 to 35 known incl. restrikes. These have not been differentiated in price.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	150,000
*1876 [45] 20 to 25 known?.....	.1974 Groves sale	23,000
1877 [20] 12 to 14 known?.....		.9000
1878 [20] About 12 known?.....	.1976 Garrett sale	12,500
1879 [30] 15 to 18 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	6000
1880 [36] 20 to 25 known?.....		.6000
1881 [54] 20 to 25 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	8000
1882 [76].....		.5500
1883 [89].....	.1974 Rio Rancho sale	6050
1884 [106].....	S 9/75 sale	7000
1885 [110].....		.6500
1886 [142].....		.5500
1887 [160].....	.1976 River Oaks sale	6000
1888 [291-].....		.4500
1889 [129-].....	.1976 ANA sale	4600

**STELLAS — FOUR DOLLAR PIECES**

* 1879 Flowing hair. Original. No central striations. [15].....		
* 1879 Flowing hair. Official restrike. With central striations. Usually catalogued these days as original. [400].....		23,000
* 1879 Coiled hair. [10].....	.1974 Rio Rancho sale	105,000
* 1880 Flowing hair. [15].....	.1974 ANA sale	40,000
* 1880 Coiled hair. [10].....		.80,000

**HALF EAGLES**

1795 About 5 known.....		
1800 Unique?.....		
1802/1 Unique?.....		
1820 Flat based 2, large letters. 3 known.....		
1820 Curve based 2, large letters. 3 known.....		
1820 Curve based 2, small letters. 3 known.....		
1821 2 known.....		

**Valuation Guide: Half Eagles**

1823 Unique? Untraced. . . . .		
1824 Unique. SI. . . . .		
1825/21 2 known, one in SI . . . . .		
1825/24 Unique. Eliasberg coll . . . . .		
1826 2 known, one in SI . . . . .		
1827 2 or 3 known. . . . .		
1828/7 Unique. Eliasberg coll . . . . .		
1828 2 or 3 known. . . . .		
1829 Large size. Unique . . . . .		
1829 Small size. 3 known . . . . .		
1830 Both types. 2 or 3 known. . . . .		
1831 2 or 3 known. . . . .		
1832 Unique. Unlocated . . . . .		
1833 Wide date. 2 or 3 known . . . . .		
1834 Motto. Plain and Crosslet 4, each unique. . . . .		
1834 No motto. [2+] 10 to 12 known, some impaired. . . . .		
1835 [2+] 3 or 4 known. . . . .		
1836 2 known, one in SI. . . . .		
1837 Unique, in SI. . . . .		
1838 Unique. Omaha City Library. . . . .		
1839 [2+] 2 known. . . . .		
1840 "Broad mill" 2 known: one in SI, other impaired. . . . .		
1841 2 known, one in SI. . . . .		
1842 Small date. 2 known. . . . .		
1843 3 or 4 known. . . . .		
1843 D Unverified. . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	5,000
1844 3 known, one in SI. . . . .		
1844 O Unique? . . . . .		
1845 2 known. . . . .		
1846 Large date. 3 known, one in SI, one in ANS . . . . .		
1847 Unique. SI. . . . .		
1848 2 known, one in SI. . . . .		
1850 [1+] Unlocated. . . . .		
1854 [1+] Unlocated. . . . .		
1855 One reported, unlocated. . . . .		
1856 Unique. Unlocated . . . . .		
1857 2 reported, one in Eliasberg . . . . .		
1858 4 known, one SI, one in Eliasberg . . . . .	1974 Ullmer sale	60,000
1859 8 to 10 known? . . . . .		8500
1860 [62] 10 to 12 known? . . . . .	1974 Ullmer sale	7500
1861 [66 - Net 56-] 10 to 12 known? . . . . .		7500
1862 [35] 10 to 12 known? . . . . .	1974 Ullmer sale	9000
1863 [30] 10 to 12 known? . . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	8500
1864 [50] 10 to 12 known? . . . . .		7500
1865 [25] 8 to 10 known? . . . . .	1974 Ullmer sale	17,000
1865 Motto. 2 known, one in SI. . . . .		
1866 [30] 8 to 10 known? . . . . .	1974 ANA sale	9750
1867 [50] 8 to 10 known? . . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	6500
1868 [25] 8 to 10 known? . . . . .	1974 Ullmer sale	8000
1869 [25] 8 to 10 known. . . . .		6000
1870 [35] 12 to 15 known. . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	5000
1871 [30] 12 to 15 known. . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	11,000
1872 [30] 8 to 10 known? . . . . .		
1873 Closed 3. [25] 8 to 10 known? . . . . .	1976 ANA sale	6500
1874 [20] 8 to 10 known? . . . . .		6000
1875 [20] 8 to 10 known? . . . . .	1976 Garrett sale	81,000
1876 [45] 12 to 15 known? . . . . .	1976 ANA sale	6000

1877 [20] 10 to 12 known?.....		5000
1878 [20] 8 to 10 known?.....	.1976 Garrett sale	4750
1879 [30] 8 to 10 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	3900
1880 [36] 8 to 10 known?.....		3500
1881 [42] 10 to 12 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	4250
1882 [48] 12 to 15 known?.....	.1976 Garrett sale	3750
1883 [61] 15 to 20 known?.....		3000
1884 [48] 10 to 12 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	5000
1885 [66] 15 to 20 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	4000
1886 [72] 15 to 20 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	3000
*1887 [87] 20 to 30 known, many impaired.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	18,000
1888 [94] 30 to 40 known?.....		3000
1889 [45]15 to 20 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	3250
1890 [88] 25 to 30 known?.....	.1974 Ullmer sale	4750
1891 [53] 25 to 30 known?.....	S 9/75 sale	2800
1892 [92] 35 to 40 known?.....		2800
1893 [77] 25 to 30 known?.....		2900
1894 [75] 20 to 25 known?.....		2900
1895 [81].....	.1976 Garrett sale	2200
1896 [103].....	.1976 Garrett sale	2200
1897 [83].....	S 9/75 sale	2200
1898 [75].....		2300
1898 [99].....		2200
1899 S 2 reported.....		
1900 [230].....		2000
1901 [140].....		2000
1902 [162].....		2000
1903 [154].....		2000
1904 [136].....		2000
1905 [108].....	.1976 Garrett sale	2000
1906 [85].....	.1974 Groves sale	2600
1907 [92].....		2200
1908 Indian. Dark matte [167].....	.1974 Ullmer sale	3500
1909 Matte finish		
1909 "Roman" finish [All kinds 78].....	.1974 Ullmer sale	4000
1910 "Roman" finish [250].....		3500
1911 Dark matte finish [139].....	.1974 Ullmer sale	3750
1912 Fine sandblast finish [144].....	.1974 Ullmer sale	3750
1913 As preceding [99].....		3750
1914 Coarse sandblast finish [125-].....	.1974 Ullmer sale	3500
1915 As preceding [75-] 12 to 15 known?.....		4200

**EAGLES**

1795 About 5 known.....		
1796 5 or 6 known.....		
1797 Heraldic eagle. Unique? Unlocated.....		
1800 2 known.....		
1804 Crosslet 4. Unique, SI.....		
1804 Plain 4 [4+] 4 or 5 known.....		
1838 4 known (SI, Eliasberg, 2 others).....		
1839 Large letters, type of '38. 2 known (SI, Eliasberg).....		
1840 Unique. SI.....		
1841 Possibly 2 known.....		
1842 Small date. 2 known, one in SI.....		
1843 4 or 5 known.....		
1844 3 known, 1 in SI.....		
1844 0 Unique (ex Parmelee, Woodin). Unlocated.....		

**Valuation Guide: Eagles**

1845	2 known, one in SI		
1846	3 known, one in SI, one in ANS		
1847	Unique. SI		
1848	4 known		
1850	[1+] Unlocated		
1853	0 Unique. Ex Merkin 3/69:421		
1854	[1+] Unlocated		
1855	One reported, unlocated		
1856	One reported, unlocated		
1857	2 reported, one in Eliasberg, one unlocated		
1858	4 known		
1859	7 or 8 known?		15,000
1860	[50] 8 to 10 known?		10,000
1861	[69] 10 to 12 known?		1976 ANA sale 9000
1862	[35] 8 to 10 known?		8500
1863	[30] 8 to 10 known?		17,500
1864	[50] 10 to 12 known		1974 Ullmer sale 37,500
1865	[25] 6 to 8 known?		
* 1865	Motto. 2 known, one in SI		
1866	[30] 8 to 10 known?		1976 ANA sale 15,000
1867	[50] 12 to 15 known?		1974 Ullmer sale 15,000
1868	[25 ] 8 to 10 known?		1974 Ullmer sale 21,000
1869	[25] 8 to 10 known?		1974 Ullmer sale 12,000
1870	[35] 10 to 12 known?		1976 Garrett sale 9,500
1871	[30] 12 to 15 known?		12,000
1872	[30] 10 to 12 known?		1974 ANA sale 25,000
1873	Closed 3 [25] 8 to 10 known?		
1874	[20] 8 to 10 known?		12,000
1875	[20] 8 to 10 known?		1976 Garrett sale 91,000
1876	[45] 15 to 20 known?		
1877	[20] 10 to 12 known?		
1878	[20] 8 to 10 known?		1976 Garrett sale 8000
1879	[30] 8 to 10 known?		7000
1880	[36] 8 to 10 known?		1974 Ullmer sale 5500
1881	[42] 10 to 12 known?		1974 Ullmer sale 5250
1882	[44] 10 to 12 known?		1976 Garrett sale 5000
1883	[49] 10 to 12 known?		1976 Garrett sale 5500
1884	[45] 6 to 8 known?		1976 Garrett sale 15,000
1885	[67] 15 to 20 known?		1975 Winthrop sale 5300
1886	[60] 15 to 20 known?		5000
1887	[80] 10 to 12 known?		1974 Ullmer sale 6250
1888	[72] 20 to 30 known?		5000
1889	[45] 12 to 15 known?		6500
1890	[63] 20 to 25 known?		1974 Ullmer sale 6000
1891	[48] 12 to 15 known?		6500
1892	[72] 20 to 25 known?		6000
1893	[55] 15 to 20 known?		6000
1894	[43] 15 to 18 known?		1974 ANA sale 10,000
1895	[56] 20 to 25 known?		1974 Ullmer sale 6250
1896	[78] 30 to 35 known?		1976 Garrett sale 4800
1897	[69] 30 to 35 known?		1976 Beck II sale 5000
1898	[67] 25 to 30 known?		1974 Ullmer sale 6250
1899	[86] 30 to 35 known?		1976 Garrett sale 4500
1900	[120] 40 to 50 known?		1975 Beck I sale 6250
1901	[85] 40 to 50 known?		4500
1902	[113]		1974 Rio Rancho sale 4200
1903	[96]		1974 Ullmer sale 4250



1904 [108].	4250
1905 [86].	4250
1906 [77] 30 to 35 known?	4250
1906-D [12] 2 or 3 known	
1907 [74] 30 to 35 known?	1974 Ullmer sale 4000
1907 St. Gaudens. Periods. "Wire edge" [50] 4 to 6 known	
1907 As preceding. Plain edge, no stars. Unique	
1907 Similar. Periods. "Rolled" edge. 2 seen	
1907 Regular type, no periods. Matte or satin finish, 1 reported of each	
1908 Motto. Light matte finish. Only one seen	
1908 Motto. Dark matte finish. All kinds [116]	1974 Ullmer sale 6750
1908 Motto "Roman Gold" finish. 1976 ANA: 3151 ex Boston Museum of Fine Arts	7500
1909 Coarse matte finish. Only one seen (Beck I)	
1909 "Roman Gold" finish. All kinds [74]	7500
1910 "Roman Gold" finish. All kinds [204]	7000
1910 Satin finish. 2 seen (Breen I and 1974 GENA)	
1910 Dark matte finish, like 1911. Unverified	
1911 Dark matte finish. All kinds [95]	7000
1911 Fine sandblast finish, like 1912	
1912 Fine sandblast finish [83]	7000
1913 Fine sandblast finish [71]	7250
1914 Coarse sandblast finish [50-]	7500
1915 Coarse sandblast finish [75-]	7500

## DOUBLE EAGLES

* 1849 [2+] One in SI, one unlocated	
1850 [2+] Unlocated	
1854 [1+] Unlocated	
1854-S Unique. SI	
1858 3 known, one each in SI and ANS	
1859 6 or 7 known	
1860 [59] 8 to 10 known?	1974 Ullmer sale 24,000
1861 [66] 8 to 10 known?	1973 Kagin Sale of the 70's 38,000
1862 [35] 10 to 12 known?	1976 Garrett sale 20,000
1863 [30] 10 to 12 known?	1974 ANA sale 32,500
1864 [50] 10 to 12 known?	1976 Garrett sale 18,000
1865 [25] 6 to 8 known?	1974 Ullmer sale 35,000
* 1865 Motto. 2 known, one in SI	
1866 [30] 10 to 12 known?	
1867 [50] 8 to 10 known?	1976 Garrett sale 16,000
1868 [25] 8 to 10 known?	16,000
1869 [25] 8 to 10 known?	1976 Garrett sale 14,000
1870 [35] 10 to 12 known?	15,000
1871 [30] 6 to 8 known?	18,000
1872 [30] 8 to 10 known?	1974 ANA sale 22,500
1873 Closed 3 [25] 10 to 12 known?	16,000
1874 [20] 8 to 10 known?	18,000
1875 [20] 8 to 10 known?	1976 Garrett sale 22,000
1876 [45] 8 to 10 known?	1974 Ullmer sale 45,000
* 1876 Transitional, type of '77. Unique	
1877 TWENTY DOLLARS [20] 6 to 8 known?	1974 Ullmer sale 22,000
1878 [20] 8 to 10 known?	18,000
1879 [30] 8 to 10 known?	16,000
1880 [36] 8 to 10 known?	16,000
1881 [61] 10 to 12 known?	S 6/73 sale 21,000
1882 [59] 15 to 20 known?	1974 Ullmer sale 42,500

**Valuation Guide: Double Eagles**

*1883 [92] 15 to 20 known? .....	1976 Garrett sale	72,500
*1884 [71] 15 to 18 known? .....	1974 Ullmer sale	110,000
1885 [78] 12 to 15 known? .....	1974 Ullmer sale	40,000
1886 [106] 20 to 25 known? .....	1976 Garrett sale	29,000
*1887 [121] 25 to 30 known? .....	1974 Ullmer sale	32,500
1888 [102] 35 to 40 known? .....	1974 Ullmer sale	10,000
1889 [41] 10 to 12 known? .....		14,000
1890 [55] 12 to 15 known? .....		12,000
1891 [52] 15 to 20 known? .....	1974 Ullmer sale	23,000
1892 [93] 15 to 20 known? .....	1974 Ullmer sale	16,000
1893 [59] 25 to 30 known? .....	1974 Ullmer sale	20,000
1894 [50] 20 to 25 known? .....		11,000
1895 [51] 25 to 30 known? .....		11,000
1896 [128] .....	1974 Ullmer sale	19,000
1897 [76] 25 to 30 known? .....		12,000
1898 [75] 25 to 30 known? .....		13,000
1899 [84] .....		8000
1900 [124] .....		7000
1901 [96] .....		7000
1902 [114] .....	1975 Scott sale	7250
1903 [158] .....	1975 Breen II sale	6250
1904 [98] .....	1974 Ullmer sale	7500
1905 [92] .....	1976 Garrett sale	6750
1906 [94] .....	1976 Garrett sale	6500
1906-D [12] 2 or 3 reported. ....		
1907 [78] .....	S 9/75 sale	9500
1907-D One seen. ....		
MCMVII Ultra High Relief [24?] 10 to 12 known. ....	1974 Ullmer sale	200,000
MCMVII Plain edge. 1 or 2 known? .....		
MCMVII Regular high relief. Satin finish. All kinds [5+] About 10 to 12 known? .....	1975 Breen II sale	29,000
MCMVII Regular high relief. Sandblast finish. Unique? .....		
1907 Low relief. Large edge letters. Unique. ....		
1907 Low relief. Small edge letters. 2 or 3 known? .....		
1908 Motto. Light matte finish. 3 seen. ....		
1908 Motto. Dark matte finish. All kinds [101] .....	1974 Ullmer sale	9000
1908 'Roman Gold' finish. ....	1976 ANA:3302 ex Boston Museum of Fine Arts	10,000
1909 "Roman Gold" finish [67] .....		9000
1910 "Roman Gold" finish All kinds [167] .....		8000
1910 Dark matte finish. One reported, unverified. ....		
1911 Dark matte finish [101] .....		8000
1912 Fine sandblast finish [74] 1974 Ullmer Sale .....		9000
1913 Fine sandblast finish. [58] .....		9000
1914 Coarse sandblast finish [70-] .....		9000
1915 Coarse sandblast finish [50-] 10 to 12 known. ....		10,000

**COMMEMORATIVE SILVER**

1893 Isabella Quarter About 15 known? .....	1977 Blauvelt sale	525
1892 Columbian About 100 known? .....		250
1893 Columbian About 100 known? .....		250
1915-S Pan-Pacific 2 reported, unlocated. ....		
1915 (no S) Pan-Pacific 6 or more known. ....		
1918 Lincoln 2 seen. ....		
1920 Maine 2 reported, unlocated. ....		
1920 Pilgrim 2 reported, unlocated. ....		
1921 Pilgrim One reported, unverified. ....		
1921 Alabama 2x2 One reported, unverified. ....		
1921 Missouri 2*4 One reported, unverified. ....		

