

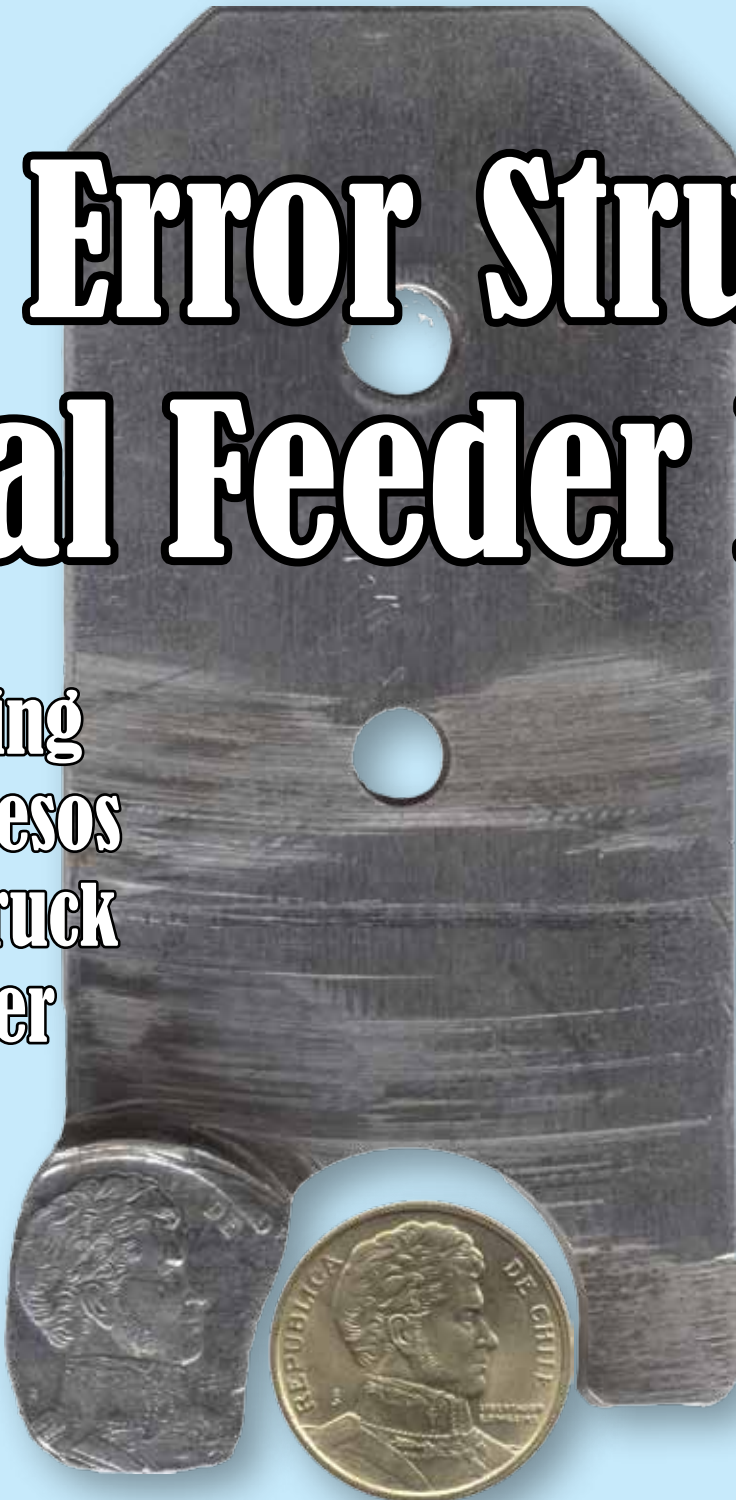
# MINTERRORNEWS

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector.



# Mint Error Struck On Actual Feeder Finger

Check out this amazing Chile 10 Pesos Double Struck on a Feeder Finger!



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Volume I • Issue I • Spring 2003  
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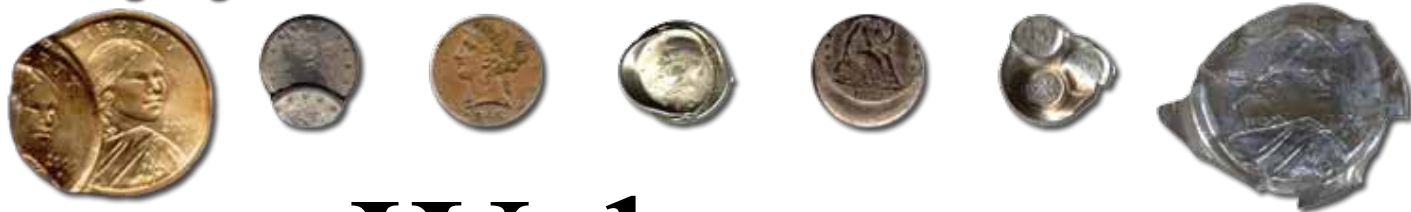
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# MINTERRORNEWS

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector.



## Welcome

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Welcome to Mint Error News, bringing the latest mint error news and information to the collector.

The focus of the magazine will be on articles, features and discoveries of major mint errors (striking errors) from the United States and around the World. The website [minterrornews.com](http://minterrornews.com) was launched on February 4, 2003. Mint Error News is sponsored by Mike Byers and ANACS.

Mike Byers ([mikebyers.com](http://mikebyers.com)) has been a Professional Numismatist since 1978. He specializes in U.S. and World errors, and is now the largest dealer of the world's rarest mint errors. His new discoveries of major mint errors has been front page news for years. Mike Byers is also a Consultant to ANACS for Mint Errors.

ANACS ([www.anacs.com](http://www.anacs.com)) is one of the three major grading services. They have been authenticating, certifying and encapsulating mint errors since 1991 which is years longer than the other two grading services combined. ANACS is highly respected in the Numismatic Community and has extensive experience in authenticating mint errors.

The two major contributors are Tim Bullard ([errorcointrader.com](http://errorcointrader.com)) and Allan Levy ([alsocoins.com](http://alsocoins.com)). Because of their combined experience and insight of the error coin market, they will bring valuable news and information to Mint Error News.

We encourage collectors and dealers to submit articles and photos of major mint errors that we may feature on both the website and the print version of Mint Error News.

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# 2000-P Massachusetts Quarter Struck on an Experimental Planchet

**T**his discovery is unique. It is the only known 2000 dated State Quarter struck on an experimental planchet.

The original discovery of the 1999 State Quarters struck on experimental planchets was featured in a front page Coin World article.

There are approximately 15 known 1999 State Quarters struck on Experimental Planchets. All five states in the 1999 series (DE, PA, CT, GA and NJ) have been discovered.

These Experimental State Quarters have sold for as high as \$10,000 each, depending on which state, the coin's condition and which type of experimental composition was used.

There are four known types of experimental compositions which have been discovered *so far* on 1999 State Quarters.

- Type #1 - This type has the "color" of a Sacagawea Dollar and has the copper center core.
- Type #2 - This type has the "color" of the Sacagawea Dollar but does *not* have the copper center core.
- Type #3 - This type has a slight "green" color and has the copper center core.
- Type #4 - This type has a slight "green" color but does *not* have the copper center core.

## Unique Discovery Coin



Here are a few "telltale" signs to determine if you have discovered a State Quarter on an EXPERIMENTAL PLANCHET in circulation:

- WEIGHT - The weight on ALL of these discovered so far is OVERWEIGHT - varying from 5.9 grams to 6.3 grams.
- SIZE - It is slightly THICKER than a regular State Quarter, due to the heavier planchet.
- COLOR - So far, the pieces discovered are either the same "color" of the Sacagawea Dollar, or have a slight "green hue" to them.
- LOOK - The edge is slightly rough and may have a higher rim around part of the edge.
- EDGE - Some of these do NOT have the center COPPER CORE.
- STRIKE - None discovered so far are proof-like in the fields.
- REEDING - Some of these have incomplete reeding.

*continued on page 6*

## 2000-P Massachusetts Quarter Struck on an Experimental Planchet from page 5

These coins were analyzed by scanning electron microscopy with energy-dispersive x-ray spectroscopy (SEM-EDX) to determine alloy composition. The predominant metal is copper, followed by zinc. There are also small percentages of manganese and nickel.

PCGS and NGC have both authenticated and certified these 1999 State Quarters as being struck on experimental planchets.

In a recent Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for copies of any reports and test results, the Department of the Treasury acknowledged that “the U.S. Mint conducted engineering and metallurgical tests as part of its development of an alloy for the Golden Dollar”, but would not release any information.

This unique discovery coin is currently owned by a private collector who wishes to remain anonymous. It is for sale. Please direct serious inquiries to: [editor@minterrornews.com](mailto:editor@minterrornews.com).



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# The Real Story Behind The Aluminum Feeder Finger Find!

by  
Mike  
Byers

After a recent tour of the US Mint at Philadelphia, it was discovered that the minting process had changed to some degree. One of the changes was that aluminum “feeder fingers” were used during the striking of all denominations of US coins.



