

# MINT **TERROR** NEWS<sup>TM</sup> MAGAZINE



Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector. Also featuring Die Trials, Test Pieces, Numismatic Rarities, Patterns, Currency Errors and Discoveries from the U.S. Mint.



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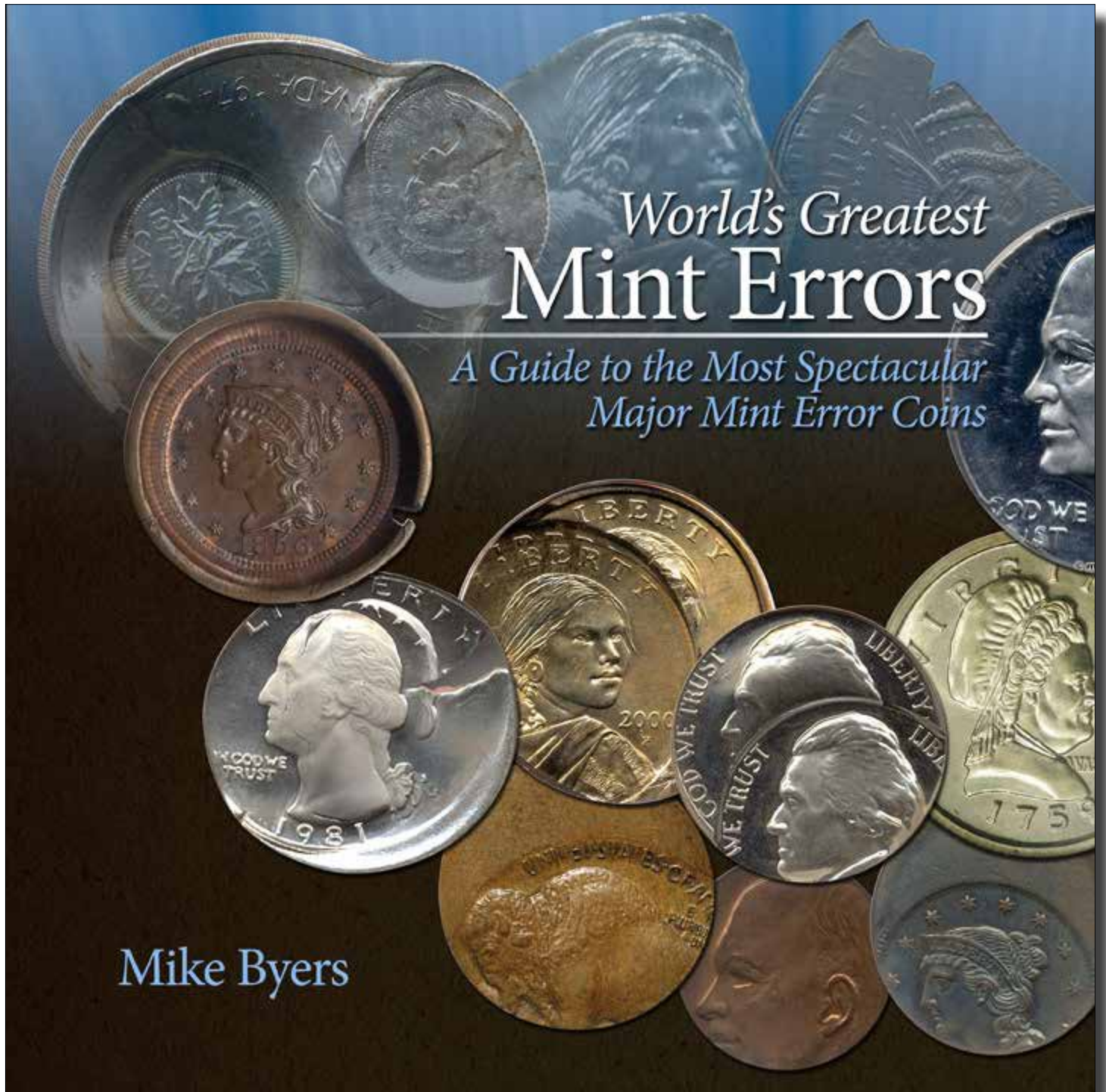
## Unique U.S. Proof, Specimen, Pattern & Error Coins



21 Page  
Price Guide  
Inside!

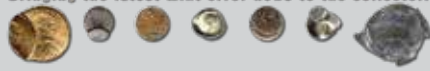
Issue 68  
A Mike Byers  
Publication

Now Available From Amazon.com and Zyrus Press



# MINT ERROR NEWS MAGAZINE

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector.



Issue 68

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## Subscriptions

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# Mint Error News Magazine

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# MINT **ERROR** NEWS<sup>TM</sup> MAGAZINE

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector.



Mike Byers, Publisher & Editor, Welcomes You!

**W**elcome to Mint Error News Magazine, bringing the latest mint error news and information to the collector. This is our 19th year bringing you both an online PDF magazine and the Mint Error News website. There are over 1,300 articles, features, discoveries, news stories with mint error related info from the United States and around the World. Our website, [minterrornews.com](http://minterrornews.com), has become the most popular and informative Internet resource for mint errors and is read by thousands of dealers and collectors.

Over the last 20 years with the advent of the internet millions of collectors have flocked to online auctions and dealer websites. Many people connect to various online forums and clubs to share knowledge and learn about Mint Errors. Everyone, including dealers, collectors and even investors have instant access to information as never before. The Mint Error market has experienced an explosion in collector interest over the last 20 years.

Time and again, rare and unique Mint Errors in the numismatic market have made headline news. Authentication and certification of Mint Errors is now commonplace. In 1991, ANACS was the first to authenticate, grade and encapsulate major Mint Errors. In 1999, PCGS and NGC began certifying Mint Errors. Major Mint Errors are now pursued, collected and traded just like patterns, territorial Gold, colonials and other interesting segments of numismatics.

In 1975, I purchased a 1900 Indian Head Cent struck on a \$2 1/2 Indian Gold blank planchet for \$7,750 at a major coin auction. That price ranked among the top five ever realized for a Mint Error that few dealers or serious collectors would even consider. At that time price guides for Mint Errors were nonexistent and today that Indian Head Cent struck in Gold is certified MS65 by PCGS and is valued at six figures.

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## PUBLISHER & EDITOR

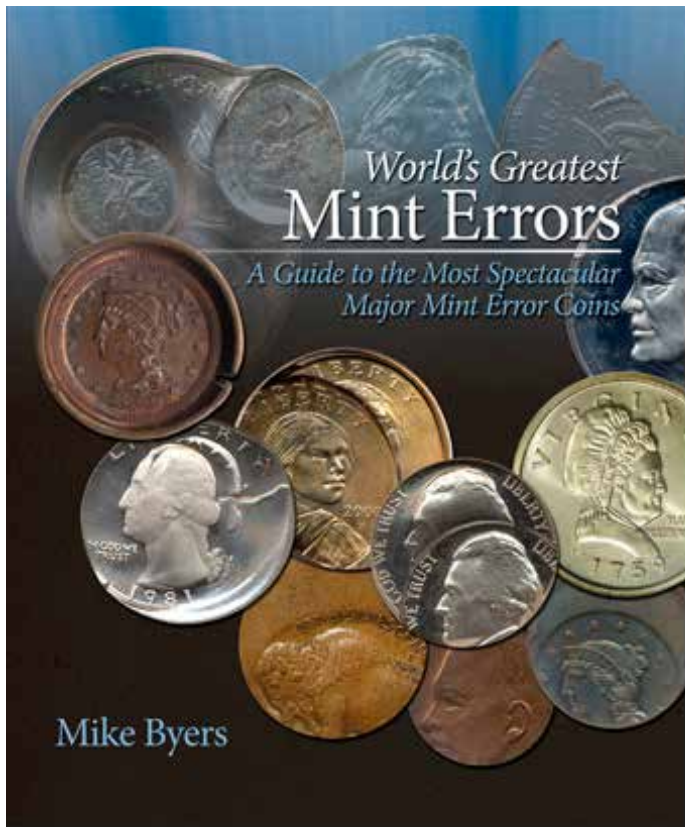


**Mike Byers**



Mike Byers (mikebyers.com) is president of Mike Byers Inc. He has been a professional numismatist for over thirty-five years. He is one of the largest dealers handling U.S. Gold Coins, Patterns and Rarities certified by PCGS and NGC. He has handled major coin collections and attends every major coin convention. Mike Byers carries an extensive inventory as well as solicits want lists and is always looking to purchase fresh inventory and collections. You can visit Mike Byers and view his rarities at the ANA, Central States, FUN show and the Long Beach Coin Expo.


Mike Byers was a consultant to ANACS for Mint Errors from 2000 to 2006. He is also the Owner, Publisher and Editor of Mint Error News Magazine and the Mint Error News Website that was founded in 2003. In 2009, Mike Byers published his first book, *World's Greatest Mint Errors*, which received the NLG Award for Best World Coin Book and is available on Amazon.




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## CONSULTANTS


Mike Byers is the Publisher and Editor of Mint Error News. Consultants to Mint Error News are numismatic experts recognized worldwide including Heritage Auctions, Jim Stoutjesdyk, Dave Camire, Ron Guth, Marc Crane, Andy Lustig, Saul Teichman, Michael Faraone, Steven Contursi, Jeff Ylitalo, John Wang and Fred Weinberg (retired), Christopher Talbot Frank, Greg Bennick, Silvano DiGenova, Brian Hodge, Joe Cronin, Allen Rowe, Ian Russell and Jim Gately.




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Expert on Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials  
Publisher & Editor of Mint Error News  
President of Mike Byers Inc  
Author of NLG Best World Book




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Vice President of Heritage Rare Coin Galleries




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President of Numismatic Conservation Services (NCS)  
NGC Mint Error Expert




**Ron Guth**  
Expert on Patterns and Die Trials  
Former PCGS President  
Former CoinFacts President  
Proprietor of GermanCoins.com




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Owner of Mike Faraone Rare Coins  
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Expert on Mint Errors and Die Trials

Former PCGS Consultant for Mint Errors



### Christopher Talbot Frank

Expert on Modern & Dramatic  
Major Mint Errors

Owner of CTF Error Coins



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Expert on Mint Errors and  
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Professional Keynote Speaker, Author  
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### Silvano DiGenova

Expert on Patterns and  
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Founder and President of Tangible Investments



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Author of *Mint Errors to Die For*



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Owner of Northern Nevada Coin



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President and Co-Founder of GreatCollections



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Expert on 20th Century U.S. Coinage  
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Owner of the #1 Ranked PCGS  
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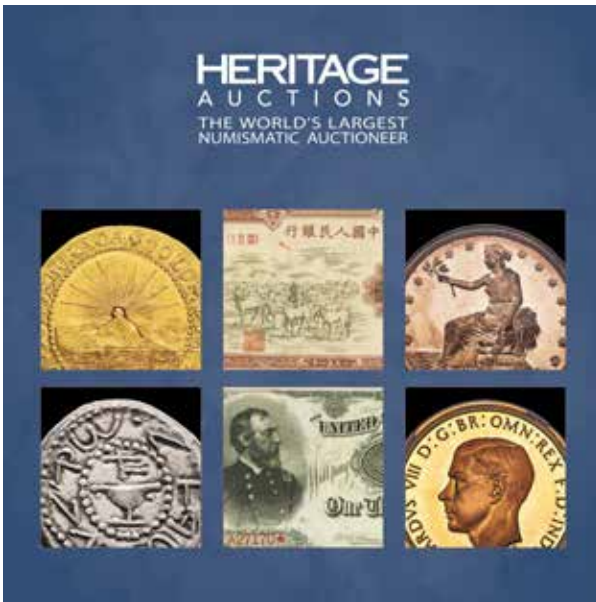
# MINTERRORNEWS™ CONSULTANTS



**Jim Stoutjesdyk**

Jim Stoutjesdyk was named Vice President of Heritage Rare Coin Galleries in 2004. Since coming to Heritage in 1993, Jim has assumed a wide variety of responsibilities. He initially was hired as the Gallery Manager for Heritage's retail showroom. For several years he helped to develop Heritage's retail clientele and placed millions of dollars worth of rare coins with collectors. Jim's interest turned to wholesale trading and he quickly became a familiar face at coin shows across the nation. As Vice President, Jim's duties include buying and selling millions of dollars worth of rare coins each month, pricing all of the new coins available for sale each day, and overseeing the daily operations of the rare coin department. In 2019 the American Numismatic Association awarded Jim the very prestigious Doctor of Numismatics honorary degree.

Jim Stoutjesdyk is a Consultant to Mint Error News for U.S. Coins, Unique Items, Patterns and Mint Errors.



Heritage Auctions is the largest collectibles auctioneer and third largest auction house in the world, as well as the largest auction house founded in the U.S. We are also the undisputed Internet leader in our field, with more than 1.75 million online bidder-members registered on HA.com from all 195 countries. This loyal and growing community of collectors is a testament to the usefulness of our website, our reputation for professional business practices and our vast expertise in the field of art and collectibles.

Established in 1976, Heritage offers a wide range of U.S. & World Coins, Rare Currency, Fine & Decorative Art, American Art, Illustration Art, Modern & Contemporary Art, Urban Art, Comic Books & Comic Art, Movie Posters, Entertainment & Music Memorabilia, Jewelry & Timepieces, Luxury Handbags, Sports Collectibles, Historical & Political

Memorabilia, Rare Books & Manuscripts, Ethnographic Art, & Space Exploration Memorabilia, Civil War Memorabilia, Photographs, Nature & Science, Fine and Rare Wine, Luxury Real Estate, Pop Culture Collectibles, and more.

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Dave Camire is considered an authority on modern minting technology and production, specializing in mint errors and Chinese coins. He has visited many mints, both domestically and internationally, which is not only insightful but useful in his role as NGC Modern World Coin Grader and Finalizer. His knowledge of the minting process is helpful in distinguishing mint defects from damaged coins and establishing a coin's authenticity and grade.



**Dave Camire**

Dave co-authored *100 Greatest U.S. Error Coins* and has contributed to such numismatic publications as *Coin World* (honored with being listed as one of the 100 Most Influential People), *COINage*, *Numismatic News*, *The Numismatist* and the *Red Book*. He has been featured on National Public Radio (NPR) and seen on *Good Morning America* and the *Discovery Channel*.

Dave is also President of Numismatic Conservation Services (NCS). With his knowledge and expertise in coin conservation, he has been an active volunteer at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History, helping to preserve the National Numismatic Collection and establishing key numismatic displays at the museum. A collector at heart, he has been collecting since he was 13 years old.

Dave Camire is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials.

---



**Mike Faraone**

Mike Faraone is the owner of Mike Faraone Rare Coins in Las Vegas, Nevada. He previously was a grader at PCGS for 12 years after 11 years at ANACS.

He has taught grading at the ANA Summer Seminar for twenty years. Mike has lectured on Mint errors and Counterfeit protection at numerous coin shows across the country. He is a previous president of the National Silver Dollar Roundtable and served as editor of the NSDR Journal for over twenty years. Mike can be reached via e-mail at: [mfaraone@hotmail.com](mailto:mfaraone@hotmail.com).

Mike Faraone is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials.

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Ron Guth is a recognized authority on United States and German coins. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant who has been involved professionally in numismatics for over fifty years as a collector, dealer, researcher, and writer. His books and articles have earned numerous awards, including the American Numismatic Association's Heath Literary award and the Olga & Wayte Raymond awards, the Numismatic Literary Guild's Best Numismatic Investment Book and Best Book of the Year awards, and the Professional Numismatic Guild's Best Book of the Year award. In 2003, Ron received the prestigious President's Award from the American Numismatic Association in recognition of his numerous contributions to numismatics. In 2021, Coin World named Ron as one of the Top Ten Most Influential People in Numismatics for the sixty-year period from 1960-2020.



**Ron Guth**

Ron created the CoinFacts website (now PCGS CoinFacts) in 1999 and sold the website to Collectors Universe in 2004 (where it is now presented as PCGS CoinFacts). Ron served in various capacities at Collectors Universe, including Director of Numismatic Research, President of the Professional Coin Grading Service, and President of PCGS CoinFacts.

Currently, Ron serves as proprietor of GermanCoins.com and as Chief Investigator at the Numismatic Detective Agency, where he provides expert provenance on high-end coins. Ron Guth is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Patterns and Die Trials.



**Marc Crane**

Marc Crane is a dealer specializing in rare U.S. coins and U.S. patterns. He started Marc One Numismatics, Inc. in 1991. He is a member of the PNG (#565).

Marc tied for 1st place in a PCGS grading contest and is considered a world-class grader and authenticator. He is a contributor to the Red Book and is permanently listed in the pattern section. His coin store in Rancho Mirage, CA is open to the public and he regularly attends coin shows and auctions across the country.

Marc Crane is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Patterns and Die Trials.

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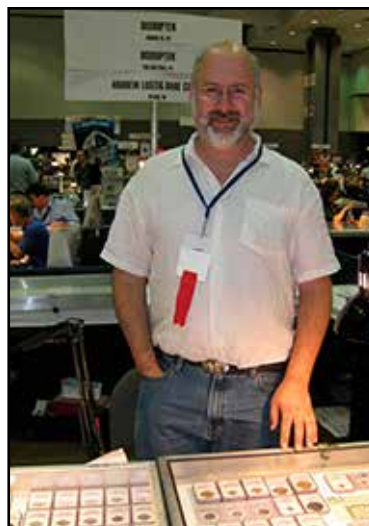
## CONSULTANTS

Andy Lustig has been dealing in U.S. and World Coins since 1975 and has attended more than 2,000 coin shows and auctions.

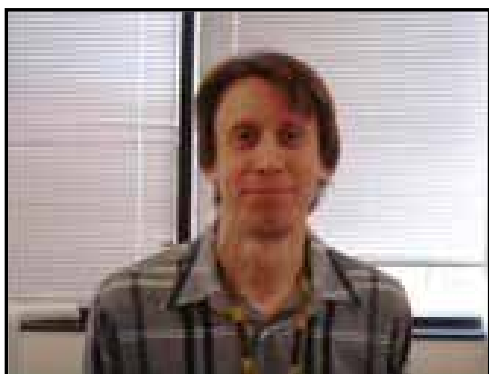
Andy is the co-founder of the Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors (uspatterns.com). He has been a member of the Professional Numismatists Guild (PNG #614) since 2005. He is a member of NGC and was also a former grader and authenticator for PCGS.

Andy was a speaker at the annual CSNS convention, presenting "Collecting Pattern Coinage." Andy was a major contributor to the 8th Edition of the Judd book.

Andy Lustig is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials.



**Andy Lustig**



**Saul Teichman**

Saul Teichman is a co-founder and primary contributor/editor of the Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors (uspatterns.com) as well as contributor to the 8th Edition of the Judd book and Andrew Pollock's *United States Patterns and Related Issues* as well as many other books. He has been collecting primarily off-metal U.S. Mint errors for over 20 years and maintains extensive pedigree information for many error issues which have been published here in the past.

Saul Teichman is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials.

Rare Coin Wholesalers has the largest inventory of U.S. Rare Coins.

Founded in 2001, Rare Coin Wholesalers has transacted over \$2 billion in U.S. rare coin business and is a recognized leader in acquiring, managing, and selling U.S. rare coins positioned for wealth preservation and capital growth.

Steven L. Contursi is a Consultant to Mint Error News for U.S. Patterns.



**Steven L. Contursi**

# MINT**ERROR**NEWS<sup>TM</sup> CONSULTANTS



**Jeff Ylitalo**

Jeff Ylitalo has collected Mint Error coins since 1993. He has avidly researched & written about this area of numismatics since 2006 contributing dozens of articles to CONECAs bi-monthly publication ErrorScope and Mint Error News. Jeff is the former editor for the ErrorScope 2008-2017.

Jeff's research and collecting focus is now primarily centered on World Error coins. Jeff can be reached via e-mail at: [jylitalo@yahoo.com](mailto:jylitalo@yahoo.com).

Jeff Ylitalo is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors.

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John Wang is an avid numismatic researcher and collector. His research focus is on absolute rarities including patterns, mint errors and exonumia, with particular interest in coin census, pedigrees, coin designers and minters. A historian at heart, John enjoys tracing coins and people through time.



**John Wang**

John writes for Mint Error News, the So-Called Dollar Fellowship and Wikipedia. He is also a top contributor to Collectors Universe Message Forums. Beyond writing, John enjoys creating coins, including co-creating a 2021 Morgan Dollar commemorative with Moonlight Mint, and inspiring a Frank Gasparro Liberty Dollar pattern design commemorative with Grove Minting Company. A collector at heart, John maintains a set of So-Called Dollar rarities in the PCGS Set Registry. John is founder and editor at [PrivateMintNews.com](http://PrivateMintNews.com).

John Wang is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors and Patterns.

---



**Fred Weinberg**

Fred Weinberg is a highly respected numismatist, with 40 years of full time experience in the rare coin marketplace.

He deals in numismatic United States Gold & Silver coinage, as well as specializing in buying & selling Major Mint Error coinage of all types.

He is one of the original 31 dealers selected as an authorized PCGS (Professional Coin Grading Service) dealer at its inception in 1986.

Fred Weinberg has now retired and was a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors and Die Trials.

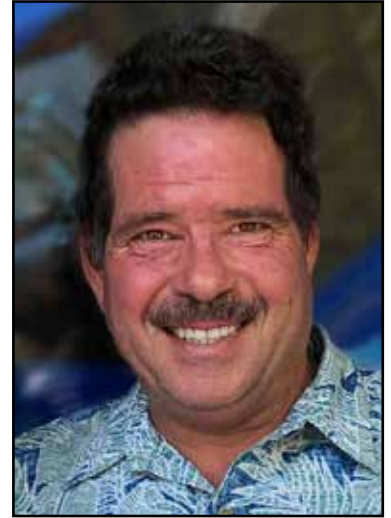
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## CONSULTANTS

Christopher Talbot Frank is an error coin dealer of over 25 years and is doing business as CTF Error Coins. Christopher specializes in superior eye appealing error coinage with a wide variety of dramatic specimens. He has an artistic background as a professional photographer and now specializes in high end numismatic photography. Christopher handpicks every coin in his inventory based on eye appeal first and rarity second.

Chris's 800 plus certified coin inventory is basically an error coin type set in many dates and denominations. Although he carries all error types and dates, he specializes in mint state modern and the very rare ultra modern (2002-present) error coins. Christopher has authored many articles on error coins for Mint Error News over the last few years.

Christopher Talbot Frank is a consultant to Mint Error News for modern and dramatic Major Mint Errors.



**Christopher Talbot Frank**



**Greg Bennick**

Greg Bennick is a collector and researcher of major mint errors and has been actively involved in the hobby since 1981 when he made his first major error purchase, a Liberty nickel on a cent planchet, at the age of ten.

A professional keynote speaker on the topic of Build a Better Now® for the corporate and association markets ([gregbennick.com](http://gregbennick.com)) Greg writes for multiple print outlets on major errors. He maintains an extensive personal library of error-related books, pamphlets, magazines, and ephemera going back to the dawn of the hobby in the 1950's.

Greg is a board member of CONECA, and focuses his study on major US and Canadian error coins, significant ancient and world errors, and the minting process.

Greg Bennick is a consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors and trends in the error market.

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## CONSULTANTS



**Silvano DiGenova**

Tangible Investments founder and president Silvano DiGenova is an authority on the rare coin market, grading, authenticity, and appraisals. In fact, since Silvano co-founded the renowned Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) and designed the PCGS coin grading standards, you could actually say he wrote the book on coin grading.

Millions of collectors and investors depend on Silvano DiGenova's expertise every day. He has been featured in Fortune Magazine's "People to Watch," quoted on the front page of The Wall Street Journal, interviewed in hundreds of U.S. newspapers, and has appeared several times as a commentator on CNN, FNN, CNBC, the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, and more.

Silvano DiGenova is a consultant to Mint Error News for Patterns and Unique & Esoteric U.S. Coinage.

---

Brian Hodge is a Partner and the President of Numismatics at Minshull Trading. Over the last three decades years they have been a leader in the numismatic industry and have grown into a formidable market maker, garnering the respect of every major market player.

He is a member of every major numismatic organization in the country, including PNG, ICTA, FUN, CSNS, and a life member of the ANA. He is a regular Red Book contributor and maintains consistent and up-to-date pricing to sustain healthy markets.



**Brian Hodge**

Brian Hodge is a consultant to Mint Error News for Specimen Coinage and Unique U.S. Coins.



# MINTERRORNEWS™

## CONSULTANTS



**Joe Cronin**

Joe Cronin is currently a History teacher, a former U.S. Treasury Department law enforcement officer, and has been a coin collector for over thirty years. Within the last ten years he has focused more on Mint errors, and also fake and altered coins made to resemble genuine errors.

He is the author of the popular error reference book, *Mint Errors to Die For*, has written articles for CONECA's *Errorscope*, and is the creator and moderator of the Facebook® page, "Joe Cronin's Mint Errors Explained." Joe often attends coin shows in the Western N.Y. area with educational tables on Mint errors and Henning nickels. Feel free to contact Joe at [jcro57@yahoo.com](mailto:jcro57@yahoo.com).

Joe Cronin is a consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors and Counterfeit/ Altered coins made to resemble genuine errors.

---

Allen Rowe is the owner of Northern Nevada Coin, which specializes in buying silver dollars, gold coins, Carson City coins, gold scrap, complete collections, estates, hoards, investment holdings, coins, silver bullion, gold billion, and rare paper money from collectors, investors, and other coin dealers. He has been buying gold in Carson City, Reno, Sparks, Minden, Gardnerville, Lake Tahoe, Fallon, Virginia City, and northern Nevada since 1993.

An interesting array of dollar errors is currently available to be viewed on Northern Nevada Coin's website [brokenc.com](http://brokenc.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.

Allen Rowe is a consultant to Mint Error News for Morgan and Peace Dollar Mint Errors, especially mint errors and rarities from the Carson City Mint.



**Allen Rowe**

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## CONSULTANTS

Ian is president and co-founder of GreatCollections Coin & Paper Money Auctions. From a young age, Ian was interested in collectibles and started working on weekends for a stamp dealer in Sydney, Australia at age 14. From there he learned about auctions at Stanley Gibbons Australia, personally handling many important sales including the Purcell Collection of Kangaroo and Map Series, the Mackey Collection of Australian States/Pacific Islands and the Morrison Hill China Collection. Ian also put together the company's first paper money auction featuring one of the finest New Zealand bank note collections ever formed.

Ian is a member of the prestigious Professional Numismatists Guild, member 785 and abides by the PNG Code of Ethics. In 2021, CoinWorld Magazine named Ian one of the most influential people in numismatics. Contact Ian Russell at [ian@greatcollections.com](mailto:ian@greatcollections.com).



**Ian Russell**

Great Collections holds the record auctioning the famous \$1 Sacagawea obverse muled with a Quarter reverse for \$194,062.50.

Ian Russell is a consultant to Mint Error News for Error Coins and Patterns.

---



**Jim Gately**

Jim Gately is the owner of the #1 ranked PCGS registry set of Buffalo Nickels. He also has other registry sets with PCGS.

He purchased the unique 1913 Gold Buffalo Nickel from Mike Byers for \$400,000 and proudly included it in his set.

Jim is an expert on 20th Century U.S. coinage with an emphasis on Buffalo Nickels. He is a consultant to Mint Error News for Double Dies and Overdates.

# UNIQUE U.S. PROOF, SPECIMEN, PATTERN & ERROR COINS

by Mike Byers



Many numismatists, dealers and collectors consider unique coins to be the most coveted, prized and valuable. Many of these unique coins were documented by the U.S. Mint or one of the Mint Branches, while others have no documentation but there are logical assumptions as to how and why they were struck.

Some of the most famous U.S. coins were struck under mysterious circumstances and the story behind their production adds to their rarity,

prestige and value. Examples are coins struck in proof where only one example is known, a special specimen striking struck with polished dies, while others are patterns, trial strikes, or mint error coins.

This issue of Mint Error News showcases some of the unique U.S. coins struck as a proof, as a specimen strike, as a piece de caprice, or as a deliberately produced mint error rarity.

# THE UNIQUE 1976 “No S” BICENTENNIAL PROOF DOLLAR

by Mike Byers



Photos Courtesy of Justin Spivack (MonsterCoinMart.com)

The PCGS CoinFacts Price Guide valued this unique Eisenhower Dollar long ago at \$850,000. Today, Mike Byers estimates the value well into seven figures.

# THE UNIQUE 1976 “No S” BICENTENNIAL PROOF DOLLAR

The 1976 Type 2 “No S” Silver Proof Eisenhower Dollar is one of America’s great mystery coins! It is a 1976 proof Bicentennial dollar lacking the “S” mintmark for San Francisco, and was discovered at a Woodward & Lathrup department store in the Washington, D.C. area in 1977.

It is possible that this coin was struck as a presentation piece for a government or White House official in Washington, and then entered circulation when it was accidentally spent.

Mitchell Spivack of Wondercoins (wondercoins.com) is the owner of this unique Eisenhower Dollar and he exclusively commented on this coin for the readers of Mint Error News:

*For the better part of around ten years, PCGS has valued the Unique 1976 Type 2 “No S” Silver Proof Eisenhower Dollar at \$850,000 in its Price Guide. This value was established well before I bought and then immediately resold one of the two known 1975 “No S” Dimes at public auction back in September 2019 for \$516,000 (it had previously sold for around \$350,000). Additionally, several other Eisenhower dollars have recently traded well into six figures*

*at public auction. The Ike dollar series has really “taken off” and has come into its own!*

*Based upon the recent upward trajectory of the (current) mintage two 1975 “No S” Dimes, as well as many Eisenhower Dollars now being worth in excess of six figures, I currently believe that the 1976 Type 2 “No S” Silver Proof Eisenhower Dollar is a “strong seven figure” coin. I receive, on average, at least one random, unsolicited, communication a day from across the globe from non coin collectors who believe they have found another “holy grail” 1976 Type 2 “No S” Silver Proof Eisenhower Dollar. Of course, they have all found, to date, simply one of the millions and millions of business strike Type 2 Eisenhower Dollars produced in Philadelphia in 1976. But, the word is spreading fast, especially via social media platforms such as YouTube, about the “holy grail” of Eisenhower Dollars - the Unique 1976 Type 2 “No S” Silver Proof Eisenhower Dollar! The 250th Anniversary of this great country is now less than 3 years away when this special coin will turn 50 years old!*

# THE UNIQUE 1976 "No S" BICENTENNIAL PROOF DOLLAR



# THE UNIQUE 1976 "No S" BICENTENNIAL PROOF DOLLAR



# THE UNIQUE 1976 “No S” BICENTENNIAL PROOF DOLLAR

## *Provenance and Price History*

Reportedly found in a Woodward & Lothrop department store in Washington, DC.

The first sale was by Devonshire, raw in 1982.  
It sold for \$5,000.

Martin Paul and Andy Lustig joint ventured it.

It was subsequently sold to Alan Hager.

Then it was certified PF 65 by NGC.

Martin Paul re-acquired it.

It was in a Superior Auction, lot # 1794, certified NGC 65 in 1997.

At some point it upgraded to PCGS PR 66.

Then it was in a B & M auction, lot # 647, realizing \$41,400 in 2002.

Acquired by Mitchell Spivack.

Re-designated as a CAMEO by PCGS.



# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1891-O SEATED LIBERTY DIME

by Mike Byers



This is the only known 1891-O Seated Liberty Dime struck in PROOF! Authenticated and certified Proof 66 by NGC, this unique Branch Mint proof is a world-class rarity.



This unique proof 1891-O Seated Liberty Dime is listed in *The Official 2024 Mega Red Book of U.S. Coins, Deluxe 9th Edition* on page 422 and described as *extremely rare*.

# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1891-O SEATED LIBERTY DIME



## From the Grading Room: Proof 1891-O Seated Liberty Dime

Posted on 3/4/2008

The field of branch mint proof coins is one of some uncertainty, and expert analysis is needed to determine which coins do and do not qualify as a proofs. Decades ago, many coin dealers rather cavalierly labeled as proofs any coins having prooflike qualities, but the widespread certification of United States coins has mostly eliminated such speculative claims.



Presented here is an example that will satisfy any skeptic. This 1891 dime from the New Orleans Mint is boldly struck from polished dies and displays the characteristic "fabric" of a proof. Richly toned, it displays broad borders and fully mirrorlike fields. Liberty's head, typically weak and featureless on currency strikes, is quite distinctly wrought in this lovely proof.

The occasion for producing this single known proof of the 1891-O dime is not documented, though the likely impetus was the resumption of dime coinage at that mint following an interruption of more than 30 years. Walter Breen reported proofs for the 1891-O quarter dollar and silver dollar, and indeed NGC has certified a single quarter as a Specimen striking, but there is no mention in numismatic literature of a dime proof.



## UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1891-0 SEATED LIBERTY DIME

This dime has been recently reholdered in the latest NGC holder with an enhanced label, better visibility and a higher-security hologram.

The U.S. Branch Mint in New Orleans has one of the most interesting histories of all the mints. At one point, it was taken over and the United States of America no longer held control of it due to the Civil War. The New Orleans Mint officially became a branch mint on March 3, 1835 and first produced coins in 1838, staying in operation until 1861 when the war started. After the Reconstruction period, it began operations again in 1879 up until 1909.

The New Orleans Mint resumed striking Seated Liberty Dimes in 1891. These had not been struck since 1860. This created a lot of publicity which included a New Orleans Times-Picayune article published on July 26, 1891. This article reported the resumption of the silver dime production:

*The United States mint is now engaged in coining one million dimes a month. The dime banks and other causes have created a scarcity and Uncle Sam has ordered his money factories to the rescue. There is considerable demand for the dimes. They are the first coins of that smallness the mint has made, and the same presses with which the dollars were coined are used, the ingots being also of similar size. The new dies reached here about the 1st of the month, and the dimes commenced to roll out on the 5th.*

*The mint has on hand the bullion representing 3,000,000 trade dollars, shipped from the Philadelphia mint about two months ago, and the 863,000 ounces of uncurrent money sent from various sub-treasuries; so that there is no lack of silver to keep the presses going.*

## UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1891-O SEATED LIBERTY DIME

This was the only proof silver dime struck by the New Orleans Mint in 1891. It was unknown to Walter Breen and was not recorded in his *Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins*. It is widely believed that this proof striking commemorated the New Orleans Mint in 1891.

This unique proof 1891-O Seated Liberty Dime is not recorded on Gerry Fortin's website, [seateddimevarieties.com](http://seateddimevarieties.com) but he researched and studied this dime and determined that:

*The obverse is unlisted and the reverse is Reverse P. The obverse die is perfect, with no trace of date repunching, no clash marks, and no die cracks. There is no evidence of die lapping on the obverse. Similarly, the reverse die is perfect, also with no repunching of the mintmark, no clash marks, no die cracks, and no evidence of die lapping. The mintmark is close to the bow knot, and tilted sharply to the left.*

A perfect unlisted die was used to strike this dime. It is in gem proof condition with exceptional eye appeal and original toning. It has a full strike with full detail since it was struck on a large press setup for silver dollar coinage. This piece was most likely struck as a special proof presentation piece, prior to striking regular dime coinage at New Orleans on Sunday, July 5th, which was the first day reported.

There are also two known 1891-O Seated Liberty Quarters, both certified by specimens by NGC, which are obviously special strikes as well. Both of these are valued at and have traded for six figures.

The New Orleans Mint, throughout its history, struck unique proof and specimen coinage. A few examples are the classic 1838-O Proof Cap Bust Half Dollar, the 1839-O Proof Cap Bust Half Dollar, the 1844-O Proof \$5 Eagle and Proof \$10 Eagle, the 1895-O Proof Morgan Dollar, and the 1883-O Proof Morgan Dollar.

# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1891-O SEATED LIBERTY DIME

This unique 1891-O Branch Mint Proof Seated Liberty Dime is in a category by itself. The closest comparison would be the extremely rare 1894-S Branch Mint Proof Barber Dime. Although there is not any official documentation or mint records pertaining to the striking of this unique proof dime, not every unique proof coin struck at the New Orleans Branch Mint or at any other U.S. Mint has official records or documentation. Although not nearly as famous as the 1894-S Branch Mint Proof Dime, of which 24 were struck, the 1891-O Branch Mint Proof Dime merits comparison to the 1894-S Branch Mint Proof Dime which sells for seven figures.

Many ultra-rare coins struck by the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia and in the Branch Mints are unique or produced

in extremely small numbers under clandestine circumstances. A few examples are the 1804 silver dollar and the 1913 Liberty Head nickels. Other examples include the gold Indian Head cents and the unique 1913 Liberty Head nickel struck in gold. Although the 1894-S Barber Dime is documented in the U.S. Mint records, there is still controversy surrounding the purpose for striking these. Additionally, many Branch Mint proofs and specimens are controversial and lack official U.S. Mint documentation.

This unique 1891-O Branch Mint Seated Liberty Dime combines rarity, quality and history and belongs in an advanced collection of Seated Liberty coinage or unique coinage from the United States Mints.

For comparison here are images of the *Mint State* 1891-O Seated Liberty Dime from the NGC Coin Explorer:



**UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1891-O SEATED LIBERTY DIME**



**Proof 1891-O Seated Liberty Dime**  
*Unique Branch Mint Proof*  
Listed in the *2024 Red Book 9th Edition*  
NGC PF 66  
(Obverse)

**UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1891-O SEATED LIBERTY DIME**



**Proof 1891-O Seated Liberty Dime**  
*Unique Branch Mint Proof*  
**Listed in the 2024 Red Book 9th Edition**  
**NGC PF 66**  
**(Reverse)**

# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1891-0 SEATED LIBERTY DIME

Click on the images below to view videos of the obverse and reverse:





# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1891-0 SEATED LIBERTY DIME



The New Orleans Mint as photographed circa 1891

# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1891-0 SEATED LIBERTY DIME



The New Orleans Mint as photographed circa 1891

# UNIQUE GOLD BUFFALO SELLS FOR \$400,000

by Mike Byers

As amazing as it sounds, this is a 1913 Buffalo Nickel struck on a U.S. \$5 Gold planchet. This unique discovery surfaced in 2019 and was previously unknown to the numismatic community.



# UNIQUE GOLD BUFFALO SELLS FOR \$400,000

This Unique GOLD Buffalo Nickel has been sold by Mike Byers Inc for \$400,000 to the JDG Trust, owner of several #1 ranked PCGS registry sets of Buffalo Nickels.

Recently, this Gold Buffalo Nickel crossed to PCGS:



# UNIQUE GOLD BUFFALO SELLS FOR \$400,000

Struck during the era of the five known world famous 1913 Liberty Head Nickels valued at millions each, this unique Gold Buffalo Nickel is either a mint error or a *piece de caprice*. It was likely made for a Mint official or a famous numismatist. It also could have been

struck for presentation purposes but is not listed in Judd as a pattern.

The only comparable U.S. coins struck in gold, and not in their official adopted medals (copper, nickel, silver) are the following:

(6) known Indian Head Cents struck on \$2½ gold planchets. Two of these sold in public auction for \$253k and \$276k, and I personally sold one at \$300k. These are well documented with famous pedigrees. The 1900 in MS 65 PCGS that I sold for 300k was formerly in the collections of B.G. Johnson and Colonel Green.

(2) known 1915 Pan Pac Half Dollar struck over \$20 St. Gaudens gold coins, one realizing \$460k in a Heritage Auction. These are commemorative Half Dollars struck over U.S. \$20 gold coins that are very famous and listed in the Judd reference book.

According to Taxay and mentioned in the Judd Book, there exists a 1915 Lincoln Cent struck on a \$2 1/2 Indian planchet. Owned by famed numismatists B.G. Johnson and Colonel Green. Supposedly it was subsequently sold to J.V. McDermott of the 1913 Liberty Nickel fame.

12 specially minted 22 karat gold Sacagawea Dollars flew in Space on the Space Shuttle Columbia. Originally 39 were struck by the U.S. Mint but 27 were destroyed. After flying in space, these 12 gold Sacagawea Dollars are stored at the Fort Knox Bullion Depository and numismatists value these at \$1 Million each.

# UNIQUE GOLD BUFFALO SELLS FOR \$400,000

Originally discovered by Silvano DiGenova, a well known coin dealer in Laguna Beach, CA, who brought it to my table at the 2019 Long Beach coin show for me to examine and authenticate. It was raw and naturally I was in a state of shock examining it closely. The coin still retained considerable original luster, almost exhibiting a matte surface. Here was an unknown Gold Buffalo Nickel, slightly circulated with a test cut on the reverse, indicating it had been struck on a solid gold planchet.

Although it is impossible to know for sure, the test cut was probably made decades ago before the formation of coin grading companies and the technology to analyze a coin non-invasively. Test cuts were often made on older coins to determine their metal content.

My conclusion was that it was unquestionably authentic, so Sil and I had Fred Weinberg examine it next at his table. At the time, Fred was the PCGS consultant for mint errors and he agreed that it was authentic

and a spectacular discovery. Sil then submitted it to PCGS and they authenticated it but chose not to grade it due to the test cut.

This surprised me due to the fact that several well known U.S. coins (**rare and special** patterns, die trials and mint errors) have been certified by PCGS and NGC in regular holders, rather than net graded with details, due to their unique circumstances. A few examples include the unique *cancelled* 1860 Seated Liberty Half Dollar Pattern in Copper (Judd-269), the unique *cancelled* 2011-2013 Martha Washington Quarter Test Piece (Judd-2225), the unique 1814 platinum Bust Half (Judd-44a) with *punch marks and graffiti*, and the Dexter 1804 Dollar with a *counterstamp "D"* that is worth several million dollars.

It seemed to me, along with other experts that I consulted with, that this unique Gold Buffalo Nickel with a test cut, properly belonged in a regular holder, certified by PCGS or NGC.

# UNIQUE GOLD BUFFALO SELLS FOR \$400,000

Sil placed this Gold Buffalo Nickel in a Heritage Auction, where it realized a shockingly low \$78k, due to being in a PCGS “authentic but ungradable” holder. The dealer who purchased it immediately split it with me at his cost as I believed that it was an incredible bargain even in the PCGS holder.

I submitted it to NGC to be examined and potentially certified with a grade in a regular holder. NGC concluded that the test cut did not prevent this Gold Buffalo Nickel from being

certified and graded in a regular holder. Now in a NGC AU 53 holder, it is being publicized in Mint Error News and commands the awe and respect of being a unique U.S. gold coin.