1922 Grant with star 3 to 5 known	.....	
1923 Monroe 2 reported, unlocated	.....	
1924 Huguenot Unique? Unlocated	.....	
1925 Lexington Unique? Unlocated	.....	
1925 Stone Mountain Unique? Unlocated	.....	
1925 California (no S) Unique? Unlocated	.....	
1925 Ft. Vancouver One seen, 2 others reported, unlocated	.....	
1926 Sesquicentennial 2 or 3 known	.....	
1927 Vermont Unique? Unlocated	.....	
1928 Hawaii [50]	.....	2000
1934 Maryland 3 known	.....	
1935 Connecticut Charter Oak 2 known, unlocated	.....	
1935 Arkansas Unique? Unlocated	.....	
1935 San Diego (with S?) 2 known, unlocated	.....	
1935 Hudson 2 known	.....	
1935 Spanish Trail 2 known	.....	
1936 Arkansas Robinson 5 or 6 known	.....	
1937 Arkansas 2 known	.....	
1938 New Rochelle [8+]	.....	

#### COMMEMORATIVE GOLD

1903 Jefferson Dollar [100] 20 to 25 known	.....	.1975 Beck I sale	2300
Same, in original frame	.....		
1903 McKinley Dollar [100] 15 to 20 known	.....		2500
Same, in original frame	.....		
1904 Lewis & Clark Dollar. 6 to 8 known	.....		
1905 Lewis & Clark Dollar. 4 to 6 known	.....		
1915 (No S) Pan-Pacific Dollar. 3 or 4 known, plain or reeded edge	.....		
1915 S Pan-Pacific Dollar. One reported, unverified	.....		
1915 (No S) Pan-Pacific Quarter Eagle. One reported, unverified	.....		
1916 McKinley Dollar 4 to 6 known	.....	.1974 Herstal sale	1250
1917 McKinley Dollar 3 known	.....		
1922 Grant Dollar with star 2 reported, unlocated	.....		
1926 Sesquicentennial Quarter Eagle 2 reported, unlocated	.....		

#### SILVER-MINOR PROOF SETS

It is pointless to attempt prices on any dated before 1858. The only auction record for an earlier dated one, recent enough to mean anything, is the 1846 set in Ruby I:1623 at \$17,500, and that would be low now. No recent auctions on minor proof sets 1864-1916; most were broken up. Prices can be estimated by adding values of individual coins.

1858 Large letter cent	.....	.1973 Scanlon sale	8500
1858 Small letter cent. All kinds [80?]	.....		9000
1859 Under 100	.....		4000
1860 [1000-Net 514]	.....	.1976 River Oaks sale	3000
1861 [1000- NET 400]	.....		3100
1862 [550- Net 430]	.....	.1976 Garrett sale	2700
1863 [460]	.....	.1976 Garrett sale	3250
1864 Nickel cent, no bronze coins. [370]	.....		3500
Usually has the bronze coins (cent and 2¢ LM) added; Garrett sale	.....		5250
1864 Bronze cent and 2¢, no CN cent (original) [100] With or without L	.....		
1865 [500] (400 with 3¢ nickel, 100 without, usually with it added)	.....		3900
1866 [725] (600 without 5¢, 125 with; most survivors with it added)	.....		5100
1867 Nickel with rays [25] (Usually with NR 5¢ added)	.....	.1976 Garrett sale	13,000
1867 Nickel without rays [600]	.....		3400
1868 [600]	.....	.1976 Garrett sale	3600
1869 [600] No overdates	.....	.1976 Garrett sale	3800
1870 [1000]	.....	.1976 Garrett sale	3400
1871 [960]	.....	.1976 Garrett sale	4600

**Valuation Guide: Sets**

1872 [950-]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	4750
1873 First issue [600-] Cent, nickel coins, 2¢, trime, half dime, silver without arrows, standard dollar, no trade, no arrows coins	.....		3700
1873 Second issue [500+] Cent, nickel coins, no 2¢, trime, half dime or standard dollar; silver coins with arrows; trade dollar	.....		3800
1873 Combination. Basically first issue to which three silver coins with arrows and trade dollar have been added	.....	S/5/75 sale	5850
1874 [700]	.....	S 5/75 sale	2300
1875 [600+] Usually with 20¢ added. Type II Trade	.....	1976 Garrett sale	3750
1876 [900+] Type II Trade	.....		3700
1877 [300+]	.....	S 5/75 sale	5900
1878 [700-] Usually with 8TF dollar added	.....	1976 Garrett sale	5750
Only the last few contained 7TF dollar	.....		
1879 [600+]	.....	Beck I sale	3100
1880 [1355]	.....	Beck I sale	3100
1881 [925+]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	3100
1882 [1100] (Only 1030 with Trade, some others added it)	.....	1976 Garrett sale	3400
1883 [947+] Includes Trade and Shield nickel	.....	1976 Garrett sale	3600
If the other two nickels added, as often:	.....		3900
1884 [875] No Trade	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2900
1885 [930] No Trade	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2800
1886 [886] Either type cent	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2700
1887 [710] Normal date	3¢.....	1976 Garrett sale	2900
1887 With overdate 3¢ (actually majority)	.....		2925
1888 [800]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2600
1889 [711]	.....		2700
1890 [590]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2300
1891 [600]	.....		2300
1892 [1245] Either type quarter	.....		1900
1893 [792]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2500
1894 [972]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	3000
1895 [880]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	11,500
1896 [762]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2500
1897 [731]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2500
1898 [735]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2600
1899 [846]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2500
1900 [912]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2400
1901 [813]	.....		2500
1902 [777]	.....		2300
1903 [755]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2300
1904 [650] Final year of dollar (some lacked it)	.....	1976 Garrett sale	2300
1905 [727]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	1600
1906 [675]	.....	1976 Garrett sale	1650
1907 [575]	.....		1450
1908 [545]	.....		1450
1909 [650] "Indian" cent	.....		1450
Usually with 1909 plain Lincoln added:	.....		1300
If with both Lincoln cents added:	.....		1750
1910 [551]	.....		1250
1911 [543]	.....	S 5/75 sale	1100
1912 [700]	.....	S 5/75 sale	1100
1913 [613-] Type I nickel only	.....	S 5/75 sale	1600
1913 With Type II nickel added:	.....		1950
1914 [380-]	.....	S 5/75 sale	2000
1915 [450-]	.....	S 5/75 sale	2200
1916 Minor coins (1¢, 5¢ only). [600-] Unpriced with silver	.....		.750
1917	.....		

1936 [3,837-].	1900
1937 [5,542-].	825
1938 [8,045-].	400
1939 [8,795-].	380
1940 [11,246-].	270
1941 [15,187-] Usually without W on half dollar.	260
1942 Type I nickel only [21,120-].	250
1942 Both nickels.	300
1950 [51,386].	175
1951 [57,500].	110
1952 [81,980].	70
1953 [128,800].	45
1954 [233,300].	22
1955 [378,200].	25
1956 [669,384].	12 1/2
1957 [1,247,952].	6
1958 [875,652].	11
1959 [1,149,291].	6 1/2
1960 All kinds [1,691,602]. Cent with small date.	25
1960 Cent with large date	6 1/2
1960 Cent with large over small date	.....
1961 [3,028,244].	5
1962 [3,218,019].	5
1963 [3,075,645].	5
1964 [3,950,762].	5 1/2
1968 S [3,041,509] All kinds.	5
1968 S Dime without S. Set	7500
1969 S [2,934,631].	5
1970 S All kinds [2,632,810] Cent with large date. Set	10
1970 S Cent with small date. Set	50
1970 S Either type, dime without S [2200]. Included above.	600
1971 S All kinds (no dollar) [3,224,138].	5
1971 S Nickel without S [1655]. Included above.	900
1972 S [3,267,667] (No dollar).	5
1973 S [2,769,624] (Includes nickel-clad dollar).	14
1974 S [2,617,350] (Includes nickel-clad dollar).	15
1975 S [2,909,369] (Includes Bicentennial quarter, half and Type I Dollar, nickel-clad).	25
1976 S Six-piece set [4,419,730] (As 1975) with Type I Dollar.	25
1976 S As above but with Type II Dollar.	15
1976 S Three-piece set. [1,045,412]Quarter, half and Type II Dollar, silver-clad.	17
1977 S As in 1974. In production. Mint price.	9

**GOLD PROOF SETS**

In the present state of the market, whenever one of these appears at auction or in a fixed-price offering, it is overwhelmingly likely to be broken up and offered as single coins, regardless of the date, as was done with the Garrett material. It is therefore impractical to guess at valuations for intact sets, original or assembled. They may be approximately ascertained by adding the values assigned to the individual coins, from dollar through double eagle. There are no auction records for intact sets recent enough to mean anything, with the possible exception of the 1900 four-piece set in the 1975 Winthrop sale, at \$7500.

## GLOSSARY

### A

**activated** Said of metal surfaces when through any kind of physical or chemical action the top layer is rendered more susceptible to oxidation reactions (tarnish, etc.)- Many cleaning agents activate coin surfaces.

**adjustment marks** File marks, inflicted on a planchet before striking, to bring weight down to mint standard. They do not constitute impairment to a coin. After blanks were cut out from strip, but before they were sent to press for stamping, they were weighed; lightweight ones were returned to the Melter and Refiner's division, normal ones went to the press (being cleaned and given upset rims in the meantime), heavy ones went to the adjusters, who were women armed with files and wearing leather aprons. Weighing and adjusting sometimes had to be repeated several times. Every few hours the contents of the adjusters' aprons went back to the Melter and Refiners.

**alignment** The angle at which coin or medal dies are oriented. In the USA, alignment for coin dies is normally 180° or head-to-toe; if the coin is held at top and bottom and rotated, the upright obverse will face an inverted reverse. Exceptions are explained in the text. Normal alignment is symbolized ↑↓. The opposite alignment, symbolized ↕ and technically called "head-to-head", is often called "upset reverse," a potentially misleading term (see *upsetting*). Intermediate die alignments, e.g. ↗ or ↘, can be best identified by marking the place on edge corresponding to the very top of reverse die, and seeing what point of obverse this matches. Orienting a reverse die is most conveniently done by making an imaginary line joining ends of legend or ends of value horizontal; in the Gobrecht dollars, the imaginary horizontal line to use is that which would join the two circular ornaments. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

**alloy** 1) Fixed by law, the alloy of a coin is the proportion of metals making up its legal composition. Gold coins were originally 11/12 gold, 1/12 copper, later 90% gold, 10% silver-copper mixture of which not more than half could be silver; silver coins after 1837 were 90% silver, 10% copper; nickel coins, 25% nickel, 75% copper, and so forth. The Guidebook gives legal alloys for all series. 2) Alternatively, in some contexts, "alloy" can mean the baser metal in such a mixture, as the copper in a silver coin.

**alteration** Fraudulent change of one or more numerals of date, or addition, removal or change of a mintmark, etc., to make a commoner coin simulate a rarer issue. Rarely, the term 'alteration' can allude to changes made in a die, but herein there is no ambiguity between the two usages.

**American scale** 16ths of an inch, so that "size 12 American scale" = 12/16" or 0.75". Antonym: Metric scale.

**antedated fantasy coin** Herein, same as 'simulated series coin,' generally a date too early for legitimate issue of the design. Examples: 1804 dollar, 1804 plain 4 eagle, 1863-64 silver coins with IN GOD WE TRUST. 'Simulated series coin' can also mean one too late for legitimate issue of the design, e.g. 1884-85 Trades, 1913 Liberty head nickel, 1868 large cent of the type of 1857, etc.

**argentan** Dr. Lewis Feuchtwanger's version of German silver, consisting of varying proportions of copper, nickel, zinc, tin, antimony, etc., but no silver content other than accidental traces.

**assembled set** A proof set completed over the months or years by buying individual coins. Antonym: Original set, q.v.

**attribution** Identification of die variety of a coin in the standard reference works for its denomination or type.

**azure** Heraldic term for blue, represented in drawings and on coin dies by parallel horizontal lines. The arms of the United States are "paly of 13, argent and gules (= red and white), a chief azure," and above the vertical stripes the upper third of the shield (the chief) shows these horizontal lines.

## B

**Bath metal** Brass (copper and zinc) with 0.3% silver added, which eccentric alloy was used for William Wood's ROSA AMERICANA coins.

**blank** Same as planchet. See also cast blanks, rolled blanks.

**blank-cutter** Machine built on the same principle as a cookie-cutter; rolled strip of proper thickness for the finished coins is passed within it, and the first-process blanks are cut out, after which they are weighed, annealed, cleaned, upset (rendered thicker at edge than at centers), and finally sent to the coining presses.

**border** Within the raised rim of a coin was formerly a protective ornamentation either of radial lines (see dentils) or beads; this is called a border.

**bronze** Officially, an alloy of 95% copper, 5% tin and zinc, lately 5% zinc.

**bronzed** Given a protective coating by baking bronzing powder onto a coin or medal. This process appears to have been invented in the Boulton & Watt mint in the late 1780's or 1790's, experimentally used in the Philadelphia Mint in the early 1830's, then commonly used on medals in the 1860's. The composition of bronzing powder is unknown.

**bourse** Hall at a convention, where dealers set up commercial displays for selling their wares to each other and/or to collectors.

**branch mint** Subordinate mint in some other locale than Philadelphia; presently Denver and San Francisco, formerly also New Orleans, Carson City; in addition, though not figuring in this study, there were the two "gold mints" at Charlotte, N.C., and Dahlonega, Ga. (1838-61), and the present-day auxiliary mint at West Point, N.Y. Branch mints did not make their own dies, but were dependent on the Philadelphia mint for

completed working dies ready for service.

**buckling** Die failure manifesting as compression and caving-in on the die, as a bulge on the finished coin.

**Bungtown** 1)="Buttsville," a contemptuous epithet for Birmingham, England, source of counterfeit coppers; later also an epithet for North Swansea, Mass., locale of counterfeiting establishments. 2) Originally, therefore, any kind of counterfeit coppers; 3) more recently, the term has been misused (following Charles Schmall, who followed Atkins) to denote specifically the evasive imitations of halfpence, lightweight and often brassy, with legends such as GEORGE RULES / BRITONS ISLES, intended to deceive the illiterate.

