

The

Sydney F. Martin
Collection



PART II

FRENCH COLONIAL COINAGE
ROSA AMERICANA COINAGE
CONNECTICUT COPPERS, 1785 - 1786
WASHINGTONIANA

October 27 & 28, 2022 • Baltimore, MD

Stack's  *Bowers*
GALLERIES

The Official Auction of the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expo

The Sydney F. Martin Collection



PART II

FRENCH COLONIAL COINAGE
ROSA AMERICANA COINAGE
CONNECTICUT COPPERS, 1785-1786
WASHINGTONIANA

October 27 & 28, 2022
12:00 Noon ET

The Baltimore Convention Center Room 308
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Baltimore, MD 21202

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THE SYDNEY F. MARTIN COLLECTION

Part II

October 27 & 28, 2022

LOT VIEWING

Lot Viewing will be conducted at the Costa Mesa, CA offices (*by appointment only*): October 7, 10 & 11, 2022
1550 Scenic Avenue, Suite 150, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 9:00 AM-5:00 PM PT

Lot Viewing will be conducted at the New York City offices (*by appointment only*): October 18-21, 2022
470 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022 • 9:00 AM-5:00 PM ET

Lot Viewing will be conducted at The Baltimore Convention Center: October 25-28, 2022
One West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 • Room 307 • 9:00 AM-5:00 PM ET

If you cannot view in person, we will have our professional numismatists on hand to answer questions via phone or email about specific lots. Please email info@StacksBowers.com to make arrangements.

AUCTION LOCATION

The Baltimore Convention Center Room 308
One West Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

In person live bidding will be allowed in accordance with Covid-19 directives and local mandates at the time of the auction. Reservations required.

AUCTION DETAILS

The Sydney F. Martin Collection Part II

Session 1

*French Colonial Coins, Rosa Americana Coinage
& Connecticut Coppers 1785-1786*

Thursday, October 27

12:00 Noon ET

Lots 1001-1359

Session 2

Washingtoniana

Friday, October 28

12:00 Noon ET

Lots 2001-2276

LOT PICKUP

Session 1: Friday, October 28 at the Baltimore Convention Center Room 307 - 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM ET (*by appointment only*)

Sessions 1 & 2: Saturday, October 29 at the Baltimore Convention Center Table 731 - 10:00 AM – 12 Noon ET (*by appointment only*)

Dates, times and locations are subject to change.

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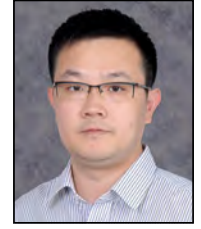
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Cataloged by: John Kraljevich, Kevin Vinton, and John Pack.

Sydney F. Martin

Sydney F. Martin, one of the world's leading experts on early American coins, passed away in January 2021. Many of us — and many of you — were fortunate enough to know him.

Syd was best known in the numismatic community as an advanced collector, president of the American Numismatic Society (ANS) from 2012 to 2020, and the author of four standard references on early American numismatics. All four of his books were published by C4 (the Colonial Coin Collectors Club) and he served as the editor of the *C4 Newsletter* from 2004 to 2015. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood* was published in 2007, followed by *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood* in 2011, *French Coinages Specifically for Colonial America* in 2015, and *Saint Patrick Coinage [for Ireland and New Jersey]* in 2018. His *Numismatic Commemorations of the 200th Birthday of George Washington in 1932* was published posthumously by the ANS in 2021.

The American Numismatic Society awarded Syd their highest honor, the Archer M. Huntington Medal, in 2020; he was also an ANS Fellow and a founding member of the Augustus B. Sage Society. He was honored with election to the Rittenhouse Society in 2017. Syd was a life member of the American Numismatic Association and Numismatic Bibliomania Society (the latter of which he also served as a board member) and held membership for many years in Early American Coppers, the Medal Collectors of America, and the Token and Medal Society.

After a youth as an Air Force brat (he was born at Smoky Hill AFB in Kansas), Syd graduated high school in Warsaw, Indiana and attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Syd spent five years at MIT and earned his SB and SM degrees, an engineering background that prepared him for a long and lettered career in the defense and intelligence industries. He founded his own company, Sytex, Inc., in 1988; it grew to employ 3,000 people as The Sytex Group and was acquired by Lockheed Martin in 2005.



Syd spent most of his adult life in Doylestown, Pennsylvania and later split time between there and a home in Amelia Island, Florida. He and his wife Sharon raised four children: Daniel, Jessica, James, and Kevin.

Beyond his professional life and the world of numismatics, Syd actively supported local history and art organizations around Bucks County, Pennsylvania, serving as Executive Vice President of the Doylestown Historical Society and Chair of the Michener Museum of Art in

Doylestown, as well as on the board of the local Heritage Conservancy. Syd was a leader of the business community as Vice President of the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce and a leader in the Scouting community too; he was an Eagle Scout and sat on the board of the Washington Crossing Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He was also an advanced collector and expert in the field of pocket watches.

Sharon and Syd's philanthropy was legendary, around Doylestown, in the numismatic community, and beyond, including a major gift to fund the Philadelphia Prostate Cancer Biome Project at Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia.

Syd left behind seven grandchildren and innumerable friends, including most of the colonial numismatic community. Though Syd was an esteemed expert and author, he was happy to visit with and learn from anyone who shared a common interest in colonial numismatics. He was as happy at a major auction as he was at a small coin show, enjoying camaraderie and the thrill of the hunt as much as acquiring high dollar rarities. He developed close relationships with many of the field's leading dealers and collectors, including many of us here at Stack's Bowers Galleries.

Syd's collection may be a monument to his expertise, curiosity, and dedication, but it is only a small reflection of the warm, generous, talented, man of integrity that his friends and family knew and loved.

The Sydney F. Martin Sale Part II

By Ray Williams

I am thankful for the opportunity to write a few words about my (our) friend Syd Martin. Where to start...?

I met Syd and his brother Tim Martin at a C4 Convention in Boston in the late 1990s. As I recall, Syd seemed just like any of us collecting state coppers with a preference for Connecticut. At that time, Connecticut copper collectors and New Jersey copper collectors seemed to run in different circles, and I didn't know him well. But I liked him! There was something about Syd that made him just like the rest of us and so I was unaware of his financial ability to amass the collection that will come to light in this series of Stack's Bowers Galleries auctions.

My first knowledge of Syd collecting more than Connecticut was when he heard that I had sold a rather scarce Vermont copper and asked me why I hadn't made it available to him. My defense was that I was unaware he collected anything but Connecticut! From that point forward, I knew better. I would watch Syd at auction, and he seemed to bid on any interesting or rare item that was colonial.

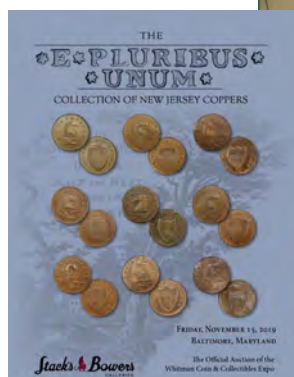
As an MIT engineer, Syd had a very analytical mind (he always wore with pride the MIT Beaver ring on his right hand). This ability served him well in our hobby. He wrote four reference books for colonial coins, something no one had ever done. The subjects were Wood's Hibernia, Rosa Americana, French Colonial, and St. Patrick coinages. These reference books will remain the hobby standards for generations to come. In the process of writing, Syd attempted to obtain every die variety that existed for the

topics. He came very close to succeeding, and many times he had multiple examples for die state studies! Amazing!

I remember attending a convention in Philadelphia at a time when Syd was doing research for his Rosa Americana book. There were inconsistencies between the traditionally accepted metallic content of the Rosas and what he was seeing. I happened to locate a Rosa halfpenny in a dealer's junk box that was holed. I bought it for less than \$10 and gifted it to Syd for destructive testing. The resulting smile on his face was priceless! For most of us, the child that collected baseball cards and marbles is still deep within us and I saw that child in Syd's face. In the end, he did prove that the Rosas consisted of a type of Beta Brass.

Syd would freely share his numismatic knowledge and collections with anyone who asked. If you required an image, information, opinions or help of any manner, Syd was always willing to help. I was not surprised when I discovered that Syd was a fellow Eagle Scout. There is not a single colonial collector that hasn't benefited from Syd's knowledge directly or indirectly.

I am so happy that I was able to repay Syd's kindness by helping him to obtain 100 New Jersey copper die varieties. I saw three of my former coins in the first Martin auction and was able to obtain an error New Jersey for my current collection from that same sale (lot 8033). It arrived this morning. In addition to collecting type colonials and New Jersey coppers, I cherish owning coins having provenance, especially that of friends. Seeing Syd's name at the top of this PCGS holder brought a smile to my face.



Stack's Bowers Galleries also sent related past auction tags and collector envelopes, something to help maintain provenance chains.

I had the honor of serving as president of the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4) from 2000 until 2010. During my administration, I was tasked with finding a new editor for our club publication. Brian Danforth agreed but said he didn't know the technology to bring it to print. Knowing Syd was technical, I asked him if he would assist, and he agreed. Well... Brian disappeared to Thailand and Syd was left holding the bag. In addition to running a huge company, being active in many non-profits, serving as American Numismatic Society president, numismatic writing and research, family obligations and the normal stress of life, Syd edited the quarterly C4 Newsletter from 2003 until 2020, while also managing the printing and mailing. For the last few years he was associate editor as Will Nipper assumed the editorship. Under his direction, the newsletter evolved from a small format to an 8 ½ x 11 inch award winning journal. Thank you Syd!

Being active in the hobby, I was witness to some of the behind-the-scenes support Syd gave to the hobby. He did much and didn't need or want recognition. He was not one to talk about any honors or recognition he did receive, so I will not do so here. But I will share how proud he was to become a member of the Rittenhouse Society. The members are authors and researchers in the hobby who have made significant contributions. You cannot apply for membership—the society itself nominates and votes on new members. Syd exemplified the qualities the Rittenhouse Society desired for its membership.

Sharing social times with Syd was always fun. Between Syd and Roger Siboni, they saw to it that my wife Diane and I were invited to the Annual ANS Gala in New York City. Diane really enjoyed those opportunities to dress up formally. Then there were colonial lunches, sometimes in historic towns. Syd, Roger, Leo, Shane and I would bring something for show and tell, enjoying the food and camaraderie. We'd update each other with projects we were pursuing. On one occasion, Tim Martin (from Denver) was able to join us too.

Diane and I both have fond memories of visiting with Sharon and Syd at their Florida home on Amelia Island. Being their primary residence, much of Syd's writing happened there. Meals were generally homemade, occa-

sionally we would go out to a restaurant. The evening's events usually ended with Diane and Sharon talking the night away, while Syd and I sat on the balcony. We watched the lights of ships on the ocean while Syd enjoyed his bourbon and cigar. It was so easy to relax and converse with that light ocean breeze.

Syd didn't talk much about family. He was generally very private, keeping his personal life separate from his hobby. But he did share with me many years ago that a young family member had a very serious medical issue and how he felt so helpless. That family member is doing great today. At the other end of the spectrum, Syd told me very excitedly that his son had just returned home from military service in the Middle East, bringing with him two Bronze Stars! I told him that you don't get Bronze Stars for perfect attendance. He smiled and with eyes watering a little, he said "I know."

Attending Syd's Celebration of Life, I was mesmerized as people from all aspects of Syd's life came forward to share their stories. I learned that Syd was so much more than what I had known. Through business, philanthropy, and friendships, he, along with Sharon, affected the lives of hundreds of people and their families. In addition to spending some time with Tim Martin, I was able to meet all of Syd's family. Syd's daughter Jessie was every bit as nice as the emails we had shared. She is not a numismatist but seemed to understand the addiction that consumes colonial numismatists.

In the following pages you will find coins that Syd acquired with a passion. His world class Connecticut copper collection contained an example of almost every die variety known. The front line 1785 and 1786 Connecticut will command serious attention, as will his front-line Rosa Americana and Washingtoniana collections and the beginnings of his vast French Colonies collection. Many of the coins and medals are plated in his books, in Randy Clark's magnum opus on the Connecticut coppers, in Neil Musante's book *Medallic Washington*, and in the plated catalogs for famous collections of the past. The Syd Martin Collection catalogs will also find a nice home in my reference library as a source of the most up to date numismatic information, along with good memories. I hope to see many of my friends in Baltimore attending this auction in person.

Welcome to The Sydney F. Martin Collection Part II



Syd's Numismatic Passions

Though he devoted his attentions across the numismatic spectrum, there were a handful of specialties that allowed Syd to really put his special dedication to collecting on display. Emblematic of his pioneering approach, those collections-within-a-collection were built with an eye toward depth, a research-based mindset, and endless curiosity. In the case of three of the collections showcased here, his incomparable collection was the reference material that blossomed into new standard references on the Rosa Americana coinage of William Wood, coins authorized for French America, and Washingtoniana (with a special focus on the issues of 1932).

With the concept of a special sale that focused on Syd's numismatic passions, we have chosen to focus on these specialized collections — Rosa Americanas, French Colonials, Connecticut coppers, and Washingtoniana — where his passion is best displayed. Syd's standard reference on the Rosa Americana coinage, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club in 2011, was the result of his passionate curiosity. "The more I delved into this series," Syd wrote in the Preface to that book, "the more intriguing and confusing it became." So he kept learning, which meant not only doing the research into the historical context, relevant documents, great collections, etc., but also acquiring more and more coins. "I felt challenged to develop as complete a story as possible for these coins," Syd wrote. "This book is the result." So, too, is his amazing collection of Rosas. Cataloged by Kevin Vinton, this group of Rosa Americana coinage highlights includes remarkable patterns, unique die trials, and high grade examples, often with provenance to famous collections of the past. Each of these has been attributed using Syd's own variety system, first employed in his book, and many of these serve as plate coins therein.

Syd's French Colonies collection is similar: advanced, groundbreaking, and worthy of the book it inspired. Syd and I first bonded over our mutual love of French Colonial coins back in the early to mid 1990s; a decade later, the lion's share of my personal collection of French Colonial coins went to Syd, via our mutual friend Chris Young. It was a high honor to write the introduction for his now-standard *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*, published in 2015 by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club,

and it was a similarly high honor to work on this sale catalog (ironic, perhaps, that the last descriptions were completed on the seventh anniversary of penning Syd's introduction). In that intro, I noted that "the heart of this book, the die studies, offers several pathways to navigate this series, by basic type, by major variety, by die combination, or even by die state." Syd collected French Colonies pieces in all of these ways, ending up with two examples of the classic 1670-A 15 sols rarity, the unique 1670-A double de l'Amerique, more than a dozen die varieties of the 1670-A 5 sols, and important examples of every other relevant series struck before or since. This portion of the collection may include many of the highlights, but it barely scratches the surface of the extraordinary efforts Syd put into exploring these vital North American coinages, series whose importance is still vastly underappreciated.

Syd may have never published a book-length study on Connecticut coppers, but he loved them, perhaps, above all other numismatic series. Randy Clark's recently published *The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788* leaned heavily on Syd's collection as a reference set and source of illustrations, and many of the star pieces in this sale are plate coins in that book. Syd believed the best part of his Connecticut collection was his 1785s and 1786s. Syd completed both of those sets by variety, a remarkable feat that is no less important now that we've discovered his 1786 Miller 5.15-S was actually a misattributed Miller 5.14-S. His acquisition of Tony Terranova's collection of 1785 and 1786 Connecticut coppers bolstered the quality (and provenance) of his set appreciably, and Syd dutifully acquired both high grade common varieties and daunting rarities wherever he could find them: from friends, from dealers of all kinds, and from auctions large and small. Kevin Vinton cataloged these Connecticuts with an expert's eye and knowledge of the series, showcasing the pride and joy of Syd's Connecticut endeavors in a way that honors his work. For those new to the series, the nomenclature, medieval-seeming classification system, and crudity of many of the rarities should not dissuade from the magnificent variety of types that are best displayed within the 1785 and 1786 portion of the Connecticut series.

These coins have personality, and Syd's personality comes through in the way he collected them. This is easily the finest offering of this material ever auctioned.

While Syd published on the subject of 1932 Washington Bicentennial items alone, he collected the entire series. Focused on history, rarity, and provenance, Syd acquired some of the most notable Washington medals extant: the Sansom set of Sansom medals, Seasons medals in silver and copper, rarities from Washington's lifetime and classics from the centennial of his inauguration. Syd's collection of Washington Inaugural buttons is especially important, gathering together an extraordinary number of exceptional rarities, led by the legendary Pater Patriae. John Pack's new look at this rare button takes the story of that variety further than anyone has ever taken it, and his cataloging efforts for this entire collection were done with a passion that matched Syd's own. Despite the presence of charismatic rarities, discovery pieces, and unique items bound for a connoisseur's cabinet. Syd loved all early Washington medals and coins, allowing a novice collector to share in his legacy with ease. The pieces depicting George Washington say so much about the nation and the people who honored

him, and this cabinet helps showcase how that hagiography evolved over time. From the 1778 Voltaire medal, that didn't even depict Washington, to the seal of the Confederacy, which claimed him as their own, the ability of Washington to be a symbol for everyone underscores his importance even today — and it also underscores why collectors love this material as much as ever.

Ultimately, despite all of the expense allowed to acquire glamorous rarities and all of the intensive research required to produce the books he wrote, Syd's passion was being a coin collector. He loved this material and loved being among other numismatists who loved it too. We're honored to have known him and to have this opportunity to bring these pieces to a new audience. Syd's provenance accentuates their desirability. Their value may be the same as if they were owned by someone else, but the ability to connect to one of our generation's great numismatic hearts and minds is a powerful enticement.

Enjoy these coins. Syd sure did.

John Kraljevich
September 2022

Order of Sale

Session 1

The Sydney F. Martin Collection Part II

Thursday, October 27,
12:00 Noon ET
Lots 1001-1359

Category	Lot Number
Colonial Coins and Related.....	1001-1359
French Colonial Coinage	1001-1149
Rosa Americana Coiange.....	1150-1286
Connecticut Coppers	1287-1359

Session 2

The Sydney F. Martin Collection Part II

Friday, October 28,
12:00 Noon ET
Lots 2001-2276

Category	Lot Number
Numismatic Americana.....	2001-2276
Washingtoniana.....	2001-2223
Early American Buttons.....	2224-2276

The
Sydney F. Martin
Collection

PART II

FRENCH COLONIAL COINAGE
ROSA AMERICANA COINAGE
CONNECTICUT COPPERS, 1785 - 1786



SESSION 1
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022, 12:00 PM ET
LOTS 1001-1359



FRENCH COLONIES

THE BILLON QUINZAINS OF 1641

Within mere decades of the 1608 establishment of a permanent settlement at Quebec, the French settlements in Canada evinced a need for a circulating medium. While furs were the straw that stirred the colonial economy, Quebec and other settlements were growing with families, religious institutions, and local commerce. The French monetary economy was a mess in the 17th century, with near constant revaluations of specie, precipitous inflation, and a circulating coinage that was more medieval than modern. Among the most medieval types in French circulation were the diverse hammered douzains, struck in dozens of localities for well over two centuries. These coins, dating back to the late 14th century, were struck in billon, a low grade alloy of copper and silver that tarnished badly and wore out completely. In June 1640, the French authorities called for all such coins to be returned to French mints to receive an oval fleur-de-lis countermark. Those that did would be revalued from 12 deniers (a douzain) to 15 deniers (a quinzain), with a portion of the increase in value retained by the mintmasters to encourage participation. After a short grace period, all such uncountermarked douzains would be deemed property of the Crown.

The coins below represent a short-lived experiment from the year after the 1640 counterstamping edict: rather than applying counterstamps, the French mints apparently considered replacing the billon medium with brand new coins whose design included the required oval fleur-de-lis. Judging from the rarity of these coins today (and common sense), the experiment was a failure. It was far easier to apply a countermark to these soft, low-value issues than recall them, melt them, recast

planchet stock, roll and cut planchets, and strike new coins from fresh dies.

The billon douzains became quinzains once countermarked, but they were popularly called sols; the countermarked coins were thus known as sols marques or “marked sols.” These quinzains made their way to Canada in large numbers by virtue of high local valuations. From 1662 on, these coins were valued at 24 deniers in Canada, which attracted so many of the coins that within five years “it has resulted that several persons, since that time, have brought from France a very great number of these, so that there are scarcely to be seen any other coins, which has brought about very great injury to the public.” (Shortt, *Canadian Currency, Exchange, and Finance During the French Period*, page 17). An adjustment to 20 deniers stuck for most of the rest of the 17th century throughout New France, including Canada and the West Indies, but so many were in circulation that they continued to be seen until the end of the 18th century in the islands. Archaeological finds have included specimens along the American Gulf Coast and in the Mississippi Valley, as well as throughout Canada. There is good evidence (cited by Crosby and Breen) that these were seen often enough in Connecticut in the early 1720s that the General Assembly called for an official valuation of them at twopence each.

The place of the douzains countermarked in 1640 among the most important subsidiary coinages of North America in the 17th century is secure. The rare 1641 quinzains must be adopted similarly, as their designs speak to the intimate connection between the two issues, though no examples of these rare coins are known to have been recovered archaeologically.



*Description de la Nouvelle France. 1640s map by Jean Boisseau.
(Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)*



Superlative 1641-A Billon Quinzain Perhaps Finest Known



1001

1641-A French Colonies 15 Deniers. Gadoury-22, Ciani-1710, Breen-272. AU-58 (PCGS). 36.7 grains. Reverse aligned slightly clockwise from medal turn. Dies 1-A. A specimen of incredible quality, given the usual condition of survivors of this issue. Boldly struck devices are well centered on attractive glossy gray surfaces. An entirely wholesome piece, with only trivial patches of natural roughness and a few short planchet cracks at the edges, including one centered over 12 o'clock on the reverse. A thin curlicue fissure, resembling a lintmark, is seen beneath the fleur-de-lis at the northwest quadrant of the reverse cross. All devices are nicely detailed, with only RA of FRAN at 7 o'clock of the obverse periphery showing any notable softness.

It's hard to imagine there is a finer specimen of this rarity, though we have not seen all of them. Jeff Rock has estimated a total population of about 10 pieces (noting that this issue appears rarer than a 1670-A 15 sols). This population includes three in the Bank of Canada. None are in the ANS Collection, and none were in the Ford Collection. The example in our January 1998 sale reappeared in the Partrick Collection liquidation. The nice example in our (Bowers and Merena's) July 1997 sale (lot

1034), graded EF, has not been traced, and while we expected this to be the Breen plate coin (ex Hinderling, Terranova), that appears to be a different but perhaps similar quality specimen. Breen knew of four specimens: the plate coin, two said to be in a European museum, and another with provenance to a 1973 hoard. None of these square with the ones we record, but there may be some duplication among those four, the three in Ottawa, the six in the Martin Collection, and the two examples offered in American auctions in the last 30 years (Partrick, ex Stack's 1998, and the 1997 Bowers and Merena coin). Though demand in North America has been greater than on the Continent for at least a few generations, there are probably some still in France, but we would be hard-pressed to locate as many as 20 examples. It seems safe to say that a majority of those in private hands are in the present sale.

PCGS# 829560.

PCGS Population: 1, none finer. The four coins graded by PCGS are all in the Syd Martin Collection.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Mike Wierzba, January 2008.



Choice 1641-A Quinzain Rarity



1002

1641-A French Colonies 15 Deniers. Gadoury-22, Ciani-1710, Breen-272. EF-45 (PCGS). 34.6 grains. Reverse aligned 45 degrees counterclockwise from typical medal turn. Dies 1-A. Another notably high grade example of this important issue. Choice deep gray surfaces show significant gloss and abundant original light silver gray tones with traces of luster. The centering is superb on a broad planchet, with nearly complete denticles around both sides. A planchet fissure jogs across the central obverse, from the field left of the shield to the shield's upper right corner. Two others are seen on the reverse, the

longest one extending nearly vertically from the upper left fleur-de-lis to the right foot of the base of the cross. Some softness is present at the crown atop the cross, and a hint of roughness is present on the border above VI of LVDOVICVS, near 3 o'clock on the obverse. With superb sharpness, excellent eye appeal, and choice surfaces, this ranks among the very best known survivors of this issue.

PCGS# 829560.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.

Important Counterstamped 1641-A Quinzain With Edict of 1640 Countermark



1003

1641-A French Colonies 15 Deniers. Gadoury-22, Ciani-1710, Breen-272. VF-20 (PCGS). 36.6 grains. Reverse aligned slightly clockwise from medal turn. Dies 1-A. Easily the most historically important of the 1641 quinzains Syd collected, the subject of his article "An Interesting 'Old Sol'" published in the Fall 2010 *C4 Newsletter*. As recounted there:

This coin, with the countermark, appears to be unique. There is not even a hint of one in Vlack's opus on the billon coinage of New France. Further, this coin proves that the 1640 countermark was used beyond that date. It suggests that 1641-A quinzains, at least in the form of Old Sols, became current in, and likely reached, New France."

This piece shows an attractive blend of light and medium silver-gray, a little granular overall but crisp and appealing. The oval fleur-de-lis countermark is positioned just northeast of the central reverse, fully outlined at right but a bit soft at left. The reverse of

the quinzain is centered to the lower left, while the obverse is better centered. The planchet fissure or crack at central obverse may have been caused by the introduction of the counterstamp. Eye appeal is nice overall, though this is a coin whose importance has little to do with whether it's attractive or not. It serves as the sole evidence that the countermarking required by the Edict of June 1640 extended in time beyond the mintage of the 1641-A quinzains and swept up at least some portion of this rare issue in the process. With little in the way of documentary or archaeological evidence, despite a strong circumstantial case, this coin is the best real evidence for likely circulation of the 1641-A quinzains in Nouvelle France. Syd recognized its importance and appeal instantly.

PCGS# 829560.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Pierre Raymond, St-Jerome, Quebec, July 2010.



1004

1641-A French Colonies 15 Deniers. Gadoury-22, Ciani-1710, Breen-272. VF Details— Environmental Damage (PCGS). 23.8 grains. Medal turn. Dies 2-B. Light silver gray with some pastel blue tones. Quite granular and soft on the obverse, sharper and more pleasing on the reverse. Nicely centered on both sides and retaining full peripheral legends. Some light abrasions are noted at the central obverse. Significantly lighter than most of these, probably

a byproduct of ground corrosion. Though the devices are not as crisp as some of his other specimens, Syd recognized this as a different die variety and called it “Obv 2 / Rev B.”

PCGS# 829560.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Robert A. Vlack, December 2003.



1005

1641-A French Colonies 15 Deniers. Gadoury-22, Ciani-1710, Breen-272. VF Details— Bent (PCGS). 30.9 grains. Reverse aligned slightly clockwise of coin turn. Dies 2-D. Granular light silver gray on the obverse but pleasing glossy antique gray on the reverse. Some trivial old marks are seen at central reverse, but no significant damage. The bend is very subtle, caused by an impact in the lower left obverse, affecting no design elements. Both sides are ideally centered,

and the reverse is really very attractive. This distinctive reverse die uses a very large open C in BENEDICTUM that makes it easily distinguished from others.

PCGS# 829560.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1006

1641-A French Colonies 15 Deniers. Gadoury-22, Ciani-1710, Breen-272. Fine-12 (PCGS). 26.9 grains. Reverse aligned perhaps 30 degrees counterclockwise of coin turn. Dies 1-C. Deep antique gray-brown, looking more coppery than silver in this state of wear, but with excellent originality and eye appeal. Glossy and mostly smooth, with a significant spidery planchet crack from near 11 o'clock on the

obverse to across the central shield on the obverse, below 9 o'clock on the reverse to center along the branches of the cross. A good looking example with a fine provenance.

PCGS# 829560.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Warren Baker; Mike Ringo; Jean-Claude Guidoise; from Jeff Rock, September 2006.



THE MILLED SIXAINS AND DOUZAINS OF 1658

The inclusion of this type in the French North American canon can largely be left at the feet of Adam Shortt, who mentioned them explicitly in a long note on page 7 of his two volume collection *Canadian Currency, Exchange, and Finance During the French Period*, published in 1925. “In 1658,” Shortt wrote, “two new coins were issued at 15 and 20 deniers, which were popularly named the sol and double sol.” After conflating these coins incorrectly with the countermarked douzains of the Edict of 1640, the sols marques, Shortt noted that “considerable numbers were sent to Canada,” which appears not to be the case.

In 1976, Walter Breen connected this issue to a later 1662-dated entry in Shortt (page 17, note 2), though there’s

no reason to think that document intended this specific issue preferentially over all the other billon coinage then circulating in Canada (in fact, the use of the term sol marque suggests this issue wasn’t intended at all). Bob Vlack probably got closer to the truth than either Shortt or Breen in his 2004 *An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas* when he wrote “this issue is mentioned here only for completeness and is not considered a coinage of New France.” In truth, the 1658 douzains would have been covered under the post-1658 Canadian revaluation that covered all douzains. Undoubtedly some made it to Canada, their desirability bolstered by the crying-up by the colonial administration.

Very Rare Silver 1658-A Milled Douzain Likely Unique



1007

1658-A French Colonies 12 Deniers. Silver. Gadoury-86, Ciani-1977, Breen-274. MS-63 (PCGS). A piece of spectacular quality and eye appeal. Somewhat confusingly catalogued in the 2006 Ford sale (in which the cataloguer believed this was a douzain of sixain diameter, which it is not), this was the only 1658 issue in that expansive cabinet of French Colonials and related issues. This example is struck from the same dies as the billon strike PCGS VF-35 we offered in November 2019 as lot 4038, the Partrick:99036 coin, and all other examples seen. With its precious silver composition, reflective surface and positively ideal centering, this coin was clearly specially struck as a specimen. Both sides are lustrous and lightly prooflike, toned light silver gray with hints of gold and some splashes of deeper color in the fields. Some trivial hairlines are visible under a good light, but no notable marks or striking defects are seen. The details are bold and exactly well rendered on both sides.

This extremely rare (possibly unique) silver off-metal strike is distinctive from the typical billon specimens, coined for a purpose other than mere circulation. Since this example sold in the January 2006 Ford sale, CoinArchives lists just five examples of the 1658 milled douzain in standard billon composition sold worldwide. All were sold in Europe (and, we should note, several

sixains were sold with an incorrect description as douzains, including two in the United States). Of the authentic douzains, weights were listed for four of them: 3.43 grams, 3.36 grams, 3.37 grams, and 3.37 grams. This piece weighs 3.68 grams, an anomalous weight that underscores this piece’s distinctive composition. All of the billon douzains, in both the United States and France, have been lower grade and, of course, without the delicate prooflike surface seen here.

Breen’s listing for 274 notes a single OMS (off-metal strike) in silver, sold in Jean Vinchon’s December 1977 sale as lot 338: this precise coin. Neither Breen nor your cataloguer have ever heard rumor of another. In that Vinchon sale, this was described as “essai en argent du douzain” and “Rare. Superb.”

If this were simply a very high grade 1658 douzain in billon, this would be counted as the finest and most important survivor. As a potentially unique silver strike, its importance increases by a magnitude.

PCGS# 239629.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Jean Vinchon Numismatique’s sale of December 1977, lot 338; ex John J. Ford, Jr. Collection; our (Stack’s) sale of the Ford Collection, Part XIII, January 2006, lot 19 (at \$16,100); Anthony Terranova, via Mike Wierzbza, January 2008.



Mint State 1658 Sixain Rarity



1008

1658-A French Colonies 6 Deniers. Billon. Gadoury-84, Ciani-1978, Breen-275. MS-62 (PCGS). 27.8 grains. A stunning example of this American-related rarity. Perfectly centered and crisply struck, with bold denticles framing both sides. Lustrous, original, and attractive, with mottled light silver gray surfaces showing the diverse range of tones associated with high grade billon. The reverse cross is in such high relief that it manifests on the obverse, most prominently in the center of the crown. Some very minor hairlines are seen on the reverse, but no significant flaws are noted on either side.

John Ford lacked this type entirely, and very few appear on the market. The listings of this type have been rife with errors. Ciani got this issue right. Duplessy got close, but messed up the weights, assigning the douzains the weight of the sizains (1.854 grams) and assigning the sizains a weight that's too light by

half. This has confused almost everyone, including NGC (who certified both the Partrick and Dittmer sizains as douzains), other auction houses, and more, most of whom have either called standard weight sizains douzains or "piedforts," when in fact they are just pieces struck at the standard weight. The weight of this piece is 1.80 grams. Others sold in recent years have weighed 1.85 grams, 1.83 grams, 1.85 grams, and a single lightweight oddball at 1.59 grams. We record just seven coins at public auctions in the last 20 years. The only one nicer than this was the Partrick coin, graded MS-63 (NGC), which brought \$6,600 in March 2021.

PCGS# 151016.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's sale of January 2004, lot 14595; Anthony Terranova, via Mike Wierzba, January 2008.



Another Rare 1658 Milled Sixain



1009

1658-A French Colonies 6 Deniers. Billon. Gadoury-84, Ciani-1978, Breen-275. AU-58 (PCGS). 28.6 grains. Beautiful golden highlights over lustrous surfaces, dark gray on the devices and lighter silver gray in the fields. Exactingly struck and ideally centered, positively choice with pristine surfaces. Struck from the same reverse die as the preceding lot but a different obverse die (this one is second semester; the previous lot is first).

Though the prior lot is graded higher, it would be impossible to locate a prettier and more attractive example of this rarity.

PCGS# 151016.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Jeff Rock, November 2006.

THE MOST COMPLETE COLLECTION OF 1670 FRENCH COLONIES COINAGE EVER ASSEMBLED

Including Both Die Varieties of 1670 15 Sols and the Unique 1670 Double De L’Amerique

Without question, the 1670 issues for the French Colonies of the New World are the focal rarities of the entire French Colonial series. Syd Martin cherished them. He avidly collected them, assembling an unheard-of array of 16 5 sols, two extremely rare 15 sols, and the prized unique Double de l’Amerique. His 2015 work *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America* included his exacting research on the series, both technical numismatic data and historical background. The sum of his remarkable work on these coins will be very difficult to surpass.

Syd also delved heavily into the historiography of these rare coins, particularly through auction catalogs offering

examples of the 15 sols. The first American offering of a specimen took place in Ed Frossard’s May 1882 sale of the Gerald Hart Collection, a coin acquired at the time by the Canadian government and now in the collection of the Bank of Canada.

“Concerning the rarity of this coin,” Frossard wrote, “fully described by Prof. Anthon in the *American Journal of Numismatics*, and subsequently illustrated by me in *Numisma*, but little need be said.” He continued: “Let it suffice to state, that during the last 20 years our foremost collectors have in vain endeavored to discover a specimen abroad, and that all orders for it to European coin dealers have up to this time



remain unfulfilled. The coin is not in the French National Cabinet, and but two specimens are owned by members of the French Numismatic Society.”

Though Frossard claimed he had been looking for one for two decades, he was almost certainly exaggerating. The first American mention of the 1670-dated 5 sols and 15 sols appears to have come from the January 1870 *American Journal of Numismatics* under the heading “A New ‘Colonial,’” authored anonymously by Prof. Charles Anthon. He cites these coins — and the unique copper double — from his discovery of a short mention in the 1849 edition of the *Numismatische Zeitung* published at “Weissensee in Thuringia, Germany.” Anthon’s commentary makes clear that he knew of none in any cabinet, American or European. By 1876 (as noted in the January 1877 AJN), Anthon knew of two: a high grade piece in France (presumably the Mint State coin now in the Bibliotheque Nationale) and an example that a Mr. Quackenbush of Hackensack, New Jersey acquired from a sailor who arrived aboard a potato schooner from Nova Scotia. By the time G.M. Fairchild wrote in 1889 in the *Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal*, the number known had increased to four.

From its first American mention, the 1670 GLORIAM REGNI coinage has been attributed primarily to Canada, based upon Anthon’s discovery of a reference to the coinage in the 1690 *Traite des Monnoyes* by Francois LeBlanc (there identified as “America — Canada”). This attribution has carried on the present day, though Jerome Jambu’s 2021 article in the *Journal of Early American Numismatics* (“The Coins Made ‘for the Islands and Mainland of America’ by the French West India Company (1670)”) provides strong original source evidence arguing that these coins were intended not just primarily, but solely, for the islands of the French West Indies. Recounting the first abortive plan for a coinage for the French West Indies in 1665 and the documents that lead to the coinage of 1670, Jambu links the issue to efforts to Christianize the natives of the islands by maintaining a healthy population of Frenchmen, Christian men (and their families) who would need to conduct small scale commerce with a form of money not linked to the annual sugar crop.

The reverse legend of the GLORIAM REGNI coins offer a link to these evangelical goals. The legend “Gloria regni tui dicent” comes from Psalm 144: “They will tell of the glory of Your reign and speak of Your power to make known this

power to the sons of men, and the magnificent glory of Your kingdom.” The portion seen on the coin design represents the first clause: they will tell the glory of Your reign.

Jambu sourced documents that show the GLORIAM REGNI 5 sols and 15 sols were struck at the Paris Mint between July 7 and September 4, 1670. Published mintages of 40,000 (for the 15 sols) and 200,000 (for the 5 sols) fairly neatly match Jambu’s calculated mintages of 40,877 and 199,087, respectively.

The French West Indies Company transported these coins to Martinique, and distribution began in earnest in 1671. An ordinance published on Martinique on February 9 of that year referenced the “introduction of coins,” and by year-end the coins had also been delivered to Guadeloupe and the smaller islands of the French Antilles. Struck from good silver and at good weight, with only their legends to distinguish them from mainland French types, the coins quickly left the islands via trade. Despite the explicit proscription of French mainland circulation of the coins, many returned to Europe. Others bounced around the western Atlantic, and hoard evidence shows many did find their way to Canada. Undoubtedly some reached the ports of the English colonies as well.

There appear to be roughly 17 examples of the 1670-A 15 sols known. Martin recorded 15 discrete specimens, plus a number of earlier appearances or mentions that could not be matched or traced. Two examples that do not appear to have been previously counted have come to market since the 2015 publication of the Martin book. A full census is given beneath each of the specimens here, representing both known die varieties of the issue.

The 1670-A 5 sols, while very scarce and highly sought after, are the only collectible coins from this historic emission. Building upon work done Walter Breen, Bob Vlack, and others, Syd identified 15 obverse dies and 14 reverse dies. In 1976, Breen mentioned five obverses and three reverse; 20 years later, Vlack told this cataloger he had seen only three obverses. In his 1988 *Encyclopedia*, Breen noted “7 minor vars.” After Syd turned his remarkable numismatic talents to this series, we now know of 21, none more common than Rarity-7 individually. Of those, he was able to acquire 11 different die marriages. The fruits of his labors are offered below. Jambu’s estimate that some 43 dies were likely used in the production of the 1670 5 sols and 15 sols suggests that further labors will be fruitful as well.



Lot 1010

1670-A French Colonies 15 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 1.1-A.1, Breen 1-A (1976), Breen-255 (1988), W-11610, Gadoury-3, Breton-501, Zay-1, Ciani-255, Lecompte-187a. Rarity-7. EF-40 (PCGS).



The Garrett 1670-A 15 Sols Lecompte Plate Coin



1010

1670-A French Colonies 15 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 1.1-A.1, Been 1-A (1976), Breen-255 (1988), W-11610, Gadoury-3, Breton-501, Zay-1, Ciani-255, Lecompte-187a. Rarity-7. EF-40 (PCGS). 104.2 grains. A coin whose visual appeal matches its provenance. Handsome and antique medium silver gray surfaces alight with the kinds of soft blue, pale gold, and pastel highlights that only a century in a cabinet can imbue. Supremely visually appealing, choice and pristine on the obverse and showing only the most trivial hairlines on the reverse. A subtle batch of adjustment marks crosses the upper right fleur-de-lis on the shield, present without diminishing any details, and a few light scratches are seen at LO of GLORIAM, including one that bisects the O. The centering is close to ideal on both sides, though the right reverse periphery is softer than the border on the left. For the grade assigned, it's challenging to imagine a more attractive or well preserved specimen. The die crack present from the left corner of the crown across the base of 1 in the date to the right serif of T in DICENT hallmarks this reverse, as Martin notes it has been seen on all known specimens.

The seven examples known to Syd from these dies, listed in his 2015 book, are the same seven examples known to us. With 17 known examples on this entire type, this is the rarer die variety. Of the seven known, three are in museum collections, making the collectible population of this die variety just four coins.

Institutional Collections:

- 1) Bank of Canada Collection.** Martin 1 (EF). Ex Parsons 6-1914:2321 and W.W.C. Wilson 11-1925:371. Former *Standard Catalogue of United States Coins* and *Standard Catalogue of Canadian Coins* plate coin.
- 2) Bank of Canada Collection.** Martin 2 (F). Ex R.W. McLachlan - Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal - Chateau de Ramezay.
- 3) Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.** Martin 3 (F). Ex Ulex 5-1908:6 - Henry Chapman 1908 ANA sale 9-1908:168 - Virgil Brand - Jacques Schulman - Richard Margolis FPL #35 1969:308 - Roper Collection - Stack's Roper sale 12-1983:181 - Joseph Lasser via Anthony Terranova.

Private Collections:

- 4) The Siboni specimen.** Martin 5 (EF). Ex Archbishop John Sharp (died 1714) - Baldwin's - John J. Ford, Jr. Collection - Stack's 1-2006:23. Finest known of this variety.
- 5) The Dittmer specimen.** Martin 7 (VF). Ex Argenor Paris 4-2000:379 - Heritage 1-2022:30191. NGC XF-45.
- 6) This specimen.** Martin 4 (VF). Ex Ellsworth-Garrett-Gordon. See full provenance below.
- 7) The Salvesen specimen.** Martin 6 (AVF). Ex Canada Coin Exchange 1960 CNA sale 8-1960:1001 - Superior Galleries 10-1977:131 - Spink Zurich October 1988:65.

This coin's long accorded status as the most desirable rarity of pre-Confederation Canada and all of the French Colonies in America matches its esteem among American collectors, few of whom have ever gotten to include a 15 sols in their collection. Since the sale of the Ford specimen in 2006, just three examples of the type have sold in American auctions: the Dittmer coin (NGC EF-45, this variety), the Kendall Foundation coin (PCGS VF-35, the other variety), and the Partrick coin (NGC VF-30, the other variety). Each of these represented advanced collections of decades-long standing, and only the Dittmer coin (acquired 2000) had been previously offered in the last 45 years. In the years before the 2006 Ford sale, there had not been a 1670-A 15 sols sold in the United States since the Lasser-CWF coin sold in the 1983 Roper sale, an interval of 23 years.

This piece bears one of the most august provenance chains of any 15 sols extant. After decades in the Ellsworth and Garrett collections, it spent 16 years in the collection of Ralph Gordon, whose research and writing on coins of the West Indies reinvented the field.

PCGS has certified just four examples of this entire type. The two finest, and the only ones better than VF, are offered in this and the following lot.

PCGS# 170185.

PCGS Population: 1, 1 finer (AU-53).

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Col. James W. Ellsworth Collection; John Work Garrett Collection, via Wayte Raymond, 1923; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of the Garrett Collection, October 1980, lot 1297; Ralph C. Gordon Collection; Baldwin's sale of the Ralph C. Gordon Collection, October 1996, lot 234; Anthony Terranova, May 2006.



Lot 1011

1670-A French Colonies 15 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 1.2-B.2, Breen 2-B (1976), Breen-255 (1988), W-11610, Gadoury-3, Breton-501, Zay-1, Ciani-255, Lecompte-187. Rarity-7-. AU-53 (PCGS).



The Finest 1670-A 15 Sols in Private Hands PCGS AU-53



1011

1670-A French Colonies 15 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 1.2-B.2, Breen 2-B (1976), Breen-255 (1988), W-11610, Gadoury-3, Breton-501, Zay-1, Ciani-255, Lecompte-187. Rarity-7-. AU-53 (PCGS). 105.4 grains. An exceptional example of one of the classic rarities of North American numismatics, surpassed by the Mint State example at the Bibliotheque Nationale but the finest of just nine examples of the type known in private hands. Abundant luster persists on obverse and reverse, most energetic at the rims, with vivid golden toning over both sides. Highlights of royal blue and regal violet appropriately frame the peripheries. The detail is exceptionally sharp on both sides, and the strike is complete. Even the often-weak central reverse is fully struck, with only a hint of an adjustment mark stretching from the right side of the upper left fleur-de-lis in the shield to the base of the crown. Some hairlines are seen on both sides, lending some minor brightness to the fields, and scattered marks are commensurate with the grade. A short vertical scratch in the field off the chin is perhaps the worst, minor as it is, and no significant contact marks or impacts are seen on either surfaces or rims. The centering is excellent, and denticles are present everywhere but the northwest quadrant of the reverse. Both dies appear perfect, as described in the Martin book.

Martin included eight examples from these dies in his 2015 census. We have added two new coins that came to light since that time, bringing the total known to 10. Fully half the population is impounded in major museum collections, leaving a collectible population in private hands of just five pieces.

Institutional Collections:

- 1) **Bibliotheque Nationale.** Martin 6 (Unc). Ex D'Affiry Collection.
- 2) **Smithsonian Institution.** Martin 8 (EF). Ex Charlton - Rector - Bowers and Merena 8-1996:1.
- 3) **British Museum.** Martin 5 (VF). Ex Clarke-Thornhill.
- 4) **Bank of Canada.** Martin 3 (VF with scratches). Ex Gerald Hart - Frossard 5-1882:610.
- 5) **American Numismatic Society.** Martin 1 (F). Ex Tennant Collection - Norweb.

Private Collections:

- 6) **This specimen.** Martin 2 (AU). Ex Schulman 4-1997:1572. See full provenance below.
- 7) **The Gadoury specimen.** Martin unlisted. Ex Editions V. Gadoury 11-2019:722. NGC EF-45.
- 8) **The Kendall Foundation specimen.** Martin 7 (AVF). Ex New Netherlands 54 4-1960:1 - Meloche Collection sale 11-1971:214 - Stack's Groves sale 11-1974:382 - Stack's Bowers Galleries Kendall Foundation sale 3-2015:2494. PCGS VF-35.
- 9) **The Partrick specimen.** Martin 4 (EF/VF). Ex Count Ferrari - 1964 ANA sale 8-1964:1500 - McKay-Clements sale 5-1976:1 - Heritage 3-2021:15007. NGC VF-30.
- 10) **The Joffre specimen.** Martin unlisted. Ex MDC (Monaco) 11-2018:1185 - John Kraljevich - Michael Joffre. PCGS G-4.

This piece comes with a circular ticket reading "598 / Louis XIV / 15 sols du Canada / H. 100 A.1670 / C.2064. / 5000." The Ciani reference allows it to be dated to after 1926 but based upon the style it can't be much later than that. A dutiful spelunking of French auction catalogs will likely find a more extensive provenance for this piece.

There is no typical 1670-A 15 sols. Among the nine examples of this type traced in private hands, this is the only one graded AU in either the Martin census or our update to it. There are four Extremely Fine coins of widely varying eye appeal and sharpness, two Very Fine coins, an About Very Fine, and a very nice Good. The impounded coins tend to be lower graded, with five of the eight in museum collections graded VF or lower. As noted in the previous lot, an opportunity to buy any example of this rarity is important: 23 years passed between the Roper coin selling and the appearance of the Ford coin on the market. This piece has never before been sold in an American auction.

PCGS# 170185.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Laurens Schulmans' sale of April 1997, lot 1572; Joseph Lasser Collection, via Anthony Terranova; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Anthony Terranova; Julian Webb Collection; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), July 2009.



Extremely Choice 1670-A 5 Sols



1012

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 2-A. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. AU-58 (PCGS). A specimen of this classic and desirable rarity, the single finest example of the 15 Syd acquired. Nearly complete cartwheel luster graces both sides, with choice golden toning intermingled with translucently pale pastel blue around medium silver gray devices. Nicely centered and soundly struck, with just a small region of diagonal planchet adjustment marks still visible in the soft spot of the central reverse; this region, opposite the high relief portrait, is the most apt to retain these pre-striking relics. Only minor hairlines are noted on either side, and a small toning spot below N of REGNI may serve as a provenance marker. The obverse die appears perfect, the reverse is in its early state, with just a very fine crack from a denticle through G of GLORIAM across the right petal of the rightmost fleur-de-lis in the crown. The visual appeal and originality are superb, even for an example in this grade.

Martin's survey of 1670-A 5 sols in major collections located five examples of this variety; this was the finest. This was one of the more common die marriages he encountered. The 5 sols, as a type, is considered Rarity-4. It is encountered in a breathtaking range of grades, from nearly slick to choice Mint State, though middle circulated grades are the most frequently encountered. There is good evidence to believe this type circulated in Canada and elsewhere in the French territories, even if the French West Indies was its first stop.

PCGS# 905844.

PCGS Population (all 1670-A 5 Sols): 5; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), January 2009.



“Louis XIV,” King of France, by French engraver and artist Robert Nanteuil, 1670.



Martin 2-G Plate Coin



1013

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 2-G. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. AU-55 (PCGS). A remarkably high grade example, with nearly intact cartwheel luster on both sides over frosty opalescent gray surfaces. The obverse is awash in blue toning highlights, the reverse shows more silver-gold with pastel peripheries. The centering and strike are superb on both sides, even at the usually soft central reverse, and no adjustment marks are visible. A little batch of marks are well hidden at and off the forehead of the obverse portrait, but otherwise this piece has a neat and well preserved look. The overall visual appeal is excellent.

The reverse die is significantly broken and buckled, demonstrative of Martin Die State 2, for which this coin is the plate coin. Heavy buckling is seen in the right reverse field, and a major die crack connects the letters along the base of the reverse.

Martin recorded five examples from these dies, making it one of the more common die marriages he described. This is tied for finest with an AU in the Victoria Museum of Melbourne, Australia (a testament to how hard Syd looked for examples of this type).

PCGS# 905845.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), March 2010.



1014

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 2-G. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. VF-25 (PCGS). Another example from this die marriage, from a further failed state of the reverse die. Attractive blue-green toning with some rosy highlights on the devices. Glossy and attractive for the grade with trivial marks, including two old pinscratches on the shoulder of the portrait. The reverse shows some hairlines but is most notable for the substantial weakness from die failure seen in a broad band from the center of the left reverse field across the shield. The buckling at right looks similar

to that seen on the previous lot, but the die crack across the letters at the base of the reverse is significantly heavier. These sorts of die state progressions fascinated Syd in every series he pursued. While collecting die varieties and then die states isn't all too unusual for specialists in a series like New Jersey coppers, Syd was truly a pioneer on this and other French colonial series!