I have handled 3 of the 6 Gold Indian Head Cents. But handling this unique Gold Buffalo Nickel is certainly a highlight in my career and it belongs in the finest collection of major mint errors, unique coins or Buffalo Nickels.

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Here are a few quotes from well respected numismatists who examined this unique discovery:

***“The GOLD BUFFALO nickel ranks at the top of my list of the BEST error coins I have ever seen! When I finally get to writing the second edition of the Whitman 100 Greatest U.S. Error Coins, this will certainly be an addition.”***

***- Dave Camire***

***“A fascinating coin. One has to wonder whether it was created by the same person(s) who made the five 1913 Liberty nickels.”***

***- James Halperin***

# UNIQUE GOLD BUFFALO SELLS FOR \$400,000

*“When the coin was first shown to me at my table at the Long Beach coin expo, I was stunned and immediately felt that it could be genuine just from visually looking at it. After spending some time and using high magnification I felt very confident that it was genuine and an incredible coin that none of us ever thought existed.”*

*- Fred Weinberg*

*“When I first saw the gold Buffalo Nickel I was mesmerized by it. I wondered if it was actually a unique pattern struck in gold. Whether it is a pattern or mint error, it is truly an amazing coin.”*

*- Silvano DiGenova*

*“A gold Buffalo Nickel is the perfect example of a coin that lies right on the line between something so cool that someone at the Mint would have had to have struck one, and so ridiculously impossible that nobody would have had the nerve to actually do it. Well, here we are!”*

*- Andy Lustig*



# UNIQUE GOLD BUFFALO SELLS FOR \$400,000

*“The unique gold buffalo nickel is an incredible coin and an amazing discovery, being discovered in 2019, over a century after its creation. I immediately thought that it ranks among the top US Mint rarities and, as such, should be straight graded. It’s wonderful to have NGC recognize the importance of this coin by authenticating and grading it as AU53. The fame and stature of this coin will only grow over time.”*

*- John Wang*

*“The 2008 \$10 buffalo and the 2016 centennial non-buffalo issues are the coolest modern issues because they invoke this fantasy of the real issue, the old original coin in gold which has always been dreamt of. Collectors love these modern U.S. Mint dreams. When Sil DiGenova shared his ‘out of this world’ unique discovery GOLD Buffalo, collectors and dealers everywhere were amazed, proud and envious all at once! A striking piece de caprice at the introduction of the second type in 1913. Wow!”*

*- Marc Crane*

*“The Gold 1913 Buffalo Nickel immediately brought to mind ‘will wonders never cease?’ After decades in the coin business, very little surprises me, but this was a bolt out of the blue!”*

*- Ron Guth*

# UNIQUE GOLD BUFFALO SELLS FOR \$400,000



# UNIQUE GOLD BUFFALO SELLS FOR \$400,000



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# UNIQUE GOLD BUFFALO SELLS FOR \$400,000

Featured on the cover of Mint Error News Magazine Issue 63:

## MINT *ERROR* NEWS MAGAZINE

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector. Also featuring Die Trials, Test Pieces, Numismatic Rarities, Patterns, Currency Errors and Discoveries from the U.S. Mint.



# Unique **GOLD** Buffalo Certified by NGC AU 53



21 Page  
Price Guide  
Inside!

Issue 63 • Winter 2022  
A Mike Byers Publication

# 1873 CLOSED 3 \$5 UNIQUE SPECIMEN WITH EXPERIMENTAL FINISH

by Mike Byers



## 1873 CLOSED 3 \$5 UNIQUE SPECIMEN WITH EXPERIMENTAL FINISH

**N**GC has certified this unique 1873 Closed 3 Five Dollar gold piece as a Specimen strike. It is the only such piece certified by either PCGS or NGC. It has the visual characteristics of a highly contrasted cameo proof, yet was struck from circulation dies. It is the Closed 3 variant (as are all proof strikes for the issue). High grade mint state examples are very rare and proofs are extremely rare.

There was considerable controversy after the coinage of 1873 was struck with the closed 3. Harry Boesel researched and wrote a book on the closed 3 coinage and the issues regarding the redesigning of the dies with an open 3 which resulted in the public being able to see that the coin was struck in 1873 and not 1878.

This unique 1873 \$5 Closed 3 Specimen strike has an

experimental finish and is a hybrid between a proof and a mint state coin. It has deep reflective fields and frosted devices with minimal contact marks. It was obviously made with precision and special care since there are die polish lines visible on both sides.

According to the Numismatists at Heritage Auctions, “unlike regular proofs, there is no polish seen between the shield stripes, and the second vertical line of stripe 2 does not extend into the horizontals above, diagnostic of the 1866A proof reverse used until 1880. This coin may have been a one-off special strike requested by Mint Director Linderman, or a trial strike prior to implementation of the Open 3 dies.”

This conclusively proves that this specimen strike was from specially prepared mint state dies that created a specimen with the



# 1873 CLOSED 3 \$5 UNIQUE SPECIMEN WITH EXPERIMENTAL FINISH

appearance of a proof. No Proof or Specimen strikes are known of the Open 3 type. This coin possesses an irresistible combination of high technical quality, absolute rarity, and terrific eye appeal.

There are very few United States gold coins that have been authenticated and certified as specimens. An 1853 New Orleans \$10 Liberty certified Specimen 61 by NGC sold in August 2010 for \$316,250. A 1907 Denver \$20 Liberty certified Specimen 66 by PCGS (1 of 4 known) sold wholesale for \$400,000. A 1795 \$5 Heraldic Eagle was certified Specimen 64 by NGC. An 1856 New Orleans \$20 certified Specimen 63 by both PCGS and NGC recently sold in a private sale for \$1.8M. An 1800 \$10 was certified Specimen 65 by NGC. A 1921 \$20 St. Gaudens sold for \$1.4M prior to being certified Specimen 64 by NGC. Even a relatively common 1900 \$20

Liberty authenticated and certified by NGC Specimen 66 sold for \$87,000 in a Heritage Auction.

Another unique specimen gold piece which I handled is the famous 1843 Dahlonega \$5 Liberty struck as a specimen and authenticated and certified by NGC as SP 65. This 1843 half eagle was struck at the Dahlonega Mint and is the only known or certified specimen or proof Dahlonega gold piece of any denomination. This coin is graded an impressive Specimen 65 by NGC, which is a rare designation by both NGC and PCGS. Heritage Auctions sold my 1843-D \$5 Specimen 65 NGC for \$282,000 in the April 2015 CSNS US Coins Signature Auction.

This is a great opportunity for a serious and advanced collector of U.S. gold coins to acquire this unique specimen for a world-class collection.

# 1873 CLOSED 3 \$5 UNIQUE SPECIMEN WITH EXPERIMENTAL FINISH



1873 Closed 3 \$5  
Unique Specimen  
Experimental Finish  
NGC SP 64

# 1873 CLOSED 3 \$5 UNIQUE SPECIMEN WITH EXPERIMENTAL FINISH



1873 Closed 3 \$5  
Unique Specimen  
Experimental Finish  
NGC SP 64

# 1873 CLOSED 3 \$5 UNIQUE SPECIMEN WITH EXPERIMENTAL FINISH

According to the Numismatists at Heritage Auctions, "unlike regular proofs, there is no polish seen between the shield stripes, and the second vertical line of stripe 2 does not extend into the horizontals above, diagnostic of the 1866A proof reverse used until 1880."



**Proof Shield (left), Specimen Shield (center), Mint State Shield (right)**

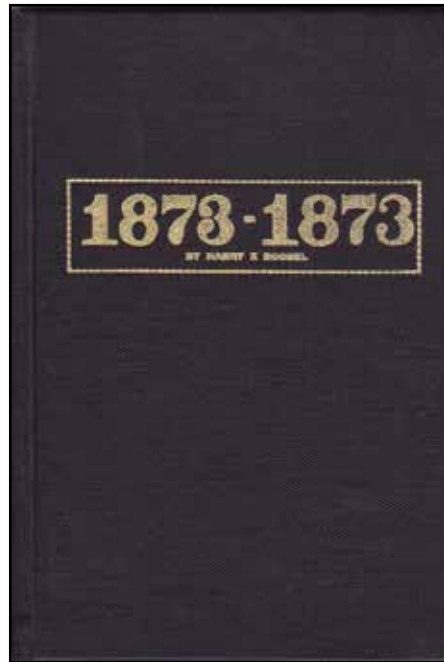
# 1873 CLOSED 3 \$5 UNIQUE SPECIMEN WITH EXPERIMENTAL FINISH

The 3 in the date was originally almost 'closed' creating confusion, since it looked like an 8. After re-designing the die with a different 3 that was 'open' more coins were struck at the Philadelphia Mint.



# 1873 CLOSED 3 \$5 UNIQUE SPECIMEN WITH EXPERIMENTAL FINISH

There was considerable controversy after the coinage of 1873 was struck with the closed 3. Harry Boosel researched and wrote a book on the closed 3 coinage and the issues regarding the redesigning of the dies with an open 3 which resulted in the public being able to see that the coin was struck in 1873 and not 1878.



I. — 1873 CENTS, NICKEL 3c AND NICKEL 5c

About 1954 one of B. Max Mehl's auction catalogs called my attention to the "Open" and "Closed" 3's of the gold dollars of 1873. About 1956, Mr. Breen mentioned a letter he had seen in the Archives wherein the Chief Coiner had complained of the small "3's" on the early coinage of 1873. During one of my visits to the Archives of the United States in Washington, I found the letter. It was from A. Loudon Snowden, Chief Coiner of the Philadelphia Mint, dated January 18, 1873, addressed to: Honorable James Pollock, Director of the U.S. Mint. Here is the complete text:

"Dear Sir:

"I desire in a formal manner to direct your attention to the 'figures' used in dating the dies for the present year.

"They are so heavy, and the space between each so small that upon the smaller gold and silver, and upon the base coins it is almost impossible to distinguish with the naked eye, whether the last figure is an eight or a three.

"In our ordinary coinage many of the pieces are not brought fully up, and upon such it is impossible to distinguish what is the last figure of this year's date.

"I do not think it creditable to the institution that the coinage of the year should be issued bearing this defect in the date.

"I would recommend that an entire new set of figures avoiding the defects of those now in use, be prepared at the earliest possible day.

I am very truly  
Your Obt. Serv't."

# 1873 CLOSED 3 \$5 UNIQUE SPECIMEN WITH EXPERIMENTAL FINISH

Another unique specimen gold piece which I handled is the famous 1843 Dahlonega \$5 Liberty struck as a specimen and authenticated and certified by NGC as SP 65. This 1843 half eagle was struck at the Dahlonega Mint and is the only known or certified specimen or proof Dahlonega gold piece of any denomination. This coin is graded an impressive Specimen 65 by NGC, which is a rare designation by both NGC and PCGS. Heritage Auctions sold my 1843-D \$5 Specimen 65 NGC for \$282,000 in the April 2015 CSNS US Coins Signature Auction.

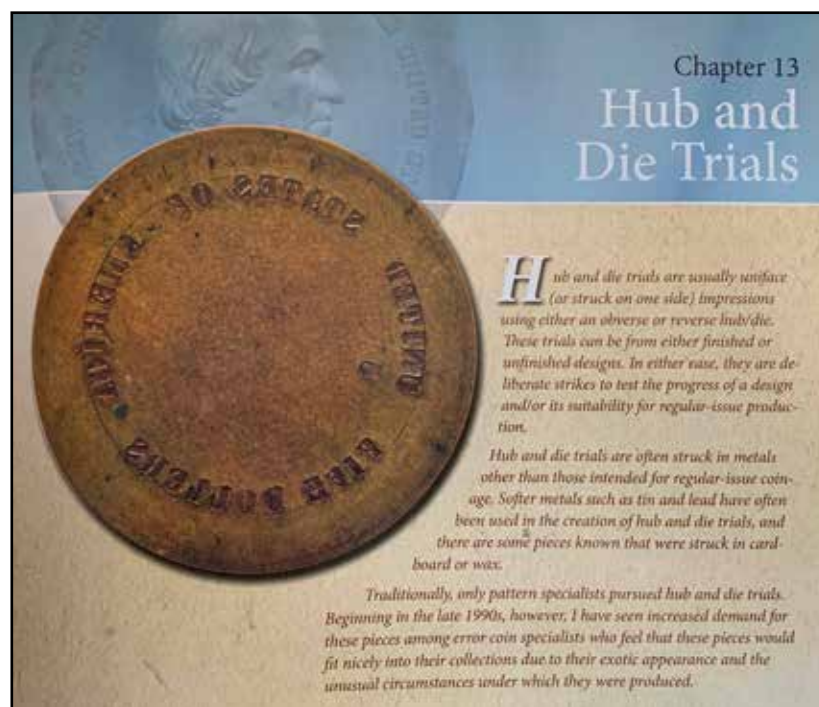
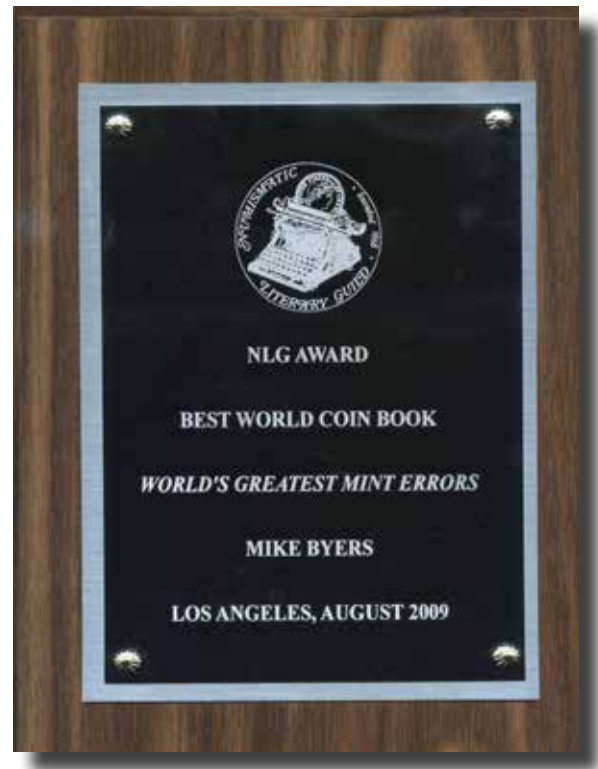
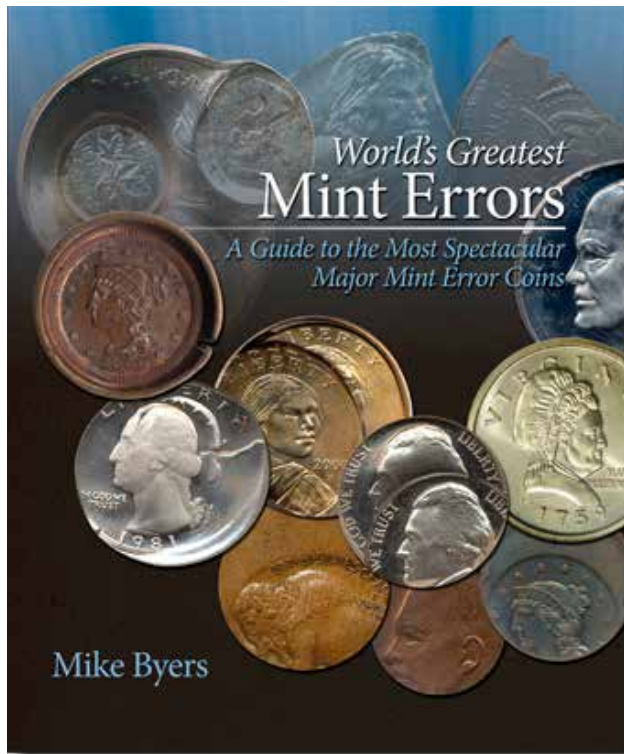


This half eagle is listed in the Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins 1795-1933 by Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth. Here is the description from page 288:

*One extraordinary example of the 1843-D half eagle is known that has been certified by NGC as Specimen. The coin is deeply mirrored, and extremely well struck. The coin was probably a presentation striking of some sort. The occasion for the issue is unknown. The quality of the piece is exceptional as well, and the coin currently has been assigned a Specimen-65 rating. Branch-mint Proof and specimen issues are always interesting, and this coin certainly does not disappoint.*

# 1873 CLOSED 3 \$5 UNIQUE SPECIMEN WITH EXPERIMENTAL FINISH

Although this unique \$5 gold specimen is not a hub or die trial, it was struck with an experimental finish and is a test strike. More information on Hub and Die Trials can be found in Chapter 13 of my my NLG Award winning book, World's Greatest Mint Errors.





# UNIQUE 1977 LINCOLN CENT STRUCK IN ALUMINUM AT THE PHILADELPHIA MINT

by Mike Byers



This Unique 1977 Aluminum Cent is either:

- *An Intentionally Made Mint Error*
- *On a Leftover Aluminum Planchet From 1974-1975*
- *A Pattern Struck in Aluminum*

## UNIQUE 1977 LINCOLN CENT STRUCK IN ALUMINUM AT THE PHILADELPHIA MINT

This unique 1977 Aluminum Cent was discovered and certified by NGC. It was struck on an aluminum planchet with a weight of 1.04 grams. There are several possibilities as to how this unique Lincoln Cent was produced. It could have been an intentionally made mint error. It could have been struck on a leftover aluminum blank from 1974-75 when the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia struck Aluminum Cents. Or it could be a unique and unrecorded pattern struck in aluminum. Regardless of the circumstances, this is a unique and enigmatic Lincoln Cent.

There are no authorized US coins that were struck in aluminum for circulation. In 1977, Lincoln Cents were composed of 95% copper and 5% zinc. Since 1982, they are composed of 97.5% zinc and 2.5% copper.

The 1974 Aluminum Cent is

world famous. Proposed in 1973 and struck in 1974, it was never released into circulation. The U.S. Mint distributed several to members of Congress, but they were recalled by the U.S. Mint Director, Mary Brooks, and destroyed. One example struck by the Philadelphia Mint was donated to the Smithsonian Institution. Another was certified in 2005 by PCGS as MS 62. In 1975, the Philadelphia Mint struck at least 66 aluminum cents dated 1975.

According to the Chief of the Mint's internal audit staff, Willian Humbert, between October 17, 1973 and March 29, 1974 there were 1,441,039 aluminum cents dated 1974 struck at the Philadelphia Mint. Another 130,128 were struck between April 12, 1974 and May 30, 1974. Fred Weinberg, PCGS authenticator for Mint Errors, estimates that the number

## UNIQUE 1977 LINCOLN CENT STRUCK IN ALUMINUM AT THE PHILADELPHIA MINT

ranges from (5) to as many as (14) 1974-P aluminum cents that are not accounted for. The U.S. Government closed its investigation of any missing 1974 aluminum cents in February 1976.

In 2014, a 1974 Denver Mint aluminum cent surfaced from Randall Lawrence, who stated that his father had worked at the U.S. Mint in Denver and had received it as a retirement gift. It was certified MS 63 by PCGS and was subsequently surrendered to the U.S. Government since it was not authorized for release.

Other than the officially struck 1974 and 1975 Aluminum Cents, this 1977 Aluminum Cent is the only other one known. There are two other aluminum Lincoln Cents known but they are struck on foreign planchets. The first is a 1971 San Francisco Mint aluminum cent that was struck on

a planchet intended for Nepal or the Philippines and was certified by NGC as AU 58. It sold in the March 2005 Heritage Signature Sale #368 for \$8,050 (lot #7604). On February 5, 2016 the new owner rejected an offer of \$10,000 on the Heritage auction website. The second is a spectacular and unique 1974 San Francisco Mint aluminum cent that was only struck by the obverse die (uniface). The planchet was intended for a Philippine 1 Sentimo, which were struck by the San Francisco Mint in 1974. It was authenticated and certified by PCGS as MS 61. It is currently being offered for \$40,000.

Recently, a proof 1974-S Lincoln Cent struck on a Nepalese 2 Paise ALUMINUM coin sold in a GreatCollections auction for \$199,687.50. It was certified Proof 68 CAMEO by PCGS and was part of the Red Copper Collection of Lincoln Cents.

## UNIQUE 1977 LINCOLN CENT STRUCK IN ALUMINUM AT THE PHILADELPHIA MINT

As spectacular as the 1971-S and 1974-S aluminum cents are, they do not begin to compare to this unique 1977 aluminum cent struck at the Philadelphia Mint. NGC was unable to identify this Aluminum Lincoln Cent as being struck on a foreign planchet, since it was not a match to a specific weight or size. Mint Error News Magazine was also unable to match it to any planchet from their comprehensive report of coins struck by the U.S. Mint for foreign countries. Experts have concluded that it is either an intentional mint error, struck on a leftover aluminum planchet from 1974-75 or an unrecorded aluminum pattern.

It is plausible that this unique 1977 Aluminum Cent was an intentionally struck mint error. One example of intentionally produced mint errors occurred at the San Francisco Mint during the 1970's. Mint employees

intentionally created spectacular proof and mint state error coins. These errors were auctioned off by the State of California after they were discovered in a bank safe deposit box. The U.S. Secret Service inspected and released the collection, determining that it was legal to own. The State of California then auctioned off the collection and it has been dispersed since the sale.

In the collection were incredible proof errors that were double denominations, mated pairs, dramatic and spectacular unique mint errors including the famous 1970-S Quarter struck on a Barber Quarter certified by NGC as PR 65. Also in this collection was the now world famous 1970-S Quarter struck on a 1941 Canadian Quarter which went viral worldwide on the internet, TV, print and in magazines. In addition, there were several unique and exotic

## UNIQUE 1977 LINCOLN CENT STRUCK IN ALUMINUM AT THE PHILADELPHIA MINT

mint state errors in the collection that were unknown types of errors including a unique mint state Roosevelt Dime struck with two reverse dies, which was subsequently certified by PCGS. Striking a 1977 Aluminum Cent at the Philadelphia Mint was not out of the realm of possibilities given the fact that unique mint errors were being intentionally struck in the San Francisco Mint and had assistance leaving the Mint as well.

Aluminum Cents were first struck at the Philadelphia Mint in 1974 and listed as Judd #2151. They were also struck in 1975 and are listed as Judd #2155. These were trial pieces struck from regular dies and referred to as patterns. It is conceivable that an aluminum planchet, leftover from 1974 or 1975, was inadvertently or intentionally retrieved to strike this 1977 Lincoln Cent. There are many documented examples

of United States coins which have been authenticated and certified by PCGS and NGC that were struck on planchets from previous years. One example of a Lincoln Cent on a leftover planchet from years before is a 1989-D Lincoln Cent struck on a 3.1 gram full copper planchet intended for production prior to 1983 that was authenticated and certified by PCGS as MS 64 Brown.

Regardless of the circumstances surrounding the intentional or non-intentional striking of this unique 1977 aluminum cent, it carries the mystique and excitement that surrounds the world famous 1974 aluminum cents. Certified by NGC as MS 60, this 1977 Aluminum Lincoln Cent belongs in a world class collection of Lincoln Cents or in a collection of unique rarities, discovery coins, patterns and mint errors.

# UNIQUE 1977 LINCOLN CENT STRUCK IN ALUMINUM AT THE PHILADELPHIA MINT



1977 Lincoln Cent  
Struck on an Aluminum Planchet  
At The U.S. Mint in Philadelphia  
1.04 Grams  
NGC MS 60  
UNIQUE

# UNIQUE 1977 LINCOLN CENT STRUCK IN ALUMINUM AT THE PHILADELPHIA MINT



1977 Lincoln Cent  
Struck on an Aluminum Planchet  
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# UNIQUE 1977 LINCOLN CENT STRUCK IN ALUMINUM AT THE PHILADELPHIA MINT

Featured on the cover of Mint Error News Magazine Issue 56:

## MINT **ERROR** NEWS MAGAZINE

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector. Also featuring Die Trials, Test Pieces, Numismatic Rarities, Currency Errors and Discoveries from the U.S. Mint & the BEP.



# Unique 1977 Lincoln Cent Struck in Aluminum At The Philadelphia Mint



Issue 56 • Spring 2021  
A Mike Byers Publication



# Unique Peace Dollar Die Trial Certified by PCGS

by John Wang, Mint Error News Consultant



This unique 1921 Peace Dollar die trial, now cataloged in Judd and certified by PCGS, along with the unique 1921 Peace Dollar plaster it was discovered with, are among the greatest numismatic discoveries of the 21st century. Quite simply there are no other known die trials or plaster models of the de Francisci 1921 Peace Dollar. These unique items first surfaced in 2020 and were previously unknown to the numismatic community.

The two pieces of this discovery are:

1. Unique 1921 Peace Dollar obverse splasher by Anthony de Francisci (Judd A1921-1)
2. Unique 1921 Peace Dollar obverse plaster by Anthony de Francisci

# Unique Peace Dollar Die Trial Certified by PCGS

## Pedigree

These items were first brought to the numismatic community by Steve Davis in 2020. The consigner indicates that they likely come from Victor Anthony De Meo (1882-1947) through his son William De Meo who both had relationships with Anthony de Francisci, James Earle Fraser, Laura Gardin Fraser, and others. The following is from Steve Davis:

*According to the consignor, these items were likely the property of Victor DeMeo, who passed in 1947 and were subsequently inherited by William DeMeo. Victor was a sculpture artist and photographer who had a longtime professional relationship with James Earle Fraser. He frequently brought his son William to the Fraser NYC studio. There they met such luminaries of the time period as Charles Gibson, Lindbergh, Ann Harding, Jack Johnston, Charles Atlas, Elihu Root, Edwin Robinson. Victor photographed James Earle Fraser and Laura Gardin Fraser in studio settings as well as his and Laura's sculptures and sculpture subjects.*

*William served as an apprentice with James Earle Fraser around 1932, then opened a NYC studio of his own for 12 years before serving in World War II. William worked with many well known sculptors including Anthony DeFrancisci, Paul Manship and others, making plaster pieces. These rare coinage related items being offered for auction currently were handed down through the DeMeo family, gifted from the original artists and later acquired at the estate sales of relatives of William. The most solid information surrounding these relationships came from a loose-leaf book that William produced, a notebook included in the group with hand written historical content and sketches dated 1935-36, as well as from letters and correspondence between James Earle Fraser and William DeMeo.*

# Unique Peace Dollar Die Trial Certified by PCGS

The association of James Earle Fraser and Victor Anthony de Meo has been noted in various areas, including attribution of period photographs of James Earle Fraser's work to Victor de Meo, including his End Of The Trail Sculpture.

Also, James Earle Fraser and Laura Gardin Fraser did not have any children, so it is plausible that these were gifted to Victor de Meo for his son William, one of 4 children Victor had with his wife Grace.

Both the plaster and splasher are mentioned in the book A Guide Book of Peace Dollars by Roger W. Burdette, discussed more below.

## 1921 Peace Dollar Splasher Die Trial (Judd A1921-1)



# Unique Peace Dollar Die Trial Certified by PCGS

The discovery of the unique 1921 lead splasher is a monumental event as it has been alluded to in Mint correspondence in a December 23, 1921 letter from Raymond Thomas Baker, Director of the Mint to Secretary Andrew William Mellon for approval of the design. The letter is as follows from Roger Burdette's book *A Guide Book of Peace Dollars*:

*I have the honor to submit models [samples] of the proposed designs for the Standard Silver Dollar. [...]*

*The model as now submitted as the approval of the Fine Arts Commission, and is in compliance with the requirements of the law.*

*Respectfully,  
R.T. Baker, Director of the Mint*

Roger W. Burdette adds that the models mentioned were likely lead splashers.

*The samples were likely lead "splashers" or small plaster casts, there being no time to harden the hubs and make dies. Undersecretary Gilbert approved [...] and the mint continued preparing master and working dies. Baker wired his approval on December 24.*

Anthony de Francisci had been on site at the Philadelphia Mint during this time, having been requested by James Fraser to be present to work with George Morgan on refining the design. Given this, it is possible that this is one of the US Mint splashers created on December 23, 2021 for review by Treasury and Mint officials, and was retained by Anthony de Francisci.

# Unique Peace Dollar Die Trial Certified by PCGS

**Andy Lustig, a U.S. pattern expert and Mint Error News consultant, was shown this piece and indicated his opinion that it is a genuine U.S. Mint product from an original die:**

*I have performed an in-person evaluation of the unique 1921 Peace Dollar Splasher (cataloged as Judd A1921-1), and am of the opinion that the splasher is a genuine U.S. Mint product.*

*Indicators that it is genuine include:*

- 1. Highly concave fields, unlike a normal 1921 Peace Dollar, and more comparable to a 1922 Proof High Relief. As such, the piece could not have been created from copy dies, or from a casting mold, and I am convinced that it is a direct impression from an original die.*
- 2. The rim is squared, unlike a normal 1921 Peace Dollar. Again, this leads me to believe that the coin is a direct impression from an original die, not a copy derived from some means from another coin.*

It is struck on an oversized planchet 45mm in diameter overall and 5mm thick, weighing in at 77.1 grams. The splasher is oxidized with a thick grayish-pewter colored patina, with a couple light marks likely part of the production process.

This has been recognized in the Judd reference for pattern coins as Judd “A1921-1” and certified by PCGS as such.

With the information available, the provenance for this piece is likely the following. It is also possible that Anthony de Francisci gave this piece to James Earle Fraser as he did a set of plasters discussed below.

*Pedigree: Anthony de Francisci; (possibly James Earle Fraser;) Victor Anthony de Meo; William de Meo; de Meo family; Numismatic Auctions LLC.*

# Unique Peace Dollar Die Trial Certified by PCGS



# Unique Peace Dollar Die Trial Certified by PCGS



# Unique Peace Dollar Die Trial Certified by PCGS





# Unique Peace Dollar Die Trial Certified by PCGS

## 1921 Peace Dollar Plaster

The Peace Dollar plaster is also an incredible discovery as it is not only the only known plaster for de Francisci's 1921 Peace Dollar, it is also mentioned in the history of the Peace Dollar. It is 8 3/4" diameter and 1 1/4" thick, a common size for plaster models, and one can imagine evaluating designs at this scale.

The existence of a plaster was reported to have been given to James Earle Fraser on December 18, 1921, and this may be that very plaster model. After winning the Peace Dollar design competition on Tuesday, December 13, 1921 in James Earle Fraser's New York City studio, Anthony de Francisci was instructed to make some changes for a final submission, including changing the date from Roman-style numerals to European-style numerals which can be seen on this piece. Roger Burdette indicates that Anthony de Francisci made two sets of models to present and left one in New York with Fraser:

*De Francisci worked on the final models through Saturday and completed them on Sunday, December 18. He made two sets of models and left one set with Fraser in New York. The second set and the sketch models he took to Washington for final approval the next day.*

The plaster model is made of white alabaster plaster with a yellow-ochre applied finish. It is 8 3/4" diameter and 1 1/4" thick. It was noted by Steve Davis as "Overall EF, some minor chipping about the edge and mottled variation in the surface coloration due to age and some transient surface adhesion and deposits." Of note, this model is unsigned, like the design competition piece.

With the information available, the provenance for this piece is likely:

*Pedigree: Anthony de Francisci; James Earle Fraser; Victor Anthony de Meo; William de Meo; de Meo family; Numismatic Auctions LLC.*

# Unique Peace Dollar Die Trial Certified by PCGS



Photo courtesy of Numismatic Auctions LLC.

# Unique Peace Dollar Die Trial Certified by PCGS

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# Unique Peace Dollar Die Trial Certified by PCGS

Featured on the cover of Mint Error News Magazine 2023 Special Edition Volume II:

**MINTERRORNEWS**  
**MAGAZINE**

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector. Also featuring Die Trials, Test Pieces, Numismatic Rarities, Patterns, Currency Errors and Discoveries from the U.S. Mint.

[minterrornews.com](http://minterrornews.com)

## SPECIAL EDITION

(Volume Two)

### Unique Peace Dollar Splasher & Plaster

*by Anthony de Francisci*

Special Edition Vol. II • 2023  
A Mike Byers Publication

# UNIQUE 1795 DRAPED BUST DOLLAR STRUCK ON A COPPER PLANCHET CERTIFIED BY PCGS

by Mike Byers



# UNIQUE PROOF 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR OVERSTRUCK ON A SAN FRANCISCO ASSAY OFFICE MEDAL

The American Numismatic Association (ANA) is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to coin collectors. The ANA received a federal charter from the U.S. Congress in 1912. It features the Money Museum which exhibits collections in its galleries. Included is a collection of Eisenhower Dollar mint errors from the famous Dr. Berry Collection of proof and mint state error coins. In this collection are two mint state 1971-D Eisenhower Dollars struck on copper planchets intended for U.S. Mint Medals. They are included in the ANA Museum Inventory List.

DR. A.K. BERRY COLLECTION -- ANA MUSEUM INVENTORY				
Item No.	Date of Item	Dollar Type	Error/Variety Type	Description
2.	1971-D	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	1% Ragged-Edge Clip
3.	1971-D	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	20% Curved Clip
7.	1971-D	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	Triple Curved Clip: 5%; 5% & 10%
10.	1971-D	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	65% Curved Clip
5.	1972-P	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	Double Curved Clip: 5% & 5%
6.	1974-D	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	Quadruple Clip: 2 overlapping sets of two
4.	1976-P	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	33% Curved Clip
9.	1976-D	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	40% Straight Clip
39.	1972-D	Ike	Incomplete Clip	-----
21.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on 1-cent Planchet
73.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock/Off-Center	Struck on 1-cent Planchet 55% Off-Center at 6:00
74.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock/Triple Struck	Triple Struck on 1-cent Planchet
8.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock/Clip	Struck on 5-cent Planchet with 55% Straight Clip
22.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on 5-cent Planchet
23.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock/Double Struck	Struck on 10-cent Planchet
24.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on 25-cent Planchet
77.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock/Double Struck	Double Struck on 25-Cent Flan
32.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Unidentified Brass Planchet
29.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Brass Philippine 5-Sentimos Planchet
26.	XXXX-S	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Proof 50-cent Flan
76.	XXXX-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Metal Scrap
27. <sup>1</sup>	1971-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Bronze Presidential Medal Planchet
75.	1971-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Bronze Presidential Medal Flan (Same as Item #27)
25.	1972-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on 50-cent Planchet
30.	1972-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Philippine 1-Piso Flan
31.	1974-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Philippine 1-Piso Flan
33.	1974-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on 40% Silver Planchet
79.	1976-P	Ike	Wrong Stock/Double Struck	Double Struck on Piece of Scrap with Uniface Obv.
11.	1891-S	Morgan	Laminated Planchet	Lamination on Reverse
18.	1921-P	Morgan	Laminated Planchet	Lamination on Obverse
17.	1922-P	Peace	Laminated Planchet	Lamination on Reverse
19.	1922-P	Peace	Laminated Planchet	Lamination on Obverse
12.	1971-D	Ike	Laminated Planchet	Lamination on Obverse
15.	1971-D	Ike	Laminated Planchet	Lamination on Obverse
43.	1971-D	Ike	Indented Strike	Brockaged by Cent Planchet On Reverse
46.	1971-D	Ike	Indented Strike	Rev. Brockage by another dollar struck on a quarter planchet
44.	1971-X	Ike	Indented Strike	Brockaged by Smaller Planchet, possibly 25-cent Flan
80.	1973-S	Ike	Indented Strike	Struck 40% Silver Proof Brockaged by Dime Planchet which is still attached
42.	1974-D	Ike	Indented Strike	5% Brockage
45.	1976-P	Ike	Indented Strike	5% Brockage

<sup>1</sup>Item #28 is a Presidential Medal of the same type as Item #27, which was included for comparison purposes.

## UNIQUE 1795 DRAPED BUST DOLLAR STRUCK ON A COPPER PLANCHET CERTIFIED BY PCGS

This is one of the most spectacular and amazing United States numismatic rarities of all time. I have been a full time rare coin dealer for close to 50 years and have handled many unique, famous and expensive coins, since this is my speciality. A few spectacular mint errors that I have handled include the unique gold Buffalo Nickel, several gold Indian Head Cents, several 1943 copper Lincoln Cents, the unique 1942 aluminum proof Cent, and the unique 1851 \$20 struck on a Large Cent planchet. I have also handled many unique and spectacular gold coins including the unique 1907 \$20 St. Gaudens matte proof, the unique 1908 \$20 St. Gaudens satin proof, the unique 1843 Dahlonega \$5 Liberty Specimen, and the unique 1873 \$5 Closed 3 Specimen.

This unique 1795 Small Eagle Dollar was struck on a 96 grain copper planchet. Certified by PCGS as AU 55, it still retains much luster and is absolutely stunning. In my professional opinion, this 1795 Small

Eagle Dollar was struck on a half cent planchet. This scenario seems most logical since the weight of 96 grains falls between the two weights of early dated half cents, 84 grains and 104 grains. Early half cents are known to have different weights and even the Red Book states that “the figures given are statutory. Actual weights will vary.”

The pedigree is among the most complete ever, passing from several world class famous collections from 1863 to 1975. The last time that this 1795 Draped Bust Dollar in Copper sold in public auction was almost 50 years ago in a Stack’s auction in 1975. Since then, it has remained in a private collection.

This unique rarity just surfaced and was immediately sold in the mid six-figure range to a collector who has an extensive collection of United States rare coins. Whether this is a mint error, pattern or die trial, it clearly transcends any specific category and would be treasured by any collector or numismatist.

# UNIQUE 1795 DRAPED BUST DOLLAR STRUCK ON A COPPER PLANCHET CERTIFIED BY PCGS

Here is the listing of this Unique Copper Draped Bust Dollar on [uspatterns.com](http://uspatterns.com) including the pedigree and analysis:

## uspatterns.com



**P34**

This famous piece is a 1795 draped bust silver dollar from dies not known to be used on any regular issue silver pieces. It is struck on a 96 grain copper

planchet (per PCGS) with the diameter of a Large Cent, and is from dramatically rotated dies.

The piece is unique and is ex Woodward 4/1863, Parmelee (New York Coin & Stamp 6/1890), Woodside (New York Coin & Stamp 4/1892), Woodin-1914 ANS, Newcomer, Boyd, Kosoff 7/1951 Numismatic Gallery Monthly, Kosoff 5/1955, Hydeman-Kosoff 3/1961, Stacks 5/1975, private collection, Lustig, Byers, private collection. It is graded PCGSAU55.

Various explanations for the coin's existence have been proposed. Adams and Woodin listed it as AW18 and called it a die trial piece. Judd listed it as a mint error. (Now under review.) Stack's called it a "setup trial piece to insure (sic) the striking distance between the obverse and reverse dies" in their 5/75 sale. (Saul Teichman disagrees because it is not as thick as a dollar planchet. He also notes that the Mint was able to create full size dollar planchets in copper for the 2 1794 dollars [J18/P27](#) and [J19/P28](#), and that all other die trials of this year are full-sized as well). Andy Lustig argues that it is either a die trial on an undersized planchet, a die trial on a full size copper planchet that was later cut down for use as a large cent planchet, or (most likely) a mint sport that could have been struck anytime from 1795 to 1863.

Photos courtesy of PCGS.



## *Amazing Pedigree*

ex Woodward 1863  
ex Parmelee 1890  
ex Woodside 1892  
ex Woodin/ANS 1914  
ex Newcomer  
ex Boyd  
ex Kosoff 1951  
ex Stacks 1975  
ex Private Collection  
ex Lustig 2022  
ex Byers 2022

Now Residing in a Private Collection

**UNIQUE 1795 DRAPED BUST DOLLAR STRUCK ON A COPPER PLANCHET CERTIFIED BY PCGS**

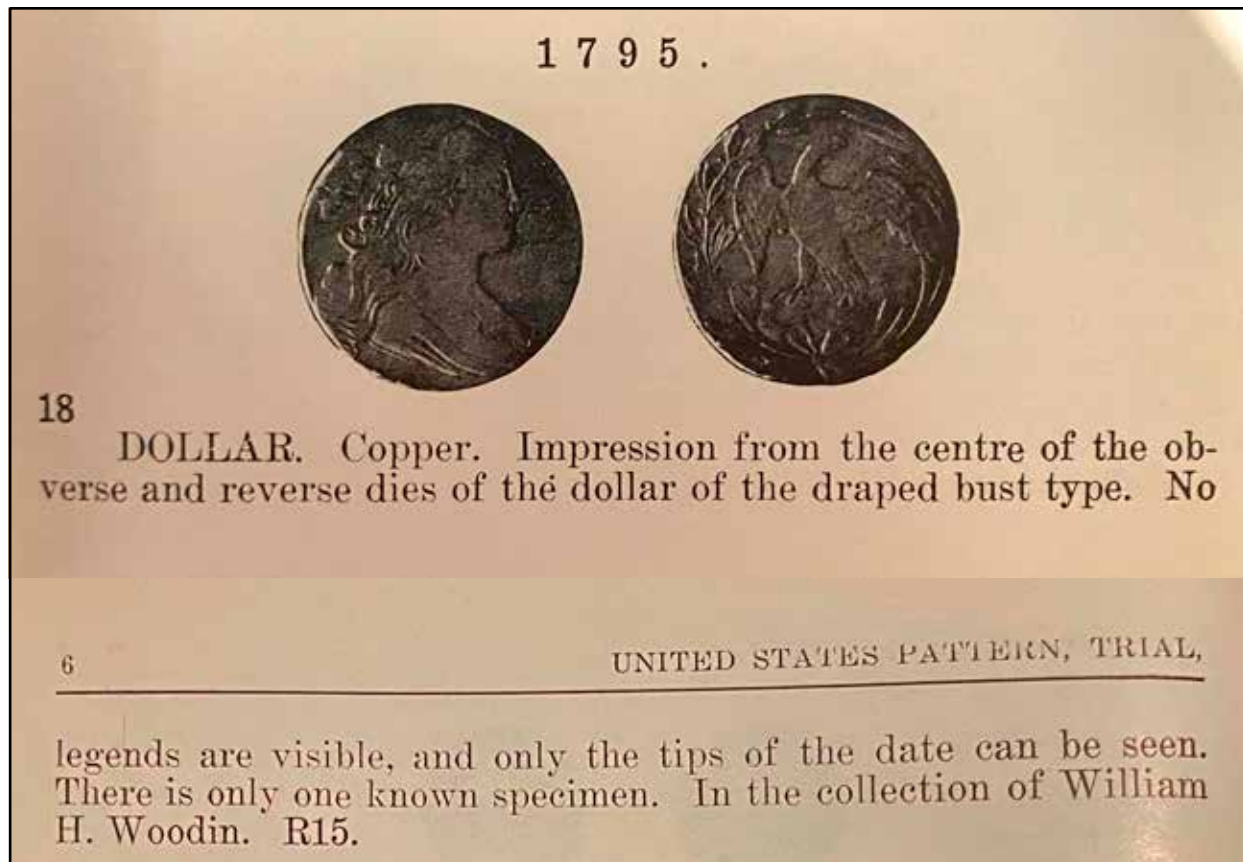


**UNIQUE 1795 DRAPED BUST DOLLAR STRUCK ON A COPPER PLANCHET CERTIFIED BY PCGS**



# UNIQUE 1795 DRAPED BUST DOLLAR STRUCK ON A COPPER PLANCHET CERTIFIED BY PCGS

This Unique Copper Draped Bust Dollar is the plate coin in the Adams & Woodin reference book *United States Pattern, Trial, and Experimental Pieces* (which was the precursor to the Judd reference book):



This Unique Copper Draped Bust Dollar was also listed in the fifth edition of the Judd reference book almost fifty years ago:

## APPENDIX B—MINT ERRORS (Off Metal)



1795—DOLLAR of 1795 on a cent planchet. (A-W 18) shows centers of the obverse and reverse dies; no legends, only tips of date visible. Unique.

