

Welcome back to another issue of PENNY-WISE and to another season of large cent collecting during 1971-72.

Your Editor always has the feeling after he has completed another consecutive issue of PENNY-WISE that the latest issue is really the greatest! Lots of people have told us that they thought that No. 25 would be impossible to excel. Oh yes? Well wait until you wade through the next 45 or so pages of this issue..... then let's hear what you have to say.

This issue has everything - historical essays, stories, items of information, data fresh from the computerized minds of some of our experts, comments from members, a photo-penny quiz from Ned Bush, reports on conventions, etc. etc. Even the half cent collectors will find something special of interest!

As usual, there were a lot of other things which we would have liked to have included - for instance, we've been promising you a listing of donations to our library which should be available on loan to any EAC member who is interested. Well, your Editor is just too busy, trying to put out P-W each month, so that he has never had time to keep up on this particular department. So John Wright will be taking over as soon as your Editor can manage to pack up the material and forward it to him. We hope that John will be able to compile a complete listing for the next issue. He's already forwarded us some rules for use of the Library, but we'll defer those until next time too.

Likewise, we're happy to report that our congenial Floridian friend, Bill Parks, who threatened to retire about a year ago, is still very much active in the process of preparing and mailing your issue of P-W every other month.... it's his stamp that is carried in the upper left hand corner of your mail sheet.... and every now and then, he catches "hail Columbia" for something which your Editor really needs to be blamed.... so our thanks to you, Bill.

Mama Mimeo, of course, does her grand job every issue. We're lucky to have such a dedicated person to handle our printing and mailing problems every issue.

We thank all of the contributors to this and to past issues for making PENNY-WISE the fine specialty bulletin that it has become. Already we're starting on Issue No. 27 so send us your articles, your comments, your criticisms and suggestions, your Swaps and Sales.

And while you're browsing through this issue, just stop and think of what this issue might cost as compared to information stated elsewhere for the cost of past issues.... this is as long as the last issue and contains a lot of plates and offset printing besides.

So, read on.... get informed.... like Aaron Feldman reminds us from time to time - "Buy the book before the coin" ..... and have a happy!

Yours in EAC,  
THE EDITOR

## SYMBOLS ON LARGE CENTS

Jeffrey Oliphant

Symbols date back to the beginning of mankind. The word "symbol" comes from the Latin symbolum meaning "something thrown together with anything else; something associated with or representing something else; a pictographic representation; or a token, pledge, or sign by which one infers a meaning". Symbols have been used by every race, creed, and civilization, from primitive man until the present. The earliest symbols had a kind of pictorial quality by which sensitized minds could correctly infer their meanings. Such a symbolic shorthand had to be the earliest form of writing. The effectiveness of a symbol was due partly to its appropriate representation of the subject intended and partly to its ease of interpretation. A poor symbol was more likely to be misread.

Symbols representing ideas, beliefs, or ideals were a later development, apparently originating from early religious practices. In some instances they were pictorial for certain experiences, in other cases for certain practices or rituals. The higher level of abstraction necessary for symbolizing those ideas, beliefs, or ideals required some such procedure which would bring to mind that which was intended.

Symbols on coins oftentimes represent ideas or beliefs. For example, when the U.S. Mint first was started, those coin designs best representative of the new nation's ideas and beliefs were selected. To depict freedom from oppression (i.e. liberty) on its coins, the Mint used the bust of a woman over which the word LIBERTY was inscribed. Later on, the Mint engraver added a Liberty cap and a headband bearing the word LIBERTY. Such a fillet on Miss Liberty emphasized her regal power and the Liberty cap emphasized freedom. By the same token, a chain was chosen to represent the union of the thirteen colonies into one solid, inseparable nation. This, in turn, was replaced by a wreath, chosen to depict the U.S. as a peaceful nation and to commemorate our nation's victory over Britain. Stars were added to symbolize each of the original thirteen colonies. Subsequently, an American eagle was depicted on most U.S. coins (but not on large cents) to signify the nation's strength.\*

Thus, as cited above, the main symbols on large cents were the chain, Miss Liberty, a Liberty cap, a fillet, a wreath either olive or laurel, and the stars. Each of these symbols will now be more fully discussed as to their allegorical meanings.

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\*The eagle will not be presented here in any detail, inasmuch as it was never authorized to appear on any U.S. minor coins, although succeeding Acts of Congress have required it to be used on all but the smallest gold and silver coins. The eagle as a symbol on U.S. coins, however, is a rather confusing choice. If our nation were to be depicted as genuinely dedicated to peaceful pursuits, then the selection of the eagle was most inappropriate. The eagle is associated historically only with militaristic regimes.

## THE CHAIN

The chain made its one and only appearance on coins struck by the United States Mint when it was used as the main device on the reverse of the 1793 cents. These coins are now known as the Chain cents. Actually, there were three different types of cents struck in 1793, the Chain variety being the least number minted and it was produced over a shorter period of time than either of the other two. The variety was quickly replaced because its symbolic design was poorly accepted by the nation's populace.

Basically, the chain was intended by its designer, Robert Birch, to symbolize the union of the thirteen colonies, along with the states of Vermont and Kentucky, into one nation. The chain contained fifteen links, one for each state; and Birch felt that their linkage into an endless chain would be a symbol that they, as a whole, could accomplish tasks beyond the ability of any single part (or state).

The symbol of the chain had been used first on the Continental fractional notes of February 17, 1776. The chain was also seen on the Continental dollars of 1776, made of pewter, as well as on the pewter medal of 1783. It was last used on Colonial coins in 1787 when the chain appeared on the Fugio coppers designed by James Jarvis. Since there were only thirteen colonies at the time, a chain of thirteen closed links, each bearing the name of a colony (or state) was used on both the Continental dollars and the Fugio coppers (but not on the restrikes). That each link bore the name of a state is quite significant, thereby proving that each link designated a particular state. If they had been represented without any such inscriptions, the links then would have implied only the states, in general.

Although it was not intended as such by Birch, a different interpretation of the chain was that of slavery and bondage. In ancient times, a chain was used as a device to restrict slaves and to prevent their escape. It has served the same purpose for prisoners even in recent years. To the American colonists, however, most of whom had migrated from Europe to escape political oppression, only the interpretation of slavery and bondage was considered. Hence, they showed great disapproval for the Chain cents. In fact, there were many who referred to the cents as "Liberty in chains"; and they openly stated that the chain represented a bad omen for Liberty. Because of such a great outcry, Mint Director Rittenhouse changed the design after only 36,103 coins had been struck, thus ending the short-lived appearance of the chain on United States cents.

## MISS LIBERTY

The female bust on all U.S. large cents is referred to as Miss Liberty, or Liberty for short. The word LIBERTY appears above the bust on all large cents struck between the years 1793 and 1807 inclusively; and it appears on the head band of all large cents dated 1808 and thereafter.

Miss Liberty, as depicted on U.S. large cents, is the symbol of peace and freedom. Miss Liberty comes from the Roman goddess Libertas who was

represented as a matron wearing a Phrygian cap and holding a laurel wreath. Three temples in Rome were constructed in her name. The word "liberty" is derived from the Latin liber, meaning free. Thus, the figure of Miss Liberty on a coin symbolized a country's freedom.

Miss Liberty first appeared on many coins of the Imperial Roman Empire. She was depicted as standing, holding a sceptre in one hand and a pileus (liberty cap) in the other. The Miss Liberty on U.S. coins is derived from British artist-engraver John Croker's conception of Britannia as she appears on English coins of the 18th century. Miss Liberty appears on the 1776 Massachusetts Pine Tree cent copper patterns believed to have been struck by Paul Revere and John Gill. She is also found on South Carolina notes of the following year as well as on the colonial coinage of several other states. Miss Liberty later appeared on the LIBERTAS AMERICANA medal struck by Dupre in 1792, from which the actual design of Miss Liberty on large cents was derived.

### THE LIBERTY CAP

A liberty cap or headdress of Miss Liberty can be found on U.S. large cents struck in 1794 and 1795 and some dated 1793 and 1796. The liberty cap was chosen because it represented freedom, which was the spirit of America. The freedoms which the cap primarily symbolized were: freedom from physical restraint; freedom from despotic control; the power of free choice; and the positive enjoyment of various social, political, and economic rights.

A liberty cap is a close-fitting, conical cap which was first used by the ancient Phrygians, a race from the shores of the Black Sea who conquered and then inhabited the entire eastern section of Asia Minor. To distinguish themselves from the natives, the Phrygians, who flourished from circa 1500 B.C. to 331 B.C., wore a close-fitting cap made of cloth or felt. They even had a design of this cap stamped on their coins. Besides being used to distinguish the conquerors from the natives, the cap had two other purposes: one, it served as a protection against the extreme cold; and two, it had a narrow brim in front to shield their eyes from the sun.

The Romans adopted from the Phrygians the custom of wearing caps. However, the Romans allowed only free men to wear them. When a slave was set free, a red cap, called pileus in Latin, was placed upon his head, thereby symbolizing his freedom. When Saturninus captured Rome in 263 B.C., he placed a cap upon a spear and had it carried around the city as a promise of freedom for all slaves of Rome who would join him. In later years, during the annual celebration of Saturninus' capture of Rome, a seven-day religious festival which started on December 17, one of the rituals observed was to shave the head of any slave who had obtained his freedom and to place an undyed pileus upon his head. Thus, from the use of the pileus or cap as a symbol of a slave's freedom, came the international use of the liberty cap today as a symbol of liberty and freedom.

When Julius Caesar was murdered on the Ides of March, 44 B.C., the conspirators carried a Phrygian cap on a spear through the streets of Rome as a token of the freedom of the city and as a warning to future leaders. To celebrate the death of

THE CHAIN



The Fugio Cents 1787

Rev. - note that names of states are not on links.



Copper Pattern. Rev. showing names of states ON links



Rev. of 1793 Chain cent

THE LIBERTY CAP



1792 LIBERTAS AMERICANA Medal by Dupre.



Phrygian Cap between 2 daggers. Coin struck in 44 B.C. by decree of Brutus and Cassius to commemorate death of Julius Caesar.



U.S. Liberty Cap large cent. 1793-1796



Above: Byzantine Copper - Anastasius I ?  
Right - Augustus 27 B.C.-44 A.D.

THE STARS



U.S. large cent 1816-1857 with modifications.



Caesar, the new Roman rulers, primarily Brutus and Cassius, ordered the striking of coins showing the Phrygian cap between two daggers. The statue of the Goddess of Liberty on Aventine Hill in Rome shows a Phrygian cap carried in her hand as a symbol of freedom. In 161 A.D., during the reign of Verus, the Phrygian cap was used by the Romans to celebrate the victorious takeover of Armenia.

Again, the Phrygian cap was used by the Dutch during their more than forty-years war (from 1576 to 1648), which ended in the overthrow of Spanish domination.

Next to adopt the liberty cap were the British. The cap was used in the 1760's by John Wilkes, who spearheaded the liberal revolt against the policies of George III. Some British tokens of this period show Britannia carrying a liberty cap on a spear. The British liberty cap is blue with a white border.

Undoubtedly the most famous use of the liberty cap was by the French. The cap was introduced by the Girondists during the French Revolution. Its favorable reception by the people stemmed principally from an article by Brissot which appeared in the "Patriote Francais" for February 6, 1792. Declaring that the 'mournful uniform of hats' had been introduced by priests and despots, Brissot then went on to cite from history that all great nations - the Greeks, the Romans, the Gauls - had held the cap in peculiar honor, and that in modern times Voltaire and Rousseau had worn it as a symbol of freedom. Brissot noted that the "bonnet rouge" (red cap) had been habitually worn by galley slaves. After Brissot's article appeared, red became the symbol, along with the liberty cap, of the Girondists. Previous to this, red had always been the symbol of despotism and oppression, and the red flag had been the symbol of martial law. On June 20, 1792, when forces loyal to the monarchy were defeated, the "Bonnet rouge" henceforth became the emblem of the victory of republicanism over the monarchy. Also, it became the symbol of liberty for the first French Republic.

Colonial America took up the liberty cap in 1746. It was subsequently used as one of the devices on the flag of the Philadelphia Light Horse Guards, a militia company organized some time before the American Revolution. At the time, liberty trees or liberty poles were commonly used in all the colonies to signal opposition to the Stamp Act. In the 1770's, when relations between Britain and the colonies worsened as a result of the Boston Massacre, the Tea Party, and the Intolerable Acts of 1774, the liberty cap became the symbol of the Patriots in opposition to the Loyalists and to the British. The symbol was first used in this capacity when it appeared on the masthead of the Boston Gazette in the spring of 1770. The masthead depicts Miss Liberty with the British Unionjack on her shield, while in her hand she holds a spear surmounted by the liberty cap. On August 31, 1775, the Committee of Safety, while meeting in Philadelphia, adopted a resolution providing a seal for the board's use. This was to be engraved with a liberty cap and the motto, "This is my right, and I will defend it."

The liberty cap made several appearances on Colonial coins before the first U.S. Mint was in operation. Many Georgia notes of 1776 showed a liberty cap on a pole, flanked by a caduceus. The liberty cap was made part of the main obverse design on

the LIBERTAS AMERICANA medal. This medal, designed by Dupre, was struck to honor the new nation. The medal, although it bears the dates 1776 and 1781, was struck in 1782. The liberty cap device was also used on the Convention Medal of 1792, which subsequently became the direct ancestor of Joseph Wright's obverse of the 1793 Liberty Cap cents.