*continued on page 8*

# The Real Story Behind The Aluminum Feeder Finger Find from page 7

This is **not a new discovery**. Let me back up five years, and explain the sequence of events. In 1998 I was the first major mint error dealer to discover, purchase and sell a new type of striking error.

First, I discovered a few 1998 Quarters that were struck on aluminum scrap. Then in 1999, I purchased a few State Quarters struck on aluminum scrap. This was a “new metal” that U.S. coins were being struck on. This aluminum scrap was obviously produced as a by-product of the minting process. But no one, including myself, could put a “finger” on exactly where in the minting process this was occurring.

There are a few U.S. coins struck on aluminum scrap prior to 1998, one that is dated as early as 1970. It is a Dime on a partial aluminum scrap planchet. I’ve only handled five or six pre-1998 “on aluminum scrap” mint errors. These are not to be confused with this new striking error, which occurs because the Schuler Presses have aluminum “feeder fingers.”

The only “new discovery” is the proper designation that is now going to be placed on the insert tag of the slab. Originally, two of the three major grading services (ANACS and PCGS), decided to designate this type of striking error as being struck on aluminum scrap.

Since then, all U.S. denominations were appearing that were struck on this new aluminum scrap. I have handled these on Cents, Nickels, Dimes, Quarters, State Quarters, SBA’s and Sac’s.

Now, after a recent tour of the Mint by a few dealers, the grading services are deciding on the designation and description for these coins struck on feeder finger tips.

I sold some of these aluminum coins that were struck on feeder finger tips to mint error collectors and to other error dealers. You will find a few of these in their inventory. I kept some of the largest and most dramatic pieces for myself and they are not for sale. I will have a few of these displayed in my showcases at future coin shows.



1998 Washington Quarter on Aluminum Feeder Finger Tip



1999 CT Quarter on Aluminum Feeder Finger Tip



1999 CT Quarter on Aluminum Feeder Finger Tip



2000 Sacagawea Dollar on Aluminum Feeder Finger Tip



# Chile 10 Pesos Double Struck on Feeder Finger

by Mike Byers



This unbelievable Mint Error is the cover story. It is a 1998 Chile 10 Pesos double struck on the actual feeder finger!! This is one of the most incredible and spectacular Major Mint Errors that has ever surfaced.

After reading about the U.S. Coins struck on feeder finger tips, one can appreciate this piece even more because it is completely intact and did not break off.

Bill Snyder of worlderrors.com sent an e-mail to me after visiting minterrornews.com. He is a collector of world errors and read about the group of U.S. Coins struck on feeder finger tips. He asked me if we would feature this amazing feeder finger error. After several conversations, I finally convinced Bill to part with his prized possession and was lucky enough to purchase it on the spot. I am not going to sell it, but since it is too incredible to keep secret and locked in my safe, both Bill and I are proud to share it with the readers of Mint Error News.



This 10 Pesos design was struck at the Santiago Mint in Chile from 1990 thru 1998. A regular piece has a composition of Nickel/Brass.



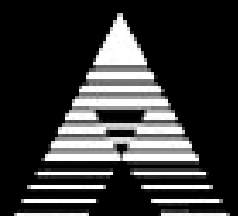
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# Is a “Double Error” Large Cent More Valuable?

by Henry Hilgard

A nice group of error U.S. Large Cents, including some 26 off center pieces dated from 1795 through 1855, was sold by Superior Galleries in the ANA auction sale of August 2002. One of these off centers, the 1829 piece shown below, is a “double error”, possessing an additional error feature, namely the clip that appears on the coin at approximately 6:30 on the obverse and 11:30 on the reverse.

How rare is this “double error” large cent in comparison to “single error” off center large cents? To the best of my knowledge, no one has made a study of auction records and sales records that would help to answer this question. But even without this information, we can estimate the rarity by starting with some assumptions. First, we will assume that punching out the blanks

(where a mistake may lead to a clipped blank) and striking the coins (where a mistake may lead to an off center) are independent activities in the sense that a clipped blank isn't more likely to become an off center piece. Second, we will assume that less than 1 in 100 existing large cents are struck off center, and that less than 1 in 100 existing large cents have clipped planchets. If our assumptions are correct, the chance of finding a double error like this one is less 1 in 10,000 large cents (1 in 100 times 1 in 100). Wow, what a rarity!

So you think it sold for a bunch of bucks? This coin (lot 2509) sold for just 33% more than an 1830 (lot 2513) that lacked a second error feature but was otherwise very comparable. These coins were approximately the same grade

(good), had similar surfaces (nice), and were about the same percentage off center (20%). Both pieces were purchased by the same large cent dealer.

What to make of the relatively small premium paid for the double error 1829? One factor may be that these double error pieces aren't as rare as these numbers would suggest because our assumptions are off. But probably more important, no one seems to collect large cent “double errors” as a category, which is a way of saying that the marketplace just doesn't place much value on rarity of this kind. All of which adds up to good news for error collectors who don't have to empty out their bank accounts in order to own and enjoy an occasional coin with more than one error feature.



# “Shrunken Coins” and How to Recognize Them

by Bert Hickman

## *What are they?*

Shrunken coins are genuine coins that have been reduced to 65-95% of their original diameter using huge magnetic fields. Over the last year, we began offering shrunken coins as educational, scientific, and coin collecting novelties. A significant number of these are now in the hands of experimenters and collectors throughout the world. Shrunken coins have been featured in *Coin World* (November 25, 2002) and in the January-March, 2003 issue of *Extraordinary Technology* magazine. This article will briefly explain how these unique coins are produced and how they can be recognized so that they won't be confused with true error coins.



## **Are there any shrunken error coins?**

We don't shrink error coins since the shrinking process relies upon symmetry for balancing forces. It would also be a shame to further alter rare error coins. However, once in a while the shrinking process fails to work properly on a coin that otherwise appears normal. For example, clad coins sometimes

contain hidden defects that are not readily apparent. During the shrinking process, the inner and outer layers may partially detach, resulting in a very strange looking “mutant coin”, such as this Kentucky state quarter.



Do you suppose there might be a market for “error” shrunken coins??

## **How are they shrunk?**

Everyone has played with a pair of permanent magnets and felt how strongly they attract or repel each other. Although the forces that repel small magnets may appear quite strong, magnetic fields that are thousands of times stronger can be created by forcing an electric current through a coil of wire, forming a powerful electromagnet. Increasing the current increases the magnetic field, and a really huge current can create an ultrastrong magnetic field. Magnetic fields of this magnitude have the ability to overcome the yield strength of any metal. Although it may be hard to believe, a properly-shaped ultrastrong magnetic field can actually reshape a coin using only invisible

“dies” of pure magnetic force!

Prior to shrinking, a coin is carefully centered within a coil of insulated copper wire. The coil is then bolted securely to heavy electrical conductors inside a bulletproof blast chamber. Using a high voltage energy source, a huge current is abruptly forced into the coil, creating an ultrastrong pulsed magnetic field. The peak current through the coil may be greater than 120,000 times the current drawn by a typical 100-watt light bulb. This rapidly changing powerful magnetic field also induces an even larger current to flow within the coin. The current flowing within the coin can easily exceed one million amperes, causing the coin to become a powerful electromagnet as well.

The magnetic fields of the coil and the coin violently repel each other, resulting in almost unimaginable forces that easily overcome the yield strength of the metal in the coin. These forces evenly squeeze the coin inward, almost instantly shrinking it into a smaller diameter while simultaneously causing it to become thicker. These same forces also drive the coil outwards, causing it to explode in a potentially deadly spray of high velocity wire fragments. All this takes place in about 20 millionths of a second, and is accompanied by a bright blue-white flash and a loud BANG! When the dust settles, a hot and shrunken coin

rests at the bottom of the chamber. Amazingly, the features of a shrunken coin are fully preserved in spite of its explosive birth.

### Does the shrinking process work on all coins?

The process works very well with most US and foreign coins and metal tokens.



Although the process uses magnetic fields, the coin's electrical conductivity determines how well it will shrink. Metals that are good electrical conductors, such as copper, silver, aluminum, or gold, work best. Poorer conducting copper-nickel alloys or plated steel coins may shrink only slightly. While older 90% silver coins such as Morgan Dollars work very well, coins with only 40% silver content may lose surface features due to their lower melting temperature. Coins with metals of lower melting temperature, such as copper plated zinc pennies, are simply destroyed in an explosion of molten zinc.



Coins with higher features, such as proof coins, tend not to work as well as circulating coins. Coins or tokens with centered holes often result in the hole partially or entirely closing. The outer and inner parts of bimetal coins often shrink to a different degree, causing the center to loosen and sometimes be completely freed from the outer ring.

### How can shrunken coins be recognized?

The most obvious characteristic is their smaller diameter. Shrunken coins have the same weight and density as a normal coin, but they are thicker. The copper center of US clad coins is a much better electrical conductor than the outer copper-nickel layers. This causes the center to shrink a bit more, becoming indented similar to the filling in an Oreo cookie. Because the coin's features cause slight force imbalances, the coin's rim may also become slightly scalloped. All three of these effects can be seen in the before and after scan of the edges of a quarter.