PCGS# 905845.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Northeast Numismatics, March 2009.



Martin 4-E Plate Coin



1015

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 4-E. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. VF-25 (PCGS). A choice coin with a fine provenance. Even and sedate antique silver gray with some hints of gold. Well centered and well struck, free of adjustment marks or significant defects. Aside from a short old scratch between IC of DICENT, this piece is pristine. The only die crack seen is a subtle one from the rim to the top of the head, denoting this as the earliest state of Martin Obverse 4. This is the Martin plate coin for the early state of the obverse and a truly lovely example for this grade range. Though

the other die marriage using Martin's Obverse 4 is fairly common with six specimens traced, this is the only example of variety 4-E Syd found, perhaps indicating a rarity in this still underappreciated die variety series.

PCGS# 905846.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Virgil Brand Collection; John J. Ford Jr. Collection; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part XIII, January 2006, lot 22; Jeff Rock, October 2007.

Martin 4-F Plate Coin



1016

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 4-F. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. AU-55 (PCGS). Frosty dark gray with good luster over both sides. Aside from some shallow fissures incompletely struck out at the soft part of the central reverse, both sides are free from significant defects and show superb visual appeal. The obverse shows extensive heavy die cracks that made this ideal as the Martin plate coin to show off the late die state. The gentle break from the rim to the top of the head, seen on Martin 4-E, is joined by a heavier break to its left, through the sunface, delicate cracks through FR, and a long

heavy crack across NAV, then below REX to the bust. Another crack crosses LVD X and hits the rim atop the ordinal. The reverse is cracked through DICENT and the date.

Examples of this quality are infrequently encountered, and rarely look so choice and original as this.

PCGS# 905847.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Jean Vinchon Numismatique's sale of October 2002, lot 305, via Bill Paul of American Heritage Minting, November 2002.



Martin 5-H Plate Coin



1017

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 5-H. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. EF-45 (PCGS). A very attractive example, with a lot of luster over gold and peach tinted silver gray surfaces. The obverse shows scattered trivial marks and hairlines, nothing serious. The reverse shows some spotting at right and a bit of weakness at center. A boomerang-shaped die crack crosses the date and invades the crown, and a light crack extends past the open end of G into the back of the head on the obverse.

Plated in Martin's *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America* to illustrate Reverse H, page 66. Syd knew of just two examples from this die marriage, this one and one he graded F-15-. This is a lovely example of the variety or type.

PCGS# 905849.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jack Beymer, May 2006.



Map for the Clarification of Land Titles in New France, 1678 by Jean-Baptiste Franquelin. (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)



Martin 6-D Plate Coin



1018

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 6-D. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. AU-55 (PCGS). Abundant luster persists over fresh and frosty gray-blue surfaces. A beautiful example, though a substantial adjustment mark is present on the shoulder of the portrait. The area opposite that, aligning with the left base of the crown, is somewhat softly defined as a result. The only notable post-striking defect is a diagonal scratch in the right reverse field. Spalling is noted in the left reverse field; this spalling and a minor crack below the mintmark define Martin's late state of the reverse (the line through the date that was described by Martin as a crack is

actually a clash). The obverse is middle die state, and this coin serves as Martin's MDS plate coin. A clash is subtle but present, best seen right of 12 o'clock at the periphery, and a die crack connects most of the legend on the left side.

This reverse shows a raised speck of spalling between REGN and I, which appears to be the stop or period mentioned by Lecompte in the listing of his 186a.

PCGS# 905848.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's sale of August 2015, lot 3011.



Handsome AU 1670-A 5 Sols



1019

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 6-D. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. AU-50+ (PCGS). Beautiful autumnal gold, russet, and green cling to peripheral legends and design elements, a contrast with frosty pale silver gray surfaces. Some evidence of planchet adjustment is present within the reverse crown and better hidden in the portrait bust. Very attractive and well detailed, showing few notable defects; a short flaw above A of NAV appears to be mint-made. The obverse die is in an early, unbroken state, while the reverse die

shows spalling at left. This reverse also shows a raised speck of spalling between REGN and I, which appears to be the stop or period mentioned by Lecompte in the listing of his 186a.

A handsome high grade piece, with a far prettier patina than most.

PCGS# 905848.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's New York sale of January 2013, lot 20593.

Martin Plate Coin



1020

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 6-D. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). A fascinating coin that Syd chose for its impressive die state, a characteristic that merited its inclusion as the late die state plate coin in his book. A “huge horn-like break” dramatically extends from the forehead of the portrait, one of the most impressive breaks in this entire series. Martin's Reverse D shows a raised speck of spalling between REGN and I, which appears to be the stop or period

mentioned by Lecompte in the listing of his 186a. The surfaces of this piece show significant corrosion from ground exposure, including dark scale around the central reverse. Undoubtedly this coin, acquired for its spectacular die state, would have been even more interesting to Syd if he knew where it came out of the ground.

PCGS# 905848.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) January 2010 Americana Sale, lot 4083.



Beautifully Toned 1670-A 5 Sols



1021

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 8-C. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. EF-45+ (PCGS). A beautiful, choice example of this important issue. Rich luster covers both sides amidst elegant toning of gold, pale violet, and blue on the obverse, with concentric violet, blue, and sea green on the reverse. A trifle soft at central reverse, where vestiges of adjustment can still be seen. Problems are few and minor: some nearly invisible fissures in the right obverse field, a tiny nick inside the denticles at 3 o'clock on the reverse, trivial hairlines here and there. This is an exceptional, exemplary specimen,

ideal for a well chosen type set. In addition to the light die cracks mentioned in Martin's description of Obverse 8, thin cracks connect the tops of most of the letters on the right side of the obverse. As described, the reverse is perfect.

This is one of the most eye-catching examples of this type Syd acquired.

PCGS# 905850.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova, July 2012.



1022

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 8-C. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. EF-45 (PCGS). Dark gray with lighter silvery undertones. Significant hairlines are seen on both sides, but the eye appeal remains good, details are exceptionally sharp, and the centering is ideal. A few vertical scratches are seen in the soft part of the reverse, slightly left of center. Both sides show bold peripheral clash marks; most interestingly, the 1670 date is seen crisply beneath the bust truncation.

PCGS# 905850.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jeff Rock, summer 2008.



1023

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 8-C. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. VF-30 (PCGS). Medium gray fields attractively contrast with lighter silver gray devices. Somewhat granular in appearance, with a peppering of tiny marks on both sides. Still a pleasing and appealing specimen at this grade level.

PCGS# 905850.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from eBay, May 2012.



Superbly Toned 1670-A 5 Sols Martin Plate Coin



1024

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 9-K. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. AU-53 (PCGS). A coin of superb aesthetic appeal. Frosty luster and bold originality accentuate beautifully variegated toning of pastel blue, bright gold, and sedate orange. The central reverse is a bit soft, revealing some planchet texture and evidence of adjustment, but all other details show exceptional sharpness for the assigned grade. Both sides are ideally centered and both dies are in their perfect state, though an area of spalling is seen in the lower right

reverse field. The reverse was used as the plate coin for Reverse K in the Martin book. This was the only example of the Martin 9-K die marriage encountered by Syd by the time his book was published. This obverse die was also married with Reverse I, an example of which was included in Ford XIII as lot 20.

PCGS# 905851.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's sale of August 2010, lot 3758.



1025

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 10-J. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. VF-35 (PCGS). A fairly common die variety as these go, with five examples noted by Martin in his 2015 book. Attractive medium gray with smooth surfaces and good eye appeal. A dig off the chin is the only flaw on the obverse, while the reverse shows an old vertical scratch in the right field. Some scattered hairlines are seen, and the usual soft spot is visible at the

central reverse. The light reverse crack above the date described in the Martin book is here, and the obverse is perfect, as expected. A nice and fairly wholesome circulated example that spent time in commerce in the French West Indies, Canada, or elsewhere.

PCGS# 905852.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Tom Rinaldo, June 2009.



Mint State 1670-A 5 Sols
Martin 11-D



1026

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 11-D. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. MS-62 (PCGS). A nice frosty example, with antique light silver gray surfaces that deepen to darker olive at the peripheries. Perfectly centered and exactly struck, with full detail on both sides, even in the usually soft central reverse. Aside from a short scratch that extends from the rim to the shoulder near 7:30, no significant defects are noted. The reverse shows spalling left of the shield and a clash at the upper periphery. Reverse D also shows a raised speck of spalling between REGN and I, which appears to be the

stop or period mentioned by Lecompte in the listing of his 186a. This appears to be a comparatively common variety, with four examples cited by Martin, including this one and one in the Stewart Museum in Montreal. This is the finest among them by a healthy margin. It's also one of just six Mint State examples of the type certified by PCGS.

PCGS# 905853.

PCGS Population: 4, 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's sale of May 2008, lot 2108; Heritage's sale of January 2011, lot 3017.



Rare Martin 12-A 5 Sols Martin Plate Coin



1027

1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Martin 12-A. Lecompte-186, W-11605, Breen-256. AU-55 (PCGS). Martin's plate coin for Obverse 12, the sole example of this die marriage encountered by him. Frosty light silver gray with darker tones around peripheral legends on both sides. Exquisitely well detailed and very pleasing. A single horizontal adjustment mark is noted near central obverse; diagonal ones run along the same path as Louis' hair and blend in. Similar crisscross shallow

adjustment lines are seen at central reverse, along with a batch at the rim above DIC. The thin crack that runs through G of GLORIAM appears to be in an earlier die state than the Martin 2-A in the collection. The obverse is perfect.

PCGS# 905854.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Vincent W. Alones Collection; Apoth Coins' (Lynchburg, Virginia) Virginia Numismatic Association auction of September 2012, lot 2.

1695 1/12 Ecu Overstruck on 1670-A 5 Sols Plated in Martin



1028

France. 1695-A 1/12 Ecu struck over 1670-A French Colonies 5 Sols. Paris Mint. Fine Details—Bent (PCGS). 31.6 grains. A fascinating artifact reflective of the occasional return of the GLORIAM REGNI pieces to France after their circulation in the Western Hemisphere. Though their authorizing legislation made it illegal for them to circulate in mainland France, a few seem to have found their way back. This is one of four examples of this type Martin was able to identify on 1670-A 5 sols hosts, all illustrated on pages 98 and 99 of his *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*. Aside from the dent at central reverse that earned this coin its PCGS qualifier, it is an attractive circulated specimen, with dark gray fields and lighter silver gray devices. Some granularity is seen, chiefly at peripheries, and some old scrapes are noted in the upper right obverse. The 167 of the host date is easily seen at the rim left of 6 o'clock as seen on the overstrike, and LVD from the host obverse is bold atop the overstrike obverse.

This piece and the few others like it that have been identified were the subject of an article in the Fall 2014 *C4 Newsletter* by Jacques St.-Arnaud (along with two similar pieces in the *Canadian Numismatic Journal*, cited in Martin). He cites a 1691 document from Quebec (earlier from Shortt, page 97) that mentions the need to send "coins not yet restamped" back to "the mints in France for conversion into new money." While this probably refers to the old billon 12 sols that were recoined into 15 sols in this era, there was a widescale program to overstrike older silver and gold French coins as they were officially revalued. Pieces like this may have been swept up in that process.

PCGS# 437842.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Pierre Raymond; Canadian Numismatic Auction Company's 2017 RCNA sale, July 2017, lot 66.



Lot 1029

1670-A French Colonies Double de l'Amerique. Paris Mint. Martin, chapter 5. Lecompte-185, W-11600, Breen-257. VF-35 (PCGS).



The Unique 1670-A Double de l'Amerique First Use of America on a Coin Only Example Known A Classic



1029

1670-A French Colonies Double de l'Amerique. Paris Mint. Martin, chapter 5. Lecompte-185, W-11600, Breen-257. VF-35 (PCGS). 62.3 grains. The crown jewel of the Syd Martin Collection of French colonial coins and one of the most significant rarities in the entire realm of early American numismatics.

Choice dark chocolate brown with smooth, hard surfaces. With good gloss and no granularity, this piece offers outstanding visual appeal for a 17th century copper. Well struck and well detailed, with strong peripheries and just trivial reverse weakness at 12 o'clock and 6 o'clock. The central reverse shows softness at C of FRANCOISE, but the obverse is completely struck and boldly defined. A few trivial flaws below D of LVD on the obverse and above DE on the reverse are inherent in the planchet and as-struck. An old diagonal scratch is noted in the lower right obverse field, and a horizontal scrape is present on either side of the obverse mintmark. On the reverse, a thin scratch is seen through the left fleur-de-lis, and a shallow flan defect is seen left of that fleur near the border. Very attractive, little worn, and nicely preserved, this piece carries its historical importance with visual aplomb.

This is the most significant French colonial coin in existence. Struck as part of the first coinage intended for the French New World, it is both the first and the rarest. This is the only specimen extant. The reverse reads DOVBLE / DE LA / MERIQUE / FRANCOISE or "double of French America." The engraving error, which substituted an incorrect De La Merique instead of the correct De l'Amerique, should not overshadow what this coin states: it was produced for French America. It is the first coin ever struck to name this landmass as part of its designs.

This piece has been offered publicly only once, in the 1996 Norweb Canadian sale. Before and since, dating to the time this coin was in the legendary cabinet of Count Phillip Ferrari de la Renotiere (1850-1917), collectors have only had a chance to acquire this coin by private treaty. Since Virgil Brand acquired Ferrari's French coin cabinet intact in 1924, just four collectors have owned it: Virgil Brand, Emery May Norweb, Anthony Terranova, and Syd Martin. But 50 years before the coin reached American shores for the first time, American collectors already

knew about this coin and coveted it. First mentioned in the *American Journal of Numismatics* in 1870, Crosby illustrated this coin in the 1875 *Early Coins of America* by virtue of a copy provided by "M. Jules Marcou, of Cambridge." The image on Crosby's Plate III doesn't allow us to definitively identify it as a cast or an electrotype; there appear to be one of each, made around this time, in the collection of the Bibliotheque Nationale, and Marcou's was probably from the same batch as one of them. Marcou, a French-born geologist who worked alongside Louis Agassiz, is perhaps best known to American numismatists as the man whose original Diplomatic Medal cliches were provided to the U.S. Mint in 1876 to be copied by engraver William Barber. At the time Crosby published this piece for the first time, little was known of the coin's origin or of its intended distribution.

As recounted by Jerome Jambu in his definitive article on the 1670 coinage of the French West India Company (*Journal of Early American Numismatics*, 2021), the concept of a double (or two) denier piece struck for French possessions in the New World dates to 1665, when a plan was hatched to strike 2.4 million of them, along with silver 15 and 5 sols coins. The adopted 1670 plan echoed that from 1665, with plans to source the raw copper for the doubles from melting older double tournois coins that were recovered at the French mint in Nantes. The coppers were to be struck in Paris and shipped, alongside their silver brethren, to islands of the French West Indies. In the weeks before the coins were to be struck on a massive scale, a new regulation was passed down from the King's Council of Commerce that would end the coinage of doubles before it began. On June 23, 1670, the French government authorized the doubles to be replaced by old double tournois and billon sols in the Caribbean-bound shipment, a revelation that, as Jambu wrote, "was the first official authorization of the export of coins from the French kingdom to the Antilles."

This document was written on June 23, 1670. The mintage of silver 5 sols and 15 sols began at the Paris mint on July 7, just two weeks later. Sometime in that roughly two-week period, some small number of "doubles for French America" were struck, leaving a total surviving population of one. The dies were included in a 1672 estate inventory of equipment belonging to Jean Warin, the Paris mint engraver. Whether a small mintage



was struck with intentions to circulate them - and some were released - or if this coinage belongs more to the realm of patterns (or essais), we may never know: the documents are silent. The only relevant document we have is this coin, which clearly saw some circulation. There are essais extant from the Paris Mint in this era, often high grade, nicely preserved in a cabinet from the time of their mintage. This example is something different: worn, used as money, and, it would appear, struck for circulation.

The only other copper coin struck for exclusive circulation in the American colonies of the New World in the 17th century is the ca. 1658 Maryland denarium. It, too, has occasionally been called a pattern, but just like this coin, its survivors are predominantly in circulated condition. Though rare, the Maryland denarium is common enough that more than one has been uncovered in American soil, settling forever the question of whether they were struck as patterns or as circulating coins.

There would not be another attempt to strike coppers for the French New World until 1717. That plan also failed, but the

coppers produced in 1721 and 1722 were struck in large enough numbers that they circulated widely, in both North America and the West Indies. The first copper coins struck in North America (outside of Mexico, at least) were coined in Connecticut in 1737.

As the first and rarest of its kind, this coin's fascination among collectors far surpasses the world of French colonial coinage. This is a collection centerpiece, just as it was in the Norweb Collection, and just as it was for Syd Martin.

PCGS# 174025.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Count Ferrari de la Renotiere Collection; acquired en masse with the Count Ferrari Collection of French coins by Virgil Brand, via Jacques Schulman, 1924; Virgil Brand Collection; Brand Estate to B.G. Johnson; Wayte Raymond to John J. Ford, Jr.; Mrs. Emery May Norweb, via New Netherlands Coin Company, 1954; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Norweb Collection of Canadian and Provincial Coins, November 1996, lot 705; Anthony Terranova Collection; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Mike Wierzba, January 2008.

Near Gem 1670-A Louis d'Or



1030

France. 1670-A Louis d'or. Paris Mint. Gadoury-247. MS-64 (PCGS). While not a colonial issue and related to the *Gloriam Regni* issues only by virtue of their shared date and mintmark, the gold Louis of this year have always been popular adjunct inclusions in cabinets such as these. This is a particularly lovely one, with extraordinary cartwheel luster over rich yellow gold surfaces. Centering, strike, and eye appeal are all superb, and the surfaces are pristine. Only some very subtle wispy hairlines keep this piece from the Gem category. While examples of this issue turn up in an auction somewhere in the world about once a year, we have not offered one since an NGC AU-58 crossed the block in January 2018. Gems (or near gems) are extraordinarily rare.

This issue's interest to North American collectors dates back well over a century. A specimen offered in the 1907 Stickney

sale brought \$75; the 1670-A 5 sols in the previous lot brought \$4.50. Collectors of the modern generation may recall seeing the Stickney coin included with the French Colonies pieces in the 1980 Garrett sale. Henry Chapman's 1908 ANA sale (which also included the 15 sols and 5 sols of this date and mint) likewise included an example of this issue. Syd's inclusion of this piece is a nod to that long tradition, though his example is even nicer than the Garrett-Ellsworth-Stickney coin.

PCGS# 620228.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Mike Wierzba, January 2008.



THE 1709 - 1713 MOUSQUETAIRES AND DEMI MOUSQUETAIRES OF LYON AND METZ

From Mobile Bay to Montreal, the billon 30 deniers or mousquetaire was a staple of small change across Nouvelle France. Along with its 15 deniers half fraction, the type — nicknamed for similarity of its cross to that found on King Louis' Royal Musketeers — was adopted into American collecting somewhat later than other related issues. In his 1892 *Histoire Monétaire des Colonies Françaises d'après les Documents Officiels*, Ernest Zay noted that Canada was “abundantly provided with 30 deniers coins of 1710, those with the two addorsed Ls, called mousquetaires.” As accurate as his statement seems to have been, based upon archaeological discoveries throughout Canada, the Gulf Coast, and the Mississippi Valley, Zay provides little documentation for his statement, and he is among the authors who seems to conflate the “old sols,” which were almost certainly the hammered issues counterstamped in 1640 and recoinced beginning in 1692, with other later billon issues. American collectors were slow to collect the mousquetaires alongside their brethren. Albert Frey mentioned them as Canadian in his 1916 “Dictionary of Numismatic Names,” published in the *American Journal of Numismatics*, citing Zay as his source. Zay was also the inspiration for a correspondent to B. Max Mehl's *Mehl's Numismatic Monthly* in January 1917 who noted Zay “gives a place in the Canadian series to a coin I have for a long time suspected of being entitled to such a place. It is a thirty deniers of 1710.” The correspondent noted he had seen only one of these coins, decades earlier. The mousquetaires were not listed in Wayte Raymond's *Standard Catalogue of United States Coins*, despite Walter Breen's affection for the type and his important role in the book's 18th (and best)

edition. Perhaps inspired by R.C. Willey's excellent series of articles in the *Canadian Numismatic Journal* entitled “The Numismatics of the French Regime Re-Examined,” Breen was incorporating the mousquetaires into New Netherlands Coin Company advertising by 1970, when a company ad in *The Numismatist* listed a low grade mousquetaire (“VG or better”) and a similar demi-mousquetaire (“VG .. miserably struck on a granular, rough planchet”) as “very rare” and “rarer.” The types became a staple of the *Guide Book of United States Coins* and thus an important part of a Red Book type set shortly thereafter. They have been broadly collected in the United States and Canada ever since.

The series is short and simple: two denominations, two mints, five dates for the 30 deniers and three for the 15 deniers. While the demi-mousquetaire is clearly the more elusive denomination, and the concept of rarity is a construct that only has meaning in the context of demand, it's tough to call these coins rare. That stated, most are wretched.

The Syd Martin Collection includes some of the best examples of this series extant: superb condition, exciting and rare varieties, and pattern piedfort strikes. Few collectors endeavor to complete a date and mint set of these issues (even Ted Craige didn't), and fewer still pursue the series as fervently as Syd. For the collector who seeks to build a collection of these fascinating issues, Vlack's *An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coins in the Americas* offers the roadmap. Current valuations for typical specimens offer a low barrier of entry to an advanced collection. The opportunity to acquire coins of the quality of those offered is, however, very scarce indeed.



Extremely Rare Piedfort 1710-D Mousquetaire



1031

1710-D French Colonies 30 Deniers, or Mousquetaire. Piedfort. Billon. Vlack-Unlisted. Breen-281, Ciani-1985, as W-11712. MS-62 (PCGS). 154.0 grains. A true piedfort, struck on an extremely thick planchet that was described in Ford XIII as “white metal” but appears to be the same billon composition as standard strikes of this type. Boldly struck and nicely centered on a somewhat crude, handmade planchet. Abundant luster persists around the legends and design elements, with fresh light silver color intermingled with the deeper gray of mellowed billon. The bottom half of the ideally centered obverse shows a solid frame of denticles, while the periphery of the top half shows file marks, particularly from 12 o'clock to 3 o'clock, and an incompleteness flaw (ragged clip) above the central two digits of the date. The reverse is aligned a bit toward 6 o'clock, allowing for the outside of the peripheral denticulation to be seen around 12 o'clock. The bottom reverse periphery shows some significant file marks, as made, most notable around the mintmark at 6 o'clock and right of it. The mintmark remains complete and bold, with S of DENIERS the only letter that is notably affected.

The reverse is lightly striated, but most of the planchet is even and attractive. No significant post-striking flaws are seen on either side, just a trivial vertical scratch at the vertex of the right L of the two adjoined letters at central obverse.

Syd's notes reflect that three are known. This census in Breen's 1988 *Encyclopedia* lists three pieces: 1) Ford, 2) Vinchon 12-77:342 and 3) Mike Ringo. The first and the second on that list are the same coin: this one. The last one listed is either in the Lasser Collection at Colonial Williamsburg (purchased from Anthony Terranova in April 2002) or the example in the following lot. The Whitman *Encyclopedia* listing for W-11712 cites a piedfort in silver, following Vlack, but none in that composition seem to exist.

PCGS# 905865.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Jean Vinchon Numismatique's sale of December 1977, lot 342; John J. Ford, Jr. Collection; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford Jr. Collection, Part XIII, January 2006, lot 40; Anthony Terranova Collection; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Mike Wierzb, January 2008.



1032

1710-D French Colonies 30 Deniers, or Mousquetaire. Piedfort. Vlack-Unlisted. Breen-281, Ciani-1985, as W-11712. VF Details—Damage (PCGS). While this piece has been described as copper in the past, we are reasonably certain it's actually billon, toned to a dark chocolate shade with hints of gray as are other well-circulated billon pieces. Mostly well struck on a specially made planchet, still retaining some natural mint-made file marks near the periphery. The right side of the obverse and reverse peripheries are both a bit softly struck. Some raised corrosion (also likely indicative of its status as billon) crosses the base of the right central L on the obverse. A fairly minor rim bruise below 9 o'clock on the reverse appears to be the "damage" that earned this coin its PCGS designator. Another little rim bruise is seen above 9 o'clock on the obverse, and scattered contact marks commensurate with the level of wear are seen on both sides.

A handsome example of this rarity, unlisted by Vlack, and misdescribed in the Whitman *Encyclopedia* as silver (which appears not to exist). We believe there are just three of these: the Ford-Martin specimen in the previous lot, this one, and the Lasser coin at Colonial Williamsburg. This piece is struck from the same dies as the Ford coin in the previous lot.

PCGS# 158642.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our sale of August 2017, lot 95; ex Anthony Terranova, August 2017.



1033

1710-D French Colonies 30 Deniers, or Mousquetaire. Lyon Mint. Vlack-2. Breen-280, W-11710. Rarity-2. AU-55 (PCGS). 39.8 grains. Mostly light silver gray, somewhat mellowed to deeper gray at centers and over devices. Finely granular but extremely sharp, everywhere, that is, except the soft periphery at upper right obverse and lower right reverse. This piece is a case study in the difficulty in finding choice billon: a coin might offer superb sharpness and even eye appeal (as here), but finding those characteristics alongside a complete strike and smooth surfaces is a rare juxtaposition. This example is ideally centered and problem free, with just a couple little green specks seen on the reverse under strong magnification. This is nicer than the nicest one Ford owned.

PCGS# 158635.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, November 2003.

Extremely Rare 1710/09-AA Overdate Mousquetaire The Discovery Specimen



1034

1710/09-AA French Colonies 30 Deniers, or Mousquetaire. Metz Mint. Vlack-Unlisted. Breen-Unlisted. AU-50 (PCGS). 37.6 grains. While Syd never did a deep dive into the die varieties of mousquetaires (largely because Bob Vlack had already written a very good guide to the series), he was always on the lookout for new and interesting varieties. This was one of the fruits of his labors, discovered upon acquisition but never published until now. The overdate is plain, with the roundness of the underlying 0 visible between the 10 of 1710, and the upper loop of the 9 resembling a partial eclipse at the upper right of the 0 of the overdate. Fortunately, the discovery specimen is lovely, with choice medium gray and olive toning, tinged with light silver gray highlights. The centering is ideal

and the planchet is glossy and attractive. A die crack from the date to the upper left of the crown seems to have happened when the already hardened die was altered, given its location. Though 1709-AA is a rare issue among mousquetaires, there is a possibility this obverse die was used in both years. In a more popularly collected series, the only recorded specimen of an important overdate would cost a fortune, but the French Colonies series still offers opportunities like this at a reasonable level.

PCGS# 860773.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, February 2004.



Choice Mint State 1710-AA Mousquetaire



1035

1710-AA French Colonies 30 Deniers, or Mousquetaire. Metz Mint. Vlack-8. Breen-282. Rarity-2. MS-63 (PCGS). 40.5 grains. An unusually lustrous specimen, with fresh light silver gray surfaces mellowed to deeper gray on devices amidst strong cartwheel. A curved planchet clip narrowly missed the tops of NAV at the lower left obverse but reached E of DE at the upper left reverse. The planchet texture is still visible around the flat spots of the periphery, from 10 o'clock to 4 o'clock on the obverse and 2 o'clock to 8 o'clock on the reverse, but the centers are nice and crisp. A few little green specks hidden there are not harmful to the superlative visual appeal. A really exceptional specimen, almost as nice as the gorgeous Ford:66 coin (that brought a gaudy \$8,625, commensurate with its quality, more than 15 years ago).

PCGS# 158677.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Mike Wierzba, January 2008.



1036

1710-AA French Colonies 30 Deniers, or Mousquetaire. Metz Mint. Vlack-8. Breen-282. Rarity-2. MS-61 (PCGS). 38.5 grains. Another high grade example of this issue. Exceptionally sharp, with lively luster remaining on both sides. Well centered on a striated planchet that shows a jagged edge flaw at 9 o'clock relative to the obverse. Some raised specks are seen on the obverse, most notable at the base of the right L and near 6 o'clock, and a scattering of similar specks are noted on the reverse. The rims are fairly flat but the legends are complete.

PCGS# 158677.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John J. Ford, Jr. Collection; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford Jr. Collection, Part XIII, January 2006, lot 67; ex Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006.



1037

"1711-G" French Colonies 30 Deniers, or Mousquetaire. Lyon (?) Mint or unknown counterfeiter's den. Vlack-4. Breen-Unlisted. Rarity-8. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). A piece that is fairly famous among specimens in this series, plated in Vlack and still unique as far as we know. After Syd bought it in our January 2008 Americana sale, which included Vlack's own collection, Jacques St. Arnaud wrote about it in the Spring 2009 issue of the *C4 Newsletter* under the title "Unusual Mintmarks on 30 Deniers Coins of the Mousquetaire Series — Genuine or Counterfeit." Vlack went back and forth between thinking this was a Lyon Mint coin (with an erroneous G mintmark instead of the correct D for Lyon) and a circulating counterfeit. St. Arnaud leaned heavily toward the counterfeit explanation, and your cataloger agrees. The piece appears to be struck in pure copper (an important characteristic that could be easily proven and might serve as definitive evidence). While the engraving quality is good, and the letterforms are quite close, the lines of the mousquetaire cross are not quite straight. This piece is fairly even dark olive with some earthen highlights and hints of encrustation. A light crease or bend runs from 12 o'clock to 3 o'clock on the reverse. The G mintmark is double punched, as are some other letters. Centering is imperfect on both sides, beyond the expected range on authentic pieces, oriented toward 5 o'clock on the obverse. This series has few marquee rarities, but this much-discussed piece deserves to be counted among their number.

PCGS# 905497.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Robert A. Vlack Collection; our (Stack's) Americana sale of January 2008, lot 5043.



1038

1711-AA French Colonies 30 Deniers, or Mousquetaire. Metz Mint. Vlack-9. Breen-285. Rarity-3. AU-50 (PCGS). 32.4 grains. Light silver gray around the peripheries, mellowed to deeper gray at the centers. Trivially granular but sharp and appealing. A problem free example of the issue.

PCGS# 158606.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jim King; Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006.



1039

1712-D French Colonies 30 Deniers, or Mousquetaire. Lyon Mint. Vlack-5. Breen-286, W-11730. Rarity-3. AU-53 (PCGS). 36.0 grains. Dark silver gray with some undertones and hints of lighter silver gray around peripheral legends where luster was last to fade. A bit granular but sharp and pleasing. The reverse is aligned to 6 o'clock and the upper periphery of that side is a bit flat.

PCGS# 166128.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, November 2003.



1041

1713-D French Colonies 30 Deniers, or Mousquetaire. Lyon Mint. Star After Date. Vlack-6a. Breen-289, W-11745. Rarity-4—Double Struck—AU-53 (PCGS). 38.7 grains. A very unusual striking error in this series, with a profound double struck roughly 5% offset from the first, centered strike. The second strike is aligned to roughly 12 o'clock. Nice glossy surfaces with attractively mottled medium gray toning. This would be a really good looking and desirable specimen even without the unusual error.

PCGS# E158683.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from McCawley and Grellman's Fifth Annual C4 Convention Sale, November 1999, lot 25; ex Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006.



1040

1713-D French Colonies 30 Deniers, or Mousquetaire. Lyon Mint. Star After Date. Vlack-6a. Breen-289, W-11745. Rarity-4. AU-53 (PCGS). 34.6 grains. Medium silver gray with hints of luster and light silver gray around design elements. Struck on a fairly tight planchet, with a small ragged natural flaw on the obverse at 6 o'clock. The short planchet diameter and less than perfect centering has positioned the left side of the obverse legend slightly off the rim. An attractive piece, showing fairly nice surface and good detail for the grade.

PCGS# 158683.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006.



1042

1712/11-AA French Colonies 15 Deniers, or Demi-Mousquetaire. Metz Mint. Vlack-13a. Rarity-7. EF-40 (PCGS). 16.1 grains. Glossy and attractive dark gray with excellent eye appeal. Aside from one hairline left of the date, the surfaces are pristine. The overdate is bold and visible with the naked eye. An ideal example of this variety, called Rarity-7 by Vlack.

PCGS# 905861.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jonathan Kern, March 1994.



Extraordinary 1712-AA “XXX DENIERS” Demi-Mousquetaire The Ford Specimen Finest of Three Known



1043

1712-AA French Colonies 15 Deniers, or Demi-Mousquetaire. Metz Mint. Vlack-13b. XXX Error. Rarity-7 (actually Rarity-8). AU-58 (PCGS). The pride and joy of Syd’s collection of this material, this piece brought a staggering \$23,500 as lot 31 in the 2006 Ford XIII sale. Perhaps the most notable die engraving error in the whole realm of early American numismatics, this piece is entirely misdenominated, with the reverse die engraved XXX DENIERS instead of the proper XV DENIERS. Just three of these are thought to be known, of which Ford’s (though probably discovered first) was the second one auctioned. The final example discovered was first offered in 2020. In something of a departure of our usual cataloging practice, we reprint below the first known auction description of this variety, from Paul Bosco’s landmark 18th sale of August 1997. No cataloger before Paul, nor any after him, will match his style or panache. (Note: the Bosco description is of the other known specimen but is included here because of its correctness and historical value.)

1712-AA. 1/2-Mousquetaire of XXX Deniers. Type missing from the Redbooks. Excessively rare.

Designs exactly as the full Mousquetaire, but size and planchet of the XV-Denier Half Mousquetaire. Presumably the die-cutter, who would have engraved more XXX-Denier dies than dies for the scarcer XV-Denier type, suffered a lapse of attention. As 1712 is not the first date for the XV-Denier, and as the coin is well-used, a die-cutter’s error seems a far more likely explanation than pattern/trial status, and it stretches credibility to suggest an attempt at revaluing these billion coins, which circulated heavily in both the colonies and metropolitan France.

Nonetheless, the eyes do not lie, and here we have a coin smaller than, and half the eight of, the known coins bearing the denomination — a new type. That it probably owes its existence to the drowsiness (or tipsiness) of a mint worker reduces its importance and likely its value, but it still belongs in a U.S. Colonials collection.

Although not listed in the first Gadoury-Droulers catalog of 1610-1789 French coins (by date & mintmark), Droulers’ subsequent independent catalog included it, probably based on an appearance in a French dealer’s fixed price list (from the ‘30s?) It was unknown to Robert Vlack, who has studied this area more than probably anyone, until he saw this coin, and Breen did not know it.

I forgot to photograph this lot, but I’ve shown it to people for the entire 15 years it’s taken me to get around to auctioning it, so everyone has seen it, or will by the end of ANA. If you collect colonials and aren’t coming to ANA in New York, please be advised that New York is where most colonials were made, imported, or circulated, and today we have the best zoo in the hemisphere.

Prospective bidders should bear in mind that whatever number this important coin brings, it will be a bargain; if I had any brains I’d’ve given this coin to Bowers, where it’d realize twice as much.”

Syd viewed that specimen in 1997 but did not buy it. He mentioned it in his inventory when he acquired the lot below (the XV over XXX error) as an explanatory note of how that related variety, which Syd discovered, could exist.

Note: There is a piece that is definitely a 15 deniers (in size), but marked “XXX DENIERS”; though probably an error, it can be considered another variety. It is thought to be unique; it sold at auction for \$4100 (Paul J. Bosco, Auction #18, 4 August 1997. Lot 702). It has a date of 1712-AA, and grades VG-F. SFM saw this coin at the 1997 ANA, and inspected it — it appears absolutely correct.”

Years after the 1997 Bosco sale, and after his 1998 discovery of the XV over XXX variety, Syd watched this coin sell to Tony Terranova in the Ford XIII sale. By then, it had been included in the Vlack reference, listed as Rarity-7 even though there appear to be just two. When Syd acquired Tony’s French Colonies collection in 2008, he finally acquired this coin. It’s the finest example by nearly 20 points, widely surpassing the NGC EF-40 in the Heritage August 2020 world sale, with good luster in protected areas and displaying a blend of lively light silver gray and more mellowed deep gray. The planchet is lightly striated and granular, but it’s quite attractive. A bit of spotting is noted on the reverse. Both sides are well centered and boldly detailed, and the error denomination is crisp and complete.

This example’s return to auction represents an important opportunity for collectors of important early American rarities, as this coin’s desirability exceeds the narrow confines of the French Colonial specialty.

PCGS# 905860.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John J. Ford, Jr. Collection; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford Jr. Collection, Part XIII, January 2006, lot 31; ex Anthony Terranova Collection; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Mike Wierzba, January 2008.



The Discovery 1712-AA XV over XXX 15 Deniers Vlack Plate Coin



1044

1712-AA French Colonies 15 Deniers, or Demi-Mousquetaire. Metz Mint. Vlack-13c. XV over XXX. Rarity-8. AU-53 (PCGS). 19.9 grains. From Syd's inventory of this coin: "The XV has clearly been struck over XXX. This piece is important in that it amplifies discussion of an earlier discovery (uncertain whether error, pattern, etc.) proving its error status. This is the discovery coin." The coin Syd mentioned as an earlier discovery is the coin in the previous lot, but this discovery was all his own. So far as we know, just two are known, this and a low grade duplicate in Syd's collection. The overdenomination error is very clear under low magnification, and this reverse die unquestionably began with XXX DENIERS punched

into it before XXX was corrected to XV. Importantly, it's also a different die than the reverse seen in the previous lot, meaning that some misled engraver made the mistake at least twice. The coin is glossy deep gray with nice light silver color around design elements where luster was last to fade. Some light planchet striations are seen, most notable at central and left peripheral obverse. Well struck and well centered, attractive in addition to being interesting and rare. This is one of the prizes of Syd's very special collection of this series.

PCGS# 905859.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting (Bill Paul), June 1998.



1045

1713/2-AA French Colonies 15 Deniers, or Demi-Mousquetaire. Metz Mint. Vlack-14a. Rarity-8. EF-45 (PCGS). 15.9 grains. From our offering of Bob Vlack's own collection, where we described it as follows:

Overdate. A very nice demi-mousquetaire even for a common variety. Both sides show considerable original silvering remaining. The surfaces are typically roughened; there are fairly heavy striae at the lower left on the reverse and below the date (which appear to be mint made). Extremely rare. The overdate 3/2 is sharp and clear under magnification. The rose over pomegranate different is also quite bold, even to the naked eye. Making it all the more desirable is the fact that this is the Vlack Plate Exemplar, the overdate serving as the enlarged illustration.

Glossy, mostly smooth, with abundant remaining luster at the peripheries, this is a very attractive coin and an important specimen of a notable overdate rarity. Ford lacked this variety, and we record no other examples.

PCGS# 905862.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard Margolis; Robert A. Vlack Collection; our (Stack's) Americana sale of January 2008, lot 5054.



1046

1713-AA French Colonies 15 Deniers, or Demi-Mousquetaire. Metz Mint. Vlack-14—Struck 15% Off Center—AU-53 (PCGS). 14.9 grains. Lustrous light silver gray and medium gray over finely granular surfaces. Notably misstruck toward 1 o'clock, relative to the obverse. Some marks are seen on the right side of the central obverse, significant roughness is present at centers of both sides. The planchet texture outside of the die edge is instructive and useful to study. An interesting and scarce error in this series.

PCGS# 158681.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006.



THE UNDERAPPRECIATED 1710-1712 SOLS DE DARDENNES

Unlisted by Breen or any other cataloger writing on the subject of the coins of Nouvelle France, the “Dardennes” have struggled to gain the respect they deserve among collectors. This type, struck in a brassy composition and valued at six deniers, have long been known to archaeologists working sites associated with Nouvelle France. In his 1992 Coinage of the Americas Conference paper “An American Collector’s Guide to the Coins of Nouvelle France,” Michael Hodder acknowledged Peter Moogk’s article “When Money Talks: Coinage in New France” as “the best single study of the coins found in controlled archaeological excavations in French Canada and French sites below the border.” Hodder noted “Moogk found one type, the bronze 6 deniers of 1710-12 called the ‘Dardennes,’ as plentiful as the billon double sols of the 1738 series.” Later in his article, Hodder noted “the Dardennes of 1710-12 should be better recognized than they are today as coppers that actively circulated in French speaking Canada. Indeed, based upon quantities found in archaeological contexts, they have a better place here than the 15 deniers of 1709-13 and the demi-sols of 1739-48!” Alas, unnumbered and unillustrated even by Hodder, the type remains unfairly outside of the scope of even most advanced French Colonies collections.

Moogk’s surveys of coins found in archaeological contexts in French Canada, published in various articles, were well

summarized by Phil Mossman in his article “Money of the 14th Colony: Nova Scotia,” published in *The Colonial Newsletter* Issue 124 (December 2003). Citing Moogk, Mossman lays out a table of the 770 coins recovered at Fortress Louisbourg. Of the 362 coppers, 43 were sols de Dardennes! This outnumbered every other copper type handily, with the exception of the diminutive liards of three deniers, mostly struck in the 1650s. Darryl Atchison helps to correct the record in his *Canadian Numismatic Bibliography*, writing that “Glib assertions by officials in 1723 that colonists were strangers to copper and base metal currency collapsed in the face of archaeological evidence that copper doubles and liards, as well as brass dardennes, were the everyday money of colonists.” He even illustrates the type on page 77, page 87, and page 97, the last page referencing R.C. Willey’s *Canadian Numismatic Journal* article of March 1979, which describes the circulation of the sols de Dardennes.

To summarize the respect this coin has received, one of those found at Louisbourg was uncovered in a latrine.

This design type was struck at three mints: La Rochelle, on the Atlantic Coast (H); Montpellier, on the Mediterranean coast (N); and Aix, also in southern France near Marseille (&). It’s likely the pieces from La Rochelle have the most North American relevance.



1047

1712-N French Colonies 6 Deniers, or “Sols de Dardennes.” Montpellier Mint. Gadoury-85. Refrappe. MS-63 (PCGS). Bright golden bronze surfaces are rich with original mint luster. An official restrike from original dies (rarer as such than an original piece), none of which survive in a condition close to this one. While other “refrappes” of this type seem to be struck on 12 deniers (which suggests they were accomplished in the late 18th century), this example is struck on a virgin brassy flan that closely resembles the original planchets for this type. Fully struck and choice, a few small obverse spots. Syd described this piece as “possibly finest known of type,” which may be accurate. PCGS has certified four of the “refrappe” type, none finer than this one. Among non-restrike sols de Dardennes, the finest graded by PCGS is VF-25.

PCGS# 650082.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Kraljevich, January 2012.



1048

(1710-12)-N French Colonies 6 Deniers, or “Sols de Dardennes.” Montpellier Mint. Gadoury-85—Obverse Brockage—AU-58 (PCGS). A fascinating error coin! Mottled mahogany and gold over finely granular surfaces. A bit softly struck at the base of each side, but otherwise crisply defined. A scarce type combined with a rare error was very much in line with Syd’s taste.

PCGS# E1112.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack’s) Saint Ludovico and Firth of Clyde Collections sale, April 2009, lot 1602; Jeff Rock, November 2017.



THE "JOHN LAW" SERIES OF 1719-1721

None of the "John Law" coins were struck to officially circulate in Nouvelle France. Their special relevance comes from their relationship to the Scottish economist John Law, whose *Compagnie des Indes* took over control of the French coining franchise in July 1719 and held it until January 1721. Law's Mississippi Bubble scheme has been intelligently described in reference works, both economic and numismatic, for generations; in short, it backed issues of paper money with the wealth of France's American possessions while ensuring circulation of the paper money by revaluing and withdrawing specie from circulation. Law's ideas were revolutionary but the practice of them proved to be a failure, ruinous to both him and the French economy.

Michael Hodder's best work is also the best work on this subject; unfortunately, it was printed in small numbers and is nearly impossible to find today. His "The *Compagnie des Indes* and the *Premiere Benefice des Monnaies: French Coinage and the Mississippi Scheme, 1719-1720*," published in the first issue and volume (1992) of the Fifth Series of *The Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal* is the best numismatic-focused summary of Law, the political and economic background of his takeover of the French mints, and why this matters to coin collectors. He summarized it in his 1992 ANS COAC paper.

The coinage issues of 1720, popularly called "John Law's coinage," have been a perennial source of confusion and error for collectors and cataloguers of French-Canadian coins. Neither Zay nor Breton included the 1720 coins, but Leroux did. Apparently on the strength of Leroux' catalogue Breen wrote in his ANS study "...Law, as director of the mints, ordered certain coins to be shipped to the colonies, consisting apparently of only the following" and then listed 10 different coinage issues he attributed to John Law. In his Encyclopedia, published 12 years later, Breen specifically listed as John Law issues only the copper demi-sol and sol au buste enfantin (Gadoury-273, 276). He mentioned in an introductory paragraph the 1720-A petit Louis d'argent (Gadoury-305) as a John Law coin.

From July 25, 1719 to January 5, 1721, Law's Compagnie des Indes enjoyed the premier benefice des monnaies and operated the French mints for their own profit. Coin types specifically authorized by the crown during this period, and others for which deliveries of dies to local mints fall within these dates, may be considered to be "John Law" coins. Modern

American collectors tend to assume that a coin type struck during Law's control of the mints is automatically a "colonial coin," because of the association between Law and his Mississippi Scheme. For example, the Garrett Collection sale included specimens of the 1720-A demi-sol au buste enfantin (Lot 1298, Gadoury-273), the 1720-A livre d'argent fin (Lot 1299, Gadoury-296), and the 1720-B petit Louis d'argent (Lot 1300, Gadoury-305) as French colonial coins. The "colonial" association is misleading, however. Law, in common with his generation, looked upon the French overseas colonies as sources of natural products to be purchased at home on credit, payable in finished goods exported to the colony. His attitudes toward hard currency in the colonies, as well as at home, became negative in the extreme and from the beginning his scheme may have been aimed at withdrawing specie currency from circulation entirely. The coinages struck during his control of the mints, until the recoinage of September, 1720, were grudgingly approved and not altogether successful. None was struck for Canada. The Council's order directing the La Rochelle mint to strike copper 12 deniers pieces in 1720 is the only exception to Law's disinterest in coinage for Canada and the other overseas colonies, and, as we have seen, even this issue was not actually struck.

The question of which coins may properly be considered "John Law" coins has been discussed in my "The Compagnie des Indes and the Premiere Benefice des Monnaies: French Coinage and the Mississippi Scheme, 1719-1720." There appear to be three copper, 10 silver, and three gold types attributable to the period of Law's control of the French mints. It should be reemphasized that "the coin types included...are the company's, but they are not necessarily colonial...All of the coins listed...had currency value in the French colonies and any colonist lucky enough to have had these when he landed would have been in an enviable position compared to the coin-poor residents of his new home."



Portrait of John Law,
by Casimir Balthazar.

The 1720-dated coins have always been the focus of collector interest in the United States and Canada. Undoubtedly some of all these circulated in North America, just as some of pretty much any French (or English, Latin American, etc.) type of this era would have. Archaeological evidence shows these coppers have been found more often, but so too would coppers have been lost more often without a dutiful search to ensure their rediscovery.



Lovely Mint State 1720-A Louis d'Or PCGS MS-62



1049

France. 1720-A Louis d'Or. Paris Mint. Gadoury-337. MS-62 (PCGS). 151.5 grains. Overstruck on an earlier (1718-20) Louis d'or a la croix Malte. Brilliantly lustrous, with exceptional cartwheel over medium yellow gold surfaces. Well struck and problem free, showing just trivial hairlines. Abundant undertype

is visible on both sides, particularly at the peripheries. This type is rarely encountered this fine and problem free.

PCGS# 415944.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Mike Wierzbza, January 2008.

The Ford 1720-D Louis d'Or



1050

France. 1720-D Louis d'Or. Lyon Mint. Gadoury-337. AU-58 (PCGS). 149.1 grains. Overstruck on a 1718 Louis d'or a la croix Malte. From our (Stack's) January 2006 Ford XIII sale, where it was described as "Bright and dramatic yellow-gold in color. Surfaces a little rough, due partially to the presence of the undertype which has obscured the host's around the peripheries. Overstruck on a 1718 Louis d'or à la croix Malte (Gad.336), host's mintmark obscure. Rare. Same reverse type as the 1720 livre d'argent fin and the earlier

Mousquetaires." The surfaces are lightly hairlined, but both sides are still exceptionally attractive. This was the nicer of two examples of this date-mint combination in the Ford Collection.

PCGS# 438238.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John J. Ford, Jr. Collection; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford Jr. Collection, Part XIII, January 2006, lot 380; ex Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006.



Very Rare 1720-A Demi Louis d'Or



1051

France. 1720-A 1/2 Louis d'Or. Paris Mint. Gadoury-327. AU-55 (PCGS). 75.7 grains. Overstruck on an earlier (1718-20) demi Louis d'or a la croix Malte. Nice lustrous medium yellow gold with some deeper ruddy highlights within the peripheral legends. Aside from minor hairlines and a couple of marks in the right obverse field, only a couple of natural striations near the reverse fleur-de-lis catch careful notice. The undertype is very subtle, more visible on obverse than reverse. The eye appeal is excellent for the grade.

A very scarce type. We record no recent American sales. Künker offered an example in June 2011 that hammered at 11,000 euros.

PCGS# 151537.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Mike Wierzba, January 2008.



1052

France. 1720-A Ecu. Paris Mint. Gadoury-319. AU-55 (PCGS). 375.5 grains. Overstruck on a 1718-X ecu. Deep antique gray with beautiful pale blue and opalescent toning around the peripheries and design elements. The undertype is exceptionally bold at the peripheries, allowing for easy identification of the host. Good luster persists, and the aesthetic appeal is excellent. A particularly charming example of this majestic type, the largest silver coin of the era.

PCGS# 844669.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Mike Wierzba, January 2008.