The Liberty Cap cents, the last of the three major varieties issued during 1793, appeared late in the year. Since the liberty cap was known for its close ties with the French Revolution, these U.S. cents, believed by some to have been designed by Jean Pierre Droz\*, a Parisian engraver of Swiss descent, were also referred to as the "French Heads".

The last time the symbol of the liberty cap was used as the main device on a U.S. coin was in 1850, when it was used on a pattern three cent piece. After 1850, the liberty cap was used on several silver coins until 1916.

The liberty cap as a United States' symbol is blue, with a border of gilt stars on white. As previously stated, the French liberty cap is red, while the British is blue with a white border.

The use of the liberty cap as a coin symbol still continues, and many Latin and South American countries have adopted some form of the liberty cap. Mexico used the Phrygian cap on its gold and silver coins from 1823 to 1879 and on nearly all its coins struck between 1905 and 1930. Several other Latin American countries have used the liberty cap on their national seals.

As previously mentioned, the liberty cap on U.S. large cents is surmounted on a pole. Actually, when depicted with a pole, the liberty cap has a slightly different meaning symbolically - it implies a gift of freedom from a former and benevolent master, not the independence and liberty won through bloody conflict as exhibited by the American colonists in their determination to maintain their birthright as free men. Thus, the choice of the liberty cap and the pole on U.S. cents was neither wise nor suitable.

Nevertheless, the liberty cap has been accepted as an international symbol of freedom and liberty. Although the symbol has been in existence for over 2000 years, it will probably continue to exist so long as somebody is striving for freedom. The United States at one time strived for its freedom and thus this design was depicted on the nation's coins, primarily the large cents.

#### THE FILLET

A fillet is the head band which appears on cents struck between the years 1808 and 1814, as well as on all other coin denominations struck at the U.S. Mint during this period. The fillet itself is a band or type of crown. The fillet on the cent

\* It is now generally acknowledged by most experts that Joseph Wright was the designer of the Liberty Cap cents.

THE FILLET



Drachm of Herron II,  
Syracuse 274-216 B.C.



Constantinus



Pseudo-fillet on  
U.S. large cent  
1796-1807

THE WREATH



Augustus ?



U.S. large cent 1793-  
1807, with 2-branch  
wreath



U.S. large cent 1808-  
1857 with single branch  
wreath



symbolizes a token of achievement or victory. When the cent design was changed in 1816, the fillet did not appear again.

A fillet tied around the head was probably first used by primitive man to keep his long hair from getting into his eyes. Later, the fillet became specialized, priests wearing one pattern and fighting men another. There is no doubt that the fillet, as depicted on early coins, emphasized royalty. The use of the fillet as a symbol of authority first originated in the Far East. It was later adopted by Alexander the Great. There is an interesting story associated with the fillet of Alexander: once upon a time Alexander accidentally wounded Lysimachus, a prominent warrior, and he bound the injury with his own fillet. Later, this was considered a lucky omen for Lysimachus, who shortly afterwards became King of Thrace.

The Greeks and Romans also used a fillet on several of their coins. The fillet was generally a prize given to a schoolboy for any kind of victory in annual town games. It conveyed an honor which would be considered ranking well above today's Eagle Scout badge.

The fillet on the large cents of 1796-1807, commonly referred to as the Fillet cents, is really not a fillet in the true sense. It is actually a tuft of ribbon used by Gilbert Stuart merely to enhance the design of these large cents. About the only thing symbolic of this pseudo-fillet is that it marked the end of that period when Miss Liberty's hair was free to go on "blowing in the wind". Gilbert Stuart, though a competent portraitist, appears not to have been particularly alert to symbolism.

#### THE STARS

Stars appear in the obverse design of all cents struck between the years 1808 and 1857. The stars are six-pointed and appear in a circular fashion around the border. There are always thirteen stars, each one symbolizing one of the original thirteen colonies. The only exception, the 1817 Newcomb-16, has fifteen stars, for which no symbolic explanation has ever been forthcoming.

Stars, or star-like devices, are occasionally found on ancient Greek coins either as moneyer's symbols, mintmarks of some sort, or local countermarks. Stars have also been found on some ancient Roman coinage. Likewise, the star was often used in French and British heraldry.

It is not known where the Americans acquired the design of the star. Stars have been found as mintmarks or initial marks since the Renaissance, with their meanings oftentimes changing. Some theorize that the American 6-pointed star comes from the British, where it was often found on medals and coats-of-arms of English royalty and nobility. Others claim that the American star comes from the French, these proponents citing, as proof, the star on the five-franc piece of the French Republic. On this particular coin there is a six-pointed star which the French called an etoile. There are still others who believe that the Americans

invented their own star. However, the theory I am most inclined to believe is that the star was adopted from British heraldry by accident, rather than purposely.

Stars appeared on many coins of colonial America. The symbolism of the thirteen-star formation representing the thirteen original colonies was first used on the Nova Constellatio patterns of 1783. However, the use of thirteen stars in a circular arrangement had been used on the American flag during and after the Revolutionary War. Most of the states copied the Nova Constellatio coppers and adopted coinage which included stars in the design. Stars are also found on the Washington pieces.

After the U.S. Mint began operation, it experimented by adding a star to the design of new coins for each new state as it was admitted to the Union. There are fifteen stars on the quarter dollar of 1796 as well as on the half dollars of 1794-1797. These two additional stars represented the states of Vermont and Kentucky which were admitted to the Union in 1791 and 1792 respectively. With the admission of Tennessee in 1796, half dimes, dimes, and half dollars were minted with sixteen stars. By 1797, however, the Mint realized that it would be impractical to continue adding a star for each new state; so it again reduced the number of stars to thirteen, thereby symbolizing one star for each of the original thirteen colonies. Nevertheless, when the St. Gauden double eagle pieces were struck, 46 stars, one for each of the 46 states at the time, were placed around the obverse rim. When New Mexico and Arizona joined the Union in 1912, two additional stars were added. The same procedure was followed with the Indian Head eagles of 1907-1933; 46 stars on the obverse edge until 1912, and two more stars added after that time.

Regarding the fifteen stars on the 1817 Newcomb-16 cent, there is no apparent reason why the two additional stars were placed on that coin. In 1817, Mississippi was admitted as the 20th state of the Union. Hence, it would have been illogical to place only 15 stars on the cent. The extra two stars were most probably an engraver's error.

Six-pointed stars are found on U.S. coins on the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Their popularity with the U.S. coin designers of today is at a very low point as evidenced by the fact that not one coin in the past 35 years has been issued with six-pointed stars.

#### THE WREATH

A wreath appears on the reverse of all United States cents except the 1793 Chain cents. The wreath is part olive, part laurel; and sometimes it is regarded as being both. Since the wreath on large cents is a composite, I will discuss both the olive wreath and the laurel wreath at the same time.

The olive wreath primarily symbolizes peace, but it also signifies honor and victory. The laurel wreath basically stands for victory and honor, but it symbolizes peace too. In ancient Greece, the laurel wreath also stands for achievement in the arts, primarily in poetry and song.

The olive branch, as a symbol of peace, can be traced back to Greek mythology. The Athenians had to choose the first gift to be given to man. They were offered a horse by Poseidon and an olive branch by Athene. In ancient times, the horse was used principally by soldiers. Later, horse racing developed, first as chariot racing, this being a sport designed from a battle technique. The prime beasts of burden used on farms in those days were oxen and asses, horses being too valuable in battle. Hence, the horse symbolized strength and courage to the ancient Athenians.

As for the gift offered by Athene, the olive branch was to the Athenians a symbol of peace and plenty. Olive oil was useful in lamps and in medicine. The oil was also used to anoint athletes before they went into action. Olives and olive oil also had great food value. All of these uses were for peaceful endeavors. Olives were a main agricultural product, unknown in the Danube basin from which the Greeks had come, but a happy discovery credited in the Greek isles to Athene, goddess of Wisdom. The olive branch, with its wide variety of uses, was regarded as a gift of the gods and was chosen in place of the horse as offered by Poseidon.

Since the olive was considered sacred to Athene, an olive branch crown was awarded to each victor in the games held in her honor. At the Olympian games, the highest award that could be attained was a crown of wild olive leaves. In the Greek and Roman eras, the olive branch was sometimes rewarded for military valor, although it was less often awarded in this respect than was the oak or laurel branch. The early Christians sometimes used an olive branch crown as the reward for martyrdom.

The laurel wreath also can be traced back to Greek myth. While Apollo was pursuing the nymph, Daphne, in the forest, she transformed herself into a laurel tree to evade him. Through this incident, the laurel became sacred to Apollo; and the laurel became the symbol of poetry and song, both of which were favorites of Apollo, the sun god. The laurel was first used during a service at the Pythian games held once in every eight years. The service consisted of a boy fleeing from Delphi to Tempe, who, after a time, was led back with song, then crowned and adorned with laurel. The laurel wreath was awarded at these same Pythian games to the victors in each athletic event. Through these incidents, the laurel became the symbol of triumph and honor.

Though the meaning of a laurel wreath was unknown to the general public in colonial America, it had a very special meaning for those Founding Fathers who were members of Freemasonry. Priestesses of Apollo at the Oracle of Delphi, while making their prophecies, were said to chew laurel which acted as a sensitizer and mild psychedelic. This myth was part of the Freemasonry ritual; and thus, to these Founding Fathers, the laurel wreath meant divine inspiration. As a symbol on our nation's coins, the wreath was intended to imply a sort of symbolic plea to the cosmic forces for help when our nation was in need and to inspire our leaders with ideas.

As a symbol on coins, the wreath can also be traced back to the ancient Greeks. On the coins of Arcadia, one of the Greek provinces, the head of Hera, queen of the goddesses, was depicted. Below her chin was a sprig of three olive leaves - strikingly suggestive of a similar sprig on our Chain cents. It is of additional interest to mention that, after the battle of Marathon which did so much to establish the freedom of Greece, the helmet of the goddess Athene, as depicted on Athenian coins, was crowned with a wreath of olive leaves, her sacred plant. This design was continued for more than two centuries. Later, the olive wreath was enlarged, being shown as formed of two stems with leaves and berries, the wreath being tied at the bottom but open at the top. This arrangement, being very similar to that of the Wreath cents of 1793, was used on the reverse of Greek coins. Crosby and other numismatist authorities over the years have theorized that Joseph Wright, the designer of the Wreath cent dies, used these ancient Greek coins as the basis for the reverse of these aforementioned coins.

The laurel wreath on coins, like that of the olive wreath, can be traced back to the ancient Greeks. There are several coins of Delphos, another Greek province, which bore laurel wreaths and which were struck in the 4th century B.C. The laurel wreath played a large part in the lives of Romans as well, and it is therefore reflected on many Roman coins. The custom of portraying emperors with laurel wreaths, from Augustus to Napoleon III, was a way of saying that these leaders ruled by divine favor and under divine inspiration. On early Republican coins, the head of Jupiter, king of the gods, was adorned with a wreath of laurel.

Undoubtedly, the laurel wreath on U.S. large cents was adopted from these ancient Greek and Roman coins. On a tetradrachm from the coinage of Sulla, struck in 86-84 B.C., there is a laurel wreath quite similar to that on the large cents.

Both the olive and laurel wreaths are international symbols of peace, victory, and honor. They have been used as such since the time of the ancient Greeks and are still so used until this very day. There is an old saying: "He is resting on his laurels", meaning that a person has in some manner achieved greatness and is now sitting back and accepting all the tributes paid to him rather than trying to accomplish more.

On the reverse of the Eisenhower dollar, an American eagle is seen clutching an olive branch over the surface of the moon, symbolizing that man and America came to the moon in peace. The olive and laurel wreaths, these two symbols of peace - triumph - and honor, will surely continue to exist so long as man inhabits this earth.

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Also - Conversations and/or correspondence with

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\* \* \* \* \*

"THE NATIVES ARE RESTLESS."

(So says Bill Parks.)

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THE PHRYGIAN CAP, THE PILEUS,  
AND THE LIBERTY CAP

John D. Wright

Most references mention the origin of the cap now commonly called "Liberty Cap" as being in ancient Phrygia, a sun-baked land just east of Lydia, the birthplace of coinage. They then pass on to Roman times, the Roman name for "this" cap, its use in the Roman slave-freeing ceremony, and subsequent history to today. The best concise telling of the traditional story that I have seen was by Herb Silberman in P-W 3 ("way back" in December 67).

But if I had nothing to add to Herb's excellent rendition, I wouldn't be wasting my time in writing this, or yours in reading it. I intend to show that the old, accepted equation "Phrygian Cap equals Pileus equals Liberty Cap" is invalid. We shan't bother with the details of where the divergence came about, being content merely to show that the currently-accepted Liberty Cap, like most people we prefer to associate with, had TWO known parents rather than one.

As in today's world, the Greeks were a heterogeneous lot, with dress customs as different as those of an Arab and a Dutch farmer. The headgear depicted on Greek coinage reflects this diversity, and includes an assortment of helmets, laurel, oak, and ivy garlands, fillets, other assorted headbands, diadems and/or veils (for the ladies), and the four common caps discussed herein.