Previously mirror-like surfaces acquire a frosted appearance due to microscopic dislocations in the surface of the metal. Also, faint lines, called Luders Lines, may radiate from the center of the coin, reflecting localized plastic deformation during the shrinking process. An interesting example is this Kennedy clad half dollar, where Kennedy's bust appears "haloed" by

radiating Luders Lines.



Finally, certain features of a coin may actually shift relative to one another, particularly in clad coins. This effect can be seen in the close-up view of the shifted state motto in the Delaware state quarter pictured below.



Other coins, such as this Sacagawea dollar, show a minimum of feature shifting and Luders lines.



### Need more information?

Stoneridge Engineering is the exclusive source for "Electromagically" shrunken coins. Custom shrinking is also available. For more pictures and information visit [www.teslamania.com](http://www.teslamania.com).



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# AI's Perspective on 2002 & 2003 Mint Errors...

by AI Levy

I recently wrote about why there were not any 2002 errors being offered for sale. Magically a group of these appeared on eBay. The mint errors listed with a small reserve or no reserve sold between \$5.50 to \$37.00. Not all of the lots that sold were properly described and some had no bids.

The 2002 Statehood Quarter errors were offered for sale at the beginning of the year. The same sequence started in 2003. This was an early indicator that the missing denomination (25¢) of errors were available but were being held back. A 2003 Cent was listed on eBay this past month, another indicator that these new coins are now available.

Dealers have always paid a small premium to ac-

quire the first coins of the year. We do not choose to stockpile thousands of errors of the same date. We would like to fill "want lists" with the new years' coins while retaining some for our inventory.

Now, counting rooms seem to be playing the dealers' roles. The demand for the older error coins have dried up. I estimate that the total group of errors dated 1999 to 2001 total over a quarter of a million. If the counting rooms cannot dispose of these, they are stuck with them. If the new years' errors become available, then the previous coins are less desirable creating a downward trend. Each week a small group of these get listed. Notice that the same pictures from the previous lots are reused, and not all lots sell. Assuming that the

counting rooms are unable to dispose of their large quantity of older inventory, will they be willing to wholesale their vast holdings to dealers?

While at the recent Long Beach Expo, collectors were willing to pay higher prices for the dates needed in order to fill "holes." These better dates are still in high demand. The 1¢ 1969 off center and broad-strike are on everyone's "want list." The one that appeared on eBay sold for \$227.50. I think this was a bargain.

Time will tell how many of the missing years' errors will surface, and what the true market value will be.



# Pattern or Mint Error?

by Saul Teichman

A 1876 Indian Cent was recently offered in a Superior's January 2003. It was encapsulated by PCGS as a J1451/P1597 - a regular dies trial piece struck in nickel.

This piece is actually one of several pieces listed in the pattern references that is, in reality, a mint error struck on a planchet intended for use in the production of coinage for another country.

It is believed that this piece and the 1877 illustrated below (J1495-6/P1648-9) were struck on Venezuelan 1 Centavo planchets. These pieces should weigh approximately 36-37 grains.

The Judd, Pollock and Adams and Woodin books contain many listings for Indian Cents struck in either nickel or copper-nickel that are not patterns. These pieces, especially those after 1876 from business strike dies, are actually mint errors struck on either 3 Cent Nickel planchets or one of the following foreign planchets:

Country	Denomination	Diameter	Weight	Composition
Venezuela	1 cent	19 mm	~36.5 grains	copper, nickel, zinc
Dominican Republic	5 cent	18 mm	32.4 grains	copper 75%, nickel 25%
Columbia	5 cent	20 mm	48.8 grains	copper 75%, nickel 25%
Nicaragua	5 cent	19.8 mm	44.8 grains	copper 75%, nickel 25%
Haiti	5 cent	19.8 mm	44.8 grains	copper 75%, nickel 25%
Costa Rica	10 cent	18 mm	30.9 grains	silver 90%, copper 10%

Those struck on the smaller 3 Cent Nickel planchets, as on the 1881 illustrated piece above, will show some of the peripheral design missing whereas those struck on one of the foreign planchets such as the 1877 below will appear full-sized.

The following table list the years where at least some or all of the known nickel/copper-nickel pieces are actually mint errors.

Date	Pollock	Judd	Additional Comments
1865	P473, P475	J404, J406	Judd reports one on 3 Cent planchet probably ex Bluestone 10/37
1869	P745-P746	J669-670	AW826, Taxay reports 2 pieces on 3 Cent Nickel planchets
1871	P1177	N/A	Pollock lists one on 68.25 grain planchet.
1872	P1321, P1323	J1180, J1182	Judd reports one on 3 Cent Nickel planchet ex Gable, Olsen, Lohr, and another at 49 grains (Columbian 5 Cent?) also ex Gable, Olsen sales
1873	P1398	J1257	ex Gable, Olsen sales - 49 grains (Columbian 5 cent?)
1874	P1491	J1347A	the one listed in Pollock has not been available for study
1876	P1597	J1451	believed to be struck on Venezuelan 1 Cent planchets
1877	P1648-P1649	J1495-J1496	Struck on Venezuelan 1 Cent planchets
1879	P1776	J1583	see Lohr FPL, Federal Brand 10/61
1881	P1868	J1664	AW1657, on 3 Cent nickel planchet
1884	P1932	J1723A	Probably struck on either a Haitian 5 or Nicaraguan 5 Cent planchet

Other dates not listed may also be as well. We recommend collectors examine these pieces carefully. If any of our members have additional information on these, please e-mail Saul Teichman at [saul.teichman@ey.com](mailto:saul.teichman@ey.com).



# ERROR WORLD

Mint Error News welcomes Error World Club as a new sponsor to the website and magazine. Jim Archibald (Laz), Ray Gaudette (Surok) and Michael McMahan (mmac) will be contributors. They are dedicated collectors with years of experience and bring a fresh outlook and perspective to Mint Error News.

## [errorworldclub.org](http://errorworldclub.org)

Join Today



# Wow, Error Prices Have Changed

by Tim Bullard

I remember buying my first off-center penny for 35 cents in 1973. My best friend's dad had been collecting errors and would show us his recent purchases. A double denomination Quarter on a Dime for \$200, a Franklin on a Dime for \$250. Wow those were cool, but that was a lot of money to an eleven year old. A mini bike was 35 bucks and that took a lot of car washing back then.

When I wanted to find errors most coin stores didn't carry them and the term for them was a "fido." A real dog, a freak. They couldn't be graded because they were so messed up. Most people didn't want anything to do with them. I remember calling around to coin stores and asking for errors and getting met with a chuckle, "Oh, you are one of those guys, we don't carry any of that kind of malarkey here! This is a respectable establishment." They thought I was nuts. We would get bags and rolls from the bank and go through them until we were cross-eyed, which at that age could take days. World errors were something even worse. Nobody but the very few even knew they existed much less wanted anything to do with them.

Things have changed dramatically in the past 10 years. In 1991 ANACS was the first major grading service to certify error coins. Wow! I could actually get errors that were certified! That was a major move

to the credibility of error collecting. Then eBay came along and you could find errors from the comfort of your desk at 2 AM. And you could find others who wanted to buy anything you that you had to sell. That made a huge difference in the value because you could now sell the coin to someone else who actually wanted it. In the old days if I wanted to sell an error I had purchased that I no longer wanted, if I went back to the dealer I bought it from he would offer me 75% of what I paid for it. Ebay has helped change all that. It has done what no other form of advertising or marketing could do before.

What I do wish is that I could have had the foresight to buy the double denominations and off metal Franklin's and all the really cool stuff back in the old days. It was more of a pure love of error collecting back then because you weren't sure you could get your money back out of these coins. Franklin off metals went for over 10k last year. Double denominations are becoming harder to acquire and are more valuable. World errors are still plentiful and cheap and the best bargain around. I recently purchased an off metal capped die English error for \$200. If that same coin was a U.S. error it would surely cost thousands.

If we use the same formula today from 30 years ago and look to

the future, an off center penny will be worth \$128 in 2028. My English off-metal cap is harder to predict because they have not caught up with the rest of the market and there is so much more room for them to move. Using the same formula as the off center penny, my off-metal English die cap would be worth \$3,200.

The difference today from 30 years ago is that we now know that people want errors. There is an incredible demand and very limited supply. It is the hottest segment of numismatics today. They are now certified by all the major grading services whom have followed in ANACS' footsteps and started grading them too.

The Mint has almost eliminated the release of errors. This is due to the new Schuler Presses and the quality control procedures that have been implemented. An off-center penny from 2002 sells for \$600. Will I be laughing at what seems to be the high price I am paying for U.S. errors today? Will I be hysterical about the price I am paying for world errors? Due to the limited supply, high demand and the increasing popularity in collection mint errors, I'm confident that these prices will be considered cheap. I also derive much personal pleasure from this hobby, which is really why I collect at all.

# uspatterns.com

The Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors is dedicated to the study of many of the rarest coins struck at the U.S. Mint: patterns, die trials and experimental pieces.