1053

France. 1720-A 1/3 Ecu. Paris Mint. Gadoury-305. MS-63 (PCGS). 123.6 grains. Not overstruck. Brilliant silver gray with exceptional frosty luster on both sides. Shallow natural striations are seen on both sides, giving this piece a textured appearance. Only a short and subtle scratch behind the head is worthy of mention as a post-striking defect. Handsome, well detailed, and well centered, a nice example of the so-called "petite Louis d'argent."

PCGS# 620212.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Early American Numismatic Auctions, August 1996, lot 494.



1054

France. 1720-A 1/3 Ecu. Paris Mint. Gadoury-305. AU-55 (PCGS). 122.9 grains. No visible undertype. Luxuriously toned in deep gold and pastels over medium and dark gray surfaces. Good luster, excellent eye appeal. Some light old scratches are seen on the neck and in the left obverse field, with some more subtle hairlines on the cheek. One of the prettier examples of this type we've seen.

PCGS# 620212.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jim King, December 2006.



1057

France. 1719-A Sol. Paris Mint. Gadoury-276. MS-62 BN (PCGS). Nice glossy chocolate brown with some mint color surviving on the reverse. Frosty luster persists at the rims on both sides. Well centered and well struck, a pleasing and problem free example with no significant deficiencies.

PCGS# 620250.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex New York International Numismatic Convention bourse, January 2011.



1055

France. 1720-T 1/3 Ecu. Nantes Mint. Gadoury-305. AU-58 (PCGS). 127.0 grains. No visible undertype. Exceptionally lustrous, especially for this grade, with beautiful old toning of pale blue and gold. The peripheries show extensive evidence of planchet adjustment on both sides, but all legends are visible and plain. A really lovely piece from one of the scarcer mints.

PCGS# 253206.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of Important Properties of the Massachusetts Historical Society, November 1994, lot 3062; ex Jeff Rock, October 2008.



1058

France. 1720-S Sol. Reims Mint. Gadoury-276. AU-53 (PCGS). 173.0 grains. Choice and glossy medium brown on the obverse, even dark chocolate brown on the reverse. Exceptional look and surface quality on both sides, with no significant post-striking flaws. The obverse die is broken through T of GRATIA to the chin, bowing the right obverse field somewhat, while the reverse die is fatigued and shows rippled striations in the die steel. The 1720-dated issues of this type seem somewhat scarcer than those of 1719, particularly in high grade.

PCGS# 227199.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from CGB's sale of June 2001, lot 1049; John Kraljevich Collection, via Chris Young, May 2005.



1056

France. 1719-A Sol. Paris Mint. Gadoury-276. MS-65 BN (PCGS). 170.0 grains. An exceptional Gem quality specimen of this elusive type, with abundant mint color remaining around the obverse periphery, framing choice and lustrous chocolate brown surfaces. The mint color pervades the fields and the reverse to a lesser extent, but the eye appeal and technical quality are consistent throughout. Some striking softness at the base of the obverse and top of the reverse reveals the inherent planchet texture, which creates some granularity at the date and the upper reverse rim. Otherwise well struck and problem free, a survivor of the Buste Infantin type that would be extremely challenging to upgrade. This was the best one Syd ever encountered.

PCGS# 620250.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, February 2006.



Extremely Rare LUDOVICUS XX Error 1720-S Sol



1059

France. 1720-S Sol. Reims Mint. Gadoury-276. LUDOVICUS XX Error. VF-35 (PCGS). 175.2 grains. This came from our (Stack's) 2008 Americana sale, where it was described: "A remarkable error coin and unlisted by Gadoury as such. In the king's title on the obverse, instead of the correct LOUIS [sic, should be LUDOVICUS] XV, the engraver had entered LOUIS [sic, should be LUDOVICUS] XX. The error appears to have been detected but incompletely repaired, the hand engraved V over the second X is imperfect and the coin remains a naked eye error. Good color, decent surfaces, good

strike quality for the grade." Despite some trivial granularity, this is an attractive and nice grade specimen. Syd paid \$3,162.50 for this back in 2008. This was the only example known to Syd, though a lower grade example with heavy rim bruises sold at CGB in Paris in 2007 for almost \$1,300, and a corroded VF example was offered in our recent sale of the Sterling Collection of John Law coinage.

PCGS# 227199.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) January 2008 Americana Sale, lot 5521.

1720 John Law Half Sol Evasion Unique?



1060

France. 1720 Demi Sol Evasion/Counterfeit. As Gadoury-273. Choice Very Fine. 89.0 grains. An unusual rarity in this series that appealed to Syd on just about every possible level: a seemingly unique John Law copper struck with evasionary legends as a circulating counterfeit. This last sold at auction in our July 1995 Coin Galleries sale as

Types, size, and weight of the Demi-sols au buste enfantin of 1719-1724 but unlisted in Gadoury or any other reference into which we looked. About Fine, olive brown color, fairly decent surfaces free from serious marks. Plain edge. No mintmark, fleur-de-lys and stop below bust. Unusual and evasive legends that on the obverse reads LUGDUN: XV: DEC: GRATIA while on the reverse we see FRANCIAE ET NAVARRAE EXCUSS 1720. The legends make no real sense now and may not have when first composed, either. Were this a late 18th century English halfpenny we would class it as one of the Evasions.

This is the first of this type we have seen and, while that does not necessarily make it rare, does lend it some cachet that an ordinary 1720-A Demi-sol au buste enfantin lacks.

Your cataloger, then barely out of high school, bought this from Tom Rinaldo at the next coin show following the sale. After decades of looking for another, this is still the only one that has appeared, which seemingly does make it rare. The bust is engraved in outline fashion, intentionally lacking central detail but showing little actual wear. The central reverse is similarly soft. A single tiny rim nick above 2 of the date is the only real post-striking flaw. This piece has so much in common with the English halfpenny evasion series, including die fabric and striking technique, that we think it must be from that general era. It remains as fascinating today as when first seen.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Coin Galleries') sale of July 1995, lot 5; Tom Rinaldo; John Kraljevich Collection, November 2000.



THE 1721-22 COLONIES FRANCOISES NINE DENIERS OF ROUEN AND LA ROCHELLE

The Most “American” of the French Colonies Types

The 1721-22 nine deniers coppers are unquestionably the most “American” of the French Colonial coin types. Syd Martin revolutionized their collectability by publishing the first useful die variety study in his *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*. Based on documentary and archaeological evidence, this series belongs far more to the series of coins that circulated in the future United States than any other part of the broad French Colonial series.

After the abortive attempt to provide a steady supply of copper coinage from a planned large issue by the Perpignan Mint in 1717, French authorities went back to the drawing board in June 1721. With three planned copper denominations — 18 deniers, 9 deniers, and 4.5 deniers — to be struck at three mints, the concept was ambitious from the outset. Too ambitious, as it turned out, as only the nine deniers were ever struck. The facility at Rouen struck just a very small number in 1721, and the vast majority of the production came from the familiar La Rochelle Mint in 1721 and 1722. In June 1722, more than half a million of these coins were shipped to Quebec aboard *Le Chameau* (spoiler alert: see next section of this catalog for more on this ill-fated ship).

Officially authorized exclusively for the French New World but shipped only to Canada initially, their valuation at nine deniers was scoffed at in Canada, where sols de Dardennes of identical weight were valued at six deniers. Bureaucratic and economic delays resulted in the entire mintage sitting in casks in Quebec until 1726, when the enormous pile of coppers was loaded aboard ships and sent back to France. Even after the coppers were officially revalued to six deniers in 1724 (to match the essentially identical and already familiar sols de Dardennes), only about 8,000 of the more than 500,000 shipped to New France ever entered Canadian circulation.

Apparently, just about every piece that was repatriated to France made a return trip to North America. In October

1727, the ship *Dromadaire* carried 520,000 of them back to Louisiana. Their value as coppers worth six deniers was reaffirmed by Governor Etienne Perier of Louisiana in 1731, which contraindicates the thesis posited by Nancy Surrey (*The Commerce of Louisiana During the French Regime, 1699-1763*, Columbia Ph.D thesis, 1919) and echoed by Syd Martin that “by October 1728 there were virtually none of the coins left in the colony.” There’s no reason to regulate a coin in 1731 that had vanished three years earlier.

Archaeological evidence bolsters the conclusion that the coins remained in circulation all over French North America in what became the United States. The Martin book, in Table 1-1, documents finds of these coins in French contexts in Cahokia, Illinois (across the Mississippi River from St. Louis); Mobile, Alabama; Biloxi, Mississippi; Wood River, Illinois; Natchitoches, Louisiana; Iberville Parish, Louisiana; Pensacola, Florida; New Chartres, Illinois; Fort Toulouse, Alabama; and more. Non-French find locations surprisingly include Schuyler Flatts, New York and Bergen, New Jersey. In our June 2013 sale, we offered four examples that had been found with a metal detector in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Ted Craig was the first to systematically collect these fascinating and important issues by die variety. We offered his collection in our sale of November 2012. Syd identified 92 different die varieties through an exhaustive process of examining (and, often, acquiring) as many of these coins as he could. (In Syd’s system, the side with the two Ls is the obverse and the side with the date is the reverse.) Syd also identified eight major types, representing combinations of four principal obverse die groups and four principal reverse die groups.

Eighteen of the 50 largest cities in the United States were once French settlements. It’s likely these coins were once in all of them.



High Grade 1721-B Nine Deniers Rarity



1061

1721-B French Colonies 9 Deniers. Rouen Mint. Martin 1.1-A.3, W-11825. Rarity-4. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 92.4 grains. The rarest date-mint combination in this brief series and the only from the Rouen Mint. Attractive medium brown and steel over evenly but lightly granular surfaces. The obverse is aligned to 8 o'clock, allowing the denticles at right to show their full length and prominence. The reverse is similarly aligned to 10 o'clock. The planchet cut is a bit crude and not quite round, most evident at the top of the reverse. A planchet striation and lamination may be seen left of the mintmark, extending to between 17 of the date. The strike is even, and the details are crisp, an uncommon scenario for this poorly made issue.

Very scarce in any grade, the 1721-B nine deniers are essentially never found in high grade and rarely found choice. Rough and striated planchets are the rule, and axial misalignment often condemns portions of the design to loss via wear. We've sold just 16 of these in the last dozen years, most of which (if we're being honest) were pretty ugly. One of the only smooth and pleasing pieces among them was Craige:6245, sold in our November 2012 sale for \$23,500 despite being certified just VF-20 (PCGS).

PCGS# 905863.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the Eliasberg and Krause Collections, March 2010, lot 2093.

Choice EF 1721-B 9 Deniers, Martin 1.2-A.2



1062

1721-B French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. Rouen Mint. Martin 1.2-A.2, W-11825. Rarity-4. EF-45 (PCGS). 95.1 grains. An outstanding and well pedigreed example of the key 1721-B date and mintmark, as described in our sale of the Craige Collection: "Dark chocolate-brown, a bit lighter in centers, over finely granular surfaces. An extremely sharp specimen of this rare issue, ideally centered on both sides. The reverse is particularly impressive, with full legends and a well stuck center. The obverse shows an arc of denticles from 6 o'clock to 9 o'clock. A thin old scratch descends from I in FRANCOISES to 2 of the date, tiny rim nick at O of DOMINI on reverse. Craige first classified this as his 2-B, then changed it to 3-C. The envelope notes 'D of BENEDICTUM high and points 1/6 way up 'E.' Base on 'C' rev.' Craige graded this coin 'Nice!' We cannot disagree. The provenance

of this piece speaks for itself: W.W.C. Wilson's collection is perhaps the most legendary collection ever formed in Canada, with a special focus on coins and medals of the colonial era." The coin passed from the W.W.C. Wilson Collection to many numismatic greats including Ryder, Boyd, Ford, Rendell, Craige, and finally Syd Martin, rounding out an impressive provenance chain that adds to this specimen's already significant desirability.

PCGS# 905866.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Wayte Raymond's sale of the W.W.C. Wilson Collection, Part V, November 1927, lot 5; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; John J. Ford, Jr. (New Netherlands Coin Company); Kenneth Rendell; our sale of the Ted L. Craige Collection, November 2012 Baltimore Auction, lot 6247. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 162, 290.



Lovely EF 1721-B 9 Deniers, Martin 1.4-A.4



1063

1721-B French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. Rouen Mint. Martin 1.4-A.4, W-11825. Rarity-5. EF-40 (PCGS). 102.3 grains. A wonderful example of the rare 1721-B Rouen Mint issue, a coin choice enough to be a noteworthy specimen of the overall type not just this challenging date and mint. Glossy, high quality surfaces are a pleasing shade of medium brown with some mottling of lighter chocolate. Original and problem-free with nothing but the most trivial contact marks and insignificant planchet roughness. Fully and evenly struck with excellent centering on each side. The legends and motifs are all boldly displayed, and much of the border dentils is visible as well; the reverse has a full perimeter of dentils framing that side.

While scarce in all grades, the 1721-B 9 deniers is a well known condition rarity in any grades higher than VF. PCGS has certified just four examples higher, one of which is the preceding lot, the highest graded being two pieces at AU-55. The lovely EF-40 offered here is perhaps not quite as sharp or as technically high grade as those top coins, but possesses just about equivalent eye appeal, surface quality, and overall detail. With no truly high grade or Mint State examples available to represent the issue, a choice, well pedigreed piece such as this fits the bill for even the highest quality cabinet.

PCGS# 905867.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), 2010. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 166, 294.



1064

1721-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.1-B.2, W-11830. Rarity-4. VF-25 (PCGS). Excellent surface quality and choice light brown color give this piece superior eye appeal for the VF-25 grade. Glossy surfaces are predominantly light chocolate-brown with undertones of maroon primarily on the reverse where the patina's texture is just inoffensively rough. Obverse legend weakly struck at SIT NO, otherwise bold throughout on both sides. A pleasing example of both the date and variety.

PCGS# 905871.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard Picker, June 13, 1961; Heritage's sale of the W. Philip Keller Collection, October 2010, lot 3111.



1065

1721-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.11-B.5, W-11830. Rarity-4. EF-40 (PCGS). 112.0 grains. A sharp, little worn piece with light steel-brown surfaces and undertones of pinkish-maroon. The obverse is smooth and possesses some satiny mint texture, while the reverse is rougher, naturally so, but still has a rather high grade appearance. Struck just slightly off center but only a small portion of some of the letters are lost, everything is readable. Some interesting die cracks are noted from EN of NOME to the crowned Ls. A handsome example and scarce at this grade level.

PCGS# 905876.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Apoth Coins' sale of the Vincent W. Alones Collection, Part I, September 2012 Virginia Numismatic Society Auction, lot 3. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 202, 318.



1066

1721-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.36-B.6, W-11830. Rarity-6+. EF-45 (PCGS). 95.0 grains. Satiny deep brown surfaces with lighter steel on the devices. There are a few scattered marks on each side but this piece was struck on a high quality planchet of relatively good metal for the type. Just a few tiny voids and small patches of natural roughness are seen on the reverse. Nicely struck just slightly off center. The obverse legend is fully readable despite portions of some letters being off the planchet while the reverse is all there and quite bold. A solid Choice EF example of the 1721-H 9 deniers and a die variety that is considered to be quite rare.

PCGS# 905890.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, January 2008. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 252, 320.



1068

1721-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 3.3-B.8, W-11830. Rarity-2. AU-50 (PCGS). 101.4 grains. Frosty reddish chocolate-brown surfaces display exceptional detail and little to no wear. Some fine porosity covers much of each side but this was natural to the planchet pre-strike. There are no contact marks or environmental damage to report and it's clear this coin saw little circulation and has been well preserved over its three-century-long life. Well centered, off just slightly to 12 o'clock relative to the obverse but hardly any detail is off the planchet. A noteworthy example of the date and variety as well as the overall type considering all 9 deniers are scarce at the AU grade level and virtually unheard of fully Uncirculated.

PCGS# 905892.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Wade Hinderling, July 30, 2008 at the Baltimore ANA Show.



1067

1721-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 3.1-B.1, W-11830. Rarity-3. EF-45 (PCGS). 103.2 grains. A wholesome and attractive Choice EF with light steel devices against a backdrop of olive-brown and reddish-tan. Nicely struck from an interesting late state of the dies with lot of tiny die breaks and stress lines on the obverse and to a lesser extent on the reverse as well. The strike was even and fairly well centered so that just about the entirety of the obverse design, and all of the reverse, is on the planchet. Some natural planchet porosity is seen, mostly on the reverse, forgivable and relatively minor for the type. A handsome example for the type or date collector.

PCGS# 905891.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's October 1990 Long Beach Sale, lot 2; Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006.



1069

1721-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 3.3-B.8, W-11830. Rarity-2. VF-30 (PCGS). Attractive two-tone coloration with tan devices standing out boldly against the dark brown fields. Nicely centered and well struck throughout, this piece makes for an excellent mid-grade example of the type. There is some minor planchet roughness in the obverse fields and a few light marks, but overall no individually distracting or serious issues. Late die state with light cracks running horizontally across the reverse and a break off the lower left serif of the H mintmark.

PCGS# 905892.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our November 2014 Baltimore Auction, lot 6054.



Remarkable Full Obverse Brockage 9 Deniers



1070

(1721) French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin Obverse 3.3, W-11830—Obverse Brockage—VF-20 (PCGS). 94.3 grains. An exciting major error for the type and the first full brockage strike 9 deniers that we recall seeing. Attractive light brown surfaces with just a little bit of yellow-orange color from a long-ago light cleaning. No serious marks for the grade nor unusual roughness for the type. Weakly struck on the right side of the coin which shows up on the brockage side as well. The incuse crowned Ls motif is bold however, as is BENEDICTUM. Deeper color within

the recesses of the brockage impression increases the boldness of the incuse design and enhances the visual appeal. A rare opportunity for collectors of colonial errors or brockages.

PCGS# E11112.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Kingswood Galleries') The Georgetown Sale, July 1993, lot 6855; Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," p. 416.

Fantastic Near-Mint 1721-H

Ex Herbert M. Oechsner



1071

1721-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 3.4-B.9, W-11830. Rarity-4. AU-58 (PCGS). 99.3 grains. A most impressive piece with extraordinary luster and surface quality. As described in our (Stack's) 75th Anniversary Sale of November 2010: "Here is a standout coin in a series better known for its specimens darkened by porosity or time spent in the ground. Ever so slightly worn on the high points of the high relief devices and legends, the fields have basically been spared any wear and are a light golden ruddy brown on both sides. The essential absence of wear has preserved all the fine die marks and rust that was in the dies when this coin was struck, making it a delight to study under magnification. The strike is bold and very well centered for one of these, with only a few letters falling tight to the rim. Although a handful of high grade

9 deniers exist, this is undoubtedly one of the most eye appealing survivors of the type. Just one of the date-and in fact of the entire type-has been graded finer by PCGS. Here is an opportunity to acquire a powerful type coin for a French Colonies collection." Now 12 years later, the statement about the PCGS population for the type still stands, with just a single MS-60 exceeding the present coin among all 9 deniers. With wonderful eye appeal, superior technical quality, and excellent provenance, this coin would be hard to beat as an example of the date or type.

PCGS# 905893.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard Picker, November 1955; our (Stack's) sale of the Herbert M. Oechsner Collection, September 1988, lot 991; our (Stack's) 75th Anniversary Sale, November 2010, lot 6393, via John Kraljevich.



1072

1721-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 3.5-B.18, W-11830. Rarity-6-. AU-50 (PCGS). 83.0 grains. A very pleasing AU example with bold detail and high quality surfaces that display noticeably glossy luster. Tan devices contrast with fields of reddish-chocolate and dark olive. Well preserved surfaces with no marks that bear mention. Die flow lines around the reverse periphery retain some frosty mint luster and give off a subtle glow. The patina is just barely rough in places but really only when viewed under magnification. A strong strike is well centered for the issue with just the tops of the letters of BENEDICTUM off the planchet. There is much to recommend this handsome coin as an example of the type or the 1721-H date.

PCGS# 905894.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Agre (Coin Rarities Online), August 4, 2012 at the Philadelphia ANA Show. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 266, 344.



1074

1721-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 3.8-B.2, W-11830. Rarity-6. VF-30 (PCGS). 95.7 grains. Light chocolate-brown and steel surfaces with some minor porosity, light marks, and extremely faint hairlines. All are insignificant issues, and overall the coin is quite pleasing thanks to the strong, well centered detail and light, even color. The obverse is as well framed as possible on the tight fitting planchet, and the reverse detail is full and bold as well. Noticeable die sinking in the obverse fields becomes heavier in later states of this variety. A solid Choice VF example.

PCGS# 905898.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from WAG Online oHG's (Germany) Auction #31, lot 183; John Kraljevich, October 2014. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 272, 312.



1073

1721-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 3.6-B.12, W-11830. Rarity-7. EF-40 (PCGS). 79.5 grains. A lovely piece for the type and grade with unusually attractive light brown color, a mix of honey-brown and reddish-chocolate. Nicely centered and well struck throughout, all of the detail is fully rendered and makes for a commendable representative of the design type. Choice obverse while the reverse has just a few light scratches, none severe. An appealing coin that also happens to be among the rarer die varieties of the series based on Syd's estimation.

PCGS# 905895.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Kraljevich, October 2014. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 268, 332.



1075

1721-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 3.11-B.18, W-11830. Rarity-5. AU-50 (PCGS). 94.8 grains. An impressive medium brown piece with richly glossy surfaces and sharp detail that is only lightly worn on the high points of the devices. A planchet flaw at 3 o'clock relative to the obverse and a curved depression on the corresponding reverse rim appear to be anomalies related to either the planchet production or minting of the coin and not post-strike damage. Thin planchet laminations are seen elsewhere on the obverse. The copper is hard and smooth in general and there are no serocious marks. Perfectly centered detail. An intriguing and high quality piece.

PCGS# 905899.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard Picker, February 12, 1962; Heritage's sale of the W. Philip Keller Collection, October 2010, lot 3112. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," p. 278.



1076

1722-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.17-D.12, W-11840. Rarity-6+. VF-25 (PCGS). 115.0 grains. An attractive, original, and problem-free VF example with nice medium brown color, the devices a shade lighter than the fields. Obverse slightly off to 9 o'clock but everything is still easily readable. No significant marks, certainly nothing out of line for the grade, just a few thin scratches on the reverse and tiny contact marks elsewhere. Generally hard surfaces with minimal roughness for the type. An interesting and rare die variety with rather haphazardly placed letters and numerals on the reverse. Neat die break from the I in FRANCOISES down the right side of the last 2. This is the only specimen of the variety recorded by Syd.

PCGS# 905880.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard August, January 2010. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 214, 400.



1078

1722-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.20-D.1, W-11840. Rarity-3. EF-40 (PCGS). 86.2 grains. A strong EF example with technical sharpness probably worthy of a higher grade. Little worn and there are even traces of slightly reflective luster remaining in the fields on each side. Microporous throughout but nowhere disturbingly so. The overall appearance is fairly smooth and there are no serious marks or planchet flaws. Dark chocolate-brown and steel with little bits of black patina on each side. Weakly struck at DOMI, otherwise sharp and well centered, especially on the reverse. Late die state with a large cud on the crown and many small die breaks across the reverse.

PCGS# 905882.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard Picker, April 30, 1961; Heritage's sale of the W. Philip Keller Collection, October 2010, lot 3021. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 220, 378.



1077

1722-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.18-D.3, W-11840. Rarity-6+. VF-20 (PCGS). 90.8 grains. Lovely chocolate-brown surfaces are remarkably smooth for the type. An area of very minor natural planchet roughness is present at the central reverse but the color remains quite even and the eye appeal unaffected. Minimal contact marks for the grade, and none are worthy of individual note. Good centering with just the tops of a few obverse letters off the planchet and slight weakness on the first letters of COLONIES FRANCOISES. A desirable piece that offers rare quality and eye appeal for a 9 deniers.

PCGS# 905881.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard August, January 2010. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 216, 382.



1079

1722-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.20-D.1, W-11840. Rarity-3. VF-30 (PCGS). A very high quality example, and a perfect representation of the 9 deniers issue for the discerning type collector. Smooth medium brown surfaces with just a bit of mottled tan and brick-red undertones. No marks of any consequence and just a touch of natural planchet porosity in the right obverse field, totally forgivable in the context of this coinage. Nicely balanced detail with bold motifs and full legends missing just the tops of the letters in DOMINI. A satisfying piece free from the myriad issues that often plague examples of this type.

PCGS# 905882.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), June 2011.



1080

1722-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.21-D.7, W-11840. Rarity-5. EF-40 (PCGS). 89.7 grains. Mottled tan-brown and steel with some brick-red patina on each side as well. A sharp, well centered piece with some granular surface texture that for the most part appears to be natural to the planchet. A fine scratch in the left obverse field is the only mark to note. Bold detail that is only light worn and more than sufficient for the EF grade level. This variety is the only use of the Martin 2.21 obverse whereas the workhorse D.7 reverse is found in combination with three other obverse dies.

PCGS# 905883.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Gary Paretti (Long Island Numismatics), June 2008. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," p. 222.



1082

1722-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.30-D.6, W-11840. Rarity-7. VF-30 (PCGS). 78.7 grains. A choice piece of what seems to be a very rare die variety. Syd recorded just two examples, both in his collection, the other being a VG. This is a lovely VF with smooth, problem-free surfaces and full, well balanced detail. Attractive light brown color, the obverse milk chocolate and the reverse a light silvery-tan. A premium quality specimen worthy of a strong bid.

PCGS# 905888.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our sale of the Ted L. Craig Collection, November 2012 Baltimore Auction, lot 6273. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 240, 388.



1081

1722-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.22-D.8b, W-11840. Rarity-4. VF-20 (PCGS). Attractive light reddish chocolate-brown color and surfaces that have several little scratches on each side but hardly any roughness giving the coin positive overall eye appeal. Weakly struck at the lower right obverse and upper right reverse with portions of the legends missing as a result. Where struck up, the detail seems easily sharper than the assigned grade, and accompanying this coin is an ICCS ticket graded EF-45 from a previous certification. This is a fascinating reverse die that began its life with no mintmark (D.8a) and later had the mintmark added (D.8b as here). The mintmark is quite bold on this piece making it an ideal example of the subvariety.

PCGS# 905884.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Kraljevich, January 2010.



1083

1722-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.33-D.4, W-11840. Rarity-4. VF-30 (PCGS). 93.1 grains. Another excellent mid-grade example of the type with choice medium brown surfaces and strong detail. Pleasing coloration, the devices a shade lighter than the fields which also display some reddish-tan undertones. Fairly well centered, the right side obverse legends just barely cut off while the reverse is just about dead centered with only slight weakness at its center where the detail was opposite the high relief obverse motif. A delightful coin that offers better eye appeal and overall quality than many examples in higher grade holders.

PCGS# 905889.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 246, 384.



1084

1722-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 3.7-D.6, W-11840. Rarity-6. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 99.0 grains. Despite the granular surfaces this is a noteworthy piece that displays remarkable sharpness across the entirety of the design of both sides. Notable definition is seen on the well struck obverse crown and on the addorsed “L”s that are in full relief. Nicely centered with full legends and just a trivial amount of the tops of a few obverse letters off the planchet. Deep reddish-brown with a few tiny scuffs of bright orange on each side. The reverse is slightly less rough and still retains a bit of its mint texture. Late die state with heavy obverse cracks.

PCGS# 905897.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack’s) June 2010 sale, lot 2043. Obverse plated in the Martin reference “French Coinage Specifically For Colonial America,” p. 270.



1086

1722/1-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.5-C.1, W-11835. Rarity-3. EF-40 (PCGS). 111.9 grains. Tantalizingly high technical grade for the condition sensitive 1722/1-H overdate of which the highest graded at PCGS is a single AU-50 coin. This sharp coin has little to no wear and despite its granular surfaces still shows some of its original frosty mint texture, particularly on the reverse where fine die finishing lines also remain. Reddish-brown with steel highlights and some dark scale built up in the obverse fields and around much of the detail. Slightly off center with a small portion of the legends on each side off the planchet. A sharp and impressive example of this overdate variety despite the imperfect surfaces.

PCGS# 905873.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack’s) January 2010 Americana Sale, lot 4093. Obverse plated in the Martin reference “French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America,” p. 190.



1085

1722/1-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.3-C.9, W-11835. Rarity-4. VF-30 (PCGS). Struck on a planchet that had some areas of fine natural porosity to begin with but otherwise this is a problem-free coin. Medium brown surfaces with just a handful of minor marks on the reverse. Strong detail for the grade, the obverse legend weakly struck only at DOM and the centering is very respectable. Bold reverse definition and the surface is smooth around the date allowing for close study and easy viewing of the overdate aspect of this die.

PCGS# 905872.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard Picker, April 30, 1961; Heritage’s sale of the W. Philip Keller Collection, October 2010, lot 3115.



1087

1722/1-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.5-C.1, W-11835. Rarity-3. VF-25 (PCGS). 96.4 grains. Glossy medium brown with lighter brown devices. A pleasing piece with just some minor underlying roughness and no major marks other than a few thin, old scratches. Full detail except for the top parts of the letters of BENEDICTUM and just a sliver of the upright of the F of FRANCOIS that did not make the planchet. Overall solid detail and eye appeal for the grade. The overdate is clear. Advanced obverse die state with swelling and die cracks on that side.

PCGS# 905873.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Robert A. Vlack; John Kraljevich, August 2011. Reverse plated in the Martin reference “French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America,” p. 352.



1088

1722/1-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.6-C.2, W-11835. Rarity-3. VF-30 (PCGS). 94.6 grains. A charming piece with nice full detail for the grade, a bold overdate, and pleasant light olive-tan and reddish-brown color. Minor planchet roughness is noted on the reverse as well as a few little marks at the right-side rim, but overall just an attractive, problem-free coin. The strike was nicely centered and well balanced across each side. Uncommon quality and eye appeal for the type and the 1722/1-H date.

PCGS# 905875.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Simmons & Simmons Gallery of London, August 1993 Baltimore ANA Show bourse; John Kraljevich, via Christopher B. Young, May 2005. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 192, 354.



1090

1722/1-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.14-C.4, W-11835. Rarity-4. VF-30 (PCGS). 87.8 grains. A lovely coin with outstanding eye appeal for the type and date and offering with interesting numismatic history. Choice light brown with just a few small areas of natural planchet porosity and slightly rough brick-red patina. The overall smoothness and gloss of the surfaces, as well as the remarkably well centered and firmly struck detail make this coin immediately stand out as an exceptional 9 deniers. This piece is from the famous New Netherlands 60th Sale, considered by some to be among the most important and best cataloged sales of colonial coins ever. Walter Breen cataloged this coin therein as a C/I in FRANCOIS variety, a variety that later made its way into Breen's 1988 *Encyclopedia* as Breen-264. It's unclear exactly what is under the C in FRANCOIS, and whether it is repunching or die failure. Nevertheless, an intriguing and beautiful coin with a story to tell. It realized \$3,055 in our sale of the Craige Collection, a testament to its desirability.

PCGS# 905878.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from B. Max Mehl's June 1942 Sale, lot 1; Dr. Angus Black; New Netherlands Coin Co.'s 60th Sale, December 1968, lot 232; our sale of the Ted L. Craige Collection, November 2012 Baltimore Auction, lot 6270. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically For Colonial America," pp. 208, 358.



1089

1722/1-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.13-C.3, W-11835. Rarity-3. VF-25 (PCGS). 77.2 grains. A strong example with smooth, attractive surfaces. The sharpness and overall quality could easily have earned this coin a higher grade. Predominantly chocolate-brown with some brick-red patina at the adorsed Ls and darker brown on the left side of the reverse. The tops of SIT NOMEN are off the planchet, otherwise the detail is full and bold most everywhere. Noticeably free from contact marks or other distractions. Clear overdate.

PCGS# 905877.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Kraljevich, January 2012. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 206, 356.



1091

1722/1-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.14-C.4, W-11835. Rarity-4. VF-25 (PCGS). 94.4 grains. Glossy light brown with some minor planchet roughness scattered about, a few small patches of brick red patina on both sides and some specks of verdigris at the upper reverse. No individually serious marks or flaws and has a pleasing overall appearance. Very well centered, the planchet was just a bit undersized for the dies so a small part of some of the letters didn't make it onto the coin. An attractive VF example of this interesting overdate variety.

PCGS# 905879.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Robert A. Vlack; Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically For Colonial America," pp. 208, 358.



Fascinating and Choice Double Struck 9 Deniers



1092

1722/1-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.24-C.8, W-11835. Rarity-6—Double Struck Over Obverse Brockage—VF-35 (PCGS). 84.5 grains. A fantastic error, the likes of which we have not encountered on any other coin in this series. It appears to have been struck twice, the first strike being a full obverse brockage and the second strike normal and probably intentional, the goal being to fix the coin by effacing the brockage impression. Unfortunately for the coiners (but fortunately for numismatists), a good bit of the incuse detail of the brockage strike remains including a bold crown and addorsed Ls, as well as DOMINI. Remarkably, there is very little evidence of the second strike on the obverse side, with just slight doubling evident in the dentils along the bottom border and on some of the letters. If the fascinating error wasn't enough, the coin itself is also incredibly choice with totally ideal and problem-free light chocolate-brown surfaces that are glossy and essentially perfect for the grade. A wonderful and unique piece that offers immense eye appeal and intrigue.

PCGS# 905882.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from McCawley & Grellman's First Annual C4 Convention Sale, October 1995, lot 244; Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 228, 417.



1093

1722/1-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.26-C.8, W-11835. Rarity-5. EF-40 (PCGS). 92.6 grains. Smooth and appealing dark brown surfaces with some subtly frosty texture as well. Small traces of orange color remain in the protected areas of the detail from a long ago cleaning from which this coin has just about fully retoned. There are no consequential marks and just minor traces of the virtually always seen natural planchet roughness and a few striations on the reverse, again, as made. Bold detail at the date and the Martin C.8 reverse features one of the clearest overdates of 13 different 1722/1 reverses.

PCGS# 905886.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard Picker, April 30, 1961; Heritage's sale of the W. Philip Keller Collection, October 2010, lot 3113. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America," pp. 232, 366.

Single Finest Graded 1722/1-H 9 Deniers



1094

1722/1-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 2.30-C.10, W-11835. Rarity-7. AU-50 (PCGS). 84.3 grains. A remarkably high grade survivor of the 1722/1 overdate and the single highest graded example at either PCGS or NGC. Barely worn surfaces are granular over much of the coin, but also lustrous, with their original glossy texture still intact and a flash of satiny brilliance on the reverse. No marks at all and it's clear that this coin circulated little if at all. Mottled dark brown and lighter chocolate color. Sharply struck and reasonably well centered with just the very tops of SIT NOMEN off the planchet. The reverse is especially sharp and impressive and the overdate feature of this die is as distinct as it comes. An important offering for the advanced collector of this series by date or variety.

PCGS# 905887.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard Picker, June 13, 1961; Heritage's sale of the W. Philip Keller Collection, October 2010, lot 8149. Plated in the Martin reference "French Coinage Specifically For Colonial America," pp. 240, 370.



1095

1722/1-H French Colonies Sou, or 9 Deniers. La Rochelle Mint. Martin 3.6-C.4, W-11835. Rarity-3. VF-30 (PCGS). Light golden-tan and steel-brown, lightly cleaned at some point but fairly well retoned with a generally pleasing appearance. Besides a few reverse scratches, the surfaces have very little in the way of marks or roughness and present much smoother than the average 9 deniers. Weakly struck at the lower right obverse affecting the final S in COLONIES and FRANCOISES as well, otherwise bold and well centered. A respectable example of the overdate and scarce as a Martin 3-C die group combination, one of just two die pairs that combine a group 3 obverse (dies with stops between all of the words and différents), with a group C reverse (the 1722/1 overdate dies).

PCGS# 905896.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006.



TREASURE FROM THE 1725 WRECK OF LE CHAMEAU

Le Chameau (The Camel) was a 48-gun French military transport ship, constructed in 1717. When she left La Rochelle, the main New World-facing port on France's Atlantic Coast, in July 1725, she was bound for Fortress Louisbourg, the dominating French fort that controlled entry to the interior of Canada. She carried 316 passengers, including at least 100 soldiers and the new appointee for the position of Intendant of Canada. She also carried thousands of French coins, both gold and silver. The treasure aboard *Le Chameau* exceeded 82,000 livres tournois, several million dollars today, all intended to pay the troops who made Fortress Louisbourg the most formidable defensive structure in the entire New World.

Late August is hurricane season in the North Atlantic, and when *Le Chameau* approached the coastline of Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island the night of August 25, the seas were unquiet and the winds were strong. During the overnight hours on the morning of August 26, within sight of Louisbourg, the ship hit an outcropping known today as Chameau Rock. It was a total loss, and daylight revealed the telltale signs of a nautical disaster up and down the beaches nearby.

Salvage operations began soon thereafter, but the swirling sand and surf amidst the currents where the St. Lawrence and the Atlantic join made diving on the wreck nearly impossible. A few thousand livres tournois were recovered washed up on the shore, but then the site was abandoned to history. Two decades later, New Englanders attacked and captured Fortress Louisbourg in the name of King George II; they were disheartened when the prize was given back to the French at the treaty table. In 1759, the fortress fell again, and all of Canada was turned over to the English in 1763. What was Acadia became Nova Scotia, but thousands of French coins that were royally authorized for New World circulation remained beneath the waves just off shore.

On September 19, 1965, three men from Cape Breton Island — Alex Storm, David MacEachern, and Harvey MacLeod — found the first coins to be salvaged from *Le Chameau* in over 200 years. Gold coins and a trove of artifacts followed, and worldwide celebrity visited upon the three men in April 1966. Television appearances and a book deal made them household names in Canada, but within a week Storm was served with a lawsuit. A partnership to find the vessel was undertaken by Storm and others in 1961 and never legally terminated, though it did peter out. In December 1967, a judge awarded three-quarters of the treasure to Storm and one-quarter to his earlier partners. Under Canadian Treasure Trove law, Provincial authorities got first crack, and many of *Le Chameau's* relics (as well as all base metal coins found) are currently the property of Parks Canada.

The first lease on the wreck site of *Le Chameau* recovered 878 Louis d'ors and 7,861 silver ecus, as recounted by Jim Charlton in the *Canadian Numismatic Journal* in 1976. The December 1971 Parke-Bernet sale included 513 Louis d'ors and subsequent salvage operations have found more coins, but gold has been sparse and quality has been poor; the 1999 Stack's Americana sale included many hundreds of mostly poor ecus but just two Louis d'ors. The 72 lots in our Ford XIII were cherrypicked by Ford prior to the treasure's dispersal and represent some of the choicest specimens known; several are offered below.

The bulk of the coins recovered were Louis XV ecus, mostly dated 1724 and 1725 and predominantly struck at the mint in La Rochelle. The gold coins were mostly Louis d'ors aux mirlitons, almost all dated 1723 to 1725. Some smaller coins were shipped as well, along with a handful of other issues. Each of these types was carefully cataloged by Walter Breen for his 1988 *Encyclopedia*, and they've been popular among Canadian, American, and French collectors since their rediscovery.



LOUIS D'OR FROM THE WRECK OF LE CHAMEAU



1096

1723-A French Colonies Louis d'Or. Paris Mint. Gadoury-388, Breen-299. Type I, Short Palms. Le Chameau Treasure. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). One of three examples of this date-mint combination acquired by John Ford directly from the wreck salvors as part of his consulting payment. In the Ford XIII sale, this was described as “Deeper yellow gold with some traces of old encrustation and darker toning spots on both sides.” This piece’s appearance underscores what Ford looked for in the examples he selected: originality and an attractive, natural appearance. This piece is exceptionally detailed and nearly ideally centered. Both sides are free of notable adjustment marks, an infrequently encountered characteristic of the type; a single diagonal line in the upper right reverse blends in but remains from the planchet adjustment process. Graded “Uncirculated” in the Ford sale, this piece was undoubtedly uncirculated on a technical basis, though the Nova Scotia surf has left some high point wear. A particularly handsome example of the date-mint combination or the general type. Of the 513 Louis d’ors included in the original 1971 Parke-Bernet auction, 18 were dated 1723-A, leaving this tied as the seventh most common combination

PCGS# 436633.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Alex Storm and salvors to John J. Ford, Jr., 1971; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part XIII, January 2006, lot 385; Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006.



1097

1723-D French Colonies Louis d'Or. Lyon Mint. Gadoury-338, Breen-308. Type I, Short Palms. Le Chameau Treasure. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). Just 10 examples of this date-mint combination were included in the original 1971 Parke-Bernet offering. John Ford owned two, including this one. Nice medium yellow gold, even in appearance and attractive. The surfaces are a bit sandblasted but remain fairly natural looking. Only trivial marks are seen, along with a bit of dirt on the cheek. Ideally centered and very well struck on both sides, this piece is also completely free of adjustment marks, making it an ideal example to showcase the type. Breen called this variety “extremely rare.”

PCGS# 436637.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Alex Storm and salvors to John J. Ford, Jr., 1971; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part XIII, January 2006, lot 389.



1098

1723-E French Colonies Louis d'Or. Tours Mint. Gadoury-338, Breen-311. Type I, Short Palms. Le Chameau Treasure. UNC Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). Frosty and lustrous, with attractive medium yellow gold surfaces retaining some lighter yellow gold at the obverse peripheries and across the reverse. A bit of darker acquired scale or plaque was left intact after salvage on the reverse near 10 o'clock and 11 o'clock. Perfectly centered, well struck, free of adjustment marks, a truly lovely piece. This is a top notch example of one of the great rarities among the gold issues aboard Le Chameau. Only two were included in the 1971 Parke-Bernet offering.

PCGS# 436638.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Alex Storm and salvors to John J. Ford, Jr., 1971; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part XIII, January 2006, lot 392.



1099

1723-K French Colonies Louis d'Or. Bordeaux Mint. Gadoury-338, Breen-326. Type I, Short Palms. Le Chameau Treasure. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). Nice frosty light yellow gold, even in appearance and with some remaining luster. Attractive contrasting encrustation remains in the letters above the obverse portrait and around many of the reverse devices. Ideally centered and well struck, free from adjustment marks, showing only trivial contact points here and there. A very handsome example. With 18 pieces sold in the 1971 Parke-Bernet sale, this is tied with 1723-A as the most common of the 1723-dated Louis d’or emissions aboard.

PCGS# 436640.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Alex Storm and salvors to John J. Ford, Jr., 1971; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part XIII, January 2006, lot 397; Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006.



1100

1723-(Cow) French Colonies Louis d'Or. Pau Mint. Gadoury-338a, Breen-Unlisted. Type I, Short Palms. Le Chameau Treasure. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). Even light yellow gold with a matte-like sandblast appearance on both sides. A trace of plaque remaining from submersion is seen at 3 of the date, some minor toning at lower obverse and upper reverse periphery. Adjustment marks cross the central reverse, as often seen, and less prominent adjustment is seen around the reverse periphery, particularly at right. The centering is a bit off, toward 6 o'clock on the obverse and 12 o'clock on the reverse, reflective of the somewhat cruder production values from this distant mint in the Pyrenees. While Breen included the 1724 Pau issues in his 1988 *Encyclopedia*, he omitted the 1723-dated Louis d'ors from this mint - inexplicable, considering he was the numismatic consultant for the initial 1971 salvors' sale at Parke-Bernet and that auction included six of them. Others have been sold at other auctions in more recent years, leaving the exact moment of this piece's arrival on the market uncertain. Its surfaces and look leaves no doubt, however, of its *Chameau* provenance. Since the 2006 Ford sale, we record five offerings of 1723 Pau Louis d'ors, all of which appear to be *Chameau* pieces. The most recent two were from the Dittmer Collection, Heritage February 2022, including the piece he acquired from the Ford sale as lot 414.

PCGS# 436644.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; CGB's Mail Bid 12, June 2001, lot 1062; from Patrick Guillard (Paris), March 2005.



1101

1724-H French Colonies Louis d'Or. La Rochelle Mint. Gadoury-339, Breen-320. Type II, Long Palms. Le Chameau Treasure. AU Details—Cleaned (PCGS). Even light yellow gold with matte, sandblasted surfaces from this coin's time in the waters off Cape Breton Island. Some white encrustation remains from its submersion, mostly around devices and legends on the reverse. Nicely centered and boldly detailed, with only a very trivial adjustment mark at the top of the addorsed Ls on the reverse. This was the second most common date-mint combination among the Louis d'or from the wreck of *Le Chameau*, trailing only 1724-K. La Rochelle was a principal Atlantic seaboard and common port of departure for people and provisions bound for Nouvelle France. The copper nine deniers of 1721 and 1722 were principally struck there because of the city's New World-facing economic climate and proximity.

PCGS# 408977.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, September 2006.

OTHER LOUIS D'OR AUX MIRLITONS FROM THE ERA OF LE CHAMEAU



1102

France. 1723-T Louis d'Or. Nantes Mint. Gadoury-338, Breen-353. Type I, Short Palms. MS-62 (PCGS). A superb piece, graded "Presque FDC" when last offered at auction in Zurich in 2002. Reflective and exquisitely lustrous, with bright rich yellow gold surfaces. Boldly struck and very attractive, though planchet adjustment marks remain visible around the rims of both sides, occasionally intruding into the fields but not in a significant way. Scattered hairlines are seen, but no major issues. Breen calls this issue "ex. Rare"; he also took pains to describe the different as a "heart pierced upward by phallic spearpoint." The Ford Collection of gold coins from *Le Chameau* included one of these, but none were included in the 1971 Parke-Bernet sale. This superb example never saw saltwater submersion but would be a valuable addition to a collection of French coins or types familiar to the people of Nouvelle France.

PCGS# 436648.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Lawrence R. Stack Collection; Hess Divo's sale of the Stack Collection, October 2002, lot 112; Leo Shane, January 2009.



1103

France. 1724-A Louis d'Or. Paris Mint. Gadoury-339, Breen-301. Type II, Long Palms. MS-62 (PCGS). 2nd Semester. Highly lustrous medium yellow gold enriched with splashes of deeper hues. Incredibly frosty and attractive, with bold central detail despite some softness at the peripheries of both sides. Scattered hairlines should not be confused with the raised die finish lines seen in the fields, relics of a die polishing process that has left this coin somewhat prooflike. This splendid piece is doubly didactic, by showing what the Louis d'or of *Le Chameau* looked like before their submersion, but also offering a contrast in surface quality and appearance that allows the treasure coins to be more easily identified. Just seven examples of this date-mint combination were included in the initial 1971 auction offering of the *Le Chameau* treasure.

PCGS# 881433.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Mike Wierzba, January 2008.



Mint State 1724 Louis d'Or from Aix



1104

France. 1724-& Louis d'Or. Aix Mint. Gadoury-339, Breen-376. Type II, Long Palms. MS-62 (PCGS). Boldly detailed and beautifully lustrous, an exceptional coin for the grade level. The rich medium yellow gold surfaces exhibit some obverse hairlines, and the reverse shows some natural vertical planchet striations remaining from planchet adjustment. Some evidence of adjustment is also visible in the upper left obverse but confined exclusively to the rim. A handsome and scarce

piece. Five Louis d'ors from this date-mint combination were in the original 1971 Parke-Bernet sale, and just 10 from the Aix Mint overall. We record just one worldwide auction sale of this issue since the 2006 Ford sale, an inferior NGC MS-61.

PCGS# 620181.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, February 2004.



Coronation of Louis XV, 1722 by Pierre Subleyras.



Remarkable Gem 1725-D Louis d'Or Aux Mirlitons



1105

France. 1725-D Louis d'Or. Lyon Mint. Gadoury-339, Breen-310. Type II, Long Palms. MS-65 (PCGS). One of the most stunning surviving specimens of this design type extant. Satiny luster dominates both sides, with luxuriously frosty medium yellow gold surfaces. Well struck and well centered, nearly pristine, with just a short adjustment mark surviving at the tip of the portrait bust. A warmly beautiful example of

the design type. Breen called this “ex. Rare, one reported” in relationship to its rarity among the treasure of *Le Chameau*, but none were in the Ford assemblage or the 1971 Parke-Bernet sale.

PCGS# 436681.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Mike Wierzba, August 2007.

SILVER COINS FROM THE WRECK AND ERA OF LE CHAMEAU



1106

1724-E French Colonies Ecu. Tours Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-Unlisted. Le Chameau Treasure. Fine Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 326.6 grains. Very rough surfaces are slate gray and dark olive with some rusty orange-red patina. Technically sharp but much detail is lost to the corrosion. The date and mintmark remain clear and their combination represents a scarcer issue in the series. Unlisted in Breen’s roster of dates and mintmarks of ecus recovered from *Le Chameau*. A classic looking shipwreck coin and an interesting example of the large and impressive ecu denomination.

PCGS# 466489.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.

1107

1724-G French Colonies Ecu. Poitiers Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-Unlisted. Le Chameau Treasure. VF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 334.6 grains. A relatively attractive *Le Chameau* ecu with generally solid detail and pleasing two-tone color of light silver-gray devices contrasting with deeper gray in the fields and peripheries. A few marks and hairlines from cleaning are seen on each side. Another scarce mintmark that was not among those listed in the *Breen Encyclopedia*.

PCGS# 466491.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1108

1724-G French Colonies Ecu. Poitiers Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-Unlisted. Le Chameau Treasure. VF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 299.2 grains. A handsome piece with only moderately rough surfaces and even pearl-gray and light silver color. Good fullness of detail with completely readable legends, a clear date and mintmark, and well defined devices. Light scratches seen crisscrossing each side but there are no significant contact marks.

PCGS# 466491.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Richard August, December 2006.



1111

1724-K French Colonies Ecu. Bordeaux Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-382. Le Chameau Treasure. Good Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 296.6 grains. Slate-gray with some build up of black scale and rusty orange oxidation. Well worn and rough but most of the legends can be made out and the date and mintmark are clear. A scarce Bordeaux Mint issue.

PCGS# 466497.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1109

1724-G French Colonies Ecu. Poitiers Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-Unlisted. Le Chameau Treasure. VF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 319.6 grains. Variegated pearl-gray, gunmetal, and black toning on significantly eroded surfaces from centuries spent at the bottom of the north Atlantic Ocean. Surprising sharpness of detail in places indicates this was probably a Mint State or nearly so coin when it was carried aboard Le Chameau.

PCGS# 466491.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; purchased from "Maurice," June 2007.