PETASUS

(PET•u•sus)

This is a low-crowned, rounded hat of some firm material, usually with a fairly wide brim. The petasus is occasionally called the "sun hat", and is worn by Hermes (Mercury), messenger of the Gods. It apparently originated around Thrace before 450 BC, and later was adopted and improved by the Romans. One Roman version is the familiar tropical pith helmet of today. The most recent appearance of the original Petasus is the U.S. helmet of WWI, although Greek peasants still wear a descendent of this sun hat.

STEPHANOS

(STEF•e•nos)

This is a "pillbox" hat for ladies, with a rigid circular side and a fabric (or usually open) top. The Stephanos was of equal height all the way around. Its first appearance on coins was around the town of Elis in the Greek peloponnesus before 420 BC. Its use spread eastward to the Black Sea, appearing on coins of over eight city-states over the next hundred-year period.

A development from the Stephanos, called a "Stephane" (STEF•e•nee) was higher in front than at the sides. Later developments included deletion of the top and back. The Stephane, both with and without a head-covering veil, continued into Roman time and beyond to the coins of today.



- PTEROPUS . . . . .
- STERNAUS . . . . .
- CTIPASTIA . . . . .
- PIRATUS . . . . .

The present-day Stephane is called a "tiara", or a "coronet". This descendent of the Stephanos appears on nine different designs and nine different denominations of regular-issue United States coins.

#### PHRYGIAN CAP

(FRIJ•e•un CAP)

The Phrygian Cap is a soft cloth affair with enough excess height that it lays over forward (usually) on top of the head. The original cap had a short train to protect the wearer's neck from the sun. This cap, called a "Cyrbrasia" (sur•BRY•ze•uh), or a "Satrapal Headdress", originated in Phrygia or further east, in Persia, well before 410 BC.

The cap has a distinctively middle-eastern, slightly oriental flavor, and appeared on the fourth-century BC coinage of at least three countries bordering Phrygia. Carthage appears to have been the only western city to pick up this design, probably from the Persian influence in Phoenicia. (Carthage was a colony of Phoenicia.)

This cap, with the deletion of the necktrain, is commonly known today as a "Liberty Cap", appearing on nine different designs and seven denominations of regular-issue United States coins. All United States Liberty Caps depicted as being worn are Cyrbrasia, with the exception of those on the earliest U.S. gold coins.

Breen unearthed a letter from Samuel Moore (mint director) written in 1825, which claimed that neither the pointed caps (1795-1807 gold) nor the "turbans" (1808-1834 gold, 1807-1839 silver) were intended as "Liberty Caps". His high office notwithstanding, I cannot subscribe to this claim. Moore's information was second-hand and was nested among a number of other provable inaccuracies. Both of these designs are considered in this discussion as Liberty Caps.

#### PILEUS

(PILL•ee•us)

The Pileus is a conical felt cap, stiff enough to stand erect. A Pileus may or may not have a narrow brim, the most practical being those with. Pilei today are sold for a few dollars as "hiking hats" or "alpine hats", generally with a bright feather stuck in them.

The Pileus originated in the same general neighborhood as the Cyrbrasia (Phrygian Cap), appearing first on the coins of Lampsacus in Mysia (a north-western neighbor to Phrygia) in 394 BC. At that time coins with the Cyrbrasia had been produced for almost twenty years in Cyzecus, a mere sixty miles from Lampsacus.

Some hundred years later this design began to appear on the coins of Greek colonies on the toe and heel of Italy -- copied, no doubt, from the caps of Lampsacus. Later, when Rome copied the ideas of the south, the 2500 miles and well over 100 years to the source may have been enough to cloud the distinction between the Pileus and the Phrygian Cap, though I doubt it. The cap copied by the Romans and used in their ceremonies was the Pileus, not the Cyrbrasia.

Since Roman days the Pileus has been adopted by many countries and many crusades as their emblem for Liberty. Besides numerous appearances elsewhere, the Pileus has appeared on three different designs and eleven different denominations for regular-issued United States coins. All United States Liberty Caps depicted on poles are Pilei.

It is possible, though doubtful, that the distinction between the Cyrbrasia and the Pileus was lost on the road to Rome. More likely, the distinction faded during the succeeding two thousand years. Then again, maybe the Pileus is the only old-time Liberty Cap, with the Cyrbrasia assuming that role only within the last few centuries.

At any rate, the distinction is not now made, though it is still very real. Today, both the Pileus and the Phrygian Cap are accepted symbols for Liberty.

Since use and acceptance are the only true tests of a symbol, we can only conclude that, although a Phrygian Cap and a Pileus are different, they are both parents of the Liberty Cap; and two seems a good number for such things.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following item was clipped by Dr. William E. Hopkins from the Wednesday morning, July 28th edition of The Louisville COURIER-JOURNAL and forwarded to your editor for use in P-W:

"BROWN-FORMAN NAMES NEW CHAIRMAN"

by Phil Norman, Courier Journal Business Writer

There was something of a changing of the guard yesterday at Brown-Forman Distillers Corp., with a new generation of Browns moving up in the major distillery that has been doing business in Louisville for more than 100 years.

The changes came as W. L. Lyons Brown, 65, grandson of the company's founder George Garvin Brown, announced his retirement as Board Chairman after 38 years with the company.

He was succeeded by Robinson S. Brown, Jr., his cousin, 54, who has been serving as executive vice-president and director of marketing. Robinson S. Brown, Jr., who joined the company in 1935, has served also in sales, advertising, personnel, and public relations.

William F. Lucas, 60, the company's president and chief executive officer, observed that Brown-Forman, which ranks sixth among the nation's largest distilleries, had sales of \$222,567,294. in its last fiscal year."

EAC congratulations Robbie for this new and well-deserved honor and wishes him the very best for the future! Robbie has been the Vice President of the EAC since the inception of the organization.

\* \* \* \* \*

PENNY QUIZ ERRATA

John D. Wright

Alan Meghrig and Paul Munson both leaped on a couple of my faux pas in the PQA last time. Two of my answers require amplification.

Q4: More \$-value struck in cents than all else: Both Alan and Paul questioned my 1816 presentation, but for opposite reasons. Alan questioned my leaving out the 20,003 quarter-dollars delivered on January 10, 1816; and Paul questioned my including the 47,150 half dollars delivered the same date. I included the halves "for safety's sake" and I omitted the quarters through an oversight. In this case, I have to side with Paul. A more complete exposition of this situation was presented by Breen in his SILVER COINAGES OF THE PHILADELPHIA MINT 1794-1916 (CCJ 159, 1958) and is excerpted below.

"Dec. 16, 1815. Coiner delivered 69,232 quarter dollars.

Dec. 31. In Coiner's hands: \$46,205. in silver. This evidently included the above quarter dollars and the Jones & Fitch deposit, but the Journal through oversight did not identify the silver as coined or uncoined. Annual inventory in progress.

Jan. 10, 1816. Mint re-opened for business. Coiner delivered 47,150 half dollars and 20,003 quarter dollars, total \$28,575.75, or enough to pay off the Jones & Fitch deposit.

Jan. 11. Mint burned; apparatus for rolling gold and silver into strips from which planchets were cut, sufficiently damaged to preclude any further precious-metal coinage. Amount of bullion thereafter deposited negligible until 1818 when repairs were complete.

There is every reason to believe that the coinage reported for 1816 was from 1815 dies, and some evidence that it was made in 1815 but not reported out because of the Mint's customary shutdown at year's end for settling accounts, taking inventory, and making up the annual Director's Reports; this explains why the other depositors were not paid off until Jan. 10, 1816."

Q7: Smallest U.S. cent legend. My use of "legend" as "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" only was in error. A legend is any writing placed circumferentially on the face of a coin. Hence, both the "E PLUSIBUS UNUM" and the "IN GOD WE TRUST" on a wheat-ear cent are legends. Either of these is smaller than the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA on the Flying Eagle cents. Alan leaped on this one with both feet.

\* \* \* \* \*



Darwin B. Palmer, Jr.

After reading in PENNY-WISE about previous west coast EAC meetings, it didn't require much arm twisting for me to accept Dane Nielsen's kind invitation "to fly out to L.A. and spend a few days talking cents". How better could I spend a short vacation?

Arriving at 10:15 A.M. on Saturday, July 24, I spied Dane waiting for me as the passengers and I exited from the flight. As soon as Dane and I met, we started talking about large cents and cent collectors (as well as ecology, geology, and zoology); and we hardly stopped for the next four days.

Since both Dane and I were interested in seeing if any large cent errors would show up at an Errors Show in Studio City, we dropped off my paraphernalia at Dane's home; grabbed a fast lunch which his wife, Sherry, prepared for us; and then sped away in Dane's VW. A short while later, we were at the Error Show. Just as we walked in, Jeff Oliphant was leaving and he said that he had not seen any R6 or R7 cents. Not long after, while I was looking at some 1802 cents, I noticed someone looking over my shoulder and comparing the cents with Dr. Sheldon's PENNY WHIMSY. The onlooker turned out to be Alan Meghrig. At the show, I bought an 1801 S-220 which was away-off center with no date visible. It had been dealer-marked as an 1802 S-228. I also picked up an 1838 N-13b which Breen stated as being R8 in PENNY-WISE (Vol. IV, No. 4, p. 145). However, Dane and I soon found out that the interesting cent errors such as double strikes, brockages, and those away-off center were all priced too high for our whims.

The Big Event - a regional EAC meeting - came next, and it attracted the following to Dane's home: Glenn Kemp; Paul and Jeff Oliphant; Mal Varner and Mike Graham who formerly operated Hillcrest Enterprises; Alan Meghrig; Marty Post; Jack Collins, Jim Goudge; and Dane and me. Sherry Nielsen, before she went visiting, left us a bunch of goodies to devour during the evening.

It seemed as if everyone present had one or more things to share with all the others who attended. Jack Collins exhibited his choice Late Dates, each of which was in a typewritten envelope on a beautiful tray lined with black velvet. Jack's favorites (and rightly so) are his very nice array of 1816 and 1817 cents. Jack goes for condition and pedigree rather than for completeness of a series. Dane featured a fine exhibit of choice 1794's, plus some die maker's errors such as the corrected fraction (S-249), error fraction (S-228), and the missing fraction bar (S-64). All were as nice as one could ask for. Later, we all participated in a grading quiz which consisted of ten large cents ranging in grade from AG3 to AU50. Everyone had fun!

Sunday, July 25, Dane and I brought out our boxes of cents and I studied Dane's collection while he examined mine. Later on, I practiced grading and attributing his Liberty Caps. I wasn't quite as bad at grading the Caps as I thought I would be; and I really enjoyed the opportunity to add to my experience.

On Monday, July 26, Dane and I visited several coin shops in the area, including Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, which is as pleasant and professional as its owners. I picked up an S-110, an S-245 with the heavy die break at RICA on the reverse, and an S-263 for my die study. That night, we went to the Oliphant's home to see their cents and to chat again with cents collectors. The Oliphants seem to concentrate on Sheldon R6 and R5 varieties. There was also supposed to be a Late Date Whist match between two Newcomb variety enthusiasts. However, one of the fellows left his cents home, for some reason or other, and the match had to be postponed. The "forgetful" one looked over the challenger's collection and passed the remark that "one stood a great possibility of contracting rables, judging from all the dogs present". This type of remark probably helps to justify collecting only high condition cents as opposed to completing a collection in the best grades available at the time.

On Tuesday, July 27, Dane and I and the Oliphants drove to A-Mark to look over their 1793's. They really had them! - called VF, XF, and AU, but each coin was either scraped, burnished, hair re-engraved, letters and date strengthened, re-colored, or any combination of the above. Such seems to be the case with many 1793's in numismatic circulation. Later, at another small coin shop, we turned up an S-142. Because of Dane's work on the 1797's and my familiarity with that particular variety, we both attributed the coin in less than a second. I wish that I could that for all the Sheldon varieties!

All in all, my visit with Dane was a fantastic experience, and I shall never forget the California collectors whom I met. Dane was very energetic in organizing this meeting as he had done for several previous local meetings. I can understand why some collectors are unable to attend all the meetings which are held, but I surely can't understand why some of the California collectors couldn't at least acknowledge an invitation. Maybe we have a listing of incorrect addresses; but more likely, we have people who have never been to an EAC gathering and just don't appreciate how fantastic they are!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### MORE ON THE SALE OF THE MASTER'S COLLECTION

William R. T. Smith

There were three additional mis-attributions in the RARCOA catalog for the Masters' sale:

Lot 249	1837	Listed as N-1	Was N-3
Lot 252	1837	N-9	N-11
Lot 287	1853	N-14	N-25

The three lots listed above as well as the four lots listed by John Wright in the last issue of PENNY-WISE were identified to me by RARCOA before the sale. However, the attribution error on the 1794 S-19b came as a complete surprise to RARCOA.

RARCOA said that the seven errors of attribution in the Newcomb series had appeared because the Late Date attributions, as submitted by the owner, were not checked prior to submission of the catalog for publication.

The collection had been consigned to RARCOA for auction by another Chicago dealer who had previously purchased the collection.

\* \* \* \* \*

Herbert A. Silberman

The Washington A. N. A. Convention was wild! In the entire bourse there wasn't a cherry to be picked in the large cent field, and at least fifteen of our EAC members were looking for all five days of the meeting. Del Bland found a couple of Late Date cents and some half cents, but that was about all. The 1793's in very top conditions were in great abundance as were some 1845's and 1850's. Late Dates were said to be quite plentiful, but there were no rare ones so far as I know.