# 1865 2¢ Obverse Die Cap & Brockage Sells For Record Price

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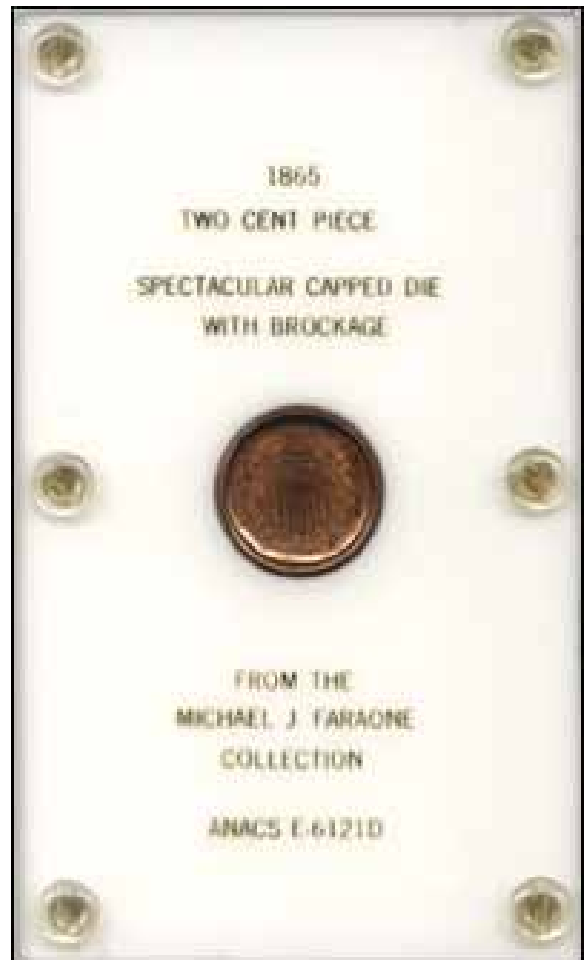
This spectacular 2¢ Die Cap traded hands three times at the Long Beach Coin Show last week, and set a record price.

Last year in a Bowers and Merena Auction, a different 2¢ Cap sold for approximately \$15,000. The Cap featured in this article is considerably deeper, will not fit in a holder at the grading services and has a brockage on the reverse of the obverse.

It was purchased by Allan Levy from an East Coast coin dealer who had just arrived at the show. Allan immediately located Mike Byers at his table who purchased it on the spot. Mike Byers then sold it to Tim Bullard of errorcointrader.com, who is placing it in his personal Mint Error Collection.

Mint Error News reached Michael Faraone of ANACS who originally sold this 2¢ cap over twenty years ago as part of his Mint Error Collection. He instantly remembered this spectacular piece and stated that “it was one of my all time favorite caps in my collection and I wish that I had never sold it. It was such a deep cap with blazing red color.”

In the future, Tim Bullard might display this fabulous mint error with other caps that he has. Even though a record price was paid, he still felt it was a bargain considering that Mint Errors are hot, this cap was very deep and in gem condition and it also had a great pedigree.





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# Mint Error News Price Guide

This price guide is brought to you by Mint Error News. It has been compiled by many of the top major mint error dealers.

This price guide is a guide. Prices fluctuate due to the date, grade, eye appeal and how dramatic the striking error is. Rarity is also a factor. The price is sometimes based on the rarity and grade of the type of coin as well as how rare the error is. The price can also vary depending on whether two collectors are bidding for the same rare major mint error. When purchasing a mint error, it is important to use multiple resources to determine value, as there are many mint errors that do not fit into one category.

## Brockages



A brockage error can only occur when there are two coins involved. One of the coins involved will always be a struck coin which has not ejected properly. That struck coin will find its way back between the dies and will be struck next to a blank planchet which was fed into the collar. The image of that first struck coin will be impressed into that side of the blank planchet. The result will be a second coin which has images of the first coin impressed into it. Those images will be pressed into the coin and the image will be in reverse. This incuse sunken image is known as a brockage.

Denomination	50% Brockage XF	100% Brockage XF	50% Brockage Unc	100% Brockage Unc
Large Cent	\$600	\$1,000	\$3,000	–
Indian Cent	\$500	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$4,000
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$350	\$500	\$650	\$1,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$125	\$200	\$200	\$350
3 Cent Nickel	\$1,250	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$5,000
3 Cent Silver	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
Shield Nickel	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	–
Liberty Nickel	\$1,250	\$2,250	\$2,000	–
Buffalo Nickel	\$2,000	–	–	–
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$250	\$750	\$750	–
Jefferson Nickel	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$150
Barber Dime	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
Mercury Dime	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$4,000
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$100	\$200	\$150	\$250
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$50	\$100	\$75	\$150
Washington Quarter Silver	\$200	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
Washington Quarter Clad	\$75	\$150	\$150	\$250
State Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$750	\$1,500
Kennedy Half Clad	N/A	N/A	\$650	\$1,500
IKE Dollar	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$5,000
SBA Dollar	N/A	N/A	\$500	\$1,500
Sac Dollar	N/A	N/A	\$1,500	–

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Double & Multiple Strikes



When a blank planchet is struck by the dies, the normal procedure is for the feeders to eject the struck coin out of the collar and into a chute. If there is a malfunction and the struck coin isn't ejected, it may receive a second or third strike by the dies. A multiple struck coin can happen in many ways and have many combinations of errors.

Denomination	XF/AU	Unc
Large Cent	\$1,000	–
Indian Cent	\$600	\$1,000
Lincoln Cent 1930 and Earlier	\$850	\$1,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$400	\$1,000
Proof Lincoln Cent	N/A	\$4,000
3 Cent Nickel	\$2,000	\$3,500
Liberty Nickel	\$4,000	\$10,000
Buffalo Nickel	\$6,000	\$10,000
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$750	\$2,000
Proof Jefferson Nickel	N/A	\$6,000
Barber Dime	\$4,000	\$10,000
Mercury Dime	\$3,500	\$8,500
Proof Clad Dime	N/A	\$6,000
Standing Liberty Quarter	\$12,500	\$20,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$200	\$350
State Quarter	N/A	\$350 – \$750
Proof Clad Quarter	N/A	\$7,500
Walking Liberty Half	\$7,500	\$12,500
Franklin Half	\$5,000	\$10,000
Kennedy Half Silver	\$1,500	\$2,500
Kennedy Half Clad	N/A	\$750
Proof Kennedy Half Clad	N/A	\$7,500
Morgan Dollar	\$12,500	\$20,000
Peace Dollar	\$15,000	\$25,000
IKE Dollar	\$2,000	\$3,000
SBA Dollar	N/A	\$1,000 – \$2,500
Sac Dollar	N/A	\$1,500 – \$3,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Off-Center Strikes



**O**ff-center coins are one of the most common and best known types of errors. This happens when a blank which is supposed to be fed into the press, lands in the collar improperly. When this occurs only part of the blank is between the upper and lower dies. When the dies strike the blank, only that part will be struck with a design.

Denomination	10% - 15% XF/AU	25% - 60% XF/AU	10% - 15% Unc	25% - 60% Unc
Large Cent	\$400	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$7,500
Flying Eagle Cent (1857 – 1858)	\$2,500	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
Indian Cent	\$100	\$400	\$200	\$600
Lincoln Cent 1930 and Earlier	\$75	\$300	\$150	\$750
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$40	\$250	\$100	\$500
Proof Lincoln Cent	N/A	N/A	\$1,500	\$3,000
3 Cent Nickel	\$300	\$1,500	\$600	\$3,500
3 Cent Silver	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$2,000	–
Shield Nickel	\$750	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$7,500
Liberty Nickel	\$250	\$1,000	\$500	\$2,500
Buffalo Nickel	\$250	\$750	\$400	\$1,500
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$100	\$500	\$200	\$1,000
Proof Jefferson Nickel	N/A	N/A	\$2,000	\$5,000
Seated Half Dime Legend	\$3,000	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$15,000
Seated Dime Legend	\$2,000	\$7,000	\$3,500	\$10,000
Barber Dime	\$300	\$1,500	\$500	\$2,500
Mercury Dime	\$100	\$750	\$150	\$1,250
Proof Clad Dime	N/A	N/A	\$2,500	\$5,000
Barber Quarter	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$10,000
Standing Liberty Quarter	\$5,000	–	\$15,000	–
Washington Quarter Silver	\$50	\$100	\$75	\$150
State Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$75	\$300
Proof Clad Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$3,000	\$6,000
Barber Half	\$3,000	\$8,500	\$5,000	–
Walking Liberty Half	\$4,000	\$12,500	\$7,500	–
Franklin Half	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$6,000
Kennedy Half Silver	\$100	\$500	\$250	\$1,000
Kennedy Half Clad	\$60	\$250	\$100	\$400
Proof Clad Half	N/A	N/A	\$4,000	\$7,500
Morgan Dollar	\$3,000	\$13,500	\$7,500	\$20,000
Peace Dollar	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$8,500	\$30,000
IKE Dollar	\$125	\$1,250	\$150	\$2,000
SBA Dollar	N/A	N/A	\$100	\$500
Sac Dollar	N/A	N/A	\$1,000	\$3,500

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Off-Metals



Off-metal and wrong planchet errors occur when a correctly made blank from one denomination is accidentally fed into a press for another denomination. Examples are a nickel struck on a cent planchet and a cent struck on a dime planchet. The coin struck on an incorrect blank will weigh exactly what the denomination of that blank would have been. An even more dramatic wrong planchet error is a coin struck on a previously struck coin of a different metal.