1112

1724-N French Colonies Ecu. Montpellier Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-Unlisted. Le Chameau Treasure. Fine Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 324.8 grains. Dark brown and gray with black encrustation and some erosion on the bust. Planchet appears slightly bent and is granular throughout. Decent detail remains including the entirety of the legends and a clear date and mintmark.

PCGS# 844712.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1110

1724-H French Colonies Ecu. La Rochelle Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-381. Le Chameau Treasure. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 329.8 grains. Bold detail and surfaces that are predominantly only microgranular, with some heavier roughness concentrated at the central reverse. Cleaned with large swathes of hairlines across each side, but the resulting color and appearance is rather appealing for a shipwreck coin. Light pearl-silver with deeper toning in protected areas.

PCGS# 844702.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1113

1724-R French Colonies Ecu. Orleans Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-Unlisted. Le Chameau Treasure. VF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 323.4 grains. Steel-gray and dark olive with some light orange-tan build up on each side. Porous, with some hairlines from having been cleaned upon recovery from the ocean. Fairly well detailed and all of the major detail is appreciable. Scarce date and mintmark.

PCGS# 379419.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Stack's) January 1999 Americana Sale, lot 1207; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1114

1724-T French Colonies Ecu. Nantes Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-383. Le Chameau Treasure. Fine Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 325.6 grains. Dark olive and sandy-gray surfaces are just moderately granular throughout and have some discoloration around BENEDICT. Full detail with all of the major detail of the legends, date, mintmark, and devices well defined.

PCGS# 368778.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1117

1725-G French Colonies Ecu. Poitiers Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-384. Le Chameau Treasure. VF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 337.0 grains. Deep slate-gray verging on ebony with a lighter patina in protected areas, especially in the reverse fields. Heavy obverse hairlines and light porosity throughout. Strong detail and the reverse is notably bold. A presentable example and a piece struck in the year *Le Chameau* sank.

PCGS# 466492.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1115

1724-T French Colonies Ecu. Nantes Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-383. Le Chameau Treasure. VG Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 316.6 grains. Dark, rough surfaces with some orange encrustation and erosion around the peripheries. The reverse is slightly lighter in color and less heavily corroded. Full legends, date, and mintmark, and mostly outlined devices.

PCGS# 368778.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Rosa Americana Ltd.'s Summer 2005 Fixed Price List.



1118

1725-H French Colonies Ecu. La Rochelle Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-385. Le Chameau Treasure. VF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 316.6 grains. A very rough piece yet distinctive and interesting looking. Dark olive, nearly black color gives way to a rusty orange patina where heavily eroded at the upper half of the obverse and opposing lower half of the reverse. Despite some detail being lost to the corrosion, the date and mintmark are still readily visible, though the mintmark appears incuse, an effect of the erosion in that area.

PCGS# 466494.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Kingswood Galleries') The Amherst Sale, May 1990, part of lot 8088; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1116

1725-A French Colonies Ecu. Paris Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-Unlisted. Le Chameau Treasure. VG Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 330.0 grains. Uniform dark slate with a dusting of sandy-white patina in the protected areas. Porous but the roughness isn't overly severe and there are no serious marks besides the usual hairlines from the aggressive cleaning these coins underwent when recovered. A satisfying *Le Chameau* ecu and although the 1725-A Paris Mint issue is fairly common otherwise, there appear to have been very few aboard that ship.

PCGS# 466481.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1119

1725-H French Colonies Ecu. La Rochelle Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-385. Le Chameau Treasure. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 331.6 grains. A handsome piece that is not overly rough, nor overly hairlined. Medium to dark gray with light silver on the devices, the contrast allowing the strong detail to stand out boldly. Excellent definition to the devices on both sides, and the legends and date are full and nicely centered on the slightly oblong planchet.

PCGS# 466494.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1122

1725-K French Colonies Ecu. Bordeaux Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-387. Le Chameau Treasure. Fine Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 327.6 grains. Dark brownish-gray with light silver overtones. Sharp detail that looks more like EF in places and the surfaces are not overly rough or problematic, just typically so. A good looking example of this shipwreck crown.

PCGS# 466498.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Bowers and Merena's) Sale of The Cabinet of Lucien M. LaRiviere, Part III, May 2001, lot 1162 (plated); purchased on eBay, March 2004.



1120

1725-H French Colonies Ecu. La Rochelle Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-385. Le Chameau Treasure. VF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 317.8 grains. Typical rough light silver-gray surfaces with some erosion and raised encrustation in places. Strong detail remains in some areas on a coin that was probably new when it was carried aboard Le Chameau. Breen stated that 1725-H comprised about 80% of identifiable survivors recovered from the shipwreck.

PCGS# 466494.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; purchased on eBay, November 2000.



1123

1725-K French Colonies Ecu. Bordeaux Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-387. Le Chameau Treasure. Fine Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 336.6 grains. Dark gray and pale silver-blue, the surfaces porous but also rather glossy. Strong detail remains on each side, the sharpness clearly better than Fine. An appealing piece with surfaces that speak to its saltwater origin but that also display a presentable level of detail.

PCGS# 466498.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1121

1725-I French Colonies Ecu. Limoges Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-386. Le Chameau Treasure. VF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 328.6 grains. Dark olive and dove-gray surfaces are moderately corroded and hairlined, but display fairly strong and balanced detail for the grade. A seldom seen Limoges Mint issue from this shipwreck.

PCGS# 466496.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1124

1725-N French Colonies Ecu. Montpellier Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-Unlisted. Le Chameau Treasure. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 334.6 grains. Unusually bold detail on surfaces that are mostly just microporous. A few areas of heavier corrosion are present near the borders on each side. Dark slate-gray with much of the high point detail cleaned to light silvery-white. Scarce date and mintmark among the *Chameau* treasure coins and unlisted in Breen.

PCGS# 466502.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Stack's) January 1999 Americana Sale, lot 1291; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1126

1725-T French Colonies Ecu. Nantes Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-389. Le Chameau Treasure. Fine Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 298.5 grains. An attractive piece that was clearly very high grade when the ship sank. Faint traces of frosty mint luster actually still show at the legends. Microporous and lightly hairlined, but a fairly well composed coin. Cleaned to a uniform light silver with rose-gold accents.

PCGS# 466511.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Richard August, August 2007.



1125

1725-T French Colonies Ecu. Nantes Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-389. Le Chameau Treasure. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 350.4 grains. A remarkably sharp survivor that received the highest details grade from PCGS of any of the *Le Chameau* ecus in this offering. Variegated gray and tan-brown surfaces with a dusting of blue-green verdigris. Just microporous with no areas of heavy corrosion or damage. Much fine detail remains including bold edge lettering.

PCGS# 466511.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1127

1725-9 French Colonies Ecu. Rennes Mint. Gadoury-320, Breen-Unlisted. Le Chameau Treasure. VG Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 339.2 grains. Rough medium to dark gray surfaces. A majority of the devices, date, and legends can be made out, some faintly, but the mintmark is bold and it is a scarce one.

PCGS# 466521.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1128

Cluster of Two (ca. 1725) French Colonies Ecus. Le Chameau Treasure. About Good. 553.6 grains. An interesting item from *Le Chameau*, a pair of silver ecus fused together by centuries of oxidation and corrosion. Well worn, though certainly more from saltwater erosion than circulation. Most of the detail is indistinct but the coin type is clear.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; Paul Bosco, New York International Numismatic Convention bourse, January 2017.



Rare Mint State 1725-O Ecu de 8 Ls



1129

France. 1725-O Ecu. Riom Mint. Breen-388, Gadoury-320. MS-61 (PCGS). A very rare issue of this type, familiar for its predominance among the treasure of *Le Chameau*. Choice brilliant light silver gray surfaces display abundant luster and hints of golden toning around the legend, richest at the right side of the obverse. Called "FDC et exceptionnel" by Maison Palombo in 2006, this ranks with the very finest examples of the date or type. There is a small number of high grade 1725-O ecus

around, but this is prettier than most. A few minor adjustment marks are visible near the date and below the bust. A premium example for those who wish to include this *Chameau* type in finer grade than an actual salvage piece would allow.

PCGS# 466504.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Maison Palombo's sale of May 2006, lot 294; Anthony Terranova Collection; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), via Mike Wierzba, January 2008.



1130

1725-H French Colonies 1/2 Ecu. La Rochelle Mint. Gadoury-312. Le Chameau Treasure. Fine Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 161.4 grains. An acceptable example of the very scarce 1/2 ecu denomination which comprised just a tiny fraction of the coins recovered from the *Le Chameau* shipwreck. Dark gray surfaces are quite rough and some of the detail is indistinct from erosion, but most of the legends and date are readable and a majority of the devices are outlined.

PCGS# 901502.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Stack's) January 1999 Americana Sale, part of lot 1299; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1131

1721-H French Colonies 1/3 Ecu. La Rochelle Mint. Gadoury-306. Le Chameau Treasure. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 123.6 grains. Pleasing deep gray surfaces with light silver and olive-tan highlights. Shows minimal roughness and no distracting marks or flaws, a coin seemingly deserving of a numerical grade. Only lightly worn and traces of luster remain in some of the protected areas.

PCGS# 903427.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Stack's) January 1999 Americana Sale, part of lot 1302; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1132

1721-9 French Colonies 1/3 Ecu. Rennes Mint. Gadoury-306. Le Chameau Treasure. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 124.6 grains. Light silver and pale yellow with some mottling of deeper gray and dark olive across much of the reverse. A sharp, well centered, and firmly struck piece with some roughness below the bust and on the reverse. Otherwise frosty and slightly lustrous. Adjustment marks on both sides, as made.

PCGS# 444416.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Stack's) January 1999 Americana Sale, part of lot 1301; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1134

(1720-1723)-G French Colonies 1/3 Ecu. Poitiers Mint. Gadoury-306. Le Chameau Treasure—Flipover Double Struck—AU-55 (PCGS). 123.3 grains. An interesting piece that appears to be a flipover double strike as opposed to a *flan réformé* overstrike as the letter positions of both strikes match indicating both strikes were from the same dies and most likely at the same time. The remnants of the legend from the first strike at the upper reverse obliterate the date. Mottled gray surfaces are pleasing for a *Chameau* piece with just slight microgranularity in places.

PCGS# E11111.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Stack's) January 1999 Americana Sale, lot 1303; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1133

1723-H French Colonies 1/3 Ecu. La Rochelle Mint. Gadoury-306. Le Chameau Treasure. AU-50 (PCGS). 123.4 grains. An exceptionally attractive shipwreck piece with just a dusting of light roughness and verdigris in a few areas, mostly out of the way toward the peripheries. The surfaces are predominantly light silver and russet with pretty accents of violet and sea-green. Lustrous and essentially unworn. As-made planchet adjustment marks are seen at the centers.

PCGS# 714876.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Stack's) January 1999 Americana Sale, part of lot 1302; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1135

1719-A French Colonies 1/6 Ecu, or 20 Sols. Paris Mint. Gadoury-295. Le Chameau Treasure. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 61.0 grains. A fairly smooth and well detailed piece with gunmetal gray and golden-tan surfaces. A few small marks and lightly rough in the fields, but this coin fared much better than most during its centuries spent underwater. An attractive example of this small denomination silver piece from the *Le Chameau* shipwreck.

PCGS# 905498.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Stack's) January 1999 Americana Sale, part of lot 1304; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1136

1720-H French Colonies 1/6 Ecu, or 20 Sols. La Rochelle Mint. Gadoury-295. Le Chameau Treasure. Fine Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 43.4 grains. Light silver-gray with a few spots of black toning. Typical “shipwreck effect” surfaces with porosity throughout. Very sharp definition remains in places and the legends and date are mostly readable.

PCGS# 905499.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Stack’s) January 1999 Americana Sale, part of lot 1304; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1138

1721-K French Colonies 1/6 Ecu, or 20 Sols. Bordeaux Mint. Gadoury-297. Le Chameau Treasure. AU Details—Cleaned (PCGS). 62.0 grains. A pleasing, higher grade example of this diminutive denomination from the Le Chameau shipwreck. Light hairlines but minimal roughness on frosty, mostly silver-white surfaces. An overstruck piece with evidence of undertype around the peripheries of each side.

PCGS# 875981.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Stack’s) January 1999 Americana Sale, part of lot 1304; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.q



1137

1721-E French Colonies 1/6 Ecu, or 20 Sols. Tours Mint. Gadoury-297. Le Chameau Treasure. Fine Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 59.4 grains. A well balanced piece for the grade with full legends and mostly outlined motifs. Mottled deep gray and light silver with heavy hairlines on the obverse. Notable roughness is mostly confined to the reverse.

PCGS# 875973.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Stack’s) January 1999 Americana Sale, part of lot 1304; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



1139

1722-G French Colonies 1/6 Ecu, or 20 Sols. Poitiers Mint. Gadoury-Unlisted. Le Chameau Treasure. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 60.6 grains. A very rare date and mintmark that is unlisted in Gadoury. Decent steel-gray and russet-tan surfaces with just minor traces of corrosion and a planchet flaw across the reverse. Struck on a somewhat oblong flan that doesn’t fully accommodate the legends.

PCGS# 905501.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the 1725 wreck of Le Chameau; our (Stack’s) January 1999 Americana Sale, part of lot 1304; Jeff Rock Collection, October 2008.



THE FRENCH COLONIES SOUS OF 1767 AND 1793

In October 1766, French authorities authorized a new copper issue, a sou worth 12 deniers intended to circulate in all French colonies. The good news for collectors is that enough were struck (some 1.6 million pieces) that they can be easily found today. The bad news is the state of the French empire in 1767. By the time these coins were struck, France didn't control an acre of North America. In the West Indies, Guadeloupe was their main colonial possession, along with the islands of St. Lucia, Martinique, and a few others. There's no evidence to suggest any consideration to sending these coins to their few remaining territorials in Africa or beyond.

Breen estimated (on unknown authority) that 98% of the original mintage was counterstamped RF in 1793 to

designate it for circulation in Guadeloupe. That number seems aggressive, but it underscores the point: these pieces apparently didn't get very far in 1767, and the vast majority of the mintage was either still in Paris or recalled to be marked and circulated decades later.

Based on the evidence we have, this is a coin of the French West Indies, with little more relevance to North America than to any other West Indian coin of the second half of the 18th century. Of course, it is still dramatic, historic, and important, struck for a unique economy with a vital relationship with the British colonies of North America — important enough that these coins undoubtedly arrived on American shores.



1140

1767-A French Colonies Sou. Paris Mint. Breen-700. EF-45 (PCGS). 186.0 grains. Vlack 5-E. Rich chocolate brown with lighter tan devices. Glossy and appealing, a choice example in an unusually high grade. A couple little rim nicks are seen, one on the obverse at 3 o'clock, a more significant one on the reverse at 5 o'clock. A natural area of pitting is seen in the left reverse field. Great eye appeal for one of these; Syd acquired this right at the beginning of his interest in French colonials and, instructively, never upgraded it.

PCGS# 158651.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Tim Barker, May 1993.

Remarkable Reverse Brockage 1767-A Sou With 1793 RF Counterstamp



1142

1767-A (1793) French Colonies Sou. Paris Mint. Breen-701. RF Counterstamp—Reverse Brockage—VF-30 (PCGS). 191.5 grains. Vlack (x)-E. A stunning error, one that was fascinatingly missed not only at the time of striking, but again when mint employees counterstamped it! Attractive golden brown with smooth surfaces. The brockage impression is deep and impressively defined, slightly off-center to 12 o'clock. This would be a nice coin even without the rare and eye-catching misstrike. We don't recall encountering another.

PCGS# E158637.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, August 2004.



1141

1767-A (1793) French Colonies Sou. Paris Mint. Breen-701. RF Counterstamp. MS-62 BN (PCGS). 176.5 grains. Vlack 1-A. Glossy chocolate brown with exceptional eye appeal. The RF countermark has been applied cockeyed, rotated in a counterclockwise fashion but deeply impressed and intact. The stamping process introduced a crack at the rim at the first E of BENEDICTUM and L of COLONIES. Aside from some truly trivial verdigris, this is an exceptional specimen.

PCGS# 158637.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Spectacular Double Struck 1767-A Sou With 1793 RF Counterstamp



1143

1767-A (1793) French Colonies Sou. Paris Mint. Breen-701. RF Counterstamp—Double Struck—VF-25 (PCGS). 183.8 grains. Nice medium brown with contrasting darker verdigris around the protected areas. A magnificent misstrike, with the second strike rotated roughly 45 degrees and off-center about 50% to 3 o'clock. A few scattered marks are seen, none serious. Major errors on this series are very unusual — we recall well-centered double strikes before that look like little more than chatter, and some off-centers exist (one of which was in Partrick), but this piece is very special. It is interesting to note that the counterstamping was accomplished on the second strike, not at the center of the primary strike.

PCGS# E158637.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Bowers and Merena's) auction of June 2010, lot 30.

THE FRENCH WEST INDIES

Syd was a universalist when it came to French colonial coins, and for good reason. The economy of the New World didn't stop as soon as the water got deep in the harbors of Boston, Philadelphia, Charleston, or New Orleans. Instead, the West Indies were a key part of Vast Early America. People and goods (and money) were constantly exchanged among these colonies and, later, nations, and even very unusual 18th century coins from the West Indies turn up in American archaeological contexts. Syd's collection was extensive and impressive, and what follows is just a sample.



1144

1781-R French Colonies 3 Sous Essai de Guiquero. Orleans Mint. Lecompte-282, Vlack-400, Ciani-2221. Copper. SP-63 BN (PCGS). 56.1 grains. A pattern or trial piece, struck at the Orleans Mint, for a considered 3 sous in billon. Rich glossy chocolate brown with some faded mint color and good luster. A flaw at 3 o'clock on the obverse rim appears to be mint made. Crudely engraved but well-centered, with a complete beaded border.

PCGS# 650582.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Christopher B. Young, November 2015.



Extremely Rare 1781-A 3 Sous de Colonies Francaises Lecompte: “Seul Exemplaire Connu”



1145

1781-A French Colonies 3 Sous de Colonies Francaises. Paris Mint. Lecompte-194a. AU-53 (PCGS). The Gadoury plate coin. As described in our (Stack's) 2008 Americana sale:

One of two specimens known to us, the other being the plate coin in Jean Lecompte's Monnaies et Jetons Des Colonies Francaises published by Editions Victor Gadoury. Not listed by Vlack. The types are for general colonial circulation, the denomination the 3 sous made familiar from the issues for Cayenne and the Isles de France et de Bourbon that are listed by Vlack. Lecompte notes (p.187) that Zay had commented earlier that this coin represents the first use of the word Francaises on a coin. These were meant to be circulated in

the French West Indies but apparently few, if any, ever made their way there. The present piece is a nice pale gray in color with olive surface toning.

An exciting rarity and a testimony to the breadth and depth of the Martin Collection. This issue, missing in even the most advanced cabinets, ties together similar billon issues intended for individual islands. This more all-encompassing issue apparently never saw significant distribution but deserves more appreciation today.

PCGS# 905857.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) January 2008 Americana Sale, lot 5546.



1146

Isles de France & de Bourbon. 1779-A 3 Sols. Paris Mint. Lecompte-6. MS-63 (PCGS). 30.7 grains. An unusually pristine example of this usually heavily circulated billon coinage, struck for the islands of Mauritius and Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Highly lustrous silver gray with beautiful violet and gold toning. A little soft at the upper obverse periphery and the lower right reverse periphery, but still exceptionally attractive and well-detailed. A tiny, folded lamination is seen atop the reverse. This piece's similarity to

and relationship with the West Indies-bound billon coins of this era inspired its inclusion in this collection. Vlack drew a special relationship between this coin and the Cayenne 3 sous of the sort included in the next lot.

PCGS# 214990.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, December 2008.



Extremely Rare Cayenne 3 Sous of 1781 Vlack Plate Coin



1147

Cayenne. 1781-A 3 Sous. Paris Mint. Vlack-398, Lecompte-24, Ciani-2214. Rarity-8. VF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). While France was striking 3 sous coins for its Indian Ocean island territories in 1779, for Cayenne (modern-day French Guiana in South America), it was producing similar coins denominated as 2 sous - at least, it intended to. This very rare issue, unpriced in Lecompte, is an unusual mint error, a Cayenne 2 sous

misdennominated as 3 sous. Lecompte noted that two were known, including one in the Bibliotheque Nationale. This was Vlack's plate coin, showing some roughness and verdigris on otherwise glossy brown surfaces. We have no sales records for other examples.

PCGS# 905858.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Robert Vlack Collection; our (Stack's) January 2008 Americana Sale, lot 5464.

Rare and Historic 1730 New France Card Money Issued at Quebec City

1148

Canada / New France. 1730 24 Livres Card Money. Issued at Quebec City. Signed by Varin, Beauharnois, and Hocquart. Pick S-108. PCGS Currency EF-45 Details. Mounted on cardboard, Minor Edge Damage. 3 1/4 x 2 1/8 inches. Embossed with two royal seals, dated 1730.



On March 2, 1729, King Louis XV authorized Canadian authorities to issue 400,000 livres of card money, the second such issue in the history of New France. The King's ordinance authorized seven denominations, of which this one, 24 livres, was the largest. The cards of 24 livres, 12 livres, 6 livres, and 3 livres - the four biggest denominations - were required to be signed by the Governor of New France and by either the Intendant or the Commissary-Intendant. This is signed by Charles Beauharnois as Governor, Gilles Hocquart as Intendant, and Jean-Victor Varin as controller of the marine. Only 4,000 cards of this denomination were issued, of which only a few survive today. Other denominations were issued in numbers between 10,000 and 70,000.

The 1729 issue of card money continued until 1731, at which point the Canadian officials got caught with their hand in the cookie jar: they had issued 60,000 livres more card money than the Crown had authorized. Other issues were eventually authorized, followed by the ordinance notes of the era of the French and Indian War. Card money circulated well and mostly maintained its value, giving the

citizens and government of New France reason to clamor for more. Card money continued to circulate until the fall of Canada in 1760, at which point it became worthless - and very rare.

We have not offered a specimen of Canadian card money since August 2011, when a 1729-dated 12 livres of this same issue brought \$29,500. The only American offering of a piece of card money since then was at Heritage in January 2013, when a 1757-dated 15 sols brought \$18,800.

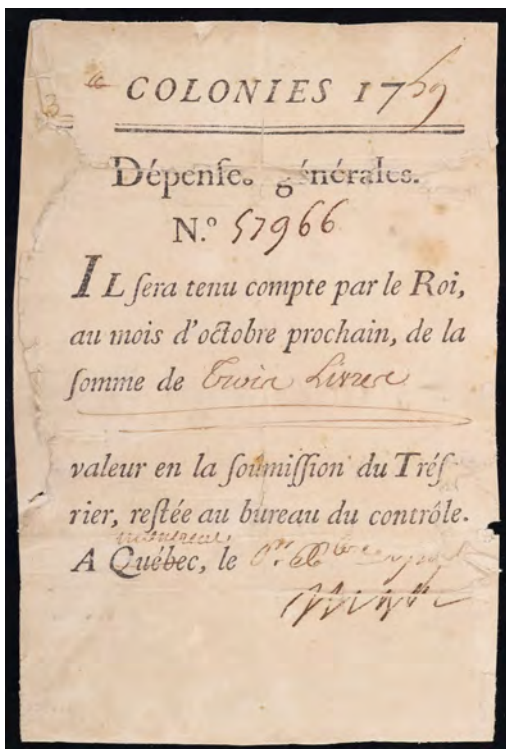
This piece is in superb condition for one of these notes, with its back mounting helping to preserve and stabilize it. The ink is bright, bold, and clear. The embossed royal seals are crisp and deeply impressed. There are no central folds or losses, just a little chip at the bottom margin. Collectors who seek to own a genuine piece of Canadian card money can't afford to be picky, but just in case they want to be picky anyway, this example is among the very finest extant and worthy of a fine cabinet.

The Seminary of Nicolet was founded in 1803 and dissolved in 1969, though its generations-old collections remained intact for decades thereafter. They held five examples of Canadian card money, all dispersed in May 2016, of which this was both the finest and most expensive. It brought \$32,200 CAD.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the collection formed by the Seminary of Nicolet; MTM International's Seminary of Nicolet Coin Auction, May 2016, lot 13.



Important 1759 Montreal Ordonnance Note Rarity Issued During the Height of the French and Indian War



1149

Canada / New France. 1759 3 Livres Ordonnance. Serial #57966. Pick S-112. PCGS Currency VG-10 Details. Damage, Mounted on Cardstock. 3 7/8 x 5 7/8 inches. Printed domicile Quebec crossed out in ink, manuscript "Montreal" above. Signed by Francoise Bigot as Intendant. An incredible historical document, issued in 1759 after the fall of Quebec on September 13, 1759. Despite some losses at left margin, mostly in the top two-thirds, and some internal tears across "Depense generales," this is a remarkably intact and wholesome note. The date is affected by a tear, though still visible as 6th December 1759. Mounted on cardstock, but no visible glue stains or other issues. We last offered a similar 1759 Montreal over Quebec Ordonnance in our Kendall Foundation sale of March 2015, where we described it, in part, as follows:

This bill, payable two months hence, was emitted two months after British General Wolfe captured Quebec that forced the New France government to remove itself from Montreal.

The Treasury Notes were issued against the general appropriations for expenditures allowed for Canada by the Minister of Marine and Colonies in France. The forms were printed in Paris and shipped to Canada to be issued by the Intendant (Civil Governor) in Quebec or Montreal. The part-printed forms were hand accomplished with dates, signatures and denominations from as high as 1,000 Livres to as low as 20 Sols. The majority would have been emitted in denominations such as this 6 Livres bill, a tradable sum when endorsed over to someone in commerce. The large denominations would have been stores of value in large trades and the small notes to make change.

On January 19, 1759, the new French Minister of Marine and Colonies Nicholas-Rene Berryer wrote to Governor Bigot, signer of this note, saying 'You will see by the printed blanks I transmit to you this year, that whatever opinion I must place in you, are

the reasons which determine me thereto...I may declare to you, nonetheless, that this practice is contrary to all the laws of the Kingdom, for, by such operation, the Intendant alone become, without expressly authorized thereto, the issuer of a money which circulates in the colony without the King's permission, and you must be aware of the consequences thereof. Berreyer wielded much power and was recently head of the secret police for Louis and was a protégé of Madame de Pompadour. Accounts from the period recount by Adam Shortt cite him as "hard, arrogant, and boorish..."

Despite the British occupation, Bigot continued to issue notes into 1760. On October 15, 1760, the Crown suspending paying these notes. The earlier notes from 1757-1758 would be paid, but those dated 1759 became 18 month promissory bills. The notes were made difficult to redeem by authorities in a "Gallic" manner, in short windows of opportunity and odd locations. This was a hardship on the holders of these notes. Card Money in use at the time was payable on demand though. These were important notes and their great rarity indicates that most were ultimately redeemed or lost to the ravages of wars and time.

That note, serial number 50153, brought \$12,925. This one, in somewhat lower grade, brought \$6,325 in the 2016 Nicolet Seminary auction the following year, the highest realization of the five Ordonnance notes (and one very tiny fragment) sold from the Nicolet Collection.

Representing the very end of New France, and the last of its economic issues, this late 1759 Ordonnance occupies a very significant historic moment and will be a centerpiece in its next collection.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the collection formed by the Seminary of Nicolet; MTM International's Seminary of Nicolet Coin Auction, May 2016, lot 21.



ROSA AMERICANA COINAGE

Stack's Bowers Galleries is proud to present the Sydney F. Martin Collection of Rosa Americana coinage, inarguably the most significant, extensive, and complete collection ever formed. This series was one of Syd's great passions and he authored the standard reference *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood* in 2011, a groundbreaking masterwork. The 136 lots to follow represent decades of meticulous research and the relentless pursuit of the finest, rarest, and most interesting specimens.

The Rosa Americana coins were the product of William Wood (1671-1730), an enterprising English merchant active in mining and coining ventures. He was also responsible for the Hibernia coinage of 1722-1724 and coinages for the Isle of Man. Wood was granted a royal patent in July 1722 to produce halfpenny, penny, and twopence coins for use in Britain's North American colonies. While the coinage was far from successful in many ways – the coins were not readily accepted in American commerce and Wood's London mint was destroyed by fire in June 1723 curtailing production – the numismatic legacy and desirability of the Rosa Americanas has fared much better in the ensuing centuries.

With their fascinating history, elegant design, specifically American legend, and unique metallic composition, the Rosa Americana series has captivated collectors since the dawn of the American numismatic hobby. They were among the most prized coin series for many early collectors including Sylvester Sage Crosby, Charles Ira Bushnell, and Lorin G. Parmelee, and Rosa Americana rarities would routinely bring some of the highest prices in auctions of the time. As a result, numerous pieces in the pages to follow feature illustrious pedigrees, some with provenances back to auctions of the 1870s and plate appearances as far back as the 1860s. The series is replete with wonderful pattern issues of great beauty and rarity, as well as a plethora of interesting trial strikes and off-metal pieces, all of which are well represented in this sale. Syd's assemblage of the major types in fabulous grade along with an incredible selection of the most celebrated patterns puts his collection easily on par with the great Rosa collections of all time, those of Parmelee, Garrett, Norweb,

and Ford. But what sets the Syd Martin cabinet apart and elevates it above all others is the comprehensive body of die varieties across all denominations and issues it contains, as well as the incredible selection of extremely rare trial strikes, off metal pieces, errors, and other anomalies, all of which served as essential reference material for the writing of his book and in the process created what can undoubtedly be considered the ultimate Rosa Americana collection.

The ordering of Rosa Americana coins in catalogs and reference books has always posed a challenge. One will find almost as many different organizations of the series as there are works that list them. We have ordered them in a way that largely follows the organization of the series in Syd's book, with the added consideration of Red Book varieties as a popular framework for the series. The Pre-Patent coins of 1717 come first. Readers are encouraged to consult chapter 4 in the Martin reference for more information on these enigmatic coins. The remainder of the series, 1722-1733, is ordered in the following way: first by denomination, then by date within each denomination, then by Red Book variety within each date, and lastly by Martin die variety attributions within each Red Book variety. This order is irrespective of "pattern" issues versus "regular" issues, as those categories are impossible to fully define within the context of this series, and we feel that separating out supposed "patterns" takes away from the overall picture and story of the coinage. We list rarity ratings for every variety, the basis for which is the Martin book, although we have updated some based on new discoveries and the now more than a decade of auction records and other data that has given a better sense of the availability of different varieties attributed by Martin numbers.

Enjoy the incredible collection to follow and we encourage you to look anew on this delightful and historically significant series, which is in many ways the epitome of an American "colonial" coinage. There will be something for every taste and budget, from inexpensive pieces collected by Syd as new die varieties to esoteric die trials offering a window into the coins' production, from totally unique patterns and seldom seen compositions to the exalted rarities of the series in top grades.



Extremely Rare Pre-Patent Halfpenny One of Five Known



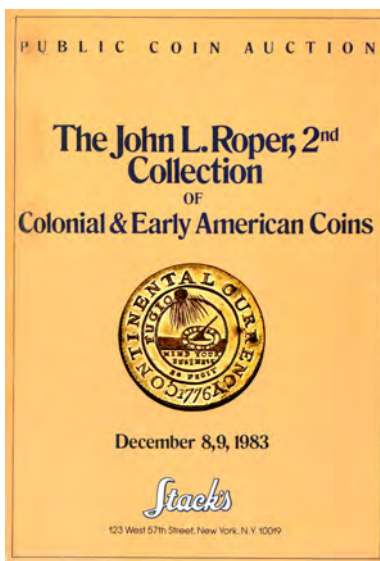
1150

Undated (1717) Pre-Patent Rosa Americana Pattern Halfpenny. Martin 1-A, W-1200. Rarity-7+. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 66.0 grains. The first in this remarkable offering of a complete set of all denominations and die varieties of the enigmatic and extremely rare 1717 Pre-Patent Rosa Americana coinage, the first such offering since the Ford sale. This is a very sharp example of the elusive halfpenny denomination, sharper than the primary Ford coin that is considered the finest known, though with inferior surfaces. Microgranular medium to dark brown surfaces with two patches of corrosion on the obverse that contain some verdigris. The reverse is more even looking, though slightly rough overall and with a bit of white and tan discoloration, perhaps lightly smoothed in the open fields. Very few marks and little to no wear on the sharply struck detail. An impressive example despite the imperfect surfaces.

Martin records just five specimens of this type, one of which is in the Smithsonian and another untraced. We sold the primary Ford coin mentioned above, ex Crosby-Parmelee-Norweb, in our November 2016 sale of the Carolina Colonial Coin Collection where it was graded PCGS AU-53 and realized \$9,400. The first offering of this piece since the Ford sale represents a significant and fleeting opportunity to obtain an example of the denomination. These pre-patent pieces are cherished by specialists as seldom seen relics of the earliest efforts of William Wood to obtain a coinage contract for the American colonies.

PCGS# 905760.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Lyman Allyn Museum; our (Stack's) December 1971 sale, lot 4; our (Stack's) sale of the John L. Roper Collection, December 1983, lot 74; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 163. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 63.





Excessively Rare No Branches Pre-Patent Penny Ex Brand-Ford



1151

Undated (1717) Pre-Patent Rosa Americana Pattern Penny. Martin 1-A, W-1202. Rarity-8-. No Branches. Specimen-55 (PCGS). 87.9 grains. A lovely high grade pre-patent penny and the much rarer type with no branches surrounding the denomination on the reverse. Just three examples are known and only two are in private hands. This is the finer of the two privately held examples, both of which appeared in the Ford sale. The Brand catalog misidentified this coin as the Crosby-Parmelee, Crosby reverse plate coin, which was actually the secondary Ford coin. Choice medium brown surfaces are glossy and slightly lustrous and reflective. Brassy-yellow is seen in the protected areas as well as in a vivid circle under the bust. Additionally, there is some remarkable original copper red in the reverse field between the denomination and crown. A few thin

scratches are noted on the reverse and trivial marks elsewhere. The planchet is largely hard and smooth with only a few small areas of microscopic roughness. With outstanding quality for the type, impressive rarity of the variety, and provenance to three legendary collections, this is a highly desirable specimen and important offering for the collector looking to build a set like Syd's of the five varieties of the pre-patent coinage.

PCGS# 905761.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Spink & Son, London, July 1906; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Virgil M. Brand Collection, Part II, June 1984, lot 945; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 164. Plated in the Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins, p. 58. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 64.



Pleasing EF Pre-Patent Penny With Branches



1152

Undated (1717) Pre-Patent Rosa Americana Pattern Penny. Martin 1-B, W-1204. Rarity-7-. With Branches. Specimen-40 (PCGS). 114.0 grains. An attractive lightly circulated specimen of the more available variety of the pre-patent Rosa Americana coinage, yet a coin still known by only a dozen or so examples. Smooth, problem-free medium brown surfaces with pale brassy color in the fields. Nicely struck and just lightly worn on the high points, the entirety of the design still fully and boldly appreciable. Syd acquired this coin in our January 2001 Americana Sale where it was described as being from the Philip Nelson Collection. We can deduce it later belonged to Hillyer Ryder based on the December 11, 1913 purchase date and the

“small, annotated collectors’ ticket” said to accompany the coin, though it is no longer present. The date and provenance chain matches many Rosa Americana pieces that went from Nelson to Ryder and later to Boyd and Ford, but this piece did not appear in the Ford sale. This charming coin sits somewhere in the middle of the census of 12 to 13 examples and offers well above average eye appeal.

PCGS# 905763.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Philip Nelson Collection, December 11, 1913; Hillyer Ryder; our (Stack’s) January 2001 Americana Sale, lot 43.

Unique 1717-Dated Pre-Patent Penny



1153

1717 Pre-Patent Rosa Americana Pattern Penny. Martin 2-C, W-1206. Rarity-8+. Specimen-12 (PCGS). 72.9 grains. A most distinctive piece among the pre-patent coinage and the only specimen known. The obverse features more abbreviated legends and a very different portrait of George I than the preceding penny varieties, with a more aged look to the face as well as drapery and mail covering the shoulders. The reverse features a less finely detailed crown and most remarkably, a 1717 date above. This connects it to the 1717 twopence to follow and shares a date, legends, letter punches, and crown style with that coin. Struck coin turn, again like the 1717 twopence, and unlike the medal turn undated pieces. This piece is well worn, yet all

of the major detail is clear and the surfaces are an appealing glossy chocolate-brown with hints of brass. Small rough patch around GEO that appears to have been tooled away. Only minor marks otherwise. An exciting offering of this totally unique type within the small but fascinating subset of pre-patent Rosa Americanas.

PCGS# 905764.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Hans Schulman’s April 1951 sale, lot 1026; our (Stack’s) June 1973 sale, lot 785; our (Stack’s) sale of the John L. Roper Collection, December 1983, lot 72; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 167. Plated in the Martin reference “The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood,” p. 64.



The Magnificent Crosby Plate 1717 Pre-Patent Twopence Finest of Three Known



1154

1717 Pre-Patent Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 1-A, W-1210. Rarity-8-. Specimen-62 (PCGS). 107.1 grains. A beautiful coin and an incredible rarity, not only the finest of the significant twopence denomination, but one of the very finest examples of the entire pre-patent coinage in existence. Gorgeous surfaces are smooth, lustrous, and slightly reflective. Toned to a pleasing light silvery-brown with golden-tan highlights. Fantastic detail is present resulting from a meticulous strike and the extremely well preserved and unworn nature of the coin. The obverse is just about flawless while the reverse has just a small mark or planchet flake right of the denomination and some very light hairlines in the fields. Faint fingerprint stains on each side are hardly distracting. Somewhat different in layout and appearance than the usually seen pre-patent halfpenny and penny coins, though very close to the unique 2-C halfpenny in the preceding lot in terms of the legends, style of the reverse motifs, and most notably, the presence of a 1717 date. The obverse portrait is unique in style among all of the pre-patent issues however, and is certainly the most elegant and well executed portrayal of the king.

Just three examples are known, the present coin which is the clear finest known, an example in the National Numismatic Collection gifted by the Norweb family, and a well worn piece also from the Ford sale that is now graded PCGS G-6 and that we sold in our November 2016 Baltimore auction.

Like the grade of this coin, its provenance is also unbeatable. It was owned by Crosby and plated and described in his foundational 1875 work *The Early Coins of America*. It realized an astonishing \$80 in the 1883 Crosby sale, an enormous sum for the time which illustrates the high esteem in which the Rosa Americana series was held in the early decades of the American coin hobby. It was later part of the Parmelee and Norweb collections, both among the most significant cabinets of their respective centuries. In the interim, it resided in the University of Pennsylvania and was later owned by B. Max Mehl. We expect the appearance of this great coin at auction as part of

the Syd Martin Collection to generate considerable excitement. An absolute treasure for the advanced collector of Rosa Americanas or significant colonial type coins.

PCGS# 905765.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Sylvester S. Crosby; John W. Haseltine's June 1883 sale of the Crosby Collection, lot 1289; New York Coin & Stamp Co.'s sale of the Lorin G. Parmelee Collection, June 1890, lot 516; Brock Collection; University of Pennsylvania; B. Max Mehl, January 9, 1953; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Norweb Collection, Part II, March 1988, lot 2390; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 168. Plated and described in Sylvester S. Crosby's "The Early Coins of America," p. 147. Plate III no. 10. Plated in Don Taxay's "Scott's Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins" C-52. Plated in the Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins, p. 59. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 65.





Choice 1722 VTILE DVLCI Halfpenny



1155

1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 1.1-A.1, W-1214. Rarity-6+. VTILE DVLCI. AU-55 (PCGS). 58.0 grains. A top notch example of this rare and significant major variety. Glossy, slightly lustrous deep chocolate-brown surfaces with vivid brassy-yellow highlighting much of the detail. Nicely struck and little worn. Excellent surface quality and eye appeal, the only minor imperfections are a short planchet crack from the rim over R in GRATIA to the nose and at the corresponding area of the reverse through the first 2 of the date, as well as some old scratches in the field under the 22 and RO. This is the highest graded of six seen by PCGS, and just two have been graded at NGC, a VG-10 and an MS-61 BN. Syd recorded eight examples and accordingly rated the variety R-5. However,

unlike other more trivial die varieties, the number known of such a major and well known variety as this is often much closer to the actual population. There are likely no more than 15 to 20 specimens known and a Rarity-6+ rating seems more appropriate. This is one of the nicer ones among them and a desirable example of this important *Guide Book* variety.

PCGS# 905563.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Bowers and Merena's) Four Landmark Collections sale, March 1989, lot 5032; our (Stack's) sale of the John P. Lorenzo Collection, January 2008 Americana Sale, lot 5588. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 86.

Beautiful 1722 D:G:REX Halfpenny, ex Ford



1156

1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 2.1-B.1, W-1218. Rarity-4. D:G:REX / ROSA AMERI. UTILE DVLCI. MS-62 BN (PCGS). 73.2 grains. An exceptionally lovely specimen with almost fully golden surfaces just toned to brown on the high points. Both sides have a pleasing satin texture, no contact marks at all, and just a few trivial spots. A soft glow of original cartwheel is evident, particularly on the reverse. Exceptionally well struck and unworn. Every bit as nice as the PCGS MS-63 E Pluribus Unum coin that realized \$4,320 in our November 2020 sale, and that coin actually played second fiddle to this one in the Ford catalog. It also compares

favorably and has more impressive color than the NGC MS-64 that Heritage sold in April 2021 for \$6,000. A beautiful piece with noteworthy provenance.

PCGS# 905564.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Philip Nelson Collection, December 11, 1913; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 91; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 87, 103.



1157

1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 2.1-B.1, W-1218. **Rarity-4.** D:G:REX / ROSA AMERI. UTILE DULCI. VF-35 (PCGS). 69.8 grains. Choice glossy medium olive-brown with pale green-gold undertones. A pleasing mid-grade example of the D:G:REX type and interesting for its heavy shelf doubling on the obverse portrait and to a lesser extent on the reverse rose, the effect of the planchet shifting within the die when struck, similar to the “double profile” phenomenon seen on many U.S. large cents, but rarely seen in this series.

PCGS# 905564.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from McCawley & Grellman's Fifth Annual C4 Convention Sale, November 1999, lot 56.



1159

1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.4-C.6, W-1222. **Rarity-7.** DEI GRATIA REX / UTILE DULCI. AU-55 (PCGS). 78.1 grains. A very rare die variety here in sharp, pleasing condition. Olive-brown surfaces show traces of lacquer on the obverse but have no distracting marks, flaws, or roughness. Nicely struck with only light wear on the high points. Only two other, much lower grade, attributed examples have appeared at auction and Syd records one other AU example for a total of just four definitively accounted for. A great piece for the die variety specialist and one that comes with a nice provenance.

PCGS# 905569.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Lester Merkin's June 1970 sale, lot 566; our sale of the Ted L. Craige Collection, March 2013 Baltimore Auction, lot 9.



1158

1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.3-C.1, W-1222. **Rarity-5.** DEI GRATIA REX / UTILE DULCI. AU-58 (PCGS). A solid and attractive high grade example, perfect to represent the denomination in a high quality type set. Deep brown surfaces with traces of brassy luster in some of the letters. Flawless, satiny, and with no real wear. This coin would be right at home in a Mint State holder and was in fact certified MS-63 BN by NGC in its last auction appearance. Undoubtedly a Condition Census example of the variety and easily the finest we have seen. This obverse die is recognizable for its double punched S in GEORGIUS.

PCGS# 905567.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's January 2008 FUN Auction, lot 16.



1160

1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.6-C.2, W-1222. **Rarity-4.** DEI GRATIA REX / UTILE DULCI. AU-53 (PCGS). 70.7 grains. Sharp, virtually unworn detail is seen on this impressive AU halfpenny. Dark brown surfaces have some slightly rough patina on the obverse and a small portion of the reverse at AMERICANA. Otherwise frosty and well preserved with minimal marks, a thin scratch on George's portrait being the only notable blemish. The reverse has interesting repunching at CI of DULCI to the 1 of the date. AU is the highest grade recorded for the variety of the 12 examples surveyed in the Martin reference.

PCGS# 905573.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's August 2007 ANA Sale, lot 4. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 93, 105.



1161

1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.8-C.6, W-1222. **Rarity-6.** DEI GRATIA REX / UTILE DULCI. VF-35 (PCGS). 66.0 grains. Pleasing Choice VF quality with pleasing color for the type and full, well struck detail. A few inconsequential corrosion spots are noted on the obverse, but there are no other issues and in general this is just a nice, problem-free coin. Seemingly quite rare as a die variety, Syd recorded just two examples in his book to which can be added the present coin and the Ted Craig Fine to make a total of four attributed examples known. Could well be rarer than the R-6 rating assigned.

PCGS# 905576.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Mike Wierzb and Gregory Field, March 2015.



1163

1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.10-C.5, W-1222. **Rarity-4.** DEI GRATIA REX / UTILE DULCI. AU-58 (PCGS). Glossy deep brown surfaces with some traces of light golden-olive toning in some of the letters. A sharp and very attractive coin that would make an excellent example of the date or halfpenny denomination. Nicely struck and well centered with a full border of dentils around each side. Perhaps a touch of wear on the highest points of the coin, although, this piece was graded MS-61 BN by NGC in its last auction appearance. No marks to note and there are just a few insignificant corrosion spots out of the way on the reverse.

PCGS# 905578.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's May 2008 Long Beach Auction, lot 2097.



1162

1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.9-C.4, W-1222. **Rarity-5.** DEI GRATIA REX / UTILE DULCI. EF-45 (PCGS). 62.9 grains. Quite a handsome little piece with an illustrious provenance. Attractive, original, and problem-free medium brown with some golden-tan on the high points. A glass reveals only a few little scratches and a bit of microporosity common to these Bath metal planchets. Struck slightly off center but the detail is firmly impressed and only modestly worn, with satisfying sharpness for the grade.

PCGS# 905577.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Lyman Low's 211th Sale, December 1923, lot 14; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stacks) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 97. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 96, 107.



1164

1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.10-C.5, W-1222. **Rarity-4.** DEI GRATIA REX / UTILE DULCI—Jumbo Planchet—AU-50 (PCGS). 94.2 grains. Struck on an extraordinarily heavy and broad planchet for a Rosa Americana halfpenny, weighing about 50% more than normal and the diameter extending out past the far edge of the dentils on all sides. This is the heaviest weight of any Rosa Americana halfpenny recorded in Syd's book. An intriguing oddity and a nice grade coin too, with original, problem-free surfaces and strong detail. Dark olive-brown with a bit of brassy color in the fields.

PCGS# 905578.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Bob Slobins, via Edelman's, December 2008.



Lovely Mint State 1722 Halfpenny



1165

1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.11-C.3, W-1222. Rarity-6. DEI GRATIA REX / UTILE DULCI. MS-62 (PCGS). 74.6 grains. Lustrous deep brown and golden-yellow surfaces have exceptional eye appeal and quality for the type. Nicely struck on a fairly broad planchet of good weight, the obverse just trivially off center while the reverse is dead on. Noticeable planchet roughness is confined to just a small area of the right obverse border and less so at the corresponding area of the reverse. No marks of any consequence, a tiny rim nick or flaw over M in AMERICANA identifies this piece as the reverse plate coin in the Martin book. Quite rare as a die

variety, Syd's survey for the book revealed only two examples, both in museums, in addition to the two UNC's in his own collection, one of which being the present coin. Only two attributed examples have appeared at auction subsequently, an AU in the Craige collection and a corroded Fine.

PCGS# 905579.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006. Reverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 81, 106.

Superb 1723/2 Uncrowned Rose Halfpenny Tied For Finest Certified



1166

1723/2 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.1-D.1, W-1226. Rarity-6. Uncrowned Rose. MS-62 (PCGS). 61.8 grains. An outstanding Mint State example of the rare Uncrowned Rose type of 1723. Two reverse dies, one overdate as here and one perfect date, are known for this elusive transitional type between the Uncrowned Rose type normally dated 1722 and the Crowned Rose type of 1723. This remarkable piece is one of the very finest seen and was acquired by Syd fresh out of England where it was struck almost three centuries ago. Medium olive-brown surfaces retain their satiny mint texture and show no distracting marks or roughness. Nicely centered and sharply struck, the detail is fully brought up and totally unworn. The overdate feature is crisp and clear.

This piece is tied for the finest graded example of the 1723 Uncrowned Rose type which includes both 1723/2 die varieties and the perfect date variety. There is just one other MS-62 at PCGS and a single MS-62 at NGC which most likely represents the lot to follow

which is no longer in an NGC holder. We recently sold the other PCGS MS-62, a 3.5-D.1 1723/2 ex Eliasberg, as part of the E Pluribus Unum Collection in our November 2020 Auction where it realized \$18,000. That piece had perhaps slightly more luster and marginally preferable color, but also some planchet issues of which this piece is totally devoid. The next best piece sold at auction in recent years was the Newman NGC AU-55, a 3.5-E.1 1723 variety, that realized \$6,462.50 in Heritage's May 2014 sale. The Garrett coin, ex Crosby, is an impressive looking example and recorded by Syd as UNC, though not quite as sharp as this one at the central reverse. A majority of the small population that comprises this type grade Fine and lower. This is a virtually unimprovable example of a major *Red Book* variety.

PCGS# 905565.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Bill Murray, from England, April 2008.



A Second Mint State 1723/2 Uncrowned Rose Martin 3.5-D.1, ex Ryder-Boyd-Ford



1167

1723/2 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.5-D.1, W-1226. Rarity-6. Uncrowned Rose. MS-61 (PCGS). 60.6 grains. Yet another superlative example of the 1723 Uncrowned Rose type, this being the 1723/2 3.5-D.1 variety. Attractive light olive-brown surfaces with generous golden highlights, particularly on the reverse. Frosty in the protected areas with subtle cartwheel luster lingering within the legends. Small planchet crack at the tip of the bust and some roller marks on the left side borders of each side, all as-made. A few light, old scratches are noted in the reverse fields but they are mostly blended into the toning and not distracting. One of just three Mint State examples of the 1723 Uncrowned Rose type graded at PCGS and certainly a Condition

Census example of the Martin 3.5-D.1 die variety, the only slightly superior piece we are aware of being the aforementioned Eliasberg-E Pluribus Unum PCGS MS-62. A desirable example with excellent eye appeal and great provenance.