# UNIQUE 1795 DRAPED BUST DOLLAR STRUCK ON A COPPER PLANCHET CERTIFIED BY PCGS

This group of unique and extremely rare United States coinage in copper is from the Parmelee Collection.

The Parmelee Plate 1 coin 14 is this Unique Copper Draped Bust Dollar.



# UNIQUE 1795 DRAPED BUST DOLLAR STRUCK ON A COPPER PLANCHET CERTIFIED BY PCGS

Featured on the cover of Mint Error News Magazine Issue 64:

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[minterrornews.com](http://minterrornews.com)

## Unique 1795 Draped Bust Dollar Struck on a Copper Planchet Certified by PCGS



21 Page  
Price Guide  
Inside!

Issue 64 • Spring 2023  
A Mike Byers Publication

# Unique \$20 Liberty Struck on a U.S. Large Cent

by Mike Byers (mikebyers.com)

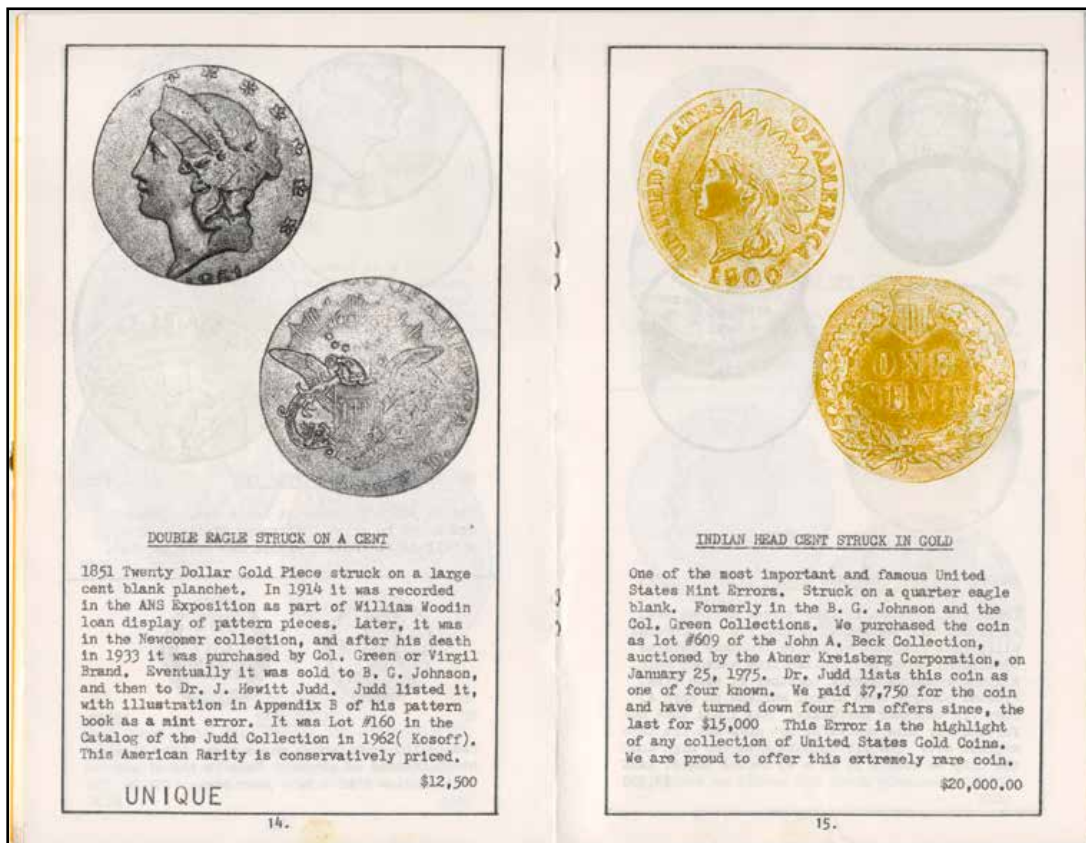
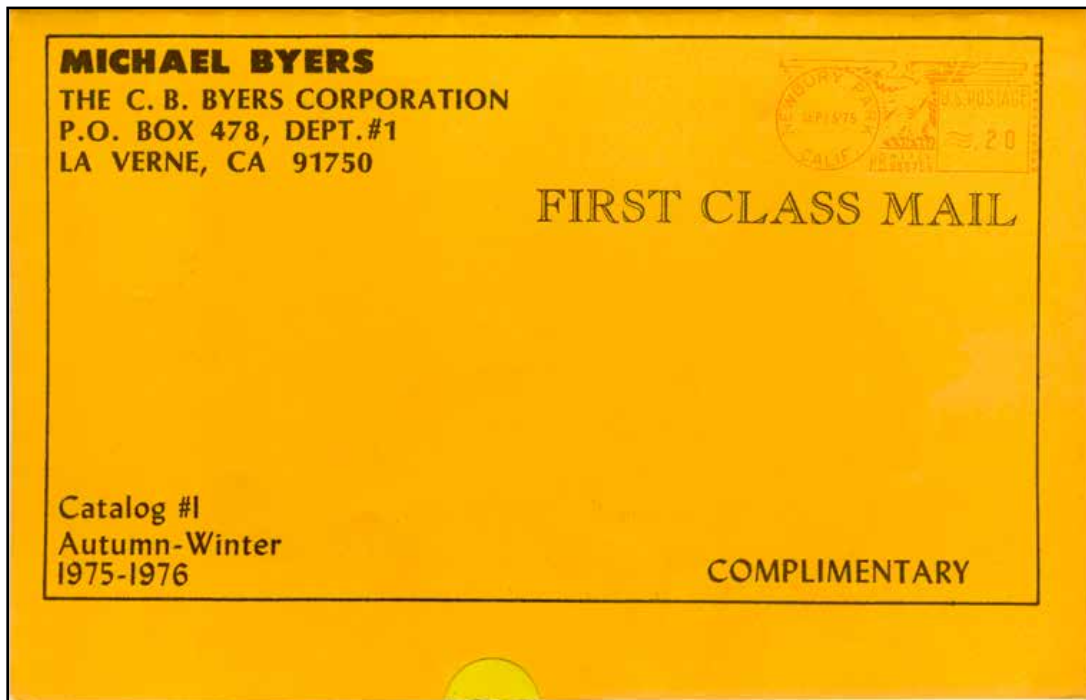


Photo Courtesy of Dave Camire of NGC

The Unique 1851 US \$20 struck on a U.S. Large Cent was displayed at the 2018 FUN show. It caused quite a stir like it has before. The NGC insert states its Ex-Judd and it is illustrated in the Judd pattern book.

# Unique \$20 Liberty Struck on a U.S. Large Cent

I purchased this \$20 struck on the Large Cent planchet from Fred Weinberg in 1975. It was featured in my 1978 mint error catalog, which is illustrated below.





# Unique \$20 Liberty Struck on a U.S. Large Cent



## DOUBLE EAGLE STRUCK ON A CENT

1851 Twenty Dollar Gold Piece struck on a large cent blank planchet. In 1914 it was recorded in the ANS Exposition as part of William Woodin loan display of pattern pieces. Later, it was in the Newcomer collection, and after his death in 1933 it was purchased by Col. Green or Virgil Brand. Eventually it was sold to B. G. Johnson, and then to Dr. J. Hewitt Judd. Judd listed it, with illustration in Appendix B of his pattern book as a mint error. It was Lot #160 in the Catalog of the Judd Collection in 1962( Kosoff). This American Rarity is conservatively priced.

UNIQUE

\$12,500

# Unique \$20 Liberty Struck on a U.S. Large Cent

I sold it to a collector of major error coins immediately. Years later he sold it to Fred, who had the honor of handling it twice. Fred sold it to Mark Lighterman in 1985. It remains in Mark's collection to this date.

It's one of the few US unique error coins that both Fred and I wished we had kept for ourselves. It's a fabulous major mint error on a Twenty Dollar gold piece.

**Pedigree: Woodin (1914 ANS Exhibit), Newcomer, Kosoff, Judd, Sol Kaplan, Fred Weinberg, Mike Byers, Mike Chambers, Fred Weinberg, Mark Lighterman**



# Unique \$20 Liberty Struck on a U.S. Large Cent



Photo Courtesy of Dave Camire of NGC

# Unique \$20 Liberty Struck on a U.S. Large Cent



Photo Courtesy of Dave Camire of NGC

# Unique 1846 J-110A \$5 Obverse Die Trial Struck on \$2½ Trial

by Mike Byers (mikebyers.com)



This is the unique and famous 1846 \$5 Obverse Die Trial struck on a \$2½ Trial in Copper. This spectacular Pattern Die Trial is also a Major Mint Error. There are no Patterns or Die Trials that

were struck between 1840 and 1849 for any denomination other than this Unique Pattern/Mint Error struck by 1846 Gold Dies of two different denominations.

# Unique 1846 J-110A \$5 Obverse Die Trial Struck on \$2½ Trial

After being struck as a Die Trial in copper by 1846 \$2½ Dies, it was overstruck by an 1846 Obverse \$5 Die. In addition, it is a flipover double denomination. The overstrike by the \$5 Obverse Die was struck over the reverse of the \$2½ design. The reverse of this overstrike, which was not struck by the reverse of the \$5 Die, expanded in size because it was positioned on top of a \$5 Gold blank.

This unique and spectacular double denomination two-headed gold error in copper has been researched and documented in the following reference books:

- Judd 110A. It is listed in Judd and is the plate coin for the 9th Edition, page 48. It is the only pattern struck in 1846 and the only known pattern between 1840 and 1849. It is described as “regular Die of 1846 Quarter Eagle. Reverse overstruck with Obverse Die of 1846 (Large Date) Half Eagle. Copper-reeded edge trial piece. Unique.”
- Plate coin in Pollock’s United States Patterns and Related Issues, #124. “Copper-reeded edge. The reverse is overstruck using an 1846 Half Eagle Obverse Die.
- Taxay plate coin, #EP 124.
- This unique piece is also featured on coinfacts as the “Coin of the Week” and is described as a “unique coin [that] is both a die trial and an intentional mint error.”
- Also featured on uspatterns and is listed as “the unique 1846 quarter eagle trial struck in copper. This famous trial is also a mint error - one of only 3 or 4 known pattern mint errors known in the entire pattern series.”
- After residing in several major collections it was offered in auction at the 1952 ANA (Lot #4478). Almost a decade ago it reappeared in a Bowers and Merena auction and was subsequently placed in a private collection. We recently purchased this coin and are now offering it for sale.

# Unique 1846 J-110A \$5 Obverse Die Trial Struck on \$2½ Trial



**Unique 1846 J-110A \$5 Obverse Die Trial Struck on \$2½ Trial**





# Unique 1907 \$20 St. Gaudens Matte Proof with Large Edge Letters

by Mike Byers (mikebyers.com)



This 1907 \$20 St. Gaudens gold piece is the only known example with Large Edge Letters. There are three known with Small Letters. This unique

proof striking is a phenomenal piece with bright surfaces and a beautiful overall appearance.

## UNIQUE 1907 \$20 ST. GAUDENS MATTE PROOF WITH LARGE EDGE LETTERS

The Large Letters Arabic twenty is technically a pattern, although unrecognized as such in numismatic reference books. The year 1907 was one of great experimentation in the Mint, and great diversity is seen in the double eagle series. In this single year, coins were struck as Ultra High Reliefs, proof High Reliefs, regular High Reliefs with a wire rim, regular High Reliefs with a flat rim, lowered relief proofs from both Collar I and Collar II, and low relief business strikes.

This Large Letters matte proof edge variety is unique. The Ultra High Reliefs had the largest edge lettering in the series, followed by the regular issue High Reliefs with collars I and II. Collar I was either used in error or experimentally on this matte proof and only one coin was produced. Coins with Collar I read: I \* \* \* \* \* E \* I P L U R I B U S I \* U N U M \* \* \* \* I. To further distinguish this coin from its earlier, Small Letters counterpart, the Collar I coins show the bases of M in UNUM level, but on Collar II coins they are slanted. The Large Letters Arabic Numerals proof was produced after the Small Letters proof striking(s). This is based on the belief of the presence of an area of die polishing seen around 9 o'clock on the obverse rim. Such an area of die polish would

surely have been present and visible on an earlier striking, and it is for this reason that this piece was struck after the Small Letters proof(s). Also, this piece shows complete definition on the Capitol building, indicating mint personnel had a better grasp of how many tons of pressure to apply to strike this coin than the Small Letters piece, which displays obvious softness on the Capitol.

This particular coin is most easily identifiable by a shallow, horizontal planchet flake located to the left of the branch stem held in Liberty's right (facing) hand. Also, there are minor planchet imperfections around the eagle's beak. Lightly hairlined in the fields, but really quite pleasing with brighter surfaces than seen on matte proofs struck the following year, and actually more closely resembling the "Roman Finish" of 1909-1910 in overall appearance. Medium orange-gold coloration is seen over each side of this impressive and unique proof striking.

Pedigree: Captain North cased set; New England Rare Coin Galleries; Ken Goldman; Hatie Collection (Bowers), lot 2855; Trompeter Collection; Heritage private sale, 1999; Phillip H. Morse Collection of Saint-Gaudens Coinage (Heritage), lot 6536, 11/05.

**UNIQUE 1907 \$20 ST. GAUDENS MATTE PROOF WITH LARGE EDGE LETTERS**



**UNIQUE 1907 \$20 ST. GAUDENS MATTE PROOF WITH LARGE EDGE LETTERS**



# UNIQUE 1907 \$20 ST. GAUDENS MATTE PROOF WITH LARGE EDGE LETTERS

DIE 3

## 1907 Arabic Date Double Eagle



Obverse:	Liberty standing; "Arabic" Numerals.
Reverse:	Flying eagle.
Edge:	LARGE LETTERS, not used on any other Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle.
Die characteristics:	Flat Relief.
Condition:	Proof.
Rarity:	UNIQUE.

# UNIQUE 1907 \$20 ST. GAUDENS MATTE PROOF WITH LARGE EDGE LETTERS

## *History Of The Coinage Of Augustus Saint-Gaudens*

By the turn of the century Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907) had long since achieved world-wide recognition as a sculptor. At a dinner with President Theodore Roosevelt in 1905, the two men found themselves in a discussion of the beauty to be found in the high relief coins of Ancient Greece. It was at that dinner that the President asked Saint-Gaudens to submit designs for a new coin using a classical motif. The design of United States gold coinage had not appreciably changed for more than a half century; and the President's request marked the first time that an "outside sculptor" was asked to design some of our coins.

Keenly aware of their discussion over dinner, and aiming at the classical beauty sought in the proposed coins, Saint-Gaudens created a series of designs which are easily the equal of the most beautiful coins ever struck, anywhere in the world.

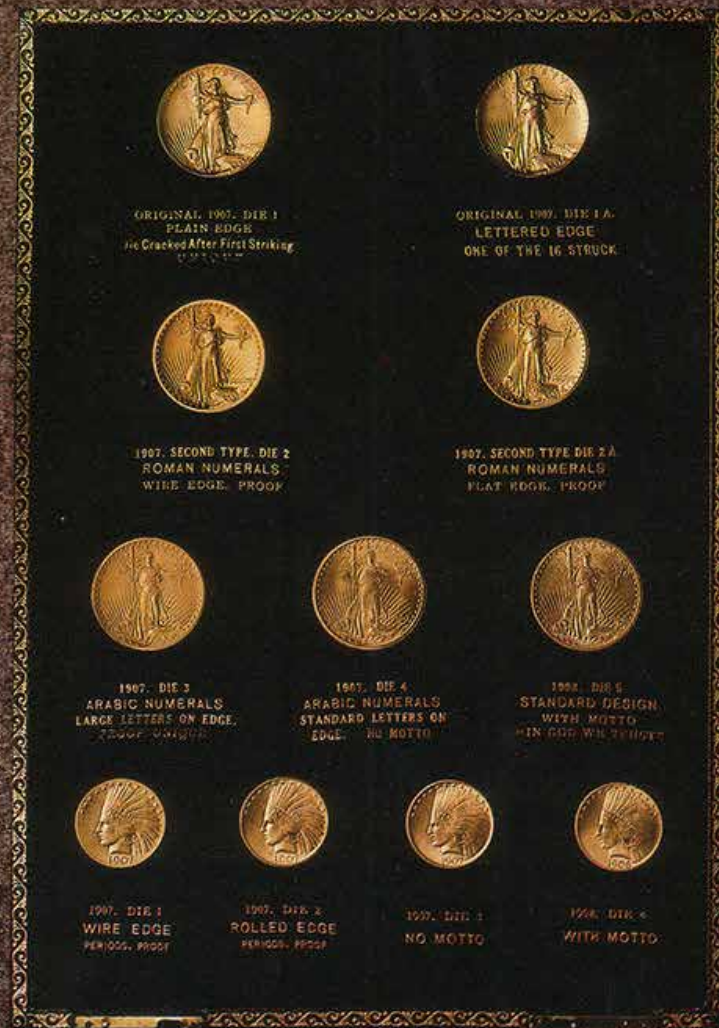
The obverse design of the Double Eagle was believed by many to have been inspired by "Victory" in the Sherman Monument, New York (1903). It is our opinion however, that the statue of Winged Victory of Samothrace, now in the Louvre, played a major role in Saint-Gaudens' design. The reverse was modeled after the Flying Eagle Cent (1856) by Longacre after C. Gobrecht. The original design was introduced in 1907 and executed in high relief. This was modified later in 1907 by lowering the relief; a modification accomplished by Charles Barber, the Chief Engraver of the Mint, with the help of Henry Hering, who studied and worked with Saint-Gaudens.

The obverse design of the Eagle was, to some degree, the idea of President Roosevelt, for he had suggested the use of the head of Liberty with a feathered head-dress. The reverse displays the eagle which was used on the Inaugural Medal of 1905. It is likely that the eagle was inspired originally by the Tetradrachm of the Ptolemies of Ancient Egypt, circa 2nd Century B.C.

These new designs further incorporated a wholly different and distinctive edge device. Stars for the Eagle, and Stars and Letters for the Double Eagle.

*Stack's* 123 WEST 57TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

# UNIQUE 1907 \$20 ST. GAUDENS MATTE PROOF WITH LARGE EDGE LETTERS



*The Unique Set Of  
Augustus Saint-Gaudens Coinage*

*Stack's*

123 WEST 57TH STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

# Unique 1908 \$20 St. Gaudens Satin Proof with Motto

by Mike Byers (mikebyers.com)



This unique 1908 \$20 was struck with a satin finish. It is distinctively different from all other proofs struck in 1908. It exhibits bright surfaces and has a semi-reflective sheen in the fields.

Both 1907 and 1908 issues of double eagles saw variants in both design and finishes. The 1908 coins are most notable for the No Motto and With Motto designs. All proofs from that year are With Motto



# UNIQUE 1908 \$20 ST. GAUDENS SATIN PROOF WITH MOTTO

coins. These pieces characteristically are found with deep khaki-green coloration and pronounced matte surfaces. However, of the 101 proofs struck, one satin finish proof is known. One would think that this piece was struck late in the year as a prototype for the satin finish used in 1909 and 1910. However, research done by the staff at Sotheby's in 1997 indicates that this piece was actually presented to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts by William Sturgis Bigelow on June 11, 1908. The museum's catalog card for the coin states: "One of the first coins struck after this legend was restored." This information was supplied to the museum by Frank Leach, Mint Director at the time of the coin's striking. This piece has a finish that is distinctively different from other proofs from 1908. The surfaces are bright, orange-gold with a semi-reflective sheen in the fields; in short, a "Roman Gold" proof.

This piece first appeared in public auction after it was deaccessioned by the BMFA in the 1976 ANA catalog (Stack's). Both a double eagle and an eagle with a Roman Finish were consigned to that sale, and both brought surprisingly high prices for the time: \$7,500 for the ten dollar and \$10,000 for the double eagle.

Close examination of the plate in the 1976 ANA catalog and the 1997 Sotheby's catalog show that this is the same coin. There are a couple of "shiny spots" that show on the photos that are also present on this coin. This is the Boston Museum of Fine Arts coin and the one piece that has been consistently recognized in the literature as a Roman Finish proof. An exceptional opportunity for the specialist to acquire a unique example of the Roman Finish from 1908.

Pedigree: Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow (from Theodore Roosevelt?) after May 18, 1908; Bigelow to The Boston Museum of Fine Arts, June 11, 1908; 1976 ANA Sale (Stack's, 8/76), lot 3302, where it brought \$10,000, and was purchased by Jim Halperin/NERCG; 1987 GNA Sale (Mid-American, 5/87), lot 2115, where it realized \$69,300; Sotheby's (12/97), lot 268, where it realized \$253,000; Heritage (11/05), From The Phillip H. Morse Collection of Saint-Gaudens Coinage, where it realized \$276,000 as a PR64 PCGS.

Note - It has been recently graded and certified as a PR65 NGC Satin. As noted on the insert, this unique coin is pedigreed to the Ferrari Collection.

**UNIQUE 1908 \$20 ST. GAUDENS SATIN PROOF WITH MOTTO**



**UNIQUE 1908 \$20 ST. GAUDENS SATIN PROOF WITH MOTTO**



# Unique 1843 Dahlonega Liberty Half Eagle Specimen

by Mike Byers (mikebyers.com)



The only known SPECIMEN or PROOF of ANY denomination from the Dahlonega Branch Mint

# UNIQUE 1843 DAHLONEGA LIBERTY HALF EAGLE SPECIMEN

This 1843 half eagle was struck at the Dahlonega Mint and is the only known or certified specimen or proof Dahlonega gold piece of any denomination. This coin is graded an impressive Specimen 65 by NGC, which is a rare designation by both NGC and PCGS.

This half eagle is listed in the *Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins 1795-1933* by Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth. Here is the description from page 288:

*One extraordinary example of the 1843-D half eagle is known that has been certified by NGC as Specimen. The coin is deeply mirrored, and extremely well struck. The coin was probably a presentation striking of some sort. The occasion for the issue is unknown. The quality of the piece is exceptional as well, and the coin currently has been assigned a Specimen-65 rating. Branch-mint Proof and specimen issues are always interesting, and this coin certainly does not disappoint.*

John Garrett purchased this specimen from the Haseltine's 69<sup>th</sup> sale in January 1884. It was considered a proof for nearly 100 years. Garrett's collection was sold by Stack's in March 1976, including this 1843 half eagle (lot 375), and is

considered the greatest coin collection of all time. In this sale, the cataloger gave the opinion that it was struck as a proof. When Garrett purchased this remarkable coin, there had never been rumors of a known specimen or proof from the Dahlonega Branch Mint in Georgia. This specimen was not only preserved during Garrett's lifetime in his collection but also at John's Hopkins University who inherited his coin collection.

This coin was initially authenticated and graded by PCGS as MS 64. The PCGS population report shows this MS 64 as the finest known. It sold in the Harry Bass Jr collection in October 1999 (lot 923). Subsequently, this piece has now been authenticated and graded as Specimen 65 by NGC. The NGC population report shows one MS 64 and nothing higher. The MS 64 from NGC is pedigreed to the Duke collection which is the all-time finest collection from a standpoint of quality and rarity and even the Duke collection just had a MS 64. This unique half eagle is listed in the proof section of the NGC Coin Explorer as a Specimen.

All Branch Mint gold coins of proof or specimen status are of the highest rarity of United States coins. In the early nineteenth century, the discovery of gold in the southeastern United States led to

# UNIQUE 1843 DAHLONEGA LIBERTY HALF EAGLE SPECIMEN

the Congressional Act of March 3, 1835 establishing United States Branch Mints at Dahlonega, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina. The gold coins from these Branch Mints are among the most avidly collected in all of American numismatics. The Dahlonega Mint utilized state-of-the-art steam-driven presses of the same design that was first used in 1836 at the Philadelphia Mint. Only gold coins were struck with denominations including half eagles (\$5), three dollar pieces, quarter eagles (\$2.50), and one dollar pieces. The Dahlonega Mint operated for 24 calendar years and produced relatively low mintages. Half eagles were struck for each year of operation with a total mintage of 1,109,258 coins. In addition to the low mintages, Dahlonega coins are scarce and some are rare. During this first gold rush, the Dahlonega Mint was hurriedly constructed in a remote location and suffered numerous production and minting problems. Many coins were struck on imperfect planchets or were weakly struck. Few are known in mint state condition.

There are very few specimen and proof United States Branch Mint gold coins that were struck. An 1853 New Orleans \$10 Liberty certified Specimen 61 by NGC sold in August 2010 for \$316,250.

A 1907 Denver \$20 Liberty certified Specimen 66 by PCGS (1 of 4 known) sold wholesale for \$400,000. A 1795 \$5 Heraldic Eagle was certified Specimen 64 by NGC. An 1856 New Orleans \$20 certified Specimen 63 by both PCGS and NGC recently sold in a private sale for \$1.8M. An 1800 \$10 was certified Specimen 65 by NGC. A 1921 \$20 St. Gaudens sold for \$1.4M prior to being certified Specimen 64 by NGC.

The majority of 1843-D Half Eagles are very heavily abraded with distracting marks in the fields. Often they come somewhat weakly struck as well. The devices on this specimen show deep frost on all central devices as well as the date, stars, lettering and mint mark. This cameo look is contrasted by fully reflected mirror-like fields. Slight copper-gold toning is noticed around the rims adding to the originality of this coin. The coin exhibits virtually a full proof surface and an extreme sharp strike with square borders and edges. In choice uncirculated condition or better, the 1843 Dahlonega gold piece is rare with only ten or so certified. Considering the primitive and rustic conditions in the 1840's at the Dahlonega Mint this Specimen \$5 is a gem preserved unique rarity.

# UNIQUE 1843 DAHLONEGA LIBERTY HALF EAGLE SPECIMEN



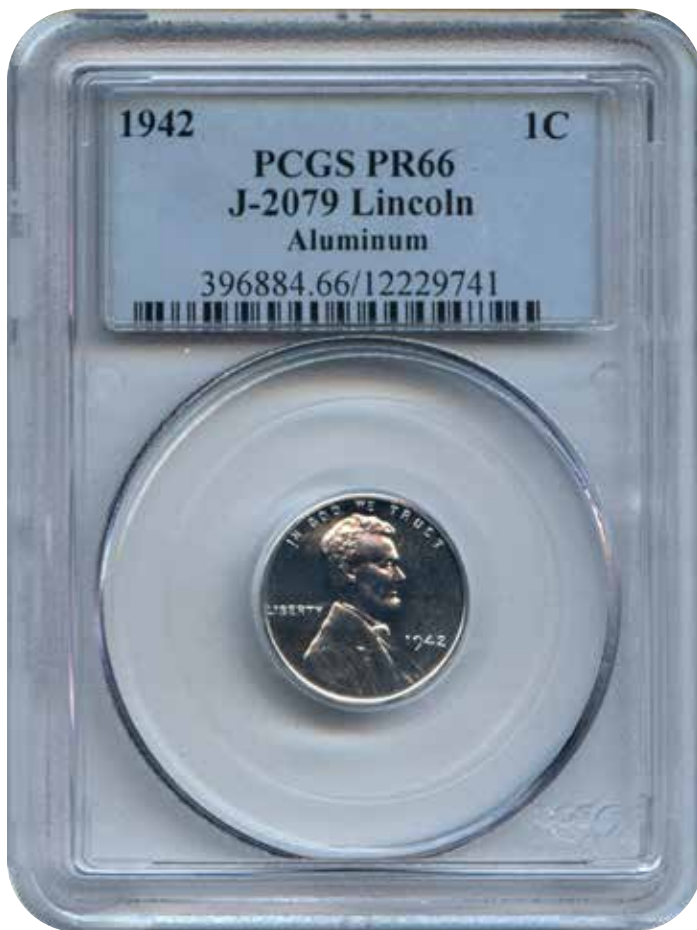
# UNIQUE 1843 DAHLONEGA LIBERTY HALF EAGLE SPECIMEN





# Unique 1942 Lincoln Cent Pattern J-2079 Struck in Aluminum

by Mike Byers (mikebyers.com)



This 1942 Lincoln Cent is a regular die trial issue but struck in aluminum with a plain edge. It was

struck on a planchet that is almost twice as thick as a regular cent.

# UNIQUE 1942 LINCOLN CENT PATTERN J-2079 STRUCK IN ALUMINUM

The pattern cents from 1942 are divided into two groups, those of the regular issue design as this piece and those modeled after the Colombian two centavo. The regular design patterns are far rarer as a group but limited to only three compositions: aluminum, zinc-coated steel, and white metal. Those modeled after the two centavo are far more available as a group and seen in a wide variety of compositions, but some are equally as rare as the regular issue die trials.

The Judd book (10th edition) makes an interesting comment about these pieces: "Regular 1942 Lincoln cent dies are said to have been used to strike coins in pure zinc, copper and zinc, zinc-coated steel, aluminum, copperweld, antimony, white metal, and lead, among other materials." If this is accurate, then there are many other experimental alloy cents that remain to be discovered, as only three alloys are known today.

This is an extraordinary piece. Each side is bright, and there are no signs of oxidation. The fields have a pronounced mirror-like appearance, and there are light flow lines evident on the reverse. The obverse is slightly convex, and the reverse slightly concave. This is essentially a perfect coin with no observable marks on either side.

This is one of the most fascinating experimental pieces to enter the market in decades. The pattern coinage of 1942-1943 is definitely an under-researched area of 20th century U.S. numismatics. Recently a 1943-D Copper Cent certified MS64BN by PCGS sold for \$1.7 Million. In September 2012, a 1943-S Copper Cent authenticated and certified MS62BN by PCGS sold for \$1 Million by Legend Numismatics. This 1942 Lincoln Cent has the potential to become the most expensive Lincoln Cent ever, since there are many 1943 copper Cents and this aluminum Cent is unique.

# UNIQUE 1942 LINCOLN CENT PATTERN J-2079 STRUCK IN ALUMINUM



# UNIQUE 1942 LINCOLN CENT PATTERN J-2079 STRUCK IN ALUMINUM



# NGC Certifies Unique Gold \$1 1852 Judd #138 On A Cut-Down Gold Plated Seated 10c

by Mike Byers

This recent discovery was previously  
unknown to the numismatic community.



## **NGC Certifies Unique Gold \$1 1852 Judd #138 On A Cut-Down Gold Plated Seated 10c**

**N**GC authenticated and certified this unique pattern and CAC approved it. It is the only known U.S. pattern or coin that was gold plated (gilt) at the Mint and then overstruck. It was originally a silver Seated Dime that was cut down (trimmed to size), perforated creating a hole in the center, gold plated (gilt) at the Mint, and then struck by the 1852 gold \$1 pattern dies.

This unique pattern should not be confused with U.S. patterns that were struck first, then gilded either inside the Mint or by collectors after they were released. This discovery pattern was manufactured in a completely different way inside the U.S. Mint. It was gold plated (gilt) on a cut-down Seated Dime prior to being struck by pattern dies. To date, this is the only known authenticated and certified by NGC or PCGS, pattern struck on

a coin that was gold plated (gilt) first!

It was determined that the gold plating (gilt) was applied at the U.S. Mint prior to striking this pattern. Careful examination of the cut-down edge, the striations around the center hole that was perforated and the overall surfaces confirm that it was gold plated (gilt) first, then struck as a pattern.

Gold plating is the process of applying a thin layer of gold to the surface of the coin through a process called electroplating. Gilt is a process of applying a fine gold powder or gold leaf to the surface of the struck coin, without the use of electric current.

The 1852 Gold Dollars were struck in various metals: Gold, Silver, Copper, Copper-Nickel, Nickel and Brass. There are also (2) known Judd #147 Gold Dollar

## **NGC Certifies Unique Gold \$1 1852 Judd #138 On A Cut-Down Gold Plated Seated 10c**

patterns that were gilt after they were struck, a MS-62 PCGS and a PR-65 PCGS.

This unique pattern, Judd #138, struck on a gold plated (gilt) cut-down silver Seated Dime, clearly demonstrates that the U.S. Mint was experimenting with the manufacturing methods and production to strike these Gold Dollar patterns. Different metals were used as blank planchets, they were perforated, and a few were struck on silver dimes instead of blank planchets.

This new unique discovery is an important part of numismatic history because it proves that the U.S. Mint gold plated (gilt) a struck coin first, prior to using it to strike a pattern and gives insight into the experiments used at the time.

Fred Weinberg is the PCGS authenticator for mint errors and has handled as many patterns,

experimental strikes, overstrikes and unique pieces as anyone, making him a world renowned expert. Fred was one of a handful of experts that authenticated all (5) known 1913 Liberty Head Nickels at the 2003 ANA. In 1974, while at Numismatics Ltd., he purchased most of the Kosoff Judd Pattern Collection from Abe Kosoff. Fred said that there were a few mint errors and experimental strikes, but nothing that compared to this pattern. He stated that:

“It’s the first U.S. Mint gold plated (gilt) pattern that has been certified and authenticated by either PCGS or NGC, that was struck over another U.S. coin.”

This unique pattern would be the highlight and centerpiece of a collection of U.S. patterns, experimental coins or cherished as a unique rarity and discovery coin.

**NGC Certifies Unique Gold \$1 1852 Judd #138 On A Cut-Down Gold Plated Seated 10c**





**NGC Certifies Unique Gold \$1 1852 Judd #138 On A Cut-Down Gold Plated Seated 10c**



**NGC Certifies Unique Gold \$1 1852 Judd #138 On A Cut-Down Gold Plated Seated 10c**



**NGC Certifies Unique Gold \$1 1852 Judd #138 On A Cut-Down Gold Plated Seated 10c**



# Pattern

## “Struck-Over”

By Ron Guth

[www.germancoins.com](http://www.germancoins.com)

**P**attern coins, by definition, are experimental pieces created to test new designs, different metal alloys, formats (sizes and weights), or denominations. Out of convenience and economy, most U.S. pattern coins were made using readily available blanks. Occasionally, new alloys were mixed up, rolled out, and the resultant blanks were punched out to the required diameters. In extremely rare instances, existing coins were plucked from circulation and were overstruck using pattern dies. The stories these unusual overstrikes tell can be quite revealing

– for example, the dates on some of the host coins are LATER than the dates on the overstrike, proving that some pattern coins were restrikes made years later to satisfy collector demand. Other overstrikes were made privately using dies discarded by the U.S. Mint; these are not official pattern coins but their inclusion in traditional pattern coin listings has given them special status.

The following list of pattern “struck-over” includes some of the most unusual American pattern coins ever made -- and their fascinating stories.

## NGC Certifies Unique Gold \$1 1852 Judd #138 On A Cut-Down Gold Plated Seated 10c

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**Credit: Mike Byers**

1852 \$1 Judd 138, Pollock 165, Silver, Plain Edge, Thin Planchet, Rarity 7  
Struck over a gold-plated, cut-down Seated Liberty, Legend Obverse Dime. This unique item, discovered by Mike Byers and announced in July 2018 is the only known instance where a coin was gold-plated BEFORE it was struck. Adding gold plating to a pattern coin that had already been struck appears to have been a frequent occurrence at the U.S. Mint, though some coins may have been gold-plated at a later date or outside the Mint. However, until this coin appeared, no previously-plated host coin was known to exist.

# NGC Certifies Unique Gold \$1 1852 Judd #138 On A Cut-Down Gold Plated Seated 10c

Featured on the cover of Mint Error News Magazine Issue 47:

**MINT ERROR NEWS**  
**MAGAZINE**

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector. Also featuring Die Trials, Test Pieces, Numismatic Rarities, Currency Errors and Discoveries from the U.S. Mint & the BEP.

[minterrornews.com](http://minterrornews.com)

**NGC Certifies Unique Gold \$1  
1852 Judd #138 On a  
Cut-Down Gold Plated Seated 10c**

1852 J-138 G \$1 ON CUT DOWN  
PF 64  
GOLD PLATED SEATED 10C  
WITH LEGEND 1.29 GRAMS  
3174037-011

NGC

21 Page Price Guide Inside

Issue 47 • Winter 2018  
A Mike Byers Publication

# Legendary San Francisco Mint Rarity: 1870-S Three Dollar Gold Specimen

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

1870-S Three Dollar Gold, SP50  
Legendary San Francisco Mint Rarity  
Only Available Example - Unique In Private Hands  
Ex: Woodin-'Colonel' Green-Eliasberg-Bass



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# LEGENDARY SAN FRANCISCO MINT RARITY: 1870-S THREE DOLLAR GOLD SPECIMEN

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1870-S \$3 SP50 -- 893 Engraved -- PCGS. Unique.** Ex: Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The 1870-S three dollar gold piece is among the rarest and most enigmatic coins in the U.S. federal series. Only a single example of this classic numismatic rarity is known to collectors, though reliable reports indicate a second specimen may reside in a ceremonial casket that was placed under the cornerstone of the Second San Francisco Mint in 1870. Of course, the cornerstone example is clearly out of reach of present day numismatists, making the coin offered here essentially unique. It is common practice for catalogers to compare ultra-rare coins they describe to other established numismatic rarities, ones that potential bidders can easily recognize and appreciate, like the 1804 dollar, or the 1913 Liberty nickel. That tactic seems inadequate in the case of the 1870-S three dollar gold piece, which is 15 times rarer than the 1804 dollar and five times rarer than the 1913 Liberty nickel. Q. David Bowers once compared owning the 1870-S to owning the Mona Lisa, perhaps a more meaningful comparison. Both are unique and, to the collectors who understand and appreciate them, both are priceless. Heritage Auctions is privileged to present this unique numismatic treasure in just its third auction appearance.

## **The Mysterious 1870-S Rarities**

For collectors, the coinage of certain calendar years carries a special cachet, because of the famous numismatic rarities that bear that particular date. Any numismatist can

enthusiastically expound on the merits of the coinage of 1804 and 1875, for example. For branch mint enthusiasts, the coinage of the San Francisco Mint in 1870 is in a class of its own. Despite the fact that there is no mention of any 1870-S half dimes, quarters, silver dollars, or three dollar gold pieces in the Mint Director's annual report for 1870, recent research by Nancy Oliver and Richard Kelly confirms that examples of those denominations were struck, and even casual collectors know they are all fabulous rarities.

In an article in the April 12, 2004 issue of *Coin World*, Oliver and Kelly describe an exhaustive search of official San Francisco Mint records at San Bruno, California, and the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, which culminated in an exciting discovery. Located in Records Group 104, they found a purchase warrant, dated June 1, 1870, for \$49.60, which included a 12.5 % premium for exchanging precious-metal coinage with currency. The warrant contained an itemized list of coins purchased: one coin of each of the gold and silver denominations struck by the U.S. Mint in 1870, including the four denominations not listed in the Mint Report. The warrant was signed by Clerk W.F. Tracy and verified by San Francisco Mint Chief Coiner Joseph B. Harmstead. The coins were produced in conjunction with the official ceremony celebrating the laying of the cornerstone of the Second San Francisco Mint and were to be placed in a time capsule with other selected items in a cavity in the foundation below the cornerstone.



# LEGENDARY SAN FRANCISCO MINT RARITY: 1870-S THREE DOLLAR GOLD SPECIMEN

The warrant clearly establishes that at least one coin of each of the gold and silver denominations was legitimately struck at the San Francisco Mint in 1870. However, coins of the four denominations that were not struck for mass circulation should not exist outside the cornerstone casket, which should still be ensconced in the foundation of the Mint building. Nevertheless, several "duplicate" specimens of the cornerstone coins have surfaced over the years. A single example of the 1870-S three dollar gold piece (the coin offered here) has been known to the numismatic community since 1907, and a single 1870-S half dime surfaced under mysterious circumstances in 1978. Nine examples of the 1870-S Seated Liberty silver dollar can be confirmed today, but no specimen of the 1870-S Seated Liberty quarter has ever come to light. Several theories have been proposed to explain the existence of the "duplicate" three dollar gold piece, silver dollars, and half dime, but none of them are universally accepted. These coins' creation is a mystery that has puzzled numismatists for more than 150 years.

## **The San Francisco Mint in 1870**

The San Francisco Mint was authorized on July 3, 1852 and began coinage operations in 1854. The facility was located in the building formerly owned by the private coinage firm of Curtis, Perry, and Ward, at 608 Commercial Street. Thanks to its proximity to the flourishing California gold fields, the new branch mint struck a prodigious amount of coinage in its early years, and the old Curtis, Perry, and Ward facility was clearly inadequate to the task. The building was too small and not

properly ventilated, resulting in cramped work spaces filled with noxious fumes. Despite the handicaps, the staff succeeded in turning out a tremendous volume of coinage, but it was obvious that a new facility was needed.

Accordingly, work began on a grand new building in 1869. The new edifice was located at the corner of Fifth and Mission Streets and designed by noted architect Alfred B. Mullett. The new building was constructed in a conservative Greek Revival style, with two stories, a portico supported by Doric columns, a basement, and an open central courtyard that included a well. The building was based on a solid concrete and granite foundation and the walls were up to five feet thick, faced with blocks of granite and sandstone. The interior included marble floors and fireplaces, carved wood panels, and opulent furnishings. It was the largest mint in the world at that time, and its solid construction enabled it to survive the disastrous earthquake and fire that leveled most of the city in 1906. The building claims a special place in numismatic history, as its construction was directly responsible for the creation of several fabulous rarities, including the 1870-S three dollar gold piece.