Lillian Willins, one of our very few female members, had decided to sell her S-217 in condition-20 (a beautiful and rare coin), and she chose a most unique way. She set a fixed and firm price and had everyone who was interested in buying it put his name on any one of a number of identical slips. Then a slip was drawn, and the winner was a famous East Coast collector who trumped against the nine-to-one odds and beat out at least eight very sad gamblers. This all happened in my hotel room where the following met on Friday night: Doug Smith, Del Bland, Mel Varner, George Ramont, Randall Schweitzer, Louis Helfenstein, Willard C. Blaisdell, Ray Munde, Jon Hanson, Denis Loring, Roger Cohen, Gordon Wrubel, Jules Reiver, Charles Ruby, Lillian Willins, Jim Mace, William Zamulinsky, Jackson Storm, Roger Storm, Walter Breen, James Gouge, our treasurer (my wife) and me. There must have been others, and if I have left anyone out, I apologize, but in the tiny hotel room even breathing was difficult.

Doug Smith and Denis Loring combined to exhibit a set of six matched "twins" such as the S-19a and b and other dies of some extremely rare coins, each matching in grade and color. Storm had some exquisite 1798's and Doug Smith announced to all that he's starting to collect 1794's now. Del Bland showed an 1822 which had such a mirror-like surface that it defied bettering, even in proof. Denis was a busy fellow and he may have talked one of the collectors out of an NC for his constantly-growing collection.

This is a rather mixed-up review..... I faintly remember a sit-down dinner which was attended by at least twenty EAC members and included Lester Merkin and Allen Corson. Allen was on hand, touting the F. U. N. Convention scheduled for January, 1972 in Miami, which should be a dilly!

Twenty-eight members of the New York Numismatic Club attended the ANA meeting, whereas their meeting in August was attended by only six members. Most of the New Jersey numismatic groups were well represented, along with some 120-odd dealers, among which there were no major firms missing. All in all, it made for a friendly, if not a rewarding, "cent-wise" convention.

Louis Helfenstein stayed quite late in my room, and along with Breen and some others, they made some exhilarating conversation. Ramont exhibited his large cents collection, and the spread was really impressive. About 12 midnight, the large group broke up into separate meetings in other rooms, where trading and talking continued until about 3 A. M.

DENIS LORING REPORTS ON THE ANA MEETING:

"Dear People: Yours truly has returned from the ANA. I'm afraid that the meeting wasn't quite like last time, as I didn't turn up any new variety; but it was a ball of fin nonetheless. Here's a report of the goings-on:

MONDAY: I arrived at the Washington Hilton around 9:45 A.M., just in time to check in, pick up my badge, and slip down to the PNG bourse. There was absolutely NOTHING - in fact, I can't remember ever having been to a show of this magnitude and seeing fewer nice early cents. It looked bad for the cherrypickers. My freshly-arrived roomie, Gordon Wrubel, showed up about this time, and we travelled together for a while, but the pickings just weren't there. Later, we came across Del Bland. The day ended with the usual buy-sell-swap session in the Loring-Wrubel headquarters. Early to bed. . . . . better luck tomorrow!

TUESDAY: The bourse opened 15 minutes late, much to the consternation of the teeming throng at the starting gate. As we were soon to learn, there were many nice Late Date cents waiting to be snapped up, but the Early Date cents were hard to find. Tom Werner had the nicest selection: by convention's end, he had pleased several EACers. The 1793 Wreath cents abounded - there were over a hundred of them on the floor, most of them going begging. As far as I know, there was only one R7 Early Date purchased at the entire bourse: a 1798 S-183, G6, which sold for a modest \$13.50.

Lots of EAC members arrived today - Paul Munson, Jules Reiver, George Ramont, and Jack Storm, among others. Soon to follow were Willard C. Blaisdell, Walter Breen, President Herb Silberman, Doug Smith, Enoch Blackwell, Dan Boller, Charles Ruby, and many others, including the living legend, Louis Helfenstein. Another to arrive was Mrs. Lillian Willins of Maine, who was soon to drop the bombshell of the convention.

On Tuesday evening, Jules and I played Old Cent Whist with the 1796's, and I was a 6 point winner in a closely-fought match.

WEDNESDAY: Already the days have started to run tonto each other. Del Bland and I spent a few hours going through five boxes of WCB duplicates and we each emerged with a handful. There was more bourse hunting but no results. One coin deserves mention as the tragedy of the show: a 1793 Liberty Cap on a beautiful, light-and-dark brown-streaked planchet. The entire obverse had been re-tooled: hair, face, and cap. Without any re-tooling the coin would have graded at least a Fine. I almost cried when I turned over the coin - an S-12-K!!! Why do people do these things?

In the evening, Jules and I met in the Reiver-Ramont chambers for Whist on 1797, with Jules the winner on the strength of a staggering number of 2-1 scores. During the later evening, Del produced the find of the show: an 1818 N-4, VF25, CC 2 or 3. One look at Jules' eyes and all of us knew that Del would never leave the room until Jules had made the coin his. Fortunately, Del realized it too.

THURSDAY: More of the same - buying, selling, trading, looking. By this time it was clear that the convention could be renamed the Del Bland show - just about everything was falling his way. Today's finds included an 1818 N-2 AU55, CC-2, and an 1816 N-1 in VF, as well as many MS gems in the later dates. Del shared his good fortune the way he always does: he's a rare breed of dealer!

We met again in Jules' room for more penny talk. It was there that Mrs. Willins, attending an EAC gathering for the first time, dropped her bombshell - she had an 1801 S-217, VF 20 or 25, FOR SALE. Pandemonium reigned supreme. Many of us wanted the coin - who would get it, and for how much? The ultimate decision was reached. A price was set, and the buyer would be decided by lot at the EAC meeting on Friday night.

FRIDAY: We all looked forward to the EAC meeting with eager anticipation, so much so that we decided to have a pre-meeting dinner in the hotel. The dinner was well attended, with the conversation ranging from cents to taxes to architecture to Klein bottles sitting in 4-dimensional space.

The meeting was held in the hastily-re-arranged Silberman suite with EACers jamming every available corner. Doug Smith and I exhibited a collection of "twinsies", featuring such pairs as the 1794 S-19a and b in VG8; the 1803 S-264 in early and late dies states in VG10; and a pair of Fair-2 Jefferson Heads, one plain edge (S-80) and one lettered edge (NC1).

Finally the moment arrived - the lottery for the S-217. Into the basket went the slips of paper, and out came the name of a well-known East Coast collector! We all congratulated the lucky fellow - his smile was visible for a thousand miles.

SATURDAY: This was the saddest day, because we all had to leave for home, but we vowed to return to the next ANA convention if at all possible. Yes - EAC had met again! The glow still lingers.

This has been but a capsule summary of some of the show's highlights. Much, much more could be added: George Ramont's fantastic exhibit of cents from his collection; the Gilroy S-1 changing hands for \$5,000.; a \$12,000. collection of cents which was broken up among EACers; photos of Enoch Blackwell's newest prizes: a 1796 NC4 in F12 and an 1800 NC4 in AG3. One can go on and on. Words just can't do it true justice - you have to be there to see for yourself. I'm glad that I was!

\* \* \* \* \*

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\*  
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\* \* \* \* \*



## HALF CENTS - VARIETIES AND KEYS

William R. T. Smith

I would like to suggest some extensions of the listings usually made for the early half cent series from 1793 to 1811. 1825 and 1826 are also included, because they each have one common and one scarce variety. These extensions are made with several purposes in mind:

- (1) to put some life into several dates, not only by identification of distinct die varieties but by providing an easy key to the attribution of scarce varieties. This is especially relevant for 1794 and 1803, where only the dates are usually specified in catalogues and advertisements. To a lesser degree, the same might be said for 1793, but it won't be said because only a few can afford more than one of that date;
- (2) to flush out some of the unattributed specimens of these scarce varieties now held by type or date collectors or in dealers' stocks. This could make scarce varieties less difficult to find or less costly to acquire. On the other hand, it might turn some of these collectors into die variety collectors and put some of the more common varieties in greater demand; and
- (3) to simplify the attribution of scarce and rare varieties for the cherrypicker with a short memory, especially the one who feels that carrying around a reference book would be too awkward or slow, involve a loss of pride or confidence, and might decrease one's bargaining position.

The general rule followed in making identifications beyond those in the Guide Book is to focus on one additional parameter or area of the coin which will spring loose the scarcer varieties (exception - 1803). A single asterisk (\*) is used to denote a scarce coin or the scarcest variety, while a double asterisk (\*\*) implies a rare or very rare variety. Only those varieties listed in Gilbert are covered and are identified by number. New varieties have been discovered for 1804, 1806, 1808/7, and 1809.

If you are not a half cent collector and have bothered to read this far, please read on and let me know if you find any of the \*\* items.

1793	14 leaves on right branch	G-2
	15 leaves on right branch	G-1, G-3
	*16 leaves on right branch	G-4
1794	Small head, 8 berry reverse	G-1
	**Small head, 11 berry reverse	G-3
	**Small head, 12 berry reverse	G-2
	Large head, 8 berry reverse	G-9
	Large head, 9 berry reverse	G-5
	Large head, 11 berry reverse	G-8
	Large head, 12 berry reverse	G-4, G-6, G-7

1795	Plain edge, no pole, 7 berry reverse	G-6
	Plain edge, no pole, 9 berry reverse	G-5
	Plain edge, punctuated date, 7 berry reverse	G-4
	**Plain edge, punctuated date, 8 berry reverse	G-8
	**Plain edge, punctuated date, 9 berry reverse	G-7
1797	*Plain edge, low head	G-2
	Plain edge, high head	G-3
1803	*11 berry reverse	G-1
	*Large fraction	G-4
	Large fraction, break from right stem	G-2
	Ciphers in denominator very close	G-3
1804	Spike Chin	G-7
	Spike Chin, break from right stem	G-8
	**Spike Chin, triple leaf under left stand of F	G-9
	*Spike Chin, wide denominator	G-11
	Crosslet 4, Stems	G-4, G-5, G-6
	**Crosslet 4, Stems, low 4	G-10
1805	**Small 5, Stems	G-4
	*Small 5, Stems, break from final A	G-3
1809	*Perfect Date, Curl over 09	G-3
	Perfect Date, Curl over 0	G-2, G-4
1811	Close Date	G-1
	*Wide Date	G-2
1825	Curl over 25	G-1
	*Curl over 5	G-2
1826	High leaf under S	G-1
	*High leaf past S	G-2

I hope that the above organization of these keys will provide some help to those of you who collect half cents. Personally, I have spent more time recently on my large cent collection, but I collect half cents as well and at times I find them to be a nice change of pace. All I need to do is to start browsing through my copy of the Brobston Sale catalogue, and the half cent bug bites again!

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## THE NEW GUIDE BOOK: A REVIEW

John D. Wright

By now, most of us have had a chance to become familiar with the new 25th GUIDE BOOK OF UNITED STATES COINS. For you few who have not, GO BUY ONE! While any book could be improved in some way, the new RED BOOK has incorporated so many improvements that it truly deserves the label "new".

Apparently, for the first time, Whitman has given serious attention to, and has actually sought out the suggestions of several specialty groups. The suggestions submitted by members of the EAC have been followed extensively for the large cent series, and Dr. Lapp (representing the EAC) is listed among the contributors on page 3. The half dollar series has also been completely revamped, following suggestions from Stew Witham, Paul Munson, Al Overton, and others. Apparently even the FIDO buffs have been allowed their say, judging from the multitude of new "over-mintmark" listings.

The highly-touted "market analysis" instituted last year with an undigested table of uninteresting raw data has become a true analysis. It covers commemoratives this year.

The avowed impetus behind such a complete about-face from the status quo revered so long by Whitman is their "Silver Anniversary (25th) Edition", though I imagine the stiff competition of Reed's COWLES COMPLETE ENCYCLOPEDIA and Taxay's even better SCOTT'S COMPREHENSIVE CATALOG AND ENCYCLOPEDIA influenced their decision at least a little. Several of the better features of both these books are incorporated into the new GUIDE BOOK.

Suggestions for improvement will be confined to our particular interest - the large cent section.

1. If the "starred reverse" is listed, it should be priced. The coin, while rare, is not so rare as a "no price" would imply. Most dealers, on offering an "unpriced" coin in any grade, immediately think in four figures.
2. A more definitive difference between "first reverse" and "third reverse" would prove helpful (pp 68-69).
3. Enlarged cuts for dates, fractions, hair would prove more usable than the present cuts (pp 69-72).
4. Several illustrations are from worn-out plates and need to be replaced for clarity (pp 67-78).
5. Several whole-coin illustrations in the 1816-1828 and 1840-1857 periods could better illustrate their points with enlarged cuts. The resultant saving of space could be used for additional cuts for the 1803 and 1807 listings.

6. An "XF" column is needed for 1816-1857. This is a commonly-seen grade for this series, and the price differential between VF and MS is too great for normal "fudging in".

Ken Bressett has done truly and admirable job of rewriting the book. The extensive use of specialty suggestions has, besides improving the product, transformed the new GUIDE BOOK from a "they" book to a "we" book.