Denomination	Off-Metal Planchet	Circulated	AU	Unc	Choice Unc – Gem
Indian Cent	Foreign Planchet	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$5,000
Indian Cent	Dime Planchet	\$7,500	\$12,500	–	–
Lincoln Cent Before 1919	Dime Planchet	\$4,000	\$6,500	\$10,000	–
Lincoln Cent Before 1919	Foreign Planchet	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$6,000	–
Lincoln Cent 1919 – 1940	Dime Planchet	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$6,000
Lincoln Cent 1919 – 1940	Foreign Planchet	\$750	\$1,250	\$2,000	\$2,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	Dime Planchet	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$4,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Transitional	Copper Cent Planchet	\$40,000 +	\$60,000 +	\$85,000 +	\$100,000 +
Lincoln Cent 1944 Transitional	Steel Cent Planchet	\$7,500	\$12,500	\$17,500	\$25,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears (1941-1964)	Dime Planchet	\$500	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,500
Lincoln Cent 1965 and Later	Dime Planchet	\$125	\$150	\$200	\$350
Lincoln Cent 1964 Transitional	Clad Dime Planchet	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,500
Lincoln Cent 1965 Transitional	Silver Dime Planchet	\$2,750	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500
Shield Nickel	Foreign Planchet	\$7,500	\$12,500	–	–
Shield Nickel	Cent Planchet	\$6,000	\$12,500	\$15,000	–
Liberty Nickel	Foreign Planchet	\$400	\$750	\$1,250	\$2,000
Liberty Nickel	Cent Planchet	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$7,500
Buffalo Nickel	Foreign Planchet	\$2,500	\$6,000	\$10,000	–
Buffalo Nickel	Cent Planchet	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000
Jefferson Nickel Before 1950	Cent Planchet	\$250	\$500	\$750	\$1,000
Jefferson Nickel 1950 and Later	Cent Planchet	\$125	\$150	\$200	\$250
Jefferson Nickel 1943	Steel Cent Planchet	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$5,000
Jefferson Nickel 1964 and Earlier	Silver Dime Planchet	\$200	\$300	\$350	\$400
Jefferson Nickel 1965 and Later	Clad Dime Planchet	\$150	\$200	\$225	\$250
Roosevelt Dime Silver	Foreign Planchet	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Roosevelt Dime Clad	Foreign Planchet	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,250	\$2,500
Roosevelt Dime 1964 Transitional	Clad Dime Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$8,500
Roosevelt Dime 1965 Transitional	Silver Dime Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$8,500
Washington Quarter Silver	Cent Planchet	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$750
Washington Quarter Silver	Nickel Planchet	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$600
Washington Quarter Clad	Cent Planchet	\$250	\$300	\$400	\$500
Washington Quarter Clad	Nickel Planchet	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250
Washington Quarter	Silver Dime Planchet	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$650
Washington Quarter	Clad Dime Planchet	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400
Washington Quarter 1964 Transitional	Clad Quarter Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$8,500
Washington Quarter 1965 Transitional	Silver Quarter Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$8,500
State Quarter	Cent Planchet	N/A	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$8,000
Delaware State Quarter	Nickel Planchet	N/A	\$500	\$650	\$750
All Other State Quarters	Nickel Planchet	N/A	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500
State Quarter	Dime Planchet	N/A	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$6,000
Walking Half	Quarter Planchet	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$17,500	\$22,500
Walking Half	Foreign Planchet	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$17,500	\$20,000
Franklin Half	Cent Planchet	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Franklin Half	Nickel Planchet	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Franklin Half	Dime Planchet	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$5,500	\$6,500
Franklin Half	Quarter Planchet	\$600	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,250
Kennedy Half Silver 1964	Cent Planchet	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$2,000
Kennedy Half Silver 1964	Nickel Planchet	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$2,000
Kennedy Half Silver 1964	Dime Planchet	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$2,000	\$2,500
Kennedy Half Silver 1964	Quarter Planchet	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$750
Kennedy Half Clad	Cent Planchet	\$750	\$850	\$1,000	\$1,500
Kennedy Half Clad	Nickel Planchet	\$750	\$850	\$1,000	\$1,250
Kennedy Half Clad	Dime Planchet	\$750	\$850	\$1,000	\$1,400
Kennedy Half Clad	Quarter Planchet	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500
Kennedy Half 1964 Transitional	Clad Half Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$9,000
Kennedy Half 1965 Transitional	Silver Half Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$10,000
Kennedy Half 1964 Transitional	Clad Quarter Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$8,500
Kennedy Half 1965 Transitional	Silver Quarter Planchet	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$8,000	\$9,000
Ike Dollar	Cent Planchet	\$3,000	\$3,750	\$5,000	\$6,000
Ike Dollar	Nickel Planchet	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$6,000
Ike Dollar	Dime Planchet	\$3,250	\$3,750	\$5,500	\$6,500
Ike Dollar	Quarter Planchet	\$2,750	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$4,500
Ike Dollar	Half Planchet	\$1,600	\$1,750	\$2,000	\$2,500
Ike Dollar	Foreign Planchet	\$900	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500
Ike Dollar Transitional	40% Silver Planchet	\$2,750	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000
SBA Dollar	Cent Planchet	N/A	\$1,750	\$2,250	\$3,000
SBA Dollar	Nickel Planchet	N/A	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000
SBA Dollar	Dime Planchet	N/A	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000
SBA Dollar	Quarter Planchet	N/A	\$600	\$850	\$1,000
Sac Dollar	Cent Planchet	N/A	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
Sac Dollar	Nickel Planchet	N/A	\$7,500	\$8,000	\$9,000
Sac Dollar	Dime Planchet	N/A	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
Sac Dollar	Quarter Planchet	N/A	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500





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Pair of Indian Head 1¢ Die Caps  
Obverse & Reverse  
PCGS MS 64



Barber Half  
Full Obverse Brockage  
PCGS AU 58 UNIQUE



Unique Set of Four  
Paraguay Gold Overstrikes  
NGC Certified



1921-S Morgan Dollar  
Struck 45% Off-Center  
NGC MS 63



1895-O Barber Dime  
Obverse Die Cap  
PCGS MS 64



1846 J-110A \$5 Obv Die Trial  
Struck on \$2½ Trial  
NGC MS 65 BN



1924 SL 25¢  
Double Struck  
ANACS AU 55



1862 Indian Head 1¢  
Deep Obverse Die Cap  
PCGS MS 62



Unique Set of Three  
Paraguay Gold Overstrikes  
NGC Certified



1887 \$3 Indian Gold Proof  
Triple Struck  
PCGS PR 63



1942 Walking Liberty 50¢  
Struck on Silver 25¢ Planchet  
PCGS MS 65



Unique Jefferson Nickel  
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PCGS Certified



1802/1 \$5 Draped Bust Gold  
Triple Struck Obverse  
ANACS EF 45



1865 2¢  
Deep Obverse Die Cap  
& Brockage



1804 \$2½ Capped Bust To Right  
Double Struck  
NGC Fine 15



1898 Barber 25¢  
Obverse Die Cap & Brockage  
PCGS MS 62



1945-S WL 50¢  
Struck on El Salvador 25¢ Planchet  
NGC MS 63 UNIQUE



1806 \$5 Capped Bust Triple Struck  
Rotated 90°  
PCGS AU 50



1865 \$1 Indian Gold Proof  
Triple Struck Reverse  
PCGS PR 64 Cameo



1920 Buffalo Nickel  
Struck on Copper Planchet  
NGC AU 55 UNIQUE



1874 \$1 U.S. Gold T3  
Full Brockage  
PCGS MS 62 UNIQUE



1873 \$20 Closed 3 J-1344  
Double Struck  
NGC PF 61 RB



1901/0-S \$5 Liberty Gold  
10% Off-Center  
PCGS AU 55



1853 U.S. Assay Gold \$20  
Double Struck  
NGC AU 55



1965 English Penny  
Struck on Gold Planchet  
PCGS MS 62



1875-CC \$20 Liberty Gold  
Partial Collar  
NGC MS 62



Pair of Barber Dime Die Caps  
Obverse & Reverse  
PCGS AU 55 UNIQUE



Franklin Half Dollar  
Struck on 1948 Cent  
NGC MS 64 BN



1910 Lincoln Cent  
Uniface Test Strike  
PCGS AU 58



1904 \$20 Gold  
Double Struck  
ANACS MS 60 Proof-Like



Indian Cent on Half Dime Planchet  
Uniface Obverse  
PCGS MS 63



1851 3¢ Obverse & Reverse  
Die Trials  
Struck on Cardboard



1864 2¢ Obverse Die Cap  
Mated With Brockage  
PCGS MS 62



Martha Washington Dollar Test Piece  
Clad Plan w/Exp Edge  
NGC MS 64



1869 Indian Cent  
Struck on Silver Dime Planchet  
PCGS AU 55



1856 Large Cent Obverse Cap/  
Brockage Reverse  
Gem BU



Martha Washington Dollar Test Piece  
Sac Plan w/Exp Edge  
NGC MS 64



1906-D \$20 Liberty Gold  
Broadstruck  
NGC AU 58



1920 SL 25¢  
Struck on Peru 20C Planchet  
NGC MS 60 FH Unique



1838 \$5 Die Trial Splasher  
J-A1838-6  
PCGS MS 65 UNIQUE



1866 Shield Nickel with RAYS  
Struck on Indian Cent Planchet  
PCGS XF 45

# Where Have All of the Coins Gone?

by  
Ray Gaudette

The U.S. produced its first “coin” in 1792 and has been pumping them out non-stop for the next 200+ years. For the year 2000 alone, the last year that the Redbook lists full mintage figures, the mint produced in excess of 22.326 BILLION of the little circles of metal for circulation alone, not counting the numbers of commemoratives, proofs, or gold and silver coins made for other special purposes. By this account, the U.S. should be awash with these little devils, but instead we periodically endure coin shortages where the banks cannot get enough coins to meet the needs of commerce.