## **The Cornerstone Celebration**

The cornerstone of the new branch mint was laid in an elaborate ceremony on May 25, 1870. The celebration was conducted by several Masonic lodges from the region, following the established traditions of their order. The festivities included a grand procession composed of military bands and several hundred Masonic dignitaries in full regalia

## LEGENDARY SAN FRANCISCO MINT RARITY: 1870-S THREE DOLLAR GOLD SPECIMEN

who marched from the Masonic Temple to the construction site. Seats and bleachers had been erected at the northeast corner of the building to accommodate 3,000 spectators, but the *Daily Alta California* newspaper estimated a huge crowd of 6,000 local citizens had assembled by the time the procession reached the site. San Francisco Mint Supervisor O.H. La Grange addressed the crowd and invited Grand Master Leonidas E. Pratt to lay the cornerstone. Pratt responded:

"Brother Senior Grand Warden: It has been the custom among the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, from time immemorial, to assemble for the purpose of laying the foundation stones of public buildings, when required so to do by those having authority. The Grand Lodge of the State of California having been invited by the Superintendent of Construction of this edifice to lay the cornerstone thereof, has, by my order, been here convened, and it is my will and pleasure that it do now assist me in the performance of that pleasing duty."

Pratt proceeded with the ceremony, noting:

"Brother Grand Treasurer: it has ever been the custom of the Craft upon occasions like the present, to deposit within a cavity in the stone placed at the northeast corner of the edifice, certain memorials of the period at which it was erected; so that if, in the lapse of ages, the fury of the elements, the violence of man, or the slow but

certain ravages of time, should lay bare its foundations, an enduring record may be found by succeeding generations, to bear testimony to the untiring, unending industry of the Free and Accepted Masons. Has such a deposit now been prepared?"

Grand Treasurer James Laidley replied:

"It has, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the various articles of which it is composed are safely enclosed within the casket now before you."

The contents of the casket were then read, which consisted of many official documents, including the Annual Report of the Director of the Mint from the previous year, the City Directory and San Francisco Almanac, maps and photographs of the city, and "one of each denomination of the several coins of the United States of America, all struck off at the San Francisco Branch Mint in the year 1870."

Grand Master Pratt then directed:

"Brother Grand Treasurer: You will now deposit the casket in the cavity beneath the cornerstone; and may the Great Architect of the Universe, in His wisdom, grant that ages upon ages shall pass away ere it again be seen of men."

This account, which was published in the *Daily Alta California* newspaper on May 26, 1870,

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corroborates the striking of the cornerstone coins, as spelled out in the warrant found by Oliver and Kelly, but adds no information about the "duplicate" coins.

## Striking the Coins for the Cornerstone Celebration

The Philadelphia Mint shipped the following dies for 1870 coinage to San Francisco on December 15, 1869:

Ten obverse and six reverse dies for double eagles.

Four obverse and reverse dies for eagles.

Four obverse and reverse dies for half eagles.

Four obverse and reverse dies for quarter eagles.

Two reverse dies for three dollar gold pieces.

Two reverse dies for gold dollars.

Six obverse and reverse dies for half dollars.

Six obverse and reverse dies for dimes.

Six obverse and reverse dies for half dimes.

In addition, the San Francisco Mint received six pairs of dies for striking quarters on January 14, 1870. Since the one dollar and three dollar gold coins had the date punched on the reverse dies, which were included in the December shipment, and there were presumably some serviceable obverse dies from previous years on hand at the San Francisco Mint, the facility should have had all the dies needed to strike

the cornerstone coins by January 14, except for the Seated Liberty silver dollar. Mint records indicate six reverse dies for the silver dollar had been sent to the San Francisco Mint in 1866, and no silver dollars had been struck at that facility since. Presumably, these reverse dies were still undamaged and available in 1870. Ingenious research by Oliver and Kelly, John Dannreuther, and Dick Osburn established that the obverse die used to strike the 1870-S silver dollars was borrowed from the Carson City Mint for the occasion. It was the same obverse die used previously to strike the OC-1 variety of the 1870-CC Seated Liberty dollar.

Unfortunately, many unforeseen difficulties arose when the time came to strike the coins. The Philadelphia Mint had neglected to punch the mintmarks on the reverse dies for the one dollar and three dollar gold coins, a fact that went unnoticed until the cornerstone ceremony was imminent. On May 14, 1870, just 11 days before the cornerstone was laid, San Francisco Mint Superintendent O.H. LaGrange sent the following telegram to Mint Director James Pollock in Philadelphia:

"Letter S omitted on the One and Three Dollar Dies sent to this branch for this year. 2,000 pieces coined. Can they be issued?"

It is not clear if the 2,000 coins mentioned were one dollar or three dollar pieces, or a mix of both denominations, but most present day numismatists believe they were gold dollars. In any case, Pollock ruled against their release in his response, sent the same day:

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"Not issue, but recoin the pieces. Will send dies."

Pollock followed up with two telegrams on May 16:

"Please return to me by express, the dies for the San Francisco coinage, from which the letter 'S' was omitted."

Followed by:

"Enclosed please find receipt of the Adams Express Company for a package for one sett of Dies for three-dollar pieces, and two setts ditto for one dollar pieces to replace the dies specified in your telegram of the 13th inst, from which the letter 'S' had been omitted. Not being able to determine whether the defective one-dollar dies were for Gold or Silver coin, I have sent one sett of each. Please advise me of their safe arrival."

The exact date the replacement dies arrived in San Francisco is unknown, but the typical time for a cross-country shipment on the newly completed transcontinental railroad was about a week, so the dies could have arrived as early as May 23. This would have been in time to strike coins for the cornerstone celebration, but it seems that LaGrange and Harmstead were afraid they would be too late and jumped the gun on striking the three dollar piece for the ceremony. At some point, Harmstead hand-engraved the S mintmark into one of the 1870 reverse dies that had been sent in December and used it to strike the cornerstone

piece. Apparently, the dies arrived before he had a chance to repeat the procedure with the gold dollar die, so he struck that piece for the cornerstone casket using the newly arrived dies.

Alternatively, Oliver and Kelly note it is possible that the Philadelphia Mint inexplicably repeated their original mistake and sent two more three dollar reverse dies without mintmarks. Then, Harmstead had to hurriedly engrave the S on the new die and strike the coin immediately before the ceremony.

On May 27, two days after the cornerstone ceremony, LaGrange wrote to Pollock:

"I enclose herewith the receipt of Wells Fargo & Co. for one dollar and three dollar dies which were yesterday forwarded to you at Philadelphia. It is proper to state that our coiner [J.B. Harmstead] cut the letter S on the three dollar die after it was received here for the purpose of stamping a single piece to be put in the casket of the cornerstone of our new mint building. Only one piece was struck under my direction for the purpose above stated."

Pollock replied on June 2:

"Your letter dated 27th of May has been received together with the returned dies. The special use made of one of them in a single instance, was very proper and unobjectionable, under the circumstances."

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Many collectors believe the coins for the cornerstone celebration were specially struck for the occasion as part of the festivities, but there is no evidence to support this. The *Daily Alta California* account of the proceedings specifically mentions the coins being placed in the casket, but says nothing about their striking. Of course, the half dime, quarter, silver dollar, and three dollar gold piece must have been produced specifically for the ceremony, as there was no regular coinage of those denominations at the San Francisco Mint that year. There is some evidence that about a dozen 1870-S silver dollars were struck as presentation pieces, possibly for the Masonic dignitaries that attended the cornerstone ceremony, in addition to the one included in the casket. The dime, gold dollar, quarter eagle, half eagle, eagle, and double eagle that were placed in the cornerstone were probably just selected from the regular-issue stock of coins on hand at the Mint, sometime before the ceremony took place.

It also seems unlikely that any of the coins were specially struck. All the surviving silver dollars are circulation-strike examples. The only known 1870-S half dime is graded MS64 by PCGS and shows no sign of being struck in proof format. The sole 1870-S three dollar gold piece is listed in John Dannreuther's reference on proof gold coins, but he makes it clear in the writeup that it is impossible to tell what format the coin was struck in, due to light wear and its use in jewelry. There is also no mention of a proofing charge on the warrant for the cornerstone coins. All evidence suggests no proofs were struck, but PCGS does classify

the three dollar gold piece as a Specimen, or Special Strike, per PCGS CoinFacts.

## Theories About the "Extra" 1870-S Half Dime and Three Dollar Gold Piece

For many years, numismatists have theorized that Chief Coiner Joseph B. Harmstead must have clandestinely struck a second example of the 1870-S three dollar gold piece, since the present coin first surfaced in 1907, wrapped in a note from him that claimed the piece was a duplicate of the coin in the cornerstone cache. Alternatively, some have suggested that the coin offered here actually is the cornerstone specimen, with Harmstead stealing it (and the half dime) before the box was placed in the cornerstone niche. Against these theories is extensive research by Nancy Oliver and Richard Kelly that reveals Harmstead to have been an honest man, of good character. His later handling of the coin clearly indicates that he had no intention of selling the piece for profit, as he scratched the mysterious numerals 893 on the reverse at an early date. In addition, the coin shows clear signs of being removed from a jewelry mount at 6 o'clock on the obverse. These are not the actions of a man who hoped to maximize his profit from the sale of ill-gotten goods.

A third theory postulates that the half dime and three dollar gold piece were "liberated" from the cornerstone when the building was damaged during the great fire and earthquake of 1906. This seems unlikely, as the Second San Francisco Mint was one of the few surviving buildings in that area, earning it the affectionate sobriquet of the

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"Granite Lady." Researchers believe they have identified the cornerstone in recent years and it remains intact and essentially undamaged. Furthermore, the three dollar gold piece was mounted as a jewelry piece and had acquired some noticeable wear by the time it surfaced in 1907. It is doubtful that the condition of the coin would have altered so much in less than a year. Finally, no example of the 1870-S Seated Liberty quarter has ever surfaced, and it is hard to believe anyone looting the cornerstone would have overlooked such an obvious rarity.

Recent research by several numismatists suggests a fourth possibility. Mint policy in 1870 required the San Francisco Mint to submit a certain percentage of all coins struck for circulation at that facility to the Assay Commission in Philadelphia every month. Mint records indicate the San Francisco Mint only struck half dollars, gold dollars, and double eagles for circulation in May of 1870. According to a Wells Fargo receipt dated June 7, 1870, a total of 34 double eagles, one gold dollar, and eight half dollars were sent to the Assay Commission to fulfill the assay requirements. However, Chief Coiner J.B. Harmstead may have decided to also strike one extra specimen of the half dime, quarter, silver dollar, and three dollar gold piece when he struck the cornerstone coins to cover possible assay obligations. He may have believed he was obligated to send at least one example of each denomination struck to the Assay Commission, even for a minuscule one-piece production run. Also, he may not have known that no more coins of these denominations would be struck, and a single assay coin would be enough to meet the

requirements if a small mintage was produced late in the month. It is worth noting from the receipt that he only needed one gold dollar to meet the assay obligation in May, because of the small mintage of that denomination.

Of course, no coins of these denominations were ever issued for circulation, and he may have adjusted his thinking on the assay coins accordingly. There would be little to gain from testing and confirming the value of coins that would never be used in commerce. In the end, he must have concluded there was no need to submit the coins for testing, and we know from the receipt that none were sent. Respected researcher David McCarthy notes:

"It is imaginable that they struck them based upon the assumption that they would have to send the coins to the Assay Commission eventually, then didn't have to send them, because no examples were ever officially released."

When the extra assay coins were not needed, it seems likely that Harmstead decided to purchase the extra 1870-S three dollar piece as a keepsake, as that coin remained with him, or his family, for many years. He could have acquired it simply by exchanging an equivalent sum in gold coinage for the piece. He may also have saved the 1870-S half dime, in a similar manner, but that coin might have been preserved by another Mint official, as there is no definitive link to Harmstead. It seems unlikely that anyone saved the 1870-S Seated Liberty quarter as a memento, as no example of that issue has ever surfaced. Any unneeded

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assay coins that were not saved in this fashion were probably melted for recoinage. There is no documentary evidence to confirm any of the theories about the origin of the "duplicate" coins, but this theory seems to follow accepted Mint procedure more closely than the others and coincides well with Harmstead's sterling reputation.

## Early History of the Present Coin

The first mention of the 1870-S three dollar gold piece in the numismatic press occurred in 1907, when H.T Van Camp advertised the coin in the April issue of *The Numismatist*:

"To gold collectors: Here is a coin all alone by itself. \$3 gold S mint, 1870. Never in circulation - never before on the market. With the coin is an interesting little history by the coiner who made it."

The "little history" of the coin was given in greater detail when the coin made its first auction appearance in lot 1160 of the William H. Woodin Collection (Thomas Elder, 3/1911). Elder noted that the coin was accompanied by an "indisputable certificate of its genuineness," as it was wrapped in a piece of yellow paper with the following notation:

"This Three Dollar piece is a duplicate of the one under the cornerstone of the San Francisco Mint and the only one in existence. J.B. Harmstead."

Elder also stated that the coin originated with Harmstead's family. Harmstead must have written the note before his death on July 22, 1889.

Oliver and Kelly have made several attempts to trace the coin's history from the time of its striking until it appeared in H.T Van Camp's ad in 1907. At first, they believed the coin had been presented to his married niece, Georgine Marcus (formerly Harmstead), because of an article in the November 3, 1907 edition of the *Washington Post*. The article mentioned the appearance of the coin in Van Camp's possession earlier in the year and said the coin and the note had been sent to Harmstead's niece.

Further genealogical research, including an examination of Harmstead's will, suggested another provenance for the coin. In their January 2020 article in *The Numismatist*, Oliver and Kelly postulate that Harmstead had the coin mounted in a necklace for his wife, Francis. She later had a debilitating stroke and went to live with her oldest married daughter, Sarah Fay (formerly Harmstead) in Portland, Oregon. Joseph Harmstead also went to live with Sarah and her husband, Charles Luther Fay, after he retired from the Mint. When Francis died in 1885, Joseph gave the necklace to Sarah. Charles Luther Fay inherited the necklace when Sarah died in 1903. He was an insurance agent by trade and he later moved to Oxford, Maine, where he died in 1906. His son, Charles Ralph Fay, apparently inherited the necklace at that point. Charles Ralph Fay lived in New York City, and he may have known H.T. Van Camp through his father, as Van Camp was also an insurance agent. It is likely that Van Camp was acting as an agent for Charles Ralph Fay when he advertised the coin in *The Numismatist* in 1907, as William Woodin later claimed he purchased the coin

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from Harmstead's family. We know that Woodin purchased the coin, which had been removed from the necklace, sometime before 1909, as an entry in the May 1909 issue of *The Numismatist* described Woodin's collection and specifically mentioned the coin:

"Mr. Woodin possesses the great 1870-S \$3 rarity of which two specimens were struck. One of these was placed in the cornerstone of a government building in San Francisco, and the other, through the family of the coiner, finally came into Mr. Woodin's possession."

## The History of the Coin After 1907

The provenance of the 1870-S three dollar gold piece is well-documented after Woodin obtained the coin from Van Camp. Woodin, a wealthy industrialist who would become Secretary of the Treasury under President Franklin Roosevelt, sold the bulk of his gold collection through New York coin dealer Thomas Elder in March of 1911. Elder described the coin in a lengthy full-page description as lot 1160 in the catalog. The lot was plated and had a reserve of \$1,000. The coin realized \$1,450, to S.H. Chapman, a staggering price for any coin at the time.

Chapman was either acting as an agent for Baltimore collector Waldo Newcomer, or sold the coin to him shortly after the sale. Newcomer's inventory of his collection listed the 1870-S as number 1087 and valued it at \$2,000. Newcomer sold most of his U.S. federal collection privately through Fort Worth

coin dealer B. Max Mehl, circa 1931. Mehl originally intended to sell the collection at auction and advertised it in *The Numismatist* in the March, 1932 issue. The 1870-S was pictured on the Newcomer plates Mehl had made to document the collection. Unfortunately, Mehl later decided to sell the collection privately, with much of the U.S. gold going to "Colonel" E.H.R. Green. Green held on to his fabulous collection, including the 1870-S, until his death in 1936.

Much of Green's estate was handled by St. Louis coin dealer B.G. Johnson, including the 1870-S three dollar gold piece. Several prominent coin dealers, including Art Kagin and Abe Kosoff offered the coin on consignment to super collector Louis Eliasberg, Sr. in the 1944-1945 time frame, but Eliasberg consistently passed because he thought the price was too high. On September 11, 1945, Ted and Carl Brandts (the Celina Coin Company) purchased the coin from B.G. Johnson for \$7,000. The Brandts advertised the 1870-S in *The Numismatist* in December 1945.

Louis E. Eliasberg was a Baltimore financier who formed the only complete collection of U.S. federal coins by date, mintmark, and major variety. Although he had resisted purchasing the 1870-S earlier, his collecting philosophy had changed by 1946, as he was closer to completing his collection and was willing to stretch for the few coins he still needed. With Stack's acting as agent, he purchased the 1870-S from the Celina Coin Company in January 1946, for the record price of \$11,550.



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Eliasberg retained his collection until his death in 1976. His coins were exhibited at the Philadelphia Mint in the Bicentennial celebrations that year. His estate offered the U.S. gold portion of the collection in a blockbuster auction conducted by Bowers and Ruddy in October 1982. The 1870-S was featured in lot 296 of the catalog and realized a stupendous price of \$687,500, to Stack's, acting as agent for Dallas collector Harry W. Bass, Jr. At the time, this was a record price realized for any U.S. federal coin (the ultra-rare 1822 half eagle in the same sale realized the same amount). The 1870-S three dollar gold piece has not been publicly offered since.

Like many owners of the 1870-S, Harry Bass retained the coin, along with the rest of his collection, until his death. He served as President of the American Numismatic Society and formed a comprehensive numismatic library to study his collection. He was influential in making the ANS Library available online. He exhibited his collection at the Coinage of the Americas Conference, on November 4-5, 1989. After his passing in 1998, much of the collection was sold in a series of important auctions through Bowers and Merena. However, the most important portions of the collection were retained in the Harry Bass Core Collection, which was owned by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation, a charitable organization that supports other organizations in the areas of education, human services, science and research, and arts and culture. The Core Collection was exhibited at the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum, at ANA Headquarters in Colorado Springs

from 2001-2022. Recently, the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Foundation has decided to deaccession the collection, to better serve the charitable causes they support, resulting in this fantastic opportunity for collectors to obtain many coins that would otherwise never be available, including the 1870-S three dollar gold piece.

## Physical Description

This handsome SP50 example shows only light wear on the strongly impressed design elements, with much interior detail remaining intact on Liberty's curls and the ribbon knot. The date is positioned low, with the ribbon bow tip to the right of the 7 in the date. The tall, thin S mintmark, which was hand-engraved into the die, is unlike any other mintmark in the series. Despite an attractive overall presentation, the present coin has a few technical problems that must be acknowledged. The medium yellow-gold surfaces are lightly polished, with a slightly pebbled texture. The coin was evidently mounted in a jewelry setting at one time, as indicated by some slight damage to the obverse rim at 6 o'clock. The numerals 893 are lightly scratched above the wreath on the reverse. Oliver and Kelly note this may represent the fineness of the Feather River gold deposit the coin was struck from. This might be something Harmstead would think worth noting, if he did initially strike this piece for assay purposes.

Of course, as the only available example of this landmark rarity, the technical grade of this coin is of only secondary importance. In all of numismatic history, only four collectors have ever succeeded in compiling a complete

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collection of three dollar gold pieces (William H. Woodin, Waldo Newcomer, Louis Eliasberg, and Harry Bass). To borrow a quote from George Clooney, "More people have walked on the moon!" This coin is absolutely essential for the completion of that daunting quest. Only one numismatist, Louis Eliasberg, has ever managed to complete a collection of U.S. federal coins. The iron-willed collector that tries to duplicate that astounding feat will find no adequate replacement for this remarkable coin once it crosses the auction block. This coin has been off the market for 40 years, and it would be foolish to think it will become available again during the collecting life of anyone reading this description. This lot truly represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The 1870-S three dollar gold piece is listed among the *100 Greatest U.S. Coins*. This coin is pictured on PCGS CoinFacts. Population: 1 in 50, 0 finer (11/22).

*Ex: San Francisco Mint Chief Coiner Joseph B. Harmstead; possibly Francis Harmstead (his wife, mounted in a necklace, per Nancy Oliver and Richard Kelly); Sarah Fay (Francis' oldest daughter, on her mother's death in 1885); Charles Luther Fay (Sarah's husband,*

*on her death in 1903); Charles Ralph Fay (Charles Luther's son, on his father's death in 1906); Harry Terry Van Camp, advertised in *The Numismatist* in April 1907; private treaty transaction to William H. Woodin; Woodin Collection (Thomas Elder, 3/1911), lot 1160, realized \$1,450; S.H. Chapman; Waldo C. Newcomer, inventory number 1087, at \$2,000; B. Max Mehl in 1931; "Colonel" E.H.R. Green; Green Estate (1936); St. Louis coin dealer B.G. Johnson; offered on consignment on July 5, 1944 by Hollinbeck Coin Company (Art Kagin) to Louis E. Eliasberg for \$8,500, but Eliasberg passed; on consignment to Abe Kosoff in 1945, offered to Eliasberg again, but passed again; Celina Coin Company (Ted and Carl Brandts), purchased from B.G. Johnson on September 11, 1945, for \$7,000, paid in two installments (per Saul Teichman), advertised in the December 1945 issue of *The Numismatist*; sold to Stack's in January 1946, as agent for Eliasberg, who paid \$11,550; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.; Eliasberg Estate (1976-1982); United States Gold Coin Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 10/1982), lot 296, realized \$687,500 to Stack's, acting as agent for the following; Harry W. Bass, Jr. (HBRF Inventory #18018); Harry Bass Core Collection (HBCC-4024).*

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# LEGENDARY SAN FRANCISCO MINT RARITY: 1870-S THREE DOLLAR GOLD SPECIMEN



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# Unique Branch Mint Proof 1855-S Three Dollar Gold Issue

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

1855-S Three Dollar Gold, PR64 Cameo  
Unique Branch Mint Proof Gold Issue  
First San Francisco Mint Three Dollar  
Ex: Tom Bender #2 Registry Set



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# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF 1855-S THREE DOLLAR GOLD ISSUE

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1855-S \$3 PR64 Cameo PCGS. CAC. JD-1**, unique as a proof. Ex: Tom Bender. All branch mint proofs are extremely rare issues, and this 1855-S proof three dollar gold piece is certainly no exception. With just a single example known to collectors, the 1855-S proof is among the most elusive issues in the U.S. federal series. Produced to commemorate the first striking of the three dollar denomination at the San Francisco Mint, which just opened for coinage operations the year before, the early history of this coin is shrouded in mystery, adding to its historic interest and mystique. Carefully preserved by a California family for more than a century, this coin only surfaced in relatively recent times, to amaze present-day collectors with its outstanding quality and absolute rarity. Heritage Auctions is privileged to present this unique numismatic treasure in this important offering.

## **A Need for Branch Mint Coinage**

The 1848 discovery of gold in California forever changed the region and the nation. The Western population quickly swelled with prospectors, and a scarcity of coinage made life difficult. Gold dust was the medium of exchange in California, and the individual prospectors typically received less than half its real value. One option was to ship the gold dust to the mints in New Orleans or Philadelphia, where pure dust was worth at least \$16 per ounce. However, payment of express charges, commissions, and insurance substantially reduced the net value. Another option was to sell the dust to local bankers who also substantially

discounted the value, shipping large quantities to New Orleans or Philadelphia.

Individuals and small companies were soon established in California to produce coins from the copious fresh gold supply. In *Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States*, Donald H. Kagin writes:

“During our nation’s history, the Federal Government has theoretically been responsible for issuing coinage whenever and wherever the need existed. Many times, however, when the Federal Government was slow to meet its responsibilities, private individuals took it upon themselves to provide alternatives to the official, but unavailable, coins of our nation.”

The private coinage in California was not without its problems, principally inadequate weight and/or fineness. Eventually the Federal Government stepped in, opening the United States Assay Office, following Congressional legislation passed on September 30, 1850. The first issues appeared early in 1851, carrying the name of Augustus Humbert, U.S. Assayer. Authorized by the United States, the new issues forced most private coiners out of business and clearly proved advantageous to the individual miners, who would now receive full value for their gold dust and nuggets. The Assay Office was only a temporary measure, however, and a full-fledged branch of the U.S. Mint finally opened in San Francisco in 1854. Kagin writes:

“The United States Assay Office was a

# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF 1855-S THREE DOLLAR GOLD ISSUE

reasonable, although temporary, solution to the need for a standard medium of exchange, but what the Californians earnestly desired was their own branch mint. Proposals for a California branch mint appeared as early as December 1849, but legislation failed until July 3, 1852. Finally, the San Francisco branch mint officially opened on April 3, 1854.”

## Striking Special Coins

As might have been expected, the San Francisco Mint suffered its share of setbacks when it first opened for coinage operations. A shortage of parting acids, among other difficulties, severely limited the coinage of most denominations, and no three dollar gold pieces were struck at the new mint in 1854. The citizens of San Francisco were proud of their new coinage facility, however, and Mint personnel were eager to establish the importance of their new branch. Accordingly, Superintendent Lewis A. Birdsall had a specially struck Liberty double eagle sent to the Philadelphia Mint for inclusion in the Mint Cabinet in 1854.

The Mint Cabinet specimen was probably the first double eagle minted on the opening day, April 3, 1854. Considered a proof or presentation strike, the coin is now part of the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. In his *Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins*, Walter Breen discussed this 1854-S double eagle:

“When I saw it in 1951, neither Stuart

Mosher (then curator as well as *The Numismatist* editor) nor I had any idea it was a branch mint coin, and great indeed was our astonishment at finding the S mintmark. It would have passed as a Philadelphia proof had I not looked at the reverse.”

More recently, Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth published a slightly different opinion regarding the Smithsonian’s 1854-S double eagle in their *Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins 1795-1933*:

“Although the coin has been called a Proof by most researchers, it is the authors’ opinion that the coin would be more accurately described as a presentation strike. The surfaces are deeply prooflike but lack the deep, orange-peel appearance of true Proofs of the era.”

Many numismatists believe more special strikings were made when other denominations were struck for the first time the following year. Currently, one 1855-S Seated Liberty quarter is known in proof format, and three 1855-S proof half dollars have been reported. It is believed that this proof three dollar gold piece was also coined to commemorate the first striking of the denomination in 1855. However, like the proof quarter and two of the half dollars, this piece was not sent to the Mint Cabinet. It seems those specially struck pieces were obtained by local luminaries and preserved in private hands for many years. A small business-strike mintage of 6,600 three dollar gold pieces was also accomplished that year, making the issue quite

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elusive in both formats. The same die pair was used to strike both the proof and regular-issue coins.

## History of the Present Coin

Traditional wisdom suggests this coin was obtained by a California family at its time of issue and carefully preserved for more than a century, as it has certainly never been in circulation. Writing about the origin of this piece in 1984, David Akers noted:

“This coin is undoubtedly **UNIQUE** and its existence was not known or even rumored until it surfaced in the San Francisco Bay Area a short time ago. Its proof status is, in our opinion, **absolutely certain** and the coin was surely struck to mark the first minting of the Three Dollar denomination at the San Francisco Mint. (At least one Quarter and two or three Half Dollars were struck for a similar purpose in 1855 and this coin is identical in overall ‘fabric’ to those pieces. There is also a single proof 1854-S \$20 in the Smithsonian minted a year earlier to commemorate the first \$20 struck in S.F.)”

The existence of the proof 1855-S three dollar was apparently known to a few individuals by the third quarter of the 20th century. In *The United States \$3 Gold Pieces, 1854-1889*, Q. David Bowers writes:

“The known example was shown to one of the authors (Bowers) by John Struzan in the 1970s. It later was acquired by

David Stagg III, who sold it in 1983 to Jimmy Hayes and John Dannreuther, after which, graded as Proof-63, it appeared in Paramount’s section of Auction ‘85 [sic, actually Auction ‘84] as lot 881 and later was in several other sales, still as Proof-63, now certified by NGC.”

When Walter Breen penned his *Proof Encyclopedia*, published in 1977, the proof 1855-S three dollar gold piece was unknown to him, as it made its first public appearance in the 1984 Apostrophe Sale. Breen’s 1989 *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* does mention this specimen, and suggests a second proof example was known to him, but gives no further details, other than to say it was in a private collection. Similarly, Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth report that a single example was supposedly sent to the Mint Cabinet, but note “if the coin was sent, it no longer exists in the Smithsonian collection.” Until such time as the second piece makes its appearance, this proof 1855-S three dollar gold piece has to be considered unique.

A consortium of Jeff Garrett, John Dannreuther, and Jimmy Hayes purchased the newly discovered gold piece privately from San Francisco coin dealer David Stagg III at the 1983 San Diego ANA convention. Garrett later described it as “a supremely rare Proof that any serious collector would love to own.” Although he writes in *Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins 1795-1834* that the coin first surfaced at the 1984 ANA convention, it was actually publicly offered for the first time just



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prior to the convention, when it was consigned to Paramount's session of Auction '84, held the preceding weekend.

David Akers, associated with Paramount in 1984, wrote the first description of the 1855-S proof three dollar piece, the same coin that is offered here today. A keen numismatic observer, Akers commented:

“We have examined this coin for many hours, comparing it both to business strikes of the period and to proofs, including an 1855 Philadelphia Mint proof \$3. It is totally unlike any business strike 1855-S \$3 in overall appearance and texture (albeit from the same dies) and it is remarkably similar to the 1855 \$3 proofs struck at the Philadelphia Mint. In fact, if there were no ‘S’ mintmark on the reverse, one would immediately take it for an 1855 Philadelphia Mint proof.”

The next two auction appearances, in Superior's section of the Apostrophe Sales in 1988 and 1990, offered this piece as PR63 NGC. The catalogers essentially just reprinted the Akers description from 1984. In the January 2000 Rarities Sale, Bowers and Merena offered this 1855-S proof three dollar piece, now certified PR63 PCGS, according to the catalog. Little further information was offered about this coin in that catalog. Four years later, the coin appeared in lot 2025 of the 69th Anniversary Sale (Stack's, 10/2004). Graded PR63 PCGS, it realized a healthy price of \$276,000, to prominent New Jersey coin dealer Brian Hendelson.

The present coin was last offered more than 11 years ago, when it was featured in lot 7487 of the ANA Signature (Heritage, 8/2011). Graded PR64 Cameo NGC at that time, the coin realized a staggering \$1,322,500, a record price for any three dollar gold piece. It has been a highlight of Tom Bender's #2 ranked PCGS Registry Set, \$3 Gold With Major Varieties and 1855-S Proof (1854-1889) ever since.

## Physical Description

Noted gold specialist David Akers aptly described the physical appearance of this proof 1855-S three dollar gold piece in Auction '84:

“A very attractive, brilliant proof with a 100% full strike, a sharp, square edge and deep mirror fields that have considerable ‘orange peel.’ (This ‘orange peel’ texture is one of several characteristics of virtually all 19th Century U.S. proof gold coins.) The color is a rich greenish-gold and orange. There are some light hairlines on the surfaces but virtually no contact marks or abrasions. In front of the face and behind the head there is the ‘porosity’ (resulting from double striking and conforming exactly to the shape of the wreath on the reverse which received the metal flow) that is seen on almost all proof threes. From the standpoint of quality and overall appearance, this coin is very pleasing, better than most 1854 proofs we've seen as well as most of the 1856 and 1857 proofs.”

This piece exhibits every design detail exactly

# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF 1855-S THREE DOLLAR GOLD ISSUE

as it appeared in the dies, with obvious cameo contrast between the lustrous devices and fully mirrored fields. As others have noted, it has every outward appearance of a Philadelphia Mint proof, except of course for the S mintmark on the reverse. The high quality within the grade is confirmed by CAC. Call it “Supremely Rare” or a “Landmark Rarity,” the 1855-S is unique as a proof and it is arguably the single most important coin in the present sale. Add its fascinating numismatic history, and this specimen is a must for the advanced collector or Registry Set enthusiast. This coin is pictured on the PCGS Cert Verification page and is the plate coin for John Dannreuther’s *United States Proof Coins, Volume IV: Gold*. Population: 1 in 64 Cameo, 0 finer. CAC: 2 in 64, 0 finer (12/22).

*Ex: Reportedly held in a Sierra Foothills family collection since the time of issue; shown to Q. David Bowers by John Struzan in the 1970s; unknown intermediaries; David Stagg III; sold to a partnership of Jeff Garrett, John Dannreuther, and Jimmy Hayes at the 1983 ANA*

*Convention in San Diego for \$35,000; Auction ‘84 (Paramount, 7/1984), lot 881, realized \$41,250 to bidder #132; Superior Galleries; possibly sold to a Superior customer; Auction ‘88 (Superior, 7/1988), lot 345, realized \$52,800 to bidder #431; Martin Paul (The Rarities Group); Auction ‘90 (Superior, 8/1990), lot 1294, as PR63 NGC, realized \$85,200 to bidder #391; Ron Karp (New York Gold Mart); placed in a private collection in the 1998-1999 time frame; The Rarities Sale (Bowers and Merena, 1/2000), lot 340, bought in by the book; 69th Anniversary Sale (Stack’s, 10/2004), lot 2025, as PR63 PCGS, realized \$276,000; Brian Hendelson; ANA Signature (Heritage, 8/2011), lot 7487, as PR64 Cameo NGC (Cert # 1578367-003), realized \$1,322,500; currently ranked #2 Tom Bender PCGS Registry Set, \$3 Gold With Major Varieties and 1855-S Proof (1854-1889), as PR64 Cameo PCGS.*

**Note:** This pedigree was based on John Dannreuther’s list of Significant Examples in *United States Proof Coins, Volume IV: Gold*.

# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF 1855-S THREE DOLLAR GOLD ISSUE



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**UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF 1855-S THREE DOLLAR GOLD ISSUE**



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# Unique Gold Pattern: 1907 Plain Edge Wire Rim Indian Eagle

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

1907 Plain Edge Wire Rim Indian \$10, PR62  
Believed Unique With Plain Edge  
Possibly the First Indian Eagle Ever Struck  
Perhaps the Saint-Gaudens Specimen

The Only Saint-Gaudens Coin that Augustus Saint-Gaudens Ever Saw



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# UNIQUE GOLD PATTERN: 1907 PLAIN EDGE WIRE RIM INDIAN EAGLE

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1907 \$10 Wire Rim, Plain Edge, Judd-1902, formerly Judd-1774A, Pollock-1996, R.8, PR62 NGC.** It is believed that this specimen is the sole surviving representative of the plain edge 1907 Indian eagle pattern, although a second example may still exist. The plain edge coins were struck from newly created dies, before the segmented collar was finished. In a July 28, 2008, *Coin World* article, P. Scott Rubin compared this piece to the Ultra High Relief double eagle: “It is so closely related to another pattern that has always been collected with the regular U.S. coinage that it is hard to separate the two. The other coin is the 1907 Ultra High Relief Saint-Gaudens double eagle, or twenty dollar gold piece.”

The offering of this specimen in our January 2003 FUN sale was the first ever appearance of the plain edge pattern. No previous provenance exists for the coin. Roger W. Burdette remarked to Rubin that two plain edge patterns were struck in July 1907, with one sent to Treasury Secretary George B. Cortelyou and forwarded to President Theodore Roosevelt, and the other sent to Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Rubin remarked: “The latter information was startling to me and immediately made the 1907 plain edge eagle one of the most historically important numismatic items in history.”

Although we are unable to say which of the two coins the present specimen is, it is highly likely that this is the exact coin that was sent to Saint-Gaudens. **If it is the coin sent to Saint-Gaudens, then it has the special cachet of being the only actual coin of his design that**

**the sculptor personally saw.** All other Indian eagles and all of the Saint-Gaudens designed double eagles were struck after the artist died on August 3, 1907. On the other hand, if this is the example sent to Cortelyou and forwarded to Roosevelt, it is also historically important. In *Renaissance of American Coinage, 1905-1908*, Roger W. Burdette notes: “The experimental plain edge coin sent to the secretary [Cortelyou] was recorded as being returned to the mint on August 20; the Saint-Gaudens piece was still at Aspet.”

The historical numismatic importance of this coin must be emphasized. Augustus Saint-Gaudens died of cancer on August 3, 1907, before any other coins of his designs were minted. Either this piece or the single other plain edge coin is the only example of any of his designs that Augustus Saint-Gaudens saw in person before his untimely death. According to Rubin, “Not only do we have the world-famous artist Saint-Gaudens possessing one of these coins, but we have the other going to Roosevelt, who had taken such a personal interest in creating an artistic coinage that he was the person who prodded Saint-Gaudens to create the design. So even though we do not know the pedigree of the only known coin struck with a plain edge, we do know that the coin was either at one time in the possession of Saint-Gaudens or Roosevelt. Not a bad pedigree either way!”

After a visit to the Smithsonian Institution in 1905 where he viewed an exhibit of Greek coins, Roosevelt commissioned world-renowned sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens to redesign the eagle (ten dollar gold piece)

# UNIQUE GOLD PATTERN: 1907 PLAIN EDGE WIRE RIM INDIAN EAGLE

and double eagle (twenty dollar gold piece). For the obverse of the eagle, Saint-Gaudens chose a head of Liberty that he had originally prepared for his Sherman Monument (which one can still see at the southern terminus of New York City's Central Park). Alice Butler posed as the model for this rendition of Liberty, which Saint-Gaudens based on a Hellenistic wingless Liberty on the temple of Zeus Soter at Pergamon. Although the sculptor originally placed an olive wreath on Liberty's head, Roosevelt insisted that it be replaced by an Indian feathered war bonnet. The President also switched Saint-Gaudens' original reverse design for the eagle with that for his double eagle, the former coin now displaying a majestic eagle striding left with a bundle of arrows and an olive branch in its claws. Thirteen stars around the upper obverse periphery, the date below Liberty's portrait, and the usual statutory inscriptions on the reverse rounded out the design of what would become famous as the Indian eagle. It should be noted that, at this juncture, the design did not include the motto IN GOD WE TRUST because Roosevelt felt the presence of the Deity's name on coinage was, in the words of Walter Breen (1988), "a debasement amounting to blasphemy."

The surfaces have a fine-grain sandblast finish and, of course, are textured with a satiny finish. A few shallow luster grazes are faintly evident, but the only mark of any note is in the reverse field below the M in UNUM. The physical appearance of this plain edge piece is different from other Wire Rim Indian eagles. Rubin notes: "the other interesting thing about this coin is the appearance of the coin itself. It

is quite different in appearance than all other 1907 Indian Head, Wire Rim eagles. For one thing the coin has a satin surface, not matte or the surface of a normal circulation strike. Secondly, after examining the photos of the only known example ... I noticed that the striking is very different than the rare 46 stars on edge variety. Most of the strike looks weaker on the plain edge coin. This is most apparent in the details of the Indian's headdress on the obverse and the eagle's feathers on the reverse. Yet, other parts of the strike look sharper on the plain edge issue, such as the Y in LIBERTY and the date"

Burdette has shown through his research that the standard Wire Rim eagles with stars on the edge, as well as the Rolled Rim pieces, were made for collectors on orders from President Roosevelt. That means that the two plain edge coins were not only the first Indian eagles ever minted, but that they are also the only true patterns of this issue, alongside four or five other examples that Burdette describes with "irregular stars" on the edge.

Few coins in American numismatic history are entitled to be called unique. This single 1907 Wire Rim Indian eagle with its plain edge is arguably even more important than the Ultra High Relief double eagles, and it deserves a place of honor in an advanced collection of U.S. coin rarities.

*Ex: 2003 FUN Auction (Heritage, 1/2003), lot 8914, where it brought \$195,500; Stack's (7/2008), lot 4241, where it brought \$322,000.*

**UNIQUE GOLD PATTERN: 1907 PLAIN EDGE WIRE RIM INDIAN EAGLE**





**UNIQUE GOLD PATTERN: 1907 PLAIN EDGE WIRE RIM INDIAN EAGLE**



# Unique 1916 Pattern Standing Liberty Quarter

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

Unique 1916 Pattern Standing Liberty Quarter,  
Judd-1795 (now Judd-1989), Ex: Mc Adoo Estate



# UNIQUE 1916 PATTERN STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1916 25C Standing Liberty Quarter Dollar, Judd-1795 (now Judd-1989), Pollock-2050, R.8, PR65 NGC.** Very close to the adopted design for MacNeil's 1916 quarter, but the obverse shows several differences. Struck in silver with a reeded edge.

Hermon MacNeil was primarily known as a sculptor, although he had designed several medals. This was the same situation as Adolph Weinman, designer of the Mercury dime and Walking Liberty half. Since both were sculptors first, they brought a three-dimensional way of thinking to coinage design, and the coins reflect this different approach. Generally speaking, little is known today of the patterns created for the Standing Liberty quarter. Few documents survive, and most of what we actually do know is derived from direct examination of the coins themselves. However, there is actually considerable documentation about this particular coin. As pointed out on the USPatterns.com website, this piece was misdescribed in both Judd and Pollock. It

is not the regular dies before the designer's initial 'M' was added. It is actually struck from completely different dies. On this piece, the olive branch in Liberty's hand is slightly different from the one used on the regular issue. Also, the coin actually had two leaves scratched off of it. This piece is apparently the one mentioned in an October 22, 1916 letter addressed to A.M. Joyce, Superintendent of the U.S. Mint which is excerpted below.

"I am returning to you herewith two of the four sample quarters you sent me, one being blank on one side with the reverse design on the other, and the other being your number 4, as submitted in your letter of October 20th.

"With one slight alteration, the design as it appears on No. 4 is acceptable. The slight alteration referred to is the elimination of the two leaves in the angle of the letter 'L' in the word 'Liberty'. You will notice that I have scratched these two leaves off the coin I am returning to you. With this slight change you may go ahead and make up the dies for the finished coin. I have kept here

# UNIQUE 1916 PATTERN STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER

No. 2 and No. 3, which you can charge to me.”

The surfaces are interesting and quite unlike those seen on any other Standing Liberty quarter. The obverse is softly struck and granular, obviously from having been struck from a matte proof die. It would appear that the Mint personnel did not have sufficient striking pressure to completely strike up the obverse on this piece--not too surprising since this was one of the first coins struck. The reverse, on the other hand, has a completely different texture than the obverse. There is none of the matte finish on that side; in fact, the fields actually have a bright, semi-reflective appearance that is intermixed with satiny luster. However, once again, the striking details are incomplete on the eagle's wings. Business strikes later in the year show better definition than this coin, but the texture, overall appearance, and design modifications seen on this piece give it a singular place in 20th century numismatics. Which brings us to this coin's uniqueness. It is unique in two ways: it is the only surviving pattern of this particular

design (we know that one other piece was ground down with a wire brush to determine wear patterns), and it is the only proof Standing Liberty quarter certified by either of the major services.