PCGS# 905571.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Thomas Elder's December 1910 sale, lot 873; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 125; Kagin's, as NGC MS-62, August 2007. Plated in A Guide Book of United States Coins. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 92.



Rare 1723 Uncrowned Rose Martin 3.5-E.1



1168

1723 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.5-E.1, W-1232. Rarity-6. Uncrowned Rose. VF-35 (PCGS). A really attractive Choice VF example, well struck on a nice, broad planchet. Problem-free medium olive-brown surfaces with no notable marks and just a little bit of typical planchet porosity in a few places, mostly out of the way toward the rims. Satisfying quality for the 1723 Uncrowned Rose *Red Book* variety. The die variety offered here features the perfect date reverse and is probably the slightly more available of the three Uncrowned Rose varieties of this date, though still rare. Syd recorded eight examples which extrapolated to an estimated

R-4 rarity based on his formula, but only three additional attributed examples have come to light since and there are likely not a whole lot more considering its high profile nature as a *Red Book* variety. This excellent piece realized \$4,312.50 in our sale of the Scherff Collection, and the only finer example of the die variety to appear at auction was the Newman NGC AU-55 that brought \$6,462.50.

PCGS# 905572.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Early American Numismatics' March 1995 Mail Bid Sale, lot 14; our (Stack's) sale of the Peter Scherff Collection, March 2010, lot 2056.

Only Known 1723 3.2-F.3 Halfpenny in Bath Metal



1169

1723 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.2-F.3, W-1236. Bath Metal. Rarity-8+. Crowned Rose. Unc Details—Surfaces Smoothed (PCGS). 76.7 grains. One of the more exciting Rosas to come out of the Craige Collection, a regular Bath metal example of a die variety previously only known by a single silver specimen, ex Roper-Ford-Siboni. The Ford catalog mentions another silver example with the same punctuation, ex Nelson, but it is not certain whether that piece is the same die variety. We are not aware of any other examples of the 3.2-F.3 die pair that have come to light; it is apparently still known by just one silver example and one Bath metal

example, the present coin. A very sharp, unworn piece with the same perfectly centered and almost medallion strike that characterizes the silver piece. Dark olive surfaces with minor signs of smoothing in the fields, apparently to reduce some slightly rough patina that is still present in some of the protected areas, and not of much concern. An impressive looking coin despite the qualifier and of impressive rarity. Eminently desirable for die variety collectors of the series.

PCGS# 905566.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard Picker; our sale of the Ted L. Craige Collection, March 2013 Baltimore Auction, lot 35.



Choice and Rare 1723 3.2-F.4 Halfpenny ex Ford



1170

1723 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.2-F.4, W-1236. Rarity-7. Crowned Rose. MS-63 BN (PCGS). 63.3 grains. A beautiful Choice Mint State Rosa Americana halfpenny with choice color and an exceptionally sharp strike. The three die varieties featuring the 3.2 obverse, as well as the 3.13-F.4 that shares a reverse with obverse 3.2, are an intriguing group. All are extremely rare, unusually well produced, involve off-metal strikings, and exist exclusively in high grade — all characteristics of presentation issues or otherwise special productions, and the coins certainly look the part. This piece is meticulously struck on a high quality planchet. Every bit of the fine detail of the dies was brought into relief and the centering is perfect with a full bold border of dentils around each side. There are no distracting flaws and a glass reveals just a few patches of trivial planchet roughness and perhaps some residue in the right obverse field. Just three examples are known to us, though we have left room for the existence of unattributed examples with an R-7 rating. One other has been sold at auction since this coin's appearance in the Ford sale and subsequent July 2008 Heritage auction, a PCGS MS-62 sold by Heritage in February 2013 that is nowhere near the quality of the offered example. A terrific piece for type and variety collectors alike.

PCGS# 905570.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Lyman Low's 211th Sale, December 1923, lot 19; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 128; Heritage's July 2008 Baltimore ANA Sale, lot 886. Reverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 115.



1171

1723 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.7-F.1, W-1236. Rarity-4. Crowned Rose. Unc Details—Cleaned (PCGS). 65.8 grains. Choice Mint State in overall appearance despite the presence of extremely fine hairlines across both sides that cause the real mint luster on this coin to display in a somewhat distorted way. Wonderful color, absolutely choice for a high grade Rosa with deep brown devices and open fields contrasted by vivid brassy-yellow in the protected areas. No noticeable marks or flaws, just a few insignificant carbon spots. Razor sharp detail from an exacting strike. A fairly common die variety in the context of the series, but we know of just two other UNC's, the Norweb and Ford coins. Syd also recorded the Newman coin as UNC but that piece appears slightly worn and is graded NGC AU-58.

PCGS# 905574.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Gary Parietti (Long Island Numismatics), January 2002. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 94, 112.

Unique 3.7-F.1 Halfpenny in Copper



1172

1723 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.7-F.1, W-Unlisted. Copper. Rarity-8+. Crowned Rose. VF-30 (PCGS). 54.6 grains. A fascinating off-metal strike that one would expect to be a Wood's Hibernia farthing when just looking at the obverse. Clearly a pure copper planchet, chocolate-brown and glossy, much different in appearance than the grainy olive-brown and gold-colored Bath metal planchets that were standard for the Rosa Americana coinage. This variety is unique in copper and is one of just a handful of copper examples for the entire series across all denominations. Scattered pitting on the obverse that appears natural to the planchet. No other issues, just moderate wear, and overall a fairly pleasing coin for the grade. A remarkable and extremely rare piece of great interest for the advanced specialist.

PCGS# 905575.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Scott Stamp & Coin Company, December 4, 1909; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Norweb Collection, Part II, March 1988, lot 2417; John Agre (Coin Rarities Online), May 2015.



1173

1723 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.12-F.3, W-1236. Rarity-7. Crowned Rose. VG-10 (PCGS). 57.1 grains. Attractive olive-tan surfaces. A few minor nicks and scratches but no real problems, just a smooth, well worn piece. Good fullness of detail for the grade, all of the major design elements, date, and legends are visible. A very rare die variety of which we know just three examples;

two Fines recorded in the Martin reference (which includes this coin), and a third low grade piece sold in our November 2017 Baltimore Auction.

PCGS# 905592.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Bob Slobins, via Edelman's, December 2008.

Unique 1723 Martin 3.13-F.4 Halfpenny Struck in Copper



1174

1723 Rosa Americana Halfpenny. Martin 3.13-F.4, W-Unlisted. Copper. Rarity-8+. Crowned Rose. AU-58 (PCGS). A beautiful and totally unique piece, featuring a not-in-Martin obverse combined with the F.4 reverse. This amazing coin came to light in our September 2013 Philadelphia sale where it was described as having an unlisted obverse. Syd was no doubt thrilled to acquire it in that auction and designated the new obverse die as 3.13. What wasn't mentioned in our initial sale of the coin, however, is that it is struck in copper as opposed to Bath metal and its status as an extremely rare off-metal striking adds even more to its significance and desirability. Fortunate for a newly discovered variety, the condition is outstanding. The chocolate-brown surfaces are lustrous and nearly flawless. Barely

worn on the high points if at all, and some prooflike reflectivity is seen in the fields. Just like the obverse 3.2 varieties to which this coin is connected through its shared reverse die, the strike is perfectly executed, centered and bold throughout. It's clear that special care went into its production. An exciting offering for collectors of this series and worthy of consideration as well by those interested in the myriad and fascinating pattern issues for the Rosa Americana coinage.

PCGS# 905595.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our September 2013 Philadelphia Auction, lot 412.



Unique 1723 Silver Halfpenny Pattern, Martin 4.1-H.1 Ex Nelson-Ryder-Boyd-Ford



1175

1723 Rosa Americana Pattern Halfpenny. Martin 4.1-H.1, W-1248. Silver. Rarity-8+. Crowned Rose. EF Details—Graffiti (PCGS). 70.5 grains. A famous and exciting rarity, the only known example of the die variety, one of only two known Rosa Americana halfpennies in silver, and the one and only obvious pattern issue among the 1722-1724 halfpennies. This is a memorable coin that is unique in many ways. The dies are wholly unlike those of any of the other regular issue halfpennies. The bust of George I is more aged and hunchbacked in appearance, and the hair detail is noticeably coarse. The style of the bust is reminiscent of the 1723 3.13-G.1 twopence pattern, as well as the 1724/3 3.2-G.1 penny pattern, both offered later in this sale. The punctuation is also unique, with the placement of a colon between GRATIA and REX, as well as after the date. Moderately worn surfaces are a pleasing light bluish-gray with golden-tan highlights in the protected areas. As seen on several Rosa Americana patterns and off-metal strikings, there is engraving

on the surface, here just a crude “I” in the left reverse field. Some light scratches otherwise, but in general a very pleasing coin.

This remarkable coin traces its history of ownership back to Dr. Philip Nelson (1872-1953), who authored the first specialized work on William Wood’s coinage in 1903. If not ensconced overseas, this coin certainly would have been a prize for Crosby, Parmelee, or the many other 19th century American collectors who held the Rosa Americana series in such high esteem. This is just its second auction appearance ever and a great opportunity for today’s numismatists. An important piece that will be a highlight in its next cabinet.

PCGS# 905757.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Philip Nelson Collection, December 11, 1913; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 173. Plated in the Martin reference “The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood,” pp. 69, 70, 100, 118.



Choice 1722 GEORGIVS Penny ex Roper-Ford One of Six Known



1176

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 1.1-A.1, W-1252. Rarity-7+. GEORGIVS. VF-35 (PCGS). 116.7 grains. One of the major rarities of the series and this is a lovely example. Smooth, problem-free medium brown surfaces with some brassy-yellow in the obverse fields. Noticeable traces of frosty luster, particularly on the obverse, and given the surface quality it seems this coin merits a higher technical grade and is just somewhat softly struck on the high points of the obverse. No marks at all and only trivial roughness, confined to one of the rose petals. Absolutely ideal in appearance and certainly a desirable specimen among the few extant.

The GEORGIVS obverse 1722 penny is a significant *Red Book* type and considered the earliest iteration of the regular issues for this denomination. Breen called it the “1722 First Prototype Penny.” Syd classified the obverse as a pattern die whereas the Ford cataloger wrote, “Although rare and with a distinctive orthography there is nothing in the coin that demands it be classed a pattern or a trial.” We are aware of just six specimens, two in copper and four in Bath metal. Ford had a penchant for this variety and accumulated an incredible four examples which

were thought to comprise the entire known population at the time. Two lower grade examples have turned up since, a PCGS F-15 and PCGS G-6. All four of the Ford examples have since reappeared at auction in PCGS holders. The finest of them, the Garrett copper piece considered a Proof and graded PCGS Proof-65 BN CAC, realized \$40,250 and \$49,937.50 in Heritage’s January 2009 and August 2012 auctions. The secondary copper and Bath metal examples are both graded PCGS AU-55 and realized \$27,600 and \$21,275 respectively in Heritage’s May 2008 auction. And the present coin, which while only grading PCGS VF-35 was placed in the primary position in the Ford catalog, sold in our January 2007 Orlando Sale for \$20,125 where it was acquired by Syd.

PCGS# 905596.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack’s) sale of the John L. Roper Collection, December 1983, lot 80; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 100; our (Stack’s) January 2007 Orlando Sale, lot 3. Obverse plated in the Martin reference “The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood,” pp. 121, 140.



1177

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.1-A.1, W-1256. Rarity-5. VTILE DVLCI. VF-20 (PCGS). 112.7 grains. Pleasing VF quality for this scarce *Red Book* variety that features the same VTILE DVLCI reverse as used on the preceding lot combined with a standard GEORGIUS obverse. Dark brown surfaces with some light planchet

roughness as commonly seen on these Bath metal planchets. Free of notable marks. Well struck and boldly defined for the grade.

PCGS# 905597.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Stack's (includes a ca. 1940s Stack's envelope); Ken Mote; Tom Rinaldo, August 2007.

Crosby Plate 1722 VTILE DVLCI Penny Ex Parmelee-Harlan P. Smith-Ford



1178

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.17-A.1, W-1256. Rarity-7. VTILE DVLCI. MS-64 (PCGS). 113.7 grains. An exquisite piece with exemplary provenance. Beautifully struck on a high quality Bath metal planchet. Incredibly bold relief to all of the detail and perfectly centered. Just a wonderful example of the type. Lustrous medium brown with yellow-gold highlights. A bit of prooflike reflectivity is noted in the fields as well as satiny frost almost everywhere. Only microscopic porosity can be found, unavoidable for this metal and here as minimal as ever seen. One spot at the tip of the bust and some darker color at DVL are the only minor blemishes, but they have little to no effect on the overall lovely appearance.

This is the single finest graded example at either service for the major VTILE DVLCI variety. Ford had four nice Uncirculated examples of this type but this one was ordered first and highlighted in the

catalog. The last of the four and another example of this same die variety reappeared in Heritage's November 2012 sale as a PCGS MS-63 CAC and realized \$7,637.50. That piece had similarly nice color and luster but was not quite as sharp or impressive as the present coin. Syd recorded just two other examples of the die variety, both well circulated. Here is a supremely desirable piece with unbeatable quality and pedigree.

PCGS# 905666.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from New York Coin & Stamp Co.'s sale of the Lorin G. Parmelee Collection, June 1890, lot 526; S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the Harlan P. Smith, Esq. Collection, May 1906, lot 24; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 105. Plated in Sylvester S. Crosby's "The Early Coins of America," plate IV no. 3. Reverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 192.



Impressive Mint State 1722 VTILE DVLCI Penny, ex Norweb The Only Known Martin 2.17-A.2



1179

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.17-A.2, W-1256. Rarity-8+. VTILE DVLCI. MS-62 (PCGS). 150.7 grains. Another exceptionally sharp example featuring the Martin 2.17 obverse, this piece has the slightly different A.2 reverse, the only example of this die variety that we are aware of. Dark brown obverse while the reverse is lighter and has some golden color. Glossy luster covers both sides and there is some reflectivity in the fields. No contact marks of note and just minute natural planchet pits scattered about that require a glass to see. Called a pattern in the Norweb catalog, though followed up with an in-depth discussion of the challenges of distinguishing patterns

from regular issues in the Rosa Americana series. Certainly an unusually well produced piece and a magnificent representative of the denomination or type as a result. One of just five examples of the 1722 VTILE DVLCI penny graded Mint State at PCGS.

PCGS# 905667.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex New Netherlands Coin Company, privately, 1956; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Norweb Collection, Part II, March 1988, lot 2405; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 157, 194.

Only Seen Martin 2.18-A.2 VTILE DVLCI



1180

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.18-A.2, W-1256. Rarity-8+. VTILE DVLCI. AU-58 (PCGS). 112.4 grains. Another remarkable high grade and well pedigreed example of the VTILE DVLCI type and again a die pair that has not been observed by us outside of the present specimen. Mottled olive-brown and brassy-yellow, the surfaces with a pleasing high grade gloss if just slightly rough in places from some natural planchet porosity. Unworn and shows no

significant abrasions. A desirable example for die variety specialists and *Red Book* collectors alike.

PCGS# 910206.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Philip Nelson Collection, December 11, 1913; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection Part IX, May 2005, lot 107; Heritage's January 2008 sale of The Liberty Collection of American Colonial Coinage, Part One, lot 18. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 158.



Unique 1722 VTILE DVLCI in Copper



1181

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.29-A.2, W-1258. Copper. Rarity-8+. VTILE DVLCI. VF-25 (PCGS). 117.5 grains. An exciting rarity, the only known copper example of the 1722 GEORGIUS / VTILE DVLCI penny as well as the only specimen seen of the Martin 2.29-A.2 die pair. This is the only appearance of the so-called "Long Ribbons" obverse, which was classed as a separate type by Breen (#112) and Taxay. A pleasing circulated coin with light reddish-brown surfaces that exhibit just a few minor marks and flaws. In Breen's listing and mention of this very coin, he lists it as Crosby:1305, however the grade and description of that lot in the Crosby sale does not match this coin and the Crosby sale piece is most likely one of the GEORGIUS obverse pieces in copper. Here is a memorable coin and one of the well known rarities of the series. A great opportunity for specialists in the series to obtain a piece that is distinctive, significant, and unsurpassably rare.

PCGS# 905759.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Philip Nelson Collection, December 11, 1913; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 104; Plated in Don Taxay's "Scott's Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins." Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 169.



1182

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.1-D.4, W-1268. Rarity-7. UTILE DVLCI. VF-35 (PCGS). 120.4 grains. Deep coffee-brown with some brassy undertones on the obverse and golden-tan on the reverse high points. A bit dull but there is no serious roughness and only trivial marks. Slight shift doubling is seen, mostly on the reverse legends and device. A neat example with provenance to the famous 1975 EAC Sale, where plated, and a die variety that appears to be quite rare. Syd recorded just one other and no attributed examples have appeared at auction since his book came out.

PCGS# 905598.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Pine Tree Auction Company, Inc.'s Early American Coppers Society Convention Sale, February 1975, lot 443; Michael Fey, August 2008.



1183

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.2-C.1, W-1264. Rarity-4. UTILE DVLCI. MS-62 (PCGS). 124.8 grains. A very handsome example with hard, glossy surfaces and a sharp, well centered strike. Dark brown with one flash of brassy color over the T in GRATIA. Totally free of marks or any other flaws beyond the always seen natural planchet porosity, here microscopic and extremely minimal. Frosty luster remains in the fields, especially towards the delicately flowlined peripheries. An excellent piece for the type collector.

PCGS# 905599.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) January 2009 Americana Sale, lot 7057. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 142, 197.



1184

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.8-D.1, W-1268. Rarity-5. UTILE DVLCI—Heavyweight Planchet—EF-40 (PCGS). 156.2 grains. Struck on a remarkably heavy and noticeably broad planchet. Pleasing, original olive-brown and green-gold surfaces are problem-free aside from some lightly rough patina over the R in GEORGIUS on the obverse over to a larger area of the corresponding reverse. Full EF sharpness and nicely struck. The larger than normal planchet gives this coin a satisfying appearance. One of Syd's earlier Rosa purchases that comes with his small square collector ticket, signed by him, a type and practice that he abandoned early on.

PCGS# 905649.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Coin Galleries') July 1995 Mail Bid Sale, lot 2. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 148, 206.



1185

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.9-C.3, W-1264. Rarity-4. UTILE DULCI. AU-50 (PCGS). 128.2 grains. A boldly defined AU example with glossy dark olive surfaces that show a few peeps of brass. Minor roughness in places that was natural to the planchet and there is a small corrosion spot on the rim past GRATIA. No marks that need to be reported and overall this is a sound, attractive piece.

One of two die varieties that use the 2.9 obverse and the only readily collectible one.

PCGS# 905656.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 149, 199.



1186

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.9-C.4, W-1264. Rarity-7. UTILE DULCI. VF-30 (PCGS). 116.2 grains. An extremely rare die combination that pairs a late die state 2.9 obverse, normally seen with reverse C.3, with a late die state C.4 reverse, normally seen with obverse 2.13. Syd recorded just this one example in his book and we note no other attributed examples appearing at auction. This is

a wholesome coin for the grade with glossy medium brown surfaces and just some light planchet flaws at the lower obverse and upper reverse borders. A noteworthy offering for die variety collectors.

PCGS# 905657.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) 75th Anniversary Sale, November 2010, lot 6372.

Choice Mint State 1722 UTILE DULCI



1187

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.10-C.2, W-1264. Rarity-5. UTILE DULCI. MS-63 (PCGS). An outstanding Choice Mint State example with an impressively bold strike, flashy surfaces, and ideal brassy-brown color. Struck perfectly centered on a nice planchet, with no flaws or weakness to detract from the overall definitive representation of the dies. Glossy luster across both sides with some subtle cartwheel frost through the peripheries. Surfaces are just about flawless with no marks or roughness of any consequence. Small die flaws, or perhaps remnants of repunching, over the stop

after GEORGIUS and to the upper left of G in GRATIA identify this obverse die. This is likely finest known of the die variety, the only piece better than VF recorded by Syd. Rosa Americana coins are rare at the Choice Mint State level, and there are none graded higher at PCGS for the 1722 UTILE DULCI penny type. Fantastic quality and eye appeal, a piece worthy of the finest collection.

PCGS# 905658.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's August 2007 ANA Sale, lot 7.



Lovely 1722 Penny ex Ryder-Boyd-Ford



1188

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.11-C.8, W-1264. Rarity-5. UTILE DULCI. MS-63 (PCGS). 99.4 grains. Delightful, original medium brown surfaces with frosty luster gleaming through the brassy-yellow color in the protected areas. Predominantly hard and slightly reflective with just a few traces of minutely rough planchet texture in a few small areas of the fields. Well preserved with no contact marks that catch the eye and no trace of wear. Nicely struck on a slightly underweight planchet. Excellent definition throughout. A lovely and well pedigreed example of either the date, legend type, or perhaps as a representative of the Martin 2-C die group. Obverse

group 2 is characterized by a stop after REX and reverse group C by the placement of a stop after AMERICANA combined with a rosette after the date. This piece is also the finest of which we are aware for the die pair. Even if there are other unattributed high grade examples out there, Rosa Americana pennies don't get much nicer than this.

PCGS# 905659.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Henry Chapman, February 16, 1919; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 112. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 151, 204.

Rare Major Error Rosa Americana Penny



1189

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.11-C.8, W-1264. Rarity-5. UTILE DULCI—Double Struck—AU-58 (PCGS). 135.8 grains. Deep chocolate-brown with some golden highlights, surfaces matte-like with microscopic granularity, but very acceptable for the type. An attractive piece with an eye-catching major striking error. Bold evidence of a double strike is seen on the obverse: GEO is plainly visible to the naked eye at the tip of the bust, and the tops of ROSA AMERICAN are easily seen MERICANA UTI. The diameter is far broader than a typical specimen, also drawing attention to the dramatic error. The details are crisp, and the surfaces are relatively problem-free, though a low area under RE of REX and at the obverse rim near 3 o'clock may have been gently smoothed long ago. Syd describes double struck Rosa Americanas as "quite rare," which jibes with your cataloger's experience. Adding to this piece's

desirability is its paper trail: an envelope stamp-dated March 7, 1933, from B.G. Johnson with a faint pencil inscription in Walter Breen's hand "Dbl strike 1st strike 30% off." A well-worn New Netherlands Coin Company envelope also accompanies, fully inscribed with a thorough description in Breen's hand, noting the double strike and the Brand provenance; the \$70 price on the envelope is in the hand of John J. Ford, Jr., which is instructive as to the division of labors at New Netherlands. Craig's envelope is also present. A fascinating lot and a very desirable coin.

PCGS# 905659.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Virgil Brand; Burdette G. Johnson; New Netherlands Coin Company; our sale of the Ted L. Craig Collection, March 2013 Baltimore Auction, lot 20.



1190

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.12-D.3, W-1268. Rarity-5. UTILE DULCI. MS-62 (PCGS). 127.0 grains. A distinctive piece with a predominantly brassy-yellow obverse and a mostly olive-brown reverse. Sharp, unworn, and the surfaces retain their satiny mint texture. There is a bit of natural planchet porosity on the obverse while the reverse is smoother, but both sides are very attractive and essentially problem-free. This is the highest graded example among the 11 specimens surveyed in the Martin book, and four additional attributed examples that have appeared at auction in recent years do not rival the condition offered here. Plated in the Martin book to illustrate the reverse die as well as the overall D reverse group, characterized by dies with rosettes following AMERICANA and the date.

PCGS# 905660.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Rosa Americana Ltd.'s Summer 1996 Fixed Price List, lot 24. Reverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 122, 208.



1191

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.13-C.4, W-1264. Rarity-5. UTILE DULCI. AU-50 (PCGS). Frosty, original dark brown surfaces with reddish-chocolate highlights. A well defined example with pleasing sharpness and good eye appeal for the grade. One little corrosion spot on the obverse rim at 3 o'clock, otherwise no marks, flaws, or unusual roughness to report. Both dies are fairly late state with flowlined legends and some noticeable die sinking in the fields at the lower obverse.

PCGS# 905661.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Christopher B. Young, April 2009.

Reeded Edge 1722 Penny ex Ford



1192

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.15-C.5, W-1264. Rarity-5. UTILE DULCI. AU-55 (PCGS). 130.9 grains. An intriguing piece with crude edge reeding added in by hand around the entirety of the coin, a feature seen on another example from the Lorenzo Collection, offered later in this sale. The Ford catalog mentions this having been seen or reported on a handful of other examples as well. See Norweb:2403 for an example of this die variety called a Proof and with what was described as a mechanically reeded edge. This is a sharp AU coin with reddish-brown surfaces and traces of brass. A bit of planchet porosity is noted as are a few marks under the rose. Decent eye appeal in general and nicely struck with excellent detail throughout. A fascinating and undoubtedly rare oddity.

PCGS# 905663.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 116; our (Stack's) sale of the John P. Lorenzo Collection, January 2008 Americana Sale, lot 5583. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 155, 201.



1193

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.17-B.1, W-1260. Rarity-6. UTILE DULCI. VF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 121.4 grains. Lightly granular surfaces are a dark reddish-olive with some blue highlights on the obverse. Perhaps smoothed to some extent to minimize the roughness and recolored. Nicely struck and with solid sharpness high in the VF range. Light X scratch at center of rose. Obverse legends appear somewhat thin and the portrait a bit contorted due to a slight double strike on that side with slight rotation between strikes. The obverse die was certainly loose or otherwise problematic when striking this variety based on this and the lot to follow.

PCGS# 905668.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex 2003 Baltimore ANA Show bourse.



1194

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.17-B.1, W-1260. Rarity-6. UTILE DULCI—Double Struck—Fine-12 (PCGS). 94.3 grains. A rather dramatic looking error strike for a Rosa Americana. Bold doubling on the obverse portrait with wide offset between the two strikes, although this might technically be a rather extreme example of shelf-doubling or shift-doubling and not a case of two proper strikes, as the doubling appears strictly on the portrait. It seems either the coin or the die slipped after being struck and the doubling resulted from that. The reverse doesn't show any doubling but is bulged at the top of the rose which is the area opposite the obverse offset, and was probably caused by the obverse strike anomaly. An interesting piece and rare die variety as well, the two examples offered here making up two-thirds of the total attributed population seen or reported.

PCGS# 905668.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from eBay, January 2002. Includes an ANACS photo certificate dated July 20, 1981.



1196

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.18-D.4, W-1268. Rarity-6. UTILE DULCI. AU-50 (PCGS). 117.6 grains. Glossy dark brown surfaces with just a little bit of planchet roughness scattered about and a few minor scratches in the obverse field. A pleasing coin in general and well detailed, the strike was firm and perfectly centered on the obverse while the reverse is just trivially off center. A satisfying example of the type and probably a Condition Census specimen of the die variety as well. Accompanied by the same sort of March 7, 1933 dated Burdette G. Johnson envelope as the double struck 2.11-C.8 earlier in this sale that was presumed to be ex Virgil Brand.

PCGS# 905669.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Burdette G. Johnson; Christopher B. Young, September 2013.

Choice High Grade 1722/722 Penny



1195

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.18-D.4, W-1268. Rarity-6. UTILE DULCI. AU Details—Tooled (PCGS). 78.3 grains. Struck on a highly unusual planchet that is substantially underweight and appears extremely brassy. Some tooling scratches are present on both sides, mostly on the portrait and the upper left rose petal. A rough depression at the central obverse appears natural to the planchet and is most likely where the metal of this thin planchet could not fill the obverse die opposite the high relief stamen of the rose. An intriguing piece for the specialist.

Syd attributed this and the following lot as 2.17-D.4 and recorded that variety in his book. However, the obverse is actually his 2.18, and the handful of other specimens we have seen called 2.17-D.4 were all in fact 2.18-D.4 as well. So, 2.17-D.4 should be considered delisted until and unless that combination of dies is observed.

PCGS# 905669.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, June 2008.



1197

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.19-D.5, W-1268. Rarity-4. UTILE DULCI. Repunched Date. AU-58 (PCGS). A fantastic high grade example of this interesting variety with a boldly doubled date, the sort of obvious and strong repunching that might grant a coin its own *Red Book* variety in other series. This variety was in fact given its own catalog entry in the Breen *Encyclopedia*, Breen-118, where it was noted that the variety was discovered by Richard Picker. Dark olive-brown surfaces with a glossy, slightly reflective luster. There is no discernible wear, and this coin could easily qualify for a Mint State holder. It was in fact graded NGC MS-63 in its previous two auction appearances where it realized \$9,775 in September 2005 and \$3,737.50 in May 2008. The planchet is exceptionally hard and smooth for the type. There are just a few minor and barely noticeable corrosion spots and some brick-red patina on the stamen. Fully struck and perfectly centered, an outstanding Rosa Americana penny through and through and a desirable example of the interesting repunched date.

PCGS# 905670.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's September 2005 sale of the Oak Collection of Colonial Coinage, lot 23; Heritage's May 2008 sale of The Liberty Collection of American Colonial Coinage, Part Three, lot 1840.



1198

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.20-C.5, W-1264. Rarity-6. UTILE DULCI. EF-40 (PCGS). 115.2 grains. An attractive and original piece, with wholesome brassy-brown surfaces and solid detail. Only trivial planchet roughness and a few minor marks, nothing out of line for the grade. Struck well with good centering and no areas of weakness. Generous hair detail and almost full delineation of the stamen confirms the EF grade. A small die flaw

before George's mouth is one of the diagnostics that confirms the Martin 2.20 obverse which is known only in this combination.

PCGS# 905672.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Bill Murray, April 2002. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 160.



1199

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.23-C.6, W-1264. Rarity-4. UTILE DULCI. AU-50 (PCGS). 145.2 grains. Another example of the rare and intriguing reeded edge variety of Rosa Americana penny. Described in our January 2008 Americana sale as an "obliquely reeded edge," the edge appears crudely and unevenly reeded all the way around the coin. The work appears as though it was done at or soon after the time the coin was struck as it is blended into the toning and lightly worn. An attractive coin beyond the interesting edge, with glossy olive-brown surfaces and bold detail. Subtle flowline luster is

seen near the rims. There are a few marks in the right obverse field, and in places some minor planchet roughness as made, but overall a pleasing coin of satisfying quality.

PCGS# 905676.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from McCawley & Grellman's Third Annual C4 Convention Sale, November 1997, lot 33; our (Stack's) sale of the John P. Lorenzo Collection, January 2008 Americana Sale, lot 5584. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 163, 202.



1200

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.27-D.7, W-1268. Rarity-5. UTILE DULCI. AU-53 (PCGS). A sharp, barely worn coin with somewhat matte-like surfaces due to natural planchet porosity. Appears fairly smooth at arm's length and there are absolutely no marks to be seen. Perfectly centered strike with a full border of dentils around each side. Dies are in an advanced state with tops of the letters and tip of the bust flowing into the rims. An excellent

representative of the date or UTILE DULCI type, and as such was chosen to illustrate the dies in Syd's book.

PCGS# 905683.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Christopher B. Young, January 2007. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 167, 212.



Unique Reeded Edge Pattern in Brass



1201

1722 Rosa Americana Pattern Penny. Martin 2.28-C.7, W-Unlisted. Brass. Reeded Edge. Rarity-8+. UTILE DULCI. Specimen-62 (PCGS). 113.7 grains. A remarkable piece in an extraordinary state of preservation. Struck from a unique pair of dies, neither obverse nor reverse appearing in any other combination or on any other coin. Sharply struck and with slightly reflective surfaces suggesting a Proof manufacture, and on an almost entirely golden colored planchet that can only be described as brass. Further, there is bold, well impressed diagonal reeding around the entire edge, clearly done mechanically and not by hand, and certainly at the time of issue. Very different than the crudely and shallowly hand-reeded edge pieces of which there are a couple examples in this sale. This might more accurately be called a "milled" edge and is very close in look and feel to British silver coins of this era. There was a 1722 penny in Norweb, lot 2403, of the Martin 2.15-C.5 variety that was described as Proof and as having a similar mechanically reeded edge. That piece was struck in standard Bath metal however.

The surfaces of this impressive coin are fresh, original, and lustrous, with just a few thin scratches in the reverse fields and perhaps some extremely faint hairlines elsewhere. There are some file marks at the centers of each side that were clearly on the planchet to begin with and did not fully smooth out upon strike. This is a lovely and fascinating piece, certainly specially prepared with a specific intention in mind. As the Rosa Americana coins were famously rejected by their intended audience due to being brazenly underweight relative to their purported denomination, perhaps the brass alloy and added edge feature were being experimented with as a means to spruce up the appearance and elevate the perceived value in hopes they would more readily pass in circulation. Significant and desirable as a unique die variety, unique composition, and extremely rare edge device, and certainly with a story to tell regarding its special manufacture.

PCGS# 905766.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jim King; Richard August, May 2005. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 168, 203, 341.



1202

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.33-D.9, W-1268. Rarity-4. UTILE DULCI. AU-55 (PCGS). Appealing chocolate-brown color with traces of brassy-yellow on both sides. An excellent AU example, crisply struck from an early state of the dies, and nicely centered on a relatively high quality planchet. No real issues that require mentioning, just some trivial abrasions and tiny planchet flaws are

found under close scrutiny. As a more available die variety, this is an ideal coin for the type or date collector looking for a pleasing quality piece with the Syd Martin pedigree.

PCGS# 905688.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Ernie Botte, via eBay, September 2008.



1203

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.34-D.2, W-1268. Rarity-5. UTILE DULCI. VG-10 (PCGS). Steel-brown surfaces are fairly smooth and certainly decent for the grade if slightly rough in places. No serious marks, a few depressions on the rim over CANA appear to be planchet flaws. Good definition for a VG with full legends, date, and clear motifs. This die variety was called R-4 in Martin, but based on the mere seven examples recorded in his survey, and just one additional attributed example appearing since, we have raised the rating to R-5, and even that might be too low. Interestingly, three of the examples Syd recorded are in museums, and all are low grade.

PCGS# 905689.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 174.



1205

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.35-D.11, W-1268. Rarity-6. UTILE DULCI. Good-4 (PCGS). 84.7 grains. The discovery coin for the variety and the only example of this very scarce die variety that Syd was able to locate. Reasonably smooth pale olive-brown surfaces with some brassy color on the devices. The date and motifs are bold, a good majority of the legends are readable. No problems to note and a nice coin for the grade.

PCGS# 905692.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Bob Slobins, via Edelman's, December 2008.



1204

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.35-C.9, W-1264. Rarity-5. UTILE DULCI. AU Details—Cleaned (PCGS). 108.4 grains. A sharp AU example, the obverse and reverse plate coin to illustrate the dies in the Martin book. Golden-olive and steel-brown surfaces are perhaps a touch bright, but don't display any other obvious signs of cleaning. Light natural planchet roughness but still glossy and with good eye appeal overall. Little edge flaw over the first A in GRATIA, as made, and there are no mentionable marks. Nicely centered and boldly struck, this barely worn piece remains a solid and attractive example despite the stated qualifier.

PCGS# 905690.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Great Britain, via eBay, February 2010. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 175, 205.



1206

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.36-D.8, W-1268. Rarity-4. UTILE DULCI. AU-58 (PCGS). A strictly graded AU-58 with choice, partially lustrous surfaces and nothing more than a whisper of rub on the highest points of the detail. The obverse is predominantly olive-brown with a natural patch of brassy-tan at the first G of GEORGIUS, while the reverse is a lighter, even shade of golden-olive. Impressively struck on all of the design elements with a particularly bold and raised border of dentils. With no marks and absolutely minimal planchet porosity, this is a premium quality piece with superior eye appeal. An excellent example of the type and by far the finest seen of the die variety.

PCGS# 905693.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's July 2008 ANA Sale, lot 884 (as NGC MS-61).



1207

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.38-B.1, W-1260. Rarity-6. UTILE DULCI. AU-53 (PCGS). A very sharp example of the scarce and rather significant Martin 2-B die group. The reverse B group consists of just the B.1 die and is characterized as the only 1722 reverse type without any rosette ornaments in the legends, just plain stops before and after the date and each word. There are three die pairs using the B.1 reverse die, all rare to extremely rare: 2.1-B.1 which is unique and one of the few not-in-Martin varieties, 2.17-B.1 of which there is an example in this sale, and the present 2.38-B.1 variety. There are likely no more than a couple dozen of the Martin 2-B group of 1722 pennies as a whole. This sharp, barely worn example exhibits traces of luster under a somewhat dusky patina. Coffee-brown with some rose and silver highlights on the obverse. Very well struck on a nice planchet. The obverse displays some shift doubling, or even tripling, on much of the detail. An impressive piece and a rare bird among the major die groups of this date.

PCGS# 905696.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jeff Rock, September 2007. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 178. The plate coin for the Rosa Americana series on the PCGS Coin-Facts website.



1208

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.42-D.1, W-1268. Rarity-7. UTILE DULCI. Fine Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 94.8 grains. Given the grade and its inclusion in this frontline offering of Syd's Rosas, one could probably guess there's something special about the variety. This is the discovery coin for 2.42-D.1 and to the best of our knowledge still the only example known. Rough brassy surfaces with some significant damage in the left obverse field that caused the planchet to bend. Clear diagnostics however, especially on the well detailed reverse, and it is clear the obverse is not the 2.8 die that is normally paired with the D.1 reverse, and likewise the reverse is not the D.10 that is normally paired with obverse 2.42. One of many opportunities not to miss in this sale for those hoping to build a set of Rosa Americanas by die variety.

PCGS# 905700.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from McCawley & Grellman's Fifteenth Annual C4 Convention Sale, November 2009, lot 361.



1209

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.42-D.10, W-1268. Rarity-5. UTILE DULCI. EF-45 (PCGS). 142.4 grains. A lovely Choice EF with outstanding quality and eye appeal for the grade. Dark brown surfaces with a bit of brassy-olive color on the high points. Glossy, original, and problem-free with the bare minimum of planchet roughness. Very well struck on a sound planchet of full weight and size. An excellent coin for the connoisseur of high quality circulated colonials.

PCGS# 905702.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Tom Rinaldo; our (Stack's) sale of the Brian Danforth Collection, January 2009 Americana Sale, lot 7058. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 182, 215.



1210

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.44-D.12, W-1268. Rarity-7. UTILE DULCI. VF-30 (PCGS). A very rare die variety that Syd discovered in the W. Philip Keller Collection sale and acquired just before the publication of the book. Both the obverse and reverse dies were previously unknown to Syd so they occupy the last entry in each of their respective die groups in his reference. We know of just one other example that has turned up since, a rough VF in the Craigie Collection that we sold in March 2013. This piece is much finer, with attractive glossy dark olive surfaces that have no problems other than a few scratches and a planchet flaw in the reverse fields, and a small edge flaw at 12 o'clock on the obverse. Even if more or higher grade examples turn up, this will always be the discovery coin, the plate coin, and the ex Syd Martin Collection coin.

PCGS# 905704.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard Picker, August 11, 1961; Heritage's sale of the W. Philip Keller Collection, October 2010, lot 3030. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 184, 217.



1211

1722 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 3.1-D.6, W-1272. Rarity-4. UTILE DULCI. AU-55 (PCGS). A choice example of this scarce obverse die group, characterized by having no stop following REX. There are just two dies within the Martin 3 obverse group and two die pairs in total, the other being a 1723 dated pattern. Glossy olive-brown surfaces with khaki-gold in the protected areas. Slight roughness and microscopic planchet bubbling are noted in the fields, all as made and not of much detriment to the overall appearance. Little edge flaw over last A in GRATIA, no contact marks at all. With a great strike, pleasing color, and slightly lustrous surfaces, this is an appealing AU specimen.

PCGS# 905705.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection Part IX, May 2005, lot 120. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 185, 211.



1212

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.3-Ea.1, W-1278. Rarity-4. VF-20 (PCGS). A good-looking steel-brown piece with bold detail for the grade. Some light, scattered roughness is present, most notably on George's neck, but it all appears natural to the planchet and the overall appearance is fairly smooth and the surfaces rather glossy. Nicely centered, perhaps bluntly struck on the obverse portrait but with remarkably full detail on the reverse crowned rose motif.

PCGS# 905618.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Acquired June 2005.

Unique Die Trial ex Clay-Crosby-Ford-Garrett Photographically Plated in 1866



1213

1723 Rosa Americana Penny Die Trial. Martin 2.4-Ea.2, W-1278—Jumbo Planchet—VG-8 (PCGS). 198.6 grains. A memorable piece that certainly stuck in your cataloger's brain after seeing it in the pages of the Garrett and Ford catalogs and the Breen *Encyclopedia*. Struck on massively oversized planchet that weighs 198.6 grains and measures 32.4 mm across. Traditionally it has been classed as a die trial. It was described in the 1883 Crosby sale as "1723 Penny. On a Two pence planchet. Mr. Crosby thinks this is a trial piece. Very curious. Very good." The dimensions of the flan are indeed very close to standard twopence size. The metal almost appears to be pure copper, but the light orange-brown color is likely the result of retoning after an old cleaning. There are some traces of brassy color, and some of the porosity typical of Bath metal. Interestingly however, there is a copper 1723 penny elsewhere in this sale, ex Keller, that shares a reverse die with this piece.

Well worn—perhaps this oddity was carried as a pocket piece long ago which might explain the cleaned-looking color. A few rim dings while the actual struck portion of the coin is unabraded. All of the major detail is clear and it's fascinating to see the entirety of the dies, including the outer edge of the dentils, with room to spare. The unstruck portion of the coin is also noteworthy and instructive as to the manufacture of Rosa Americana coins. The outer area of the obverse is dished upward while the reverse is perfectly flat, expected for a coin struck on a drop hammer press with extra metal outside the reach of the dies. A fascinating item with wonderful numismatic history.

PCGS# 905775.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Dr. Charles Clay (1801-1893); William H. Strobridge and W. Elliot Woodward's sale of the Charles Clay, M.D. Collection, December 1871, part of lot 190; John W. Haseltine's June 1883 sale of the Sylvester S. Crosby Collection, lot 1327; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of the Garrett Collection, Part III, October 1980, lot 1245; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 175; Rosa Americana Ltd.'s Summer 2005 Fixed Price List. Plated in the 1866 Proceedings of the Manchester Numismatic Society, one of the earliest photographic plates depicting coins; Described in Crosby's "The Early Coins of America," p. 163. Plated in Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins p. 26. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 144, 335.



1214

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.4-Ea.2, W-1278. Rarity-6. VG-8 (PCGS). 130.8 grains. Syd recorded just two examples of this die pair in his book, the present coin and the die trial offered earlier in this sale. He conservatively estimated the rarity at R-5 to allow for unattributed examples of this rather unassuming variety. We are aware of just one additional example attributed to this variety that has appeared in the decade plus since the book came out, the Craige coin, and we have accordingly raised the rarity to R-6. This is a fairly smooth mottled orange-brown and dark olive piece with fully readable legends and date.

PCGS# 905645.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from France, via American Heritage Minting, December 28, 1995.



1215

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.5-Eb.1, W-1278. Rarity-4. VF-35 (PCGS). 140.8 grains. A charming piece whose choice color and traces of frosty luster at the peripheries give it the look of a higher grade. A handful of scratches at the upper obverse are the only minor imperfections. Nicely struck and centered on a planchet of solid weight and quality.

PCGS# 905646.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Bob Slobins, via Edelman's, December 2008. Reverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 223.

Distinctive Mint State 1723 Penny



1216

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.6-Eb.2, W-1278. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS). 119.6 grains. An impressive Uncirculated survivor with well preserved surfaces that retain a fresh, frosty mint texture. Distinctive coloration from improperly mixed metal. The obverse is mostly chocolate-brown and appears almost as pure copper while the reverse is very brassy with only a few splashes of reddish-chocolate. Quite attractive overall and a pleasant exception to the usually very dark color to which these Bath metal planchets tend to tone. A few tiny natural planchet pits are noted here and there, with a more concentrated patch of roughness between GRATIA and REX. Some planchet roller lines show at the left side borders where the dentils were weakly struck. Boldly struck otherwise and on a broader than average planchet. Overall an appealing high grade example of the type.

PCGS# 905647.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, April 2008. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 146, 224.



1217

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.7-Eb.3, W-1278. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS). Attractive olive-brown with soft undertones of brassy-yellow. Frosty in texture and unworn, with some luster remaining in the fields. Just a handful of minute planchet flaws and no real roughness, a tiny void off the nose is a useful pedigree marker. Received a strong strike from an early state of the dies and makes for an impressive example of the type or variety. With the impressive pedigree of Eliasberg-Martin, it's all the more desirable.

PCGS# 905648.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the Estate of Louis E. Eliasberg, Jr., March 2010, lot 2052; Heritage's January 2011 FUN Auction, lot 3013.



1218

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.14-Eb.4, W-1278. Rarity-5. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 104.9 grains. A well detailed dark brown specimen with some scattered roughness and few obverse bubbles. Most of the surface issues are natural to the planchet and there are just a few rusty spots on each side which are the only thing that might constitute actual corrosion. Predominantly glossy in texture and with no consequential marks. Nicely struck and has full, sharp EF detail.

PCGS# 905662.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Michael Weinstein, June 20, 1997. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 154, 226.



1220

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.21-Ea.3, W-1278. Rarity-4. AU-50 (PCGS). Syd sums up this choice coin well in his notes: "Great Bath metal color. Sharp and well struck; decent flan in terms of smoothness." A highly visually appealing example for the grade with excellent medium olive-brown color highlighted by yellow, sharp detail, and pleasing originality. Nicely struck and perfectly centered with full borders of bold dentils around each side. A little flaw under DU of DULCI is the only extremely minor imperfection we can note. A delightful piece that is worth a premium.

PCGS# 905671.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Christopher B. Young, June 28, 2009.



1219

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.16-Eb.5, W-1278. Rarity-4. AU-50 (PCGS). 127.2 grains. Distinctive brassy-tan color, sharp detail, and with pleasing surface quality and originality. There are some minor marks and scratches on both sides, none overly severe, and a bit of minor roughness and spottiness. Nice bold definition and each side is well centered on the planchet. An interesting example of the type, perhaps a piece that could make for an interesting start to a "color set" of Rosas, showing the various compositions, metal mixtures, and toning patterns that these coins can display.

PCGS# 905664.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, September 26, 1999. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 156, 227.



1221

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.22-Eb.6, W-1278. Rarity-5. VF-30 (PCGS). 142.2 grains. Dark chocolate-brown with subtle reddish-tan undertones. Some light roughness is seen in a few places and there are some natural planchet bubbles, most notably under GRA. Glossy and reasonably smooth in general, certainly a decent example for the grade. Nicely centered and evenly struck.

PCGS# 905673.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Bob Slobins, via Edelman's, December 2008. Reverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 162.



1222

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.22-Eb.17, W-1278. Rarity-8. Fine Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 91.6 grains. A new variety discovered in 2017 by Mike Wierzba featuring an unlisted reverse die paired with Martin obverse 2.22. Still unique as far as we know, undoubtedly extremely rare at the very least, this reverse is one of just a handful of dies that managed to evade Syd's extensive research. Light orange-brown and steel with some areas of red patina and light verdigris. Natural planchet porosity and a few corrosion patches, appears burnished on the obverse to minimize the roughness. Solid detail on each side, more like VF than Fine, and overall a clear representative of this exciting die variety.

PCGS# 905674.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Mike Wierzba, January 2017.



1224

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.24-Eb.7, W-1278. Rarity-4. AU-55 (PCGS). A handsome near-Mint example with chestnut-brown and dark chocolate surfaces. Crisply struck from a late state of the dies, with flowlined legends and die stress evident in the fields. Subtle frosty luster persists on both sides, the coin a bit dusky from its original patina, but there is little to no roughness aside from the worn dies. No mark or planchet flaws to report and overall a sharp coin with good eye appeal.

PCGS# 905677.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Christopher B. Young, March 2009.

Extremely Rare Obverse Die Trial



1223

(1723) Rosa Americana Penny Obverse Die Trial. Martin Obverse 2.24. Bath Metal. MS-61 (PCGS). 111.0 grains. A superb and seldom seen die trial for the obverse of a 1723 penny. Wonderfully preserved, the surfaces are lustrous and predominantly golden-yellow, toned to dark brown on the high points. An unquestionable uniface die trial strike and the back provides a great opportunity to see what an unstruck Bath metal planchet would have looked like. Planchet finishing lines are seen across the entire face, similar to those seen on some softly struck portions of regular issue coins which are sometimes mistaken for cleaning or tooling. Numbered and lettered on the unstruck side, as seen on the twopence obverse die trial in this sale, here in old paint. The number "18" is at center and what appears to be letters "JL" above. An intriguing and extremely rare piece.

PCGS# 905776.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), October 2006. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 164, 337.



1225

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.24-Eb.13, W-1278. Rarity-7. VG Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 119.0 grains. A very rare die variety for which Syd recorded just two examples, the present coin and a VF in the Keller Collection. Brassy-tan and steel with some spottiness and light porosity. There is a patch of white and red corrosion or residue at GEO and a bit at the corresponding reverse over AM. Full legends, date a bit weak but visible.

PCGS# 905679.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Christopher B. Young, January 2010.



1226

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.25-Ea.5, W-1278. Rarity-5. AU-50 (PCGS). 141.6 grains. An appealing coin with attractive, original surfaces. Predominantly golden-olive on the obverse, the reverse mostly a darker gray-brown with splashes of brassy-gold. A few minor marks and light planchet roughness but the eye appeal remains well above average for the type. Bold detail that is only lightly worn. A nice example of the date or die group, the Ea reverse subgroup seen here is characterized by a broad 3 in the date.

PCGS# 905680.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Mike Wierzba and Gregory Field, March 2015.



1228

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.26-Eb.8, W-1278. Rarity-5. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 134.2 grains. A sharp example that is lightly and evenly granular over much of the coin, yet still has a glossy, slightly reflective surface. Interesting coloration of light brassy-green on the devices contrasting with dark olive fields gives this piece a cameo appearance, particularly on the obverse. A couple scratches in the left obverse field, otherwise free of marks and fairly attractive despite not being perfectly smooth.

PCGS# 905682.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Acquired in 2007.