What happened to all the coins? Are they sitting in Grandma and Grandpa’s cookie jars all over the country or has some bunch of shrewd coin dealers bought them all up in a quest to corner the coin market? Sadly to say, the answer is “neither”. The coins were destroyed to make way for newer designs, less costly compositions and compositions containing little or no intrinsic value. What a waste! But, how could this have happened? Let’s revisit some key moments in U.S. numismatic history to find out the grisly details.

## **Large Cent To Small Cent (1856)**

During the mid 1850’s, the U.S. was recovering from the Civil War and was in the midst of a severe copper shortage. Because of the copper demands of the war, the price of copper was rising to the point that it was no longer feasible to mint copper half cent and one cent pieces as the

bullion value of the copper in the coin was exceeding the face value of the coin. The answer seemed to lay in the elimination the Half Cent and the production of a smaller one-cent piece, which was to become the Small Cent. The Law of 1857 thus mandated the elimination of the Half Cent and the minting of a smaller one-cent coin. By shrinking the size of the one-cent coin, the government would use less copper per coin and stretch it’s copper reserves further. Another challenge was also present and that was what to do with all of those large Half Cents and cents that were already in circulation. In order to kill two birds with one stone, the government proceeded to recall all Half Cents and Large Cents from circulation as they became available to the banks. These coins were then returned to Washington to be melted and the resulting copper bullion would be used to strike the new Small Cents. How many Half Cents and Large Cents were recalled? Millions! What were their dates and mints? Nobody knows, as it was not mandated that anyone keep track. One story has it that mint employees were allowed to purchase some of these recalled coins for face value for “numismatic purposes only”! Some farsighted mint employees saved uncirculated and near uncirculated specimens from the melting pot to start their own collections. We must remember, though, that coin collecting was not an established hobby of the masses at that time and money was quite precious to the working man for purposes of food, clothing and shelter with little to be “saved”. Fortunately for us, this was small

change and most likely “hid” in bureau drawers and glass jars by common folks as “emergency” money and thus escaped destruction.

## **The Pittman Act of 1918**

In 1918 the Pittman Act was ratified. Silver dollars were not a popular series of coinage in use in commerce and by 1904 the U.S. had used up its silver supply and stopped minting them. Under the Pittman Act (named for one of its principal sponsors, Sen. Key Pittman of Nevada), the federal government was authorized to melt as many as 350 million silver dollars, convert the silver into bullion and then either sell the metal or use it to produce subsidiary silver coinage. It also was required to strike replacement dollars for any and all that were melted. During fiscal years 1918 and 1919, the U.S. government melted a total of more than 270 million silver dollars. The “Pittman coins” represented nearly half the entire production of standard silver dollars (as distinguished from Trade dollars) made by the U.S. Mint up to that time. Were any records kept of the dates/mints that were sacrificed to the melting pot? Again the answer is in the negative.

## **The Gold Confiscation Of April 5, 1933**

In 1933, during the height of the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt issued Presidential Executive Order 6102, which “forbid the hoarding of Gold Coin, Gold Bullion and Gold Certificates”.

It further went on to state, "All persons are hereby required to deliver on or before May 1, 1933, to a Federal Reserve bank or a branch or agency thereof or to any member bank of the Federal Reserve System all gold coin, gold bullion, and gold certificates now owned by them or coming into their ownership on or before April 28, 1933". In other words, the government recalled all gold coinage and currency payable in gold coin from the banks and made it illegal for any U.S. citizen to hold gold in the form of coins or bullion. This act was further given teeth when you remember that this came in the midst of the worst depression in U.S. history when the common man barely had enough money to supply food, clothing and shelter for his family, much less being able to hoard gold. Were it not for farsighted wealthy numismatists that violated this law, we would not have the beautiful gold coins that we admire today. Once again, the specific dates/mints that were melted is unknown.

### **The Great Silver Melt (1960 – 1965)**

For quite some time the U.S. Treasury had been a net buyer of silver, in part to keep the silver markets settled and for the manufacture of coinage. By 1960, it had become a net seller as silver prices began to rise. The Treasury sold 22 million ounces of silver bullion in 1960, and used another 46 million ounces in coinage. The next year the Treasury had to sell 63 million ounces of bullion to settle the silver markets and use another 56 million ounces to replace silver coins that had been taken out of circulation by investors speculating in silver. The Treasury quickly realized that it would run out of silver for use in coinage and as backing against silver certificates unless it took drastic

measures. It thus began phasing silver out of currency. In 1961, the Treasury ordered \$5 and \$10 silver certificates out of circulation, freeing silver reserves held against these bills. In November of 1961 the government also suspended silver bullion sales by the Treasury at the formerly fixed price of 91 cents.

Without the active intervention of the U.S. Treasury on its behalf, the price of silver quickly rose. By 1963, silver prices reached \$1.29, which was equal to the value of the silver in our coins. At \$1.38/oz it became profitable to recycle coinage for its silver content.

Between 1960 and 1965 the Treasury sold silver to keep the price stable. Over the six years between 1960 and 1965, the Treasury used 814 million ounces of silver in coinage. The silver used in coinage during this time quickly found its way into the hands of investors. Government steps to remove silver from the currency had led investors to conclude that the price of silver would rise sharply once the Treasury no longer was supplying the market with such large volumes of the metal and thus the investor run on silver had begun. Coin melt rose from 10 million ounces in 1960 to 30 million ounces in 1965.

### **The Hunt Brothers (1970's)**

As if our silver coinage had not been beaten up enough by this point, along came the Hunt Brothers of Texas. In 1973, the Hunt family of Texas was quite possibly the richest family in America and, as a hedge against inflation, decided to buy silver bullion. Remember, it became illegal to own gold in 1933 so the Hunts began to buy silver in enormous quantity.

By 1979 Nelson Bunker Hunt and William Herbert Hunt formed a silver pool of more than 200 million ounces of silver, equivalent to half the world's deliverable supply.

The Hunts started buying silver back in 1973 when the price was in the \$1.95 / ounce range. By 1979, the price had climbed to around \$5. As of early 1980 the price had skyrocketed up to the \$50 range, peaking at \$54.

Very quickly, a combination of changed trading rules on the New York Metals Market (COMEX) and the intervention of the Federal Reserve put an end to the game. The price began to slide, culminating in a 50% one-day decline on March 27, 1980 as the price plummeted from \$21.62 to \$10.80.

What this meant for U.S. silver coinage was that all, or most of the silver coinage that had escaped the Treasury's grasp in the early 1960's fell into the great melting pot as the price of a common silver dime (numismatic value \$.20) soared to \$2.50 and more. "Common" Morgan and Peace dollars died as their melt price exceeded \$25 along with common Franklin And Walking Liberty Half dollars whose melt value exceeded \$12.00. I personally viewed the melting stock of some buyers, which contained not only silver dollars but also Barber coinage and 3¢ silvers. BU rolls and individual coins were turned in to be melted indiscriminately.

To answer the question that I posed earlier... Where are all the coins... the answer is GONE for the most part. Except for those that survived in cookie jars, collector's albums and investors inventory. It is a wonder that some dates/mints haven't disappeared completely during all of this mayhem.



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We are offering this service for error collectors and dealers alike. The reason why we are doing this is to promote the error business through the world wide web and to connect error collectors with the coins they have been searching for. In order to post your item on our web site: [byersnc.com](http://byersnc.com), you must agree to the following terms and conditions.

1. All major U.S. mint errors are accepted if they are certified by ANACS, PCGS, NGC or ICG.
2. The approximate value of each item must exceed \$1000.
3. The minimum time for any listing is thirty days.
4. Seller agrees to a seven day return privilege from date of receipt.
5. Seller agrees to use an escrow service if requested by the buyer.
6. We reserve the right to deny or cancel any listing at any time.
7. All listing are subject to prior sale.

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2. Caps more than ½ inch high.
3. U.S. Errors that were obviously and intentionally struck as error coins. No impossible mint errors.

We only accept consignments of U.S. Errors that were legitimately found or released thru normal distribution channels.