Much of the original brilliance remains, but probably 40-50% of each side shows mottled, deep golden and russet toning that is scattered about in a seemingly random manner. The only identifying marks on either side are the above mentioned leaves that were scratched off by Superintendent Joyce.

*Ex: William Mc Adoo Estate; bought from the Mc Adoo Estate by Lester Merkin; memo'ed by Merkin to a part-time dealer in Michigan for \$5000 in the early 1970s; dealer offered the coin to Jay Cline at that time, Cline declined; sold to Jimmy Hayes; Hayes Sale (Stack's, 10/85), lot 48, purchased out of the Hayes Sale by Jay Cline for \$19,000; photographed as the cover coin of Cline's third edition of Standing Liberty Quarters.*

# UNIQUE 1916 PATTERN STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER



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# UNIQUE 1916 PATTERN STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER



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# Unique Branch Mint Proof: 1855-S Seated Liberty Quarter

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

1855-S Seated Liberty Quarter, PR64  
Unique Branch Mint Proof, A Numismatic Masterpiece  
Believed To Be the First San Francisco Mint Quarter



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# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1855-S SEATED LIBERTY QUARTER

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1855-S 25C Arrows PR64 NGC. CAC.** Ex: Golden Gate Collection. A provenance dating back to the time of issue heightens the historical importance of this numismatic masterpiece, the unique proof 1855-S quarter dollar, believed to be the first quarter dollar minted in San Francisco. Nearly everyone who has handled this specimen has stated that it is unique, and indeed, it appears to be a one-of-a-kind item. This is only its seventh auction appearance since 1886, and it is believed to be the piece that San Francisco Mint Superintendent Robert Aiken Birdsall preserved in 1855.

Every aspect of the strike is full, save for slight weakness on some border dentils. Liberty's head and foot are both complete, with bold horizontal and vertical shield lines on the obverse. Similarly, the reverse has complete details throughout, including sharp claws and bold feather details. The surfaces are light ivory with splashes of delicate gold and pale blue toning. Both sides are nicely mirrored with satiny devices and reflective fields. Those fields are less deeply mirrored than on Philadelphia proofs, but far beyond any accidental creation through mere die polishing. The fields and devices meet crisply and concisely, without any blurring or merging of the details. Representing the Briggs 1-A die marriage, both dies are new with no signs of

deterioration, further supporting the "first quarter dollar minted" tradition.

In the August 1998 Rarities Sale, Q. David Bowers provided notes about William W. Long. He operated the "Museum Hotel" in Philadelphia during the 1850s and issued his own tokens that advertised a variety of entertainment options, such as a pistol and rifle gallery, billiards, bowling, bagatelle, and shuffleboard, as well as liquors, oysters, segars [sic], a refectory, and a museum. Items from his museum were offered in two auctions held by Moses Thomas & Sons in the 1880s.

In their 1965 sale of the Grant Pierce Collection, Stack's called this quarter dollar "one of the most interesting pieces of Americana sold in this century." We agree today, and further consider this offering to be one of the most historically important numismatic items from the San Francisco Mint.

*Ex: Robert Aiken Birdsall, San Francisco Mint Superintendent; W.W. Long Museum (Philadelphia); Dr. Edward Maris (H.P. Smith, 6/1886); Grant Pierce Collection (Stack's, 5/1965), lot 655; Donald Groves Collection (Stack's, 11/1974), lot 440; Auction '86 (Paramount, 7/1986), lot 1615; The Rarities Sale (Bowers and Merena, 8/1998), lot 179; Richmond Collection (David Lawrence, 3/2005), lot 1524.*



# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1855-S SEATED LIBERTY QUARTER



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE BRANCH MINT PROOF: 1855-S SEATED LIBERTY QUARTER



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# Unique Double-Headed 1859 Indian Cent Pattern

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

Unique Judd-229a, Snow-PT5  
Double-Headed 1859 Indian Cent



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE DOUBLE-HEADED 1859 INDIAN CENT PATTERN

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1859 P1C Indian Cent, Judd-229a, Snow-PT5, Unique--Dual Obverse Mule--MS62 PCGS.** This unusual double-obverse 1859 Indian cent, struck in copper-nickel with a plain edge, was unknown to the numismatic community prior to the year 2000. Although its discovery was too late to appear in the Pollock pattern reference, it was included in the 8th and 9th editions of Judd. It was the subject of a December 2000 article by Chris Pilliod in *Longacre's Ledger*, and later appeared in Rick Snow's *Flying Eagle & Indian Cent Attribution Guide, 2nd Edition, Volume 2* as Snow-PT5.

Rick Snow wrote, "the coin [Snow-PT5] is presently unique, and no other 1859 coins have yet been located with either of the dies. ... Neither of the dies are early die state, indicating the possibility of a large production struck prior to this coin that may have been rounded up and destroyed." In other words, the press operator detected the error, and the contents of the bin were melted. The present piece survived, perhaps retained as a souvenir by the coiner.

According to Snow, the Flying Eagle cents

struck in 1858 used the obverse die as the anvil die. When production of Indian cents began in 1859, the obverse die became the hammer die. It is normally impossible to pair two obverse dies in the same press, but because die blank configurations were changed in 1859, a die made from an 1858 obverse blank could be struck with a die created from an 1859 obverse blank. This is apparently what happened.

Diagnostics for Judd-229a include a minute raised die dot between the BE in LIBERTY on one side, and a second raised die dot on the opposite side, to the west of the ear lobe. One of the dies is from a hub with a broken R in AMERICA. The other die has an intact R in AMERICA.

The present piece is sharply struck and has no indication of wear. The dies are rotated approximately 10 degrees clockwise from medal turn. The borders are sun-gold, while the fields have mellowed in olive-green hues. Carbon is negligible for the grade, and there are no abrasions.

*Ex: Chicago Mid-American coin convention, 6/2000; John R. Schuch; Superior, 10/2000, lot 4017A; Legend Numismatics; private collection.*

# UNIQUE DOUBLE-HEADED 1859 INDIAN CENT PATTERN



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# UNIQUE DOUBLE-HEADED 1859 INDIAN CENT PATTERN



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# Unique 1916 Mercury Dime Pattern

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

1916 Mercury Dime Pattern, PR64  
Judd-1984, The Only Known Example  
Ex: Newcomer-Bareford-Hayes



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Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE 1916 MERCURY DIME PATTERN

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1916 10C Mercury Dime, Judd-1984, Pollock-2044, Unique, PR64 PCGS. CAC. Ex: Simpson.** The overall design closely resembles that of the regular-issue Mercury dime, but there are numerous differences in the finer details. The bust truncation is flatter at the front and more curved toward the back. The letters in LIBERTY are arranged asymmetrically. The lowest horizontal bands on the fasces show two splits instead of one. The reverse legends and design elements are closer to the borders, and the branch and leaves are noticeably different than the regular issue. Struck in silver with a reeded edge.

The nature of these 1916 patterns is distinct from that of their 19th century counterparts. Roger Burdette explains in *Renaissance of American Coinage, 1916-1921*:

“The year 1916 saw the largest group of experimental (or pattern) coins produced by the U.S. Mint since the late 1870s. Unlike most nineteenth century patterns -- samples intended to show officials what a potential coin design would look like before a design was accepted -- the designs for the three subsidiary coins had been approved before any of the experimental coins were made. The 1916 coins were intended to show the accepted designs in the final forms immediately prior to commencement of production. This affected the coinage in three ways: first, with one documented exception, the experimental coins were not intentionally made with special finishing such as sandblast or brilliant proof. Second, they were struck at ordinary production pressures on normal planchets rather than at high pressure on specially prepared blanks. Third, they were ‘experimental coins’ and

were expected to be examined by the mint and the artists for their faults rather than their virtues.”

In the case of this particular 1916 dime pattern, Judd-1984, Pollock-2044, it is believed the coins were actually minted in large quantities and originally intended for circulation. Burdette, writing for USPatterns.com, explains that the designs were approved around August 20th, 1916. He adds that they were:

“Intended for circulation with up to 2,000,000 made between August 30 and September 6 on order of Acting Director Frank Chaffin. Production halted when tests by AT&T discovered the coins were too thick at the rim (due to ‘fin’ or ‘wire rim’) and stuck in their phone pay boxes. Nearly all condemned and melted. At least 50 specimens left the Mint for testing, and the Director’s office; 40 accounted for as returned; others not located.”

This is the only known example. Perhaps the others found their way into circulation and have been lost to time. Perhaps this is the only one that escaped being returned and melted. Satiny silver-gray surfaces exhibit wisps of golden color in a distinct pattern that simplifies attribution. Clearly well-struck. This piece has been called the most famous and desirable of the experimental 1916 dimes. Be prepared to bid accordingly.

*Ex: Waldo C. Newcomer Collection; Wayte Raymond; ANA Convention Sale (Abe Kosoff, 8/1958), lot 74; Harold Bareford Collection (Stack’s 10/1981), lot 318; Jimmy Hayes Collection (Stack’s 10/1985), lot 30; Auction ‘88 (Superior, 7/1988), lot 105; Elite Coin Auction (Superior Galleries, 7/2003), lot 491; Samuel J. Bergard Collection (Stack’s 7/2008), lot 4248.*



# UNIQUE 1916 MERCURY DIME PATTERN



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# UNIQUE 1916 MERCURY DIME PATTERN



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# Unique 1922 High Relief Peace Dollar Pattern

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

1922 High Relief Peace Dollar, SP64  
Unique Sandblasted, Antique Finish, Judd-2018  
Ex: Baker Estate



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# UNIQUE 1922 HIGH RELIEF PEACE DOLLAR PATTERN

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

## **1922 \$1 High Relief, Sandblasted Antique Finish, Judd-2018, R.8, SP64 PCGS Secure.**

Judd-2018 is a recently discovered trial striking of the 1922 High Relief Peace dollar, struck in business-strike format and first reported by David W. Lange in 2007. It is one of the rarest die combinations from 1921 to 1922, a time period when the Mint experimented extensively with the relief of Anthony de Francisci's artistic Peace dollar design, in sandblast, satin, proof, and business-strike finishes. Judd-2018 combines George T. Morgan's slightly reworked 1922 High Relief obverse, which was later used to strike the 1922 High Relief proof issues, with the old reverse design used on the 1921 Peace dollars (which were struck in high relief). Only three examples of Judd-2018 have been identified. Heritage Auctions is privileged to offer the finest-known example of this rare pattern issue, from the estate of Mint Director Raymond T. Baker, in this important offering.

## **The Judd-2018 Trial Striking**

High relief 1922 Peace dollars have been known to specialists since the 1920s, when Farran Zerbe exhibited a proof example in his Money of the World Collection, but no business-strike examples were identified until recent times. In 1974, researcher R.W. Julian found documentation in the General Services Administration in Philadelphia that revealed a previously unknown trial mintage of 35,401 business-strike 1922 High Relief Peace dollars that took place between January 5 and January 23, 1922. Reportedly, four obverse and nine reverse dies were used to accomplish the

small trial mintage. The coins were struck on regular-production toggle coin presses, not the medal press. The high relief of the design required extremely high striking pressure to bring up the details of the devices, resulting in an unacceptable rate of die failure. All these trial strikes were believed to be destroyed, but it seems a few were sent to Mint and Treasury officials in Washington, D.C. for inspection, escaping the wholesale melting of the rest of the mintage. All three Judd-2018 survivors were apparently struck from the same die pair, suggesting they were all struck and sent out at about the same time, but more study is needed to confirm this. Julian reported his findings to Q. David Bowers in 1993, and they discussed a single VF example of the 1922 High Relief Peace dollar known to them that had a non-proof finish, a possible survivor from the mysterious 1922 trial striking. After further experimentation with a 1922 Medium Relief Peace dollar issue, Mint officials determined only a low-relief Peace dollar design could satisfy the requirements of high-speed business-strike coinage. Most of the experimental trial pieces were melted for recoinage shortly afterward.

## **Survivors of Judd-2018 Come to Light**

In 2007, numismatist David W. Lange examined a 1922 High Relief Peace dollar found in an otherwise unremarkable collection of silver dollars. Lange noticed the reverse design was slightly different from that used on the high relief proof issues of that year and determined the coin represented a previously unknown variety. The discovery coin made its debut auction appearance in lot 8545

# UNIQUE 1922 HIGH RELIEF PEACE DOLLAR PATTERN

of Stack's January 2008 Americana sale, incorrectly designated a satin proof by NGC, as the new research on Judd-2018 was not widely available at the time. This same coin appeared in two later Stack's auctions in 2008 and 2009 (see roster below). Next, the coin offered here surfaced in a Goldbergs auction in 2014 (see section on The Present Coin below). More recently, a circulated, heavily polished example designated Specimen, VF Details appeared in lot 4578 of Heritage's August 2015 ANA Signature. Naturally, one wonders if the Heritage coin is the same example Julian and Bowers referred to in the 1990s. No other specimens have been discovered.

## The Present Coin

Judd-2018 was unknown in 2005, when Roger Burdette published his excellent *Renaissance of American Coinage, 1916-1921*. However, Burdette published a letter on page 219 of his reference from Philadelphia Mint Superintendent Freas Styer to Mint Director Baker that reveals the origin of the present coin:

“Sir:

“As per your request I am enclosing herewith two Peace dollars, one of the coinage of 1921 and one of 1922, with reduced border, sand blasted and finished to show all the details of the work.

“I am also enclosing two other pieces, one of the coinage of 1921 and one of 1922, both being bright pieces, for comparison.

“I will thank you to return these coins when they have served your purpose.

“We have just tried a stack of twenty pieces of the coin with the reduced border against twenty coins of the old design and find very little difference between the two stacks, the ‘Peace’ dollars being very slightly higher than the old.

“For your information will say the dies shipped to San Francisco and Denver are similar to those from which the coins of 1922 herewith enclosed were struck.

“Respectfully,”

We believe this coin, from the estate of Mint Director Raymond T. Baker, is the second piece referenced in the letter above, the 1922 High Relief Peace dollar that was sandblasted and treated with an antique charcoal finish to accent the fine details of the design. A specimen of the 1921 High Relief Peace dollar, also from Baker's estate, was offered in a Stack's Bowers auction in 2014. That coin features the same antique finish as the present piece, a finish that is unique to these two specimens in the entire Peace dollar series. Undoubtedly, that piece

# UNIQUE 1922 HIGH RELIEF PEACE DOLLAR PATTERN

is the first coin mentioned in Styer's letter. It seems likely that the last two coins in the letter were a representative of the regular 1921 Peace dollar coinage and another specimen of Judd-2018, without the antique finish. The "bright" Judd-2018 may possibly be either David Lange's discovery coin or the mysterious VF Details example in the 2015 Heritage auction. In its first auction appearance in lot 1345 of the Pre-Long Beach Sale (Goldberg Auctions, 6/2014), the present coin was accompanied by an envelope from Baker's estate with the following typed message:

“INDICATOR REGISTERED 104,001  
PIECES STRUCK WHEN THIS COIN  
TAKEN/RAYMOND T. BAKER/SEC.  
OF TREASURY 1922”

Clearly, this envelope was not referring to the present coin, as Judd-2018 had a mintage of only 35,401 pieces. It might well have been the original envelope for the third coin mentioned in Styer's letter, however, the regular 1921 Peace dollar. It seems likely that the envelopes were inadvertently switched at some point. The dies sent to the branch mints mentioned in Styer's letter were recalled by telegram before any coins were struck.

The design elements of this coin are noticeably sharper than expected from a High Relief business-strike issue, if not quite as full as those on the 1922 High Relief proofs. Just a touch of softness shows on Liberty's hair and the eagle's feathers in the centers. The rims are slightly

reduced and the diagnostic short ray through the N in ONE is boldly rendered. The devices have a three-dimensional sculptural quality. The basined surfaces are well-preserved, with a few minor ticks in the hair the only marks of note. The antique charcoal finish was partially brushed off at the Mint, leaving an outline of amber patina around all the design elements. The overall presentation is most attractive. As the finest-known example of this extremely rare pattern issue, and the only one with the unique antique finish, this offering represents an especially important opportunity for pattern collectors and Peace dollar specialists.

## Roster of Judd-2018, 1922 High Relief Peace Dollar Patterns

This roster was compiled with the assistance of Roger W. Burdette, David W. Lange, and Saul Teichman.

**1. SP64 PCGS Secure.** Mint Director Raymond T. Baker; Pre-Long Beach Sale (Goldberg Auctions, 6/2014), lot 1345, realized \$102,813; ANA Rarities Night (Stack's Bowers, 8/2015), lot 10165. The present coin.

**2. Satin PR60 NGC.** Americana Sale (Stack's, 1/2008), lot 8545; Keusch, Snow, and Del Zorro Collections (Stack's, 11/2008), lot 3865; 74th Anniversary Sale (Stack's, 11/2009), lot 1687, realized \$44,850.

**3. PCGS Genuine, VF Details.** Possibly the 1922 High Relief Peace dollar known to Q. David Bowers and R.W. Julian in the early 1990s; ANA Signature (Heritage, 8/2015), lot 4578, realized \$37,600.

# UNIQUE 1922 HIGH RELIEF PEACE DOLLAR PATTERN



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE 1922 HIGH RELIEF PEACE DOLLAR PATTERN



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



# Unique 1792 Quarter Dollar Pattern Obverse & Reverse Die Trials

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

1792 Quarter Dollar Die Trials  
Judd-A1792 Eagle-on-Globe Design  
Unique White Metal Splashers



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# UNIQUE 1792 QUARTER DOLLAR PATTERN OBVERSE & REVERSE DIE TRIALS

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1792 P25C Quarter Dollar, Obverse and Reverse Die Trials, AU53 PCGS / XF45 NGC.** Following numismatic tradition that dates back to the 1882 Bushnell sale, this pair of white metal dies trials is offered together:

**1792 Pattern Quarter Dollar, Obverse Dies Trial, Judd-A1792-1, Pollock-3001, R.8, AU53 PCGS. CAC.** Ex: Simpson. 480.8 grains. A female head of Liberty faces right in a plain field with LIBERTY above and 1792 below. Uniface obverse struck in white metal. Deep steel-gray surfaces exhibit areas of lighter gray with scattered marks of little consequence.

**1792 Pattern Quarter Dollar, Reverse Die Trial, Judd-A1792-2, Pollock-3004, R.8, XF45 NGC.** Ex: Simpson. 432.9 grains. An eagle is perched on a globe with the inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA within a border of 87 stars. Uniface reverse struck in white metal. NGC identifies this piece as 43% lead, 39% iron, and 16% tin. Steel and light gray surfaces host faint scratches that radiate from the center.

These patterns are called quarter dollars and are attributed to Joseph Wright, the designer and engraver who may have been chosen as the chief engraver of the Philadelphia Mint had he

not succumbed to the yellow fever epidemic that swept the city in the late summer of 1793. Joseph Wright was the son of well-known portrait painter Patience Lovell Wright, and he was married to Sarah Vandervoort, who may have been the model for the obverse. Sarah also perished in the 1793 yellow fever epidemic. Author Monroe Fabian (*Joseph Wright American Artist, 1756-1793*) observes an “uncanny resemblance” between the portrait on the obverse and Mrs. Wright, who appeared in an unfinished family portrait that Joseph Wright painted shortly before his death.

In the past, these pieces have been called pattern cents or half eagles. A contemporary letter dated September 11, 1793, incidentally the delivery date of the 1793 Liberty Cap cents that Wright also designed, was located in the National Archives and specifically calls these “essays of a quarter dollar.”

*Ex: Charles Bushnell (S.H. and H. Chapman, 6/1882), lot 1765; S.H. and H. Chapman (5/1883); T. Harrison Garrett; Robert Garrett; John Work Garrett; Johns Hopkins University (Bowers and Ruddy, 3/1981), lot 2354; Bowers and Ruddy (Rare Coin Review #39, page 10); Bowers and Merena (1/1999), lot 1011; Northeast Numismatics (Coin World, 7/29/2002); Southern Collection.*

# UNIQUE 1792 QUARTER DOLLAR PATTERN OBVERSE & REVERSE DIE TRIALS



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE 1792 QUARTER DOLLAR PATTERN OBVERSE & REVERSE DIE TRIALS



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE 1792 QUARTER DOLLAR PATTERN OBVERSE & REVERSE DIE TRIALS



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# UNIQUE 1792 QUARTER DOLLAR PATTERN OBVERSE & REVERSE DIE TRIALS



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# Unique 1915 Octagonal Pan-Pac Fifty Obverse and Reverse Hubs Trial

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

1915 Octagonal Pan-Pac Fifty, SP65 Red  
Obverse and Reverse Hubs Trial  
Unique Judd-A1915-3



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE 1915 OCTAGONAL PAN-PAC FIFTY OBERSE AND REVERSE HUBS TRIAL

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1915 DT\$50 Panama-Pacific Octagonal Fifty Dollar, Judd-A1915-3, Unique, SP65 Red PCGS. CAC.** The octagonal 1915 Panama-Pacific fifty dollar gold pieces were intended to capture the romance and historic appeal of the old fifty dollar slugs issued by the United States Assay Office in San Francisco from 1851-1853. The design was conceived by California-born artist Robert Aitken. The obverse features the helmeted goddess Minerva (who also appears on the arms of the State of California) inside a circle with the legend UNITED.STATES.OF.AMERICA. above and FIFTY.DOLLARS. below. The reverse displays an owl (symbolic of wisdom) perched on a branch of western pine inside a circle with the legend PANAMA.PACIFIC.EXPOSITION. above and SAN FRANCISCO. below. Dolphins appear in the angles of the octagonal corners, outside the circle on both sides.

The present piece is a unique hubs trial of these dies struck on an oversized copper planchet. It was probably in the fabulous collection of Virgil Brand for many years, and made its only auction appearance as lot 2249 of the Brand-Lichtenfels, et al Collections (Kreisberg/Schulman, 3/1964):

“\$50 PANAMA-PACIFIC TRIAL PIECE. To test the die prior to the striking in gold an impression of the \$50

Octagonal die both obverse and reverse was struck on a round copper planchet (60 mm in diameter). We have never seen any other such trial piece offered. Possibly unique. Perfect condition. Mounted in a custom plastic case. PLATE.”

Of course, the cataloger of this lot misspoke slightly, as the impression was taken from the hubs used to impress the die and not the die itself. Thus, this piece shows the mirror image of the devices that actually appear on the coins. Razor-sharp definition is evident throughout and the well-preserved surfaces of this impressive Gem radiate vibrant mint luster. A medium-size carbon spot at 3 o'clock on the obverse is the only mark of note. Anthony Swiatek purchased this hubs trial from Sol Kaplan at a coin show in Shaker Heights, Ohio in 1971. It remained off the market until we handled it as part of our January 2015 FUN Signature sale. For those who missed out, here is another rare opportunity to add this unique hubs trial to a fine collection of commemorative coins or Panama-Pacific International Exposition material.

*Ex: Brand-Lichtenfels, et al Collections (Kreisberg/Schulman, 3/1964), lot 2249; Sol Kaplan (1971); Anthony Swiatek; FUN Signature (Heritage, 1/2015), lot 4508; Coins and Banknotes Auction (Bonhams, 12/2016), lot 236.*



# UNIQUE 1915 OCTAGONAL PAN-PAC FIFTY OBERVERSE AND REVERSE HUBS TRIAL



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE 1915 OCTAGONAL PAN-PAC FIFTY OBTVERSE AND REVERSE HUBS TRIAL



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# Unique Platinum Specimen 1814 Half Dollar

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

Judd-44 1814 Half Dollar in Platinum  
Unique 'Platina' or 'P-Punched'  
Brand-Judd Specimen



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE PLATINUM SPECIMEN 1814 HALF DOLLAR

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1814 E50C Half Dollar, Judd-44, Pollock-48, R.8, NGC (No Grade Assigned).** Dies of O-107 variety, but struck in platinum with a lettered edge. After striking, 33 backward letters “P” were punched into the obverse, and the reverse has “Platina” engraved in script in the space under the scroll. Of the three 1814 half dollars in platinum reported by Judd, only this specimen has the punched letters and engraving, making it unique in that regard.

The holder describes this piece as the “Judd Plate Coin,” and it was pictured in earlier editions of Judd (who also previously owned the coin), though more recent editions substitute images of the test-cut Smithsonian specimen. The existence of the third specimen is more speculative and sourced to a Walter Breen catalog write-up for a 1974 Pine Tree auction. It is almost certain that the 1814 platinum half dollar, unlike most of the other Judd-listed patterns for the pre-steampower U.S. Mint era, was struck in the same year as its date. A summation of the evidence is that the die state and edge lettering are consistent with an 1814 origin, and that the die state is less advanced than what is seen on a number of silver O-107 1814 half dollars. A more complete listing of the die state evidence can be found in Bowers and Merena’s Logan/Steinberg catalog from November 2002.

Beyond the die state evidence, the newness and relatively low value of platinum in 1814 would have made it a legitimate metallurgical test for the U.S. Mint at the time; the metal was not extremely valuable until the late 1800s, when it became established as precious. (When the United States made its first official platinum coinage in 1997, it consisted of the bullion series of platinum American Eagles.)

NGC chose not to assign a grade to this pattern specimen, though the Bowers and Merena cataloger rated it as “AU-50.” The numerous obverse punches have impacted the luminous reverse, and a staple-type scratch crosses between stars 5 and 6 on the softly struck obverse. As one of the great rarities in the pattern series, however, condition is all but irrelevant for this example, and the overall eye appeal is decent considering what the coin is.

*Ex: R. Coulton Davis; George Woodside; Virgil M. Brand; Dr. J. Hewitt Judd; Abe Kosoff (1962 Illustrated History Auction), lot 73; Pine Tree (9/1974), lot 1419; possibly Jelinski (per Seventh Edition of Judd); Auction ‘88 (Rarcoa), lot 1845; 1991 ANA Auction (Bowers and Merena, 8/1991), lot 2619; Gerald Schertz; Russell J. Logan (1994 Private Treaty); Logan/Steinberg (Bowers and Merena, 11/2002), lot 2316, which realized \$50,600.*

# UNIQUE PLATINUM SPECIMEN 1814 HALF DOLLAR



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# UNIQUE PLATINUM SPECIMEN 1814 HALF DOLLAR



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# Unique 1971-S Eisenhower Dollar Prototype Specimen

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

1971-S Eisenhower Dollar Prototype, SP67  
One of Three Known Working Prototypes  
Only Specimen With This Obverse



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



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# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1971-S \$1 Prototype Strike, DMR-039/ODV-011/RDV-007 SP67 PCGS.** Only three working prototypes for the Eisenhower dollar have been identified by researchers and certified by the grading services since the popular design was introduced more than 50 years ago. The prototypes were all struck in 1971, as part of the design process for the new dollar coin, but they were only discovered many years later. The coin offered here -- the Chatham prototype -- is unique, as it features a different obverse from the other two prototypes. Robert Ezerman, head researcher for the prestigious Ike Group, notes this coin is “decidedly unique and more primitive” than the other prototypes, and “should generate greater interest.” Last year, Heritage Auctions offered one of the other two prototypes in our January 2022 FUN Signature. That piece, the SP67 PCGS Lydston-Frohman specimen, realized \$264,000 after spirited bidding. We expect this more elusive example to exceed even that remarkable total when it crosses the auction block in January.

## **The Eisenhower Dollar**

On October 25, 1969, Congressman Bob Casey of Texas proposed a bill to authorize a dollar coin that would commemorate the landing of Apollo XI on the moon in July of 1969, and the passing of President Dwight David Eisenhower four months earlier. No special legislation was required to change the design of the dollar, since it had been more than 25 years since the last design change for the denomination (the

Peace dollar had been introduced in 1921).

Eisenhower was a personal hero of Chief Engraver Frank Gasparro, who designed the obverse portrait of the new dollar from a sketch of the former president he had made in 1945. The reverse was inspired by the Apollo XI crew mission patch, originally designed by astronaut Michael Collins. It depicted a “peaceful” eagle with an olive branch landing on the moon. Gasparro started work on the dies over Thanksgiving weekend in 1970 and President Richard Nixon signed the “Bank Holding Act” on December 31st which provided for the striking of the coins.

Business-strike Eisenhower dollars were struck on copper-nickel clad planchets beginning in 1971. The original intention was to produce three mintages of special coins for collectors to accompany the regular-issue copper-nickel coinage: a 40% silver clad mintage in proof format, a 40% silver clad striking in Uncirculated condition, and a copper-nickel clad proof mintage. In the end, the copper-nickel proofs were deemed impractical, and only the two 40% silver issues were actually struck. Business-strike Eisenhower dollars were struck at the Philadelphia and Denver Mints, while the 40% silver special issues were struck in San Francisco. The silver-clad Uncirculated coins were struck in San Francisco, and shipped in bags to the New York Assay Office for packaging and mailing. They were distributed in Blue Packs, which were pliofilm packages placed in blue envelopes, and sold for \$3.00. They were released for sale, with “First Strike”



# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN

ceremonies held in San Francisco on March 31, 1971. The silver clad proofs were not included in the proof sets, but were placed in plastic containers inside a brown, wood-grained box, and sold individually for a price of \$10.00. Order blanks were made available to the public on June 18th, and orders were limited to five proof and five Uncirculated coins per person.

## Origin of the Prototypes

The prototypes were completely unknown to the numismatic community until the first one was discovered in 2008, and their origins remain shrouded in mystery today. Research on the prototypes has been hampered in recent years, as access to the National Archives facility in Maryland has been limited, due to the recent pandemic. However, we have formed two plausible theories to explain their creation and later release to the public in their official Mint packaging.

### 1) The Philadelphia Mint Theory

On January 19, 1971, the U.S. Mint issued a press release announcing that:

“For the first time in its history, the U.S. Mint is permitting the news media to witness the trial strike of a coin as well as the designing and engraving process. On Monday, January 25, 1971, at 11:00 AM, the first trial strikes of the new dollar coin bearing the likeness of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower will be made at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“The Eisenhower dollar coin, provided for in the 1970 Coinage Law, is the first dollar coin to be produced since 1935. Because of the great public interest in its issuance, the Director of the Mint, Mary T. Brooks, is inviting the news media to see the preliminary production process.”

Another press release, dated January 25, 1971, confirmed that Eisenhower dollar prototypes were struck in 40% silver that day:

“Several trial working dies of the obverse and reverse of the Eisenhower dollar coin have been prepared by the Mint’s engraver.

“Because dies of identical design may vary in height of relief and shape of the basin (background), a succession of preliminary strikes are necessary to determine the best combination of dies to use to produce the best coin within the limitations of coining press equipment and die tools.

“For example, too high relief, or improper shape of the basin would result in improper flow of the metal in the blanks and consequent damage to the dies or the coining press itself. (Too much pressure would be required to bring up all of the design elements.)

“The 40% silver blanks used today for the trial strikes of the Eisenhower dollar coin were especially prepared by the

# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN

coiner, and the strikes you are witnessing involve the final step in determining the best combination of dies, collars and shape of the upset blank.

“However, the prototype dies in use are not the final product. The engraver still has several weeks work to do with the preparation of official master dies and hubs. Such work involves the painstaking removal of every tiny defect and the sharpening up of each design detail.

“After final approval of the master dies and hubs, this year’s master hubs will be made and will be used in the production of all working dies for 1971.

“All trial strikes must take place in the presence of the Mint Director’s Trial Strike Committee - today composed of the Director’s representative, Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint or his representative, the Chief Engraver, and the Superintendent of the Coining Division.

“In accordance with regulations, all of the prototype trial strikes must be and will be destroyed by the Director’s Committee.”

It is worth noting that the obverse of the Chatham prototype has a rougher finish than the other prototypes, with much residual roughness and saw-tooth machining marks on

the devices, caused by the cutting burr of the Janvier reduction lathe (see image below).

This is exactly the kind of finish one would expect if the coin was struck from one of the unfinished dies described in the Mint’s January 25, 1971 press release.

The surfaces of the prototype were “shot finished”, a technique similar to sandblasting, but using small steel shot instead of sand (see the image of the G in the designer’s initials below).

The second S in STATES also shows the remnants of machining and an irregularity at the bottom, suggesting the coin was produced early in the design development process (see image below).

All of the above lends credence to the theory that the Chatham prototype is one of the experimental coins struck during that remarkable exhibition at the Philadelphia Mint. However, it is hard to get around the fact that the press release explicitly says all of those coins “must be and will be destroyed.” Collector and researcher David Frohman suggests that the prototypes may have been preserved and sent to the San Francisco Assay Office for in-person study, rather than being destroyed. Frohman speculates that the Superintendent of the San Francisco Mint may have requested such an inspection, after seeing the press release, since the West Coast facility would be tasked with producing the 40% silver coins for collectors.

# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN

Given the fact that no regular-issue silver dollars had been struck since the Peace dollar was discontinued in 1935, and the special Eisenhower dollars for collectors were to be struck on unfamiliar silver-clad planchets, this is a reasonable suggestion. It may be that the “study coins” were later mistakenly shipped to the New York Assay Office with regular 40% silver Uncirculated specimens, then officially packaged and legally sold in the Blue Packs through official channels at the Mint.

While a working prototype like this coin would normally be destroyed by the Director’s Committee as soon as it had served its purpose, a remarkable series of fortunate circumstances may have preserved this landmark historic rarity, and made it legally available to eager collectors today.

## **2) The San Francisco Mint Theory: Extremely Rare Branch Mint Prototypes**

Another theory postulates the three prototypes were all struck at the San Francisco Mint, from prototype dies shipped from the Philadelphia Mint after the January 25 exhibition. This theory accounts for the fact that the prototypes all display an S mintmark. The mintmark was not part of the design process, and not normally included on prototype dies. In fact, the mintmark was typically the last element punched into the working die before it was shipped to a branch mint. No documents about striking prototypes at the San Francisco Mint in 1971 have come to light, but we know trial dies were sent to the San Francisco Assay Office

under similar circumstances in 1975. At that time, the Mint was finalizing the design for the Bicentennial issues. A June 5, 1975-dated letter from Alan J. Goldman, Assistant Director of Technology at Philadelphia, to Mr. Bland T. Brockenborough, Officer in Charge of the San Francisco Assay Office, notes:

“Two trial versions of the improved bicentennial dollar design have been successfully struck at the Philadelphia Mint. We do not have the chrome plating arrangements nor the HME press capacity there to try out proof production runs. In addition, I believe it would be worthwhile testing the new dies under actual proof production conditions in your facility. The Philadelphia Mint has shipped the dies to the San Francisco Assay Office for trial striking. Please arrange for proper security of the dies to ensure that no coins are made from them except under the direct supervision of a committee composed of William Smith of my staff, your representative, and an auditor. A strict accounting of blanks delivered to the press, coins struck, coins destroyed, coins retained, and disposition of coins retained is required for each alloy.”

Of course, the trial striking of Bicentennial coinage in 1975 is not the same as prototype strikes for the Eisenhower dollar in 1971 but, as Roger Burdette notes, “It is likely that similar experimentation was required.” If the Philadelphia Mint did not have the chrome plating apparatus for the dies or the Bliss K255 hydraulic press used to strike proofs in

# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN

1975, they certainly would not have had that equipment in 1971, since all proofs had been struck at the San Francisco facility since 1968.

Under this scenario, the trial pieces struck in Philadelphia on January 25, 1971 were actually destroyed by the Director's Committee, per Mint policy. Later, the prototype dies were sent to the San Francisco Mint for trial striking on the proof machinery that was not available in Philadelphia. The prototypes all show characteristics of both proof and Uncirculated striking formats. They all show incomplete detail on the earth on the reverse (see image below).

If the coins were struck from chrome-plated dies intended for proof production, on unpolished 40% silver planchets, that might account for the hybrid proof / business strike appearance of their surfaces. Also, we know that proofs were struck twice by the coin press, while the Uncirculated specimens were only struck once. If the prototypes were only struck once as trial pieces for the Uncirculated collector coins, it explains why some high relief design elements, like the earth on the reverse, were not completely brought up (see comparison below).

The reeding on the prototype was identical to that on the Blue Pack 40% silver Ike's, but it differed considerably from the reeding on the proofs (see image below).

While a strict accounting of the trial strikes

was demanded, it is worth noting that their destruction was not explicitly required. It seems entirely possible, even likely, that the trial strikes were considered so close to the final design as to be indistinguishable from regular issues by the general public, or even Mint employees. In fact, they masqueraded as regular Blue Pack specimens for 37 years after their date of issue, before a series specialist finally spotted one. Chief Engraver Frank Gasparro was under great pressure to get "anything and everything" out of the door at this point, as they were far behind in production. Under these circumstances, it seems possible that the prototypes were treated as regular issues after they fulfilled their study role, and were shipped to the New York Assay Office for sale in Blue Packs with the regular Uncirculated examples. Hopefully, further research will shed more light on the mysterious origin of these fascinating prototypes.

## **The Prototypes are Discovered**

The first prototype surfaced on February 15, 2008, when Eisenhower dollar expert Lee C. Lydston and his wife attended the Long Beach coin show. While there, Lee's wife called his attention to a dealer's table with tubes of Eisenhower dollars. One particular tube contained a single 40% silver 1971-S Eisenhower dollar with an unusual appearance. Remarkably, it had hybrid characteristics of both the silver Uncirculated and the silver proof Eisenhower dollars sold to collectors by the United States mint in 1971. The coin also exhibited the usual surface hazing imparted to

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Blue Pack Uncirculated 40% silver Eisenhower dollars, due to their long-term exposure to the mint's pliofilm packaging. Excited by the possibilities of his new discovery, Lydston submitted his coin to the Eisenhower dollar experts at the respected Ike Group for their analysis.

The Ike Group conducted an extensive evaluation of the coin and compared it to an original 1970 Galvano which they discovered at the Eisenhower Museum in Abilene, Kansas. They published the first scholarly work on the prototypes on their website in 2008. Lee Lydston's prototype was examined by Dr. Wiles at CONECA, who determined the obverse and reverse dies were new design varieties. A condensed version of the Ike Group study was published as the cover story in CONECA's ErrorScope, Volume 17, May/June 2008 edition. The prototype was submitted to the American Numismatic Association Certification Service, where John Roberts, J.P. Martin, and Michael Fahey then confirmed the Ike Group's finding, and certified it as the first-known Eisenhower dollar prototype. Then, on September 29, 2008, Coin World featured the prototype in a front-page article. This national publication announced the discovery of the prototype to a worldwide audience. The discovery coin was later certified by PCGS (in 2011) and purchased by David Frohman in 2019.

The present coin was the second prototype to be discovered. Prominent collector Charles

Chatham discovered this piece in an Alabama pawn shop in 2010. It was still in the standard Blue Pack packaging and he purchased it for \$10. At first, he could not identify exactly what made this coin different, but he immediately realized there was something special about his new acquisition. He submitted the coin to ANACS, along with several other Ike dollars. John Roberts recognized it was struck using the same reverse die as the Lydston prototype. Further observation by Lee Lydston and Dr. Wiles confirmed that fact, but noted the Chatham coin featured a unique obverse. The Lydston coin showed some light obverse doubling that was not present on the Chatham prototype. The R in LIBERTY showed pronounced serifs on the bottom of the upright on the Chatham coin, while the upright of the R on the Lydston-Frohman coin lacked serifs. The coarse finish of the Chatham obverse was also different from the other prototype. However, it had the identical pliofilm hazing on its surfaces as the Lydston coin. It was studied extensively and photographed by Robert Ezerman, and is the subject of an extensive writeup in Collectible Ike Varieties, Special Edition, the standard series reference by the Ike Group. The Chatham prototype was conserved and certified by PCGS in 2019, at the same time as the Lydston-Frohman coin.

A third prototype, which featured the same obverse and reverse as the Lydston-Frohman prototype, was purchased on eBay in 2013. PCGS later certified it as the third prototype, and graded it SP66. The eBay seller confirmed

# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN

to the buyer that it was originally housed within a sealed U.S. mint Blue Pack pliofilm package. It is sobering to consider that only three prototypes have been discovered in the half century since they were struck in 1971. This is far different from most newly discovered issues, where growing collector awareness tends to result in many more appearances over time.

## **The Prototype Becomes a PCGS Celebrity**

In March of 2019, both David Frohman and Charles Chatham submitted their prototypes to PCGS for analysis, conservation, and grading. Both coins had a layer of pliofilm haze from long-term exposure to their original Mint packaging. Both owners felt strongly that the haze should be removed, both to protect the coins long-term and to showcase their extraordinary beauty. The following excerpt is from the PCGS CoinFacts article written by Joshua McMorrow Hernandez in 2020:

“When the two Ike prototypes crossed the desks at PCGS, they turned plenty of heads. ‘I remember the day vividly that Joe Pielago, one of our business development managers, told me we were getting a prototype Ike in for grading,’ recalls PCGS Director of Numismatic Education and Outreach Steve Feltner. ‘First of all, I had never heard of anything like that before and was very excited to see it. Upon initial inspection, there was no denying that the coin was special’ he says.

“Feltner noted the Ikes have a bolder strike than the typical 40% silver Blue Ikes that are commonly seen. ‘I remember the first place my eye gravitated to was the Moon on the reverse. It was an unforgettable experience being able to hold this piece of history and see what Gasparro’s vision was for his dollar,’ Feltner adds. ‘Then having a second example come through the grading room was the cherry on top!’ Both coins were processed through various stages of authentication and research at PCGS, including metallurgical testing to determine the weight and metallic composition of the planchets. ‘Using our in-house x-ray fluorescence analyzer to check the elemental composition of the planchets - and using a standard 1971-S Blue Pack Ike as a test coin - the two prototype coins were found to be within a close tolerance of the standard,’ explains Feltner, who reported that the compositional material of the outer silver-clad layer of the coins were within normal tolerances of the copper-silver alloy and showed no real deviation from the standard test coin. The coins were also expertly conserved by the PCGS Restoration team to remove their pliofilm-related haze before being sonically sealed in their protective slabs.”

# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN

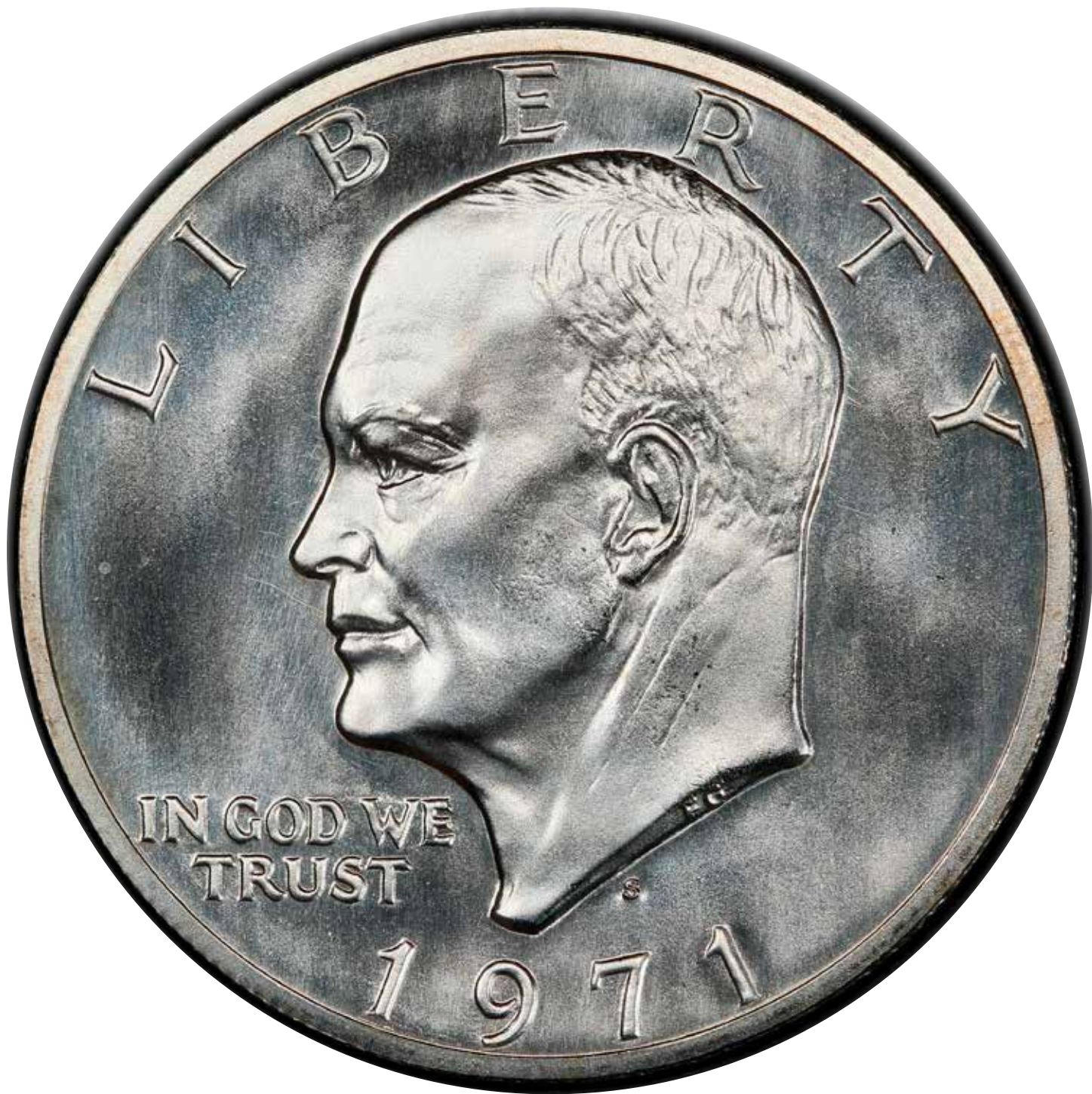
After conservation, the Chatham prototype was housed in a PCGS holder, and certified as SP67. This coin is currently pictured on PCGS CoinFacts, accompanied by the article by Joshua McMorro Hernandez.

## Physical Description

This remarkable prototype has survived essentially as struck. Housed in a PCGS holder, with the lofty grade of SP67, its beautiful high relief appearance has an almost medallic quality. The design elements are sharply detailed in most areas, with just a touch of softness evident on the moon and eagle's breast, due to the high relief of the design. The rims are perfectly squared off and the devices exhibit a rich coat of mint frost. The reeding is identical to that on the regular 40% silver Ike dollars in the official Blue Packs. Strong prooflike reflectivity is evident in the fields, and many die polishing lines show on both sides. The virtually flawless surfaces add to the terrific eye appeal.

This spectacular Superb Gem represents the pinnacle of rarity in American numismatics. It is much more elusive than some more famous rarities, like the 1804 dollar (15 examples known), or the 1870-S Seated Liberty dollar (fewer than a dozen examples traced). It is closely related to the other extremely rare Eisenhower dollar prototypes, but this coin is even rarer, because of its unique obverse. It combines the highest available technical quality, profound historic interest, and absolute rarity in one irresistible package. It has been off the market since its discovery in 2010 and it may be decades before it becomes available again, once this lot has passed. The discerning collector should bid accordingly. This coin is pictured on PCGS CoinFacts. Charles Chatham's personal copy of Collectible Ike Varieties, Special Edition, with some handwritten annotations by Robert Ezerman, accompanies the lot. Population: 1 in SP67, 0 finer (11/22).

# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN

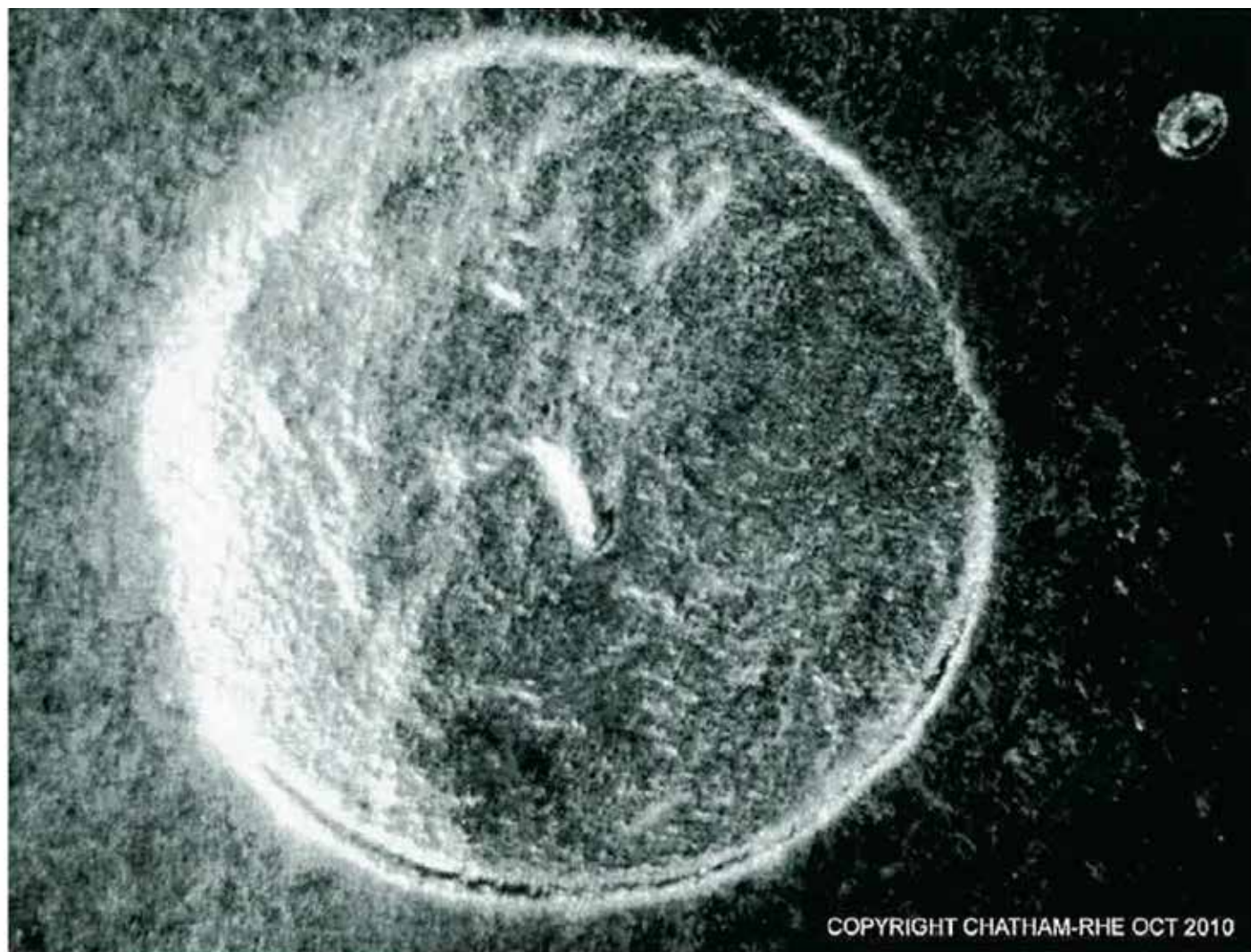




# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN



# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN



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Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

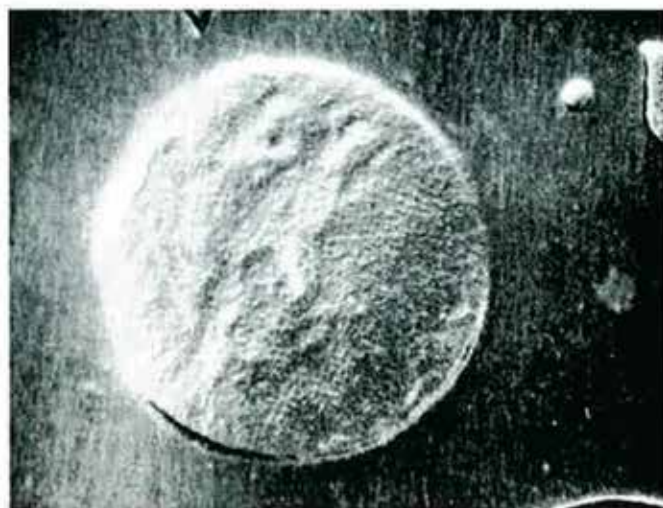


FIGURE 9 Prototype on left

1971-S Peg Leg Proof on right

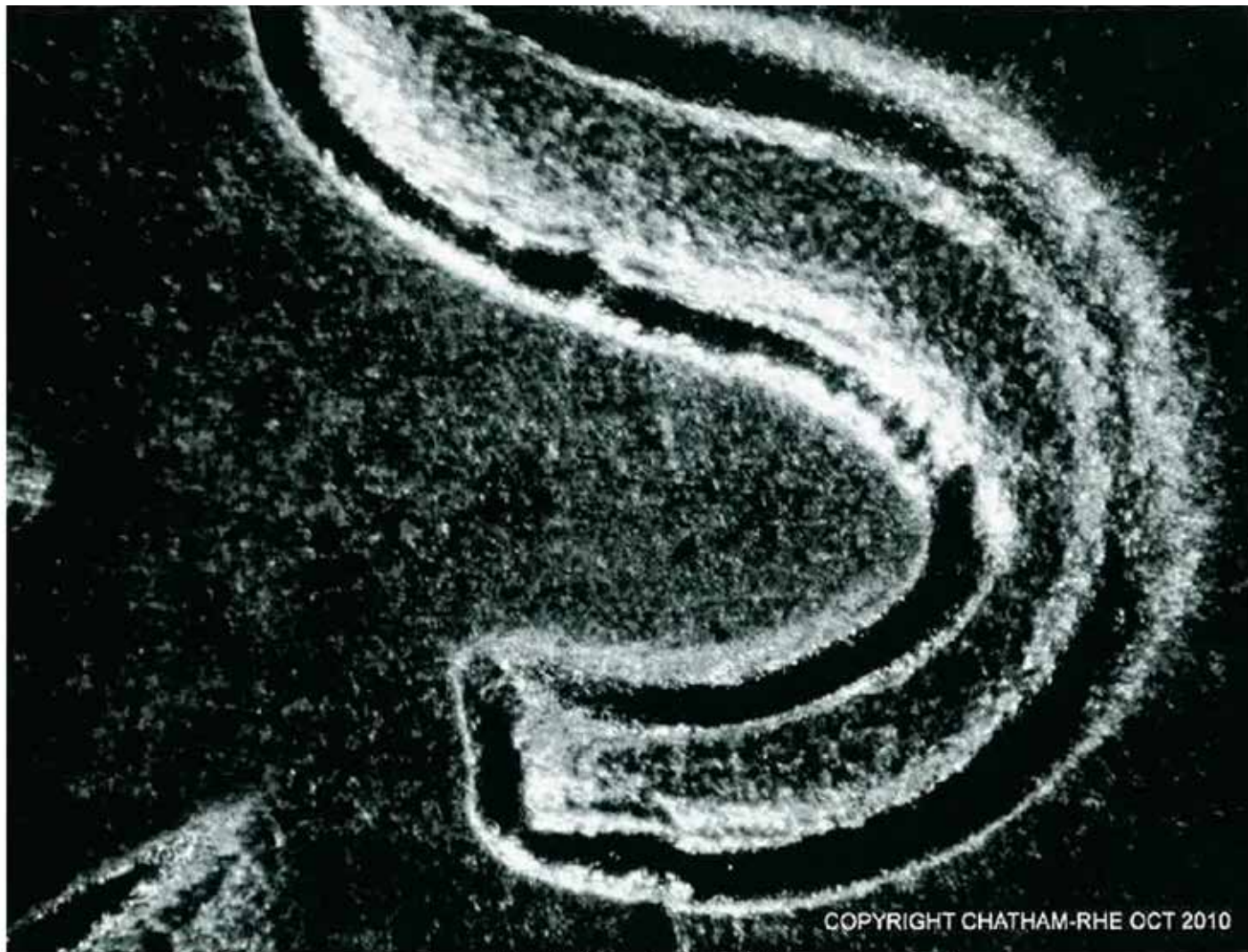
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# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN



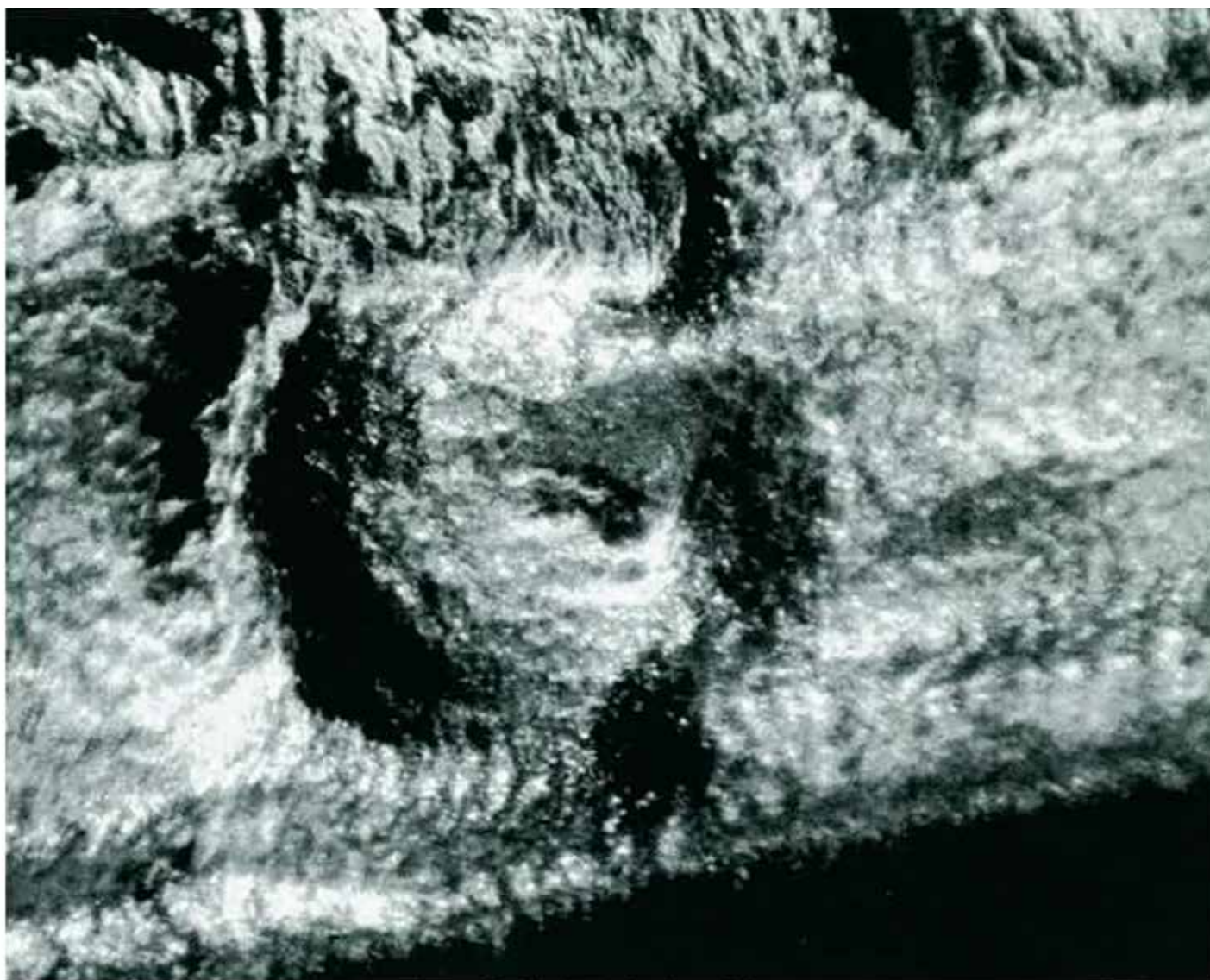
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# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN



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# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN



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# UNIQUE 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR PROTOTYPE SPECIMEN

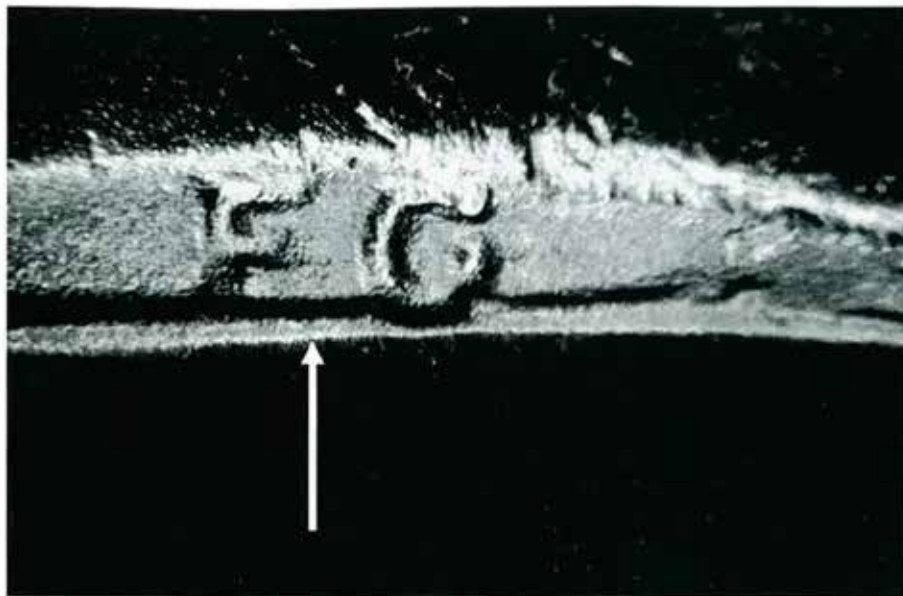


FIGURE 28 Designer's initials are located well above the field.

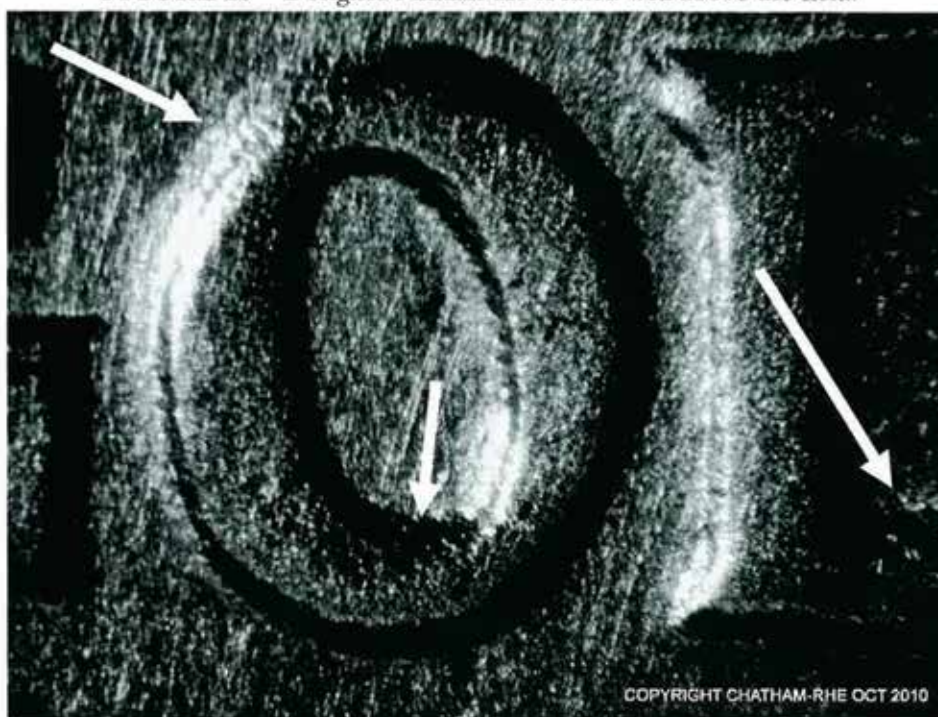


FIGURE 29 Note the saw-tooth burr machining on both letters.  
Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# Original Bronze Cast of the Standing Liberty Quarter Obverse

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

Believed Unique in Private Hands



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# ORIGINAL BRONZE CAST OF THE STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER OBVERSE

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1916 Standing Liberty Quarter Obverse Bronze Cast, Uncertified.** 359.1 gm. Diameter of cast: irregular, 150 mm-156 mm (5.9-6.1 in.); Diameter of inner design: 130 mm (5.1 in.); Thickness: approximately 4 mm (0.15 in.). This is among the rarest artifacts related to the widely popular Standing Liberty quarter series, an original bronze cast of Hermon MacNeil's obverse design as it appeared in August 1916. Few other relics of the Standing Liberty quarter's design production period survive in private hands, and arguably none harbor the appeal of this large bronze cast of the obverse design.

The imagery on this cast differs dramatically from MacNeil's original obverse models. In late June 1916, the sculptor began making adjustments to his design in the interest of sharpening details and increasing the aesthetic appeal. But the result was a drastic redesign of the entire obverse. The figure of Liberty was completely remodeled and brought up in sharp relief, and the inscription LIBERTY above her head was strengthened in definition and reduced in size. The shield rivets were more widely spaced, and the inner shield was replaced with an eagle. IN GOD WE TRUST migrated from the gateway walls to the sash drawn across Liberty's torso, and the walls

themselves were simplified in their design. Liberty herself was given sandals, and the drapery was drawn up tighter around the shield. Dolphins representing the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans were added to each side of the date, accompanied by branches of laurel. The olive branch of peace disappeared from Liberty's outstretched hand, and her hair was restyled to flow in the wind. A chain-like border surrounded the periphery in place of the previous dot-and-dash pattern. The modified design showcased a captivating beauty that the former did not fully deliver.

The modified design was approved by Treasury Secretary William McAdoo in a letter to MacNeil dated August 19th, 1916:

“Replying to your letter of August 16th instant, I hereby approve the modified design for the obverse of the new twenty-five cent coin, photograph of which you submitted for my inspection.

“I take pleasure in granting you permission to place your initials on the new quarter-dollar, provided the letters are small in design and are placed on an inconspicuous part of the coin, as is the case in connection with coins now in circulation.”



# ORIGINAL BRONZE CAST OF THE STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER OBVERSE

MacNeil immediately sent a photograph to the Mint, showing proposed locations for his monogram. His letter, dated August 31st, 1916, stated:

“Enclosed, please find according to your request the photograph of the Obverse of the new TWENTY-FIVE CENT PIECE with two places indicated for my signature. I have used the monogram (H.M.) in both places, but it is possible that (M) alone could be better for this signature on account of the very limited size. It is possible also that the spot under the head of the dolphin on the right would be the better place as I should then make it merely an incised letter. ...

“Immediately on receipt of your O.K. of this detail, I will have the bronze cast made and forwarded to the Mint.”

Mint Director F.J.H. von Engelken replied on the 1st of September, approving the “Placing of the signature under the head of the dolphin on right of Quarter Dollar ...” and adding: “It will be appreciated if you will expedite as much as possible the preparation of the bronze cast,

and the forwarding of the same to the Mint.” MacNeil’s reply a few days later stated in part:

“Referring to the proposition of the model of the new Quarter Dollar, the work is already in the caster’s hands and I expect to send the completed bronze before the end of the week, to Mr. Barber at Philadelphia.”

A bronze cast of MacNeil’s modified design was delivered to the Mint on September 9th, 1916. However, it was never produced in coin form. During the correspondence about the placement of MacNeil’s monogram, the Mint was experiencing striking problems with the new Mercury dime, unable to get the coins to stack properly due to thickness issues and a wire rim problem. Documentation presented by Roger Burdette in *Renaissance of American Coinage* suggests that when the bronze cast of the quarter obverse arrived at the Mint, Chief Engraver Charles Barber examined it and discovered that working the model up to the mechanical requirements of the Mint would consume far too much time. Thus, Barber was instructed to revert to the original model for the obverse, which required far less

# ORIGINAL BRONZE CAST OF THE STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER OBTVERSE

modification to meet the Engraver's strict technical requirements. It was that design which later appeared on the mass production of December 1916.

Cataloging this piece in the Minot Collection catalog (Stack's, 5/2008), Burdette stated: "One bronze cast reached the Philadelphia Mint. Another, the present example, must have remained in MacNeil's College Point, NY studio -- a backup in case the first one were lost or damaged." As J.H. Cline notes in *Standing Liberty Quarters*, fourth edition, MacNeil's studio housed "a lifetime collection of complete sculptures, completed designs, partially completed works, and some of Hermon's most treasured works -- either in picture form or the original castings." It would only make sense for the artist to retain a casting of what he believed would be the finished quarter dollar design.

It is thought that this bronze cast was among the artifacts recovered from MacNeil's studio after the sculptor's passing in 1947, by John A. Coughlin, a neighbor and professional illustrator. Coughlin is also credited with the preservation of several flying eagle sketches for the reverse of the quarter, later showcased in the Newman Money Museum, as well as

MacNeil scrapbooks and letters preserved in the Smithsonian.

This cast, along with a similar bronze cast of a proposed reverse design, first came to light for collectors in 2008, when offered consecutively in Stack's Minot Collection sale, after reportedly being found at a garage sale in 2001. It appears plated in a light metal, possibly a nickel alloy, as noted by Burdette. The surface preservation is exceptional, with uniform silvery-bronze color and satin luster. For the Standing Liberty quarter specialist, about the only thing more exciting than having a chance to admire MacNeil's intended obverse design, is having a chance to acquire the original bronze casting. This piece is plated in *Burdette's Renaissance of American Coinage, 1916-1921* (2005), and Q. David Bowers' *Guide Book* (2015).

*Ex: Possibly salvaged from Hermon MacNeil's studio by John A. Coughlin, circa 1948; acquired from a garage sale (2001); Minot Collection (Stack's, 5/2008), lot 1378, which realized \$120,750; Rarities Night ANA (Stack's/Bowers, 8/2012), lot 11361; Rarities Night Baltimore (Stack's/Bowers, 11/2012), lot 3106.*

# ORIGINAL BRONZE CAST OF THE STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER OBVERSE



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# ORIGINAL BRONZE CAST OF THE STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER OBTVERSE



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# Unique Pattern Die Trial: 1876-CC Seated Dime in Nickel

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

1876-CC Seated Dime in Nickel, MS64  
Unique Judd-1453b Die Trial  
Ex: Woodside, Olsen



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE PATTERN DIE TRIAL: 1876-CC SEATED DIME IN NICKEL

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1876-CC DT10C Dime Die Trial, Judd-1453b, Pollock-1602, Unique, MS64 PCGS.**  
Ex: Simpson. This unique 1876-CC Seated Liberty dime die trial is from the regular dies, struck in nickel with a plain edge. The coin was likely struck on a three cent nickel planchet at the Philadelphia Mint before the dies were shipped west to Carson City. Two similar copper die trials are known, also from 1876-CC dime dies. The unique nickel specimen has an extensive pedigree tracing back to the Woodside sale in April 1892, where it was sold in a two-piece lot with one of its copper counterparts. In the Olsen sale, B. Max Mehl wrote of this piece:

“Type of regular issue, but very weakly struck, especially the legend on obverse which is hardly discernible. Struck in nickel, with a plain edge. Unknown to Adams-Woodin. The first I have ever seen or heard of. Uncirculated. Undoubtedly unique. Of great rarity and value.”

The strike weakness around the peripheries is attributed to a miscalculation on the part of the press operator who struck the piece, not accounting for the increased pressure necessary to strike a hard nickel planchet. The surfaces are satiny and lustrous, and each side has light amber-gold toning. This unique piece has been off of the market for 17 years. Its appearance here is an incredible opportunity for the advanced pattern collector.

*Ex: Woodside Collection (New York Coin & Stamp, 4/1892), part of lot 318; Wayte Raymond Mail Bid Sale (2/1942), lot 16; Fred E. Olsen (B. Max Mehl, 11/1944), lot 372A; New Netherlands Coin Co.; 295th Sale (Kagin, 11/1971), lot 1208; 1993 ANA Signature (Heritage, 7/1993), lot 8008; Elite Coin Auction (Superior, 7/2003), lot 488.*

# UNIQUE PATTERN DIE TRIAL: 1876-CC SEATED DIME IN NICKEL



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE PATTERN DIE TRIAL: 1876-CC SEATED DIME IN NICKEL



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



# Unique Obverse Die Trial: 1915 Panama-Pacific Pattern Dollar

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

1915 Panama-Pacific Gold Dollar  
Judd-A1915-1, White Metal, Bronzed, PR64 Brown  
Unique Obverse Die Trial



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE OBVERSE DIE TRIAL: 1915 PANAMA-PACIFIC PATTERN DOLLAR

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1915 GS1 Panama-Pacific Gold Dollar Splasher, Judd-A1915-1, Unique, PR64 Brown NGC.** This unique splasher is a uniface trial of the obverse die for the 1915-S Panama-Pacific gold dollar. A corresponding reverse die trial exists (offered in another lot in this sale), and both trials were struck before the S mintmark was added to the die. George Keck, of New York City, was the designer of the Panama-Pacific gold dollar. This piece, and the corresponding reverse trial, were discovered in his estate. The coins were first offered publicly in the 1952 ANA Convention Auction (New Netherlands, et al, 8/1952), lot 1166:

**“Trial Strikes of the 1915 Panama Pacific Dollar.** 1915. Dollar, as last above. Uniface trial impressions, obverse and reverse separate, struck in White Metal, Bronzed. Similar to the regular dies, but without the mintmark “S” on reverse. The obverse is slightly thicker, and the reverse is slightly thinner than the regularly issued coin. Ex. Fine. Obtained from the estate of the late Charles Keck by R.J. Lathrop and believed to be unique. 2 Pcs. Plate.”

Subsequently, the two trials were offered in the Dr. Curtis Paxman Collection (Bowers and Ruddy, 11/1974), lot 1051. Both die trials were later acquired by Anthony Swiatek.

The present coin is an attractive Choice example that closely matches the grade and appearance of the corresponding reverse trial. The design elements are sharply detailed, and the evenly patinated chocolate-brown surfaces show glossy mint luster, with few signs of contact. The discerning collector will not miss the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire this unique and important numismatic treasure.

# UNIQUE OBVERSE DIE TRIAL: 1915 PANAMA-PACIFIC PATTERN DOLLAR



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE OBVERSE DIE TRIAL: 1915 PANAMA-PACIFIC PATTERN DOLLAR



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# Unique Specimen 1900 Liberty Double Eagle

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

1900 Liberty Double Eagle, SP66  
New Reverse Hub  
Sole Specimen Strike Example



# UNIQUE SPECIMEN 1900 LIBERTY DOUBLE EAGLE

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1900 \$20 SP66 NGC.** A new reverse hub was introduced in 1900 and used for the remainder of the Liberty Head double eagle series. The most obvious change was at the back of the eagle's head and around the neck, where ragged feathering was removed to present a smooth contour. The 1900 Philadelphia issue was the first to show the change, while its San Francisco counterpart used the old hub in 1900 before switching to the new hub in 1901. NGC has certified the present coin as a Specimen strike, the sole piece recognized as such, graded SP66.

No doubt, such a subtle change mattered little to the public or to most collectors, although it suits the design and seems especially fitting on high-grade pieces such as the present coin. Nearly flawless surfaces display partially reflective fields and fully struck motifs. Attractive honey-gold color gleams evenly from both sides, free from any notable defects. This coin features the highest available technical quality and outstanding eye appeal. It should find a home in the finest collection of Liberty double eagles, since neither NGC nor PCGS have certified a finer example in circulation strike format, let alone as a Specimen strike. NGC Census: 1 in 66, 0 finer (6/20).

# UNIQUE SPECIMEN 1900 LIBERTY DOUBLE EAGLE



# UNIQUE SPECIMEN 1900 LIBERTY DOUBLE EAGLE





***EDITORIAL BY MIKE BYERS, PUBLISHER &  
EDITOR OF MINT ERROR NEWS MAGAZINE***

# **EXOTIC AND INTENTIONAL U.S. ERROR COINS IN THE MARKETPLACE**

**O**ne of the most controversial categories of U.S. coins are mint errors. Many dealers and collectors, as well as coin auction houses, buy, sell, trade and auction many rare, exotic and unique major mint errors. Obviously, some of these defy logic and were intentionally created and taken out of the Mint.

In the early 2000's, a group of several hundred U.S. error coins were found in a safe-deposit box. Fred Weinberg purchased this group which included coins struck for proof sets and also

coins struck for circulation. This group was auctioned by the California State Controller's Office of Unclaimed Property. The U.S. Secret Service inspected and released this collection to the State of California determining that it was legal to own. The State of California then auctioned the collection and the rest is history.

Another example of U.S. error coins escaping the Mint occurred in the 1970's. A hoard of proof error coins were smuggled out of the San Francisco Mint inside the oil pans of forklifts

## EXOTIC AND INTENTIONAL U.S. ERROR COINS IN THE MARKETPLACE

that were being serviced outside of the Mint. This topic was discussed in the June 6, 2022 Issue of Coin World, which covered Fred Weinberg's account of this story. The Coin World Managing Editor concluded:

*Obviously, the marketplace accepts these coins, and some collectors are happy paying thousands of dollars for coins that show every indication of having been created through illegal means.*

In Episode 11 of the PCGS video series Slab Lab, Seth Chandler interviews Fred Weinberg. In part 2 of the interview, Fred explains in detail why mint errors that are decades old are not recovered by the U.S. Mint. Fred's recollection of conversations in his office with the Chief of the U.S. Mint Police are extremely insightful and explain why the Mint doesn't attempt to recover error coins from decades ago.

**Click the image below to view the Part 2 of the Interview:**



**EXOTIC AND INTENTIONAL U.S. ERROR COINS IN THE MARKETPLACE**

**Heritage Auctions sold this Proof Ike Dollar  
3-Piece "Clover Leaf" for \$105,000.**

**Unique 3-Piece Ike \$1 "Clover Leaf"**

Ike \$1 On Clad 10C Planchet PF 68 ULTRA CAMEO

Ike \$1 On Clad 10C Planchet PF 68 ULTRA CAMEO

Ike \$1 On Clad 10C Planchet PF 68 ULTRA CAMEO

5933830-(001-003)



NUMISMATIC GUARANTY CORPORATION



# EXOTIC AND INTENTIONAL U.S. ERROR COINS IN THE MARKETPLACE

**Fred Weinberg sold this Lincoln Cent bonded with a magnetic screw that he discovered in another group of error coins.**



# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF BRONZE EISENHOWER DOLLAR

by Mike Byers



This unique and amazing 1973-S Proof Eisenhower Dollar was broadstruck on a 26g bronze planchet. Since it was struck by proof Ike Dollar dies, the

collar was setup to hold the 36mm diameter of the Ike Dollar planchet. It was broadstruck to the diameter of approximately 40mm, creating a cupped obverse and reverse.

# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF BRONZE EISENHOWER DOLLAR

After recently surfacing in an old-time collection of U.S. mint errors, it originally was authenticated and

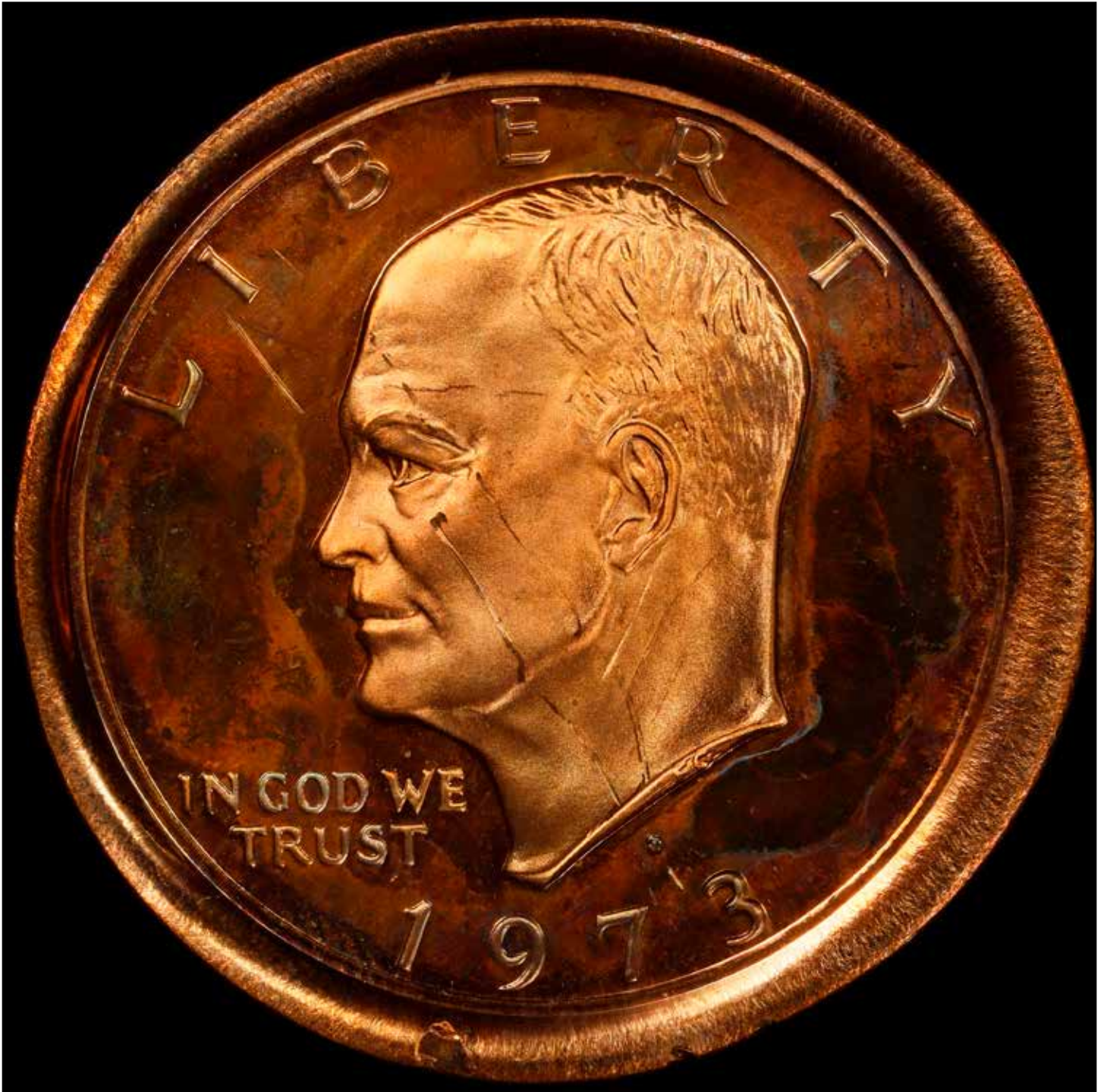
certified by NGC as Proof 61 and was featured on the cover of Mint Error News Magazine Issue 61.



# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF BRONZE EISENHOWER DOLLAR

The pedigree shows it was from the Mike Byers Collection and also from David Frohman, an Eisenhower enthusiast who is well known for

selling a Prototype Eisenhower Dollar in a Heritage Auction for \$264,000.



# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF BRONZE EISENHOWER DOLLAR

It is fully struck with nearly perfect mirror surfaces and a deep cameo portrait. There are a few very light scratches visible on the obverse which appear to be ejection marks since it

was broadstruck. This is considered one of the most spectacular mint errors known on a proof Eisenhower Dollar.





# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF BRONZE EISENHOWER DOLLAR

This unique proof bronze Ike Dollar could have been struck on a bronze planchet intended to be used to strike the 1973-S medal in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the cable car in San Francisco. This commemorative medal was enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America.

Public Law 93-114

AN ACT

October 1, 1973  
[S. 776]

To authorize the striking of medals in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the cable car in San Francisco.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That, in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of the invention of the cable car, the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike and deliver to the San Francisco Cable Car Centennial Committee not more than one hundred and fifty thousand medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury after consultation with the committee. The medals, which may be disposed of by the committee at a premium, shall be delivered at such times as may be required by the committee in quantities of not less than two thousand, but no medals shall be struck after December 31, 1974. The medals shall be considered to be national medals within the meaning of section 3551 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 368) except that for the purposes of this Act some or all of such medals may be struck by the superintendent of the coining department of the assay office at San Francisco, under such regulations as the superintendent, with the approval of the Director of the Mint, may prescribe. Medals struck at the assay office may bear the legend "Struck at the San Francisco Mint".

San Francisco  
cable cars.  
100th anniversary  
medals.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Treasury shall cause such medals to be struck and delivered at not less than the estimated cost of manufacture, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and security satisfactory to the Director of the Mint shall be furnished to indemnify the United States for the full payment of such costs.

Cost.

SEC. 3. The medals authorized to be struck and delivered under this Act shall be of such size or sizes and of such various metals as shall be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury in consultation with the committee.

Size.