**bullion** Precious metal as received for processing by a mint. Hence, bullion value means the market value of the metallic content of a coin at the time of manufacture, not necessarily at any later time, not necessarily identical to face value. See seignorage.

**burnished** Given a high gloss by a buffing wheel. Strip intended for making planchets for proofs was burnished; dies were originally burnished; but a coin burnished after striking cannot legitimately be sold except as impaired, since this represents later interference with the intended surfaces.

**business strike** A coin struck normally (only one blow from the dies) and intended for normal circulation or commercial use. Syn.: production coin; Ant.: proof.

## C

**cameo** Devices in relief or embossed, like our current coin. Ant.: intaglio.

**"cartwheel coppers"** British twopence and pennies of 1797.

**"cartwheel effect"** Mint bloom consisting of radial corrugations, which vanish rapidly with even brief circulation. Tilt a frosty uncirculated piece back and forth in the light and radial lines of light rotate in fields somewhat like the blurry lines on moving cartwheels or carriage wheels in a western movie.

**cast** Molded from molten metal; formerly a common way of making counterfeits.

**cast blanks** Planchets made by casting as above, rather than by cutting from rolled strip. Many private tokens were so made, though the process was long illegal in European mints and was always illegal here. Cast blanks have rounded edges without any shear lines (from the blank-cutter) and will show porosity in protected areas.

**Castaing machine** Machine which imparted edge lettering to blanks before striking. It consisted of a bench fitted with parallel bars each containing half the edge lettering, set apart minutely less than blank diameter, spring-mounted, one fixed, the other set to move forward while remaining the same distance from the fixed bar, actuated by gears and long handle. Each blank was caused to go through this machine, ideally without slipping, though in practice slippage accidents were frequent, producing blundered inscriptions (overlapping). More rarely, a lettered blank would be run through a second time. The Castaing machine became obsolete with introduction of the close collar, q.v.

**celator** Artist who cut a design directly onto a die blank, working in intaglio; term common in ancient Greek numismatics. The techniques were much the same as in engraving sealstone gems, and some of the same artists were famous for both coin dies and sealstones, e.g. Dexamenos of Chios, Phrygillos, etc.

**cent** The 1/100 of a Spanish dollar (Massachusetts, 1787-88) or of a U.S. dollar.

**center dot** Minute raised dot (sunken on a die) from use of a compass in layout. They were found more often than not on early U.S. working dies.

**Characteristic Ratio** Same as survival ratio, expressed as the fraction (Number of survivors) / (Number originally made). In general, this figure can be approximately known for a design, type, or date, but not exactly known. It is called "characteristic" because the approximate derived figure is distinctive for each denomination or type.

**circulated** Passed from hand to hand; showing signs of wear from this process. Ant.: Uncirculated.

**clash mark** Impression of part of device or legend of one die onto part of its opposite number, caused by the two dies coming together with normal coining force without a planchet between them. Formerly called "suction marks" before the actual mechanism was known. This accident might occur either because a blank had not been fed in

by the moneyer, or later because of malfunction of the automatic feeder or foreign matter impeding emergence of blanks into the collar-and-die assembly; or because the press continued to run after the hopper was empty of blanks.

**close collar** Collar fitting around and above the neck of the lower die, defining a cylindrical space into which the blank ready for striking was to be held. This collar might be either plain or grooved (for plain or reeded edge, respectively), and it was by definition of the same diameter as the finished coin. As the blank was stamped by the dies, it expanded radially into the collar. It was then ejected after striking, as the lower die rose beneath it, and ejector fingers brushed it into the receiving basket, whereupon dies retracted to former position to receive the next blank. A flywheel governed all these motions in both sequence and speed. Close collars are called "collar dies" in the Newman-Bressett book, but "close collar" is the term found in mint correspondence (1829); the contrivance was invented by Boulton & Watt about 1788 but only introduced into U.S. coinage in 1828. It was intended to impart mathematical equality of size, improve protective quality of raised rims, and save the additional operation of ornamenting edges by Castaing machine. Ant.: open collar. See also virole brisee.

**closed 3** In early 1873, a style of 3 with knobs nearly meeting. Ant.: open 3.

**collar** Metal part fitting between working dies, containing a cylindrical opening into which the blank ready for stamping was to fit; intended to position it on the lower die and to discourage indefinite expansion on striking. See close collar, open collar, virole brisee.

**collar die** Same as close collar.

**Colonials** Loosely, any and all coins made for circulation in or by the various colonies before the adoption of the Constitution. To this series have been adjoined certain tangential items, notably the British token-coinages portraying Washington, and a few other items with American allusions.

**commemoratives** NCLT (non-circulating legal tender) coins made by normal coinage authority and processes, but bearing authorized devices memorializing some historical event or site. Celebration committees worked with Congressional friends for such authorization,



preferring commemorative coins to medals because coin collectors were readier to buy the former.

**"Conders"** Provincial British token-coinages, mostly copper, ca. 1787-1800, mostly of halfpenny size, so called after the author of an early book on the series.

**contract coinage** Coinage manufactured by private firms operating under a franchise granted by a government, such as the state coinages of New Jersey, Connecticut and Vermont, the FUGIO cents, and the Boulton & Watt "cartwheel" issues.

**coppers** Copper coins of somewhere near halfpenny size, without stated denomination. During the 1780s in the USA they passed at 14 or 15 to the shilling, whereas a Tower Mint halfpenny, officially 1/24 of a shilling, would have been accepted at probably the higher figure had it been available. Coppers fell to 1/60 the shilling, thereafter ceasing to be acceptable after 1790.

**copper-nickel** Common name for the alloy of 88% copper: 12% nickel, authorized for the small cents 1857-64.

**copy** Generically, a forgery. Ants.: authentic; original (q.v.)

**copy dies** Used for making novodels (q.v.), some other restrikes, and simulated series coins. Dies purporting to be of a given type and date, but in actuality made later under clandestine auspices in an official mint. Ant.: original dies. The gold and silver restrikes dated 1863, 1865, 1873 and 1875 are mostly from dated copy dies, not from original dies; whereas many of the restrikes of the half-cents are from original dies.

**"Coyning Engine"** Early name for a screw press, q.v.

**crown** A silver 5-shilling piece, nearly of dollar size. In colonial reckoning it would have passed at from 6 to 8 shillings at various times.

## D

**debasement** Issue of coins of too low fineness or too light weight.

**decimal series** Set of denominations such that the 1/10 and 1/100 parts of an official unit are both represented in coinage, with or without their multiples or fractions. Example: dollar, dime, cent, in USA or Canada.

**denticle, dentil** Small tooth-like or radial-line unit of border ornamentation.

**denomination** Numerical name for a coin expressing its value as a multiple or fraction of a unit, as three-cents, quarter dollar, half eagle. Most coins were regularly believed to have a denomination but their common names did not reflect the original numerical value; e.g., copper, fish scale (a 3¢ silver), nickel, shilling, crown, guinea.

**Device** Principal design element, e.g. portrait, seated figure, wreath, eagle.

**die alignment** See alignment.

**die variety** Variety differing in at least one working die from others of its design, date, and type. When dies were made by complete hubbing except for date, varieties could be distinguished principally by variations in the position of the date; since 1916, only by minute details of finishing. Before 1795 dies were cut by hand, even a device puncheon (q.v.) being the exception, and accordingly working dies had much individuality.

**dies** Without other adjective, the word is taken as equivalent to working dies — those used for imparting designs to blanks to make them into coins fit for circulation. But see hubs.

**dime, disme** The 1/10 part of a dollar; the word was coined by 'Simon Stevinus,' i.e. Steven de Bruges, about 1586, in his pamphlets advocating the decimal system; derived from French *dixieme* (meaning 1/10 part), it gradually came to mean primarily the monetary subunit. The form spelled disme was first pronounced to rhyme with 'steam,' in 1837 being spelled DIME on the coins; when the pronunciation rhyming with 'time' became standard is uncertain. However, the pronunciation 'dizz-me' is incorrect.

**dollar** Monetary unit intended as equal to the Spanish 8-reales, later defined in American coinage law as the equivalent of 416 grains of silver of 1485/1664 fineness, later as 412 1/2 grains silver of 9/10 fineness. At present the term is equivalent to the arbitrary unit of paper fiat money, without reference to any weight of silver or gold. Dollars were formerly coined in gold (weight 25.8 grains, 9/10 fine, 1849-89). The Eisenhower dollar, whether in silver-clad or sandwich metal ("nickel clad"), is a frankly token coin; perpetuation of the older name is a historical accident. See also Trade Dollar.

**double eagle** Gold coin of the value of 20 dollars, 1849-1933.

## E

- eagle** Gold monetary unit and coin of the value of 10 dollars, 1795-1933.
- edge** Cylindrical (curved) surface boundary; it may be plain, as on cents and nickels, or reeded, as on higher denominations, or lettered, as on 1907-33 double eagles, or ornamented, as on 1907-33 eagles.
- electrotype** A copy made by fabricating thin shells by electrodeposition, and affixing both obv. and rev. shells to a lead core.
- emission sequence** Chronological order of die varieties, ascertained by arranging the varieties so that coins with the same obv. working die are together, and coins with the same rev. working die are together, and that unbroken states precede broken states of the same die.
- exergue, exergual space** Space between bottom of device and lower border, generally consisting of a segment of a circle, bounded by lower arc and something representing an approximately straight line. Dates, mintmarks, and/or designers' signatures often occupy this space.
- experimental coin** Test of a new circulating medium — a new metal or alloy, new denomination, new manufacturing method, etc., but not a mere new design.

## F

- face value** In recent decades, same as denomination; formerly, when coins were valued by weight, the face value was equated to bullion value if the coin was full weight, and presumed to be close to that until weight and fineness were ascertained, the latter by use of a touchstone. Gold coins were always valued by weight, not by tale, i.e. not by face value.
- fantasy piece** Simulated series coin (q.v.) or similar item. The 1866 no motto coins and 1859-60 5¢ and 10¢ without mention of UNITED STATES are fantasy pieces.
- farthing** The 1/4 part of a penny; half a halfpenny; 1/48 shilling; 1/960 pound sterling.
- favor coins** Fantasy pieces (simulated series coins), restrikes, novodels, proofs of dates and types of which proofs were not publicly distributed, etc.
- field** Blank background in which devices are placed.
- first strike** Early impression from working dies retaining initial polish, but not given the standard proofing process.
- first process planchet** One not yet given the upset rim, q.v.
- flan** Same as planchet or blank.
- Flying Eagle cent** Design adopted in May 1857 and continued through Dec. 1858 for cents, depicting a small copy of the Peale-Gobrecht eagle.

- forge** 1) to shape by fire (ironmongery); 2) to counterfeit.
- frost** especially brilliant mint lustre, on silver coins reminiscent of windowpane frost.

## G

- german silver** Any of various alloys of copper, nickel, zinc + trace elements. See argentan.
- goloid** Dr. Wheeler W. Hubbell's alloy: silver with a little gold and copper. In practice it was indistinguishable from standard silver save by chemical test.
- grain** A weight = 1/480 troy oz. = 1/5760 troy lb. = 1/437.5 oz. avoirdupois = 1/7000 lb. avoir. = 0.0647989 gram. U.S. coins have always had their standard weights defined by law in grains. Even the nickel 5¢, which was a sop to metric thinking at 5.00 grams, is legally tariffed as weighing 77.16 grains.
- grained edge** British equivalent to our term reeded edge.
- guinea** Gold coin valued at 21 shillings, formerly current in Britain.
- gules** Heraldic term for red (from French *gueules*, 'fur neckpiece dyed red,' or the color of such neckpiece); represented by parallel vertical lines, as in the vertical stripes of the U.S. arms. See azure.

## H

- hairline(d), hairmark(ed)** (Bearing) minute to microscopic scratch(es) on a proof surface, the result either of cleaning with baking soda paste or other abrasive, or of wiping with any cloth less soft than the coin's surface. Ant.: pristine.
- half crown** British silver coin of value 2½ shillings (2 shillings 6 pence)
- half dime** U.S. silver coin, 1794-1873, = 1/20 dollar, 1/5 quarter or 5 cents
- half dollar** U.S. silver coin 1794-1964 (more recently sandwich metal) = 50 cents
- half eagle** U.S. gold coin, 1795-1929, of value 5 dollars.
- half penny** (collective pl. halfpence) British copper or bronze coin, officially 1/24 shilling, 1/480 pound sterling. The term was also used to mean coppers (q.v.), though they passed at rates more like 1/15 or 1/14 shilling until the 1790 "Copper Panic" which collapsed them to 1/60 shilling or worse.
- hammer method** Ancient manner of stamping coins. The moneyer fixed the lower die in an anvil or tree stump, rested the blank on it, placed the upper die atop the blank, holding it in place by hand or tongs, and signaled his assistant to use a sledge hammer. The method was faster than the first screw presses, and very dangerous for moneyers' fingers.
- "Hard Ware"** 18th century euphemism for unofficial or counterfeit coins. Ex usual term for coppers in casks in bills of lading, ships' manifests, etc.

Hence "Hard Ware Manufactory" as a euphemism for a firm whose major output was in fact counterfeit coppers.

**HIBERNIA coins** Generically, any Irish halfpence, from the name HIBERNIA found on all types, Specifically, in American numismatics, Wood's Irish halfpence and farthings 1722-24, shipped over here in quantity as Hard Ware (q.v.) after the Irish, roused to wrath by Dean Swift's "Drapier's Letters," had refused to accept them in payment for anything.

**hub** (n.) A type of die used not for striking coins but for imparting designs to working dies. Later hubs included lettering; still later ones included dates, (v.) To impart a design by a hub onto one or several working dies. In this sense, the design is said to be "entered" or "transferred" — ordinarily two or more entries are necessary, the die blank having to be annealed between them to remove stress-hardening. See shift.

## I

**incuse(d)** Sunk below neighboring surfaces, intaglio (q.v.) Ant.: embossed, in relief, cameo.

**Indian head cent** A misnomer. Common name for the Longacre design of cent, 1859-1909, showing Ms. Liberty (after a Greco-Roman statue known as the *Venus Accroupie*, in one of the local museums) adorned with a feathered headdress. No Native American ever bore that profile!

**inscription** Words on a coin, in any position. Generally, the term legend is reserved for inscriptions around the periphery.

**intaglio** Sunk below neighboring surfaces — said of a design, whereas 'incuse' more often refers to lettering. Working dies are intaglio so that the coins will show devices and letters in cameo. Ant.: cameo, in relief.

## J

**Janvier lathe** Type of reducing lathe or three-dimensional pantograph, used for making master dies or master hubs or puncheons in actual size from enlarged original models, since about 1907.

## K

**knife-edge, knife-rim** Raised line at outermost rim of a coin, from where metal was forced between die and close collar; called a 'fin' in the mint, and commonly a 'wire edge' by coin collectors. Not diagnostic of proofs.

## L

**large cent** Copper cent, originally weighing 208 grains, later 168, coined 1793-1857. Not called large cent until about 1860; earlier known only as copper cent.

**legal tender** Coins with this status may be offered in payment of any debts or taxes and must be accepted in such offers of payment. The U.S. Constitution limits this quality to gold and silver, for which reason the legal tender status of bronze cents (Act of April 22, 1864) and of nickel coins (Acts of 1865, 66, etc.) has been the subject of many disputes over constitutionality.

**legend** Inscription around the periphery of a coin or medal.

**lint mark** Small shallow incuse mark on a coin, inflicted at the moment of striking, when a fibre of any kind (generally from a cloth used for wiping dies) is compressed between die and blank. Not an impairment.