Unique Composition and Die Marriage

Choice Mint State 1723 Penny ex Ford



1227

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.26-Ea.2, W-Unlisted. Copper. Rarity-8+. VF-30 (PCGS). A most remarkable piece, the only known example of the Martin 2.26-Ea.2 die variety and the only 1723 Rosa Americana penny we have seen struck in unquestionably pure copper as opposed to Bath metal, outside of the 2.4-Ea.2 jumbo die trial offered elsewhere in this sale. It is interesting that both pieces involve the same reverse die. Choice in appearance, with glossy chocolate-brown surfaces that are smooth, problem-free, and totally ideal for the grade. Some harmless dirt is built up around the reverse detail which adds a nice dose of originality and doesn't affect any of the design. A special coin, attractive and rare, a prize for the specialist.

PCGS# 905758.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard Picker, August 11, 1961; Heritage's sale of the W. Philip Keller Collection, October 2010, lot 3038. Reverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 219.



1229

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.30-Eb.10, W-1278. Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS). 123.7 grains. A superb Uncirculated example of the date with desirable provenance. Satiny deep brown surfaces with vivid yellow brassy-gold remaining in some of the protected areas and outlining much of the detail. Frosty luster subtly glows under a light, stronger toward the peripheries where the die flowlines reflect the light more intensely. Sharply struck throughout with weakness only on the dentils on the right side of the coin. No abrasions or notable roughness detracts from the excellent eye appeal. Rare in this grade, PCGS has certified just four 1723 pennies at MS-63 with one finer at MS-64. That finer piece is plated on CoinFacts and while it appears quite sharp and lustrous, the surface quality and color of the present coin appear superior. A classy piece perfect for a high end colonial type set.

PCGS# 905685.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Philip Nelson Collection, December 11, 1913; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 134; Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 170, 232.



1230

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.31-F.1, W-1282. Rarity-4. EF-40 (PCGS). 124.1 grains. A scarce punctuation variety of 1723 penny featuring the only reverse die with a stop after the date. 2.31-F.1 is the sole die variety to represent the Martin 2-F die group combination. Not overly scarce as a die pair but certainly a limited population for the type. This is a pleasing EF specimen with great provenance. Deep brown with brassy undertones in protected areas. Generally smooth, original, and attractive. Only a few small marks and minor planchet flaws are noted, none of much consequence.

PCGS# 905686.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co., December 14, 1927; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 143; Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 171, 238.



1232

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.32-Eb.11, W-1278. Rarity-4—Heavyweight Planchet—EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 175.0 grains. Another interesting example of this variety, also on an oversized planchet. This one is not only broad, but also extremely thick weighing a good 40-50% more than typical Rosa Americana penny. It is the heaviest weight recorded for any regular issue example of the denomination in the Martin book. A veritable "piedfort" as Syd calls the coin. Dark olive and reddish-brown surfaces have some roughness across the center of the obverse. The reverse is smoother but has some scratches in the fields. A neat piece and a fun opportunity to own the heaviest known example of the denomination.

PCGS# 905687.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from McCawley & Grellman's Fourteenth Annual C4 Convention Sale, November 2008, lot 65.



1231

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.32-Eb.11, W-1278. Rarity-4. VF-35 (PCGS). 142.5 grains. A visually striking example struck on an abnormally broad planchet that extends far out beyond the outer end of the dentils most of the way around the coin. One of two examples of this die variety in the present offering, both on unusual large size planchets. Ford had an example of this die variety, a nice UNC, and interestingly it too was on a similarly broad, oversized flan. Attractive light olive-brown and brassy-gold surfaces are quite smooth and hard for the type. Planchet appears slightly concave relative to the reverse but certainly not damaged and this is probably just an effect of the strike. An impressive looking and highly unusual piece.

PCGS# 905687.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of Colonial Coins from the Richard Picker Collection, May 1991, lot 62; William T. Anton, Jr., May 2009.



1233

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.37-Eb.12, W-1278. Rarity-7. AU Details—Surfaces Smoothed (PCGS). 117.4 grains. A very sharp, well struck, and slightly lustrous piece that has the overall appearance of a solid UNC. The gray-brown and pale yellow color befits a high grade Rosa. Close inspection reveals some extremely faint hairlines on the fields and devices, though it isn't entirely clear whether they were on the planchet to begin with or are in fact later "smoothing." In any case they are very light and did little to affect the luster that still remains on both sides. Sharply struck and perfectly centered with boldly raised borders of full dentils. Minimal porosity and no contact marks to mention. Syd recorded just this one example of the die variety to which we can add the Craigie PCGS AU-58+. Apparently quite a rare Martin number and this is an attractive high grade specimen.

PCGS# 905694.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jeff Rock, October 2007. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 177, 234.



1234

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.37-Eb.13, W-1278. Rarity-6. VF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 111.2 grains. Dark brown surfaces have some natural bubbling or “blistering” on the obverse and to a lesser extent the reverse where there is also a patch of corrosion across the upper part of that side. A small piece of the planchet chipped off the top of the obverse, a common issue with the brittle planchets of this coinage. Solid VF detail and a clear example of this die pair, of which just a small handful of specimens have been seen.

PCGS# 905695.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Bob Slobins, via Edelman’s, December 2008. Reverse plated in the Martin reference “The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood,” p. 235.



1236

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.41-Eb.15, W-1278. Rarity-4. AU-50 (PCGS). A sharp piece described on the Newman envelope as “Uncirculated, olive.” It perhaps has a little wear on the high points but not much, and the color is a distinctive, dusky greenish-gold and gray. Small traces of natural planchet porosity can be seen in the fields, but the surfaces are generally smooth and free of serious marks. Nicely struck and well centered, all of the design elements are well defined and this is a pleasing representative of the type.

PCGS# 905699.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Col. E.H.R. Green; B.G. Johnson (St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.); Heritage’s sale of the Eric P. Newman Collection, May 2014, lot 30336.



1235

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.39-Ea.4, W-1278. Rarity-5. AU-50 (PCGS). 133.3 grains. Great eye appeal for the grade and an ideal example of the date or Broad 3 reverse group, that digit slightly repunched on this reverse die. Steel-brown with yellow-gold in the fields and a brighter patch of brassy color at the base of George’s neck. Original surfaces have a pleasing frosty texture and still display a faint glow of mint luster in the fields. There are no marks, roughness, or flaws of any consequence. An attractive AU Rosa penny.

PCGS# 905697.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack’s) January 2008 Americana Sale, lot 5587.



1237

1723 Rosa Americana Penny. Martin 2.43-Eb.9, W-1278. Rarity-6. VF-25 (PCGS). 124.1 grains. Smooth dark brown surfaces that are problem-free and nice for the grade. The date is the only slightly weak part of the coin but is still visible. A rare die variety, this is the finer of two examples Syd acquired from the Bob Slobins Collection and there does not appear to be any others that have been reported or seen. Plated in the Martin book to illustrate these dies, which are known only in this combination.

PCGS# 905703.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Bob Slobins, via Edelman’s, December 2008. Plated in the Martin reference “The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood,” pp. 183, 231.



Unique Copper 1724/3 Penny, Martin 3.2-G.1 The Crosby Plate Coin



1238

1724/3 Rosa Americana Pattern Penny. Martin 3.2-G.1, W-1294. Copper. Rarity-8+. DEI GRATIA. Specimen-15 (PCGS). 125.7 grains. A well known rarity in the Rosa Americana series ever since it was plated in Crosby's 1875 *The Early Coins of America*. A member of the 1724/3 DEI GRATIA *Red Book* type, of which there are just three examples known, but really in a class of its own as a unique die pair, unique composition for the 1724/3 date, and unique obverse style for the denomination. This is a well circulated piece but has eye appeal and surface quality in excess of its technical grade. Nicely struck on a somewhat broad planchet. Glossy chocolate-brown with darker brown in the recesses of the design and protected areas of the fields. The color and contrast allow all of the major detail to stand out boldly and gives the coin a lovely appearance. Glossy and problem-free, with just a few minute rim bumps and edge flaws, and trivial roughness in the reverse fields.

A distinctive obverse die that although it is a part of Martin group 3 based on punctuation alongside the standard 3.1 obverse, the style of the king's portrait is markedly different and comparable to the pattern varieties of the 4.1-H.1 silver halfpenny, 3.13-G.1

twopence, both offered elsewhere in this sale, as well as some of the Wood's Hibernia patterns such as the 2.1-E.1 Star Before Date halfpenny. Best classed as a pattern, but the standard layout of the motifs and well circulated condition make this coin appear more as a circulation strike, which as a great rarity makes it even more appealing in some ways. A wonderful piece with incredible provenance. One lucky bidder will get to add their name to this illustrious pedigree chain and be the proud custodian of this charming and supremely rare specimen.

PCGS# 905767.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the Charles I. Bushnell, Esq. Collection, June 1882, lot 221 (plated); New York Coin & Stamp Co.'s sale of the Lorin G. Parmelee Collection, June 1890, lot 552; S.H. and H. Chapman; S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the John G. Mills, Esq. Collection, April 1904, lot 91 (plated); Col. James W. Ellsworth Collection; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of the Garrett Collection, Part III, October 1980, lot 1246; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 183. Plated in Sylvester S. Crosby "The Early Coins of America" Plate IV, no. 15. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 186.



Lot 1239
1724/3 Rosa Americana Pattern Penny. Martin 4.1-G.1, W-1302. Rarity-7+. D GRATIA.
MS-64 (PCGS).



Fabulous Mint State 1724/3 Pattern Penny Ex Murdoch-Brand-Ford



1239

1724/3 Rosa Americana Pattern Penny. Martin 4.1-G.1, W-1302. Rarity-7+. D GRATIA. MS-64 (PCGS). 83.1 grains. A sensational example of the extremely rare 1724/3 Rosa Americana penny. Lustrous medium brown with vivid yellow-gold outlining almost all of the detail and filling the fields within the legends. Appears almost perfectly flawless with no distracting marks or spots. Close inspection with a glass reveals only trivial spots and a few barely noticeable scratches in the right side obverse and reverse fields which are perhaps all that preclude a Gem grade. Struck on a rather thin and lightweight planchet that appears to have been tapered thin toward the bottom of the obverse and top of the reverse where the borders could not fully strike up. The planchet is composed of excellent quality metal though, and the strike was perfectly centered and impressively bold everywhere else.

One of just four recorded examples of this variety of which two are currently untraced. This piece seems easily superior to the Norweb example that appears to be worn on the high points. Any 1724/3 penny is a great rarity. Taken as an overall date, there are a mere seven examples seen across all types, varieties, and metals. This piece is among the very finest, rivaling the silvered

Brand-Ford piece, variety 2.31-G.1, as the ultimate example of the 1724/3 date. This piece is the more distinctive of the two as it features a pattern style obverse, the portrait of George II with a more slender appearance, higher peaked hair, and an overall more elegant execution. This style of obverse is used on several Rosa Americana patterns, both penny and twopence, as well as on several Wood's Hibernia patterns including some farthing sized pieces. The presence of this style of obverse is always an indicator of special rarity. Gorgeous and legitimately rare, one of the leading highlights in Syd's incredible and vast collection of Rosa Americana coinage.

PCGS# 905738.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge's sale of the Murdoch Collection, July 1903, lot 440, via Spink & Son, Ltd.; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Virgil M. Brand Collection, Part II, June 1984, lot 949; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 182. Plated in Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins p. 26. Plated in the Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins, p. 61. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 187, 240.



John J. Ford, Jr.



Unique Silver 1724/3 Pattern Penny Ex Norweb-Ford



1240

1724/3 Rosa Americana Pattern Penny. Martin 5.1-G.1, W-1306. Silver. Rarity-8+. DEI GRATIA. VG Details—Graffiti (PCGS). 98.0 grains. Another iconic rarity and an instantly recognizable piece for specialists in this series. This is the sole example of a 1724/3 penny in silver and one of extremely few specimens in this precious metal known across the entire series. It is also absolutely unique as a die variety, featuring a slightly different obverse die than the preceding lot, with the same head style, but DEI GRATIA in the legend. This obverse is found in combination with a ROSA SINE SPINA reverse, an example of which is to follow, but this is the one and only example known where it is paired with a standard Rosa Americana reverse — standard except for the extremely rare 1724/3 date. Well worn but in absolutely charming condition, the surfaces are a smooth light gray with blue and tan accents, no marks or blemishes are present to distract the eye. Unforgettable and extremely interesting for the very neat and beautifully executed engraving on the obverse which reads “E.H. died Dec.r.5th.1743./aged 23. C:M:V:A:” While the identity of E.H. is unknown, it is clear this piece was a treasured memento and lovingly carried as a pocket piece for many years. The engraving is small, partially

worn but still readable, and totally blended into the toning of the coin such that it has little negative impact on the aesthetic appearance of the coin. After all, it is unique and exists in no other condition. The silver Rosa Americanas are perhaps best described as presentation pieces. There were three in the Ford sale, two halfpennies, one of which is the 4.1-H.1 offered in this sale, and the present penny, all unique as to variety, two engraved and clearly carried as pocket pieces, and all located in England until at least the turn of the 20th century. They appear to be one-off strikes for special occasions, no doubt cherished by their early owners and probably passed down in families for centuries. They represent some of the most exciting offerings in this sale and are among the most sophisticated relics of the Rosa Americana coinage.

PCGS# 905769.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Baldwin & Sons, Ltd., 1954; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Norweb Collection, Part II, March 1988, lot 2441; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 184; Jeff Lipsky, January 2009. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 350.



Celebrated ROSA SINE SPINA Penny The Crosby Plate and Stickney Collection Coin



1241

Undated (1724) Rosa Americana Pattern Penny. Martin 5.1-H.1, W-1310. Rarity-7+. ROSA: SINE: SPINA. VF-30 (PCGS). 120.2 grains. A long renowned and coveted issue, featuring an enchanting reverse die totally unlike the regular issues of the series. It features a rose bush growing out of the ground with one fully bloomed rose at the top and buds and half opened flowers below. The legend ROSA SINE SPINA translates to "rose without a thorn." Undated but we can surmise a 1724 manufacture based on the shared obverse die with the 1724/3 silver penny in the preceding lot. Held in high esteem from early on, Crosby described and illustrated this exact specimen in *The Early Coins of America* and writes, "This piece is eagerly sought by collectors of American coins, but is met with in very few cabinets." The coin belonged to Stickney at the time and upon the sale of his collection it was given nearly a full page description by Henry Chapman who stated, "It has always been one of the highly prized Colonial coins." This piece has medium olive-brown and greenish-tan surfaces that are unmarked and generally smooth, with just light granularity visible in the fields

under magnification. Moderately worn but handsome in overall appearance. Just five examples are known, the sixth listed in Syd's book is actually the same as his number five, which he admitted was a possibility. The only piece slightly finer than the present coin is the aforementioned piece which has nearly UNC sharpness but somewhat rough surfaces. This one, with its incredible history and provenance is perhaps the most desirable example extant.

PCGS# 905739.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Henry Chapman's sale of the Matthew Adams Stickney, Esq. Collection, June 1907, lot 75; possibly Waldo Newcomer and Col. E.H.R. Green; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 179. Plated and described in Sylvester S. Crosby's "The Early Coins of America," Plate III no. 16 and p. 168. Plated in Don Taxay's "Scott's Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins" C-84. Plated in the Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins, p. 61. Reverse plated in A Guide Book of United States Coins. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 188.



Extremely Rare Wilhelmina Carolina / ROSA SINE SPINA



1242

Undated (1724) Rosa Americana Pattern Penny. Martin 6.1-H.1, W-1312. Rarity-7+. Wilhelmina Charlotta / ROSA: SINE: SPINA. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 93.7 grains. One of just four known examples of this intriguing Rosa Americana-adjacent issue. Customarily considered to be from 1724, based on its connection via reverse die to the preceding lot that bears a 1724 style obverse, but is now two steps removed from coins with that date. It is possible that this and the preceding coin were struck in 1727, as the related lot to follow is dated, perhaps as a death commemorative for George I and coronation medalet for Queen Caroline. Regardless of the intent of its manufacture, it is avidly collected and rightly deserves a place among the Rosa Americana patterns based upon its use of the famous ROSA SINE SPINA reverse die, a coveted type in and of itself

and represented on only a dozen specimens across all varieties. This piece has wonderfully sharp detail and pleasing original luster on its silvered brass planchet. Possibly unique in this composition as the other three specimens are said to be either Bath or white metal. A handful of pits across each side explain the PCGS grade, but there are no marks or other imperfections and this is generally an excellent high grade example of this elusive coin.

PCGS# 905772.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Heritage's August 1990 ANA Sale, lot 8; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 181. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 189, 241.

1727-Dated GEORGIUS II / ROSA SINE SPINA



1243

1727 Rosa Americana Pattern Halfpenny. Martin 1-A, W1366. Rarity-8. GEORGIUS II / ROSA: SINE: SPINA. EF Details—Plugged (PCGS). 72.7 grains. An exceedingly rare item with only two examples confirmed, the other being a white metal piece in the British Museum. A third is rumored based on a listing in Taxay of an example "ex Bowers and Ruddy" but it has not been seen. This piece is struck in copper, crudely holed and plugged at the back of George's neck and with some additional damage to the right of the plug. Otherwise chocolate-brown surfaces with strong, lightly worn detail. Planchet cracks are seen at 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock relative to the obverse, as struck. Features the same ROSA SINE SPINA reverse design as on the preceding coins, but here smaller in format and with

a 1727 date in exergue. As this is the date of George II's coronation, the issue likely has something to do with that occasion. A desirable piece for its reverse design, long collected alongside the Rosa Americana series, at least as far back as Waldo Newcomer (1867-1934) who owned this very example.

PCGS# 905774.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Waldo Newcomer, via Burdette G. Johnson; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 191; our (Stack's) sale of the John P. Lorenzo Collection, January 2008 Americana Sale, lot 5591. Plated in the Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins, p. 63. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 328, 329.



Fabulous Double Struck 1a.1-A.1 Pattern Twopence The Finest Known



1244

Undated (1722) Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 1a.1-A.1, W-1318. Rarity-7—Double Struck—AU-55 (PCGS). 194.4 grains. An impressive and significant coin that is the finest known example of this distinctive pattern twopence variety. The Martin 1a.1-A.1 twopence, considered a pattern issue, features a distinctive portrait of King George not seen anywhere else in the series. The head is rounder here, with a more youthful appearance, and with hair curls that do not extend below the truncation of the bust. The legends are identical to those on the later regular issue twopence, and the reverse die used on this variety, with UTILE DULCI not in ribbon, is the same as that used for the 1b.1-A.1 variety a few lots ahead which is arguably the first regular issue twopence struck. The preservation of this piece is extraordinary, and it is easily the highest grade of the mere seven examples known. The surfaces are noticeably lustrous and there is very little actual wear, just some weakness of strike at the centers of each side where some planchet finishing lines that were on the metal pre-strike can still be seen. Called Bath metal in the Norweb and Ford catalogs, but based on the dominant yellow-tan color it appears the metal might be better described as brass. It certainly doesn't have the look, or surface texture, of a standard Bath planchet. Dramatically double struck, something seldom seen on Rosa Americana

coins, not surprising given the drop hammer press manufacture. It's conceivable this piece was intentionally double struck and served as a sort of die trial. Breen, Taxay, and the Norweb catalog called this piece a piedfort, but the weight is correct for a twopence. The Ford catalog suggested it was struck on a piedfort penny planchet, but we feel a better description is just that it was struck on a one-off brass twopence planchet for trial purposes. An early trial strike hypothesis is confirmed by the die state as this coin shows the bisecting obverse die crack across the portrait, but it does not extend up through the G of MAG as on most or all other specimens. Beyond the technicalities, what is undeniable is that this is the very best example to be had of this significant variety, conceivably Wood's prototype for all the Rosa Americana twopence to follow.

PCGS# 905770.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Wayte Raymond; New Netherlands Coin Company, August 22, 1963; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Norweb Collection, Part II, March 1988, lot 2391; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 172; John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), August 2005. Plated and described in Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins p. 23 (where said ex Brand). Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 346.



Lot 1245

Undated (1722) Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 1a.1-A.1, W-1318. Rarity-7—Jumbo Planchet—VF Details—Damage (PCGS).



The Legendary “Iron Rosa” With Provenance to 1866 Ex Clay-Parmelee-Mills-Ellsworth-Garrett-Terranova-Stack



1245

Undated (1722) Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 1a.1-A.1, W-1318. Rarity-7—Jumbo Planchet—VF Details—Damage (PCGS). 269.9 grains. A coin that really needs no introduction to specialists in the Rosa Americana field or early American coins more broadly. This famous piece is something of a numismatic celebrity and one of the few individual specimens we can think of in colonial coins that goes by its own pet name. This showstopper of a piece has been known as the “Iron Rosa” or “Iron Rosa Americana” at least as far back as 1875, when Crosby described the coin in *The Early Coins of America* and refers to it in a way that implies the nickname was well known even then. It is a misnomer of course, as the coin is pure copper, a fact pointed out by Crosby and others. The Parmelee cataloger sarcastically quips, “This piece has been styled the “Iron Rosa Americana,” possibly because it contains no iron.” While to a trained numismatic eye the color and fabric of the coin are unquestionably copper, we will grant that it does have a rather silvery sheen, a very steel shade of brown, and this combined with the pebbly surface could possibly lead a viewer to believe it is iron. We’re left to guess how the name originated, but it’s obvious that it stuck, and the coin has been continuously referred to by that name for a century and a half.

This is one of seven known strikings of the 1a.1-A.1 pattern twopence and is unique among them for its massive planchet, nearly 39 mm in diameter and a whopping 269.9 grains in weight. Best classed as a trial strike like the preceding lot, and several others of the seven known also are observed as struck on something other than the usual shape,

size, and fabric of a standard Bath metal planchet. The strike was bold except for some weakness at the bottom half of the rose which was opposite the highest relief part of the obverse portrait. Moderately worn and evidently mishandled at some point in its life, with myriad rim bumps and surface nicks in addition to what appears to be some natural planchet roughness. The wide unstruck portion of the coin is interesting, bowed up around the reverse while the obverse is flat, suggesting that here the reverse was the hammer die and the obverse the anvil die — the opposite of what is observed on the jumbo planchet 2.4-Ea.2 penny die trial offered previously in this sale. A technically fascinating, visually imposing, and numismatically significant rarity with an incredibly rich history, a history that one fortunate bidder will get to add to when this lot is hammered down.

PCGS# 905770.



*1866 photographic plate
from the Proceedings of the
Manchester Numismatic Society*

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Dr. Charles Clay (1801-1893); William H. Strobbridge and W. Elliot Woodward’s sale of the Charles Clay, M.D. Collection, December 1871, lot 172; New York Coin & Stamp Co.’s sale of the Lorin G. Parmelee Collection, June 1890, lot 521; S.H. and H. Chapman’s sale of the John G. Mills, Esq. Collection, April 1904, lot 61 (plated); Col. James W. Ellsworth Collection; our (Bowers and Ruddy’s) sale of the Garrett Collection, Part III, October 1980, lot 1248; Anthony Terranova Collection; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006. Plated in the 1866 Proceedings of the Manchester Numismatic Society, one of the earliest photographic plates depicting coins; Plated and described in Sylvester S. Crosby “The Early Coins of America” Plate III no. 14 and p. 162. Plated and described in Walter Breen’s Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins p. 24. Plated and described in the Martin reference “The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood,” pp. 245, 260, 336.



1a.1-A.1 Twopence Pattern in Copper ex Ford



1246

Undated (1722) Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 1a.1-A.1, W-1318. Rarity-7. VG-8 (PCGS). 141.7 grains. Yet another intriguing example of this rare twopence pattern, one of an incredible four different specimens offered in this sale, representing four of the five privately held pieces among a total of just seven known all together. They were each collected by Syd as they are all noticeably different in size, weight, and metallic composition. This one is struck on a thin, lightweight planchet that was called Bath metal in the Ford catalog, but based on the color and surface it actually appears to be copper, just a bit brassy-orange in color from an old cleaning. Comparable to the Nelson plate coin now in the British Museum that is similarly thin and lightweight. It weighs 130.5 grains and is described as copper. Speaking of the Nelson plate coin, it was recorded as a different specimen than the British Museum

piece in Syd's census, but they are in fact one and the same, hence our assertion of seven examples of this variety known to us, not eight as previously thought. Like the Nelson Plate-British Museum piece, the present coin shows weakness at the center of the rose as the planchet was too thin to fill the relief of the dies. It is a rounder planchet than the crude British Museum piece however, and has fuller legends and a better overall appearance as a result. Similar die state to the preceding Iron Rosa example, with the obverse die crack extending through the G of MAG. A fascinating and very rare piece from Wood's early efforts at creating a twopence coin suitable for circulation.

PCGS# 905770.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Philip Nelson Collection, December 11, 1913; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 171.

Well Circulated 1a.1-A.1 Pattern Twopence in Bath Metal



1247

Undated (1722) Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 1a.1-A.1, W-1318. Rarity-7. Good-4 (PCGS). 218.4 grains. A noteworthy example, the only one of the four specimens of this pattern variety offered here that is struck on a normal Bath metal planchet of the standard size and weight of all regular production issues to follow. Glossy medium brown with traces of brass, notably at the 3 o'clock obverse border and within the recesses of the rose motif as well as through ROSA AMERICANA. Shows the same natural planchet pitting in a few places that is characteristic of the normal planchets of this coinage. A well worn but very attractive coin for the grade with smooth surfaces free of serious marks, with fully outlined motifs, and completely readable legends. Probably worthy of a VG grade. Appears to be

a slightly later die state than the preceding examples, the crack looks to be heavier through the G of MAG even when taking wear into consideration. A charming example of this major pattern rarity and given its Bath metal planchet and No Ribbon reverse die, it would make an excellent substitute in a Red Book set of Rosas for the nearly unobtainable 1b.1-A.1 to follow that technically comprises the "Motto Without Ribbon" type.

PCGS# 905770.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from William Doyle Galleries' sale of the Loye Lauder Collection, December 1983, lot 135; Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 260.



Unique Twopence Obverse 1b.1 Die Trial in Lead



1248

Undated (1722) Rosa Americana Twopence Obverse Die Trial. Martin Obverse 1b.1. Lead. EF-40 (PCGS). An extraordinary and exciting uniface obverse die trial in lead of the extremely rare Martin 1b.1 obverse used exclusively on the undated No Ribbon twopence variety, Martin 1b.1-A.1, an example of which is to follow. Just two examples are known of the regular struck coins using the obverse featured here and it is a key *Red Book* variety and major rarity in the series. This is a wonderful and important relic of the production process of that variety and perhaps the first impression of this obverse type that would go on to be used for the rest of the regular issue of this denomination.

The die does appear to be crisp and new here, with bold borders and just a slight trace of the swelling under the bust seen on the two regular struck examples. The lead planchet is thick and quite heavy, although the exact weight is unknown as it has been in a slab since Syd acquired it. Lightly worn and showing signs of handling, with some scattered nicks and scratches, expected considering the soft metal. A fascinating and unique item.

PCGS# 905744.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Jim King, found in England; John Agre (Coin Rarities Online), May 2015. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 339.



Extremely Rare No Ribbon Twopence Finer of Just Two Known



1249

Undated (1722) Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 1b.1-A.1, W-1318. Rarity-8. Motto Without Ribbon. AU-58 (PCGS). 230.8 grains. One of the major rarities and most coveted types in the Rosa Americana series. The undated twopence with a standard issue obverse and the reverse of the earlier pattern featuring the motto UTILE DULCI without the normally seen ribbon or scroll surrounding it. The rarest of the *Red Book* listings for this series and thus a key coin for anyone attempting to put together a complete collection based on those popular parameters. This is the finer of just two known examples. A wonderful coin that could easily be considered Mint State and was adjudged to be in the Ford catalog. The surfaces are satiny, slightly lustrous, and almost certainly unworn. Totally original save for a small area at AME where a patch of red corrosion was carefully smoothed away. The remainder of the surface is a lovely chocolate-brown with lighter golden-tan in the protected areas. Well struck on a high quality planchet that is impressively smooth and free of virtually all porosity. A small flaw over the stop following AMERICANA is the only minute flaw. Overall fantastic eye appeal, breathtaking quality for such a rare coin.

The Ford catalog was in error in stating there were three examples known of this variety. The ANS coin mentioned there is actually

a 1a.1-A.1 piece, an example of the earlier pattern obverse issue that shares this reverse die. The *Red Book* also lists “3 known,” apparently following the Ford catalog. There are in fact only two: this and the Norweb coin, which was graded EF-45 in the Norweb sale and is now in a PCGS EF-40 holder. The Norweb piece is a nice, smooth dark brown coin but noticeably worn and nowhere near the present coin in grade. Though classed as a pattern in the Ford and Norweb catalogs, a designation Syd adopted for his description of the obverse and reverse dies in his book, it certainly looks and feels more like a regular issue, just an early and fleeting one. The obverse is in every way like all of the standard twopences to follow, without a stop after REX like the group 4 obverse, and the manufacture does not appear to be that of a Specimen or Proof. PCGS and the *Red Book* order and describe it as a regular issue, and we would do the same. Regardless of the technical classification, the coin stands on its own merits as a monumental rarity in the Rosa Americana series and it will be a treasured highlight in its next cabinet.

PCGS# 905707.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 143; Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 245, 246, 261, 294.



Lovely Mint State (1722) Motto In Ribbon



1250

Undated (1722) Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 2.1-B.1, W-1322. Rarity-3. Motto in Ribbon. MS-62 (PCGS). 250.1 grains. A fantastic example of the second and more common type of the undated Rosa Americana twopence, having a reverse with the UTILE DULCI motto within a ribbon or scroll as seen on the rest of the regular issues of the series. Beautiful light olive-brown and golden-tan color that is even across both sides with no distracting spots or serious blemishes. The reverse shows some of the usual natural planchet micro-pitting while the obverse is mostly devoid of it. Impressive detail that was very well struck and completely unworn. The obverse is missing just a portion of the dentils while the reverse is dead centered and complete. Slight doubling, seen on many coins of this denomination, is evident on the right side obverse legends. An excellent representative of the type and a piece that would be tough to meaningfully improve upon. Just five are graded any higher at PCGS.

PCGS# 905708.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Main Line Coin, June 1994.



1251

1722 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.12-C.2, W-1326. Rarity-3. Period After REX. AU-50 (PCGS). 246.0 grains. A nicely struck medium brown piece with excellent detail across both sides. Surfaces display just the usual microscopic porosity and some build up around some of the legends. Dramatic double profile to George's portrait. One of just two die varieties to represent the 1722-dated twopences, one die variety each for the two *Red Book* types, with and without a period after REX.

PCGS# 905726.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Tom Rinaldo, October 2008.



1252

1722 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 4.4-C.1, W-1330. Rarity-4. No Period After REX. EF-40 (PCGS). The second and scarcer major variety of 1722-dated twopence, this featuring a group 4 obverse with no stop after REX. In demand as this variety has its own *Red Book* listing and this is the sole die variety to represent it. A solid EF example with dark olive surfaces that are barely microporous but largely unmarked. A few little scratches under the bust and rim bump over FRA the only things to note. One planchet bubble on each side, at George's nose and under the lower left rose petal.

PCGS# 905735.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Richard Picker, August 11, 1961. Heritage's sale of the W. Philip Keller Collection, October 2010, lot 3035. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 288.



1253

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.1-E.2, W-1334. Rarity-6. AU-53 (PCGS). Sharp and barely worn with traces of satiny luster in the fields. Dusky olive-brown and green-gold surfaces that display only trace roughness and no serious marks. Boldly struck and perfectly centered, this is a very pleasing example of the type. Perhaps the finest known example of the die variety in private hands as well. Syd records just one other AU in the Connecticut State Library. No other attributed examples have appeared at auction.

PCGS# 905709.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Christopher B. Young, April 2009.



Boldly Lustrous 1723 Twopence ex Ford



1254

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.2-E.3, W-1334. Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS). 229.6 grains. As described in our January 2009 Americana Sale: “A most incredible Rosa Americana twopence in many regards. Its sharp strike and lack of interfering bagmarks sets this apart from most Rosas, which are usually found in the VF-EF grade range. Its lustrous, light golden surfaces are a touch darker golden-olive on the reverse. The lustre is created by dramatic die flow lines that radiate from the center of each side and are best perceived in the fields. It is clear that these dies served William Wood to the full extent of their lives, and did so with no apparent cracking or breaking

of the die. If you are to have one Rosa Americana twopence in your life, this is a great candidate, given its high grade and wonderful Ford pedigree.” Indeed a striking and desirable piece, probably the finest known of the die variety. Syd recorded another UNC, the Newman coin, but that piece is graded NGC MS-61 and is no match to this one.

PCGS# 905710.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex New Netherlands Coin Company; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 149; our (Stack’s) January 2009 Americana Sale, lot 7053.

1723 Twopence Obverse Die Trial ex Ford



1255

Undated (1723) Rosa Americana Twopence Obverse Die Trial. Martin Obverse 3.3. Bath Metal. AU Details—Damage (PCGS). 169.0 grains. A fascinating and extremely rare uniface obverse die trial strike for a 1723 twopence. In lovely condition with frosty luster on the obverse and little if any wear. The reverse displays the same sort of file marks across the surface as the penny obverse die trial offered earlier in this sale, and upon that side is punched an “S” and “27” in very old style punches, no doubt contemporary to the striking of the piece. Struck on a somewhat thin, light, and narrow planchet measuring 28.9 mm in diameter compared to the usual 31+ mm for the denomination. The Ford catalog records an interesting letter from Ford to the seller of the piece, in which Ford cast doubts on the identity of the coin as an authentic die trial and haggles on the price.

There is absolutely no reason to doubt this coin is an original die trial and if there were, Ford probably wouldn’t have had an interest at any price. The Ford catalog also quotes a letter from Breen to Ford regarding this piece, where Breen makes the interesting assertion that the S stamped on the back refers to Standbrooke, a diecutter at the Tower Mint, and 27 is the serial number of the die. Conjecture of course, but intriguing nevertheless.

PCGS# 905936.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Bob White (Southwest Rare Coin Galleries, Inc.), February 1975; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 178; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006. Plated in the Martin reference “The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood,” p. 338.



1256

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.3-E.4, W-1334. Rarity-5. AU-58 (PCGS). 209.7 grains. A very nearly Mint State piece with all but unworn detail and some satiny flowline luster in the fields. Deep coffee-brown surfaces have just a few tiny planchet flaws and spots of microscopic roughness. A well preserved piece that clearly circulated little if at all and there are no contact marks to report. Excellent strike and centering. Late die state with a die crack from the rim to hair under the first G of GEORGIUS and some dentil fusing under IL of UTILE.

PCGS# 905712.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Early American History Auction, Inc.'s April 2002 sale, lot 902. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 266, 303.



1258

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.4-F.1, W-1342. Rarity-5. AU-55 (PCGS). 231.4 grains. Handsome dark brown surfaces that have a frosty glow. Struck well with excellent definition throughout. An example of the scarcer Martin 3-F die group, the F reverses being those with a stop after the date. The only minor imperfections beyond trivial planchet roughness are some tiny flaws at George's eye and a few light scratches in the left reverse field. A bold and appealing piece, desirable and also the Martin obverse and reverse plate coin.

PCGS# 905715.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Colonial Trading Company, June 1996. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 267, 319.



1257

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.4-E.15, W-1334. Rarity-5. VF-35 (PCGS). 215.8 grains. A solid mid-grade example, nicely struck with bold detail throughout despite the moderate wear. Dark chocolate-brown with slightly lighter devices. Glossy surfaces with just grade consistent circulation marks and some rough planchet texture in and around the crowned rose and to a lesser extent under the obverse portrait.

PCGS# 905714.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Leo Shane, March 2010. Reverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 314.



1259

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.5-E.5, W-1334. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS). 185.2 grains. A really lovely piece, boldly struck from a fresh pair of dies and in an excellent state of preservation. Olive-brown surfaces with golden luster in the protected areas. The planchet was rather lightweight but of good quality metal, with just the slightest traces of porosity and no distracting flaws. The strike was dead centered and bold throughout. A full border of dentils frames each side and adds to the impressive eye appeal. As a relatively common die variety, this piece is ideally suited for a high grade type or date set.

PCGS# 905716.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Kraljevich, October 2007. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 268, 304.



1260

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.6-E.8, W-1334. Rarity-5. EF Details—Scratch (PCGS). 217.7 grains. Some old, toned over scratches in the obverse fields explain the details grade, but they are not overly significant in the grand scheme of the coin and easy to miss at most viewing angles. Otherwise a pleasing medium

brown piece with hints of gold on the obverse. Crisply struck and well detailed.

PCGS# 905717.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, September 1997. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 269, 307.



1261

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.7-E.9, W-1334. Rarity-4. MS-61 (PCGS). 213.4 grains. Excellent eye appeal for the MS-61 grade. A solid Uncirculated Rosa twopence with ideal brown and gold coloration and frosty luster across both sides. A handful of little abrasions and tiny planchet flaws can be found but none are worthy of individual note. Nicely struck from an advanced state of the dies. The peripheries are flowlined, especially on the reverse,

and there are numerous spidery die cracks from the rim through DULCI to the rose. An attractive Mint State representative of the denomination with much to recommend it.

PCGS# 905719.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex American Heritage Minting, October 1997. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 270, 308.



1262

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.8-E.16, W-1334. Rarity-4. EF-45 (PCGS). 229.7 grains. A pleasing EF example with lighter color than usual. Predominantly brassy-tan and light steel-brown with a bit of orange discoloration on the portrait and right side of the reverse. Nice full detail for the grade with no weakness of strike. Natural microporosity to the surfaces but still rather glossy.

Only minor marks and a lone planchet bubble under the final A of AMERICANA.

PCGS# 905720.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Early American History Auctions, Inc's March 1998 Mail Bid Sale, lot 464.



1263

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.9-E.20, W-1334. Rarity-8. VF Details—Planchet Flaw (PCGS). 211.0 grains. Matte-like deep brown surfaces with a few highlights of gold on the obverse. Rough area at the lower left obverse that is either a planchet flaw or corrosion and appears to be tooled as well. Otherwise decent surfaces with no major marks and just a few tiny planchet pits. This coin combines obverse 3.9 with an unlisted reverse, now designated 3.20, discovered by your cataloger in 2018. To the best of our knowledge it is still unique and is the only new variety of Rosa Americana twopence discovered since the publication of Syd's book. This piece is well struck and has solid VF detail, nicely displaying the reverse die and its diagnostics.

PCGS# 905722.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Kevin Vinton, November 2018.



1265

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.10-E.10, W-1334. Rarity-4. AU-53 (PCGS). 229.4 grains. Attractive, slightly frosty medium brown surfaces with generous splashes of brassy-gold. Interesting curved planchet flaw from 4 to 6 o'clock on the obverse which was most likely created pre-strike at the planchet production stage as there is weakness at the corresponding area of the reverse where the flaw caused that side to not fully strike up. A pleasing quality coin with only tiny abrasions and trivial planchet porosity.

PCGS# 905724.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from eBay, September 2008.



1264

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.9-F.3, W-1342. Rarity-4. AU-50 (PCGS). 229.9 grains. Glossy surfaces are a sandy olive-green color. Pleasing sharpness and good eye appeal despite a few minor marks and a patch of roughness in the left reverse field. This coin received an even, well centered strike. An attractive AU example. Martin 3-F die group with stops after REX and the date.

PCGS# 905723.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from McCawley & Grellman's Fifth Annual C4 Convention Sale, November 1999, lot 59. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 272, 321.



1266

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.11-E.6, W-1334. Rarity-4. Unc Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 224.9 grains. Dark olive and reddish-brown surfaces are handsome despite some light granularity in the right obverse field that explains the PCGS qualifier. The remainder of the obverse is satiny, slightly lustrous, and only microscopically porous in places. The reverse is very clean and almost looks like a matte Proof. Exceptionally well struck and perfectly centered. Graded MS-63 in the 2002 C4 Sale and it certainly is an impressive piece in many respects.

PCGS# 905725.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from McCawley & Grellman's Eighth Annual C4 Convention Sale, November 2002, lot 21. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 274, 305.



Lot 1267
1723 Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 3.13-G.1, W-1338. Rarity-8.
Specimen-63 (PCGS).



Gorgeous and Distinctive 1723 Twopence Pattern One of Just Two Examples Known



1267

1723 Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 3.13-G.1, W-1338. Rarity-8. Specimen-63 (PCGS). 218.4 grains. A wonderful rarity among Rosa Americana twopences and this is an extraordinarily beautiful specimen. This distinctive variety, clearly a pattern or special presentation issue, was first plated and described in the October 1903 *American Journal of Numismatics* by Dr. Thomas Hall in a lengthy write-up entitled "A New Rosa Americana Two-Pence." The obverse and reverse dies found here are seen only in this combination, and both are totally unique in appearance when compared to all of the other twopence dies of the date. The obverse portrait, while masterfully executed in terms of the die work, gives George a more aged appearance with a heavier jowl and baggier eyes. The hair is more coarsely delineated and in bolder relief than on the regular issues. The reverse is noteworthy and immediately distinctive with its cross shaped ornament after ROSA and the broken up letters of AME RICANA. The execution of the dies as well as the production of the strike were clearly meant to impress. Struck with incredible precision on a high quality, clearly specially prepared planchet. The exacting strike and extraordinary preservation of this coin allows for full study of every intricacy of the dies, down to the fine eyebrow detail on the obverse portrait. The surfaces are a lovely gold and brown with unsubdued prooflike luster in the fields and the original satiny mint texture of the devices fully intact. There are no imperfections worthy

of concern, a harmless patch of darker toning under the E of GEORGIUS is a useful identifier of this specimen.

Described as being the Dr. Hall discovery coin in the Ford catalog, but this coin does not match the piece plated in the October 1903 *AJN* and is actually the G.J. Bauer coin sold in the November 1968 Lester Merkin sale that was mentioned as a different specimen in Ford. The Merkin catalog devoted more text to this coin than any other lot in the sale, and described it as "one of the most important Early American pieces we have ever handled or ever expect to." It was described therein as a "Brilliant Proof" and without getting into the technicalities of Proof vs. Specimen vs. Business Strike, this is certainly as close to a Proof 1723 Rosa Americana twopence as you will ever see.

It brought \$3,500 in the 1968 Merkin sale, a significant sum, and sold to Spink from whom Ford acquired the piece in 1974. Plated and written up by Walter Breen in the September 1969 issue of *The Colonial Newsletter*. A fabulous piece that would be a standout highlight in any early American cabinet.

PCGS# 905773.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Lester Merkin's sale of the G.J. Bauer Collection, November 1968, lot 26; Spink & Son, Ltd., August 13, 1974; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 176. Plated in Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins p. 24. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 276, 322.

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1723 Pattern Rosa Americana Twopence
FIRST CROWNED ROSE PATTERN FOR THE ROSA AMERICANA COINAGES
from Walter Breen; New York City (TN-15)

The specimen illustrated below appeared in the Lester Merkin Auction Sale of November 20, 1968 as Lot 26. It is without question the first Crowned Rose pattern for the Rosa Americana coinage; the reason for its rejection is literally on its face. Obviously rejected because of the aged and unflattering portrait.

The earliest 1723 Rosa Americana coins were the three varieties of halfpence with uncrowned rose. Only afterwards do we find crowned rose coins of all three denominations, and the obverse is the same type as on 1722 issues. The place of the present coin is now clear enough: it was submitted to the king (probably to his ministers who would have shown it to him) for approval, only to be returned with a demand that the portrait be improved, while the crowned rose device was satisfactory.

Obverse: Different older portrait, heavier rounder jaw, eyes more baggy, ribbons short, thin and nearly straight; hair curls smaller and neater than on the adapted 1722-23 portrait; hair on back of head coarse and deeply engraved. Legend normal but in smaller letters, the G's especially smaller, the font apparently that used also on 1724 pattern twopences.

Reverse: Small crowned rose in high relief, smaller than on adapted issue. Barbs distant from scroll. Rose with 11 seeds in outer circle (regular has 10). Crown with 8 pearls on each arch (7 on regular). Legend in small letters as on 1/2 pence, ROSA AME RICANA 1723. The cross after ROSA is formed of 5 pellets; the cross surmounting orb divides legend; the colon and raised stop are distinctive.

Both metal plain edge. 223.3 gr. Proof, given several blows from the dies to bring up high relief of design. Unique. George J. Bauer estate, previous provenance unknown.

Editor's Note: This specimen was purchased by Spink for \$3,500
Photograph courtesy Lester Merkin; New York City



1268

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.17-E.14, W-1334. Rarity-6. AU Details—Surfaces Smoothed (PCGS). 231.2 grains. Medium brown and mottled tan, a sharp and attractive example of the variety or date and well pedigreed. Although the surfaces are curiously glossy, there are no real signs of smoothing or burnishing, and nothing of the sort was mentioned in the Norweb or 2005 C4 Sale catalogs. The culprit could just be a thin layer of coin conditioner on the surface, but at least part of the brilliance comes from actual mint luster still present on this high grade coin. A patch of granularity is

noted before the face, as well as a few little planchet flaws around the reverse rim. A dull scratch under the bust is the only mark of note.

PCGS# 905727.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Hollinbeck Stamp & Coin Company, 1956; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Norweb Collection, Part II, lot 2439; McCawley & Grellman's Eleventh Annual C4 Convention Sale, November 2005, lot 86. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 280, 313.



1269

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.18-E.17, W-1334. Rarity-5. EF-45 (PCGS). 191.8 grains. Choice color, medium olive-brown and brassy-yellow. Some scattered marks and scratches but nicely free of roughness and planchet flaws. Well centered and the

detail was evenly impressed across both sides. Solid EF sharpness and overall an appealing coin.

PCGS# 905729.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Tom Rinaldo; Ray Williams, September 2007. Reverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 316.



1270

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.20-E.11, W-1334. Rarity-6. VF-25 (PCGS). 233.3 grains. Glossy medium brown with some yellow-gold outlining the devices and within some of the legends. The obverse is choice while the reverse displays some minor roughness that is natural to the planchet. Good sharpness and eye appeal for the grade. A bit weak at ROSA but all is readable. Syd called this variety 3.3-E.11, but noted the extraordinary similarities between obverses 3.3 and 3.20. Upon studying multiple examples of both the 3.3-E.11 and 3.20-E.11 varieties, the obverses of all the 3.3-

E.11 examples match the description of the 3.20 obverse instead. 3.3-E.11 should be delisted. Given how similar they are, obverses 3.3 and 3.20 may be the same die with subtle reworking, but the position of the punctuation is different enough that we feel the 3.20-E.11 should stand.

PCGS# 905713.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from McCawley & Grellman's Eighth Annual C4 Convention Sale, November 2002, lot 23.



1271

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 3.21-E.19, W-1334. Rarity-6. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 232.2 grains. Steel-brown with slight golden accents. Cloudy roughness sits upon some of the surface while other areas are nearly smooth and glossy. Obverse well defined, reverse weaker at the left and right side peripheries. Date indistinct. This was the only example known to

Syd as of the publication of his book, though we note two additional examples of the variety have appeared at auction since.

PCGS# 905731.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Frank Jozapaitis, Jr., November 2009. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 284, 318.



1272

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 4.1-E.1, W-1346. Rarity-4. AU-53 (PCGS). 223.4 grains. A pleasing AU example with good quality surfaces and strong detail. The obverse is predominantly dark chocolate-brown with pale gold highlights around the peripheries while the reverse is mostly brassy-olive. The only minor blemishes are a few pinkish corrosion spots on George's chin into the

obverse field. A nice representative of the less common Martin group 4 obverses, with no stop after REX.

PCGS# 905732.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Rosa Americana Ltd.'s Spring 1996 Fixed Price List, lot 31. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 245, 285, 300.



1273

Undated (1723) Rosa Americana Twopence Obverse Die Trial. Martin Obverse 4.2. Bath Metal. Good-4 (PCGS). 201.4 grains. An intriguing piece with an obverse that grades Good and a completely blank reverse. Collected by Syd as a uniface die trial and that is certainly a possibility, but given the well worn condition it is impossible to be certain it was a uniface strike or if the reverse was planed away or just received unusually heavy wear. Lending credence to the die trial possibility is the presence of scratches crisscrossing the reverse, somewhat similar in appearance to other unquestionably

genuine Bath metal uniface trial strikes, and the lines appear old and worn over. This is not proof by any means, but worth pointing out. An interesting coin regardless.

PCGS# 905779.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex W.E. Johnson, June 17, 1959; Heritage's sale of the W. Philip Keller Collection, October 2010, part of lot 3023. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 339.



1274

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 4.2-E.7, W-1346. Rarity-5. EF-45 (PCGS). 220.8 grains. Attractive medium brown with sandy-gold in the protected areas of the fields. Nice bold detail from a well executed strike and only modestly worn. Myriad little circulation marks on both sides and some light scratches in the right obverse field, but no individually severe impairments.

PCGS# 905733.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased October 1995. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 286, 306.



1276

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 4.5-E.13, W-1346. Rarity-5. AU-58 (PCGS). 236.2 grains. A very sharp near-Mint example that has some glossy luster to its surfaces. Dark olive-brown with some undertones of brassy-gold in the legends, more so on the reverse. There is a small collection of scratches under FRA and some light roughness at BRI, otherwise only trivial abrasions and typical planchet porosity. A bold and handsome piece with fine, old provenance.

PCGS# 905737.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Thomas L. Elder's sale of the William Belcher, Esq. Collection, October 1919, lot 379; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 160 (there said to also be from Elder's May 1920 Miller Sale, lot 1576 but it does not plate-match that coin). Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 289, 312.



1275

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 4.3-F.2, W-1350. Rarity-5. EF-45 (PCGS). Deep brown with a few splashes of lighter brassy color on the obverse. A charming piece with remarkably smooth surfaces aside from a few rim bumps and light planchet flaws at the lower obverse border. Some harmless old dirt, built up around the detail, gives the coin a refreshing originality. Strong detail and really a textbook EF example of the type.

PCGS# 905734.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Spink & Son, Ltd., September 22, 1921; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 157; Christopher B. Young, June 2009.



1277

1723 Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 4.6-E.12, W-1346. Rarity-6. AU Details—Cleaned (PCGS). 243.7 grains. Attractive and high grade, with genuine luster in the protected areas and an overall frosty texture to the surfaces. Medium olive-brown with generous yellow-gold surrounding nearly all of the detail. Lightly granular as was the natural state of the planchet and there are a few small patches of slightly heavier porosity in the obverse fields, nothing too severe. No consequential marks and there are no signs of cleaning. A pleasing and essentially Uncirculated Rosa twopence, probably also quite rare as a die variety as Syd recorded just three examples.