## Scanning Specifications

1. Scan both the obverse and reverse of the entire holder.
2. Scan with a resolution of at least 300 dpi.
3. Save the picture in jpeg format (jpg).

## Information Requirements

In addition to e-mailing a photo of your item, please include the following information:

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3. Asking Price

After your item is listed, we will contact you by e-mail with any offers and questions. Once a price is agreed upon we will handle the entire sale for a 10% transaction fee, which includes all costs (eBay fees, grading fees, webmaster charges, postage and registration fees, insurance, paperwork, etc.).

If you have a Mint Error collection for sale or would like to sell your duplicates and do not want to consign your coin(s), we can purchase your entire collection outright. Please contact us at [mike@mikebyers.com](mailto:mike@mikebyers.com).

# ERROR WORLD CLUB BY JAMES ARCHIBALD

The Error World Club complex was founded on August 24, 2000 in Yahoo Clubs, and while we aren't the biggest by far, we are the most active club in our category today on both MSN and Yahoo.

We live in fascinating times with computers and the Internet breaking new ground everyday. Technology is moving at such a fast pace that it's sometimes hard to keep up with things. Things we have lived with and accepted all our lives have suddenly become obsolete. The internet offers something for everyone, and for coin collectors it opens up a whole new world.

There is instant access to information on websites and research data that was rarely available before. Internet auctions allow collectors to view and bid on material they are interested in. Instant communication is a way of life on the web, with many different ways to send and receive messages including message boards on various websites, chat rooms and instant messenger systems. The best of all for coin collectors are on-line coin clubs.

Error World Club is based upon the idea that an internet club can be better than the on-line standard. All on-line coin clubs are free, but EW takes it one step further. We try to give as many free ser-

vices to the club members as we can, and assisting as much as possible in obtaining information and answers needed by our members. EW was designed to be a "home base" for all collectors and dealers in the area of Mint Errors and Variety Coinage, including both U.S. and World coins.

We have since expanded into both standard issue U.S. and World coinage, in EW4 and EW5 respectively. Currently EW has 370 members in its Yahoo! Group home, which we refer to as EW1 and 354 members in its MSN Community referred to as EW2. There is a specialized section for all of the variety coin collectors called "Variety Coins" (our EW3 club) which currently has 141 members.

Our two newest clubs are U.S. Coin Collecting, our EW4 club, which is already up to 248 members and our latest addition, World Coin Collecting, which now has 48 members. Both of these club rooms are aimed at mainstream collectors of the 'normal' coins.

Some of the things EW offers collectors that have access to the internet include a major informational website run by my partner Ray Gaudette. Members can access their e-mail@errorworld.org and there is a free auction forum to buy and sell

coins managed by Matt Hays. Other features include chat rooms with weekly coin meetings, message boards for posting and responding to questions, bookmarks, files sections and much more! New members are always welcome, and all EW internet services are absolutely free.

Don't wait to take part in a modern coin club, we are always looking for members willing to take an active roll in the club, or just follow along. If you think you can contribute to the club, speak up. This is a people club and we encourage members to take part! EW is a place where members can, and do, make a difference! Since we're live and interactive, you as a member can take part in all club activities. That's another thing that makes EW special, we actually do things! Let's change the face of coin collecting forever by breaking new ground. Be a part of something special in the hobby, come check us out at [errorworldclub.org](http://errorworldclub.org).

Membership is absolutely free, and new members are always welcome! We are also very proud to be one of the sponsors of Mint Error News! With rising costs today it's nice to know that the best things in life really are free.

## CONTEST FOR \$1,000 MINT ERROR

Mint Error News will give away FREE a major mint error valued at \$1,000 for the best article written, submitted and published in [minterrornews.com](http://minterrornews.com) and the Mint Error News Magazine.

Please make sure you have copyrights to any content that you submit. Your article may be subject to revision. The only stipulation is that the articles submitted for this prize are about mint errors and exclusively submitted to Mint Error News. If you include images with your article, please use a minimum resolution of 300 DPI.

Please submit all content to:

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# **Eureka Trading Systems Introduces Error Section**

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**E**ureka Trading Systems, the recently launched dealer-to-dealer coin exchange, announced that it has added an error section to its site. The member roster, which includes over 300 leading coin dealers, may be viewed at [eurekatrading.com](http://eurekatrading.com).

According to Eureka co-founder Andy Lustig, “After discussing with Michael Byers the current state of the error market, it became clear that error dealers needed a central marketplace to privately conduct large scale transactions. Eureka was perfectly situated to serve that need, and we jumped at the opportunity.”

Eureka features over 10,000 market screens for various US and World coins. On each market screen, members may view or post orders for the given coin, with or without images. Each screen also includes PCGS and NGC populations, as well as Heritage Value Index prices.

Market screens also serve as numismatic “micro-portals”, with coin-specific links to [CoinFacts.com](http://CoinFacts.com), [eCoinage.com](http://eCoinage.com) auction records, and upcoming Heritage and Teletrade auction lots. Additionally, requests may be made for automatic notification of upcoming auction lots.

Eureka also offers many of the other features one would expect in a numismatic portal: Bulletin Boards, Forums, a Coin Show and Auction Calendar, and even a Help Wanted section. Inquiries should be directed to Julie Abrams ([juliea@eurekatrading.com](mailto:juliea@eurekatrading.com)).



**Numismatic News & Rare Coin  
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# Specific Gravity

by J.T. Stanton, N.L.G.

Every weight known has a unique weight to mass ratio. The measurement for this weight to mass ratio is called specific gravity. This is one of the oldest and most accurate methods of testing molecular content of a metal.

Many people believe that this test is too complicated and/or requires costly equipment to be properly performed. This is not the case. All that is needed are a few relatively inexpensive pieces of equipment, a calculator, and a little patience. However, the more sensitive and accurate the equipment, the more accurate the result will be.

The following procedures were printed in a past issue of *The Numismatist*, and also in a later publication of the ANA.

## PREPARATION

1. Observe good laboratory techniques as much as possible under existing conditions. Work slowly, carefully and accurately at all times.
2. Place a balance beam scale on the most stable work surface available. A solid desk is less susceptible to vibrations than a folding table.
3. Eliminate stray air currents as much as possible. The scale can be housed in a cardboard box or other suitable container. A piece of plastic draped over the opening of the box can very effectively cut air currents that could affect the accuracy of the scale.

4. A container of water with a mouth large enough for one end of the balance beam to enter is necessary. Use pure water whenever possible. For best results use steam distilled deionized water. Add a drop or two of a wetting agent such as PhotoFlo 200 or a liquid household detergent. This helps prevent the formation of air bubbles, which normally form on the coin or on the suspension device.

5. Always be certain that the scale has been zero balanced before and after any weighing operation or at any time that the scale has been moved from one location to another.

6. Always depress the right end of the balance beam after making adjustments for zero balance or after moving poises (weights).

7. Do not allow yourself to jump to any conclusions that might cloud your judgment about the coin being tested.

8. Above all, remember that specific gravity testing is neither an exact science, nor the final word in determining the authenticity of a coin. It is simply one more tool to be used along with visual examination under a good stereo microscope and measurements of diameter and thickness made with vernier calipers.

## TEST PROCEDURES

1. Zero balance the scale exactly and carefully.

2. Place the coin to be checked on the lower pan. Try to stop any swaying of the pan, though it is not essential that the pan be absolutely still.

3. Move the balance poises on the beam to the right until the beam remains at exact zero balance. Start with the heaviest poise and work forward until you reach absolute zero using the smallest poise.

4. Read the combines total weight of the poises. This is the weight of the coin in the air, or the dry weight. Mark that weight on a slip of paper.

5. Without moving the poises, remove the coin from the lower pan and place it on the suspension devise. Slowly immerse the coin in the water, being careful that there are no air bubbles trapped on the coin or on the suspension device itself.

6. Move the poises back and forth only far enough to return the beam to zero.

7. Read the new total weight of the poises. This is the weight of the coin in water, or the wet weight. Mark this new weight immediately below the dry weight on your slip of paper.

8. Subtract the wet weight from the dry weight and divide the difference into the dry weight. This is the specific gravity of the coin.



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May 1-4	Central States - St. Louis, MO
May 28-June 1	Long Beach Coin & Collectible Expo
July 25-27	Pre Show (Before ANA)
July 30-Aug 3	ANA Baltimore
Sept 18-21	Long Beach Coin & Collectible Expo
Nov 21-23	Santa Clara Coin and Stamp Show
Dec 4-7	Baltimore



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# 1999 SBA Dollar Cap on a Struck Georgia Quarter

by Mike Moloney

I especially like SBA and Ike Dollar errors. This cool major mint error is a SBA cap on a struck Georgia Quarter. This coin is much neater than my 1979 SBA on a struck quarter. There are several reasons why this is one of my all time favorites.

This is only one of two known obverse SBA caps. The fact that it is also an off metal double

denomination (struck on a struck GA Quarter) makes it an even cooler coin. The reverse shows a brockage of the obverse and it is very expanded as it struck many blanks.