**logotype** Punch containing more than one digit of a date, or a name rather than a single letter. Date logotypes began being used in the Philadelphia mint about 1840, either 2-, 3- or 4-digit units according to size.

**Lord Baltimore shilling** Lightweight silver coin of XII (= 12) Pence Maryland standard, issued in 1659 by Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore (second holder of the barony, 1605-75, founder of Maryland colony) for local circulation; for which reason he was summoned to appear before Star Chamber but was saved from execution by the Restoration.

## M

**machine-made coin** One struck on a screw press rather than by the hammer method, qq.v. Ant.: hammered coin.

**"Mark Newby" coins** Halfpence and farthings made by Nicolas Briot in the Tower Mint, ca. 1641, known then as "St. Patrick money," because of the devices (obv. King Charles I as King David with harp, rev. St. Patrick — the halfpence show him with his flock and ECCE GREX 'Behold the Flock,' the farthings show him expelling snakes and other beasts, plus Pegasus, with QVIESCAT PLEBS 'Let the people be quiet'), suppressed during the Commonwealth, brought out in Ireland and the Isle of Man during the Restoration, declared uncurrent in 1680, bought up in quantity by the tallow-chandler Mark Newby who shipped them over to the Colony of New-Jersey in 1681, where he had enough political clout to become the Colony's first banker, and to induce the Assembly to declare these coins legal tender.

**master coins** Older term for what were later called proofs.

**master dies** Dies used for raising hubs, which in turn would sink working dies.

**matte proof** A proof given a uniformly granular or dull surface, often by pickling in acid. The technique dates back to about 1896. See Chapter IX.

**Maundy coins** Specially minted silver coins of denominations 1, 2, 3 and 4 Pence, given by the British monarch in annual ceremonies on Maundy Thursday (that just before Easter), to the dozen aged poor men whose feet were ritually washed on that occasion.

**medallic process** Giving a blank multiple impressions from working dies, to bring up high relief details. Routine for medals, necessary for proof coins, but absolutely undesirable for production coins (business strikes).

**medallist** One who makes medals, specifically the designer and/or diecutter.

**"metric gold"** Dr. Wheeler W. Hubbell's alloy: 60/70 gold, 3/70 silver, 7/70 copper, i.e. gold 85.7 fine. Proposed to end the "rivalry" between gold and silver. Not distinguishable from standard gold except by chemical test.

**mint** 1) (n.) Factory where coins are made. 2) (v.) To manufacture coins; to stamp designs on blanks. 3) (adj.) Perfect condition — syn., uncirculated; more often, mint state.

**mintage** 1) Quantity of coins struck of a given type or date. 2) Process of striking coins.

**mint bloom** Pristine surface of a freshly minted or new (uncirculated) coin, produced by cold flow under the dies. Cannot be effectively simulated. Cannot be restored to a coin which has suffered wear.

**moneyer** Old term for a coiner, the man who stamps the designs on blanks to make coins.

**Morgan dollars** Silver dollars (1878-1921) designed by George Morgan, issued pursuant to the Bland Act, a subsidy for silver mine owners.

**mule** 1) (n.) A coin, usually a favor coin or piece de caprice, made from two dies not originally intended to go together, for whimsy or to create a rarity. 2) (v.) To replace one die in a press by another, creating a new combination.

**multiple striking** Visible evidence of the medallic process, q.v., or sometimes evidence of accident whereby an already-struck coin received additional impressions from the dies.

**multiple thaler** Large silver coin, bigger and heavier than a silver dollar, and generally in denomination of 1½, 2, 2½, 3, 4 or 5 thalers of whichever local standard was then in use. Multiple striking was common on these for technical reasons. They were normally a kind of commemoratives (q.v.)

**Murphy's laws** In case anyone reads this after the term has become obsolete, Murphy's laws — first enunciated at Harvard some time after World War II — proclaim the inherent perversity of inanimate objects and experimental animals; they are mostly special instances of the general law "If anything possibly can go wrong, it will; if you think it can't, it probably will anyway." We have

been unable to learn the exact identity of Murphy.

## N

**Nichols Find** A parcel of probably 1,000 cents dated 1796, 1797 and a very few of 1798, struck in winter 1797/98, on blanks obtained from Boulton & Watt per packetboat "Adriana," and brought by Congressman Benjamin Goodhue to his daughters, some being saved until about 1863 when David Nichols, of Gallows Hill, near Salem, Mass., obtained them and began distributing the still bright red uncirculated coins to dealers from Boston to Baltimore. This is the source of over 99% of mint state cents of those dates. The principal varieties were Sheldon 119, 123 and 135, lesser quantities being found of S-104 latest state, 118, 136-7, 154 and possibly a few others.

**nickel-clad** Same as "sandwich metal," thin layers of cupro-nickel (75% copper, 25% nickel) bonded to a core of copper; used on 10¢, 25¢ since 1965, later also on 50¢ and Eisenhower dollars.

**novodel** Replica of an older issue, made at the same mint but from copy dies; distinguished from restrrike, which is made from older dies, generally the original dies or at least one original die and a different partner. The term is Russian and originally denoted such productions made by official mints in Tsarist times for wealthy collectors. I have applied it herein to such items as the half dollars of 1833-4-5 and the dollars of 1801-2-3, made in the 1830's or later from copy dies with beaded borders, using close collars so that edge lettering would be squashed. Ant.: original.

## O

**obverse** Familiarly, the "heads" side of a coin. On U.S. coins not bearing a head, the side bearing the principal device is the obverse; on commemoratives, one has to follow tradition. Ant.: reverse.

**old tenor** Obsolete coinage standard. Old tenor gold is that minted before June 30, 1834, after which the weight and fineness standards changed so that old tenor gold became worth more than face and was returned for melting. Old tenor silver is that minted before April 1853, after which the same thing happened. The antonym, new tenor, is in use only for Colonial paper currency.

**"one-sided proof"** A coin minted by normal proofing process except that the reverse die remained unpolished.

**open collar** Type of collar (q.v.) which served to position the blank on the reverse die, but not to compress it edgewise, so that edge lettering or ornamentation would remain undisturbed. Ant.: close collar, q.v.

**open 3** (1873) Later style of 3, the knobs small and distant. Ant.: closed 3, q.v. Made after the Coiner addressed a formal complaint about the closed 3.

**original** 1) coin made in the year of its design, but of which restrikes (q.v.) might exist; so called to distinguish it from the latter. 2) prototype. Ant.: restrike, novodel.

**original dies** 1) master dies, q.v.; 2) dies made for an original issue. In the former sense, ant.: working dies; in the latter sense, ant.: copy dies.

**original set** Proof set as received from the mint, containing the identical specimens put together at the mint to make up the set. Ant.: assembled set (i.e. assembled by the collector in later years).

**oroide** A brassy alloy used for making costume jewelry.

**overdate** A date in which one digit has been repunched, at the mint, over a different digit, either for reasons of economy or in an attempt to rectify a blunder.

## P

**pattern** Proposed coin design not then adopted.

**pedigree** Sequence of owners of a coin.

**penny** 1/12 shilling = 1/240 pound sterling. Not to be confused with cent.

**piece de caprice** Favor coin, generally of whimsical character, often a mule or simulated series coin. In practice readily recognized as impractical for production coinage.

**piefort** Coin officially made in double or triple thickness — as a favor coin.

**plain edge** Edge without lettering, reeding, or other ornamentation, as our current cents and nickels.

**planchet** Same as blank; disc on which a design is to be stamped to make a coin.

**portrait** Properly, the representation of an individual, as distinct from that of an idealized god(dess) or personification. In some instances, where the effigy of Ms. Liberty actually portrays a then-living individual (Anna Willess Williams, on the Morgan dollar; Teresa Cafarelli, on the Peace dollar; Doris Doscher, on the Liberty Standing quarter), the usage has to be the loser.

**positional varieties** Those differing only in placement of dates and/or mintmarks, in dies otherwise completely hubbed.

**pre-decimal series** Coins issued before adoption of the decimal system; usually Canadian, but could allude to Colonials and to British coins before the recent decimal division of the pound.

**presentation pieces** Coins minted with unusual care, from new dies on carefully selected blanks, intended for presentation to visiting dignitaries or other VIPs, before the process of making proofs was standardized in 1817.

**press** Engine for stamping dies onto blanks, or for hubbing dies.

**pristine** New, never cleaned or handled. Ant.: hairlined, cleaned, etc.

**production coinage** Coins intended for circulation; business strikes; ant.: proofs.

**proof 1** (n.) What this book is all about; special mintage for VIPs or collectors, given multiple impressions to bring up design details better than on production coins (ant., q.v.) and for long minted from burnished dies on burnished blanks. 2) (v., usually in -ing or -ed forms) To impart the special finishes to dies and blanks and/or to give the multiple impressions necessary to make proof coins.

**proofing process** Collectively, the procedures used for making proof coins (q.v.); see Chapter I.

**proof-only issue** A date or type issued with the proof sets or only in proof state, not for circulation; examples — 1873 2¢ and silver 3¢, 1877 nickel 3¢ and 5¢, 1858 silver dollar, 1841 and 1863 quarter eagle, etc.

**proof set** Set of proof coins of one date as issued from the mint.

**punch** 1) (n.) Tool bearing a letter or numeral or ornament in relief, for sinking into a die blank. 2) (v.) To impart a letter, numeral, design element, etc., using such tools.

**punchion** Relief model bearing a major design element such as a portrait or wreath or eagle, intended for sinking into a working die blank.

**Pyx** Receptacle for sample coins from each production run, intended for annual testing by independent assay (the Trial of the Pyx) as proof that no debasement had been done.

**quarter dollar** The 25¢ piece issued since 1796.

**quarter eagle** The \$2.50 gold piece issued 1796-1929.

## R

**rare** Properly, denoting a coin of which only a limited number exist in collectors' hands. Other uses of the term, as on many modern issues which were hoarded by roll and bag speculators, are misnomers.

**rarity scale** Quantitative estimate of population by degrees. That used here is the Sheldon Scale (reproduction by permission):

- R-8 Estimated population 1, 2 or 3
- R-7 Estimated population 4 to 12
- R-6 Estimated population 13 to 30
- R-5 Estimated population 31 to 75
- R-4 Estimated population 76 to 200
- R-3 Estimated population 201 to 500
- R-2 Estimated population 501 to 1250
- R-1 Estimated population over 1250

**receiving basket** Newly struck coins drop into it after ejection from the collar-and-die assembly.

**reducing lathe** Three-dimensional pantograph, the more modern version of which is the Janvier lathe, q.v.

**reduction** The process of mechanically producing an actual-size master die or hub from an enlarged original model by the reducing lathe; or such actual-size die or hub. Normally these require much hand-finishing work before working hubs and working dies are made from them.

**reeded edge** The type of edge found on current dimes, quarters and halves; produced by a grooved close collar since 1828, earlier by Castaing machine. The ribs or grooves on the edge are collectively called reeding.

**relief** Details of a design which stand up above the field, in cameo. The higher the relief, the more force — or the more blows from the dies — necessary to impart them to the finished coin or medal.

**restrike** Generically, a coin minted after the year of its date, not necessarily for fraudulent purposes or as favor coins. Some restrikes were ordered by Congress (the 1879 flowing hair Stellas struck in 1880 after the original group had been given out), a few in the mint's earlier years were due to mint economy, using old dies until they wore out (e.g. certain 1796-dated cents which were made in 1797 or 1798), though most in later years were made for clandestine purposes. Properly, the term restrike denotes a coin from at least one original die used after its date; those from copy dies are more appropriately called novodels, q.v. Ant.: original.

**reverse** The "tails" side of a coin, opposite to the obverse, q.v.

**rim** Boundary between edge (cylindrical surface, thickness) and raised border of a coin.

**rolled blank** Planchet cut from rolled strip, q.v. Ant.: cast blank.

**"Roman Gold" finish** That found on gold proofs 1909-10, almost the same as satin finish, but completely different from either old style brilliant proofs or sandblast proofs.

**"Roman Head"** John Gregory Hancock's satirical Washington cent of 1792, portraying W. as an effeminate, degenerate Roman emperor, in allusion to the President's attack on portrait coinage as "monarchical" and in spiteful revenge for his sabotaging any prospect of contract coinage.

**ROSA AMERICANA** Legend characteristic of William Wood's 1722-23 coinage for the American colonies, which phrase became for coin collectors a name for the issue. The device appears to have been flattery to George I, falsely characterizing

his Hanoverian dynasty as the successor to the Tudor double rose (uniting the White and the Red of the Wars of the Roses, as in certain medalets of Elizabeth I).

## S

**Saint Patrick coins** Same as Mark Newby coins, q.v.

**sandblast proof** Type of matte proof in which the finish was imparted by sand-blasting rather than by pickling in acid.

**sandwich metal** 1) Same as nickel-clad, q.v. 2) Same as silver-clad, q.v., this meaning much less frequently intended. The term is contemptuous.

**satin finish proof** Type of matte proof in which the surfaces have a satiny texture altogether unlike sandblast; details of manufacture unknown. Most familiar — which is not saying much — on Roman Numerals proofs, a few commemoratives, and a couple of the 1921 proof Peace Dollars.

**screw press** Essentially a rotating pile-driver, but used for stamping coins. The lower die is fixed in an anvil, generally by set-screw; blanks are positioned atop it by collar. The upper die is mounted at the end of a column fitted with screw threads, caused to descend rapidly with great force by rotating two weighted arms affixed to the top of the column, the arms attached to ropes pulled by teams of men or horses. Only the smallest presses could be operated by two laborers plus the moneyer. The above description holds regardless of whether automatic feed and/or automatic ejection devices had been installed. Syn.: Coining Engine. Supplanted in more modern mints by the knuckle-action press, which replaces the rotating column by action analogous to that in punch-presses and the types of machinery used for shaping metal parts such as segments of automobile bodies.

**second process** Imparting the upset rim (q.v.) to a planchet.

**seignorage** The difference between face value of a coin and net cost, which latter is reckoned as the sum of bullion value and manufacturing cost.

**set(ting) apart** In modern coining presses, dies are mounted so as to approach each other to within a distance minutely less than the thickness of a finished coin; this process is called setting. Dies set too far apart will not produce a complete impression of the devices, for which reason mint error coins struck on blanks too thin (or intended for smaller and lighter denominations) normally come weak. See set-up trial.

**set-up trial** A piece fed into a press to test whether the dies are set apart to proper distance (thickness of coin). It may be of copper or other nonprecious metal.

**"shift"** popular term for mint error die characterized by two entries from a hub not properly aligned with each other, causing overlapping or double-outlined letters, etc.

**shilling** silver coin, pre-decimal = 12 pence = 24 halfpence = 48 farthings.

**Sheldon scale** The 8-point rarity scale herein used; see Rarity Scale.

**silver-clad** Outer layers of 80% silver bonded to a 21% silver core.

**simulated series coin** Fantasy piece purporting to belong to a date sequence but of a date too early or too late (e.g. 1863-4 motto coins, 1885 Trade Dollar).

**sixpence** Silver coin, pre-decimal = 6 pence = 12 halfpence = 24 farthings.

**SMS** =(1965-67) Special Mint Sets, q.v.

**Special Mint Sets** Substitutes for proofs; allegedly selected production coins.

**specimens** Pre-1850 Philadelphia Mint term for Proofs.

**"squared" borders** Raised borders not rounded on either inner or outer boundaries; common in proofs, though not invariable.

**Stella** Gold coin of \$4 denomination (1879-80, proposed, not accepted).

**stop** Punctuation or separation of words, usually either pellet or colon.

**stria(e)** Line(s), usually straight, in relief on a coin, often in parallel groups or randomly scattered; the parallel ones are sometimes from the buffing wheel used to polish dies.