PCGS# 905740.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Empire Coin Company (Q. David Bowers and James F. Ruddy), May, 31, 1960; Heritage's sale of the W. Philip Keller Collection, December 2010, lot 7009.



Lot 1278

1724 Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 5.1-H.1, W-1358. Rarity-7.
Unc Details—Devices Outlined (PCGS).



Impressive High Grade 1724 Pattern Twopence Plated in Nelson's *The Coinage of William Wood* (1903)



1278

1724 Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 5.1-H.1, W-1358. Rarity-7. Unc Details—Devices Outlined (PCGS). 199.3 grains. First in an incredible run of the esteemed and very rare 1724 twopence patterns, containing all five pieces that appeared in the Ford sale. These impressive pieces have always been highly prized by collectors of the series. They feature the distinctive and well executed obverse bust used only on special pattern or presentation issues of the Wood's series, here majestic in the large format of the twopence. They are desirable as well for their 1724 date, as all of the regular issue twopence bear either a 1722, 1723, or no date at all, and so they are sought by collectors pursuing a date set of the denomination. This is a lovely specimen, one of the higher grade ones extant. Glossy, unworn dark chocolate-brown surfaces with some hints of brassy yellow in the legends. Choice in appearance despite some barely noticeable scratches outlining the profile of King George, and we note some minor, natural surface pitting in the fields and a carefully tooled area over CA of AMERICANA, probably to remove a minor corrosion spot common to these Bath metal planchets. Excellent strike and centering as usual for the issue, slight weakness only at the border dentils of the obverse at 9 o'clock. Overall a gorgeous looking specimen.

There are just seven examples currently accounted for of the Martin 5.1-H.1 variety, including six Bath metal pieces and one special silver or silvered example which is the lot to follow. Across the two varieties that comprise the 1724 twopence date, no more than a dozen are known in total. Several of this variety are worn and this piece is among the best two or three seen. It compares favorably with the Robison-Archangel specimen graded PCGS SP-61 that we sold in our October 2018 Baltimore Auction for \$31,200. That piece did not have the minor condition issues as noted above, but it was a bit darker in color, not as well struck, and somewhat rougher in texture on the reverse. The only other UNC listed in Syd's census is the G.J. Bauer-Roper coin which appears choice and is probably the finest known. This one boasts exceptional provenance and a lovely overall appearance, and would make a proud addition to a high end cabinet.

PCGS# 905741.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Sotheby's sale of the J.B. Caldecott Collection, June 1912, lot 363 (plated), via Spink & Son, Ltd.; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Virgil M. Brand Collection, Part II, June 1984, lot 950; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 186; Christopher B. Young, November 2006. Plated in Philip Nelson's "The Coinage of William Wood, 1722-1733" Plate II, no. 10. Plated in A Guide Book of United States Coins. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 291, 323.



Unique Silvered 1724 Rosa Americana Twopence Believed to Be William Wood's Personal Coin



1279

1724 Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 5.1-H.1, W-1360. Silvered. Rarity-8+. VF Details—Graffiti (PCGS). 245.8 grains. A most exciting piece struck in a unique composition for the type and bearing the initials "W.W" neatly engraved below the bust and the date "VII. JVNE" on the reverse. This well known piece has long been believed to have been William Wood's personal coin, perhaps carried as a pocket piece by him considering the wear. While there is no definitive proof it belonged to Wood, there are certainly many signs pointing in that direction and there are no good reasons to seriously doubt it. The fact that it is rare pattern variety in unique metal would certainly fit as being the sort of coin that Wood might make as a special memento for himself or a showpiece to have on hand to share his work with others. The style of the engraving is absolutely contemporary with the era the coin was struck and it appears worn over and toned along with the rest of the coin showing the engraving was likely not added at some later point. Although called silvered Bath metal in the Norweb and Ford catalogs, the coin seems to have a higher density than usual for that metal, the planchet being similar in thickness and

diameter to the preceding lot for instance, yet 46 grains heavier. The metal should be tested and could very well be silver or perhaps a "German silver" sort of alloy given the yellow hue. Nelson (1903) mentions a "proof in silver, probably unique" for the 1724 twopence. The surfaces are lovely for the grade, the important engraving notwithstanding, with no marks or other imperfections that bear note. Just moderately worn no doubt from being lovingly carried for many decades. A wonderful piece, a significant rarity for its unique composition and a supremely desirable relic for anyone interested in the fascinating coinages of William Wood.

PCGS# 905739.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Sotheby's sale of the John G. Murdoch, Esq. Collection, July 1903, lot 438, via Spink & Son, Ltd.; Virgil Brand; offered for sale by Horace Louis Philip Brand in the May 1953 The Numismatist, p. 522; New Netherlands Coin Company, October 8, 1956; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Norweb Collection, Part II, March 1988, lot 2443; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 187. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 350.



Lot 1280
1724 Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 6.1-I.1, W-1362. Rarity-7+.
Specimen-62 (PCGS).



Superb 1724 Rosa Americana Twopence Martin 6.1-I.1, Five Known Ex Brand-Ford



1280

1724 Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 6.1-I.1, W-1362. Rarity-7+. Specimen-62 (PCGS). 179.0 grains. A glorious example of the issue and the rarer of two varieties for the date. Called Choice Uncirculated in the conservatively graded Ford sale and noted as being of "magnificent quality." The surfaces are wonderfully original and extraordinarily well preserved, with frosty mint luster covering both sides and lovely and displaying ideal color for a Bath metal planchet, medium brown with vivid yellow-gold highlights. The strike is superlative, perfectly centered, fully and boldly impressed with devices in notably high relief and a solid border of dentils around each side. There are a few minor marks that apparently precluded what we feel is still a deserved higher grade. These include just a few thin hairlines in the right obverse fields and short nicks in the left, none of any real severity nor distracting in the grand scheme of this outstanding coin. The reverse displays a touch of trivial granularity in the fields, totally forgivable for this series. Overall exceptional quality and eye appeal and easily among the finest known of the variety and 1724 date.

This coin represents the Martin 6.1-I.1 variety, slightly different than the dies of the two preceding lots, distinguished by the abbreviated "M.B" in the obverse legend as opposed to "MA.B"

and the reverse with slightly different letter and number punch placement but the same design, legends, and punctuation. There are just five examples known of this variety and this is among the two finest. Its rival is the G.J. Bauer-Robison-Roper coin which also appears to be a lovely Choice UNC though we note weakness of strike along its reverse border. The Ford catalog listed the Bauer and Roper coins as separate examples, and Syd followed this in his census, but they are in fact one and the same. One piece can be added to Syd's census however to keep the count at five total pieces, namely the Nelson-Ryder-Boyd-Craige example we sold in March 2013. The other two examples are the Mills-Jenks-Garrett coin, which appears UNC or nearly so but lightly rough, and the secondary Ford coin which is the lot to follow. The most recent auction appearance of this variety was the aforementioned Craige coin, a lightly granular PCGS SP-53, that realized \$17,625. This gorgeous Uncirculated specimen, probably the finest known, is in a different league and worthy of the strongest bids.

PCGS# 905743.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Virgil M. Brand Collection; New Netherlands Coin Company; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 188. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 292, 324.



Extremely Rare Martin 6.1-I.1 1724 Twopence Breen *Encyclopedia* Plate Coin



1281

1724 Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 6.1-I.1, W-1362. Rarity-7+. Specimen-55 (PCGS). 172.0 grains. A remarkable second example of this extremely rare variety of the famous 1724 twopence. This piece is lightly worn but still a well detailed and attractive specimen of this impressive issue. The surfaces are a glossy medium brown with reddish-tan at the peripheries. Perhaps cleaned and retoned but a pleasing shade for a Rosa Americana nevertheless. Only a few minor marks and corrosion spots at MER and the cross at the top of the crown. The planchet is nicely free from all but the most trivial granularity. An intriguing example for its missing stops after HIB and REX while it is clearly the same obverse die as the preceding lot. Said to be a late die state in the Ford catalog, but the missing stops as well as the missing detail at the bottom of the reverse ribbon are better explained as a strike anomaly,

basically a broad strike, where the detail is splayed outward and some of the finer peripheral detail is totally obscured as a result. The weak dentils and bifurcated bases of the letters are related features of the unusual strike. A desirable and interesting example, comparable in grade to the PCGS SP-53 Craige piece but with overall smoother surfaces. The incredible group of 1724 twopence specimens offered here present an extraordinary opportunity for collectors to obtain these sought after but rarely available Rosa Americana rarities.

PCGS# 905743.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex New Netherlands Coin Company; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 189. Plated in Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins p. 24. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 292.



Extraordinary Dual Denomination Strike Ex Bushnell and Parmelee



1282

Undated (1724) Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence/Halfpenny. Martin Twopence Obverse 6.1-Halfpenny Reverse F.2. Rarity-8+. Dual Denomination. Specimen-12 (PCGS). 125.7 grains. A wild looking piece, easily the crudest production we have encountered from this generally well manufactured series. This incredible specimen mules a 1724 pattern-style obverse, Martin 6.1 as used on the 6.1-I.1 pattern twopences, with a unique Crowned Rose reverse that is without a date due to strike. This bizarre combination of dies was struck on a misshapen flan of penny weight. While the reverse die is of the same general layout as the 1723 halfpennies, given the 1724 style obverse and the rather distinctive look to the reverse die work, it's not impossible to imagine the halfpenny reverse might be

dated 1724 which otherwise does not exist for the denomination. Lightly granular steel-brown surfaces with some thin scratches on each side but no serious damage. Maybe VF from the standpoint of wear but very poorly struck. An amazing and totally unique coin that has fascinated numismatists for well over a century.

PCGS# 905771.

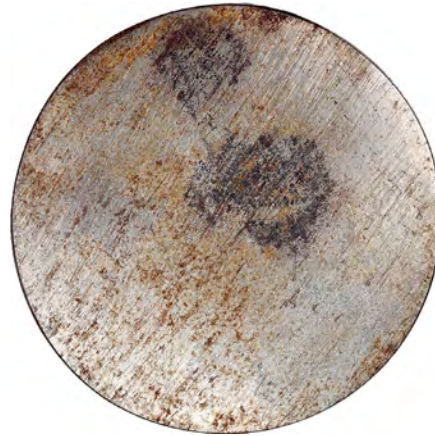
From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the Charles I. Bushnell, Esq. Collection, June 1882, lot 224; New York Coin & Stamp Co.'s sale of the Lorin G. Parmelee Collection, June 1890, lot 541; Philip Nelson Collection, December 11, 1913; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 190. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," pp. 113, 337.



Charles I. Bushnell



Exciting 1733 Twopence Obverse Die Trial Ex Ford



1283

Undated (1733) Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence Obverse Die Trial. Martin Obverse 1. Steel. Rarity-7+. MS-62 (PCGS). 241.6 grains. A fabulous looking example of these well known and extremely rare steel die trials of the famous obverse die used on the 1733 Rosa Americana twopence. The obverse is prooflike with the same strike characteristics and luster as the regular struck pieces. Light hairlines limit the grade, but the coin remains quite flashy. Light silver with some bluish-steel and golden-tan highlights. Pull-away toning atop the letters of GEORGIVS provides a bit of extra brilliance and implies originality. The reverse is a little darker and just lightly rusted, with the same file marks and remnants of old, dark paint as on the 1723 penny trial earlier in this sale. Examples of these steel obverse strikes have been known as far back as pioneering American collector Joseph J. Mickley (1799-1878), who owned an example that was sold in Woodward's November 1867 sale

of the Mickley Collection, lot 2336, and later in the Bushnell sale of 1882, lot 225. A different example appeared in the Charles Clay sale of December 1871, lot 192. No more than six appear to be known today which includes the two in the Syd Martin Collection, the Garrett piece, an example in the British Museum, and the Mickley and Clay specimens which may or may not duplicate the others listed. A significant and beautiful item, undoubtedly original to the striking of the famous 1733 twopence, and valuable for its connection to that legendary production.

PCGS# 905777.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier said to be ex Philip Nelson, Hillyer Ryder, and F.C.C. Boyd Collections; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 194; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006. Plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 331.



Fascinating Engraved Reverse 1733 Twopence Die Trial Ex John G. Murdoch Collection (1903)



1284

Undated (1733) Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence Obverse Die Trial. Martin Obverse 1. Steel. Rarity-7+. Unc Details—Graffiti (PCGS). 292.9 grains. A second and very interesting example of the extremely rare 1733 twopence steel obverse die trial. Engraved on the blank reverse in fine and very old style that is no doubt contemporary to the date it bears, "HAWKINS JANry 1737." This exact piece was mentioned by Philip Nelson in his 1903 reference *The Coinage of William Wood, 1722-1733* where he states "There exist some six examples of the obverse of this coin struck in steel, one being in the author's cabinet; and on the reverse of another is engraved Hawkins, Janry. 1737."

Struck on a slightly broader and considerably heavier planchet than the preceding example, but of the same steel composition. Likely carried as a pocket piece, it is somewhat worn and has some light porosity and rust on otherwise undamaged surfaces. A fantastic piece that would make an intriguing and significant addition to an advanced cabinet.

PCGS# 905778.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge's sale of the Murdoch Collection, July 1903, lot 441, via Spink & Son, Ltd.; Virgil M. Brand Collection; our (Stack's) sale of the Breisland Collection, June 1973, lot 788.



Lot 1285
1733 Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 1-A, W-1370. Rarity-7+.
Proof-62 BN (PCGS).



Iconic 1733 Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence The Pinnacle of the Series Just Three in Private Hands



1285

1733 Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence. Martin 1-A, W-1370. Rarity-7+. Proof-62 BN (PCGS). 265.7 grains. The preeminent highlight of this or any collection of Rosa Americana coinage. The 1733 twopence is undoubtedly the most coveted, most unique in appearance, most beautiful, and most storied coin in the series, and ranks as one of the most prestigious of all early American issues. Just five examples are known and two of them are in museums. An additional example, a well worn and holed uniface reverse piece fashioned into a love token also exists but is not traditionally included in census listings. The Ford sale produced an incredible two of the three privately held pieces, as well as the aforementioned love token. Those include the finest known Gem and the present coin which held the secondary role there, but would be a signal highlight in virtually any other sale as it is here. This piece is a lovely, uncirculated Proof with no hint of wear and mirror-like reflectivity in portions of the fields. Deep chocolate-brown in color with accents of chestnut and mahogany creating an impressively handsome overall display. Traces of mint red are seen below the bust and over some of the letters of the obverse legends. There are traces of light surface detritus in the fields surrounding the detail which the Ford cataloger suggests are traces of decayed lacquer. Careful inspection reveals extremely faint hairlines over much of the surface, and some slightly heavier scratches near George's eye and nose, perhaps remnants of a long-ago careful removal of a layer of lacquer. These lines are very light, visible only with a glass, and rightfully do not preclude a numerical grade assigned by a grading service. The overall appearance is lovely, and the strike magnificent as always, with a touch of weakness in the dentils above the O in GEORGIUS perhaps representing a minute planchet clip.

This issue has been a classic early American rarity since the earliest days of the numismatic hobby. It was first described and illustrated by numismatic dealer and author Thomas Snelling in the 1760s. The first auction appearance of a 1733 Rosa Americana twopence can be traced back to the May 1817 sale of the Thomas Brand Hollis Collection. There, lot 515 was described as "George II. his Head and Titles, reverse, a Leafed

Rose, crowned, inscribed, Rosa Americana, 1733, "Utile Dulci," see Snelling's *View of Coins struck in our Colonies abroad, &c.* Plate 4, No. 28; another of these pieces is in the Collection of Marmaduke Trattle, Esq. which belonged to Mr. Edward Bootle, very fine." Which of the handful of specimens known to modern numismatists belonged to Mr. Trattle and which to Mr. Bootle are unknown, and the Trattle and Bootle cabinets are lamentably little remembered today. The great early American numismatist Charles Bushnell was frustrated in his attempt to acquire a specimen of this rarity. His newly purchased example sank aboard the wreck of the S.S. *Arctic* on September 27, 1854, a newsworthy disaster off the coast of Newfoundland that also claimed the life of famed numismatist Jacob Giles Morris. No specimen would appear on the market for years, and it appears Bushnell never owned one. When the Parmelee coin was sold in 1890, the cataloger noted "Mr. Parmelee has always considered this piece to be the most valuable and interesting coin in his cabinet."

There have been precious few auction appearances of the 1733 Rosa Americana twopence in history, and no doubt many great collectors who would have loved to acquire an example simply never had the chance. We had the privilege of offering the Crosby Plate coin, ex Clay-Crosby-Parmelee, the only privately held example not in Ford, in our October 2018 sale of the Archangel Collection. It was graded two points higher at PCGS Proof-64 BN and realized \$132,000. This one might be not quite as choice, but is certainly lovely and carries with it the Syd Martin pedigree whose name will forever be revered in Rosa Americana provenance. A truly exciting offering, an opportunity to own one of the most treasured rarities in American colonial coins.

PCGS# 905742.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier said to be ex Philip Nelson, Hillyer Ryder, and F.C.C. Boyd Collections; our (Stacks) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 193. Plated in Walter Breen's Compete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins p. 25. Obverse plated in the Martin reference "The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood," p. 330.



Enigmatic Lead Die Trial



1286

“1733” Rosa Americana Pattern Twopence Die Trial. Lead. AU-50. 585.2 grains. 43.6 x 45.4 mm. As described in our January 2012 Americana Sale: “This beautiful Rosa Americana pattern is known in a variety of metals, including copper, iron, Bath metal, and as here, in lead. Struck in coin turn on a lead square about 43.5 X 45.5 millimeters, the edges of which are a bit uneven and the surfaces of which show some buckling of the soft metal and peeling of the surface from prior humid storage. There is some softening of the design at the high points through handling and we also note a few old marks on both sides. Very rare in this metal, we know of only the fully round lead example that was lot 97 in our (Stack’s) 1983 sale of the Roper Collection, though there undoubtedly could be more extant examples in lead that are not known to us. The two-sided copper examples in Ford brought over \$50,000 each, while the uniface impression

in steel of an obverse brought over \$8,000 in the same sale. A remarkable item that belongs in an important collection of Rosa Americana coinage.” It did indeed go to *the* important collection of Rosa Americana coinage. The exact date of manufacture of this intriguing strike is unknown, but it is very much unlike the other more unquestionable die trials original to the 1720s. In our opinion, it has the look and feel of a 19th century or later production, perhaps made around the same time as the many electrotype and cast copies that were made of this famous coin in the later decades of the 1800s. Certainly a desirable and interesting piece that deserves further research. Exactly the sort of piece Syd loved to acquire and explore, and worthy of inclusion in another special collection.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our January 2012 Americana Sale, lot 7018.



CONNECTICUT COPPERS

Welcome to the first installment in our offering of the incomparable Sydney F. Martin Collection of Connecticut Coppers. Syd's love of this series was well known and his collecting feats in this area are the stuff of legend. Like many great numismatists of the past who had an interest in colonial coins or early American coppers – Sylvester Sage Crosby, Dr. Thomas Hall, William Wallace Hays, and Hillyer Ryder to name a few – Syd was drawn to the Connecticut coppers in a profound way and pursued this set with extraordinary focus and determination, perhaps more than any other series. The appeal of the Connecticut copper coinage is multifaceted and difficult to fully capture, but their rich numismatic tradition, the series' extensive body of research, and the enthusiasm of its specialists are undeniable. The breadth and complexity of the series if pursued by die variety, beguiling to some, was no doubt part of what attracted Syd. This, combined with the fascinating history of the coinage – the colorful cast of characters involved in their production, the various minting locations, and the distinctive styles of the various types – surely added to the appeal and made the series uniquely suited to Syd's collecting mentality.

For those collecting the Connecticut coppers of 1785-1788 by die variety, obtaining 200 different Miller numbers is a major achievement and considered an advanced collection. Amassing 300 different die varieties is for many serious specialists the ultimate milestone and a mark that has been eclipsed by just a small number of collectors. The largest Connecticut copper collections sold at auction include the 1975 EAC Sale (a composite of multiple collections) with 312 different varieties, the Taylor Collection sold in 1987 with 305 varieties, the Perkins Collection sold in 2000 with 302 varieties, and the Twin Leaf Collection sold in 2019, also with 302 varieties. Syd's frontline collection contains an astonishing 349 different die varieties, which out of total of 356 varieties currently known represents over 98% completion! This is an absolutely incredible feat, especially considering the amount

of extremely rare to unique varieties that are needed to reach that total. The Syd Martin Collection is far and away the most complete ever formed and it's highly doubtful that this record can, or ever will be broken.

The present sale features the 1785 and 1786 portion of the collection, including an incredible complete set of all 31 varieties of 1785, and 40 of 41 varieties for 1786, missing only the extremely rare Miller 5.15-S. Also included is an extremely rare 1786 "Bungtown" Connecticut, Miller 123-T ex Newman. The quality throughout is superb, with many pieces that are the clear finest known examples of their varieties and a majority that would be considered Condition Census. Many coins herein came from the personal collection of noted colonial dealer and collector Anthony Terranova, which Syd acquired privately in 2012. The outstanding condition and quality of the Terranova coins upgraded many examples already in Syd's collection and they form the backbone of the present remarkable offering, which is, needless to say, the finest and most significant collection of 1785 and 1786 Connecticut ever presented. Several die varieties are appearing at auction here for the first time ever, such as the unique 1785 6.6-A.3, the unique 1786 4.1-H.2, and the only 1786 5.13-I in private hands. This will also be the first auction appearance of a correctly identified example of the exceedingly rare 1785 7.3-D. Numerous other important specimens are appearing here for the first time ever, or for the first time in many decades. Significant provenances abound including Dr. Hall Ink on Edge coins and specimens from the 1904 sale of the John G. Mills Collection and the 1920 sale of the Henry Miller Collection. Many have appeared as plate coins in important publications and reference works.

We are thrilled to present the initial offering of Syd Martin's frontline collection of Connecticut coppers and hope that it is a celebration of his legendary accomplishment. Best of luck to the bidders in acquiring a piece of this monumental collection.



Exceptional 1785 Miller 1-E “Small Date”



1287

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 1-E, W-2300. Rarity-4. Bust Right. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 141.9 grains. An impressively sharp, unclipped example that is one of the finest representatives known of this distinctive die pair. Deep olive-brown in color with lighter steel toning on the devices and some subtle reddish-brown undertones in the fields. The surfaces are glossy and they retain some frosty mint texture which gives this coin nice eye appeal in spite of the rather dark color. There are no contact marks and hardly any wear, just a bit of microporosity in places and some larger pits near the effigy’s nose and on the reverse shield which could very well be natural to the planchet.

This coin’s combination of a bold, well centered strike, fully round planchet, and high technical grade elevates it to the upper echelon of examples of this variety. The vast majority of Miller 1-E specimens are affected by planchet clips, misaligned dies, planchet flaws, or weak detail due to late die states. This piece was well struck from an intermediate state of the dies and nicely centered on the planchet on both sides which allows for full legends, clear ornaments, more than

half the dentils, and the distinctive, hand-cut, tiny date being as bold as ever.

Although listed first in the Miller attribution system, Miller 1-E is actually a reworked version of the 6.3-G.1/G.2 die pair. The extent of the die alteration is significant however, especially on the reverse where each incarnation of the die has noticeably different detail on the branch, cap, upper body of the seated figure, and, on the present variety, different ornamentation in the legend and the characteristic small date. 6.3-G.1, 6.3-G.2, and 1-E are therefore rightfully considered separate varieties and collected as such, even if it was the same hunk of die steel used on all three. Miller 1-E is arguably the toughest of the group to find in choice high grade. This is one of the few examples that stands out as truly exceptional and Syd considered it the finest known.

PCGS# 685148.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Randy Clark’s “The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788,” pp. 157, 196, and 215.

Choice 1785 Roman Head



1288

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 2-A.1, W-2305. Rarity-5-. Bust Right, Roman Head. VF-30 (PCGS). 128.3 grains. A lovely example of this popular and distinctive 1785 head type. Choice, glossy surfaces are a light olive-brown and tan. There are no flaws or roughness, only a few minuscule marks and one trivial stain before the effigy’s neck. A small, curved planchet clip at 10 to 11 o’clock relative to the obverse is an interesting feature and only affects a small portion of the dentils and none of the important details. The strike is well balanced and the detail reasonably full for the variety and grade. There is some of the typical central weakness but the overall definition to the effigy

and seated figure are better than average. There are no Mint State examples known of the variety, the Condition Census is made up of a few AUs and Choice EFs. This one is not quite as sharp as those top pieces, but for the collector who values surface quality and aesthetic appeal, it would be tough to meaningfully improve upon this delightful specimen.

PCGS# 685149.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection, June 2012.



Extraordinary 1785 Miller 2-A.4 Roman Head Likely Finest Known



1289

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 2-A.4, W-2310. Rarity-5. Bust Right, Roman Head. AU-50 (PCGS). 131.3 grains. An incredible example of the scarcer Roman Head variety. Gorgeous light to medium brown surfaces have an overall high grade gloss and real mint frost subtly visible in the peripheral fields. Nicely struck on a rather broad planchet, the definition on the Roman Head effigy is about as full and sharp as is ever seen. Some detail on the reverse seated figure is not fully brought up, as is usually the case, and some natural planchet texture is seen in its place, but the detail that is there is sharp, barely worn and shows some seldom seen features such as fine details of the head, drapery, and two vines on the shield. A minor rim bruise over OR of AUCTORI and a tiny stain on the obverse rim near 12 o'clock are the only post-strike imperfections to note on an overall lovely coin.

Of the two Roman Head varieties, 2-A.4 is clearly the scarcer and more condition sensitive. While 2-A.1 is somewhat available in VF and EF grades, the typical grade of a 2-A.4 is maybe Fine at best. Many prominent Connecticut copper collections have had to make do with a low grade specimen or have lacked this Miller number entirely. The only piece we are aware of that remotely approaches this in grade is a PCGS EF-45 coin that was sold in Heritage's January 2020 FUN Auction. That piece has nice,

glossy surfaces and solid EF detail, but is darker, slightly more worn, and struck from a later, weaker state of the dies leaving it not as sharp and nowhere near as impressive as the present coin. Not only does this appear to be the finest known example of the variety, but as a solid AU coin it ranks among the very finest specimens of the overall Roman Head type.

It is interesting to note an early illustration of a 1785 Connecticut copper in John H. Hickcox's 1858 *An Historical Account of American Coinage*, Plate 3, no. 3, the subject for which appears to be a 1785 Roman Head, Miller 2-A.4. The head type is unmistakable, and the reverse shows the double curl at the base of the shield that is characteristic of the A.4 reverse as opposed to A.1. Obviously some artistic license was taken to fill out the definition of the effigy and seated figure for the plate as no Roman Head comes with that sort of detail, but it's intriguing to note the similarities in centering between the Hickcox plate illustration and the present coin based on what portion of the dentils shows on each. Impossible to prove of course, but fun to speculate as to whether this could have been the very coin the engraver of the Hickcox plate had in hand when creating that image back in 1858.

PCGS# 685150.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's August 1993 ANA Auction, lot 5013; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.





1785 Bust Right Guide Book Plate Coin



1290

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3.1-A.3, W-2315. Rarity-4. Bust Right. EF-40 (PCGS). 140.1 grains. Choice, glossy light chocolate-brown. A beautiful and problem-free example with just some insignificant planchet flaws and harmless old dirt in the devices which attests to the originality. Aside from a single nick at the second N of CONNEC, the surfaces are remarkably free of contact marks and the smooth, hard copper shows no degree of roughness. Quite well struck for the variety without the centering problems or unevenness of strike that often plague this Miller number and 1785 Connecticut in general. The legends and date are complete and the motifs fully brought up and only lightly worn. Remarkable detail is present on the obverse effigy's hair and wreath, as well as on the reverse seated figure's drapery and vine detail on the shield.

It would be a tall order to find an example of the variety more aesthetically pleasing than the present coin. While there are some slightly sharper pieces out there, such as the Oechsner-Partrick, 1975 EAC Sale, Turoff, and Taylor examples, those all have surface or strike issues that make them not much more appealing than this lovely EF. There are many others with this level of detail, graded similarly, but as any Connecticut copper collector knows, there is much more to the desirability of a particular coin than technical grade when it comes to this series. This piece, with its choice color, excellent strike, and minimal planchet flaws, is an outstanding and highly desirable example of the both the date and variety.

PCGS# 685151.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in A Guide Book of United States Coins since 2004 to illustrate the 1785 Bust Right type.

Rare 1785 Miller 3.1-F.3 Among The Finest Known



1291

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3.1-F.3, W-2320. Rarity-6+. Bust Right. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 146.1 grains. An elusive variety that wasn't discovered until the mid-1950s by Richard Picker. Considered R-7 for decades, now just barely into the Rarity-6 range with 14 known examples. The majority of the population are either heavily flawed or very low grade while the present coin, with its sharp detail and reasonably attractive appearance, ranks among the finest known. The surfaces are nicely glossy and predominantly an appealing light chocolate-brown in color. There is some maroon and dark olive scale on the obverse and some natural planchet voids appearing as pits on the reverse and a portion of the rim. There is not a whole lot in the way of environmental damage and the coin has a rather smooth, pleasing character overall. The only mark to note is a thin old scratch on the reverse from the rim across the seated figure's legs.

There is no clear cut finest known example of this variety, nor is there a single specimen that could easily be called "problem-free." Every one of the 14 known examples of 1785 Miller 3.1-F.3 displays

some degree of planchet flaws, and several have additional damage or roughness as well. This piece is among the three sharpest and/or least flawed specimens that sit atop the Condition Census, the other two being the Perkins-Partrick coin that is similar in terms of its sharpness, color, and modest planchet flaws, and another privately held example that is slightly sharper and similarly glossy but has more severe flaws. Recent auction appearances have seen the SLT coin, graded VF-20 sharpness but rough, flawed, and weak, bring \$5,462.50 in our January 2012 Americana Sale. The well detailed but dark and rough Twin Leaf coin realized \$5,520 in our March 2019 Baltimore Auction. The Perkins-Partrick example brought \$14,950 in our January 2000 Americana Sale and then snuck through at a bargain \$3,600 in the recent Partrick sale. This piece, appearing at auction for the first time, is certainly one of the most desirable examples of the variety out there, a coin that combines virtually unimprovable condition with illustrious provenance.

PCGS# 685152.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.



1292

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3.1-L, W-2325. Rarity-4. Bust Right. VF-25 (PCGS). 133.9 grains. Quite a pleasing example of this scarce variety, one that is sneakily difficult to locate in nice grade. This variety was not represented in the Terranova Collection purchase, and the examples Syd had previously acquired were the granular Perkins and flawed Oechsner coins. It was not until our sale of the long off the market Craige Collection in 2013 that he was able to acquire the present coin, a specimen worthy of inclusion among his frontline 1785s. This attractive medium-brown piece has a few minor planchet flaws but otherwise perfectly choice, smooth and

glossy surfaces. Nicely struck with full detail for the grade and a particularly crisp reverse with one of the strongest dates we've seen on this variety. There are only maybe a handful of noticeably better examples out there, among them the Ford and Newman coins that each brought high four figure sums in their respective sales. This one is more than respectable and worthy of inclusion in another advanced collection.

PCGS# 685153.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our sale of the Ted L. Craige Collection, January 2013 Americana Sale, lot 11104.

Impressive Choice AU 1785 Miller 3.2-L High Condition Census



1293

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3.2-L, W-2330. Rarity-4. Bust Right. AU-55 (PCGS). 143.1 grains. A strikingly high grade example, not only a superb representative of the die variety, but of the overall 1785 Bust Right type as well. Beautiful chestnut-brown with undertones of golden-tan, the surfaces display their original mint texture in the form of an overall glossy luster and satiny frost in the protected areas and where the dies were delicately flowlined. Very well struck and nicely centered on a relatively high quality planchet that just shows a minimal amount of the striations and flaws that are all but inescapable on this and many 1785 varieties. The detail imparted from the bold strike is superb. There is more detail present in the effigy's hair and wreath than on any example we've seen and the reverse is similarly impressive with virtually full detail across the seated figure and all three vines visible on the shield.

The only example that clearly rivals this for potential finest known honors is the Hall-Oechsner-Partrick coin, similarly

graded AU-55 (NGC). It has similar overall sharpness and luster, is a touch better centered, and has no notable planchet flaws but does have a slightly rough surface texture on the obverse. That coin realized a very strong \$2,530 way back in 1988 in our sale of the Oechsner Collection, and more recently brought \$7,800 in Heritage's November 2020 sale of the Partrick Collection. We are not aware of any other specimens of the variety that come close to this remarkable coin. Several pieces have sharpness approaching AU but are plagued by flaws, roughness, or strike issues. Many of the great Connecticut copper cabinets have had to make do with a VF or EF of this Miller number. This standout piece is worthy of the finest variety collection, and is also highly recommended as a top notch example of the 1785 date.

PCGS# 685154.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Frealon "Bud" Bibbins; McCawley & Grellman's Fourteenth Annual C4 Convention Sale, November 2008, lot 180; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.



Outstanding 1785 Miller 3.3-F.3 Ex John G. Mills (1904)



1294

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3.3-F.3, W-2335. Rarity-4. Bust Right. EF-45 (PCGS). 155.3 grains. A remarkably bold and handsome example of this variety, exceptionally well struck on a rather broad and heavy planchet. Attractive two-tone surfaces with dark olive-brown fields and light golden-brown high points. The contrast allows the sharp detail to stand out even more dramatically. The surfaces appear just barely microporous under magnification, and there are a few very light, old scratches on the obverse, but the overall appearance is that of a smooth, slightly glossy, technically sound coin. Planchet flaws are minimal and mostly out of the way near the rims. Some small voids and raggedness on the rim at 10 to 11 o'clock relative to the obverse appears to be a straight, end-of-strip planchet clip caused by the planchet cutter extending slightly over the edge of the copper strip when punching this blank.

The quality of the strike on this piece is truly remarkable. The Chapman brothers even went out of their way in the Mills catalog

to describe it as a “strong impression,” which Ryder copied onto his square collector’s ticket for the coin. Every aspect of the design is fully brought up on each side, even at the often weak centers, date, and legends; and the centering is just about perfect. Perhaps not quite in the realm of the Condition Census for the variety as there exist several AU coins including examples sold in our recent sales of the Archangel, Twin Leaf, and Robert Martin collections. Nevertheless, this coin, with its impressive detail, excellent eye appeal, and fine old provenance back to one of the preeminent collections and sales of the early 20th century, is certainly on par with the finest in terms of desirability.

PCGS# 685155.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from S.H. and H. Chapman’s sale of the John G. Mills, Esq. Collection, April 1904, lot 224; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 205; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.



1295

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3.4-F.1, W-2340. Rarity-3. Bust Right. VF-30 (PCGS). 149.4 grains. A pleasing mid-grade specimen with attractive light brown and tan surfaces. Predominantly smooth and glossy with just a few minor contact marks, minimal for the grade, and no planchet flaws or roughness at all. Nicely centered and evenly struck with the devices, legends, and date all bold. For a fairly common variety, there are surprisingly few high grade examples out there. The Mills-Ford-Partrick AU appears to be the finest known

while all other major collections surveyed have had examples in the VF or EF range at best. This variety was absent from the Terranova Collection in 2012, a testament to the limited availability of nice specimens. This coin does come with an old Terranova inventory envelope, however.

PCGS# 685156.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Finest Known 1785 Miller 3.4-F.2 Ex Steinberg-Perkins-Terranova



1296

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3.4-F.2, W-2345. Rarity-2. Bust Right. AU-58 (PCGS). 138.3 grains. An absolutely gorgeous piece with incredible surface quality and eye appeal for a 1785 Connecticut copper. The physical appearance was described in our sale of the Perkins Collection as follows: "Lovely, even light and golden brown on the obverse, a fuller brown on the reverse. Both surfaces bright, hard, and smooth, free from flaws and striations save for a thin hairline and a hidden nick on the effigy's neck. Struck slightly off center on both sides, but affecting only the denticles at the right on the obverse and reverse. Otherwise, all letters and central design types and date numerals are on the flan." Very sharply struck from a desirable early state of the dies prior to the swelling and flowlines that weaken the peripheral detail in later die states of this variety. Thanks to the bold impression, superb surface quality, and little to no wear, there is fine detail to appreciate here that is rarely if ever seen on the variety, notably on the effigy's face and hair, the upper leaves of the laurel wreath, the reverse shield, and drapery on the seated figure.

Considering the wonderful glossy luster covering both sides, and the exceptionally well preserved surfaces that clearly saw little if any circulation, it would be easy to justify a Mint State grade for this outstanding coin. Syd noted it as "MS60" and "FK" (finest known) on his envelope. A higher grade seems even more justifiable when one compares this to the other AU graded examples of the variety to appear on the market in recent years, namely the Robert Martin, E PLURIBUS UNUM,

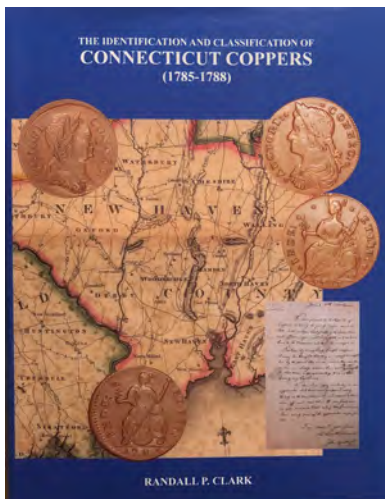
and Partrick examples. None of those can hold a candle to the present coin due either to their planchet flaws, inferior color and surface, weakened detail from late die states, or some combination thereof. The 1975 EAC Sale-Roper coin is another high grade piece with very sharp detail but has distracting planchet flaws and granularity on the obverse. We feel more than comfortable declaring this the single finest known example of the variety, and additionally, among the most impressive and pleasing examples we've seen of the 1785 Connecticut date as a whole.

This is a memorable coin that has been coveted and esteemed among Connecticut copper collectors for decades. It realized \$2,970 in the October 1989 Steinberg sale and \$9,200 in the January 2000 Perkins sale — both very strong prices for the time and in Perkins, the second highest price realized of any of the 31 outstanding 1785 Connecticut in that sale, trailing only the rare 3.1-F.3. More recently, it was featured on the cover

of Randy Clark's 2021 *The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers (1785-1788)*, the new standard reference on the series. A coin of extraordinary beauty and quality that will no doubt find a home in yet another world-class Connecticut copper cabinet or fine colonial type set.

PCGS# 685157.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the Gilbert Steinberg Collection, October 1989, lot 78; our (Stack's) sale of the George C. Perkins, Esq. Collection, January 2000 Americana Sale, lot 193; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.





Lustrous 1785 Miller 3.5-B The Finest Known



1297

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3.5-B, W-2350. Rarity-5-. Bust Right. AU-55 (PCGS). 146.7 grains. An extraordinary example of this scarce variety, a coin that blows away all others seen. Frosty reddish chocolate-brown, the mint surface subdued but almost fully intact with substantial frosty luster in the fields and just light rub on the high points of the devices. There are no contact marks or roughness of any consequence, just a few thin planchet striations on the reverse and some barely noticeable ones running horizontally on the obverse effigy. None really do any harm to the overall excellent eye appeal. Nicely struck from a somewhat advanced state of the dies. Perfectly centered on the obverse while the reverse is just slightly off center toward 6 o'clock affecting just the very bottom of the date digits. The late die state results in some bumpy texture in the fields due to die wear, but not much weakening of the detail as the legends, motifs, and date are still sharp and clear. Again, the overall appearance is quite impressive — for this, or any variety.

A quick survey of our auction archives, which includes several advanced Connecticut copper collections, will demonstrate just how vastly superior this example is. The median grade of the couple dozen examples there is Fine to Very Fine, most with some degree of planchet flaws or roughness. Looking further to the great Connecticut cabinets of the last several decades, Ford's was a granular Very Fine, Perkins' a flawed VF-EF, Taylor had a flawed and unevenly struck EF, and the 1975 EAC Sale coin a fairly pleasing Choice Very Fine. The recent Partrick specimen, ex Massachusetts Historical Society and Taylor's secondary example, was graded NGC VF-35, called Condition Census, and realized \$1,680. This one, appearing at auction for the first time, is in a whole different class and represents an exciting opportunity for the specialist to own an unsurpassable example of these dies.

PCGS# 685158.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.



Magnificent 1785 African Head Ex Ford-Terranova



1298

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.1-F.4, W-2355. Rarity-1. Bust Right, African Head. AU-55 (PCGS). 129.2 grains. A wonderful example of one of the most famous and popular varieties of all the Connecticut copper varieties. The "African Head" moniker was one of the earliest nicknames given to a coin in this series and appears as far back as auction catalogs of the 1860s and early reference works including Crosby's 1875 *The Early Coins of America*. Distinctive in style and appearance, so much so that some collectors and researchers in the past have supposed the African Head type to be an unofficial issue, struck at a mint other than the Company for Coining Coppers in New Haven. However, in a Fall 2021 *C4 Newsletter* article, Randy Clark puts forward evidence based on punch linkage and stylistic similarities that suggests the African Heads are not as disconnected from the rest of the 1785 Connecticut coppers as it may appear at first glance. Further, considering their more elaborate style and intricate detail, Clark speculates that the African Heads, along with the similarly styled 6.3-G.1 and 6.5-M varieties, could actually be early "presentation" issues of the official coinage, and the dies possibly engraved by Abel Buell himself.

This fantastic specimen, sharply struck from an early state of the dies on a high quality planchet and in an extraordinary state of preservation, is among the very finest representatives of this significant variety, quite possibly *the* finest, that we have ever seen. The surfaces are as perfectly smooth and hard as a Connecticut copper will ever be and both sides are a handsome, even mahogany-brown in color. Original glossy luster covers almost the entirety of the surface and gives the coin an impressively high grade appearance. Nothing more than a trace of rub is seen on the very highest points of the design, but the strike was so sharp and there was so much definition to begin with, the piece has an essentially Mint State appearance nevertheless. The detail is incredible. Thanks to the early die state and the bold, well centered impression, there is fine detail present on the

obverse effigy that is rarely if ever seen on the variety, notably on the mail and wreath ribbons. Additionally, the legends and date are remarkably bold and complete. Many otherwise high grade specimens have weak or missing peripheral detail, often affecting the date, due to uneven centering or worn dies. The reverse devices are quite bold as well, the detail on the seated figure and shield essentially full with just a bit of softness on the very center of the vine detail and the head, but all three vines are still visible and some of the facial features of the seated figure are present as well. Due to its outstanding surfaces and sharpness, this coin is plated in Clark to illustrate the obverse and reverse, and close-ups of its fine detail are shown to illustrate what the dies were intended to look like.

There exist several high grade examples of this variety, but none that are definitively Mint State. There are probably a dozen or more known that grade in the AU range, and could receive similar technical grades to the present coin, but we strongly suspect that if you were to compare the group side by side, in hand, this piece would stand out as the clear favorite. There are two African Heads graded higher at PCGS, both AU-58. One is the Frontenac-Twin Leaf coin, an impressive piece with very sharp motifs, but weak legends and date due to being a later die state and the surfaces are somewhat more abraded. The other was sold in Heritage's February 2018 sale and had an inferior planchet and strike to this one. The 1975 EAC Sale coin is perhaps the sharpest known but appears slightly rough and the color was described as "charcoal-brown with flecks of brick-red patina." Other specimens in the Condition Census conversation include the Garrett, Taylor, and Crosby Plate-Perkins coins, all excellent examples but each has planchet and/or strike issues that this coin is free of. A truly great Connecticut copper, a beautiful and unimprovable example of this iconic variety.

PCGS# 685159.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.



Lot 1299
1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.2-F.6, W-2360. Rarity-8-. Bust Right, African Head.
VF-20 (PCGS).



Legendary 1785 Miller 4.2-F.6 African Head A Landmark Connecticut Copper Rarity Just Three Known



1299

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.2-F.6, W-2360. Rarity-8-. Bust Right, African Head. VF-20 (PCGS). 112.6 grains. One of the major highlights of the present offering of Connecticut coppers from the Syd Martin collection. There are several other die varieties in the series that can match the rarity, but next to none that can match the stature and significance of the extremely rare 4.2-F.6 African Head. After the 1787 1.4-WW Seated Figure Facing Right, which exists in a stratosphere all its own as a Rarity-8 *Guide Book* variety and major type, the 4.2-F.6 African Head is as prestigious as it gets among rare Connecticut varieties, in a class with the 5.3-B.2 and 5.3-G Hercules Heads and the 1.2-mm Muttonhead, but even rarer than those R-7 varieties.

This African Head variant was known to Hall, who owned the discovery coin, and published by Miller in 1920 as unique (then called 4.2-F.4). In the intervening century just two more examples have come to light for a total of three. The present coin is the most recent discovery, cherry-picked in early 2005 by Neil Rothschild who found it listed for sale online in a PCGS VF-20 holder as a normal African Head. It is a pleasant Very Fine coin with slightly granular surfaces but nice brown and tan color with no disfiguring marks or flaws. The obverse is fully detailed while the reverse is slightly off center such that the date and part of INDE

is indistinct. All three examples are in the Very Fine grade range; this is the weakest of the three in terms of sharpness but it has the advantage of lacking the damage of the NGC VF Details Hall-Newman coin and the verdigris of the NGC VF-30 Keller coin.

In the October 2010 sale of the W. Philip Keller Collection, this variety became the first Connecticut copper to break the \$100,000 barrier at auction when the aforementioned NGC VF-30 specimen realized \$115,000. Four years later the Hall discovery coin was sold as part of the Eric Newman collection for \$70,500. With the present example now appearing at auction for the first time, all three examples of the variety have now come up for public sale in just the last 12 years. This is remarkable given the fact it took some 120+ years for the first one to come to auction. Collectors should be aware that it could well be another very long span of time before any of the trio are available again. A truly exciting offering of one of the most celebrated Connecticut copper rarities.

PCGS# 905503.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Neil Rothschild, August 2008. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 165 and 202.



NEIL ROTHSCHILD

Second Known Connecticut 1785 M.4.2-F.6 Discovered

The second known 1785 Miller 4.2-F.6 "Hair Back" African Head was discovered in early 2005. The coin was slabbed in a PCGS holder as VF-20 and offered on the internet as a generic African Head at a price that will never be exceeded for that RedBook type and grade. The seller got 10 times what the coin was worth and I got a coin for 1/10th what it was worth. It was Poetic Justice. (see Rothschild Figure 1)

The only other known specimen was discovered by Dr. Thomas Hall sometime prior to 1890. That specimen resides in the Eric P. Newman collection. Dr. Hall believed the reverse to be the same as the common 4.1-F.4 reverse but in 1966 Eric P. Newman determined that the reverses were different.

One other specimen is rumored to exist and is mentioned by Ereen in his Encyclopedia. Edward Bamsley's notebook indicates that Frederick Taylor owned a specimen and indicates this in his notes of other collector's collections. No specimen appeared in Taylor's sale and no description of the specimen has been uncovered. The whereabouts of this possible specimen is unknown and it is very possible that Taylor and/or Bamsley was mistaken. Bamsley's information may have been limited to a census checklist submitted by Taylor to him. This data currently resides in the ANS Library as part of its recent acquisition of the Bamsley collection of Connecticut Coppers and library from the Colonial Newsletter Foundation.

There are some indications that these dies are tightly related to the common dies, possibly by partial hubbing of many common devices or even extensive reworking of the same dies. This is an ongoing research.

Some distinguishing characteristics of the obverse die:

The hair is less distinct and is brushed back. The common variety has coarser hair that is brushed forward. The cuirass displays a star, similar to the 1787 Laughing Heads and the Horned bust. The star is

(6)



1914 ANS Exhibition Plate Coin



1300

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.3-A.2, W-2365. Rarity-3. Bust Right. EF-45 (PCGS). 154.4 grains. An impressive piece that is among the finest and best pedigreed examples to represent the Miller number. Glossy medium olive-brown surfaces with a satiny mint texture, especially on the reverse. The obverse is a bit subdued in that regard due to some darker patina built up in the fields, yet still glossy and quite attractive overall. Excellent centering and boldly struck from an interesting late state of the dies. The high grade and smooth surfaces allow for full appreciation of the myriad cracks, flowlines, and die sinking associated with the advanced die state. All of the major design elements are bold despite the failing dies. The date, legends, and motifs are all fully displayed and there is much fine detail as well, including three visible vines on the shield. A "2" is painted in black in the right obverse field, probably an old attribution or inventory number. Interestingly, the Ford example of the same variety, ex Mills, had a black "6" painted in the same place.

Sorting out the Condition Census for this variety is no easy project. There are at least two technically Mint State pieces known, including the Oechsner-Partrick coin recently sold as NGC MS-61 BN, and the "Long Island Collection" coin ex Hall as NGC MS-63 BN, but those are both flawed and/or weakly struck. Other noteworthy examples include the Newman, Miller sale, and secondary Oechsner coin, all of which appear to be fairly well struck AUs. Syd considered his coin AU-55 and finest known. It certainly seems deserving of an AU grade and we have not seen an example that is clearly superior when taking strike, surface quality, eye appeal, and sharpness all into consideration. A desirable piece and a great addition for the specialist.

PCGS# 685161.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex George Conrad Ham (of Naugatuck, Connecticut, 1867-1944); Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in The American Numismatic Society Exhibition of United States and Colonial Coins, January Seventeenth to February Eighteenth 1914, Plate 12 (listed on p. 20). Plated in Wayte Raymond's Standard Catalogue of United States Coins, all 18 editions, 1935-1957.



1301

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.3-D, W-2370. Rarity-5. Bust Right. Fine-12 (PCGS). 133.7 grains. Glossy medium brown surfaces and pleasing detail, a refreshingly attractive example of this challenging variety. There are some natural planchet flaws on each side, not overly heavy, and otherwise the surfaces are totally choice with no meaningful marks and not a trace of roughness. Certainly Very Fine for the variety and graded as such in its last auction appearance as part of the Peter Scherff Collection. The legends and date are bold save for a slightly weak 5, and despite the always soft obverse effigy there is solid detail to the central motifs on each side. A very worthwhile example, attractive and well pedigreed.