I'm a serious collector and have been collecting error coins since the late 50's when I first spotted a 50% O/C Lincoln with a mirror brockage reverse. I just had

to have it. My next purchase was 2 O/C Standing Liberty Quarters for \$60 each. Those were the "good old days."

However it's still a lot of fun to collect error coins as there is always something new and the hunt is never finished. As I mentioned my main interests are SBA and IKE Dollar Errors. Feel free to e-mail me at [mmoloney@miami.edu](mailto:mmoloney@miami.edu) if you are offering anything spectacular.



Photo courtesy of Mike Moloney

## Saul Teichman's Want List

[Saul.Teichman@ey.com](mailto:Saul.Teichman@ey.com)

I am looking for the following off-metal errors:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Wartime Nickel on a Copper Cent planchet.      | Kennedy Half on a Sacagawea Dollar planchet - if it exists. |
| Bicentennial Quarter on a Dime planchet.       | Ike Dollar on a Cent planchet.                              |
| Bicentennial Half on a Cent planchet.          | Ike Dollar on a Nickel 5 Cent planchet.                     |
| Bicentennial Half on a Nickel 5 Cent planchet. | Ike Dollar on a Dime planchet.                              |
| Bicentennial Half on a Dime planchet.          | Ike Dollar on a Quarter planchet.                           |
| Bicentennial Half on a Quarter planchet.       | Susan B. Anthony Dollar on a Sacagawea Dollar planchet.     |

# The Story Behind An Interesting Overstrike Coin

by Martin Wettmark

The coin that illustrates this story is a 1951 Norwegian 1 Kronor struck on a 1946 Swedish 1 Kronor. Is this a “true error” or what is it?

In 1951 a group of Numismatists were invited to the Royal Norwegian Mint in Kongsberg. This was a formal visit arranged by Skanes Numimatiska Förening, a Swedish coin club located in the south of Sweden. As a friendly gesture to the visitors, the Mint placed some Swedish 1 Kronor coins in the Norwegian coin press and struck some 1 Kronor

coins. Each person who wanted one of these was given one. Therefore, it may be wrong to describe the coin as a true error. To this day approximately 10 coins are known that were struck deliberately in this way. A few of these coins have been offered on the market and have been purchased by collectors.

40 years later I made a visit to the same Mint with a group of collectors from Gothenburg Numismatic Society. At that time I was not aware of the deliberate overstriking that had occurred 40 years earlier. A few of the group-members noticed some unstruck planchets that were lying on the floor. The staff was alarmed at this discovery and even if I had known about the overstriking that took place in 1951, it probably would not have been a good idea to make a similar proposal...

In the picture above you can see that the Swedish legend surrounds the Norwegian King Hakon VII's symbol. Under the symbol you can see the head of the Swedish King Gustav V, who had passed away in 1951.



Photo courtesy of Martin Wettmark

# Double Struck French 5 Francs on Spoon!!

by Tim Bullard

This is one of the most outrageous, exotic, dramatic and unique mint errors that I have ever encountered in 25 years.

It's a 1831 French 5 Francs. It's DOUBLE STRUCK on a BRASS spoon! Most of the detail from both sides of the strike shows. Part of the handle from the spoon is still attached. In those days (1830's) wooden handles were attached to a notch on brass spoons just like this one. It weighs 27.8 grams.

It would be fascinating to know why this was struck. Was it a test strike with whatever was available at their fingertips (a spoon)? Was it made "after hours" by a very creative Mint Employee with extra time on his hands?? We will never know!! I wanted to share this wild piece with all of the readers of Mint Error News.



# The Amazing Broken CC and Other Errors on Display



An interesting array of dollar errors is currently available to be viewed on Northern Nevada Coin's website [brokencc.com](http://brokencc.com). The gallery includes several off-center Morgan dollars, a broadstruck Morgan, a spectacularly broadstruck Peace dollar, an example of a rotated reverse, a blank silver dollar planchet, and the Amazing Broken CC. The theme of the error collection is Carson City errors, but also spans any error of dollars made 1935 or before.

Center stage in the collection is the Amazing Broken CC. This coin is the most dramatic error ever heard of on a Morgan dollar, and beyond that it has the rare Carson City mintmark. If you go and visit [brokencc.com](http://brokencc.com), the Amazing Broken CC will be displayed right on the front page.

The Amazing Broken CC is also displayed at all major shows that Northern Nevada Coin attends. Allen Rowe, of Northern Nevada Coin, stated that "the reason for displaying the Amazing Broken CC is twofold. First, it is to share with the numismatic community such a treasure, even if it is not for sale. And second, it is in the hopes of buying more Carson City errors for the collection."

Allen Rowe also stated that "although we have more error dollars than we display, you may enjoy viewing our favorites in the online gallery." If you have Carson City and/or dollar errors and would like to sell, please contact Allen Rowe at Northern Nevada Coin: (888) 836-5527.

# A Fascinating 1790 Mule



Northeast Numismatics has purchased an unusual and rare mule pattern. It's Peck #1023, which is a 1790 ½D in Proof 66 Brown NGC. It has an estimated mintage of five pieces struck and is the first one we've ever seen of this type.

It was struck by the Soho Mint in England in 1790, and was designed by J.P. Droz who was a French medalist, designer and sculpturer. This mule depicts a clothed portrait of Britannia on the obverse and a nude Britannia on the reverse. It is struck in bronze copper with a plain edge. It is in gem proof condition and is a very unusual mule. Interested parties, please contact Northeast Numismatics at (800) 449-2646.

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# Triple Struck Double Denom Rev Brockage Off Metal

-OR-

## Triple Denom?....

*That is the Question.*

by Terry Holcomb



The slab label is too small for a full description of this fabulous error. At the present time, this is the only known, possible 3 denom, US error coin. The only other known 3 denom example was recently lost in a theft.

This incredible piece shows a state quarter obverse, 50% off center, with a full incuse mirror image brockage of Washington, 50% off center on the reverse.

Prior to the strike by the quarter dies, the planchet was double struck by 2000-P Jefferson nickel dies, BUT, it was flipped over between strikes. In the area unstruck by the quarter dies there are clear images of both Jefferson, and the Memorial, on both sides.

All this is on a copper/zinc cent planchet that has expanded to a size that fills a Sac dollar slab.

The final mystery is that some experts believe Lincoln cent designs are still visible under all these other strikes. That makes this either a full 31c piece, slabbed by ANACS MS 62 RED, struck on a Lincoln cent; -OR- a 30c piece on a Lincoln cent planchet.

Unique in the entire history of the US mint, I acquired this amazing error in 2001 as part of my state quarter error collection and as a companion to my Sacagawea Mule error. Inquiries welcome. Please contact me at [pwrwgndrvr@aol.com](mailto:pwrwgndrvr@aol.com).



# Two-Headed & Two-Tailed Coins

There are approximately twenty known genuine two-headed or two-tailed coins that have been authenticated and certified by ANACS, PCGS and NGC.

There are only three known “Two Tailed” U.S. coins: two Quarters and one Dime. One of the Quarters recently sold for \$80,000.

Most of these world coins that were struck with either two obverse or two reverse dies have been handled by Mike Byers of Byers Numismatic Corp. (mikebyers.com). Two of these are Canadian Copper Cents that were struck with two reverse dies and authenticated by PCGS. A few others from this collection of two headed and two tailed coins are featured below.







# Frequently Asked Questions

I have a two headed coin. Is this a rare mint error? If so what is it worth?





What you have is called a “magician’s coin.” This is a novelty piece and can be purchased at a magic shop. These have no numismatic value and are for entertainment only. There are approximately twenty genuine two-headed or two-tailed coins that have been authenticated by ANACS, PCGS and NGC. There are only three known “Two Tailed” U.S. coins: two Quarters and one Dime. One of the Quarters recently sold for \$80,000. Two of the world coins are Canadian Copper Cents that were struck with two reverse dies and authenticated by PCGS. These were part of a Canadian Mint Error Collection and they have since been featured in a front page Coin World article.

I just found a State Quarter that looks like it’s golden or brass. Is this made out of the same metal as the new golden dollar?



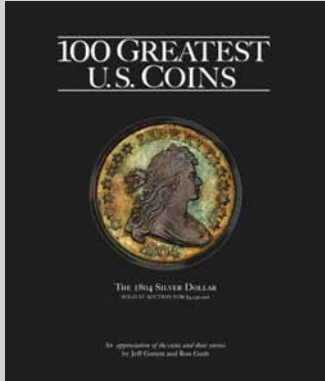
Chances are your State Quarter has been plated after it left the Mint. Check to see if the edge is the same color as the rest of the coin. If it is the same color, the coin has been plated. If the edge is copper colored you might have genuine a mint error. Please e-mail a picture to allow us to evaluate your coin. There are approximately 15 known 1999 State Quarters struck on Experimental Planchets. All five states in the 1999 series (DE, PA, CT, GA and NJ) have been discovered. These Experimental State Quarters have sold for as high as \$10,000 each, depending on which state, the coin’s condition and which type of experimental composition was used. There are four known types of experimental compositions which have been discovered so far on 1999 State Quarters.

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Mike Byers, Professional Numismatist since 1978

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Mike Byers is a consultant to ANACS for Mint Errors