**strike** 1) (n) Impression of relief detail. A "first strike" is from new dies retaining polish and often simulates proofs. 2) (v.) To stamp the coin design onto a blank.

**striking** 1) Impression or stamping of coins. 2) Impression of relief detail, as in phrase striking quality. 3) Batch of coins struck.

**strip** Long thin metallic ribbons made by rolling out ingots; eventually the roll of strip is many yards long, coiled, and of the thickness of a finished coin. The strip is then sent to the blanking press or blank-cutter to be made into planchets.

**survival ratio** same as Characteristic Ratio, q.v.

## T

**taler** same as thaler, q.v.

**tenor** weight/fineness standard/exchange rate: see old tenor.

**thaler** common name for various European dollar-sized silver coins.

**three-cent silver** same as trime, q.v.

**three-cent nickel** Denomination coined 1865-89 to retire 3¢ fractional notes.

**three-dollar piece** gold denomination coined 1854-1889 to accommodate buyers of sheets of stamps.

**token** Metallic substitute for money, circulating without government sanction.

**toothed border** Border ornamented with dentils, q.v.

**trade dollar** Silver coin heavier than standard dollar (420 grains) intended for use in Chinese ports, coined 1873-85.

**transitional coin** One struck of a design adopted the following year, or combining either die of the subsequent type with a die of the current type. Examples: 1865 silver coins with motto IN GOD WE TRUST; 1882 Liberty head nickels; 1858 Indian head cents with either the adopted rev. of 1857 (corn/cotton wreath) or the rev. to be adopted in 1859 (laurel wreath).

**Trial of the Pyx** Annual testing of coins by the Assay Commission or its ancient equivalent authority, to make sure that no debasement had been committed.

**trial piece** Base metal impression to test general appearance etc. of a die.

**trime** Silver coin of 3¢ denomination, coined 1851-73; name invented by J. R. Snowden.

**truncation** Lower edge of neck or bust of a portrait or personification on a coin.

**turn** To impart roundness by lathe.

**two-cent piece** Bronze coin struck 1864-73.

**type** major subdivision of a design, as 1883 nickels without and with CENTS, 1853 and 1873 coins without or with arrows at date.

## U

**uncirculated** 1) mint state, unworn. Ant.: circulated. 2) business strike, production coin. Ant.: proof.

**underdigit** Digit altered to another at the mint to make an overdate, q.v.

**uniface** With a design on only one side, the other side blank.

**upset reverse** Reverse aligned (q.v.) 180° from normal.

**upset rim** Having rim made thicker than center; said of a second process blank

**upsetting** Compressing a first-process blank edgewise between rollers to make the edge thicker than the center for protective purposes.

## V

**virole brisee** Segmented collar (in 3, 4 or 6 sections), bearing edge letters or ornamentation; at striking, the edge lettering or ornamentation is imparted, the collar segments are retracted and the coin ejected in the usual way. Experiments with such a contrivance were made at the Boulton & Watt mint as early as 1788, but it was not successfully adopted in the Philadelphia mint until 1907, when it was used on the St. Gaudens, eagles and double eagles.

## WXYZ

**warrant** written authorization

**wartime silver alloy** 35% silver, 56% copper, 9% manganese, used for 5¢ pieces 1942-45, chosen because its electrical resistance was the same as that of the cupro-nickel (75% copper, 25% nickel) previously in use, therefore enabling such coins to actuate vending machines rather than being rejected as counterfeit.

**wire edge** same as knife-rim, q.v.

**Wood's coinages** Those made by William Wood of Wolverhampton, from dies hubbed from Tower Mint puncheons, 1722-24, consisting of the ROSA AMERICANA coins for the American colonies, and the HIBERNIA coins for Ireland (qq.v.).

**working die** A die actually intended for stamping blanks to make coins.

**working hub** A hub used for sinking working dies (q.v.)



## SOURCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Class	Full Citation
:		Preceding a number, : means 'lot number'
*		'Proof-only issue,' no business strikes made
[ ]		Bracketed figures mean 'quantity issued'
+		'Plus unknown number of extra impressions'
-		'Less unknown number melted'

### A

A		In "Class" column = Auction (contrast FPL, MBS); elsewhere, = Adams
Adams	gold	Adams, Edgar Holmes, "Official Premium List of U.S. and Territorial Gold Coins," N.Y., Willetts, 1909
Adams		—, "U.S. Store Cards. . .," N.Y., Adams & Raymond, 1920 (rep)
Adams	gold	—, "United States Eagles 1795-1804," "U.S. Half Eagles," unfinished serials in CCI 1934-35. Additional Adams numbers were retrieved from his unpublished notebooks, in ANS and pvt. colls.
Adams, H.S.	A	Adams, Henry S., coll. (Bangs, Merwin & Co.)11/1/1876
Adams-Woodin		Adams, Edgar Holmes, and Woodin, William H., "U.S. Pattern, Trial and Experimental Pieces," NY, ANS, 1913 (reps.)
Agnew	MBS	Agnew, Lee G., coll., Kosoff, 12/9/1952
Allenburger	MBS	Allenburger, Dr. CA., coll., in "A Royal Sale," BMM, 3/23/1948.
"Alto"	A	"Alto" coll., S 12/11/1970
Alvord	A	Alvord, F.R., coll., SHC, 6/9/1924
ANA	A	American Numismatic Association. Meets annually in convention. In a citation like 75ANA:432 read as "1975 ANA Convention Sale, lot 432." ANA auctions used to date for this research include 1941, 42, 46-52, 54, 56-59, 62, 64, 68, 71-76.
ANS		American Numismatic Society, museum and publisher, NYC
ANS 1914		—, "Exhibition of U.S. and Colonial Coins, Jan. 17 — Feb. 18, 1914," N.Y., ANS, 1914
Anthon Part V	A	Anthon, Prof. Charles, coll., Part V., Edward Cogan, Oct. 20, 1884
Arnel	A	Arnel, Robert A., coll., S 1/27/1967
Atkins		Atkins, James, "Coins and Tokens of the Possessions and Colonies of the British Empire," London, B. Quaritch, 1889
Atwater	MBS	Atwater, William Cutler, coll., BMM, 6/11/1946
Austin	A	coll., Hollywood, 5/31/1974
AW		= Adams-Woodin, q.v.

### B

B		= Breen
Bache I, II	A	W. Elliot Woodward auctions, Roxbury, Mass., March and Dec. 1865 ("selections from the Bach(e), Bertsch, Finotti, etc., etc., colls.")
Baldenhofer	A	Baldenhofer, W.G., coll., in Farish-Baldenhofer sale, S 11/11/1955
Bartlett	A	Bartlett, C. Ramsey, coll. S 2/4/1966
Bauman	A	Bauman, Maurice, coll. S12/2/66

Beck I, II, III	A	Beck, Col. John A., estate, part I, QS 1/27/1975; II, QS 2/12/76; III, QS 2/77
Beckwith	A	Beckwith, Dr. Henry, coll., large cents, SHC 4/27/1923
Beistle		Beistle, Martin Luther, "Register of U.S. half dollar die varieties and sub-varieties," Shippensburg, Pa., pvt. ptd., 1929 (rep.)
Bell I	A	Bell, J(acob) F., coll. S 12/7/1944
Bell II	A	—, coll., RARCOA, Chicago, 4/26/1963
Bement	A	Bement, Clarence S., coll., HC 5/29/1916
Black, Dr.	A	Black, Dr. Angus C, estate, <i>in</i> NN61
Bluestone		series of A, MBS, FPL's by Barney Bluestone, Syracuse, N.Y., ca. 1936-48
BMM	MBS	series of MBS by B. Max Mehl, Ft. Worth, Texas, 1908-55
Bolender		Bolender, M.H., "U.S. Early Silver Dollars 1794-1803," Freeport, Ill., the author, 1950 (rep); also a series of A, MBS ca . 1936-56
Bolt, Dr.	A	Bolt, Dr. Conway A., coll., S 4/21/66
Boosel		Boosel, Harry X, 1873-1873, Chicago, Hewitt Bros., 1960
Boyd	A	Boyd, F.C.C, coll.: see WGC and NN50, NN51
Brand		Brand, Virgil, beer tycoon, legendary hoarder; estate (generally called "Brand hoard") privately dispersed ca. 1928-71, some groups via his heirs Armin W. Brand and Horace Louis Philip Brand, others via BMM, B. G. Johnson, Wayte Raymond, Charles E. Green, Art Kelley, Jack Friedberg, New Netherlands, etc.
Brand-Lichtenfels	A	See Lichtenfels
Breen		Breen, Walter, "Dies and Coinage," NY, Robert Bashlow, 1962; rep., Chicago, Hewitt Bros., nd (1968?)
Breen		—, "Early U.S. half eagles 1795-1838," Chicago, Hewitt, 1966
Breen		—, "Major varieties of U.S. gold dollars," Chicago, Hewitt, 1964
Breen		—, "Major varieties of U.S. three-dollar pieces," Chicago, Hewitt, 1965
Breen		—, "The minting process," Beverly Hills, 1970
Breen		—, "Proof coins struck by the Philadelphia mint, 1817-1921," NY, CCJ, Wayte Raymond, 1953
Breen		—, "Secret history of the Gobrecht coinages, 1836-40," NY, CCJ, Wayte Raymond, 1954
Breen		—, "Silver coinages of the Philadelphia mint, 1794-1916," NY, CCJ, Wayte Raymond, 1958
Breen		—, "U.S. eagles 1795-1933," Chicago, Hewitt, (1967)
Breen		—, "U.S. minor coinages 1793-1916," N.Y., CCJ, Wayte Raymond, 1954
Breen		—, "Valentine's U.S. Half Dimes: A Supplement," NY, CCJ, Wayte Raymond, 1958; rep. in Valentine (below, q.v.), Lawrence, Mass., Quarterman, 1975
Breen		—, "Varieties of U.S. half eagles," 1839-1929, Chicago, Hewitt, 1967
Breen		—, "Varieties of U.S. quarter eagles," Chicago, Hewitt, 1964
Breen		—, "New varieties of U.S. Gold Coins," Chicago, Hewitt, nd (1968?)
Breen I	A	Pine Tree Auctions, 3/4/1974 (gold only)
Breen II	A	Pine Tree Auctions, 6/25/1975 (gold only)
Breisland, W.L.	A	colonial coll. <i>in</i> "June sale," S 6/20/73
Bridgman	A	coll. <i>in</i> Boeing, Wilhelm, and Bridgman, A., colls., SH&HC, 11/27/1891
Brobston	FPL	Brobston, Joseph, coll., half cents, S 1/1963.
Brown, H.G.	A	coll., Lyman Low 10/11/1904
Brown, M.A.	A	coll., SH&HC 4/16/1897
Browning		Browning, A.W., "Early quarter dollars of the US, 1796-1838," NY, Wayte Raymond, 1925 [50] (reps.)
Bryant	A	coll., Lyman H. Low, 12/1906
Bryant-Mathey	A	group of colls., S2/2/1973
Bushnell	A	Bushnell, Charles Ira, estate, SH&HC 6/20-24/1882 [400] The collection was actually owned by Lorin G. Parmelee.

## C

Caldwell, Dr.	A	Caldwell, Dr. W. E., half dime coll., <i>in</i> Matt Rothert sale, Hollywood, 11/16/1973
Carabin	MBS	Carabin, Joseph F., Kosoff 3/25/1957
Cass	A	(Cass, Charles A.) Coll., as "Empire" sale, S 11/12/1957

CC		mintmark of Carson City mint, 1870-85, 1889-93
CCJ		<i>Coin Collector's Journal</i> , NY, Wayte Raymond, 1934-58
"Century"	A	name of CSNS sale, New York, 4/30/1965
Champa	A	Champa, Armand, coll., Hollywood, 5/19/1972
Chapman		Samuel Hudson Chapman (SHC) and Henry Chapman (HC), brothers, jointly conducted auctions (as SH&HC), Philadelphia 1879-1906, separately thereafter.
	A	Their own colls, sold 1879 and (herein) 5/14-15/1885.
Chase	A	Chase, Frank A., coll., S 12/6/1958
Chubbuck	A	Chubbuck, S.W., coll., Haseltine, 2/25/1873
"Cicero"	A	Coll., gold, in NN55
Clapp		Clapp, George H., ALCOA founder-president, conchologist, large cent specialist; coll. willed to ANS, mostly still there.
Clapp		Clapp, John H., variety coll. of U.S. gold, silver, copper, sold intact to Louis Eliasberg (via S, 1942), still intact as of April 1976 save for few duplicates sold in "H. R. Lee" (q.v.) and NN49; Clapp variety numbers are from his unpublished notebooks.
Clarke, E.Y.	A	Clarke, Dr. E. Yale, coll., S 10/25/1975
Clarke, T.J.	A	Clarke, T.J., cardboard box tycoon, coll. sold piecemeal; cents privately via Calif. Specialist, dups. with others A via Kosoff 4/27/1956, some silver and gold in NN47, NN48.
Clemens	A	Clemens, James B., coll., E. Cogan, 10/22/1878
Cleneay	A	Cleneay, Thomas, coll., SH&HC, 12/9/1890
Cohen, Col.	A	Cohen, Col. Mendes I., coll., E. Cogan, 10/25/1875. He also owned the original keg of Virginia halfpennies ("Cohen hoard"), gradually dispersed 1861-1929.
Comparette		(Comparette, Dr. Thomas Louis, compiler) U.S. Mint, "Catalogue of coins, tokens and medals in the numismatic collection of the U.S. at Philadelphia," Washington, GPO, 1912, 13, 14. The 1914 edition is the most comprehensive.
Copeland	A	Copeland, Bernard, coll., S 4/27/1967
Cox, R.E.	A	Coll., half dollars, in 1962 N.Y. Metro. Convention sale, S 4/26/1962
Crawford	A	coll., Steigerwalt, Lancaster, Pa., 5/13/1894
Crosby		Crosby, Sylvester Sage, "The early coins of America . . .," Boston, the author, 1875, reps.
Crosby		—, "The U.S. coinage of 1793, cents and half cents . . .," Boston, pvt. ptd., 1897 (rep. from <i>Amer. Jour. of Numis.</i> , 1896); reps.
Crosby	A	—, coll., Haseltine, Philadelphia, 6/27/1883
CSNA		Cal. State Numismatic Association. Meets annually in convention; auctions often cited by name
CSNS		Central States Numismatic Society, same comment
Curtis, Col.	MBS	Curtis, Col. James W., coll., Kosoff, 2/28/1950

## D

D		mintmark of Denver mint, 1906—, and of Dahlenega mint 1838-61
Dalton & Hamer		Dalton, R., and Hamer, S. H., "English provincial token-coinage," London, 1910, rep. in 1 vol., Boston, Quarterman, 1967
Davis	A	Davis, Robert Coulton (druggist who kept the mint people supplied with laudanum etc. for decades; author of original series on which AW and Judd books were based); coll., NY Coin & Stamp Co. (= David Proskey and Harlan P. Smith), 1/20-24/1890.
Davis-Graves	A	Davis, George L., and Graves, H.P., colls., incl. some material from R. Coulton Davis estate and Haseltine Type Table colls., S 4/8/1954, cat. partly by C. Douglas Smith.
Delp	A	Delp, Winner F., coll., S 11/17/1972
"Delta"	A	coll., S 9/23/1961
D&H		= Dalton & Hamer, above
DiBello	A	DiBello, Gaston, coll., part II, S 5/14/1970
Dines	A	Dines, James, coll., S 3/7/1969