Approved October 1, 1973.

# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF BRONZE EISENHOWER DOLLAR

1973-S medal in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the cable car in San Francisco



# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF BRONZE EISENHOWER DOLLAR

The American Numismatic Association (ANA) is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to coin collectors. The ANA received a federal charter from the U.S. Congress in 1912. It features the Money Museum which exhibits collections in its galleries. Included is a collection of Eisenhower Dollar mint errors from the famous Dr. Berry Collection of proof and mint state error coins. In this collection are two mint state 1971-D Eisenhower Dollars struck on copper planchets intended for U.S. Mint Medals. They are included in the ANA Museum Inventory List.

DR. A.K. BERRY COLLECTION -- ANA MUSEUM INVENTORY				
Item No.	Date of Item	Dollar Type	Error/Variety Type	Description
2.	1971-D	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	1% Ragged-Edge Clip
3.	1971-D	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	20% Curved Clip
7.	1971-D	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	Triple Curved Clip: 5%; 5% & 10%
10.	1971-D	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	65% Curved Clip
5.	1972-P	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	Double Curved Clip: 5% & 5%
6.	1974-D	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	Quadruple Clip: 2 overlapping sets of two
4.	1976-P	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	33% Curved Clip
9.	1976-D	Ike	Incomplete Planchet	40% Straight Clip
39.	1972-D	Ike	Incomplete Clip	-----
21.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on 1-cent Planchet
73.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock/Off-Center	Struck on 1-cent Planchet 55% Off-Center at 6:00
74.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock/Triple Struck	Triple Struck on 1-cent Planchet
8.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock/Clip	Struck on 5-cent Planchet with 55% Straight Clip
22.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on 5-cent Planchet
23.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock/Double Struck	Struck on 10-cent Planchet
24.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on 25-cent Planchet
77.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock/Double Struck	Double Struck on 25-Cent Flan
32.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Unidentified Brass Planchet
29.	ND	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Brass Philippine 5-Sentimos Planchet
26.	XXXX-S	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Proof 50-cent Flan
76.	XXXX-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Metal Scrap
27. <sup>1</sup>	1971-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Bronze Presidential Medal Planchet
75.	1971-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Bronze Presidential Medal Flan (Same as Item #27)
25.	1972-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on 50-cent Planchet
30.	1972-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Philippine 1-Piso Flan
31.	1974-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on Philippine 1-Piso Flan
33.	1974-D	Ike	Wrong Stock	Struck on 40% Silver Planchet
79.	1976-P	Ike	Wrong Stock/Double Struck	Double Struck on Piece of Scrap with Uniface Obv.
11.	1891-S	Morgan	Laminated Planchet	Lamination on Reverse
18.	1921-P	Morgan	Laminated Planchet	Lamination on Obverse
17.	1922-P	Peace	Laminated Planchet	Lamination on Reverse
19.	1922-P	Peace	Laminated Planchet	Lamination on Obverse
12.	1971-D	Ike	Laminated Planchet	Lamination on Obverse
15.	1971-D	Ike	Laminated Planchet	Lamination on Obverse
43.	1971-D	Ike	Indented Strike	Brockaged by Cent Planchet On Reverse
46.	1971-D	Ike	Indented Strike	Rev. Brockage by another dollar struck on a quarter planchet
44.	1971-X	Ike	Indented Strike	Brockaged by Smaller Planchet, possibly 25-cent Flan
80.	1973-S	Ike	Indented Strike	Struck 40% Silver Proof Brockaged by Dime Planchet which is still attached
42.	1974-D	Ike	Indented Strike	5% Brockage
45.	1976-P	Ike	Indented Strike	5% Brockage

<sup>1</sup>Item #28 is a Presidential Medal of the same type as Item #27, which was included for comparison purposes.

# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF BRONZE EISENHOWER DOLLAR

This Unique Proof BRONZE Ike was originally certified by NGC and featured on the cover of Mint Error News Magazine Issue 61:

**MINT ERROR NEWS**  
**MAGAZINE**

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector. Also featuring Die Trials, Test Pieces, Numismatic Rarities, Currency Errors and Discoveries from the U.S. Mint & the BEP.

[minterrornews.com](http://minterrornews.com)

## NGC Certifies Unique Proof Bronze Ike Dollar

1973 S EISENHOWER \$1  
MINT ERROR PF 61 CAMEO  
BROADSTRUCK ON  
BRONZE PLANCHET (26g)  
5968266-001

NUMISMATIC GUARANTY CORPORATION NGC

Issue 61 • Summer 2022  
A Mike Byers Publication

21 Page Price Guide Inside!

# UNIQUE 1972 EISENHOWER DOLLAR OVERSTRUCK TWICE WITH 1972 CENT DIES

*Editor's Note:* One of our readers wanted to share his amazing Eisenhower Dollar mint error. It is a spectacular and unique mint state Ike Dollar that was overstruck twice by 1972 Lincoln Cent dies.



# UNIQUE 1972 EISENHOWER DOLLAR OVERSTRUCK TWICE WITH 1972 CENT DIES

I have been a rare coin dealer specializing in major mint errors, die trials and patterns for 45 years.

Having handled most of the world-class mint errors known, this one ranks at the top of the list.



Image Courtesy of PCGS

# UNIQUE 1972 EISENHOWER DOLLAR OVERSTRUCK TWICE WITH 1972 CENT DIES



Image Courtesy of PCGS

# UNIQUE PROOF BICENTENNIAL IKE DOLLAR DOUBLE STRUCK, 2ND STRIKE OFF-CENTER

by Mike Byers



This proof Bicentennial Dollar major mint error is unique in many ways and has

no equals. It is the only known proof Bicentennial Ike Dollar major mint error *of any kind*.



## UNIQUE PROOF BICENTENNIAL IKE DOLLAR DOUBLE STRUCK, 2ND STRIKE OFF-CENTER

It is the only known double struck with the second strike off-center. There are no off-centers known, no off-metals known, no mated pairs known, and no double denominations known.

Even though non-Bicentennial proof Ike Dollar major mint errors are rare, there are examples known with several types of major striking errors.

A 3-Leaf Clover set of Ike Dollars struck on dimes sold in a Heritage auction for \$105K, two mated pairs have sold for \$40K and \$75K, off-metals have sold for as high as \$25K each, off-centers and double strikes at \$25K as well, a unique Bronze Ike Dollar sold for \$75K, and a unique Ike Dollar on a struck Bronze Medal sold for \$40K in a Heritage auction.

This double struck proof

Bicentennial Eisenhower Dollar is pedigreed to John Devine “Lonesome John,” a famous pioneer in the field of mint errors and was just certified by NGC. It was previously unknown to the numismatic community and is just now being offered for sale.

It is in very choice proof condition and has deep mirrored fields with a cameo portrait and liberty bell. It has high eye appeal since the major devices on the second strike are fully struck. The Ike portrait, Liberty Bell and the Moon are fully present as well as the complete *IN GOD WE TRUST* and *E PLURIBUS UNUM*.

Being the only known Proof Bicentennial Ike Dollar major mint error of any kind propels it into the rank of unique, amazing and spectacular numismatic rarities.

**UNIQUE PROOF BICENTENNIAL IKE DOLLAR DOUBLE STRUCK, 2ND STRIKE OFF-CENTER**



**UNIQUE PROOF BICENTENNIAL IKE DOLLAR DOUBLE STRUCK, 2ND STRIKE OFF-CENTER**



# UNIQUE PROOF BICENTENNIAL IKE DOLLAR DOUBLE STRUCK, 2ND STRIKE OFF-CENTER

Featured on the cover of Mint Error News Magazine Issue 67:

## MINT **ERROR** NEWS MAGAZINE

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector. Also featuring Die Trials, Test Pieces, Numismatic Rarities, Patterns, Currency Errors and Discoveries from the U.S. Mint.



## Unique Proof Bicentennial Ike Dollar Double Struck, 2nd Strike Off-Center



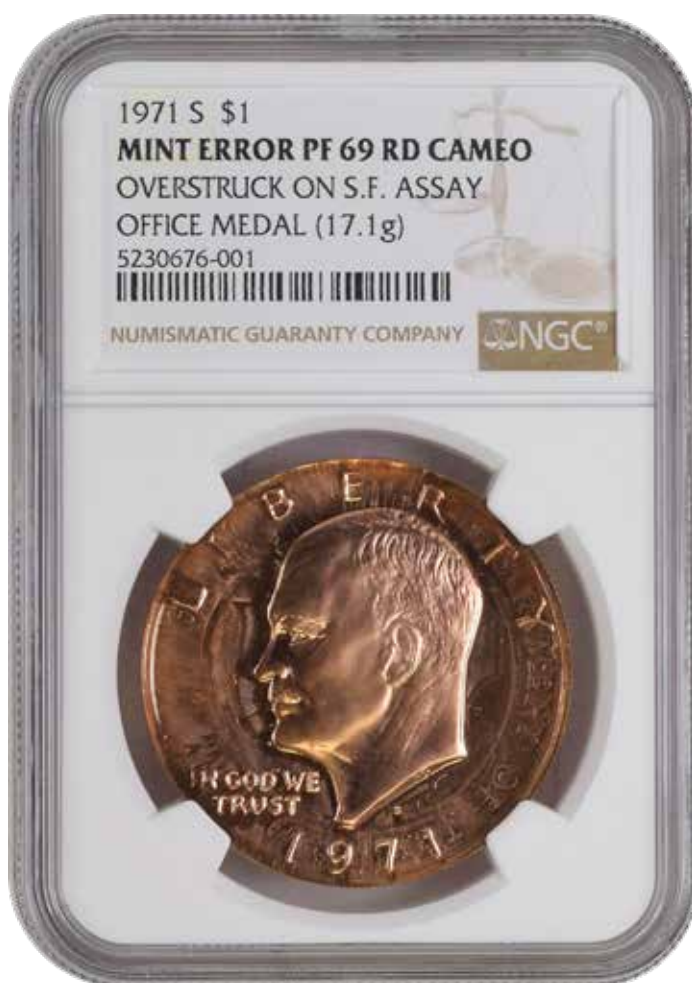
21 Page  
Price Guide  
Inside!

Issue 67

A Mike Byers Publication

# UNIQUE PROOF 1971-S IKE DOLLAR OVERSTRUCK ON A SAN FRANCISCO ASSAY OFFICE MEDAL

by Mike Byers



## UNIQUE PROOF 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR OVERSTRUCK ON A SAN FRANCISCO ASSAY OFFICE MEDAL

This unique and amazing 1971-S Proof Eisenhower Dollar was overstruck on a 17.1g bronze San Francisco Assay Office Medal. Although there are three known Eisenhower Dollars struck on bronze planchets (two in mint state, one in proof) this is the only one known that was overstruck on a struck bronze medal.

Although the San Francisco Assay Office Medal weighs 17.1

grams and has a smaller diameter than an Eisenhower Dollar, the pressure of the strike from the proof dies expanded the diameter to the size of an Eisenhower Dollar.

It is in superb gem proof red condition and shows considerable detail from the design of the understrike. An absolutely phenomenal and world-class major mint error!

### San Francisco Assay Office Medal



**UNIQUE PROOF 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR OVERSTRUCK ON A SAN FRANCISCO ASSAY OFFICE MEDAL**



**UNIQUE PROOF 1971-S EISENHOWER DOLLAR OVERSTRUCK ON A SAN FRANCISCO ASSAY OFFICE MEDAL**





Featured on the cover of Mint Error News Magazine Issue 62:

# MINT ERROR NEWS MAGAZINE

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector. Also featuring Die Trials, Test Pieces, Numismatic Rarities, Currency Errors and Discoveries from the U.S. Mint & the BEP.



## Unique Proof 1971-S Ike Dollar Overstruck on a **Bronze** San Francisco Assay Office Medal



21 Page  
Price Guide  
Inside!

Issue 62 • Fall 2022  
A Mike Byers Publication

# UNIQUE GOLD QUARTER CERTIFIED BY NGC PROOF 66

by Mike Byers



This U.S. GOLD QUARTER is far and beyond the most incredible modern U.S. mint error ever to be discovered. The closest six figure

modern U.S. mint error is the famous \$1 Sacagawea/Quarter Mule, of which there are over 20 known and sell for between 100k and 250k.

# UNIQUE GOLD QUARTER CERTIFIED BY NGC PROOF 66

This Proof Gold Washington Quarter was overstruck on an 1898 \$5 Liberty gold coin. Under magnification, the date (1898) is fully visible on the reverse above the words QUARTER DOLLAR. Part of the detail from the \$5 Liberty design is visible on both the obverse and reverse. It is in gem proof condition and it is amazing that after 50 years, it still looks like it was struck yesterday.

Proof coins are struck by technicians who hand feed the blanks into special presses. They are produced, examined and packaged using extreme quality control. It is very unusual to find major proof errors. A few broadstrikes, off-centers, double strikes (in collar) and off-metals have been known to be found in sealed proof sets. Proof errors are aggressively sought after by many error collectors.

A very small group of Proof errors recently came from a collection that was auctioned by the State of California. The U.S. Secret Service inspected and released this collection to the State of California determining that it was

legal to own. The State of California then auctioned the collection and it has been dispersed since the sale.

There are no equals in the history of modern U.S. coins. This is the only modern issued U.S. coin that was struck as a mint error in GOLD, whether on a blank or previously struck on a U.S. gold coin.

Recently, a U.S. 1913 Buffalo Nickel struck in gold on a \$5 Indian planchet sold for \$400,000. Also recently, one of two known Pan Pac Half Dollars struck in gold sold for \$750,000.

There are also 6 U.S. Indian Head Cents known that were struck on \$2½ gold planchets, certified by either PCGS or NGC. These are valued from 250k to 400k and are seldom offered for sale.

This unique U.S. Gold Quarter, authenticated and certified by NGC PR 66, belongs as the centerpiece and highlight of any collection of U.S. mint errors or unique numismatic rarities.

# UNIQUE GOLD QUARTER CERTIFIED BY NGC PROOF 66



# UNIQUE GOLD QUARTER CERTIFIED BY NGC PROOF 66



# UNIQUE GOLD QUARTER CERTIFIED BY NGC PROOF 66

Here is an overlay outlining the 1889 date from \$5 Liberty design:



# UNIQUE GOLD QUARTER CERTIFIED BY NGC PROOF 66

Featured on the cover of Mint Error News Magazine Issue 66:

## MINT ERROR NEWS MAGAZINE

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector. Also featuring Die Trials, Test Pieces, Numismatic Rarities, Patterns, Currency Errors and Discoveries from the U.S. Mint.



## Unique GOLD Quarter Certified by NGC PROOF 66



21 Page  
Price Guide  
Inside!

Issue 66  
A Mike Byers Publication

# NGC CERTIFIED AMAZING & UNIQUE PROOF IKE DOLLAR CLOVER LEAF OFFERED IN CENTRAL STATES HERITAGE AUCTION

by Heritage Auctions

**Sold For \$105,000**





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Featuring: The Conroy Family Collection | The Cameron Collection | The Seaman Family Collection  
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FLOOR Sessions 1-6 (see note below)  
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Sessions 1 - PATRICK PLATING, Inc. see website listing  
Thursday, April 22 • 6:00 PM CT • Lots 3001-3068

Sessions 2 see website listing  
Thursday, April 22 • 7:30 PM CT • Lots 3069-3058

Sessions 3 - DONALD G. PATRICK COLLECTION  
NUMISMATICALLY RELATED SILVER / HALF-DOLLARS see website listing  
Friday, April 23 • 12:00 PM CT • Lots 2860-3790

Sessions 4 - BOB R. SIMPSON COLLECTION, PARTY see website listing  
Friday, April 23 • 6:00 PM CT • Lots 4086-4310

Sessions 5 see website listing  
Saturday, April 24 • 12:00 PM CT • Lots 4330-4058

Sessions 6 - PLATINUM NIGHT  
Saturday, April 24 • 6:00 PM CT • Lots 4900-5226

ONLINE ONLY Session 7  
HERITAGE Live® Internet, Fax, & Mail only Sessions  
Session 7 see website listing  
Sunday, April 25 • 2:00 PM CT • Lots 6926-7542  
Patrick Hall Cents • Lots 6926-7000  
Online Only • Lots 7001-7542

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Lot 5090

Front Cover Lots: 5032, 5174, 5158, 5091, 5118  
Back Cover Lots: 5089, 5012, 5020, 5074, 5087, 5080, 5008, 5034, 5016, 5110, 5097, 5163, 5145, 5126, 5191, 5154, 5146

*From the Heritage Auction Listing:*

### Undated Three-Piece “Clover Leaf” Eisenhower Dollar Struck on Clad Dime Planchets -- PR68 Ultra Cameo NGC.

The word unique is used perhaps too often by error coin catalogers, but it is the single word that best describes the present lot. Three clad dime planchets were simultaneously struck by a pair of Ike dollar dies.

The planchets touched but did not overlap, and formed a “clover leaf” pattern with the top planchet centered above the remaining two planchets.

Only the 1 in the date is present, and the mintmark is absent, but Earth is complete, and confirms the reverse is Type Two, struck in proof format only during 1971 and 1972. A showstopper mint error on a popular obsolete type.

**Unique 3-Piece Ike \$1 "Clover Leaf"**

Ike \$1 On Clad 10C Planchet PF 68 ULTRA CAMEO

Ike \$1 On Clad 10C Planchet PF 68 ULTRA CAMEO

Ike \$1 On Clad 10C Planchet PF 68 ULTRA CAMEO

5933830-(001-003)



NUMISMATIC GUARANTY CORPORATION



**NGC CERTIFIED AMAZING & UNIQUE PROOF IKE DOLLAR CLOVER LEAF OFFERED IN CENTRAL STATES HERITAGE AUCTION**



**NGC CERTIFIED AMAZING & UNIQUE PROOF IKE DOLLAR CLOVER LEAF OFFERED IN CENTRAL STATES HERITAGE AUCTION**



Photos Courtesy of David J. Camire, NCS President and NGC Finalizer

**NGC CERTIFIED AMAZING & UNIQUE PROOF IKE DOLLAR CLOVER LEAF OFFERED IN CENTRAL STATES HERITAGE AUCTION**



Photos Courtesy of David J. Camire, NCS President and NGC Finalizer



**Ike \$1 "Clover Leaf" Coin 1 of 3 (Obverse)**  
*Ike Dollar Struck on a 10¢ Planchet*  
**NGC Proof 68 ULTRA CAMEO**



**Ike \$1 "Clover Leaf" Coin 1 of 3 (Reverse)**  
*Ike Dollar Struck on a 10¢ Planchet*  
**NGC Proof 68 ULTRA CAMEO**



**Ike \$1 "Clover Leaf" Coin 2 of 3 (Obverse)  
*Ike Dollar Struck on a 10¢ Planchet*  
NGC Proof 68 ULTRA CAMEO**





**Ike \$1 "Clover Leaf" Coin 2 of 3 (Reverse)**  
*Ike Dollar Struck on a 10¢ Planchet*  
**NGC Proof 68 ULTRA CAMEO**



**Ike \$1 "Clover Leaf" Coin 3 of 3 (Obverse)**  
*Ike Dollar Struck on a 10¢ Planchet*  
**NGC Proof 68 ULTRA CAMEO**



**Ike \$1 "Clover Leaf" Coin 3 of 3 (Reverse)**  
*Ike Dollar Struck on a 10¢ Planchet*  
**NGC Proof 68 ULTRA CAMEO**

# Unique 1973-S Proof Ike Dollar Mated Pair

by Mike Byers (mikebyers.com)



# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF IKE DOLLAR MATED PAIR

## 1973-S Proof Ike Dollar Mated Pair

*Ike Dollar Struck on a 1¢ Planchet*

*mated with an*

*Ike Dollar Indented by a 1¢ Planchet*

**PCGS PR67 & PR67RB**

**AMAZING UNIQUE DISCOVERY**

**T**his amazing unique discovery is the only known mated *off-metal and indented pair* on any U.S. proof coin. This mated pair is unique in several ways and is visually breathtaking. An Eisenhower Dollar planchet and a copper Cent planchet were both in the collar at the same time and were struck by Ike Dollar proof dies. The placement of the Cent planchet was perfectly positioned in the center of Eisenhower's portrait.

Although there are a few other Eisenhower Dollar proof mated pairs known, this one is the most visually dramatic.

Proof coins are struck by technicians who hand feed the blanks into special presses. They are produced, examined and packaged using extreme quality control. It is very unusual to find major proof errors. A few broadstrikes, off-centers, double strikes (in collar) and off-metals have been known to be found in sealed proof sets. Proof errors are aggressively sought after by many error collectors.

This unique mated *off-metal and indented pair* is the ultimate Eisenhower Dollar major mint error set and the ultimate proof major mint error set.

# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF IKE DOLLAR MATED PAIR



# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF IKE DOLLAR MATED PAIR



# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF IKE DOLLAR MATED PAIR





# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF IKE DOLLAR MATED PAIR



# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF IKE DOLLAR MATED PAIR



# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF IKE DOLLAR MATED PAIR



# UNIQUE 1973-S PROOF IKE DOLLAR MATED PAIR



# Unique 1973-S Kennedy Half Struck on Clad Proof Ike Dollar Planchet

by Mike Byers (mikebyers.com)



This proof Kennedy Half major mint error is unique in many ways and has no equals. It is the only known proof Kennedy

Half struck on an oversized clad planchet (a proof Eisenhower Dollar planchet weighing 22.4 grams).

# UNIQUE 1973-S KENNEDY HALF STRUCK ON CLAD PROOF IKE DOLLAR PLANCHET

This deliberately struck unique and exotic Kennedy Half mint error is in gem condition with amazing eye appeal. It is pedigreed to John Devine "Lonesome John," a famous pioneer in the field of mint errors and was just certified by NGC. It was previously unknown to the

numismatic community and is just now being offered for sale.

Although the obverse looks like a die cap, it is cupped, and was encapsulated in a double thickness NGC holder to accommodate the shape.



# UNIQUE 1973-S KENNEDY HALF STRUCK ON CLAD PROOF IKE DOLLAR PLANCHET



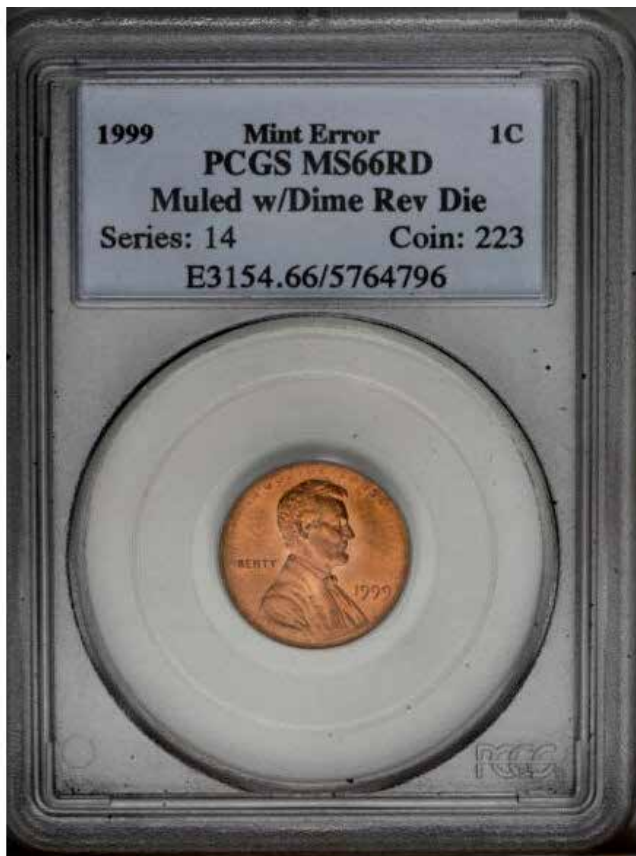
# UNIQUE 1973-S KENNEDY HALF STRUCK ON CLAD PROOF IKE DOLLAR PLANCHET





# Unique 1999 Lincoln Cent Obverse Muled with a Roosevelt Dime Reverse

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE 1999 LINCOLN CENT OBVERSE MULED WITH A ROOSEVELT DIME REVERSE

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1999 1C Lincoln Cent Obverse Die Muled With a Roosevelt Dime Reverse on a Lincoln Cent Planchet MS66 Red PCGS.** This incredible error somehow escaped the scrutiny of Mint employees. We are uncertain how a Lincoln cent obverse die was paired with a Roosevelt dime reverse, but this coin proves that it happened. Only seven double-denomination mules had been certified by November 2003. Interestingly, the consignor of this piece also owns two of those coins, a 1993-D cent/dime on a cent planchet and a 1995 cent/dime on a dime planchet. This type of error occurred only recently, during the entire history of U.S. coinage that spans more than 200 years.

The obverse is sharply struck on the figure of Lincoln and the date, although the opposing dime die, being slightly smaller than the cent planchet, caused minor peripheral weakness on the obverse. In other words, nothing was behind the periphery of the cent die to force the expanding metal into the recesses. Naturally, the slightly smaller reverse dime die caused that side to be boldly struck.

Shortly after this phenomenon dropped from the (mismatched) dies, it was discovered in Erie, Pennsylvania by someone who found the coin in a roll of 1999 cents obtained from a local bank. The discoverer then sold the piece

to Dempsey & Baxter, a local jewelry store. Dempsey & Baxter held onto the piece until the present consignor “made them an offer they couldn’t refuse” in 2003. The consignor had hoped to surprise his father with the coin as a Christmas gift; however, his father unexpectedly died on October 2 of that year, several days before the coin was actually to be purchased. The consignor went ahead and bought the coin after his father’s death and kept it alongside his other double-denomination errors.

It has since been carefully handled, and has developed no spots or other distractions. The coin remains a solid Premium Gem MS66, with full mint Red. For the error specialist, this would be the centerpiece of an advanced collection. Error collectors will long remember the present coin and hope that someday it will again be publicly offered. This piece was widely publicized in *Coin World* and *Numismatic News* soon after its discovery. This prize represents a unique opportunity. It is undoubtedly one of the most important highlights of this or any numismatic auction.

*Included with this piece are copies of numerous articles from trade publications, local newspapers, Internet news pieces, and a promo piece from Dempsey & Baxter that is signed by Jay W. Johnson, Mint Director when this piece was struck.*

# UNIQUE 1999 LINCOLN CENT OBVERSE MULED WITH A ROOSEVELT DIME REVERSE



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

**UNIQUE 1999 LINCOLN CENT OBVERSE MULED WITH A ROOSEVELT DIME REVERSE**



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# Unique 2014-D Sacagawea/ Presidential Dollar Mule

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)

Unique 2014-D Sacagawea/Presidential Dollar Mule  
Previously Unknown Mint Error  
The Discovery Coin, AU58



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Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE 2014-D SACAGAWEA/PRESIDENTIAL DOLLAR MULE

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**2014-D \$1 Sacagawea/Presidential Dollar Mule, Discovery Coin, AU58 NGC.** A mule is perhaps the most fascinating mint error known to modern collectors. Most error types, such as off-center strikes, brockages, indents, die caps, wrong planchets, etc., are the product of some part of the mechanical coin production line failing to function as normal. Many such errors are the statistically inevitable result of striking hundreds of millions of coins per year through a single set of presses. Others are so fantastic that it would be illogical not to accept the idea that they had “help” getting out of the Mint. Mules, on the other hand, are an error of their own breed. Broadly speaking, a mule is a coin struck from two dies that were never meant to be paired. Rather than the product of mechanical failings, as are most modern mint errors, mules are the product of human error.

Instances of this in the latter half of the 19th century were the product of questionable Mint employee practices to profit from the sale of such coins to outside collectors. In modern times, though, mules are actual errors, and the instances of coinage are rare. Perhaps the most

famous mule coin in American numismatics is the famous Sacagawea dollar/Washington quarter mule struck at Philadelphia in the year 2000. Less than 20 examples of the error are known, and whenever one appears at auction, a spirited bidding war and six-figure hammer price are virtual certainties. Those double-denomination mules are considered to be one of if not the greatest modern coins in United States numismatics, error or otherwise.

The present lot is in the same class as those pieces, but being thus far unique, it stands apart on its own ground as well. The obverse is from an ordinary 2014-D Sacagawea dollar, but the reverse is that intended for the Presidential dollars of that year. A pressman at the Mint, when changing out the dies on one of the presses, inadvertently selected a Presidential dollar reverse rather than the appropriate Native Hospitality reverse. The mistake was likely noticed shortly after the press resumed operation, and Mint practice would have been to destroy all of the affected coins. This piece evidently fell through the cracks and escaped the Mint in a bag with ordinary Sacagawea dollars.

# UNIQUE 2014-D SACAGAWEA/PRESIDENTIAL DOLLAR MULE

The discovery of this piece took place in 2019, when it was found in a bag of mixed dollar coins obtained from a bank. It has the expected light abrasions and signs of high point friction that are to be expected of a circulation find, but satiny luster remains, and the significance of the coin vastly overshadows any regard to its grade. *Coin World* magazine publicized the discovery of this coin in a January 15, 2021 article by Bill Gibbs. Gibbs included a statement from David J. Camire, an NGC grading finalizer and coauthor of *100 Greatest U.S. Error Coins*. Camire said:

“This is yet another great find by a collector and an important reminder for the coin collecting community that astonishing discoveries are still being made. Today, the US Mint uses technology and procedures that make it highly unlikely for mint errors not only to be produced, but also to escape into circulation. When they do, they become highly collectible and the NGC grading

team has the expertise and resources to authenticate rare mint errors like these. Now, the hunt is on to see whether additional specimens can be found. Happy hunting!”

At this time, no additional examples of this error have been reported. When the Sacagawea dollar/Washington quarter mule was discovered, a widespread search to find more examples ensued, but that mule proved its rarity -- over a period of more than 20 years, fewer than 20 examples were found. Moreover, that mule’s initial discovery was made within months of the coin being struck. This mule was not discovered for five years after its coinage. History would suggest that the number of additional pieces “in the wild” waiting to be found is profoundly small, if such coins exist at all. The present offering, whether truly unique or simply the first of several discoveries that will take place in the coming decades, will always retain its title as “The Discovery Coin.”

# UNIQUE 2014-D SACAGAWEA/PRESIDENTIAL DOLLAR MULE



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



# UNIQUE 2014-D SACAGAWEA/PRESIDENTIAL DOLLAR MULE



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# 1859 Indian Cent Struck Over 1857 Half Dime; A Spectacular and Unique Mint Error

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



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## 1859 INDIAN CENT STRUCK OVER 1857 HALF DIME; A SPECTACULAR AND UNIQUE MINT ERROR

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**1859 1C Indian Cent--Obverse Struck on 1857 Half Dime--MS63 PCGS.** Apparently unique with no rumor of any other similar examples, although this piece was actually given two different numbers in the Adams-Woodin pattern reference early in the 20th century. It has a pedigree dating back nearly to the time of issue and has only been offered for sale at auction on three previous occasions. Two years after it was minted, an 1857 half dime became mixed with blank planchets ready for production of 1859 Indian cents. During the coinage process, this half dime was fed into the press on top of a blank cent planchet, and the two pieces were struck together. The result was the obverse overstrike with the Indian cent impression over the half dime obverse, and the wavy and somewhat flattened half dime reverse. It is also fascinating to ponder the other coin that was produced in this same operation, essentially an Indian cent with a half dime size indent, consisting specifically of the 1859 Indian cent reverse with nothing but the border dentils and tops of a few letters visible on the obverse.

This unique error is listed in a few different references including Appendix B of the Judd

pattern book (seventh edition edited by Abe Kosoff) where it was described as “1859--CENT. Weakly struck over a half dime, date not showing. Reverse slightly blurred by the overstriking.” It is also recorded in the ninth edition of the same reference (edited by Q. David Bowers) where it is included as one of just 14 “Classic Mint Error Specimens.” The two numbers given to this piece by Edgar H. Adams and William H. Woodin in *United States Pattern, Trial, and Experimental Pieces* carry slightly different descriptions, although there is little doubt that they refer to the same coin. AW-310: “Mule of the obverse of the cent of the year, without date, with the reverse of the half dime of the year.” AW-319: “The adopted obverse. Rev. the reverse of the half dime of the year.” Don Taxay recorded this overstrike on page 392 of the 1971 edition of *Scott's Comprehensive Catalog and Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins*. More recently, Andrew Pollock listed this coin as P-3188, where he misdescribed it as an obverse die trial: “Struck on the obverse side of a regular-issue 1857 half dime.”

It has only appeared for auction on three different occasions. In the June 1890 sale of the *Lorin G. Parmelee Collection* by New York Coin & Stamp Co., David Proskey and

## 1859 INDIAN CENT STRUCK OVER 1857 HALF DIME; A SPECTACULAR AND UNIQUE MINT ERROR

Harlan P. Smith offered this overstrike in the section of "Patterns Issued by U.S. Mint." Their description was concise: "1859 Half Dime : same obv. as regular issue Cent. Rev. HALF DIME, etc., same as regular issue for 1857 : struck over 1857 Half Dime : uncirc.; very rare." The next auction appearance was 84 years later in the February 1974 sale of the *Dr. Charles Ruby Collection* by Superior Stamp and Coin Co., where it was offered as: "One of the most extraordinary mint errors ever offered." It is assumed that this was part of the Ruby Collection. Two decades later, Bowers and Merena offered *The Collection of Stuart C. Levine, M.D.* at auction in April 1986. In that offering, this overstrike was offered as part of the Levine collection of half dimes: "With this most illustrious pedigree, this outstanding and unique silver mint error should see spirited bidding. One of the most interesting 'half dimes' in the present collection."

The acquisition opportunity that is presented in this sale cannot be overstated. This is only the fourth time this unique coin has been offered for auction sale in 148 years of its existence, or once every 37 years! Perhaps it will not be offered again until 2044. Its importance also cannot be overstated. It is an amazing

dual-denomination error, considered a "six-cent piece" by some, combining two different denominations struck in two entirely different years. It is also an error that represents a first-year of issue design and a single-year type coin.

An aesthetically desirable example, this piece has full silver luster on both sides with pale lilac color accented by hints of gold and iridescent toning. There is no evidence of any distracting marks on either side. Much of the original Seated Liberty half dime design is still visible in the obverse, including the entire 1857 date that can be seen in the left obverse field. The wavy appearance of the reverse is strictly a result of the distortion that took place during striking. Otherwise, the obverse would necessarily have a similar distorted appearance, but that is not the case.

*Ex: George F. Seavey; Lorin G. Parmelee (New York Coin and Stamp Co., 6/1890). Lot 107; later, Dr. Charles L. Ruby Collection, Part I (Superior Stamp and Coin Co., 2/1974), lot 1988A; Stuart C. Levine, M.D. (Bowers and Merena, 4/1986), lot 2209.*

# 1859 INDIAN CENT STRUCK OVER 1857 HALF DIME; A SPECTACULAR AND UNIQUE MINT ERROR



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# 1859 INDIAN CENT STRUCK OVER 1857 HALF DIME; A SPECTACULAR AND UNIQUE MINT ERROR



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# Unique 2000-D Sacagawea Dollar Muled with a South Carolina Quarter Reverse

by Heritage Auctions (ha.com)



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

# UNIQUE 2000-D SACAGAWEA DOLLAR MULED WITH A SOUTH CAROLINA QUARTER REVERSE

*From the Heritage auction listing:*

**2000-D \$1 Sacagawea Dollar / South Carolina Quarter Mule MS64 PCGS.** A Paul Gilkes front page story in the June 27, 2022 issue of *Coin World* astounded the numismatic hobby. More than 20 years after it was struck, a mule was reported that paired a Sacagawea dollar obverse and the statehood side of a 2000-dated South Carolina quarter. A mule is a coin struck from mismatched dies. The best-known mule, ranked #1 in the *100 Greatest U.S. Modern Coins* reference, pairs the Washington obverse of a statehood quarter with a Sacagawea dollar reverse. An undated Philadelphia Mint product, it was discovered in 2000, the year the Sacagawea dollar was introduced. There are approximately 18 known examples of that mule, and when examples appear at auction, they routinely hammer down in excess of one hundred thousand dollars.

The present mule is unique. It is more dramatic than the *other* famous Sacagawea dollar / statehood quarter mule, since the state is identified, and it shows the Sacagawea obverse. The coin has both a date and a mintmark. The coin is fully struck and displays medium sea-green and tan-brown toning with peripheral shades of blue and lilac. No marks are noticeable, though a loupe reveals minor luster grazes.

The quarter side has a broad rim with three concentric levels. The inner and outer levels are raised, and the middle level is recessed. The wider rim on the quarter side is caused

by the wider diameter of the Sacagawea dollar die. The mule is struck on a Sacagawea dollar planchet with a weight of 8.1 grams, a diameter of 26.5 millimeters, and a plain edge, all as usual for a 2002-D Sacagawea dollar.

All mules are rare in U.S. numismatics. The *Coin World* article states:

“Other U.S. mules that have been authenticated include: the first identified, featuring an obverse of a State quarter dollar and the reverse of the Sacagawea dollar, struck on the golden dollar planchet; a mule with a Sacagawea dollar obverse and Presidential dollar reverse, also struck on a golden dollar planchet; a mule error struck with two Roosevelt dime reverse dies on a copper-nickel clad dime planchet; two examples of Washington quarter dollar mules from two reverse dies, presumably struck at the San Francisco Mint circa 1965 to 1966; a unique 1993-D piece struck on a cent planchet with a Lincoln cent obverse die and Roosevelt dime reverse die; and a 1995 piece struck on a dime planchet by a Lincoln cent obverse die and Roosevelt dime reverse die.”

In addition to that brief listing of known mule combinations, three 2001-D Lincoln cents with a Roosevelt dime reverse have appeared in Heritage auctions, and a 1999 Lincoln cent with a Roosevelt dime reverse was hammered down in our April 2006 Central States Signature.



**UNIQUE 2000-D SACAGAWEA DOLLAR MULED WITH A SOUTH CAROLINA QUARTER REVERSE**



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

**UNIQUE 2000-D SACAGAWEA DOLLAR MULED WITH A SOUTH CAROLINA QUARTER REVERSE**



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# Mint Error News Price Guide

*- Updated November 2023 -*

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.

## Proof Errors (Updated November 2023)



**P**roof coins are struck by technicians who hand feed the blanks into special presses. They are produced, examined, and packaged using extreme quality control. It is very unusual to find major proof errors. A few broadstrikes, off-centers, double strikes in collars and off-metals have been known to be found in sealed proof sets. Proof errors are aggressively sought after by many error collectors.

A very small group of Proof errors recently came from a collection that was auctioned by the State of California. The U.S. Secret Service inspected and released this collection to the State of California determining that it was legal to own. The State of California then auctioned the collection and it has been dispersed since the sale.

Denomination	Broadstrikes	Die Trials	Double/Triple Strikes	Off-Center Strikes	Partial Collar Errors
Proof Lincoln Cent	\$1,000 - \$1,500	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$1,500 - \$3,000	\$500
Proof Jefferson Nickel	\$2,500 - \$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,000 - \$5,000	\$1,000
Proof Clad Dime	\$3,000 - \$5,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,500 - \$5,000	\$1,250
Proof Clad Quarter	\$4,000 - \$5,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$1,500
Proof Clad Half	\$5,000 - \$7,000	\$4,000 - \$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$2,000
Proof Ike Dollar	\$15,000	-	\$25,000	-	\$4,000
Presidential Dollar	-	-	-	-	3 Known

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Broadstrikes (Updated November 2023)



A broadstruck error occurs when a coin is struck without the collar to form the rim and edge that is part of the shape of the coin. Coins can be broadstruck on either type one or type two planchets. When a coin is broadstruck the blank being fed into the collar will spread and distort outward as it is being struck because the collar isn't in the correct position to retain it.

Denomination	(Small) XF/AU	(Small) Unc	(Large) XF/AU	(Large) Unc
Large Cent	\$150	\$300	\$400	\$1,500
Flying Eagle Cent (1857 – 1858)	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$7,500
Indian Cent	\$50	\$150	\$200	\$350
Lincoln Cent 1930 and Earlier	\$50	\$150	\$100	\$250
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$40	\$100	\$75	\$200
Proof Lincoln Cent	N/A	\$1,500	N/A	\$2,500
3 Cent Nickel	\$250	\$1,000	\$400	\$1,500
3 Cent Silver	\$1,000	\$3,500	\$1,500	\$5,000
Shield Nickel	\$400	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$2,500
Liberty Nickel	\$150	\$300	\$200	\$600
Buffalo Nickel	\$100	\$200	\$200	\$500
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$100	\$200	\$200	\$500
Proof Jefferson Nickel	N/A	\$2,500	N/A	\$4,000
Seated Half Dime Legend	\$1,500	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$7,500
Seated Dime Legend	\$1,500	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$7,500
Barber Dime	\$150	\$250	\$200	\$400
Mercury Dime	\$40	\$150	\$150	\$250
Proof Clad Dime	N/A	\$3,000	N/A	\$5,000
Barber Quarter	\$600	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$2,500
Standing Liberty Quarter	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$75	\$150	\$100	\$250
State Quarter	N/A	\$25	N/A	\$50
Proof Clad Quarter	N/A	\$4,000	N/A	\$5,000
Barber Half	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
Walking Liberty Half	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$7,000
Franklin Half	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
Kennedy Half Silver	\$150	\$250	\$200	\$300
Kennedy Half Clad	\$40	\$60	\$50	\$75
Proof Clad Half	N/A	\$5,000	N/A	\$7,000
Morgan Dollar	\$200	\$500	\$400	\$1,000
Peace Dollar	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$6,000	\$10,000
IKE Dollar	\$100	\$150	\$150	\$200
SBA Dollar	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$200
Sac Dollar	N/A	\$300	N/A	\$1,000
Presidential Dollar	N/A	\$1,500	N/A	\$2,500

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Partial Collars (Updated November 2023)



**P**artial collar strikes occur when there is a malfunction of the striking press. This causes the collar to be in an incorrect position. The lower die (usually the reverse die) is recessed in the collar. This allows the coin which is going to be struck to have a formed rim. After a coin is struck the lower die raises upwards, pushing the struck coin out of the collar and ejecting it. If a blank entering the collar is not properly seated, it will only have partial reeding as it is struck. The edge of this coin will have a partial reeding and a partial blank surface area. Recently, the Mint has installed new machinery where either die can be installed in either position.