With six to eight months to work on it, I'm certain that the EAC can provide the necessary photographs or negatives for Whitman to use in an even better 26th edition.

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#### REPORT FROM "COIN WORLD"

COIN WORLD for July 21, 1971 had the following to say about the Red Book revision:

"The large cent section has undergone a complete face lifting, primarily due to the efforts of the Early American Coppers Club, whose members made a joint effort to reorganize listings and information, and to determine which varieties should be listed for the greatest benefit to collectors. Here again, varieties deleted from the list are as noteworthy as those added.

The rearranged listing and new photographs, especially enlargements of overdates, will add greatly to the usefulness and clarity of this section.

Values of Early Date cents have risen slightly, especially rare varieties and coins in higher grade condition. The later, more common dates remain steady or with only slight upward changes in value."

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#### WHAT HATH EAC WROUGHT?

#### THE 1972 GUIDE BOOK - A DISSENTING VIEW

William R. T. Smith

I recently purchased a copy of the new 1972 GUIDE BOOK, just to see what had been done to the section on large cents. From previous issues of PENNY-WISE, it was my understanding that some of our members had contributed to this revision. The large cent section, however, proved to be a big disappointment to me. I had anticipated several changes based on PENNY-WISE material: lumping together of the S-11b and S-11c; adding the S-48; lumping together the S-266 a, b, and c; dropping the 1833 LL; and adding the 1834 N-5. As you can see, I wasn't very happy with the changes which were made for the following reasons:

1. Most collectors start out by buying the GUIDE BOOK prior to reading Sheldon or Newcomb. The organization of material in the GUIDE BOOK can serve the purpose of interesting the novice collector in the series as it is presented and in identifying that more varieties do exist. Much of the interest that we have in large

cents stems from the number of varieties that exist within any segment of the entire series. Varieties are something to advertise. Instead of increasing the count of varieties, it was decreased. Excluding the die states of the S-266, 15 varieties were dropped and only 5 were added. Other series such as bust half dollars and Morgan silver dollars have attracted great interest because die varieties have been 'discovered' by collectors and listed in the GUIDE BOOK.

In particular, I felt that the Newcomb series needed a shot in the arm by identifying more, rather than fewer, varieties. This may not be easy in the latter part of the series where varieties are identified only after tedious study, but it certainly can be done in the earlier part of the series. One technique which might be useful would be to identify the number of varieties of a type that are known to the specialist. I discovered that this was done in early STANDARD CATALOGUES. For example, 1796 LIHERTY, 1801 Three Errors, and 1824 Over 22 could each be followed with 'two varieties'. I can't think of a simpler device for transmitting infectious die-varieties.

2. Rather than expanding upon historical description terminology, the terminology in use for years was discarded and replaced with identifications which are rather clinical for GUIDE BOOK-level reading.
3. Many of the changes seem inconsistent:
  - (a) Close dates and Wide dates were dropped in 1798 Rev. of /96, 1817, 1821, and 1822, but not in 1826. Perhaps dropping the 1826 Over 25 was enough punishment for 1826. CD's and WD's need a good lawyer.
  - (b) Large dates and Small dates of 1798 were converted into hair styles although the correspondence is not exact (large dates have Style 1 hair except for the three whisker varieties S-165, 166, and 167) and the 1812's were merged while 1803 was thankfully spared and 1846 plods on with a medium-sized date as well.
  - (c) Blunt 1's and perfect 1's lost out in 1801 and 1805 but were spared again in 1803. 1803 must have a good lawyer but obviously a poor photographer. One of the least understood distinctions among dealers as a whole has been that between the 1803 Large date and Small date. The new GUIDE BOOK doesn't help at all.
  - (d) Single and double leaf reverses are distinguished for 1796, 1797, and 1798 but not for 1795 as that year saw its familiar "ONE CENT high" and "ONE CENT low" varieties delisted.
  - (e) The 1847 Over 7 doesn't merit special attention out of all the overdates and recut dates listed in John Wright's fine article.
  - (f) Several "variety locations" were dropped while others were retained. Edges (in part) and fraction bars were victimized. Again, the interest in varieties depends upon the many kinds of varieties, not just many varieties of the same type. The date location varieties of Indian Head cents have never really caught on (nor have Late Date post-1843 Newcombs).
  - (g) If the S-48 is to be included in the GUIDE BOOK, it should be priced. After all, the S-48 is an R-6 and not a unique museum piece.

In general, I had hoped to see the representation of both the Sheldon and Newcomb series expanded not only in the number of listings but also in the quality and usefulness of the photographs. Therefore, I was disappointed with the large cent section as it had been revised. I hope that I'm not alone."



John Wright answered Bill Smith's criticisms as follows:

"Dear Bill:

I read your GUIDE BOOK critique with interest. Had it been eight months earlier, more of its tenets may have been heeded. When I visited Dr. Lapp in December, 1970, I studied all of the suggestions which had been sent in for revising the new GUIDE BOOK. I don't recall seeing yours there. My own suggestions were the most extensive of the lot - you're speaking to the 'villain responsible for this butchery'. Please allow me to counter several of your points:

1. We are not 'pushing' large cents. A 'shot in the arm' was not our intent..... rather, a rational, understandable presentation of the series from the general, casual, or less advanced viewpoint. I concur with your suggestions of "number of varieties" for each listing, or at least for each year. I didn't think of this when making my suggestions, nor, apparently did anyone else. Past actions of the STANDARD CATALOGUE should not be expected to be followed without specific suggestions, as the STANDARD CATALOGUE was published by Wayte Raymond, not Whitman.

2. The old descriptions were practically non-existent. While I agree that the new are 'clinical', they are head and shoulders above the 'nothing' or the 'ambiguous' which prevailed before.

3. Noted inconsistencies:

(a) I don't consider the dropping of Wide/Close as 'punishment'. I advocated either dropping same or adding new years to this class to alleviate the already-existing inconsistency. Bressett chose the first alternative.

(b) The hair styles of 1798 are a more gross distinguishing feature than the size of the 8-punch. The assumed equivalence 'large date - Style 1 hair' was not intended. The large/small distinction of 1812 is more a feature of figure-style than of size, the size-difference being fairly minimal. The three date-sizes of 1846 are easily distinguishable, although I would recommend date cuts to illustrate them.

(c) The blunt vs pointed 1 in 1801 is a minor difference of a broken punch. The 1805 difference is greater, and I agree that it could have been preserved. My recommendation was to either eliminate blunt/pointed 1 in 1801 or to carry this distinction into the 1/000 and 3-error listings. The former course was chosen. Again, an existing inconsistency was eliminated. The 1803 large date is more than an unbroken punch. The difference here is gross. We shall provide the needed cut for this date.

(d) The three reverse-types of 1795-8 could have been described a little more clearly, which we hope to see remedied. In 1795, the high/central ONE CENT is a gross difference on the plain-edge cents only, being rather high on all the lettered-edge cents. Perhaps a better list might be: (1) LE, rx tp 1;

(2) LE, rx tp II; (3) PE, 1¢ high; (4) PE, 1¢ central; (5) RE (unpriced); (6) Jeff Hd.

(e) The 47/small 7 is one of the more apparent and interesting recuts of the period, although I don't consider it any more 'interesting' than the 1846 N-4, 1847 N-1, or the 1848 N-4. See the September 1969 NUMISMATIST, page 1212, for the extent of the recutting on these.

(f) I can't answer your point, since I don't know what your point is.

(g) I agree wholeheartedly. Ereen submitted a list of proposed valuations on the "starred reverse" (which was nowhere near the scalper's rate paid for the Masters coin), though this list apparently got misplaced somewhere in the shuffle.

4. One of the set parameters was 'no more pages'. A revision was desirable and was accomplished. The allocated space could be filled with more discussion, description, and pictures at the expense of some less spectacular listings or vice versa. I consider it commendable that the former course was chosen."

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#### COSTS FOR PUBLICATION AND MAILING OF "PENNY-WISE"

Have you ever wondered what it costs to produce a single issue of PENNY-WISE? Here's the breakdown of expenses for the last three issues:

	March 15	May 15	July 15
Typing and mimeographing			
275 copies	\$170.00	\$152.00	\$194.00
Collating and addressing	24.06	39.92	39.06
Plates and offset printing	49.92	- -	27.94
Postage	<u>51.52</u>	<u>40.88</u>	<u>74.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$295.50</b>	<b>\$232.80</b>	<b>\$335.00</b>
 Cost of each copy	 1.08	 .90	 1.22

All administrative expenses, costs of supplies, long distance telephone charges, photocopy charges used to make mockups of each issue, postage, and various other miscellaneous items - amounting to approximately \$50.-\$100. per month in addition - are never charged to the club. They are borne by the personnel involved as out-of-pocket expenses.

Is PENNY-WISE a bargain? We here at headquarters think so!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

PHOTO-PENNY QUIZ NO. 4

Ned Bush

The subject for this quiz is the Liberty Cap series. I hope that it will generate a little more interest than the last P-PQ. The photography is gradually improving, but we are still working to improve our technique. Any suggestions in this regard will be appreciated.

For those not familiar with the P-PQ, the rules are simple: identify each coin by Sheldon number and grade the coin. Send your responses to:

Edward R. Bush  
19 Northway Court  
Anderson, Indiana 46011

No prizes are awarded for the best answers. However, you should get a lot of satisfaction out of seeing how well you did in contrast with a panel of experts.

The subject for the next quiz will be the Coronet cents. I am mainly interested in the Early Date cents, so I will need all the help which I can get in gathering a wide variety of Coronet cents so that I can photograph them. Any help from the members will be greatly appreciated.

1. Even dark brown. Finely porous rev., clean obv. Rim dent over first T in STATES.
2. Even medium brown, with high points darker brown. Three rev. rim dents. Generally irregular rim on rev.
3. Dark brown obv. and rev. Rims clean, except for minor irregularities on reverse.
4. Even dark brown surface. Minute rim irregularities on rev.
5. Medium brown surface. No rim injuries.
6. Poorly recolored, with Cap and bust brassy colored; brownish-black background. Rim on rev. bruised; pitting on rev. even throughout.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ever study a blotter? Very absorbing.

-- The Rat-Fink.

No. 1.



No. 2.



No. 3.



No. 4.



No. 5.



No. 6.





## THE TWO OLD LADIES IN GRAY - A TRUE STORY

Paul W. Paterson

I like to attend local coin shows and to browse around the bourse tables, asking "Got any Early Date large cents?" Every so often, I turn up a nice large cent which is for sale at a fair price, and such a coin gets a change of ownership. While indulging in this pastime, I have encountered many types of dealers, some young, some old. A few seem to know a lot about 1950-D nickels, 1938-D halves, and the like. Others seem to know how to grade and to price present day coins in general. But percentage-wise, there seem to be very few, particularly the older dealers, who have any knowledge at all of large cents.

At a recent show, I met two young dealers who were partners. As things were pretty dull at the moment, we got to chatting; and these two youngsters - perhaps they were 23 or 24 - told me quite a story.

It seems that they knew of two coin dealers, Dave and Al, who frequently canvassed the homeowners in their locality in an effort to buy up any coins which might be available. One day, in their pursuit of numismatic material, they met a little old lady who had some coins in a metal box. There were only a few coins in the box, and all but two - a 1793 half cent and an 1804 cent - were practically worthless. The old lady explained that the coins had belonged to her grandfather and had been kept in the box for over a hundred years. Dave and Al observed that neither the half cent nor the cent showed any visible signs of wear - each looked to be new. Even more important, the 1804 cent looked just like the picture in the Red Book - that one with the obverse and reverse broken dies - and the 0 in the date lined up perfectly with the 0 of OF.

Dave and Al felt bighearted and generous that day, so they offered the little old lady \$50. for the two coins, which she accepted. But during the weeks that followed, they brooded about their investment. After all, the color of both coins was a steel gray; and all good numismatists know that half cents and large cents can be brown or black, or shades of each, but never steel gray in color.

The more they thought about their purchase, the more they became convinced that the coins were counterfeit. A pox on that nice-looking, crooked old lady! Finally, a dealer member in their local coin club, on hearing of their bad investment, offered to take the two coins off their hands for the same price they had paid - \$50. - because, as he put it, "I want them for my collection of counterfeit coins". Needless to say, the two sharpies were happy to get their money back after being so badly gypped by that nasty old lady; and I'm sure that the altruist who bought them for his collection of phonies realized that they weren't counterfeit at all.

Has anyone recently purchased a steel gray 1804, near Mint State, with broken dies? or perhaps a 1793 half cent which looks like it just left the Mint? It is my sincere hope that these two ladies, after having been locked up for perhaps a hundred years or more and having turned gray during their long confinement, may have finally found some appreciative homes for themselves, especially after such a shady start!

\* \* \* \* \*

Paul Carter

As a Johnny-come-lately to be bitten by the large cent bug, I find to my chagrin that the cents, especially the Early Dates, are not only very expensive but also difficult to find. The brutal fact that the big coppers saw a lot of circulation is forcefully brought to my attention when I strain my eyes for an identifying feature on a coin which hopefully will designate it as a variety that I do not have. Why is it that so many of the big cents are in such poor condition? Much has been written about the poor alloy of the copper, the attempt to preserve the dies by light striking, the passage of time and the tendency of copper to deteriorate under adverse conditions. Along with these detrimental factors, it is also well established that there were no coin collectors in 1857 prior to the demise of the large cents, so many of the coins just wore out from over-use. All of the aforementioned are well documented and factual, having been discussed many times by students of numismatics. However, in my perusal of various coin publications, I have never found much data that actually dealt with the economic status of the early large cents.