Director's Circular		(Director) U.S. Mint, "Circular letter in relation to American medals and cabinet coins, July 1, 1867," Philadelphia, 1867
Director's Reports		Annual Reports of the Director of the Mint of the U.S., 1795 — present year (title varies). Philadelphia and later Washington, GPO.
D.N.		See Nelson
Downing	A	Downing, Homer K., estate, large cents, <i>in</i> 1952 ANA convention sale
Dunham	MBS	Dunham, William Forrester, coll., BMM, 6/3/1941
"Dupont"	A	"Anderson Dupont" coll. (a Massachusetts widow: the names were those of Charles Anderson and Charles Dupont, intermediaries), S (2 parts) large cents 9/24/1954, others 11/11/1954, cats, partly by Dr. Sheldon and me.
"Durham"	A	"Durham" coll., Superior, 5/21/1973

## E

EAC 75	A	Early American Coppers convention sale, NY, Pine Tree, Feb. 15, 1975, cat. partly by me
Earle	A	Earle, George H., coll. HC 6/25/1912
"Eavenson"	A	Eavenson, George, coll., SH&HC 4/16/1903; relevant material ex unnamed mint official (Patterson DuBois?).
Eckfeldt & DuBois		Eckfeldt, Jacob Reese, and DuBois, William Ewing, "A manual of gold and silver coins of all nations . . .," Philadelphia 1842
Eckfeldt & DuBois		——— & ———, "Pledges of history," Philadelphia, 1846
Eckfeldt & DuBois		——— & ———, "New varieties of gold and silver coins. . . ." Philadelphia 1850, rev. eds., NY, Putnam, 1851, 52
Eliasberg		Eliasberg, Louis, coll., on exhibit at Philadelphia Mint on loan from Finance Co. of America (Baltimore); mostly ex John H. Clapp, above: see Clapp, "Lee," NN49
Ellsworth		Ellsworth, Col. James W., coll., privately sold via Wayte Raymond, 1923-26
Ely	A	Ely, Heman, coll., Woodward, 1/8/1884
"Empire"	A	see Cass
ESC		Seaby, <i>English Silver Coins</i> , London, Seaby's, var. eds.
Essex Inst.	A	Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., coll., S 2/6/1975
Ewalt	A	Ewalt, George Sealy, coll., S 10/22/1965

## F

"Fairbanks"	A	"Fairbanks" (Alaska) coll., S 12/10/1960
Farouk	MBS	King of Egypt, duplicates, in BMM 3/23/1948 "Royal Sale"
Farouk	A	"Palace Collections of Egypt," expropriated by Nasser government; Sotheby's, sold in Cairo 2/24/1954
Fewsmith	A	Fewsmith, William, coll., Leavitt, Strebeigh, 10/4/1870
Finotti	A	Finotti, Rev. Joseph, coll. Woodward, 11/11/1862
Flanagan	A	Flanagan, Col. James A., coll., S 3/23/1944
Forrest, S.S.	A	coll., S 9/15/1972
FPL		Fixed Price List
Frank, B.	A	coll., S 11/23/1956
Freeman	A	Freeman, Samuel W., coll., KS 5/23/1958
French	MBS	French, Dr. George P. ("the jolly abortionist" — Dr. Sheldon), dups., piecemeal, Bluestone, various dates in 1930's.
French	FPL	— Large cent coll., BMM, 1929. Many of the coins did not sell then and were reoffered in later Mehl MBS's in the 1930's.
Frey & Frossard		Frey, Albert R., and Frossard, Edouard, "The copper coins of the U.S., being the actual prices realized for coin at auction during 1900-01," NY, Ed. Frossard, 111 E. 14, Nov. 1901 (i.e. Boston, W.T.R. Marvin, printer).
Frossard		Frossard, Edouard, "Monograph of U.S. cents and half cents . . .," Irvington-on-Hudson (NY), the author, 1879. [300] Based on the Merritt coll., with some coins illus. from the Parmelee coll.
Frothingham	A	coll., Haseltine? 5/29/1883
Friesner	A	Friesner, William, coll., Frossard, 6/7/1894
F.U.N.	A	(Florida United Numismatists) convention sale, RARCOA, 1/4/1973

Futter A Futter, Oliver Eaton, coll., S 5/25/1957

## G

Gable A Gable, William F., coll., SHC 5/27/1914  
Gardner A Gardner, Eugene, coll., in Stadiem-Gardner sale, S 2/4/1965  
Garrett A Garrett, John Work, coll., partly privately sold, partly in S 3/12-13/1976, remainder still in Evergreen House, Johns Hopkins Univ., Baltimore, Md.  
Gaskill A (Gaskill, Judge Thomas L.) coll. sold piecemeal: quarter eagles in NN48, cents in NN50, 51  
Gaylord A Gaylord, Emerson, coll., Boston, Mayflower, 5/18/1963  
Geiss MBS Geiss, Frederic W., coll., BMM, 2/18/1947  
GENA = Great Eastern Numismatic Assoc, Phila. & NY  
73GENA &c. A —, annual auctions by Pine Tree, 1973, 74, 75 . . .  
Gilbert A Gilbert, coll., in S 2/5/1971  
Gilbert Gilbert, Ebenezer, "U.S. half cents," NY, Elder, 1916 (reps.)  
Gilhousen A Gilhousen, Clarke E., et al., gold, coll., L.A., Superior, Feb. 19, 1973  
"Gilhousen" A —et al. (largely Dr. Charles L. Ruby), coll., silver and copper, Superior, 10/1/1973  
Golden I A "Golden Sale of the Century," part I, KS 3/21/1962  
Golden II A —, part II, KS 1/1963  
"Golden Jubilee" MBS BMM sale (Jerome Kern et al.), 5/23/1950  
Golding A Golding, David, coll., S 6/20/1952  
Granberg MBS Granberg, H.O., coll. sold piecemeal, part through Wm. H. Woodin who turned over dups, to Wayte Raymond and others, part in BMM 25th, 7/14/1913, part in BMM 54th, 1919, many in "Coll. of a Prominent American," 5/19-21/1915.  
Grant Pierce A Grant Pierce & Sons, coll., S 5/6/1965  
Green, B.G. Green, Benjamin G., "Numismatic Reference and Check List," Chicago, 1902, other eds.  
Green, Dr. MBS Green, Dr. Charles W., coll., BMM 4/29/1949  
Green, C.E. Green, Charles Elmore, Mint record and type table, Chicago, Swift, 1936 (rep.)  
Green, Col. Green, Col. Edward H. R. (son of Hetty Green, the "Witch of Wall St."), hoarder of the Virgil Brand persuasion, owner of much of the Waldo Newcomer estate; his vast holdings sold privately via B. G. Johnson, Wayte Raymond, others; half eagle variety coll. dispersed privately by S. (1942-44). Material from his estate in many later A, MBS.  
Greenwood MBS Greenwood, Lester, coll., Coin Galleries 8/1956  
"Groves" A "Groves, Donald," coll. S. 11/12/1974  
Guggenheimer A Guggenheimer, F. S., coll., S 1/22/1953  
Guidebook Yeoman, Richard S., et al., "A guidebook of U.S. coins," Racine, Whitman/Western, many eds., also called "Redbook"

## H

H Haseltine variety numbers, ex Haseltine Type Table, q.v.  
Haines, B. A Haines, Benjamin, coll., cat. by Wm. H. Strobridge and Edward Cogan (Bangs, Merwin), 1/29/1863  
Hall, G.H. A Hall, George H., coll., S 5/15/1945  
Hall, Standish MBS coll., dispersed piecemeal in Hollinbeck-Kagin sales ca. 1944-46  
Hall, Dr. Hall, Dr. Thomas, coll., sold privately about 1909 to Virgil Brand, q.v. He was author of an early text on Connecticut state coinage (1892).  
Harvin, T.K. A Harvin, T.K., coll., S 6/19/1959  
Haseltine Haseltine, Capt. John W., son-in-law of William Idler, intermediary for many coins Idler obtained clandestinely from mint personnel ca. 1870-1909; father-in-law of Stephen K. Nagy; first employer of the Chapman brothers; held many Philadelphia auctions. Reference numbers are to following.  
Haseltine A Haseltine Type Table coll., 11/28/1881 (reps.); the variety collections (silver) and descriptions came from J. Colvin Randall, without benefit of credit line, which is doubtless why Randall's later material went via Cogan and Woodward.

- Hawn, Reed A Hawn, Reed, coll., S 8/28/1973  
 Heaton Augustus G., "Mint Marks," i.e. "A treatise on the coinage of the U.S. branch mints," Washington, 1893. This one book created the modern collector interest in the subject, inspiring Wayte Raymond to amass quantities of mintmarked coins to supply dealers, and to include spaces for each mintmark variety in his album pages.
- Heim A Heim, Russell C, coll., S 6/15/1972  
 Helfenstein A Helfenstein, Louis, coll., LM 8/14/1964 (large cents), cat. by me, rewritten by C. Douglas Smith
- Henderson A "Sheraton Coll." (i.e. Ernest Henderson, hotel tycoon), in 1947 ANA. Large cents. Many of his coins had come from Dr. Sheldon.
- Herstal A Herstal, Stanislaw, coll., Hollywood, 2/7/1974  
 Hines Henry Clay, coll., large cents, sold piecemeal after World War II: major block to Dr. Sheldon, who turned over the late dates to Philadelphia Estate, others via various Bluestone MBS, still others to Hines's housekeeper, from whom Downing and a few other collectors bought them.
- Hirt A Hirt, David, coll., Pine Tree 1975, partly in 75 GENA, 11/20/75  
 Holland A Holland, Leonard, estate, Pennypacker Auctions, Kenhorst, near Reading, Pa., May 1959
- Holmes A Holmes, Milton, coll., S 10/5/1960  
 Hussey A "Old North Carolina Coll.," i.e. Frank Hussey, large cents, in NN54  
 Hydeman A Hydeman, Edwin, coll., 1961 NASC, Kosoff, 3/3/1961

## I

- "Ill. Hist." FPL "Illustrated History of U.S. Coins," i.e. Dr. J. Hewitt Judd coll., Kosoff, Encino, 1962

## J

- Jackman A Jackman, Allison W., coll., HC 6/28/1918  
 Jackson A Jackson, Malcolm, coll., U.S. Coin Co., i.e. Wayte Raymond, May 20, 1913  
 Jay A Jay, Charles, coll., S 10/27/1967  
 Jenks, A.S. A coll., E. Cogan sale, 4/12-13/1877  
 Jenks, J.S. A Jenks, John Story, coll., HC 12/7-17/1921 (rep.)  
 Jenks, W.J. A Jenks, Wm. J., coll., piecemeal in sales by W. Elliot Woodward; the installment herein used was sold 6/25/1883
- Jewett A Jewett, Henry L, coll., SHC 6/21-23/1909  
 JHU Johns Hopkins University, where the Garrett coll. is still partly impounded  
 Johnson A coll., in S 1/30/1958  
 Johnson, B.G. A Johnson, Burdette G., St. Louis dealer who handled much of the V. Brand and Col. Green estates in the 1940's; part of his estate was included in the Schulman sale of 4/26/1951.
- Jones Jones, George F., "Coin Collector's Manual . . .," 1860  
 Judd Judd, Dr. J. Hewitt, "U.S. Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces," Racine, Whitman /Western, var. eds.; based in part on the researches of William Guild and the present writer, the 4th ed. totally revised by me, the 5th ed. simply repriced.
- Judd, Dr. FPL (Judd, Dr. J. Hewitt) i.e. "Ill. History of U.S. Coins," Encino, Kosoff, 1962.  
 Julian Julian, Robert W., "Notes on U.S. Proof Coinage: Silver and Minor," NSM 3/66:513-517

## K

- Kagin MBS Hollinbeck-Kagin Coin Co., Des Moines, Iowa, series of numbered MBS's, 1940's to present day; cited so: Kagin 69:268 = Kagin 69th MBS, lot 268.  
 Kern MBS Jerome Kern (the composer), coll., in BMM "Golden Jubilee Sale," q.v.  
 Kosoff Kosoff, Abe, "U.S. Dimes," rep. from WGC (q.v.); also a number of A and MBS, 1943-68, mostly cited either by collector's name or convention; 1943-54 with Abner Kreisberg as "Numismatic Gallery," last ones as "Numismatic Enterprises."

KS A Kreisberg, Abner, and Schulman, Hans Moritz Friedrich, with Cohen, Jerry, series of annual A at Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, NYC, 1957-67, often called "Waldorf Sales," herein identified by date or title.

## L

Lahrman A Lahrman, Lee G., coll., Kosoff 2/1/1963  
 Landau A Landau, Elliot, coll., in NN52, Dec. 1958.  
 "Lee" A "H.R.Lee" coll., *i.e.* Louis Eliasberg duplicates, in S 10/2/1947.  
 Levick A Levick, Joseph N.T. coll., piecemeal; part herein cited = W. Elliot Woodward 5th (parts of Levick, Ilesley, Emery, Abbey colls.), 10/18-22/1864.  
 Lichtenfels I A Lichtenfels, Gustav, coll., in KS 2/61  
 Lichtenfels II A Lichtenfels, Gustav, coll., in KS 3/18/64.  
 Linderman A Linderman, Henry A., restrike supervisor, at one time Director of Mint, later Superintendent of Philadelphia Mint, died while under investigation of charges of malfeasance and corruption, coll. sold by Scott & Co. (= J.W. Scott and David Proskey, 146 Fulton St., NY), 2/28/1888.  
 LM A Lester Merkin, auctions, cited by date (except for 8/14/1964, which is cited as Helfenstein, above): 11/65, 4/66, 10/66, 3/15/1967, 9/20/1967, 3/68, 6/68, 9/18/68, Nov. 1968, April 1969, Oct. 1969, April 1970, others through Sept. 1974, cats, largely by me through 1972.  
 Lohr A Lohr, Major Lenox R., coll., S 10/24/1956; part privately sold.  
 Lohr A —, coll., *in* 1958 ANA Convention sale  
 Long A coll., double eagles, *in* Bryant-Mathey, S 2/2/1973  
 Lyman A Lyman, J.P., coll., SHC 11/7/1913

## M

McCoy A McCoy, John F., coll. W. Elliot Woodward (G.A. Leavitt), 5/17/1864  
 MacKenzie A MacKenzie, Mortimer Livingston, coll., E. Cogan 6/23/1869  
 MacMurray A coll., *in* "Crosby-Mayfield-MacMurray", sale, S 1/30/1958  
 McPherson A McPherson, R.T., coll., S 2/1953  
 Manning MBS Manning, J. L., coll., BMM 5/17/1921  
 Maris A Maris, Dr. Edward, coll., Philadelphia, catalogued by himself but falsely credited to H. P. Smith on cover (Stanislaus V. Henkels auction house), 6/21/1886  
 Marks A Marks, Robert, coll., Hollywood, Nov. 1972  
 Mason Williams A Mason Williams, coll., S 11/6/1947  
 Mass. Hist. Society A A Boston institution, repository of remains of William Sumner Appleton estate. See MHS  
 MBS Mail Bid Sale  
 Melish A Melish, Thomas G., coll., *in* Kosoff 4/27/1956 sale, which included material from Ryder, Hester, Williams and other collections.  
 "Memorable" A "A Memorable Sale of U.S. & Territorial Gold Coins," Kosoff, 3/1/1948. (J.F. Bell)  
 Menjou I A Menjou, Adolphe, coll., Kosoff 6/15/1950 (part of the coins in this sale belonged to Charles M. Williams — the Cincinnati executive, not the fantasy author)  
 Menjou II A —, coll., KS 1/25/1957  
 Merkin, Lester A see LM above  
 MHS I A Mass. Historical Society, part of coll., S 10/23/1970  
 MHS II A —, part of coll., S 3/29/1973  
 Mickley A Mickley, Joseph J., "Father of American Coin Collecting," coll., W. Elliot Woodward, 10/28/1867  
 Miles I A Miles, R.L., Jr., coll., gold, S 10/25/1968  
 Miles II A —, coll., silver and copper, S 4/10/1969  
 Miller A Miller, Henry Clay, cent coll., Elder, 4/13/1917; others, Elder, 5/26/1920  
 Mills A Mills, John G., coll., SH&HC, 4/27/1904  
 Mint Cab. Accts. A "Mint Cabinet Accounts & Memoranda 1857-1904," ms. vol. kept by successive Curators, now with the Dept. of Numismatics, Smithsonian Institution.