Denomination	XF/AU	Unc
Large Cent	\$100	\$200
Flying Eagle Cent (1857 – 1858)	\$500	\$1,500
Indian Cent	\$35	\$100
Lincoln Cent 1930 and Earlier	\$30	\$100
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$25	\$50
Proof Lincoln Cent	N/A	\$750
3 Cent Nickel	\$150	\$500
3 Cent Silver	\$250	\$750
Shield Nickel	\$200	\$600
Liberty Nickel	\$50	\$150
Buffalo Nickel	\$50	\$75
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$40	\$60
Proof Jefferson Nickel	N/A	\$1,000
Seated Half Dime Legend	\$750	\$1,500
Seated Dime Legend	\$500	\$1,250
Barber Dime	\$75	\$150
Mercury Dime	\$30	\$100
Proof Clad Dime	N/A	\$1,250
Barber Quarter	\$300	\$750
Standing Liberty Quarter	\$1,250	\$2,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$40	\$75
State Quarter	N/A	\$15
Proof Clad Quarter	N/A	\$1,500
Barber Half	\$1,000	\$1,500
Walking Liberty Half	\$1,500	\$3,500
Franklin Half	\$500	\$1,000
Kennedy Half Silver	\$50	\$100
Kennedy Half Clad	\$20	\$30
Proof Clad Half	N/A	\$2,000
Morgan Dollar	\$150	\$300
Peace Dollar	\$1,000	\$2,500
IKE Dollar	\$50	\$100
SBA Dollar	\$20	\$30
Sac Dollar	N/A	\$100
Presidential Dollar	N/A	\$400
\$1 Gold Type 1	\$2,500	\$5,000
\$1 Gold Type 2	\$5,000	\$10,000
\$1 Gold Type 3	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$2½ Liberty	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$2½ Indian	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$3	\$5,000	\$10,000
\$5 Liberty	\$4,000	\$5,000
\$5 Indian	\$4,000	\$6,000
\$10 Liberty	\$4,000	\$7,500
\$10 Indian	\$7,500	\$10,000
\$20 Liberty Type 3	\$7,500	\$10,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Uniface Strikes (Updated November 2023)



Uniface coins occur when there have been two blank planchets in the press at the same time. The other blank will obstruct the die on either the obverse or reverse side, which will prevent it from having that design on the coin. There are many different variations involving uniface errors. In addition to having a 100% blank obverse or reverse, a coin can be struck off-center, with a blank planchet in the collar which will obstruct one side of the off-center. There are also mated pairs which have a combination of multiple errors which can include a side which is uniface. Finally, there are uniface strikes due to a die cap which adhered to the die, forming itself in the shape of a die and striking blank planchets.

Denomination	Uniface Obverse XF	Uniface Obverse Unc	Uniface Reverse XF	Uniface Reverse Unc
Large Cent	\$1,500	\$4,000	\$1,250	\$2,000
Indian Cent	\$750	\$3,000	\$700	\$2,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$250	\$500	\$200	\$400
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$50	\$100	\$40	\$75
3 Cent Nickel	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$1,250	\$2,500
Shield Nickel	\$1,750	\$4,000	\$1,500	\$3,000
Liberty Nickel	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$1,500	\$3,000
Buffalo Nickel	\$2,250	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$2,500
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$300	\$750	\$250	\$500
Jefferson Nickel	\$20	\$40	\$20	\$40
Barber Dime	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$2,500
Mercury Dime	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$2,250
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$100	\$150	\$100	\$150
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$40	\$75	\$35	\$60
Washington Quarter Silver	\$400	\$750	\$350	\$500
Washington Quarter Clad	\$100	\$125	\$75	\$100
State Quarter	N/A	\$300	N/A	\$500
Kennedy Half Clad	\$750	\$1,000	\$500	\$750
IKE Dollar	\$2,000	\$4,000	N/A	\$3,000
SBA Dollar	\$500	\$1,000	N/A	\$750
Sac Dollar	\$750	\$1,500	N/A	\$1,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Bonded Coins

(Updated November 2023)



**B**onded coins occur when the feeder system, which supplies blank planchets to the coin press, malfunctions and jams. When this occurs, a struck coin is not properly ejected and another planchet is fed into the collar and is struck. This struck coin will land on top of the previously unejected strike. These coins will then crush and bond together. This may occur many times as more coins bond.

Denomination	2 Planchets	3-4 Planchets	5-10 Planchets
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$5,000	\$15,000	–
Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$600	\$2,000	\$5,000 - \$10,000
Jefferson Nickel	\$1,250	\$5,000	\$6,000 - \$10,000
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$4,000	\$12,500	–
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$1,500	\$5,000	–
Washington Quarter Silver	\$7,500	–	–
Washington Quarter Clad	\$3,000	–	–
State Quarter	\$5,000	–	–
Kennedy Half Silver	\$12,500	–	–
Kennedy Half Clad	\$10,000	–	–
IKE Dollar	–	–	–
SBA Dollar	\$10,000	–	–
Sac Dollar	\$10,000	–	–



# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Struck Fragments (Updated November 2023)



The blanking press takes the coils of metal strips and punches blanks out of it, ejecting the webbing at the other end. The webbing is cut into small scrap pieces to be melted and recycled. Occasionally a scrap piece will be mixed with the blank planchets and struck by the dies. Struck fragments are rare in the larger denominations. These can be uniface or die struck both sides and are very rare on type coins.

Denomination	Uniface	Die Struck Both Sides
Indian Cent	\$1,000	\$2,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$750	\$2,000
Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$75	\$125
3 Cent Nickel	\$3,000	\$3,500
Jefferson Nickel	\$100	\$200
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$500	\$1,000
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$150	\$250
Washington Quarter Silver	\$1,250	\$1,500
Washington Quarter Clad	\$200	\$300
State Quarter	\$750	\$1,000
Kennedy Half Silver	\$1,500	\$2,500
Kennedy Half Clad	\$750	\$1,250
IKE Dollar	\$4,000	\$6,000
SBA Dollar	\$2,000	\$3,000
Sac Dollar	\$2,000	\$4,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Mated Pairs (Updated November 2023)



**M**ated pairs involve two individual coins with different errors that were struck together at the same time. Mated pair error combinations can be found in most error types and come in many shapes and sizes. Mated pairs can be overlapped when one of the coins is struck off-center on top of another coin. Another type involves a brockage where a struck coin was perfectly centered on a blank and restruck. Some mated pairs involve a die cap where the cap and brockage coin are discovered together, but this is a scarce find.

The rarest mated pair type involves two die caps (obverse and reverse) where both dies were capped at the same time and both die caps are mated. This last type is extremely rare and there are only a few known examples of mated pairs involving an obverse die cap and reverse die cap. There are several of these mated pairs known on Kennedy Halves including two dated 1976, which is the Bicentennial year. One of the most spectacular mated pairs involve two Barber Dimes, an obverse die cap mated to a reverse die cap and are unique.

Mated pairs can also involve an off-metal where a smaller blank planchet or smaller struck coin was struck on top of a larger coin. This type is extremely rare. The most spectacular pair known is a double struck Franklin Half which was mated to a Lincoln Cent. The Lincoln Cent blank was on top of the obverse of the struck Franklin Half. This pair was then struck together. It is unique.

Denomination	Overlapping	Full Brockage	Die Cap	2 Die Caps
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$7,500	–
Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$500	\$750	\$750	\$1,250
Liberty Nickel	–	\$20,000	–	–
Jefferson Nickel (pre War Time)	–	–	–	\$15,000
Jefferson Nickel	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$2,500
Barber Dime	–	–	–	\$50,000
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,000	–
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$5,000	–	–	–
Washington Quarter Clad	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
State Quarter	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	–
Kennedy Half Silver	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$12,500
Kennedy Half Clad	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$8,500
Kennedy Half Bicentennial	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$10,000
IKE Dollar	\$20,000	–	–	–
SBA Dollar	\$10,000	\$12,500	–	–
Sac Dollar	–	–	–	–

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Transitional Errors (Updated November 2023)



A transitional error occurs when a coin is struck on a planchet from a previous year with different metal composition. The most famous transitional is a 1943 copper cent struck on a 1942 copper blank. 1943 cents were struck in steel because of the copper shortage during World War II. Other famous transitionals include 1965 coinage struck in silver instead of clad.

There are also transitionals struck on blanks for the next year. An example is 1964 coinage in clad instead of silver. Most recently, transitionals were discovered involving the SBA and Sacagawea Dollars of 1999 and 2000. There are eight known 1999 SBA Dollars struck on the brass planchet for the 2000 Sacagawea Dollar, and four known 2000 Sacagawea Dollars struck on a clad planchet for the 1999 SBA Dollar.

Denomination	Off-Metal Planchet	Circulated	AU	Unc	Choice Unc – Gem
Lincoln Cent 1943 Transitional	Copper Cent Planchet	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$250,000
Lincoln Cent 1944 Transitional	Steel Cent Planchet	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
Lincoln Cent 1964 Transitional	Clad Dime Planchet	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000
Lincoln Cent 1965 Transitional	Silver Dime Planchet	\$2,750	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500
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 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
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	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
Ike Dollar Transitional	40% Silver Planchet	\$2,750	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000
SBA Dollar Transitional	Sacagawea Planchet	N/A	N/A	\$7,500	\$10,000
Sacagawea Dollar Transitional	SBA Planchet	N/A	N/A	\$7,500	\$10,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## U.S. Gold Errors (Updated November 2023)



Major mint errors on U.S. Gold coins are the most prized category of all mint errors. Gold errors are very rare and a few have traded in the \$75,000 to \$100,000 range. Even a broadstruck U.S. Gold coin can easily sell for \$15,000 to \$30,000 compared to a broadstruck Cent, Nickel, Dime or Quarter which all sell for well under \$10. Many serious collectors of Gold Errors have to wait patiently for months and sometimes even years to acquire that one special piece for their collection.

The prices listed here are for common dates in AU-Unc. Better dates and errors that are in gem condition are worth considerably more.

Denomination	Partial Collar	Broadstruck	Clipped Planchet	3% - 5% Off-Center	10% - 15% Off-Center
\$1 Gold Type 1	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$25,000
\$1 Gold Type 2	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$35,000
\$1 Gold Type 3	\$1,000	\$4,000	\$1,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
\$2½ Liberty	\$2,000	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$10,000	\$20,000
\$2½ Indian	\$2,000	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$17,500
\$3 Indian	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$35,000
\$5 Liberty	\$4,000	\$8,500	\$3,000	\$12,500	\$30,000
\$5 Indian	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$30,000	\$50,000
\$10 Liberty	\$4,000	\$20,000	\$3,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
\$10 Indian	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
\$20 Liberty	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$7,500	\$50,000	\$125,000
\$20 St. Gaudens	—	—	\$5,000	—	—
\$5 American Eagle	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$750	\$2,500	\$3,500
\$10 American Eagle	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$3,500
\$25 American Eagle	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
\$50 American Eagle	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$10,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Indents (Updated November 2023)



An indent error occurs when two blanks are fed inadvertently into the same collar, with one blank partly overlaying on top of the other. When the hammer die strikes this combination, the upper blank will be forced into the lower blank, creating a depression which is shaped similar to the upper blank. A scarce type of indent occurs when a blank intended for one denomination lands on top of a blank from a different denomination.

Denomination	10% - 25% XF	30% - 50% XF	10% - 25% Unc	30% - 50% Unc
Large Cent	\$300	\$600	\$750	\$2,000
Indian Cent	\$250	\$500	\$400	\$750
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$100	\$300	\$175	\$500
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$30	\$75	\$75	\$125
3 Cent Nickel	\$500	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$3,000
Shield Nickel	\$500	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$3,000
Liberty Nickel	\$400	\$1,000	\$750	\$1,500
Buffalo Nickel	\$300	\$1,000	\$600	\$2,000
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$200	\$400	\$400	\$750
Jefferson Nickel	\$10	\$25	\$15	\$30
Barber Dime	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$3,000
Mercury Dime	\$300	\$750	\$500	\$1,500
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$100
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$10	\$20	\$15	\$30
Washington Quarter Silver	\$100	\$200	\$150	\$300
Washington Quarter Clad	\$25	\$50	\$35	\$100
State Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$200	\$350
Kennedy Half Clad	\$150	\$300	\$200	\$400
IKE Dollar	\$350	\$1,000	\$500	\$1,500
SBA Dollar	\$200	\$400	\$250	\$500
Sac Dollar	\$300	\$500	\$400	\$750

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Die Caps (Updated November 2023)



**D**ie caps are caused when a struck coin sticks to the upper hammer die. Once the coin is struck to the die face, the reverse of the struck coin becomes the new die face. When the next blank is fed into the collar and the strike occurs, the reverse design of the adhered struck coin impresses itself into the new blank. This struck coin is a brockage strike. The coin that adhered to the upper die is known as a die cap. This process repeats itself as more coins are struck by the cap. The greater the number of strikes, the higher the cap metal will be pushed around the upper die shaft. Eventually, the cap brakes away from the die in the shape of a thimble.

Denomination	Obverse Cap XF	Obverse Cap Unc	Reverse Cap XF	Reverse Cap Unc
Large Cent	\$25,000	\$50,000	–	–
Indian Cent 1859	\$20,000	\$40,000	–	–
Indian Cent 1860-1864	\$15,000	\$40,000	–	–
Indian Cent 1864-1909	\$15,000	\$30,000	–	–
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	–	–	–	–
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$500	\$1,000
Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$150	\$200	\$50	\$100
2 Cent Piece	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
3 Cent Nickel	–	–	–	–
Shield Nickel	–	–	–	–
Liberty Nickel	\$12,500	\$25,000	–	–
Buffalo Nickel (1 Known)	–	\$30,000	–	–
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$10,000	–	–	–
Jefferson Nickel	\$200	\$350	\$150	\$250
Barber Dime	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$12,500	\$20,000
Mercury Dime (2 Known)	\$5,000	\$7,500	–	–
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$750	\$1,250	\$500	\$750
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$200	\$400	\$200	\$250
Barber Quarter	\$20,000	\$50,000	–	–
Washington Quarter Silver	\$1,500	\$4,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
Washington Quarter Clad	\$350	\$750	\$250	\$350
State Quarter	N/A	\$1,000	N/A	\$600
Kennedy Half Silver	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
Kennedy Half Clad	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$1,500	\$2,000
Kennedy Half Bicentennial	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$1,750	\$2,500
IKE Dollar	–	\$30,000	–	–
SBA Dollar	N/A	\$15,000	N/A	\$10,000
Sac Dollar	N/A	\$15,000	N/A	\$15,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Die Adjustment Strikes (Updated November 2023)



Die adjustment strikes are also known as die trials. This error occurs when a coin is struck from the press with very little pressure. When the press is being set up and adjusted, extremely weak strikes occur as the strike pressure reaches its optimum level. These die trials are destroyed after being struck and are rarely found in circulation.

Denomination	XF/AU	Unc
Indian Cent	\$1,000	\$2,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ear	\$200	\$300
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$750	\$1,500
Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$50	\$75
2 Cent	\$5,000	—
Liberty Nickel	\$3,000	\$5,000
Buffalo Nickel	\$4,000	\$7,500
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$1,250	\$2,000
Jefferson Nickel	\$75	\$100
Proof Jefferson Nickel	N/A	\$4,000
Barber Dime	\$2,500	\$3,500
Mercury Dime	\$1,000	\$1,500
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$350	\$500
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$100	\$125
Seated Quarter	\$4,000	\$7,500
Standing Liberty Quarter	\$7,500	\$15,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$500	\$750
Washington Quarter Clad (Pre-State)	\$125	\$150
State Quarter	N/A	\$200
Walking Liberty Half	\$2,500	\$5,000
Kennedy Half Silver	\$500	\$750
Kennedy Half Clad	\$200	\$250
Proof Kennedy Half 40% Silver	N/A	\$5,000
Proof Kennedy Half Clad	N/A	\$4,000
Morgan Dollar	\$4,000	\$7,500
Peace Dollar	\$7,000	\$10,000
IKE Dollar	\$300	\$400
IKE Dollar Bicentennial	\$350	\$500
SBA Dollar	N/A	\$500
Sac Dollar	N/A	\$1,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Double Denominations (Updated November 2023)



One of the most expensive, popular, and desired types of errors are the double denominations. This error happens when a coin is struck on a previously struck coin of a smaller denomination. Examples are a cent on a struck dime, and a nickel on a struck cent. The most dramatic are those with considerable design visible from the original strike. There are a few known double denominations with different dates.

Denomination	Struck On	Circulated	AU	Unc
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	Mercury Dime	\$6,000	\$12,500	\$20,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	Roosevelt Dime	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	Foreign Coin	\$2,000	\$2,500	–
Lincoln Cent Memorial	Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$6,000
Lincoln Cent Memorial	Roosevelt Dime Clad	N/A	N/A	\$750
Lincoln Cent Memorial	Foreign Coin	N/A	\$600	\$750
Jefferson Nickel	Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
Jefferson Nickel	Lincoln Cent Memorial	N/A	\$750	\$1,000
Jefferson Nickel	Foreign Coin	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500
Jefferson Nickel	Roosevelt Dime	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500
Roosevelt Dime Silver	Foreign Coin	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$7,500
Roosevelt Dime Clad	Foreign Coin	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
Washington Quarter Silver	Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$6,000
Washington Quarter Silver	Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Washington Quarter Silver	Foreign Coin	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Washington Quarter Silver	Jefferson Nickel	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$6,000
Washington Quarter Silver	Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Washington Quarter Clad	Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Washington Quarter Clad	Foreign Coin	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000
Washington Quarter Clad	Jefferson Nickel	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Washington Quarter Clad	Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000
State Quarter	Jefferson Nickel	N/A	\$5,000	\$7,500
State Quarter (Extremely Rare)	Any Other Denomination	N/A	\$10,000	\$12,500
Franklin Half	Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$7,500	\$12,500	\$25,000
Kennedy Half (Extremely Rare)	Any Denomination	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500
IKE Dollar (Extremely Rare)	Any Denomination	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000
Sac Dollar	Maryland State Quarter	N/A	\$3,000	\$4,000



# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Brockages (Updated November 2023)



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	\$10,000
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	\$5,000
Liberty Nickel	\$1,250	\$2,250	\$2,000	\$4,000
Buffalo Nickel	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$7,500
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$250	\$750	\$750	\$1,500
Jefferson Nickel	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$150
Barber Dime	\$1,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$12,500
Mercury Dime	\$750	\$3,000	\$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	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$7,500
SBA Dollar	N/A	N/A	\$500	\$2,500
Sac Dollar	N/A	N/A	\$1,500	\$5,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Double & Multiple Strikes (Updated November 2023)



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.

(Since each double and multiple strike can vary from being 10% off-center to 90% off-center, the prices listed below can be substantially more based on the percent off-center and dramatic overall look.)

Denomination	XF/AU	Unc
Large Cent	\$1,000	\$7,500
Indian Cent	\$600	\$1,000
Lincoln Cent 1930 and Earlier	\$850	\$1,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$400	\$1,500
Proof Lincoln Cent	N/A	\$4,000
3 Cent Nickel	\$2,000	\$3,500
Liberty Nickel	\$4,000	\$10,000
Buffalo Nickel	\$5,000	\$10,000
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$750	\$2,000
Proof Jefferson Nickel	N/A	\$5,000
Barber Dime	\$4,000	\$10,000
Mercury Dime	\$3,500	\$8,500
Proof Clad Dime	N/A	\$5,000
Standing Liberty Quarter	\$15,000	\$50,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$200	\$350
State Quarter	N/A	\$350 – \$750
Proof Clad Quarter	N/A	\$6,000
Walking Liberty Half	\$10,000	\$25,000
Franklin Half	\$6,500	\$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	\$10,000	\$25,000
Peace Dollar	\$15,000	\$40,000
IKE Dollar	\$2,000	\$4,000 - \$7,500
SBA Dollar	\$1,000	\$2,500 – \$4,000
Sac Dollar	\$750	\$1,250 – \$2,500

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Off-Center Strikes (Updated November 2023)



Off-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	\$10,000
Flying Eagle Cent (1857 – 1858)	\$2,500	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
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	\$7,500
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	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
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	\$4,000	\$10,000	\$6,000	\$20,000
Walking Liberty Half	\$4,000	\$12,500	\$7,500	\$20,000
Franklin Half	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$7,500
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	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$50,000
Peace Dollar	\$20,000	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
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
Presidential Dollar	–	–	\$1,500	\$5,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Off-Metals

(Updated November 2023)



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	\$5,000	\$7,500
Indian Cent	Dime Planchet	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$75,000
Lincoln Cent Before 1919	Dime Planchet	\$4,000	\$6,500	\$10,000	–
Lincoln Cent Before 1919	Foreign Planchet	\$750	\$2,000	\$4,000	–
Lincoln Cent 1919 – 1940	Dime Planchet	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$6,000
Lincoln Cent 1919 – 1940	Foreign Planchet	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	Dime Planchet	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$7,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Transitional	Copper Cent Planchet	\$75,000	100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000
Lincoln Cent 1944 Transitional	Steel Cent Planchet	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears (1941-1964)	Dime Planchet	\$500	\$600	\$1,000	\$2,000
Lincoln Cent 1965 and Later	Dime Planchet	\$125	\$150	\$200	\$350
Lincoln Cent 1964 Transitional	Clad Dime Planchet	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000
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	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$40,000	\$60,000
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	\$7,500	\$12,500	–
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	\$10,000	\$12,500
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

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Off-Metals (Updated November 2023)

Denomination	Off-Metal Planchet	Circulated	AU	Unc	Choice Unc – Gem
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	\$12,500
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	Dime Planchet	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$50,000
Walking Half	Quarter Planchet	\$17,500	\$22,500	\$40,000	\$35,000
Walking Half	Foreign Planchet	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$25,000
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	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,000
Kennedy Half 1965 Transitional	Silver Half Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$10,000
Kennedy Half 1964 Transitional	Clad Quarter Planchet	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$7,500
Kennedy Half 1965 Transitional	Silver Quarter Planchet	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
Ike Dollar	Cent Planchet	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000
Ike Dollar	Nickel Planchet	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$20,000
Ike Dollar	Dime Planchet	\$7,500	\$8,500	\$10,000	\$12,500
Ike Dollar	Quarter Planchet	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000
Ike Dollar	Half Planchet	\$1,600	\$1,750	\$2,000	\$3,000
Ike Dollar	Foreign Planchet	\$900	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500
Ike Dollar Transitional	40% Silver Planchet	\$2,750	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$5,000
SBA Dollar	Cent Planchet	N/A	\$1,750	\$3,000	\$5,000
SBA Dollar	Nickel Planchet	N/A	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000
SBA Dollar	Dime Planchet	N/A	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$10,000
SBA Dollar	Quarter Planchet	N/A	\$600	\$850	\$1,000
Sac Dollar	Cent Planchet	N/A	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$20,000
Sac Dollar	Nickel Planchet	N/A	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$20,000
Sac Dollar	Dime Planchet	N/A	\$8,000	\$15,000	\$20,000
Sac Dollar	Quarter Planchet	N/A	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Counterbrockages (Updated November 2023)



A counterbrockage error involves a cap die and a previously struck coin. When a cap die strikes a previously struck coin, the obverse design from that struck coin will be impressed into the cap. The result will be a design where the cap face will be an incuse brockage. When a new blank is struck by this cap die with an incuse brockage image, the obverse will have a raised and spread image from that incuse design of the cap. This brockage impression is known as a counterbrockage.

Denomination	Circulated	AU	Unc	Choice Unc - Gem
Indian Cent	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$500	\$750	\$1,500	\$2,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$200	\$200	\$300	\$500
Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$40	\$50	\$75	\$100
Shield Nickel	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
Liberty Nickel	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
Jefferson Nickel	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200
Barber Dime	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$300	\$500	\$750	\$1,000
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$100	\$150	\$250	\$300
Washington Quarter Silver	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
Washington Quarter Clad	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$400
State Quarter	N/A	\$750	\$1,250	\$1,500
Kennedy Half Silver	\$1,250	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000
Kennedy Half Clad	\$500	\$750	\$1,250	\$1,500
SBA Dollar	N/A	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Fold-Over Strikes (Updated November 2023)



A fold-over coin is one of the most dramatic types of errors. It occurs when the blank is standing vertically between the dies. During the strike, the force is so great that it bends and folds the blank. These fold-overs can be on-center or off-center, and come in many different shapes. There are a few fold-overs with multiple errors, either with an additional strike or fold-over. Denominations above quarters are very scarce.

Denomination	AU	AU Dated	Unc	Unc Dated
Indian Cent Memorial Copper	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,500
Lincoln Cent Memorial Zinc	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,250
Jefferson Nickel	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$4,000
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$4,500
Washington Quarter Silver	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Washington Quarter Clad	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
State Quarter	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$8,500

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Martha Washington Test Pieces (Updated November 2023)



There is one set of a Dime, Quarter and Half struck by Martha Washington dies that are permanently housed in the Smithsonian Institute, embedded in blocks of lucite. According to United States Pattern and Related Issues, by Andrew W. Pollock III, “the only trial pieces purported to have survived metallurgical testing in 1965 were the Dime, Quarter Dollar, and Half Dollar equivalent strikes in copper-nickel clad over copper.”

Mike Byers’ discovery of the Martha Washington Test Piece on a copper-zinc Cent planchet struck 10% off-center with a uniface reverse was a front page Coin World article on August 7th, 2000.

Denomination	Unc	Choice	Gem
Martha Cent	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Martha Nickel	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500
Martha Dime	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500
Martha Quarter	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000
Martha Half Dollar	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000
Martha Dollar (SBA Planchet)	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000
Martha Dollar (Sac Planchet)	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$10,000



# MINT ERROR NEWS MAGAZINE

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Mike Byers is the Publisher & Editor of Mint Error News Magazine

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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.

## **Welcome to The Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors!**

For those of you not familiar with this fascinating area of numismatics, patterns are prototypes for coins that, for the most part, were never approved for circulation. Most patterns are very rare, some unique, and others unknown outside of museums.

A good place to start learning about these pieces is our Beginner's Corner which includes a page on How to use this Website or the Photo Gallery which contains examples of many of the different pattern issues.

The United States Mint produced more than 1000 different patterns, as well as many die trials and experimental pieces. Despite the great rarity of many of these individual items, the great variety makes the series surprisingly collectable.

There are relatively few collectors specializing in United States pattern coinage. Most of these collectors target specific areas. For example, there are collectors who specialize in Indian Cent patterns, others collecting Morgan dollar patterns, and so on.

In addition to these specialists, there are thousands of collectors of regular issue United States coins who try to buy a few patterns to complement their collections. Many of these historical coins have wide appeal and are surprisingly affordable. There are many collectors who, for example, would like to own an 1855 Flying Eagle large cent (J-167, about 500 pieces struck) to go with their collection of large cents or with their collection of Flying Eagle small cents.

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**Realized \$10,800**



Undated Two Cent Piece  
Full Brockage Obverse  
MS62 Brown PCGS  
**Realized \$9,600**



1943-S Nickel  
Struck on a Zinc-Coated  
Steel Planchet  
AU58 NGC  
**Realized \$2,880**



1965 Dime  
Struck on a Silver  
Dime Planchet  
MS62 PCGS  
**Realized \$9,000**



1971-D Quarter,  
Brockage Reverse  
Struck on Nickel Planchet  
MS65 PCGS  
**Realized \$4,320**



2000-D Maryland Quarter  
Struck on Feeder Finger  
Ungraded NGC  
**Realized \$15,600**



1999- SBA Dollar  
Struck on a Sacagawea Planchet  
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1896-O \$1 NGC SP 63

**\$275,000**

Specimen. Likely intended as a Branch Mint Proof. If you weren't looking at the 'O' on the back of the coin you'd call it Proof!





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1892-O 50¢ NGC SP 66★

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SPECIMEN STRIKE. The Finest of 3 Known! Likely struck as a commemorative beginning of the Barber series! SP66★! For many years this coin has been touted as a “Branch Mint Proof” or at least something “very special” from the likes of Walter Breen, David Hall and the catalogers and auctioneers who have placed it on the market in the past. Clearly, consensus has been that this coin IS the Branch Mint Proof it has been proclaimed to be, but since mint records were so sparse in those days there is no existing documentation as to exactly why it was prepared. Of course, a few very plausible conclusions can be made. It’s 1892. It’s the first year of the Barber design and the inauguration of it at the New Orleans Mint, who would have had no reason not to show their prowess in creating a coin of this magnitude.



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**German coin specialist**

## **Ron Guth, Numismatic Expert**

Ron Guth is a recognized authority on United States and German coins. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant who has been involved professionally in numismatics for over fifty years as a collector, dealer, researcher, and writer. His books and articles have earned numerous awards, including the American Numismatic Association's Heath Literary award and the Olga & Wayte Raymond awards, the Numismatic Literary Guild's Best Numismatic Investment Book and Best Book of the Year awards, and the Professional Numismatic Guild's Best Book of the Year award. In 2003, Ron received the prestigious President's Award from the American Numismatic Association in recognition of his numerous contributions to numismatics. In 2021, Coin World named Ron as one of the Top Ten Most Influential People in Numismatics for the sixty-year period from 1960-2020.

Ron created the CoinFacts website (now PCGS CoinFacts) in 1999 and sold the website to Collectors Universe in 2004 (where it is now presented as PCGS CoinFacts). Ron served in various capacities at Collectors Universe, including Director of Numismatic Research, President of the Professional Coin Grading Service, and President of PCGS CoinFacts.

Currently, Ron serves as proprietor of GermanCoins.com and as Chief Investigator at the Numismatic Detective Agency, where he provides expert provenance on high-end coins.

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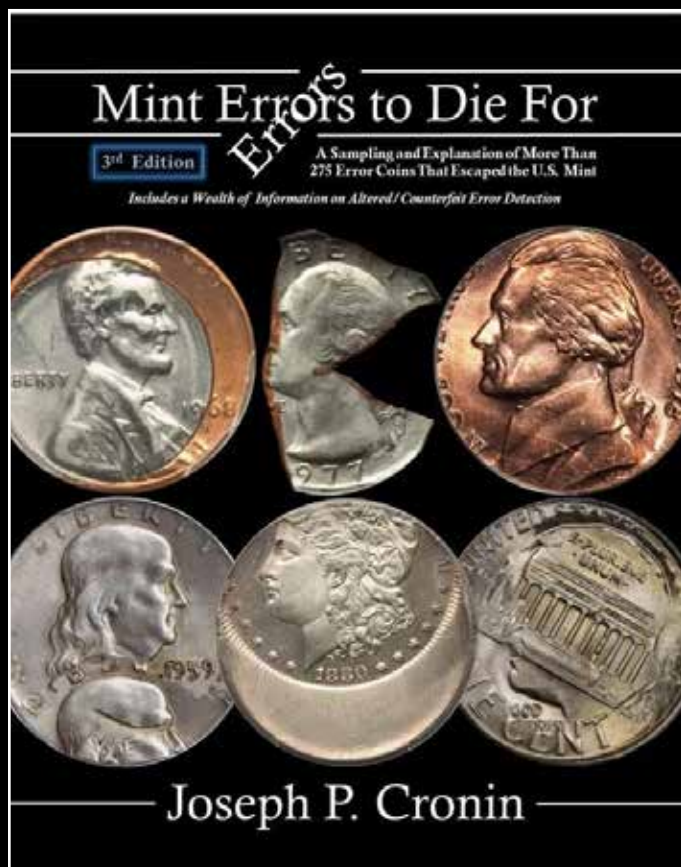
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# Mint Errors to Die For

A Sampling and Explanation of More Than 250 Error Coins That Escaped the U.S. Mint

## Non-gold Coins Struck on Gold Planchets



1913 photos PCGS® used by permission at PCGS.com/ CoinFacts; NGC label photo courtesy of MikeByers.com



**Coin Trivia:** Though the 1913 Buffalo nickel is on a \$5 gold Half Eagle planchet, Mint errors on \$2.5 gold planchets include: Indian Head Cents: (3) 1900, 1905, 1906, and 1907. Lincoln Cents: 1911, 1915, and 1927

### 1913 (Type 2) Buffalo Nickel:

#### Struck on a \$5 Gold Half Eagle Planchet

Though there are nine known cents (six Indian Heads and three Lincolns) struck on gold Quarter Eagle (\$2.5) planchets, this is the only known Buffalo nickel struck on a gold planchet of any type; in this case, it's likely a \$5 gold Half Eagle planchet. (Some speculate it was made intentionally as were the five known 1913 Liberty nickels). Sadly someone cut into the rim on the reverse at 8 o'clock (see photo below) likely to prove it's just another plated novelty coin. Now even if you're 99.9% sure your suspect coin is a fake, don't ever, ever do that! As a result, PCGS gave it a "Genuine/AU Details" grade. It's no surprise that the psychological impact of PCGS' grade adversely affected its initial selling price: \$78,000 at Heritage Auctions in January of 2021 – a heck of a lot less than what many experts expected despite the damage.

In an interesting twist, Las Vegas rare coin dealer Mike Byers reacquired the coin and advocated it shouldn't have been given a "Genuine" label as there are a few other high-profile straight-graded coins/patterns with post-Mint alterations. NGC agreed and straight-graded it at AU-53; he later sold the coin privately for \$400,000! (Source: [MikeByers.com/6324417-001.html](http://MikeByers.com/6324417-001.html))



### What the Planchet Was Intended to Become

Below is a 1913 Indian Head \$5 gold Half Eagle, which is likely what the planchet for the featured 1913 Buffalo nickel was supposed to become. Seeing that U.S. Mint control of gold and silver planchets was so tight even back then, it is unknown if this is a true error or a Mint-assisted coin. (Photos courtesy of PCGS® Used by permission at PCGS.com/ CoinFacts)



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Author Morland Fischer's comprehensive collection reflects the attraction and advantages of exploring foreign printing errors. An overview of collecting paper money errors in today's numismatic market offers insights on the great disparity between domestic and world notes. Market values are discussed, acknowledging what variables make an error note precious in the trade. Incorporating these concepts and more, Fischer expands the method of collecting currency errors by introducing a Foreign Error Note (FEN) scale to gauge price levels based on error type.

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After a lapse of seven years, a new edition of United States Paper Money Errors, Fred Bart's ground-breaking book is now available. The fourth edition is more than just an update to the third: Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) errors have been added, nearly all the illustrations have been changed, there is a rarity guide for each note—which additionally are now priced in four grades (EF, AU, Choice CU and Gem CU)—and, for the first time, there is a section showing some notes in color.

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# Saul Teichman's Want List

I am looking for the following off-metal errors:

Indian Cent

*on a*

Dime Planchet

Sacagawea Dollar

*on a*

Dime Planchet

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



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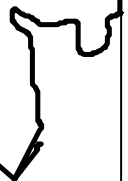
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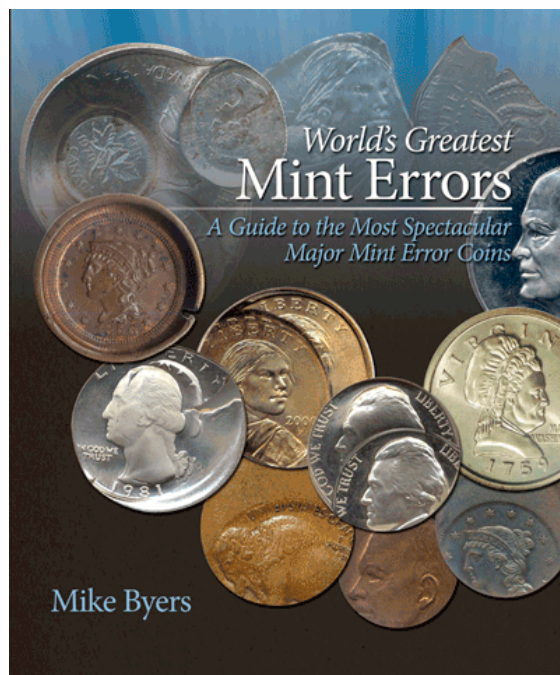


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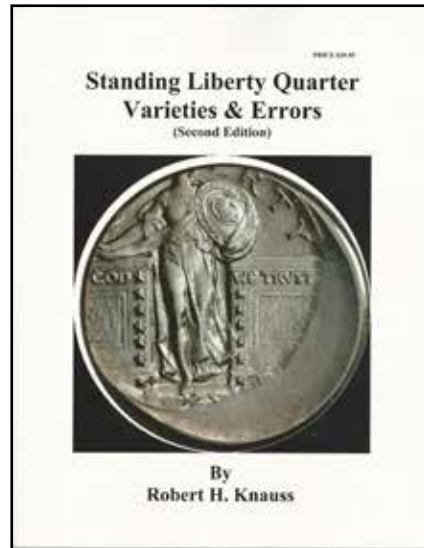
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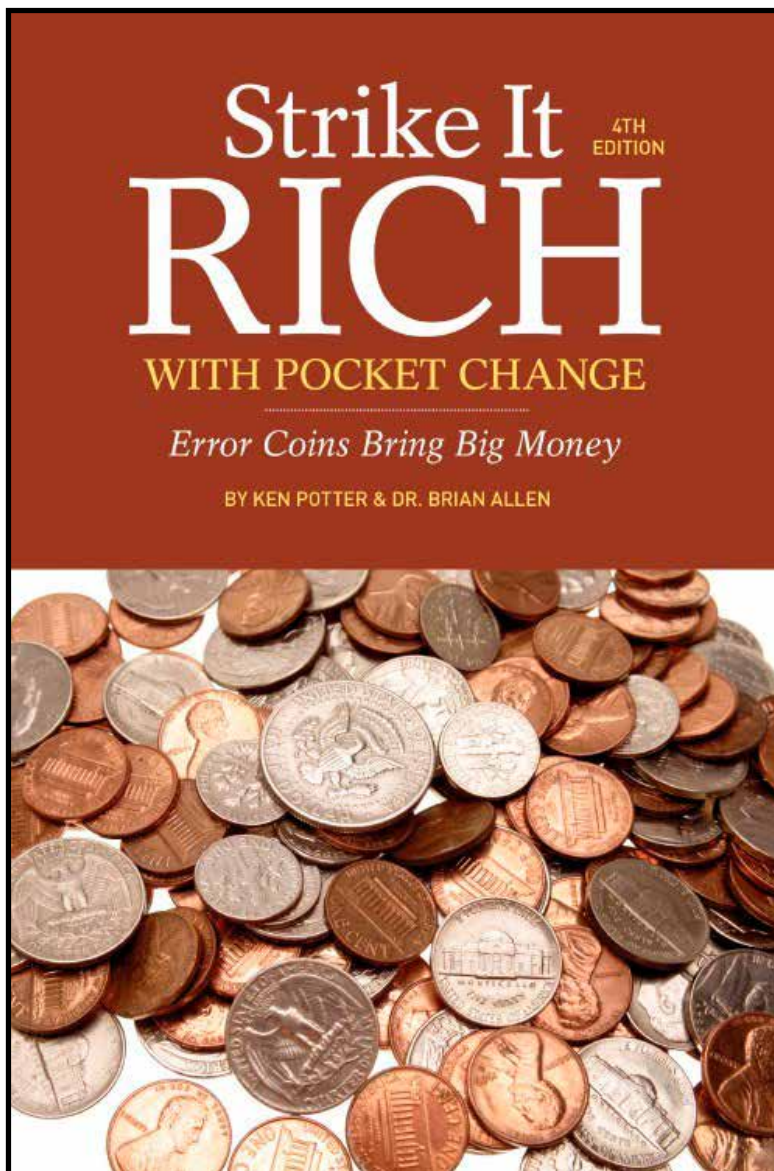
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# MINT *ERROR* NEWS GLOSSARY



## What Are Specimens?

The term Specimen is used to describe coins with a variety of finishes that are distinct from the appearance of circulation issues but do not fit any of the Proof categories. This can include early US coins with bold strikes, very brilliant fields and semi-frosted devices as well as modern US coins that were produced with matte or other unusual finishes.

An example is this unique 1873 Closed 3 Five Dollar gold piece that was certified by NGC as a Specimen strike. It is the only such piece certified by either PCGS or NGC. It has the visual characteristics of a highly contrasted cameo proof, yet was struck from circulation dies.

This unique 1873 \$5 Closed 3 Specimen strike has an experimental finish and is a hybrid between a proof and a mint state coin. This specimen strike was from specially prepared mint state dies that created a specimen with the appearance of a proof.

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<b>January 4 - 7, 2024</b>	<b>FUN Convention Orlando, Florida</b>
<b>February 1 - 3, 2024</b>	<b>Long Beach Expo: The Collectibles Show Long Beach, California</b>
<b>March 14 - 16, 2024</b>	<b>ANA National Money Show Colorado Springs, Colorado</b>
<b>March 21 - 23, 2024</b>	<b>Baltimore Spring Expo Baltimore, Maryland</b>
<b>June 6 - 8, 2024</b>	<b>Long Beach Expo: The Collectibles Show Long Beach, California</b>
<b>June 13 - 15, 2024</b>	<b>Baltimore Summer Expo Baltimore, Maryland</b>
<b>August 6 - 10, 2024</b>	<b>ANA World's Fair of Money Rosemont, Illinois</b>
<b>September 5 - 7, 2024</b>	<b>Long Beach Expo: The Collectibles Show Long Beach, California</b>
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Mike Byers was born in the coin business attending coin shows since he was six years old. When he was seventeen, he issued his first coin catalog. He has been a Market-Maker in U.S. Gold Coins and a dealer in major mint errors. In 1987 he offered limited partnerships and rare coin funds. He has written articles for The Coin Dealer Newsletter and has been featured on the front page of Coin World numerous times with his numismatic rarities. Mike Byers is a contributing author on mint errors for CoinWeek. He also assisted with the mint error section of Coin Facts on the PCGS website. You can visit Mike Byers and view his rarities at the ANA, Central States, FUN show and the Long Beach Coin Expo.

Mike Byers has been a professional numismatist for forty years. He is one of the largest dealers handling U.S. Gold Coins, Patterns and Rarities certified by PCGS and NGC. He has handled major coin collections and attends every major coin convention. Mike Byers carries an extensive inventory as well as solicits want lists and is always looking to purchase fresh inventory and collections.

Mike Byers was a consultant to ANACS for Mint Errors from 2000 to 2006. He is also the Publisher and Editor of Mint Error News Magazine and the Mint Error News Website that was founded in 2003. In 2009, Mike Byers published his first book, World's Greatest Mint Errors, which received the NLG Award for Best World Coin Book and is available on Amazon.com.

Mike Byers is a life member of ANA since 1985, a charter member of NGC and a featured dealer/member of PCGS. He is also a life member of the Central States Numismatic Society and the Florida United Numismatists. He is a member of CDN Exchange (BYRS).



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