I was fortunate recently in acquiring more than 500 letters, bills of sale, IOU's, receipts, pages from ledgers listing services traded for goods, bills, payrolls, etc., all dating between 1785 and 1820, ninety-nine per cent of which deal with money matters. In studying these to learn something of the economic conditions during the large cent era, I found that they clearly accentuate the necessity of the cent as a medium of exchange and that all the documents substantiate the importance of the large cent for the everyday transactions of the time.

I also found it interesting that among all these documents which covered salaries for a state governor to the 66 cents per day paid a common laborer, there was not one reference to a half cent. This was a bit of a surprise to me inasmuch as the little midgets are particular friends of mine. . . . perhaps because my half cents are in so much better condition than are my large cents. . . . which further proves and accentuates the already established fact that the half cents just did not circulate. Doesn't it seem odd that in so many documents dealing with money that there wouldn't be at least one entry involving a half cent? . . . particularly so, when one finds the importance of the cent as a trade medium for the 1793-1814 period and the odd values placed on many necessities in that era. As an example, one can take potatoes which were priced at 33 cents a bushel. With such a low daily wage scale, it would seem likely that a person might be able to buy only a half bushel at a time, in which case there should be a demand for a half cent in change.

I found it of further interest that most of the documents before 1800 contained entries in pounds, shillings, and pence. This was due, undoubtedly, to the preponderance of English and other foreign coins still in circulation at that time. Then, too, the accountants may have been having difficulty in adjusting to the new decimal equivalents. After 1800, no further entries were found using the English pound system, although dollars and cents were often written as \$ 3=37 or \$ 3:37.

I thought that it might be of some interest to compare the value of money in the Early Date large cent era as an exchange medium for goods and services, so I have compiled a list of prices of various items. No attempt was made to make the list exhaustive, and only everyday items were considered. From the prices, it can easily be seen that the cent was by no means a pittance at the time. . . . . on the other hand, it was a most valuable coin. This fact further struck home to me that cents used for oddball purposes such as buttons, washers, and the other umpteen defacements we have found in recent years must have been done at a later date than 1820, for a man who worked for only 66 cents per day would undoubtedly think twice about an hour's work for six washers.

In studying my documents, I found that there was very little fluctuation in the prices of goods and services between 1785 and 1817 - at the most, maybe a cent or two either way. Laborers were paid at the rate of 66¢ to 75¢ per day depending upon one's individual skill. A team of oxen could be rented for about the same price as a laborer or 75¢ per day, while a team of horses cost 50¢. For the use of a wagon - one with wheels - an additional 25¢ was charged. . . . . a plow, harrow, sled, or wood scoot did not command the extra 25¢. The fact that oxen cost more than a team of horses is understandable; oxen, being untiring animals, will work anywhere, even in mud; whereas horses need to be rested so that they can blow and regain their wind. Would you believe that I have driven both types of teams? As late as the 1930's, oxen were used for heavy draft work in many parts of this nation.

In my collection of documents, the largest single transaction was for the sale of property - the sale consisted of 140 acres of land plus a large tract of salt meadow, a house, a barn and mill, a cow, three wagons, and 3000 feet of sawed lumber - all for \$3,767. The smallest deal noted was 3¢ for a pair of stays as a bid at an auction - never wore 'em. . . . . what the heck are they, anyway?

Inasmuch as I did not want to convert the English system to the U.S. decimal system, I have listed the prices of goods for the years 1800-1819:

1 pound of sugar	11¢	1 pig	\$1.33
1 gallon of molasses	27¢	1 cow	20.00
20 quarts of milk	17¢	1 sheep	1.27
12 quarts, corn meal	36¢	1 cow, 2 oxen	69.00
1 bushel potatoes	33¢	1 fancy rocking chair	3.00
1 bushel turnips	27¢	8 fancy walnut chairs	18.00
1 peck of salt	49¢	1 walnut bedstead	9.00
1/2 peck of apples	8¢	3,000 shingles	9.17
9 pounds of beef	97¢	1 pair of shoes	1.60
3 pounds of pork	97¢	re-soling shoes	.46
1 peck crackers	39¢	1 axe	1.83
1 gallon rum (New England)	69¢	1 handle for axe	.17
1 gallon gin	\$1.38	1 pair of bellows	.75
1 gill whiskey	8¢		
1 peck of rye (dry)	33¢		
1 pound tobacco	13¢		

The prices realized at an auction in 1814 are interesting:

1 chest-of-drawers	69¢
6 pillow slips	31¢
1 pair of stays	3¢
1 broad axe	59¢
1 whet stone	10¢
1 hunting horn and balls	50¢
1 razor buttons	37¢

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#### WHAT ABOUT ELECTROTYPES?

Herbert A. Silberman

The electrotype method is a process used to duplicate, with great detail and extreme accuracy, an individual coin. The method is simple and direct, and the result is easy to detect.

How is an electrotype made? First, wax impressions are made of the obverse and reverse surfaces of the coin to be copied. The wax takes an extremely fine impression, and the periphery can be trimmed easily to the required thickness. The impressions are then gently coated with any electrically conductive material such as graphite, powdered copper, etc. Next, the obverse and reverse pieces are placed in a saline bath. A cathode is attached to the pieces to be plated, and an anode is immersed in the same bath. (For reproducing copper pieces, a copper anode is used; for silver, a silver rod is employed.) Direct current is then used, which causes copper to flow from the anode to the cathode, thereby depositing a coating onto the prepared surface. When a coating of proper thickness has been applied, the two shells are removed, trimmed, filled with metal (usually lead), then joined together and trimmed.

The edges can be masterfully joined and sometimes are very difficult to detect. Sometimes it is possible to find a concave edge (this can never occur on a struck coin).

An electrotype piece will not ring true when struck; and high or exposed areas may be found occasionally, especially when the thin "shell" has worn through and exposed the metal used as filler.

When in doubt, always weigh the coin. Large cents for the years 1793 to 1795 weigh 208 grains; those from 1796 to 1857 weigh 168 grains. Barring excessive wear, real copper cents should closely approximate the stated weights.

Be sure to note the thickness of the coin in question. An unusually thin or thick planchet may be a disguise for a fraudulent weight.

Most important of all, if the coin doesn't ring true, then forget it. I've never found an electrotype which had a "ring" to it; and I've never seen a true coin that didn't.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From JULIUS FELDMAN: "Momma Mia, but P-W No. 25 was a most delicious meathall!!! Enjoyed every tasty morsel, in particular Dane Nielsen's dramatic telling of the Central States Convention and the Masters' auction sale. (I really felt as if I were right there with all the gang.) And I also liked our new member's story of how he (Bob Schuman) was initiated into the EAC.

I especially look forward to those various reports on regional conventions and of meetings all over the country, as we have so very few shows here in Arizona. So you roving reporters Wright, Nielsen, Brown, Smith, Palmer, etc. . . . .keep up the good work!

Tom Wolf sure is plugging hard to get the annual EAC meeting to Miami in January. Good luck, Tom!

Paul Carter's experimenting with foil pressings set me a-dabbling too. . . . . and I think that I have come up with the answer to our problems - the most serious one being the handling and re-handling of the foil after the pressing was made, which usually resulted in the pressing becoming pretty well mashed up. To overcome this problem, I've taken a regular 2x2 coin mount (half dollar size) and cut two pieces of foil 2x2. Then I applied a very thin layer of Elmer's Glue to both sides of the mount on the inside, after which I appended the foil on each side (I prefer the dull side down). The foil should be pressed down firmly with a blotter or piece of paper - let this dry for a few minutes only. To make the pressing, insert your coin between the foils and close the mount, insert the mount in the press, exert a little pressure, and PRESTO! you have the most fantastic foil pressings which you have ever seen. Remove the mount from the press, flip out the coin, staple the 2x2 mount, and there you have it. There's only one word of caution: do not use too much Elmer's Glue or it will spill over the transparent windows in the mount and spoil their looks.

It seems to me that this transparent material prevents the foil from sticking to the press and acts as a cushion or seat to really make some ideal pressings. I made one pressing of an 1839 N-9 which shows the die crack mentioned by Newcomb much better than you can see it on the actual coin. I'll be happy to supply samples of the mounts or pressings to anyone who writes me, requesting them. For samples, write me: Julius Feldman, 2475 North Haskell Drive, #554N, Tucson, Arizona 85716." (Editor's Note: Julius enclosed some samples, and they appear even better than he describes them. Try his method. . . . . it's easy and good!)

From PAUL CARTER: "The wife and I took a vacation up into Maine. Had a good time. Took the coastal route up, then cut inland for the rest of the trip. I have been too busy to do anything with the big cents this summer. Have done a few flea markets with junk coins and other stuff which I've picked up. I did fairly well financially with one coin show on the Cape as well as had a lot of fun."

From EUGENE EXMAN: "Sorry to be late with my check for my PENNY-WISE subscription. I'll add a small bonus."

From LILLIAN SEILER WILLINS (Mrs. T. N., Jr.): "Please have the spelling of my last name corrected in the next issue of P-W, as it was spelled incorrectly:



"Williams" (in Vol. V, No. 3, page 91). If possible, I would appreciate having my name reflected as follows:

Lillian Seiler Willins (Mrs. T. N. Jr.)

Some of the EAC members knew me prior to my marriage eight years ago as Miss "Seiler" and they do not know that I have changed my name to Willins. Printing my name as shown above would clarify the matter.

I became a twenty-five year member of A.N.A. this year, and I am hoping to be able to make the convention in Washington, D.C., having made my reservation at the Hilton. The last ANA convention I was able to attend was in Boston many years ago - and I have my fingers tightly crossed that all goes well for me this time and that I shall find myself in Washington by August 11th and can remain through the 14th. I am most anxious to meet you and the other EAC members who will be attending. It will be a wonderful treat for me as there is no one in my home area who is seriously interested in the study of large cent varieties. I have had to be a "loner" for many years."

From JOHN W. ADAMS: "PENNY-WISE No. 25 was simply super. I cannot wait until Part III of John Wright's auction catalog opus appears! And Dane Nielsen certainly gets my vote for permanent roving reporter.

On a recent business trip to Chicago and Los Angeles, I found time to duck into seven of their local coin shops. With one outrageously overpriced exception, there were no Early Dates in stock which could threaten VF. During my various visits, I had a chance to talk to the author of the catalog for the recent Masters' sale. I got a distinct feeling that his recent intensive exposure to the cent-collecting fraternity was not an altogether happy experience. I've been wondering just how many of you guys "put it to him".

I'm enclosing a trade offer for inclusion in Swaps & Sales which might turn on one or two of your Draped Bust enthusiasts."

From WILLIAM E. HOPKINS, M.D.: "Well, I see that you've done it again - first, an excellent article in the April NUMISMATIST on the effects of yellow fever on the early Mint in Philadelphia - and now, in the August issue of the same esteemed journal, another fine article entitled 'Uses and Abuses of U.S. Large Cents'. All I can say is a sincere 'Congratulations!'! The research required to write such articles as these requires a great deal of time and effort. Still, it represents 'fun' time; and one's satisfaction in achieving a finished product such as these two articles makes the effort well worthwhile.

I am enclosing a recent newspaper article from our EAC vice-president, Robinson S. Brown, Jr. Although I have not yet had the opportunity to meet him, I hope to do so one of these days.

I recently bought one of Tom Wolf's presses and am delighted with the impressions which it makes. My fifteen-year-old son thinks it is really fantastic, which makes it A-OK.

I greatly enjoyed the coverage of the Central States Convention by Dane Nielsen, William R. T. Smith, and Robert Schuman.

This letter would not be complete unless I expressed by appreciation to you for the fine job you do as Editor of PENNY-WISE. Keep up the good work!"

(Editor's Note: The article on V.P. Brown is reported elsewhere in this issue.)

From PHILIP L. BRANSON: "About six months ago, I had a most interesting visit in Atlanta with John Wright and his charming wife, Mabel Ann. I invited them to join me for dinner at a local restaurant where the food was good but very meager. I apologize to you, John - I didn't realize that you were such a big man - not only mentally but also structurally.

My conviction is that John is at the top on his so-called Tammanys. Had he devoted the same amount of time and research to the Sheldon series, he might have accomplished more. To me, the Newcomb cents, while attractive and of fairly considerable variation, will never begin to have the charm of the older big cents.

Your PENNY-WISE is good, but don't let praise deter you. Adulation is heady medicine.

There are no constructive suggestions which I can offer except that I would like to see more articles on the half cents. And if the EAC is as hard up as you sometimes indicate, I would recommend that you at least double the dues."

(Editor's Note: Phil Branson's letter is one of the most constructive we have had occasion to receive for some time. We deeply appreciate his comments and are seriously considering his many points for subsequent implementation. Good to hear from you, Phil - and our most sincere thanks!)

From ROD BURRESS: "I am enclosing an ad for photocopy sets of PENNY-WISE. (See Swaps & Sales) I have recently sold a couple of these sets to new members, so I am enclosing \$10. for the EAC treasury.