Montgomery	A	Montgomery, Dr. D.C., coll., Hollywood, 2/20/1976
Morgan		Morgan, J. Pierpont, bequest to ANS
Morgan	A	Morgan, William Festus, cent coll., Morgenthau, 6/16/1932
Morgenthau, J.C.	A	N.Y. auction house, held over 460 sales in the 1930's and 40's, mostly catalogued by Wayte Raymond and James G. MacAllister; cited numerically and by date.
"Morton, Elizabeth"	A	coll., Pine Tree, 10/18/1975, cat. by me.
Mougey	A	Mougey, Peter, coll., Elder, 9/1/1910
Mull, R.H.	A	owner of 1804 dollar: see Parke-Bernet Galleries sale, 5/11/1950
Murdoch	A	Murdoch, John G., coll., Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, 7/30/1903

## N

Neil	MBS	Neil, Will W., coll. BMM 6/17/1947
Nelson, Dorothy		bid in various NY auctions under D.N. initials on behalf of unnamed owner of the "TAD" coll., q.v.
Nelson, P.		Nelson, Philip, "The Coinage of William Wood," Brighton, W. C. Weight, 1903; "The coinage of William Wood for the American Colonies. . .," 1905 (ANA rep. 1962)
Neumoyer	A	coll., "The History of Money," S 5/4/1960
Newcomb		Newcomb, Howard Rounds, "The U.S. copper cents of the years 1816-1857," NY, Num. Review (i.e. S), 1944, reps.
Newcomb I	A	—, coll., early large cents and other U.S. coins, Morgenthau (cat. by Raymond and MacAllister), 458th sale, Feb. 7-8, 1945
Newcomb II	A	—, coll., cents 1816-1857, <i>ibid.</i> , 461st sale, May 16, 1945. (Entirety bought as one lot by Floyd Starr, now Philadelphia Estate.)
Newcomer		Newcomer, Waldo C, died by suicide 1933, his coll. privately sold over ensuing decade, large blocks going to F. C. C. Boyd and BMM, others to Col. Green (qq.v.), others dispersed by Wayte Raymond, a few segments at auction. Newcomer reference numbers on gold and other coins come from unpublished inventory compiled ca. 1926 by BMM.
Newlin		Newlin, Harold P., "A classification of the early half dimes of the U.S.," Philadelphia, J.W. Haseltine, 1883 [100] (reps.)
Newlin	A	—, coll., Haseltine, 4/10/1883. Many of the early half dimes went to Garrett, now in JHU.
Newman		Newman, Eric P., "Coinage for colonial Virginia," NY, ANS, NNM #135, 1956
Newman-Bressett		—, and Bressett, Kenneth E., "The fantastic 1804 dollar," Racine, Whitman, 1962. Absolutely fundamental for students of U.S. proofs, coinmaking techniques, etc.
New Netherlands	A	see NN below
Nicholson Family	A	coll., S 6/2/1967
NN	A	Series of auctions by New Netherlands Coin Co., originally Moritz Wormser, later Charles M. Wormser; cats. 33-37 mostly by John J. Ford Jr., 38 = 1952 ANA by diverse hands including Ford and this writer, 39-56 by Ford and this writer, 57 by Ford and Taxay, 58 by Ford, 59 by Ford and Jon Hanson, later ones by diverse hands including all those named above. Citations are as follows :NN48:162 is to be read as NN 48th sale, lot 162. The following NN sales are separately listed under collectors' names: Downing (38), Ryder (41, 44), T. James Clarke (47, 48), Gaskill (48, 50, 51), Boyd (50,51), Landau (52), Straus estate (53), Hussey (54), "Cicero" (55), Roebbling (59), Dr. Black (61).
NNM		= Numismatic Notes & Monographs, ANS series ca. 1921 — present day
NMS		= Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine, 1935-1975, Chicago, Hewitt Bros., etc.
Num. Review		Numismatic Review, irregular publication, 16 numbers, ed. Thomas Ollive Mabbott, NY, S, 1943-47
NY/NJ	A	New York/New Jersey Auctions (Thomas J. Wass and R. McAusland), March 13, 1959, others

## O

O		mintmark of New Orleans mint, 1838-61, 1879-1909
Olsen	MBS	Olsen, Fred E., coll., BMM 11/7/1944



Overton Overton, Al C, "Early Half Dollar Die Varieties, 1794-1836," 2nd ed., Colorado Springs, the author, 1970. Now out of print and scarce; do not use the first edition as the book had to be totally rewritten to incorporate the researches of John Cobb, who should have had coauthorship credit. Replaces Beistle and the Haseltine type table variety descriptions.

## P

P Peck, C. Wilson, "English copper, tin and bronze coins in the British Museum 1558-1958," London: Trustees of the BM, 1960, two editions

Parmelee A Parmelee, Lorin G., coll., N.Y. Coin & Stamp Co. (i.e. David Proskey and Harlan P. Smith), 6/25/1890 (rep.) Parmelee had earlier bought the George F. Seavey, J. Carson Brevoort, and Charles Ira Bushnell colls, intact, allowing duplicates to be sold in 1873, 1876 and 1882.

Parsons A Parsons, George M., coll., HC, 6/24/1914

Patten A Patten, Charles H., coll., S 5/23/1973

Pearl FPL Pearl, Oscar J., coll., large cents, Kosoff, 1944

Pelletreau A Pelletreau, Robert H., coll., S 3/6/1959

Petry A Petry, Nicholas, coll., SH&HC 5/10/1893

Pierce, C. David A coll., in 1947 ANA; other material in various Kagin MBS ca. 1944-46 or later

Pierce, Grant A see Grant

Pine Tree A Series of auctions by Pine Tree Co., partly owned subsidiary of FCI, Albertson, NY, 1973 —. The following sales are listed separately by name or title: GENA (1973, 74, 75), Breen I and II, "Promised Lands," "Morton," Hirt, EAC 1975. Catalogues by this writer, Jack Collins, and others.

Powers A Powers, George A., coll., S 12/12/1959

PNG 10/65 A Prof. Numismatists Guild auction, gold coins, Kosoff, Oct. 13, 1965

"Promised Lands" A auction, American Colonial and Israeli material, Pine Tree, 4/30/74

## Q

QS 9/73 (etc.) A Series of auctions by "Quality Sales", i.e. Jerry Cohen and Abner Kreisberg, Beverly Hills, 1973 —. See also Beck. Cats, partly by Jack Collins.

## R

R = Rarity scale level; see Rarity Scale in Glossary

Randall 1882 A Randall, J. Colvin, part of coll., Cogan 3/29/1882

Randall 1885 A —, Woodward, 6/29/1885, 9/15/85

Rawls A Rawls, James C, coll., S 6/12/1970

Raymond Raymond, Wayte, one of few dealers meriting title of Professional Numismatist; founder, compiler, editor of Standard Catalogue (q.v.), inventor of coin albums, amasser of stock for dealers to service retail customers for date-mintmark series of US coins, sponsor and publisher of major research in CCJ and in book form 1925-56; cataloguer of Morgenthau auctions (with James G. MacAllister) during 1930's and 40's; owner of the Ryder coll.

Reakirt MBS Reakirt, Lt. Jay P., consignator of remnants of the Mickley coll. (q.v.), bought then by one of his ancestors (Reichardt); coll., Columbus (Ga.) Stamp & Coin Co., 1962.

Redbook = Guidebook, q.v.

Reed Hawn A see Hawn

"Regal" A "Regal" coll., S 5/25/1956

Reimers A Reimers, A., coll., HC 7/25/1922

Renz MBS Renz, Russell H., coll., in BMM 3/23/1948 ("Royal Sale")

rep(s) = reprint(s)

"Rio Rancho" A coll., Superior, 10/15/1974 gold coins

Rise A Rise, Wilson S., coll., S 9/30/1966

Roach MBS Roach, Belden E., BMM 2/4/1944

Roe MBS Roe, Jack, coll., in BMM Waltman-Roe-Ryan sale, 6/12/1945

Roebing A coll., large cents and half cents, in NN59

Rothert	A	Rothert, Matt, et al., coll., Hollywood, 11/16/1973
Ruby I	A	Ruby, Dr. Charles L., part of coll., Superior, 2/11/1974 (many of his silver coins earlier sold in "Gilhousen"), cat. partly by this writer, as was "Gilhousen"
Ruby III	A	—, further part of coll., ib., 2/10/1975
Ryan	MBS	Ryan, Maurice, coll., <i>in</i> Waltman-Roe-Ryan sale, BMM, 6/12/1945

## S

S		When suffix to a date, mintmark of San Francisco mint, 1854-1955, 1968—
S	A	= Stack's, NY auction firm. Many sales filed under collector's names.
Saint Oswald	A	Saint Oswald, Major the Lord, estate, Christie, Manson & Woods, London, 10/13/1964
Sampson	A	Sampson, H.G., coll., 6/25/1883
Sanford	A	Sanford, E.H., coll., Cogan, 11/27/1874
Sawicki	A	Sawicki, Judge Joseph, coll. large cents, S 2/27/1954
Sawicki	A	—, large cents, in 1964 ANA, cited as 64 ANA
Scanlon	A	Scanlon, George, coll., S 10/24/1973
Schmandt	A	Schmandt, J.W., coll., S 2/1/57
Schwartz	A	Schwartz, Edward, coll., with additions from the Ray Gallo, Homer K. Downing, Emanuel Taylor, etc., coll., large cents, Kosoff, 10/11/1961
Scott		"Scott's Catalogue & Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins," ed. Rose and Hazeltorn (revised from Taxay's Comprehensive, q.v.), N.Y., Scott Pubs., 1976
Seaby		Seaby, H.A., <i>et al.</i> , "English Silver Coins" (see ESC)
Seavey	A	Seavey, George F., part of coll. sold 1863 after Lorin G. Parmelee had bought him out; a descriptive catalogue (not FPL nor MBS) appeared in 1873.
Shapero	A	Shapero, Nate S., coll., S 10/22/71
Sheldon		Sheldon, Dr. William Herbert, constitutional psychologist, creator of science of cent values (rarity, condition scales, basal value theory), in his book "Early American Cents...", N.Y., Harper, 1949 [2500] and its revision "Penny Whimsy," N.Y., Harper, 1958 [2500] (reps.). His first collection went in S 10/15/1938; later, he bought much of the Hines coll., eventually turning over the late dates (including the proofs) to Phila. Estate.
Showers	FPL	Showers, Philip M., half cents, coll. sold en bloc privately, early 1970's, currently reoffered. I have not yet seen the list though I knew the coll. before its initial sale; references herein are to it as of about 1959.
Shuford	A	Shuford, Alex, coll., Kosoff, 5/14/1968
SI		= Smithsonian Institution, repository of Mint coll. and of Josiah K. Lilly bequest, among others.
Sisson	A	Sisson, W.S., coll., in HC 4/12/1916
Skipton		Skipton, Amy C, "One fatt calfe. . .," New Rochelle, NY, New Rochelle Commemorative Coin Commission, 1939. [200]
Slabaugh		Slabaugh, Arlie, "U.S. Commemorative Coins," Racine, Whitman, 1962, rev. ed. 1976
Sleicher	A	coll., large cents, SHC 10/1919
Slife	A	Slife, Wayne G., coll., large cents, <i>in</i> LM 10/1972; cat. by this writer.
Sloss, Dr.	A	Sloss, Dr. James O., coll., piecemeal, cents to Calif. Specialist, dups, <i>in</i> Kosoff 10/21/1959
Smith, Clifford	A	Smith, Dr. Clifford P. and sons, coll., S 5/6/1955
Smith, H.P.	A	Smith, Harlan P., coll., SH&HC 5/8/1906. He had earlier been David Proskey's partner in the N.Y. Coin & Stamp Co. This auction caused a split between the Chapman brothers.
Smith, Nate	A	Smith, Nate, coll., S 3/2/1973
Smith, T.L.	A	Smith, Thomas L., estate, S 6/15/1957
"South, J.H."	A	coll., S 5/25/1951, quarter dollars
Spence, Dr.	A	Spence, Dr. David, coll., colonials, S 3/1975, with "an important collection of half cents" (same owner as the TAD large cents: see Nelson)
Speir sale	A	25c coll. <i>in</i> Speir, H. Philip, et al., S 3/8/74
Stack, James A.	A	Stack, James Aloysius, estate, in process of piecemeal sale: quarters, halves, S 3/1975
Stack's		see S

Stadiem	A	Stadiem, Dr. Moser Lyons, coll., gold coins, with Eugene Gardner coll., S (as Stadiem-Gardner) 2/4/1965
Standard Catalogue		Wayte Raymond (compiler, editor, publisher), "Standard Catalogue of U.S. Coins." 18 eds., 1934-1957, of which the most useful are the 1940-42 and 1957 eds., former because of listings of patterns and NY merchants' tokens, the last-named because of historical introductions. Directly ancestral to the Guidebook and the Scott-Taxay catalogues.
Steckler	A	Steckler, S. G. estate, S 9/13/1974
Sternberg	A	Sternberg, Frank A., coll., Morgenthau, April 7, 1933
Sternberg	MBS	—, coll., Bolender, March 2, 1956
Stewart	A	Stewart, Arthur B., coll., S 5/4/1972
Stickney	A	Stickney, Matthew Adams, coll., HC, 6/25/1907
St. Oswald	A	see Saint Oswald
Straus	A	Straus, Philip G., estate, part in NN53
Straus	A	—, estate, part in S 5/2/1959 (N.Y. Metropolitan sale)

## T

TAD	A	Name given as Tad in auctions, possibly initialed; coll., half cents, see Dr. Spence; coll., large cents, S 2/4/1976. See Nelson, Dorothy.
Tanenbaum	A	Tanenbaum, S.A., coll., gold, <i>in</i> S 1/30/1958
Taxay		Taxay, Don, "Counterfeit, Misstruck and Unofficial U.S. coins," NY, Arco, 1963
Taxay		—, "U.S. Mint and Coinage," NY, Arco, 1966. The definitive history.
Taxay		—, "Scott's Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins," Scott Pubs., 1971; for rev. ed., see Scott.; information largely from me.
Taylor-Windle	A	colls., HC June 17, 1908
Ten Eyck	MBS	Ten Eyck, James, estate, BMM 5/2/1922
"Terrell"	A	colls., Hollywood, 5/18/1973
Todd	A	Todd, Bruce, coll., dollars, <i>in</i> FUN 1973 (RARCOA)

## U

Ullmer	A	Ullmer, Theodore, coll., proof gold coins, <i>in</i> S 5/23/1974
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## V

Valentine		Valentine, Dr. Daniel Webster, "The U.S. Half Dimes," orig. ed., ANS, NN&M, #48, NY, ANS, 1931; reprint with many additions, Lawrence, Mass., Quarterman Pubs., 1975. This latter edition includes the Breen supplement, the Neil 1927 serial, descriptions and illustrations of important new varieties, etc.
Van Allen-Mallis		Van Allen, Leroy C, and Mallis, A. George, "Morgan & Peace Dollar Varieties," orig. ed., (Baltimore) 1971; rev. ed., "Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Morgan and Peace Dollars," NY, FCI/Arco, 1976
Van Roden	A	Van Roden, William, coll., <i>in</i> S 5/1968
Vattemare		Vattemare, Alexandre, "Collection de monnaies et de medailles de l'Amerique du nord, offerte a la Bibliotheque imperiale," Paris, pvt. ptd., 1861 (a very rare pamphlet, seen in Wayte Raymond's office)
"Vicksburg Cabinet"	A	coll. (G.M. Klein), W. Elliot Woodward, 5/21/1888

## W

Waltman	MBS	Waltman, W.D., coll., <i>in</i> Waltman-Roe-Ryan sale, BMM, 6/12/1945
Walton	A	Walton, George, coll., S 10/2/1963
Ward	A	Ward, Philip H., coll. (mostly from Univ. of Penna., R. C. W. Brock bequest), S 4/30/1964
Warfield	A	Warfield, Thomas Pettit, coll., Associated, 10/28/1955, cat. by me. Other coins bearing a Warfield pedigree were sold at private treaty by this large cent specialist.
Watters	A	Watters, CA., coll., London, Glendining & Co., 6/14/1917
West	A	West, Edgar Allen, coll., A. Kosoff, May 1957
Wetmore	A	Wetmore, W. B., coll., SH&HC 6/27/1906

WGC	A	"World's Greatest Coll." (i.e. F. C. C. Boyd), coll. in installments, Kosoff; part I 1/20/1945, part II 3/3/1945, part III 4/14/1945, parts IV-V 5/12/1945, (part VI =>) gold, 1/25/1946.
Wharton	A	Wharton, E.M. coll., S 10/22/1945
Wilharm	MBS	Wilharm, Dr. G.F.E., coll., BMM, 2/15/1921
Willem		Willem, John M., "The U.S. trade dollar: America's only unwanted, unhonored coin. . . ." 1st ed., NY, pvt. ptd., 1959 [500]; 2nd ed., Racine, Whitman, 1965.
Williams	A	Williams, Charles M., coll., partly sold in other auctions, including Menjou I, some without his name being used, partly Kosoff 11/1950.
Williams, Mason	A	see Mason
Wilson, D.S.	A	Wilson, David S., coll., SHC 3/13/1907
Wilson, J. B.	A	Wilson, James B., coll., Elder, Oct. 5, 1908
Winsor	A	Winsor, Richard Boswell, coll., SH&HC, 12/16/1895
Wolfson	A	Wolfson, Samuel W., coll., gold. S 10/12/1962
Wolfson	A	—, coll., silver and copper, S 5/3/1963
Wood, Howland		Wood, Howland, "The gold dollars of 1858. . .," ANS, NN&M #12, NY, ANS, 1922
Woodin	A	Woodin, William H., coll., sold piecemeal, part by Elder, 3/2-4/1911, remainder mostly by private treaty, much of it either to Waldo Newcomer, Col. E. H. R. Green, Virgil Brand, Wayte Raymond, or in the Parmelee manner: auctions of collections which Woodin had bought and skimmed the cream from, e.g. Peter Gschwend (Elder, 1908) or "Prominent American" (H.O. Granberg), etc. Woodin was later Secretary of Treasury under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and his signature appears on paper currency of the time. It was on his behalf that coin collectors were exempted from the harsher provisions of FDR's Executive Order 6260 which banned private hoarding of gold.
Woodside	A	Woodside, George, coll., patterns, NY Coin & Stamp Co. (David Proskey and H. P. Smith), 4/23/1892.

## XYZ

Yeoman		Yeoman, Richard S., compiler, "Guidebook of U.S. Coins," q.v.; author of Numismatist article on the 1848 CAL quarter eagle (rep. in 1977 Guidebook); compiler of other numismatic reference works.
Young, J.P.	MBS	Young, John P., Newcomb's assistant in compiling the Newcomb book on late date cents; coll., various Bluestone MBS ca. 1940-45, Bolender 11/1951
Zabriskie	A	Zabriskie, Capt. Andrew C, coll., HC 6/3/1909
Zug	A	Zug, C.G., coll., SHC 1907
Zug		Zug, John, oldtime dealer in Bowie, Md.; this name appears in many older pedigrees on early U.S. coins.

# INVESTMENT IN PROOF COINS

By Stanley Apfelbaum  
President, FCI

This is, truly, an astounding work which you hold in your hands. Walter Breen covers every aspect of the subject of United States Proof Coins!

I believe that proof coins may indeed be the subject of a fine investment portfolio, and I direct your attention to two specific areas:

- a. A type set of proof coins;
- b. The proof sets of 1936 through 1942.

But first . . .

## A CURIOUS ANOMALY

It is no less an expert than Walter Breen who stated in a recent letter to the writer of this chapter that: "We are now, for better or worse, but mostly for worse, stuck with only a ten-point gap between ordinary Mint State and pristine superb Mint State coins, a gap representing a price differential often far greater than that between ordinary Mint State and Fair! When Dr. Sheldon standardized his grading scale, a Good 1794 copper coin averaged double a Fair, a Fine averaged three times a Good, a VF five times a Good, EF eight times a Good, and Uncirculated twelve times a Good or five times a Fine, three times a VF; a bright red Unc. went for something like 15% more than an ordinary light olive or light brown. These ratios in price gave rise to the famous Sheldon Scale of 1-70. Now they no longer mean what they did then in terms of any hypothetical "science of cent values," especially when they are being stretched and compressed to apply to silver and gold coins to which they were never intended to apply. These numbers have become totally arbitrary, and in the Mint State 60-70 range, they are extremely inconvenient."

What Walter is getting at, is that there should have been a much larger gap between Mint State 60

and Mint State 70 — *probably 100 points*, possibly a 200 point gap, rather than the inadequate 10 point gap that is being used today because of the original thesis of Sheldon. As Walter Breen points out, the Sheldon scale of grade and values is no longer applicable, and is impossible truly to apply to silver and gold coins. What has this to do with Proof coins?

Every year Walter Breen provides a most important service for the "Red Book" (The Yeoman Guidebook), in compiling auction records on all important coins sold during the year, which then serves as part of the basis for price changes for the yearly editions of that most important catalog. In a recent analysis of the auction prices brought by proof coins during the year 1976, Breen tabulated the price range, the lows and highs brought by proof coins of various series. This study was to show the widening gap between a proof piece that might be dull, or hairlined, or even slightly cleaned, and a piece which is a Gem Proof coin with no contact marks, full lustre, and no signs whatsoever of circulation or of any surface contact with another object. He notes that (for example) Proof 3¢ coins range in prices realized as follows:

TRIMES.	RANGE OF PROOF COIN PRICES BROUGHT AT AUCTION IN 1976.	
	LOW	HIGH
1863	\$320	\$500
1864	\$375	\$550
1866	\$240	\$460
1869	\$360	\$457
1871	\$320	\$400

Note the disparity between the "common" proof coin and its Gem counterpart. More than a 50% difference exists on balance. Let's look at another series:

**HALF DIMES. RANGE OF PROOF COIN PRICES  
BROUGHT AT AUCTION IN 1976.**

	LOW	HIGH
1863	\$270	\$450
1864	\$380	\$525
1865	\$300	\$360
1866	\$260	\$425

The tabulation for Dimes shows much the same thing, as well as for Quarter Dollars. Always the gap . . . a disparity of an average of about 50% difference in price between an ordinary piece and an uncommon piece. Half Dollars show the same disparity, which leads to the opinion of your writer that the difference between the superb Uncleaned, non-hairlined, sans contact-mark pristine proof coin as compared to the ordinary proof coin, is similar to the difference in price differential to that of the ordinary Uncirculated business strike, as compared to the Gem Brilliant Uncirculated coin. Walter says: "We are beginning to see in practice, if not in print, how the term "Proof" covers a vast range of actual quality, and the price structure is beginning to reflect the recognition." The series in which this showed up most dramatically in 1975 (it has been much the same since then) was the 20¢, in which an ordinary Proof with the usual signs of cleaning, for 1875, might bring \$300 or \$350, compared with four-figure prices for Gems; much the same story for 1876 and — at a higher level — for the 1877 and 1878.

The point is made. Quality speaks for itself. The future realization of profits for the rare coin investor depends upon the quality of material purchased. It is almost certain that a Gem Proof coin will increase in value at a much higher rate than that of its poor sister coin, the cleaned and mishandled lesser piece, selling for the lower price. *Thus . . . pay the price!* That's the lesson taught to us by the demonstrated disparity between the grades within the proof coin field.

And now to both of my specific thoughts on Proof coin investment today. . .

## I. TYPE PROOF COINS

A type set of proof coins might easily be a candidate for the most beautiful collection of United States coins one can acquire. The attempt to put together such a set, and the resultant profitability in future years would more than offset the difficulty in attempting to complete the set.

But before one gives thought to the assemblage of such a set, he might well question whether or not Proof coins themselves represent a good investment. Some persons (see COINAGE Magazine, March 9, 1977, "Are Proof Coins a Sound Investment?", page 44) believe that in many instances Gem BU coins represent better investments than proof coins. In the

article mentioned, a sound argument is made that in certain series Gem BU business-strike coins are scarcer, have increased in price to a greater extent, and probably represent greater value and future investment potential than proof coins of the same year in the same series. I do not argue the point. One can choose any series of coinage produced by our country and argue in favor of a certain mint, a certain design, and of course the method of production (business strike as against proof) as being the better investment. My point is that a *type set* of proof coins may turn out to be a fine investment, whether or not the Gem BU business-strike coin of a particular year is a better investment.

FCI has recorded just under a decade of rare coin business. In that time we have become one of the largest rare coin dealers in the world, and our approach to numismatics has always been to recognize the value potential of rare coins. In that period of time, none of our staff remembers seeing more than a handful of partial Proof type sets owned by an individual, a museum, or a firm!

With the advent of the book you are now reading, we believe that it becomes possible to obtain enough information to intelligently put together such a type set. I believe that very few things will equal the value of such a set in five to ten years!

Back to the argument concerning BU Gem business strikes being better investments than proof coins . . . the fact that Proof coins have advanced less in value on a percentage basis over the years is meaningful to me, and means specifically that:

- a. Proof coins have been neglected as investment vehicles, because of lack of promotion of these coins, which in turn stems from lack of supply of these coins for dealers to sell to their customers;
- b. That Proof coins have a longer road to travel to get to the point where BU Gem type coins are at the present time, and I'd personally rather take the longer road and the more conservative one than try to catch a flying star;
- c. That Proof coins have been relegated to a minor status of late by those who proclaim, "They are nothing more than coins produced for collectors", which statement disregards the fact that proof coins throughout the centuries have been made for collectors, *in very special ways*, and represent the finest artistic efforts of every mint which produces them. Of course there are more Proof coins in existence, per amount originally manufactured, than there are business strike coins. This speaks for itself. But does the fact that more than 50% of the proof coinage of a certain series still be in existence as compared to, say, 1% of the total mintage of the business strikes of that series, mean the proof coins cannot

represent a major investment value? I think they can. The difference is in the original mintage — not the percentage of coins in existence.

If one considers the tiny mintages of Proof coins as compared to business strikes, it becomes obvious that using percentages only as a basis for value can mislead the investor, just as statistics can be utilized to mislead the unwary.

I say, read Walter's chapters introductory to his exposition of individual proof coins. Absorb the information about proof coins and see the magnificent pieces on display in collectors' albums or showcases. View their beautiful toning and mirrored surfaces, their deep strikes, their absolute conformance to the original rendition of the artist who conceived the coin's design.

Yes, proof coins are not very desirable today, but it was just a few years ago that gold coins were relegated to the back of the collector's mind, and were regarded as the property only of specialists and museums. And wasn't it even closer to today that silver dollars, those great big clunking coins were regarded to "too heavy" or "too much of one design for one to collect"? Take a long look, if you will, at Van Allen and Mallis *ENCYCLOPEDIA AND CATALOGUE OF UNITED STATES MORGAN AND PEACE SILVER DOLLARS*, (FCI Press 1977). You'll see why there is a resurgence of interest in the Morgan and Peace series in their die varieties and the concurrent increase in value of rare dates and rare varieties in both of these series.

I believe that proof coins are in the same position today as silver dollars were and as gold coins were, just "yesterday". And I strongly suggest that one begin, now, to quietly put together a type set of proof coins of our nation — for the sheer beauty and for the magnificent potential for value increase ahead.

## II.

### **PROOF SETS 1936-1942**

First off, it is my contention that the proof sets of 1936 through 1942 are undervalued. I thought so in 1970 when the 1936 set sold for about \$650, in 1973 when the 1936 proof set was selling for under \$1000, and I think so today with the same set selling for about \$1500. I hold no particular brief for investing in proof sets after 1955, since I believe that a production of more than a half million sets may never amount to the quality investment of the earlier sets.

But, all of the sets between 1936 and 1942 have a total mintage of 73,872! YES, THAT'S RIGHT, THERE WERE LESS THAN 75,000 PROOF SETS PRODUCED BETWEEN 1936 AND 1942. . . a total of seven years of

proof sets in which there were a lesser amount of sets manufactured than every single year of proof sets beginning with 1952! To make the comparison more dramatic, all of the sets produced between 1936 and 1942 equals a number 50 times less than the sets produced in 1976 alone!

One might ask, then, why are the sets from 1955 through 1977 so popular? Because of availability . . . and no other reason. For a coin dealer, selling a modern proof set is like selling a bottle of liquor or pair of shoes. There are plenty of these sets available, in the tens, in the hundreds, in the thousands. To obtain a good 1936 to 1942 set is not easy. In fact, to obtain sets of good value, where the copper coin is free of corrosion or pitting, and where all of the other pieces are free of abrasions or hairlines, is a major enterprise. But it can be done!

Let's look at the prices of these seven forerunners of the modern proof sets. In a recent advertisement in *Coin World* newspaper, one dealer, known for his integrity and for his inventory of a large stock of proof sets, advertises the 1936 set at \$1400, the 1937 set at \$700, the 1938 set at \$395, the 1939 set at \$300, the 1940 set at \$245, the 1941 set at the same price, and the 1942 set at \$235. Thus, for a total investment of under \$3800, one can obtain — if one is very careful about every single coin in each one of the sets — the complete run. In the case of purchasing these particular sets, the word "Gem" must be understood and observed. No compromise is acceptable.

It is remarkable, also, to note that the price of these few sets which I believe should be put away, now, constitutes a tremendous percentage of the price one would have to pay for all of the sets 1936-1976, a price which is quoted by the same dealer as \$4200 (lacking the "no S" sets).

Below is a chart showing the increase in value of these sets through the years — an increase in value far less than that exhibited by, say, the Silver Dollar series, or the \$1 gold coin series, or almost any other series of United States coinage! In fact, these sets are undervalued and have been overlooked for so many years that it is an astounding fact to most persons that even though the mintage of the 1936 set is 3,837 pieces, it is still available for about \$1500! Imagine buying a Proof set, containing a Proof Buffalo Nickel, a Proof Mercury Dime, a proof Washington Quarter, and a Proof Standing Liberty Half Dollar, with a maximum possible of 3837 sets — and all for under \$1500! I defy anyone to find a better investment in the spectrum of United States numismatics. I envy those farsighted enough to salt away these to sets today, for a five to ten year period.

**THE PROGRESSION IN VALUE OF THE  
1936-1942 U.S. PROOF SETS**

	1947	1952	1957	1962	1967	1972	1977
1936	\$57.50	50.00	275.00	385.00	1000.00	775.00	1350.00
1937	30.00	25.00	110.00	160.00	450.00	275.00	650.00
1938	20.00	16.00	60.00	75.00	225.00	150.00	325.00
1939	15.00	12.50	47.50	60.00	200.00	125.00	300.00
1940	12.00	9.00	40.00	50.00	130.00	100.00	210.00
1941	9.50	7.00	32.50	39.00	120.00	95.00	200.00
1942	10.50	7.50	35.00	37.50	130.00	115.00	260.00