As an employee of Federated Department Stores, I have gotten the opportunity to visit Brooklyn twice in the last several months while doing consulting work at Abraham and Straus. I was able to do some sightseeing in the downtown neighborhoods and I was impressed by the subway systems and the old brownstone houses." (Editor's Note: EAC thanks Rod for his generous donation to the treasury. It is people like Rod and gifts such as his which have permitted us to continue publication of PENNY-WISE at a minimum cost to the members.)

From DARWIN B. PALMER, JR.: "Please enter a correction: at the Kansas City Coin Show, as reported upon in the last issue of P-W, I found only one S-195.

Also, the S-189 of Leland Rodgers' famous type set, as reported on page 127 of PENNY-WISE, Vol. V, No. 4, was not the Hines-Downing-EAC plate coin. I don't know where Leland got his S-189 or anything about his coin's pedigree, but the Hines-Downing specimen is now in the collection of a well-known large cent collector who is a fellow EAC member."

From DANE B. NIELSEN: "I believe that the last issue of PENNY-WISE had to be the finest ever! Reports of conventions and EAC meetings are my favorite articles. Bob Schuman and Darwin Palmer did excellent jobs, as did everyone else who contributed. By the way, keep printing excerpts from your "Letters to the Editor" - they help us to learn more about those who are just beginning or who are perhaps more reserved.

John Wright's article on cent sales crystallizes a few things although most collectors who know their cents are pretty well acquainted with most of the sales. However, I anticipate some helpful information from him on some of the lesser

known sales. In my opinion, his comments in the previous issue were not quite as authoritative, especially with regard to grading by the various firms. Only one - New Netherlands - has my unqualified support. All others, several times at least, have yielded to the temptation to put dollars above accuracy. Of course, the vast majority never grade anywhere near Dr. Sheldon's standards.

As a closing note on the Masters sale, I noted that the ex-Newcomb S-30 of 1794 which had been graded by WHS as AU50 was sold as a Mint State for \$825. The dealer from Boston who bought it is now pricing it near \$2,000.

One reservation about the July 15 P-W: I missed your introductory message on the first page. Everyone with whom I have spoken or communicated has expressed the same feeling. (Editor's Note: this was done because of the lengthy July 15 issue and to save a little money for our kitty. The same comment was received from a number of EAC members. Thanks very much. It's nice to know that I was missed!)

As you undoubtedly know, I was excited to see your article in THE NUMISMATIST for August, 1971 - it was excellently presented! except that it would have been nice to state that much of the article was reprinted from P-W. Any plug we can get is great! (The two articles which I have had published in THE NUMISMATIST were both completely re-written and added to from the articles as they originally appeared in P-W. I shall insist that future articles, if any are used, should mention that they had previously appeared in P-W - The Editor).

I very much appreciated the many letters which I got expressing interest in my CSNS report. It was especially nice to hear from those people personally who had not previously communicated with me. I hope to read of similar experiences in the September issue of P-W regarding the ANA Convention, although the sale cent-wise does not compare with the CSNS meeting. Henceforth, I intend to drop a line to those whose efforts end up in print in PENNY-WISE.

Time to sign off. This must be the earliest you have ever heard from me while getting an issue together. I guess that it's because I'm not submitting any article this issue.

Been out to your New Jersey vacation home? Wish I were there - 11th straight 90 degree-plus day in LA. Need I say more?"

From CHARLES L. RUBY: (Mailed from Anchorage, Alaska) "We are just home from our 49th state. Am not sure whether or not our paths have crossed, but hope that they do before long. . . . maybe at the ANA Convention in Washington, D.C. on August 10-14. I hope to visit the New York area in the near future - but not on this trip east. Can't be away for more than two weeks now. You are doing a fine job as editor. EAC collectors are lucky to have you and Herb Silberman who are willing and able to do all the work."

From GEORGE V. NELSON: "I've never put an ad in Swaps & Sales before, but I'd like to do so in the September issue of P-W. This is the last of my half cents, as I am now solely interested in the cents of 1794. This is nothing against half cents (one day someone is going to make a fortune from them because they are so much under-rated and under-valued) but now, at my age, I have settled on one particular year of the large pennies."

From WILLIAM R. T. SMITH: "I would really like to see PENNY-WISE arrive in the mail every month. Perhaps if enough of us contribute articles, such might not be out of the question. Anyway, I have enclosed two articles for your consideration. These represent my recent efforts.

Incidentally, whenever I buy the Red Book each year, I always like to check to see how the 1802 Rev. of 1800 half cent is doing. It finally made a big move this year. Somehow, I still remember seeing one advertised about 1959 or 1960 in VG for \$1,750., only \$1,000. over its present catalog value. The only other one which I have ever seen offered for sale was the one in the Brobston collection which then re-appeared in the Century Sale auction. Another was recently advertised in the classified ad section of COIN WORLD. I requested a photograph of it. It turned out to be the 1802 G-1 (new reverse) of the Erobston and Miles collections. It also turned out, according to the August 11, 1971 issue of COIN WORLD, that the advertiser is under Federal indictment for mail fraud in New Jersey."

From ROGER S. COHEN: "Had a great time at the ANA Convention. I particularly enjoyed the EAC meeting. Ray Munde and I talked to anyone who would discuss our beloved little girls - the half cents!"

From GEORGE K. PRETSCH: "Great coin show articles and auction reporting in PW No. 25. It was good of those who attended to think of those EACers who were unable to attend."

From HERB SILBERMAN: This letter was received just after P-W went to press: "Dear Doc: We have just published our last P-W. The members obviously are not interested enough to even pay their dues. The list of EAC numbers below represents those members who have not paid their dues in 1971. The asterisk after a number means that the member never purchased his token either. Granted, the EAC token is not exceptional, but its purchase by a member would help the kitty. Our present balance should just about cover the present issue. After that, we're broke!

2, 3, 5, 7\*, 17, 19, 26\*, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 42, 44, 53, 58, 63, 69, 73\*, 75, 87, 88, 92, 103, 107, 112, 117\*, 133, 150, 151, 153, 157\*, 160\*, 169, 171, 174, 175, 184\*, 187, 189, 190, 192\*, 193, 194\*, 203\*, 204\*, 205\*, 206\*, 207\*, 208\*, 209, 210, 211\*, 212\*, 213\*, 214\*, 215\*, 217\*, 219\*, 222\*, 223\*, 224\*, 225\*, 226\*, 227\*, 228\*, 229, 230, 231\*, 232\*, 233, 234, 235\*, 236\*, 237\*, 238.

In addition, we have the following tokens available for members who have paid their dues but who did not buy a token: 55, 78, 99, 104, 108, 111, 115, 122, 134, 138, 142, 152, 166, 216, 220, 239, 240, 241, 244, 245, 248, 249, 252, 253.

I'm sure that a great many of the listed members represent "drop outs" whom we'll never see or hear from again. In any case, should we be able to continue, we must remove all delinquents from our mailing list. Your next issue of P-W will have to be minimal, without cuts and offset printing, but even the issue will have to wait until we collect some money.

Doc, you and I have put more money, and in your case, more time and effort into this club than the rest of the members put together, and it's about time that someone else ante'd up."

SO..... THAT'S the story..... if you owe and want to pay up, then send your check at once..... if you want to buy a token, send your request and a check, and the piece will be mailed you..... if you want to contribute to the cause, any amount would be welcomed..... if you're a "drop out" and will tell us why, we'd like to know..... send all communications to Herbert A. Silberman, % EAC, P.O. Box 336, Brentwood, L. I., New York 11717.

# A SURVEY OF 'LARGE CENT AUCTIONS

## Part III: Rated Auctions

John D. Wright

Even with a two-point cutoff level, the list of significant large cent offerings since 1944 has continued to grow over the last few months. Auction catalogues have been separated out as being the original intent of this study, and a separate section has been provided for fixed-price offerings. Due to the size of these lists the fixed-price section will be presented in the next issue of Penny-Wise. Several of the catalogues listed in the last P-W as "unseen" have now been seen and only a few of them rate significant.

Perhaps a four-point or a five-point cutoff might have been more meaningful, but the die was cast so it's all here. An explanation of the rating-system used here, based on extensiveness, rarity, and condition, appeared in P-W 25, pages 120-123. The starred sales in these lists are significantly better than most large cent offerings, with the double stars commonly being referred to as "super sales".

Note that at least two collectors, J. P. Young and J. S. Sawicki, formed and sold a fabulous cent collection only to find that the cent bug would not let up that easily. Each later formed and sold an even better collection of cents. Ray Chatham sold his collection in 1959, yet he is today an active EACC'er. The same holds for Bill VanRoden. Penny-itis, like malaria, is never wholly cured.

Many "name" collections are NOT listed here because their cents lacked attributions or were not sufficiently numerous, rare, or choice. These sales were not "forgotten" -- they just did not make the grade. Consider the following examples:

1. In the Masters collection, seven of the choice early cents were listed "ex-Pelletreau". Where is the Pelletreau listing?

The Pelletreau collection was choice, but unattributed.

2. Where is the Pearl Sale?

It was a fixed-price offering. See the next issue of P-W.

3. Where is the listing for the famous Dr. French collection?

French was a fixed-price offering from early Depression days -- 14 years before the start of this study.

A few collections which were offered through a series of sales are tallied at the end of the auction list and are there rated as if they had been a single sale for each collection. Generally, these are duplications of previously-listed sales.



<u>RATING</u>	<u>SALE</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
*	Newcomb I	343 ---	7 Feb 45	Morgenthau	
	----	132	27 Apr 45	Bluestone 87	
*	Newcomb II	--- 343	16 May 45	Morgenthau	1
*	Young I	323 ---	7 Jul 45	Bluestone 88	
	Young II	--- 2-3	29 Sep 45	Bluestone 89	
	----	11- ---	21 Jun 46	Bluestone 93	2
	Deetz I I	2-1 1--	16 Nov 46	Stack's	
	Geiss	1-2 ---	18 Feb 47	Mehl 109	
*	Neil	222 2-1	17 June 47	Mehl 110	
*	Sheraton	223 1-2	26 Aug 47	Num. Gallery	5
	ANA 47				
	Hughes	21- 22-	9 Apr 48	Stack's	3
	Green	112 1-1	26 Apr 49	Mehl 112	
*	Starr dupes	--- 333	22 Aug 49	Num. Gallery	4
	ANA 49				
*	Garrabrant	222 231	19 Nov 49	Stack's	
	ANS dupes	21- 21-	20 May 50	NN 30	
**	Williams	333 313	14 Nov 50	Num. Gallery	7
	South	--2 ---	24 Feb 51	Stack's	8
	Wismer	11- ---	13 Apr 51	NN 33	
**	Young I	333 333	8 Sep 51	Bolender 181	9
	----	111 ---	20 Sep 51	HK 105	6
	Brand	--2 ---	5 Oct 51	NN 34	10
	Hall-Wurtzbach				
	Young I I	--- 231	10 Nov 51	Bolender 182	11
	----	11- ---	28 Nov 51	HK 109	6
	----	212 ---	31 Jan 52	HK 113	6, 12
*	Downing	343 121	16 Aug 52	NN 38	
	ANA 52				
	----	21- ---	31 Oct 52	HK 134	6
	Pawling	121 ---	22 Nov 52	NN 39	13
*	Agnew	21- 221	9 Dec 52	Num. Gallery	
	Downing-Williams				
	McPherson	11- 21-	26 Feb 53	Stack's	
*	----	211 322	10 May 53	Kabealo	
*	Ryder	1-3 2-2	26 Sep 53	NN 41	
	MANA 53	21- ---	23 Oct 53	NN 42	
	Sawicki	--2 1-3	27 Feb 54	Stack's	
	----	111 ---	27 Feb 54	HK 174	14
	----	112 ---	13 Mar 54	HK 176	14, 15
	Davis-Graves I	1-2 1-1	8 Apr 54	Stack's	
	----	1-1 ---	28 Apr 54	HK 178	14
	----	112 ---	29 May 54	HK 180	14, 15
	Allen-Kissner	--- 331	23 June 54	NN 44	

	----	-- 2----	7 Aug 54	HK 184	14, 16
	ANA 54	--3 --2	17 Aug 54	Federal	
**	DuPont I	343 323	24 Sep 54	Stack's	
	MANA 54	22- -21	22 Oct 54	Imperial	
	----	11- ---	28 Feb 55	HK 192	14
**	Warfield	343 343	28 Oct 55	Associated	
	Sternberg	111 1-2	2 Mar 56	Bolender 190	18
*	Clarke	212 2-2	21 Apr 56	Kosoff	19
	----	--- 121	9 Jun 56	Mason-Dixon	20
	----	11- ---	10 Sep 56	HK 207	17
	----	21- 1--	29 Mar 57	Mayflower	
	ANA 57	231 ---	20 Aug 57	Federal	
	Reed	1-- 1--	28 Sep 57	Stack's	
*	----	333 ---	31 Oct 57	HK 214	
	Empire	1-- 1--	12 Nov 57	Stack's	
**	Boyd-Gaskill I	333 343	6 Dec 57	NN 50	
	Mayfield	1-- 1--	30 Jan 58	Stack's	
	Freeman	1-1 1-1	23 May 58	Kreisberg	
	----	211 ---	30 Aug 58	HK 220	
	NENA 58	-11 ---	11 Oct 58	Old Colony	
	Landau	--1 --1	13 Dec 58	NN 52	
	----	--2 --1	13 Mar 59	NY-NJ	
	----	1-- 1--	21 Apr 59	Kelly	
*	Straus	222 212	1 May 59	Stack's	
	Holland	--3 1-3	8 May 59	Pennypacker	22
	----	1-- -1-	16 Jun 59	NN 53	
*	Sloss	1-3 1-3	21 Oct 59	Kosoff	
	----	--- -2-	18 Dec 59	Numisma	21, 24
	----	1-- 1--	30 Jan 60	French's 72	
	Hussey	2-3 1-1	22 Apr 60	NN 54	
*	Holmes I	213 2-2	5 Oct 60	Stack's	
	----	11- 11-	4 Nov 60	Kelly	
**	Schwartz	343 343	11 Oct 61	Kosoff	
	Taylor-Gallo				
	Penn-Ohio 61	111 ---	13 Oct 61	Federal	
	----	22- 1--	2 Mar 62	Stack's	
	NY Metro 62	1-- 2--	26 Apr 62	Stack's	
	----	111 ---	16 Jun 62	HK 243	21
	----	1-1 1-1	27 Jun 62	NN 56	
	----	1-1 ---	21 Jul 62	Mayflower	
	Colvin	231 ---	19 Oct 62	French's 80	23
	MANA 62				
	----	121 1--	15 Jan 63	W.E. Johnson	25, 27
	----	21- ---	19 Jan 63	Mayflower	
	Lathrman	2-1 2-1	1 Feb 63	Kosoff	

	----	111 ---	4 Feb 63	HK 247	25
	Reakirt	--2 --1	26 Mar 63	Columbus S&C	26
	----	121 ---	15 Apr 63	HK 249	25
	----	111 11-	17 Jun 63	Kreisberg	
	QM 1	222 ---	29 Jun 63	HK QM 1	25
*	Wallace	33- 331	14 Dec 63	Stack's	
	----	222 11-	18 Feb 64	W. E. Johnson	25, 28
	QM 3	111 ---	5 Mar 64	HK QM 3	25
*	Helfenstein	1-3 223	14 Aug 64	Merkin	29
*	Sawicki	123 1-2	19 Aug 64	Fed. Brand	
	ANA 64				
*	QM 4	233 ---	31 Aug 64	HK QM 4	25, 30
	Oswald	--3 ---	13 Oct 64	Christie's	31
*	QM 6	223 1-1	22 Feb 65	HK QM 6	25
	Century Sale	11- ---	30 Apr 65	Paramount	
	----	21- ---	26 Feb 66	Mayflower	
	----	11- ---	30 Jun 66	HK 264	31
	Fritz	-11 1-1	19 Oct 66	Merkin	
	----	123 ---	27 Oct 66	HK 266	31
	----	11- ---	28 Nov 66	HK 267	31
	Stearns	1-2 1-2	2 Dec 66	Mayflower	
	----	111 ---	11 Mar 67	French's 90	
	----	112 1-2	15 Jun 67	NN 59	
	ANA 67	231 1--	8 Aug 67	Paramount	32
	----	--- 1-1	20 Sep 67	Merkin	
	----	--1 1--	25 Sep 67	Kreisberg	
	----	1-- 211	26 Sep 67	NN no number	31
	Thurlow	331 ---	8 Dec 67	Mayflower	33
	NASC 13th	11- 1--	15 Feb 68	Numis. Ent.	34
	----	11- ---	9 Mar 68	HK 276	31
*	Van Roden	112 211	2 May 68	Stack's	
	----	--- 21-	24 Sep 68	Hillcrest 1	31
	Saslow	121 ---	18 Jan 69	RARCOA	36
	Miles	1-2 1-1	10 Apr 69	Stack's	
	----	21- ---	1 May 69	Hazelcorn	35
	----	222 ---	30 Sep 70	HK 291	35, 38
**	Masters	233 1-2	14 May 71	RARCOA	39
**	Newcomb	343 343	I: 7 Feb 45	Morgenthau	1793-1814
			II:16 May 45		1816-1857
*	Young	323 2-3	88: 7 Jul 45	Bluestone	1793-1814
			89:29 Sep 45		1816-1857
**	Young	333 333	181: 8 Sep 51	Bolender	1793-1826
			182:10 Nov 51		1827-1857
**	Boyd-Gaskill	333 343	50: 6 Dec 57	NN	1793-1839
			51:19 June 58		1840-1857
	----	223 ---	174:27 Feb 54	HK	1793-1797
			176:13 Mar 54		1798-1802
			180:29 May 54		1803-1814

Explanation of Notes:

1. 1816-1857 sold intact to Floyd Starr
2. Freak cents
3. Dealer's stock
4. Duplications from merging of Newcomb and Hines collections of 1816-1857
5. Offered 1945 at about four times the prices
6. Mail bid only
7. Rare Tammanys stripped out
8. 16 choice 1794's
9. Thru 1826
10. Thirty-seven 1794's
11. From 1827
12. 26 lots ex-French (1931)
13. Four NC's
14. Mail bid only
15. Two NC's
16. 26 lots 1794's, 5's
17. Mail bid only
18. Forty 1794's
19. Condition in depth
20. Mail bid sale in May NSM
21. Mail bid only
22. 103 lots, all choice
23. 42 different 1794's, among others
24. House organ for NN, published 1954-59 or later
25. Mail bid only
26. Mail bid sale in Mar NSM
27. 50 per cent still listed next year
28. 80 per cent still listed next year at fixed prices
29. 322 large cents, all choice
30. Four NC's
31. Twenty-two 1794's, all choice
32. Mail bid only
33. Many cents mis-attributed
34. Many resold in Saslow
35. Some Tammanys mis-attributed
36. Mail bid only
37. Most were re-offers from Thurlow
38. Many from ANA 64
39. Most choice, some mis-attributed

\* \* \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* BUYING UNITED STATES HALF CENTS AND LARGE CENTS \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
\* We have a great need for better grade early and late date large cents and \*  
\* half cents. Proper attributions and grading necessary. Please bear in \*  
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\*\*\*\*\*

SWAPS & SALES

This column offers EAC members an opportunity to list their duplicates and other items free of charge. The editors expect all members to use discretion insofar as length of copy is concerned, and they reserve the right to delete part or all when space becomes limited. Material to be listed in the next issue must be received by October 31. The earlier the copy is received, the more likely that it will appear.

\*\*\*\*\*

FOR SALE OR TRADE: PHOTOCOPIES OF PENNY-WISE

Complete sets of PENNY-WISE for sale at \$27. each, postpaid. Each set contains 24 issues (Sept. 1967 through May 1971) and totals over 900 pages with indexes. I will give proportionate prices for partial sets or individual issues, and I will also consider trade offers of large cents.

Rod Burress  
9830 Overview Lane  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

\*\*\*\*\*

FOR TRADE: 1801 THREE ERRORS (S-219); Condition EF-45; lovely tan to light brown surfaces with pockets of mint red; average strike, no defects. Will trade for high grade and/or rare 1794 (s) Large Cents of comparable importance. Contact: John W. Adams, 19 Marsh Street, Dedham, Mass. 02026.

\*\*\*\*\*

BUYING HALF CENTS ONLY:

Dispose of those unwanted "Little Half Sisters" by selling them to me. I love them all!! Ship coins to me for offer or send list with condition and asking price.

Roger S. Cohen, Jr. 4720 Montgomery Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20014

\*\*\*\*\*

FOR SALE: Coins of France and the French Revolution.

Copper and bronze:

laird 1721-s (Cr. 1) EF plus, luster. Scarce type	\$19.
1/2 sol 1770-& (Ciani 2145) EF, plus or minus. Rare crude coinage from Aix mint. Unlisted in Craig.	\$15.
1/2 sol 1788-ma (Cr. 72) EF some luster	11.
1 sol 1788-w (Cr. 73) EF	7.
1 sol 1786-w (Cr. 73) EF	7.
1 sol 1791-a (Cr. 73) VF plus	7.
1 sol 1791-r (Cr. 73) AU	11.
12 deniers 1791-a (Cr. 88) about EF, struck in brass	6.50
5 centimes L'an 8-aa (Cr. 135) EF	8.
Un decime 1814-bb (Cr. 174) EF plus, about as struck.	19.50
Scarce type	

Silver

1/12 ecu 1658-d (Ciani 1852) AU luster	\$19.
1/12 ecu 1661-r (Ciani 1865) EF plus, luster	19.
Ecu 1704/1701 EF Louis XIV reformation (value) coinage.	
Da. 1320 struck over Dav. 1316	63.
1/3 ecu 1721-t (Cr. 30) AU, minor adjustment, scarce type	47.
1/2 ecu 1754-w (Cr. 46) VF plus	23.
1/2 ecu 1791-a (Cr. 77) VF plus	35.
12 sols 1784-aa (Cr. 75) EF	9.
Ecu 1791-b (Cr. 93) (Dav. 1335) VF-VF plus	38.
30 sols 1791-i (Cr. 91) about VF	13.
5 Fr. L'an-12-1 (Cr. 145) VG	8.

Coins sent on approval to all EAC members who have a minimum of one year membership in EAC. Telephone 516-541-9733.

George K. Pretsch 27 Beechwood Place, Massapequa Park, New York 11762

\* \* \* \* \*

DARWIN B. PALMER, JR. 217 West Broadway, Columbia Missouri 65201

Desired by serious collector of die breaks:

- A. Bisecting Die Crack Specimens: S-14, S-68, 1802 NC1, 1839 N-1 III, 1848 N-18
- B. Varieties with Large Rim Break at Point of Bust: S-223, S-249, S-254
- C. Varieties with Large Rim Break Over UNITED: 1816 N-1, 1818 N-2, 1835 N-4.

Please write to Darwin Palmer, Jr. at above address.

\* \* \* \* \*

WILLIAM R. T. SMITH 111 Garrison Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091

For Sale or Trade - Early Silver Dollars

1796 B-4	F	1798 B-15a	F	1801 B-4	F-VF
1797 B-1	F plus	1799 B4	VG	1802/1 B-4	VG
1798 B-11a	VF-EF	1800 B-14a	F	1803 B-6	VG

Wanted: VF or better - S-74, 77, 78, 155, 219, 274, 278  
F or better - S-150, 195, 234, 240, 1802 NC1  
VG or better - S-264, 1803 NC1

\* \* \* \* \*

FOR SALE ... to a serious collector interested in real nice half cents.

1825 (G-1) a true UNC! The surfaces are lovely, in fact proof-like. The color is olive-brown (if you look hard enough, you will see a slight trace of red in front of the profile). Stars, hair, date, denticles, leaves, etc. are all sharp.



Incidentally, to my knowledge, the mintage of 1825 half cents is really a low one (63,000). I call this coin in its condition RARE, RARE! The price is \$85. The first member gets it!

GEORGE V. NELSON 340 West 57th Street, New York, New York 10019

\* \* \* \* \*

JEFF PECK Box 80, Hillsdale, Michigan 49242

Large cents for sale at my cost. Shipped postpaid and insured, with a seven day return on each coin.

1800	S-193	VG, but slightly rough, with some scratches and slight rust. Overdate very clear, and it still is a collectable G4. Rarity 5!!	\$20.
1800	S-196	Very good-8	12.
1800	S-207	VG, but pit marks on obverse field, still G4 Rarity 4!!	12.
1802	S-241	Near fine, but a couple of small, short scratches present. Still a nice coin -- VG7	20.
1803	S-254	VG7, with a heavily advanced die break between bust and rim.	10.
1803	S-255	VG7, nice, with one slight rim bruise	15.
1813	S-292	F12 -- a very clean coin, evenly worn, and very nice	50.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHARLES S. LATHAM 802 Fenton Road, Marton, Indiana 46952

FOR SALE:

1796	S-81	Fr 2 Some pitting Obv.	\$11.
1798	S-181	G4 Dark, some corros.	14.
1800	S-190	Fr 3 Weak strike	8.
1800	S-197	G4 Dark	6.
1802	S-225	VG 8/7	18.
1802	S-236	G/VG	8.
1803	S-255	VG+	9.
1810	S-281	G	9.
1810	S-282	G/VG	10.
1812	S-290	AG	4.

\* \* \* \* \*

WANTED

1799 Large Cent. Normal date. Evenly struck with sharp, bold date and "Liberty"!! A tough request, I know. Must grade a minimum of Fine-15, but preferably better. With good natural color or patina (no heavy pitting, etc.) and nice reasonably clear surfaces, consistent with respective grade. A coin with minor impairment would be considered, although a perfectly sound coin is preferred, if possible. Please advise -- giving full details and price. Thank you.

The following types of 1793 Large Cents --- Chain "Ameri.", "America", and The "Liberty Cap" type. Just common varieties needed for early "Copper" type set. I prefer coins with a nice natural tan or chocolate patina, having excellent surfaces. All coins must grade between Fine-15 and E.F.-40. Coins with heavy corrosion, granularity, pitting, or any other major damage are not desired. Coins with reasonably minor impairments would be considered. I am also interested in choice Half Cents of 1793-1797 period, including the scarce 1797 lettered edge "type". Please advise--with full details--of what you have available and price. Thank you.

ROBERT R. SHAW 74 Pond Street, Newton Massachusetts 02158



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