PCGS# 685162.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Bowers & Merena's) sale of the Chris Schenkel Collection, November 1990, part of lot 5647; our (Stack's) sale of the Peter Scherff Collection, March 2010, lot 2294; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.

1785 4.4-C ex Mills-Ryder-Boyd-Ford-Terranova



1302

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.4-C, W-2375. Rarity-3. Bust Right. AU-50 (PCGS). 131.4 grains. A sharp, good-looking specimen with deep olive-brown surfaces that are impressively free of marks and have minimal planchet flaws in the context of this variety and date. Glossy, verging on lustrous on the right side of the coin while the left side is just barely microporous and slightly more matte in texture; this was most likely caused by the somewhat uneven strike that did not smooth out the surface in the same way on the left side of the coin. Still, the overall strike is quite good and nicely centered, and the surfaces have a pleasing and smooth complexion on the whole. Insignificant planchet flaws at the lower obverse rim and corresponding upper reverse rim affect none of the design. Certainly a candidate for inclusion in the lower end of the Condition Census. Slightly finer examples include the 1975 EAC Sale, Newman, and Lester Merkin 9/1974:243-B&M 9/1985:1385 coins. There are a few roughly on par such as the Oechsner-Partrick and Taylor examples. Obviously much nicer than the typical worn and heavily flawed example, and with its illustrious provenance, the offered piece is overall highly desirable.

PCGS# 685163.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the John G. Mills, Esq. Collection, April 1904, lot 223; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 217; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," p. 167.



Very Rare 1785 Miller 4.4-D Among The Finest Known



1303

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.4-D, W-2380. Rarity-7-. Bust Right. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 139.8 grains. A serious rarity among 1785 Connecticut copper die varieties with just 10 specimens definitively traced. This exceptionally bold piece is among the overall finest representatives of the die pair and almost certainly the sharpest known detail-wise. Microgranular coffee-brown surfaces appear nearly unworn, with just a little rub on the high points where the color is lighter tan. As with nearly all examples of the variety there are some planchet flaws and weakness of strike present. Flawed on the obverse effigy's shoulder but only lightly so elsewhere and the reverse is quite clean in this regard. Weakly struck at the upper left obverse rim and opposing area of the reverse which affects RI of AUCTORI, IN of INDE, and the first two digits of the date. Despite the finely porous surfaces, there are subtle traces of gloss and original mint surface in places and this coin still has a rather high grade look to it.

Remarkably bold definition to the motifs, especially the reverse seated figure, make this one of the finest and most desirable examples of the variety. The only other specimen that comes close is the 1975 EAC Sale-Taylor coin which also shows little worn detail including three vines on the shield, but is more heavily flawed across the seated figure affecting the detail of the drapery. Here, all of the fine detail of the drapery, globe, and shield are on full display. Beyond the present coin, the aforementioned 1975 EAC Sale-Taylor coin, and one other decent but flawed VF, all other examples are very low grade, most grading in the AG-VG range. Thus, for collectors who do not wish to merely fill a hole, but require a more presentable specimen, the effective rarity is more like High R-7 or Low R-8. With that in mind, this offering represents a rare opportunity for the advanced specialist.

PCGS# 685164.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Mark Poulin; our (Stack's) June 1995 sale, lot 29; Jim LaSarre, June 2006, via John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online).

The Taylor-Terranova 1785 5-F.5



1304

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5-F.5, W-2385. Rarity-4. Bust Right. AU-55 (PCGS). 139.9 grains. A lovely piece. For a relatively available variety, there are surprisingly few choice examples out there that are unencumbered by planchet flaws, strike issues, and/or weak definition due to late die state. This coin is certainly one of the few, undeniably choice and exceptionally attractive. The surfaces are an original, naturally glossy medium brown with no flaws, roughness, or meaningful marks. The obverse is perfectly centered, the reverse just barely off to 6 o'clock but hardly any of the date is affected. The overall impression was bold and well balanced throughout, from an intermediate state of the dies, with just the start of the die break from the chin to the breastplate. The detail is still rather crisp in this die state, becoming quite mushy in later states, and this, combined with the excellent strike, minimal wear, and smooth, hard surfaces allows the design to stand out remarkably well.

While there are some technically finer examples known, such as the 1975 EAC Sale, Hessberg, and Ford coins, the present coin holds up well when compared to each of them if strike, surface quality, and eye appeal are all taken into consideration. While all of the other three aforementioned coins appear to display some degree of luster, the 1975 EAC Sale coin is not quite as well struck, and the Hessberg and Ford coins are fairly significantly flawed. Ranking Connecticut coppers in a Condition Census is always going to involve personal preferences. That said, Syd considered this coin to be finest known, and for the collector who values aesthetic appeal above technical grade, it would certainly be hard to beat.

PCGS# 685165.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Frederick B. Taylor Collection, March 1987, lot 2318; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," p. 168.



Incredible Mint State 1785 Miller 6.1-A.1
Easily The Finest Known
The Only Mint State 1785 Connecticut at PCGS



1305

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6.1-A.1, W-2390. Rarity-5-. Bust Right. MS-61 BN (PCGS). 133.1 grains. A truly extraordinary Connecticut copper, clearly the finest known of the variety and among the most impressive Mint State survivors we have seen for the entire 1785 date. Lustrous chocolate-brown surfaces are obviously unworn and display significant cartwheel frost in the fields on both sides. This sort of genuine luster, especially on an unflawed planchet, is virtually never seen on any 1785 issues. The strike is equally wonderful, perfectly centered and extremely bold, “medallic in nature” as Syd writes in his notes. Definitive sharpness is present on the distinctive obverse portrait. Even with a touch of softness on the shoulder there is far more detail in that area than on any other example. The reverse is equally superlative. Even with a bit of weakness and planchet texture seen on the leg and upper body, the overall definition is fantastic with a fully detailed branch hand and three complete vines on the shield, features we have not observed on any other specimen of this variety. Struck on a high quality, unclipped planchet and there are only a few trivial abrasions. Stained at the obverse border from 7 to 9 o'clock and opposing reverse with a dusting of old, inactive verdigris in that area. The stain is out of the way, doesn't obscure any of the design, and does little to detract from this wholly magnificent piece.

A distinctive and scarce variety, featuring the only use of the 6.1 obverse and sharing a reverse with the Roman Head varieties. This obverse effigy, sometimes called the “Round Head,” is very

similar in style to that of the Roman Heads and it's clear the varieties are closely related. Not much explanation is required to establish this as the single finest 6.1-A.1. The Taylor coin is the only one that comes remotely close — it was graded EF-45 in our 1987 sale of that collection and is probably a high AU in reality by today's standards. The Hall-Oechsner-Partrick coin, graded EF in Oechsner and NGC AU-55 in Partrick, would probably come next. After that, all of the other great Connecticut copper cabinets have had this variety represented by coins in the VF or EF range at best. This is obviously a coin of supreme interest to die variety specialists, but type or date collectors should also take note of the incredibly rare quality this coin offers in those spheres. This is the one and only 1785 Connecticut copper of any variety graded Mint State at PCGS. A handful have been graded Mint State at NGC but most of those are a far cry from this coin. The Hall-Oechsner-Partrick 6.3-G.1 in NGC MS-63 BN is perhaps the only one on the same level. Even among the highest grade pieces that haven't made their way into slabs (of which there undoubtedly several that could be considered Mint State), it would be hard to imagine a much more impressive, more lustrous, or more outstanding way to represent the first year of issue for the state coinage of Connecticut.

PCGS# 685166.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Kraljevich, July 2015.



Very Choice 1785 Miller 6.2-F.1 The Miller Sale-Taylor-Terranova Coin



1306

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6.2-F.1, W-2395. Rarity-3. Bust Right. AU-50 (PCGS). 126.4 grains. A remarkably attractive and high quality example of this variety with a fabulous pedigree. Smooth, hard surfaces are nicely glossy and totally problem-free. Predominantly deep coffee-brown in color with some lighter golden-olive toning in the fields, particularly on the reverse. Wonderfully free of planchet flaws and there are no distracting marks or roughness, only some minutely granular planchet texture can be found in a few places with a glass. Very well struck and nicely centered, the entirety of the design of both sides is boldly on the planchet despite the obverse being just barely misaligned towards 2 o'clock. Desirable intermediate die state with the "goatee" die break present but the dies are still in good shape before the crumbling and weakness of the latest states.

The Condition Census candidates for this variety are a fairly crowded group of nice About Uncirculated coins including a few that could warrant low Mint State grades. Notable pieces

include the Massachusetts Historical Society-SLT coin that was graded Uncirculated in our March 1973 MHS sale and AU-58 in SLT. That piece was quite sharp and had some luster, but had planchet flaws on the reverse. Lot 22 in New Netherlands 56th Sale, June 1962, also contained a sharp looking coin described as lustrous. This coin is right there in the mix with the next best specimens, and may even be preferable to the aforementioned coins if compared in hand to judge eye appeal. This is a great piece that offers superior quality and an exceptional provenance back to Henry Miller himself who plated this very coin in his 1920 reference on the series.

PCGS# 685167.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Thomas L. Elder's sale of the Henry C. Miller Collection, May 1920, lot 1817; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Frederick B. Taylor Collection, March 1987, lot 2321; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Henry C. Miller's 1920 reference "The State Coinage of Connecticut" Plate I; also in Randy Clark's 2021 reference "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 170 and 197.



Superb 1785 Miller 6.3-G.1 Ex Crosby-Garrett-Terranova



1307

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6.3-G.1, W-2400. Rarity-3. Bust Right. AU-58 (PCGS). 138.6 grains. An outstanding example of the variety and the 1785 date with pretty color, crisp detail, and a frosty mint texture to the surfaces. Nice, even, medium olive-brown in color with reddish-tan undertones indicative of a coin only lightly toned down from mint color. Extremely well preserved with absolutely no contact marks and just the slightest trace of rub on a few of the highest points of the design. Subtle frosty luster flows through the peripheries when the coin is turned under a light. Nicely centered and well struck on a fairly high quality planchet, just a bit weakly struck in the centers where there remains some natural planchet porosity, and some similar texture around the upper obverse border. Very sharp detail where well brought up, notably on the obverse effigy's hair and mail, as well as the seated figure's head and the lower part of the shield. Interesting late die state with waves of die failure across the reverse and a heavily flowlined AUCTORI.

This is one of the more available 1785 varieties and was clearly a workhorse of a die pair, even more so considering that the 6.3-G.1 and 1-E varieties were later, reworked incarnations of these same dies. There is some stiff competition among Condition

Census candidates for this variety, but this impressive coin is certainly in the conversation. The finest is clearly the NGC MS-63 BN Hall-Brand-Oechsner-Partrick example that realized \$19,200 in November 2020. The present coin is close behind along with the 1975 EAC Sale coin, ex Stepney Hoard, that we recently sold as part of the E Pluribus Unum Collection as PCGS AU-58+, the Oechsner (secondary)-Perkins coin, and a handful of other high-end AU examples. Comes with a fantastic provenance as well, from the Garrett sale where it was noted as being "from the collection of Sylvester S. Crosby," presumably lot 970 in John Haseltine's June 1883 sale of Crosby's collection. That lot was described as "1785 No. 6. Rev. G. Barely circulated. Light brown. Very desirable. R4" and realized \$3.50, one of the highest prices of any Connecticut copper in that sale.

PCGS# 686813.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Sylvester S. Crosby; (possibly) John W. Haseltine's June 1883 sale of the Crosby Collection, lot 970; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of the Garrett Collection, Part III, October 1980, lot 1339 (misattributed as 6.3-G.2); Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.



Very Choice 1785 Miller 6.3-G.2 The Breen Encyclopedia Plate Coin



1308

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6.3-G.2, W-2410. Rarity-5. Bust Right. AU-58 (PCGS). 144.9 grains. An outstanding piece displaying one of the strongest strikes we have seen on this or the related 6.3-G.1 variety. Choice glossy surfaces are a rich olive-brown in color, smooth and displaying almost none of the natural planchet pits that invariably characterize these varieties. There are no notable contact marks and no roughness of any kind, just a lovely high grade coin with eye appeal that precious few Connecticut coppers can match. The strike was just slightly off center but exceedingly bold. The detail throughout the obverse effigy, notably on the facial features and mailing, and the fully struck reverse seated figure and three visible grapevines, all serve to make this one of the ultimate examples of the die variety.

The 1785 1-E, 6.3-G.1, and 6.3-G.2 die varieties appear to all be related, reworked stages of the same dies. Regarding the emission sequence of the three, relative to the reverse dies, Randy Clark states, "It is believed reverse G.1 precedes reverse

G.2, which in turn precedes reverse E." The presence of sharp, high grade examples of all three of these varieties in the present Syd Martin offering provides a good opportunity for side-by-side comparison and further die progression study. 6.3-G.2 is clearly the scarcest of the three, and there are few specimens that can rival the present coin. Its sharpness is superior to the Crosby Plate-Hall-Brand-Oechsner-Partrick coin, and its surface quality is preferable to the Perkins coin though that piece does display remarkable detail. The 1975 EAC Sale and Twin Leaf are also noteworthy examples but neither have the grade nor eye appeal of this one. This coin is top notch and beautiful, considered by Syd to be finest known.

PCGS# 686814.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Herbert M. Oechsner (private sale); Harold Hauser; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins p. 66. Also plated in Randy Clark "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," p. 171.



Rare 1785 Miller 6.4-F.5 Ex Hall (Ink On Edge)



1309

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6.4-F.5, W-2415. Rarity-6+. Bust Right. VF-30 (PCGS). 128.4 grains. A desirable example of this very rare variety that offers excellent eye appeal and significant provenance. A pleasing Choice Very Fine with solid detail and smooth surfaces. Medium brown overall with lighter brown devices, the obverse with some subtle maroon and dark olive patina in the fields that is perhaps just barely microporous under magnification, but attractive and rather glossy nevertheless. There are a few light planchet flaws at the upper reverse, nothing serious, and there are no consequential marks. Perfectly centered and very well struck on the obverse, the reverse somewhat weaker and slightly off center to the bottom as always, but this coin displays a stronger and more complete date than almost all other specimens.

Ex Hall with his variety attribution neatly painted on the edge from 5 to 7 o'clock relative to the obverse. Dr. Thomas Hall (1841-1909) of Boston, the pioneering collector and author on Connecticut coppers, is among the most desirable pedigrees

for the series and the Hall "ink on edge" coins are coveted by collectors. The attribution is well preserved and bold on this piece. There are just 15 or so examples known of this variety and this coin is among the best two or three grade-wise. The finest known, a sharp EF, is in the Richard August Collection, while the present coin and the Miller Sale piece seem to vie for second place honors. The secondary Ford, later Partrick example is graded higher at NGC EF-40 but is not as well struck or choice as this piece, something reflected in the Ford cataloging where the present example was called "the finest seen" and ordered first. An exciting coin for the specialist.

PCGS# 686815.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Dr. Thomas Hall; Virgil Brand, via B.G. Johnson (St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.), February 1945; F.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 230; our sale of the Steve Tanenbaum (SLT) Collection, January 2012 Americana Sale, lot 7085. Obverse plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," p. 172.



Miller Plate 1785 6.4-I



1310

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6.4-I, W-2420. Rarity-2. Bust Right. AU-53 (PCGS). 129.9 grains. Exemplary quality for the date and variety. Impressively well preserved and still lustrous surfaces are predominantly medium brown with woodgrain undertones of dark olive. Nicely centered showing a full border of dentils on the obverse and strong date on the reverse. Some softness of strike at the centers, very common for the variety, and there exists some slightly granular natural planchet texture in those areas. Neither side shows any contact marks, and there are no planchet flaws aside from a few minute laminations on the obverse. There is little if any actual wear. Syd graded this coin MS-60 and it certainly has the look of a Mint State Connecticut copper. The sort of frosty cartwheel luster that this coin possesses is seldom seen in the series and vanishes with just the slightest amount of circulation or handling.

Regardless of the grade assigned, which always involves some degree of guesswork with Connecticut coppers, this is certainly one of the finest examples extant of the Miller 6.4-I variety. The only slightly better one we are aware of is the Ford-Partrick coin, a solid Uncirculated piece with frosty luster similar to this one but with a marginally better strike and traces of mint red. Aside from these, the variety is seldom seen in grades better than VF. Taylor and Perkins each had sharp EF to AU coins but both were flawed. This is an outstanding piece of rare quality not only for the variety, but for the 1785 date as well. Its illustrious provenance and status as the Miller Text and Miller Sale plate coin makes it all the more significant.

PCGS# 686816.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Thomas L. Elder's sale of the Henry C. Miller Collection, May 1920, lot 1823; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Chris Schenkel Collection, November 1990, lot 5650; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Henry C. Miller's 1920 reference "The State Coinage of Connecticut" Plate I.



1311

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6.4-K, W-2425. Rarity-6. Bust Right. Fine-12 (PCGS). 135.8 grains. Attractive chocolate-brown surfaces with slightly deeper patina in the fields, just enough to accentuate the design features. Generally smooth upon first glance, with only slight porosity visible upon closer inspection. Planchet fissures affect only the base of the bust and top of the head on the obverse, leaving the broad prime focal areas free of distractions. The reverse exhibits more aggressive fissures and flaws near Liberty's

head at the rim, but still the eye appeal is nice for the grade. A bit weak at the date, though the coin is well centered on the flan and the legends are clear. Very handsome overall for this challenging variety.

PCGS# 686817.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from McCawley & Grellman's Fourth Annual C4 Convention Sale, November 1998, lot 99; Anthony Terranova, 2001; our sale of the Twin Leaf Collection, Spring 2019 Baltimore Auction, lot 8088.



Lot 1312
1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6.5-M, W-2430. Rarity-6+. Bust Right.
AU-53 (PCGS).



The Picker-Terranova 1785 6.5-M Among The Finest Known A Significant Connecticut Rarity



1312

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6.5-M, W-2430. Rarity-6+.
Bust Right. AU-53 (PCGS). 139.4 grains. A distinctive and important variety among 1785 Connecticut coppers and this is one of the best examples known. Glossy, high grade surfaces that are barely worn and nicely preserved with minimal marks. Deep olive-brown in color with lighter toning on the high points of the devices. Traces of original planchet texture are seen on the effigy as well as the upper body of the seated figure and in the reverse fields, but there is no post-strike roughness at all. Struck just slightly off center, better than many of the variety in this regard. Just the tops of the letters on the right side of the coin are off the planchet and the date is full and very bold. Received a firm impression of the dies and shows exemplary detail in the obverse effigy's hair, wreath, and breastplate, as well as fine detail in the seated figure's drapery and two of three grapevines are visible on the shield.

A wholly unique-looking variety among Connecticut coppers, and both the obverse and reverse die appear only in this one combination. While there are certain aspects of the style and design elements that carry over to other 1785 varieties, particularly the African Heads, the intricate die work, the size and shapes of the letters, and just the overall look and feel of the design give this variety a distinctive character. In his Fall 2021 C4 Newsletter article, Randy Clark explores stylistic similarities between these dies and copper plate engravings by Abel Buell, putting forth the hypothesis that this may have been an early prototype or pattern variety for the Connecticut coppers from dies perhaps engraved by Buell himself. Clark notes that Dr. Hall, in 1899, had a similar notion about this variety, though hazards

a different guess as to the origin, writing: "This scarce piece is of good workmanship and worthy of careful observation. Possibly this die, with others of the same date, may have been struck in England and used for patterns for this issue." Given the unique aspects of the dies, and the rarity of specimens suggesting a small production, we suspect this variety does indeed hold a special place in the early evolution of the Connecticut copper coinage, and very well could be a pattern or prototype issue.

This incredible example is one of the best overall representatives of the variety in existence. The Mills-Ford-Partrick coin graded NGC MS-62 BN is considered the finest known. It is certainly very sharp and slightly lustrous, but is quite a bit off center such that hardly any of the date is visible. These are the sorts of considerations that make ranking Connecticut coppers in a Condition Census such a challenge. We know that many collectors would prefer the present coin with its better centering, bold date, and nearly comparable sharpness even if the Partrick coin is technically finer. These two coins are well ahead of the rest of the pack of the 18 or so known examples. No others rise above the level of VF and many are rough or badly off center. Overall a fantastic piece, one of the many highlights of Syd's 1785 Connecticut. Tough to beat an exceptionally sharp, very attractive, well pedigreed example of a marquee variety.

PCGS# 905504.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the Richard Picker Collection, October 1984, lot 148; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Obverse and reverse plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 173 and 210.



Lot 1313
1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6.6-A.3, W-2435. Rarity-8+. Bust Right.
EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS).



The Legendary 1785 Miller 6.6-A.3 “Cracked Head” First Ever Auction Appearance The Only Unique 1785 Connecticut Variety



1313

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6.6-A.3, W-2435. Rarity-8+. Bust Right. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 122.2 grains. The first public appearance of this mythical Connecticut copper rarity, the only unique 1785 variety and the only existing example of the 6.6 obverse. This amazing piece was discovered in 2001 by Mike Ringo who purchased it unattributed in upstate New York. It surely took the sharp-eyed Ringo no more than about a tenth of a second to realize this was an entirely new obverse die, with its distinctive hand-cut detail and the dramatically thick die crack bisecting the entire die, the likes of which aren't seen on any other 1785 Connecticut. Ringo sold the coin to noted specialist Robert Martin, who published the discovery a few years later in the April 2004 *Colonial Newsletter*. The obverse was originally classified as Miller 3.6, but later changed to 6.6 as it appears to be more similar stylistically to some of the dies in that group, particularly 6.1 and 6.4.

Clearly a ground find, with granular dark brown surfaces that exhibit areas of pitting, verdigris, and scale, as well as some

erosion around the rims. However, the detail is quite amazing and this was clearly a high grade, likely close to Uncirculated, coin before it was lost to the earth. A well struck piece with good centering and fully impressed motifs. Appears barely worn and there are actually small portions of the surface that seem to still exhibit a bit of frosty mint texture where unaffected by environmental damage. There are some as-made planchet flaws through the first N and EC of CONNEC, as well as across the upper right reverse that should not be confused with additional corrosion. The level of detail is fortunate and gives a good example of what this short-lived obverse die looked like. An extraordinary piece and incredible rarity among the otherwise straight-forward and generally plentiful production of the 1785 Bust Right varieties. Just the second new 1785 variety, along with 7.3-D, to be discovered since the publication of Miller in 1920. A most exciting highlight in this unprecedented complete set of 1785 Connecticut copper die varieties in the Syd Martin collection.

PCGS# 905514.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier discovered on 12/7/2001 by Mike Ringo; Robert M. Martin; Dave Wnuck; Jim LaSarre, June 2006, via John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online). Plated in the Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins, p. 98. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 174, 184.

April 2004 THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER Sequential page 2638

New 1785 Connecticut Copper Variety Discovered
by
Robert M. Martin; Bronx, NY
(TN-191)

1785 M.6.6-A Connecticut Copper: New obverse die tentatively labeled 6.6. The reverse was already known married to 1785 obverse 3.1. [Shown 1.5X actual size.] Photo courtesy of Ron Gault at www.coinfacts.com.

I am pleased to report the discovery of a new die variety of 1785 Connecticut copper.

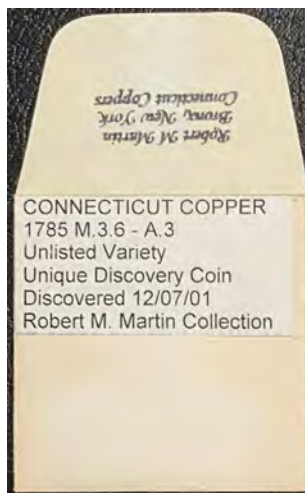
The discovery coin has a new 1785 Connecticut obverse die paired with the known 1785 Connecticut reverse die A¹. The 1785 reverse die A¹ is known to be combined with the 1785 obverse die 3.1 (1785 M. 3.1-A¹). The most distinguishing features on this new 1785 obverse die are as follows:

- 1) Vertical die break bisects obverse, rim to rim, from 11:30 to 6:30.
- 2) Nose on laureate head points to center of 2nd "N" in "CONNEC."

Following Miller's classification of 1785 milled bust right types (based on the position of the lower dot of the colon in relationship to the head), this new 1785 obverse die most closely follows Miller's description for obverse type 6. All 1785 obverse type 6 varieties, including this newly discovered 1785 obverse die, have the lower dot of the colon on the head.

Although all 1785 obverse 6 varieties have the "T" in "AUCTORI" partly on head, this newly discovered obverse die has the "T" in "AUCTORI" only barely touching the head. This 1785 obverse die may require further designation, if a revision of Miller's taxonomy is written. I have tentatively assigned this new obverse die as 6.6 and combined with reverse A¹, the new variety is 1785 M. 6.6-A¹. This specimen weighs 122.3 grains, the die axis is normal coin turn (180 degrees) and the diameter is 26.1 x 28.5 mm along the horizontal and vertical axes, respectively.

This is only the second new die variety of a 1785 Connecticut copper reported since *The State Coinage of Connecticut* by Henry C. Miller published in 1920. The other new 1785 die variety (1785 M. 7.3-D) was reported in 1973. No description of the new obverse die 7.3 has been published.





Miller Plate 1785 7.1-D Bust Left Ex John G. Mills



1314

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 7.1-D, W-2440. Rarity-4+. Bust Left. EF-45 (PCGS). 135.5 grains. An exquisite example of the challenging Bust Left *Guide Book* variety. Pedigreed back to the famous Mills sale of 1904 where the Chapman brothers described it as: "Very fine. Light olive. Remarkably fine for this rarity. C. 7-D., rarity 6! Cost \$10." Ryder was the winning bidder and it cost him the same \$10 — the highest price realized of any Connecticut copper in that important sale. It is indeed an extraordinarily nice example of the variety and type, with bold, well centered detail and satiny smooth surfaces totally devoid of planchet flaws. Predominantly a choice medium olive-brown in color with just a bit of orange on some of the obverse high points where lightly rubbed. Any marks are minuscule and not distracting in the least. The surfaces are very well preserved and retain traces of frosty luster within some of the letters and both sides have an overall subtle mint texture to the surface.

This lovely coin is a real candidate for the finest known of the variety. Although it was placed in the secondary position in the Ford sale, the perhaps barely sharper primary coin, ex Hall, has

a flawed planchet and a weaker date. Among other noteworthy specimens, this coin is every bit as nice as the PCGS AU-55 Garrett example that sold for \$10,800 in January 2022, and is better struck on a nicer planchet. There are a few others that can match the sharpness of this piece, such as the Taylor-Partrick and Robert Martin coin, but neither are as nicely centered or appealing. Part of what gives this coin a superior appearance is its early die state, with the always present bulging in the obverse fields but still fairly crisp legends. This coin is tied with the 8-D offered later in this sale for second finest graded of the 1785 Bust Left variety at PCGS, behind the aforementioned Garrett coin.

PCGS# 686818.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the John G. Mills, Esq. Collection, April 1904, lot 236; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 238; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Obverse plated in Henry C. Miller "The State Coinage of Connecticut" Plate I. Also plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 175 and 185.



The Craige 1785 Miller 7.2-D Superb Quality



1315

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 7.2-D, W-2445. Rarity-5+.
Bust Left. VF-30 (PCGS). 132.6 grains. A wonderfully choice example of this legitimately rare variety. This sort of surface quality and eye appeal would be noteworthy on any 1785 Connecticut variety, but here it is on one of the most challenging and condition sensitive varieties of the date. As described in our sale of the Craige Collection, "The surfaces are smooth and essentially faultless, glossy chocolate-brown with enviable hardness. There are no major marks; a glass reveals a short old scratch down from U of AUCTORI and natural flaw at the weak final letter of CONNEC. The centering is ideal and the legends and date are complete." Just a wonderful looking coin for the grade with absolutely no detriments that give pause.

1785 Miller 7.2-D was considered to be a low Rarity-7 variety as recently as the 1990s. From the time of the Perkins sale in 2000 to just recently it was considered R-6, now just slipping into the high R-5 range but only because of the discovery of

several low grade specimens. Bear in mind also that there are five examples impounded in the ANS collection, no small chunk of the population. Aside from the Hall-Brand-Taylor-Robert Martin coin, there are few that come anywhere near the quality offered here. The Hall piece was recently graded PCGS VF-35 and it is technically a bit sharper than this coin but has some planchet flaws and is unevenly struck. While its technical grade and provenance are impressive and desirable, your cataloger prefers the present coin and considers it finest known. This coin realized a strong \$15,275 in the Craige sale after heated bidding. It will no doubt require a strong bid once again, especially with the added Syd Martin provenance.

PCGS# 686819.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex New York Metropolitan Coin Convention, May 15, 1970; our sale of the Ted L. Craige Collection, January 2013 Americana Sale, lot 11117. Obverse plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," p. 176.



Lot 1316
1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 7.3-D, W-2450. Rarity-8-. Bust Left.
EF-40 (PCGS).



Famous 1785 Miller 7.3-D Rarity The Taylor-Terranova Coin Finest of Three Known



1316

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 7.3-D, W-2450. Rarity-8. Bust Left. EF-40 (PCGS). 143.9 grains. An exciting offering of the clear finest known example of this legendary 1785 variety. Just three examples are known and one of those is in the ANS. This piece is superior in all respects to the other two — it is sharper, better struck, and on a far less flawed planchet. The surfaces are a pleasing light brown on the obverse and medium brown on the reverse. The obverse is slightly granular in places from some natural planchet roughness while the reverse is smoother and even displays some glossy luster. There are no post-strike problems of any kind, no corrosion or noticeable marks, and very little actual wear. There is one fairly deep planchet void on the reverse past ET LIB, but it is small and barely affects the detail. Overall a very attractive coin and impressive grade for any 1785 Bust Left variety.

This isn't the first auction appearance of the variety, but it is the first auction appearance of an example correctly identified as Miller 7.3-D. This mystifying rarity was not once, but twice

miscataloged as Miller 7.1-D with which it shares a very similar obverse die, one die perhaps being a heavily reworked version of the other. This very coin was cataloged as 7.1-D in the Taylor sale, where it was noted as being an unusually early die state without the typically seen bulging in the fields, but the other distinct diagnostics went unnoticed. The other privately held example of the variety, sold in Goldberg's May 2009 auction, was also misidentified as 7.1-D. That piece, along with the Barnsley coin in ANS, both have rather heavy planchet flaws and mostly indistinct dates. The present coin stands head and shoulders above them and will be a preeminent highlight in its next owner's cabinet.

PCGS# 905515.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Frederick B. Taylor Collection, March 1987, lot 2332 (miscataloged as 7.1-D); Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Obverse plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," p. 177.



Exceptional 1785 Miller 8-D The Miller Plate Coin



1317

1785 Connecticut Copper. Miller 8-D, W-2455. Rarity-5+.
Bust Left. EF-45 (PCGS). 146.5 grains. A wonderful piece that offers superb quality and unbeatable provenance. Certainly among the finest and best struck examples of this rare 1785 Bust Left variety. Glossy surfaces are a rich chocolate-brown with some reddish-tan undertones. Nicely centered and exceptionally well struck for the variety with bold legends and date and excellent central detail with hardly any noticeable weakness of strike. The obverse effigy and reverse seated figure display outstanding definition including all three grape vines on the shield. Just a few small planchet flaws and minor natural planchet roughness are seen in a few places. There are no significant marks, and the overall eye appeal and surface quality is fantastic.

Both obverse and reverse of this coin were plated in Miller's 1920 reference to illustrate the obverse 8 type, a 1785 Bust Left obverse distinguished by having colons after AUCTORI and CONNEC, and reverse D. This was major rarity at the time, Miller rated it R6, his highest rarity rating, and described it as,

“One of the rarest types of 1785. Crosby found only one.” While a few dozen more have turned up in the ensuing century due to the greatly expanded interest in the Connecticut copper series, few come anywhere near the level of quality, grade, and eye appeal offered here. This is the last in an incredible, complete subset of the challenging 1785 Bust Left varieties in the Syd Martin Collection, all with real claims to being the finest known examples for their respective varieties. A fitting end to the first complete set of 1785 Connecticut copper die varieties ever assembled or sold at auction.

PCGS# 686820.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Thomas L. Elder's sale of the Henry C. Miller Collection, May 1920, lot 1827; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection Part IX, May 2005, lot 240; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Obverse and reverse plated in Henry C. Miller "The State Coinage of Connecticut" Plate I. Also plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 179, 185, 194, and 195.



Stunning High Grade 1786 Miller 1-A Ex 1975 EAC Sale



1318

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 1-A, W-2460. Rarity-4. Mailed Bust Right, Double Chin, ET LIB INDE. AU-58 (PCGS). 126.9 grains. A breathtaking example of this distinctive and popular variety. Essentially Mint State, this piece has incredible surface quality and both sides retain their full frosty mint texture. Predominantly light olive-brown and steel with some accents of rose and golden-tan. Traces of original mint color slightly faded to reddish-tan are evident in the protected areas of the obverse legends and within some of the reverse detail. This exceptional coin was given a glowing description in the generally conservative 1975 EAC Sale catalog where Breen described it as: "Better than Extremely Fine, nearly full mint sharpness where struck up,...Faded mint red and bluish light olive mingling with red patina; flashes of mint color around letters. An incredible coin, finest in collectors' hands." Amazingly well preserved, it's likely this coin never circulated. There are absolutely no marks, just a single minuscule planchet flake in the right obverse field and some granular natural planchet texture where softly struck at the centers. Overall fabulous quality that precious few Connecticut coppers possess, especially of this date and variety.

There are a handful of nice specimens that rival this piece for finest known honors, and while some of those are marginally better struck and display more central detail, it would be hard to find this coin's equal in terms of luster and surface quality. There is just one example of the variety graded higher at PCGS, an AU-58+ that we sold as part of the Robert M. Martin Collection in November 2019. It also had some luster and traces of mint red, but had some reverse stains and not as crisp an appearance as this coin due to its later die state. Some other specimens have been seen at the AU grade level, but most have some degree of planchet flaws and none can quite match the fresh and pristine mint surfaces of this piece. A distinct and major type among 1786 Connecticut coppers. This and the five varieties to follow are punch-linked to varieties of Machin's Mills and New Jersey coppers and are clearly not New Haven mint products. They are among the most interesting and coveted of the 1786 varieties.

PCGS# 686821.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Pine Tree Auction Company, Inc.'s Early American Coppers Society Convention Sale, February 1975, lot 30; Don Valenziano; Superior's sale of the Bill Weber Collection, June 2002, lot 2097; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.



Choice 1786 2.1-A “Round Head” Ex John G. Mills



1319

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 2.1-A, W-2465. Rarity-3. Mailed Bust Right, Round Head, ETLIB INDE. AU-55 (PCGS). 93.9 grains. Beautiful glossy surfaces and rich mahogany-brown in color. A lovely example of this distinctive major type. Sharp detail that is little worn and reasonably well struck for the variety. Some slightly rough original planchet texture remains at the weakly struck portions of the devices but there is no significant roughness, flaws, or damage otherwise; just a few little laminations at ETLIB. Fairly well centered, not perfectly so, but only portions of the dentils fall off the planchet, the date and legends are complete and bold.

This coin's sharpness, eye appeal, and quality place it in the upper ranks of examples of this relatively common yet always in demand variety. No specimens sold in recent years readily surpass it. The Partrick NGC AU-55 is close but much more weakly struck showing only part of one of the grapevines on the

shield whereas this coin shows most of all three. The primary Ford coin appears slightly sharper and perhaps has some luster but is not without some central flaws and roughness. The well struck Taylor coin, though graded EF-40 in that sale, appears comparable while a survey of the other major sales reveals mostly inferior specimens. This is the single highest graded example of the variety at PCGS. With wonderful eye appeal and provenance, it is a premium piece worthy of high quality variety or type set.

PCGS# 686823.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the John G. Mills, Esq. Collection, April 1904, lot 241; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 244; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 220, 250, and 253.



Coveted 1786 Miller 2.1-D.3 An Enduring Rarity in the Series



1320

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 2.1-D.3, W-2470. Rarity-7-. Mailed Bust Right, Round Head, INDE ET LIB. VF-20 (PCGS). 120.6 grains. Light golden-brown overall, with deeper chocolate-brown tones in the fields on both sides. A distinctive set of incusations blends into the forehead of the obverse effigy, and the surfaces are microscopically granular but not fatally so, and given the enduring rarity of this piece, a little surface texture can be overlooked. The D.3 reverse was unknown to Hall but the 2.1-D.3 combination was listed by Miller in 1920 and called "R6" at the time, with as few as four specimens known as recently as the 1970s, as witnessed by the enumeration of specimens in the 1975 EAC Sale. Today called R-7-, with just ten examples definitively known. With at least one specimen impounded in an institutional collection (ANS), the time that elapses between sales of different specimens can be lengthy. Most of the known specimens traded at auction in the 1970s and 1980s, but have not yet reappeared at public auction.

Since our sale of the rough VF Perkins specimen for \$13,800 in 2000, we have had the opportunity of offering just two other specimens. One was an NGC VF-20 coin that is actually much

sharper but very granular, in Stack's July 2009 auction (\$17,250) and again as part of the Anderson-Gleckler Collection of Connecticut Coppers in our November 2016 Baltimore auction (\$17,625). The other is the present coin that realized \$7,200 in our sale of the Robert M. Martin Collection in November 2019 where it was acquired by Syd. New specimens are not often found, a noteworthy factor that should be strongly considered given the ease with which this distinctive die marriage can be attributed. Notably missing from many prominent collections, such as Oechsner, Boyd-Ford, SLT, and Twin Leaf, this example displays Condition Census sharpness in the small field of chiefly low-grade survivors of this blue-chip rarity in the Connecticut copper series.

PCGS# 803665.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Frederick B. Taylor Collection, March 1987, lot 2339; our sale of the Robert M. Martin Collection, November 2019 Baltimore Auction, lot 5083. Reverse plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 259 and 276.



Lot 1321

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 2.2-D.2, W-2475. Rarity-6. Mailed Bust Right, Broad Shouldered or Noble Head. EF-40 (PCGS).



Finest Known 1786 2.2-D.2 “Noble Head” The Fantastic Hall-Brand-Newman Coin A Landmark Connecticut Type



1321

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 2.2-D.2, W-2475. Rarity-6. Mailed Bust Right, Broad Shouldered or Noble Head. EF-40 (PCGS). 114.2 grains. Easily one of the most significant pieces in this incredible offering of 1785 and 1786 Connecticuts, this is the extraordinary finest known example of one of the most distinctive and beloved Connecticut copper types. The “Broad Shouldered” or “Noble Head” bust of the Miller 2.2 obverse has a wholly unique appearance when compared to other obverse dies of the series. The imposing stature and confident, upward facing expression of the effigy give this obverse a somewhat more dignified, indeed more “noble,” appearance than any other Connecticut obverse, despite its presumably unofficial status. The reverse is distinctive as well, with a slender seated figure leaning far forward. A standalone die pair, neither the 2.2 obverse nor D.2 reverse are found in combination with any other dies.

This superb coin, by far the finest of the 20 or so examples known, has lovely golden-tan surfaces with a few splashes of maroon on the obverse and a bit of attractive woodgrain undertones on the reverse. The technical grade is clearly in excess of the assigned grade, there is legitimate frosty luster and mint gloss on both sides, particularly the reverse, and hardly any discernible wear. The surfaces have a glow to them that you would not expect to see on an EF state copper. There are a handful of light scratches on the obverse that are visible at certain angles but nothing

in the way of planchet flaws or roughness. Nicely centered on the obverse while the reverse is misaligned to 7 o'clock, an orientation seen on several examples. The centering affects INDE and the date but at least a portion of each letter is visible and the 786 of the date is clear.

This piece is in a class of its own. The next best example is considered to be the 1975 EAC Sale (lot 33)-Taylor-Robert Martin coin which is graded PCGS VF-20. Beyond that are a few Fines while the majority of survivors are in the G-VG range, many with problems. Adding to its desirability and significance is its distinguished provenance that extends back to Dr. Hall; it displays Hall's painted attribution on the edge and includes his circular tag as well. There are few types within the Connecticut copper series that can match the Noble Head for rarity and distinctiveness. The Seated Figure Facing Right 1787 1.4-WW and “Bungtown” varieties are perhaps the only major types that are rarer. A wonderful Connecticut copper that combines a high level of rarity, condition, and significance.

PCGS# 686824.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Dr. Thomas Hall; Virgil Brand, via B.G. Johnson (St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.); Heritage's sale of the Eric P. Newman Collection, May 2014, lot 30064. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 221, 250, and 258.



Lot 1322
1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3-D.1, W-2510. Rarity-5-. Mailed Bust Right, Scholar's Head.
AU-50 (PCGS).



Lustrous 1786 3-D.1 “Scholar’s Head” Among the Finest Known The *Guide Book* Plate Coin



1322

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3-D.1, W-2510. Rarity-5-. Mailed Bust Right, Scholar’s Head. AU-50 (PCGS). 144.9 grains. Yet another stupendous example of one of the other most revered head types of the 1786 Connecticut coppers. The Scholar’s Head is somewhat more available than the Noble Head that precedes it, but still quite scarce in its own right and most often found in low grades. This remarkable piece is one of two high grade examples of the variety that sit at the top of the Condition Census, the other being the Oechsner-E Pluribus Unum PCGS AU-53 that realized \$66,000 in our November 2020 sale. The present coin is similar to that piece in many respects. The surfaces are fresh, virtually unworn, and have a frosty mint texture. Real cartwheel luster is seen on both sides, somewhat subdued but still incredible to see on this variety. Predominantly medium brown and steel with some lighter tan in the protected areas where original mint color has just barely faded down. Softly struck at portions of the central detail, as almost always seen with these fairly high relief dies, and some original planchet porosity remains in the unstruck areas, heaviest under ET on the reverse. Aside from the natural planchet roughness, the quality is superb and the surfaces are extremely well preserved. Fine die finishing lines remain in the fields and there are no notable contact marks.

This coin was quite conservatively graded at Choice Extremely Fine in our March 2000 catalog, and the AU-50 grade assigned by PCGS still seems rather strict considering the luster and lack of wear. Syd graded this coin MS-60 and even if ownership adds five points as Dr. Sheldon would say, a case could still be made for a higher grade. The Oechsner-E Pluribus Unum piece, this coin’s only real competition, was graded Mint State in the Oechsner catalog and clearly worthy of that grade despite the PCGS AU-53 assessment. That coin is slightly superior to the present piece in terms of strike and luster but not too far removed, and the next best examples after these two are a handful of VFs, with perhaps one piece just cracking EF. The majority of specimens are in the G-VG range and with a quick survey of past appearances of this variety, it will quickly become clear how astonishing an example of the Scholar’s Head this is.

PCGS# 686825.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack’s) March 2000 sale, lot 1012; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Obverse plated in A Guide Book of United States Coins since 2010. Plated in Randy Clark’s “The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788,” pp. 222, 250, 257, and 276.



Extremely Rare 1786 Miller 3-D.4 “Scholar’s Head” By Far the Finest of Four Known Catastrophic, Life Ending Reverse Die Break



1323

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 3-D.4, W-2515. Rarity-7+. Mailed Bust Right, Scholar’s Head. Fine-15 (PCGS). 133.9 grains. A cherry among cherries, this finest known example of the extremely rare 3-D.4 die combination is the Scholar’s Head Connecticut copper to own. Not only is it choice for a Connecticut copper, it is the finest of just four known specimens by a country mile—the Miller Plate-Canfield-ANS example is Good to VG, and quite pleasant but with a slight bend and some pitting on both sides; the 1975 EAC Sale coin is About Good and quite rough and brought over \$6,600 in Stack’s January 2000 Sale of the George Perkins Collection; and an example discovered by Frank Steimle and announced in the Fall 2019 *C4 Newsletter* is AG to Good. This example was discovered by Mark Poulin of Connecticut in 1991, auctioned by Stack’s in 1995, and from there passed to the Robert Martin Collection. Syd was delighted to acquire it in our November 2019 sale of the Robert Martin collection, not only adding an important variety that had eluded him over 20+ years of intense pursuit, but adding the very best example of it.

Along with the 1975 Pine Tree EAC specimen and Steimle discovery, this piece displays a large, catastrophic die break that took out a large chunk of the reverse die from the 1 of the date to a point along the rim just before the I of INDE. It is one of the largest cud die breaks known in the Connecticut series, and is

undoubtedly the reason behind this die marriage’s rarity. Given that only one non-broken state 3-D.4 exists (the ANS coin), the fracturing of the reverse die undoubtedly occurred early in its useful life; the retirement of reverse D.4 paved the way for the today more plentiful yet still quite scarce 3-D.1 die marriage.

Dark chocolate-brown surfaces are smoothly worn and subtly glossy, with a few trivial contact marks at obverse effigy’s neck, and a few small, serpentine planchet flaws where some minuscule pieces of slag undoubtedly fell away during the planchet production process. AUCTORI is a bit softened by the convergence in its vicinity of a planchet cutter lip, a tiny planchet clip, and the huge, deep die break on the opposing side that stole metal away from the obverse, while the rest of the legends range from bold to fully visible if a bit weak. The Connecticut series is riddled with extremely rare varieties and as such is not a series for the faint of heart. In a series where many coins are rare but not pretty, and many coins are pretty but not rare, this is one of the extremely rare convergences of both pretty and rare.

PCGS# 803664.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Mark Poulin; our (Stack’s) June 1995 sale, lot 36; our sale of the Robert M. Martin Collection, November 2019 Baltimore Auction, lot 5088. Plated in Randy Clark’s “The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788,” pp. 260, 276.



1786 Miller 4.1-C, ex Ford A Significant Rarity – Five Examples Known



1324

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.1-C, W-2520. Rarity-7+. Mailed Bust Left. VF-20 (PCGS). 142.7 grains. Another great 1786 Connecticut rarity. This variety was unknown to Miller and wasn't published until 1951 when Walter Breen described it based on a rubbing of this very coin which he most likely found in the Boyd collection. Just two examples were known at the time of Barnsley's revision to Miller in the March 1964 *Colonial Newsletter* and it took more than 40 years for a third to be identified. The population now stands at five coins. This memorable piece is one of the two finest examples and certainly has the best provenance of any of them. The surfaces are light olive and steel with some red undertones. Appears less unnaturally red now than in the Ford catalog photos. Slightly microporous but not disturbingly so and there are no serious marks or flaws. Solid VF definition both sides. Slightly off center but a good majority of the legends are full and at least part of each date digit is visible. It has a pleasing appearance in general and is as bold a representation as can be found of this variety, and importantly the C reverse found only in this rare combination.

The census of five examples includes three low grade examples in the G-VG range and two in the F-VF range, this piece being

one of the latter. Three examples have sold at auction. The present coin realized \$40,250 in our May 2005 Ford sale. The Taylor-Scherff-Twin Leaf coin, graded anywhere from AG to PCGS VG-8, brought \$27,600 in our 2010 Scherff auction (when just two were known) and \$9,000 in our March 2019 Twin Leaf sale (when four were known). Another example, a rough VG, went misattributed as 5.2-H.1 for years and was sold as such in both the 2010 C4 Sale and our November 2016 sale of the Anderson-Gleckler Collection. An example found just last year is the only piece approaching this one in grade. It has similar VF sharpness but has obverse planchet flaws and a further off center reverse with no date visible. It seems safe to call the present Ryder-Boyd-Ford-Martin coin the finest known and as it can also rightly be called the discovery coin for the variety, it is no doubt the ultimate 1786 4.1-C to own.

PCGS# 686826.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Henry Chapman, July 1925; Hillyer Ryder (with his ticket, attributing the coin as "4-1 F-2"); F.C.C. Boyd, our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 248. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 226, 256, 276.



1325

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.1-G, W-2525. Rarity-2. Mailed Bust Left. EF-45 (PCGS). 125.6 grains. Medium olive-brown surfaces that are fairly high grade and well preserved. The obverse is rather glossy while the reverse is somewhat more matte due to fine roughness natural to the planchet. There is very little wear and traces of what could be called mint frost in some of the protected areas. No impairments of any consequence, just some trivial planchet flaws.

Late die state. Struck slightly off center but in an ideal way such that the date is bold and fully on the planchet. An attractive coin, perfect as an example of the date.

PCGS# 686827.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.



Lot 1326
1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.1-H.2, W-2537. Rarity-8+. Milled Bust Left.
Good-6 (PCGS).



1786 Miller 4.1-H.2 Discovery Coin First Ever Auction Appearance The Only Known Specimen



1326

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.1-H.2, W-2537. Rarity-8+. Mailed Bust Left. Good-6 (PCGS). 130.1 grains. An exciting offering, the first ever auction appearance of this totally unique die pair and the only unique variety among the 1786 Connecticuts, excluding Bungtowns. This coin was discovered by Chris Young in mid-2008 and it was acquired by Syd soon after. Syd published the find in the Winter 2008 *C4 Newsletter* where it was featured on the cover. At first, the variety was called 4.3-H.2 as it was believed to be a new obverse die. Subsequent study and overlay analysis has shown that it is in fact obverse 4.1 and it was strike peculiarities that caused the dentil positions in relation to the letters to look different. With the reverse clearly being H.2 and that die previously known only with obverse 5.8, the status of this coin as a new variety was never in doubt.

Quite pleasing for the grade with fairly smooth and wholesome looking medium brown surfaces. There are some light planchet flaws and a bit of natural roughness to the metal, but no serious

marks or obvious impairments other than honest, even wear. Some of the legends and most of the date are off the planchet, not so much from being struck off center but more so from the planchet being somewhat small in diameter. The important diagnostics of the H.2 reverse are clear including a bold branch with all leaves distinct and visible die cracks through INDE.

The offering of a unique state copper variety is always anticipated with excitement. There is nothing more thrilling or satisfying for an advanced student of any given series than owning the only existing specimen of a certain coin. The sale of Syd Martin's Connecticut copper collection will provide several such unique pieces to the collecting community. These are likely fleeting opportunities and of paramount importance for advanced Connecticut copper specialists.

PCGS# 905506.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Christopher B. Young, April 2008.





1327

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.2-R, W-2530. Rarity-6. Mailed Bust Left. Good-6 (PCGS). 122.4 grains. Very pleasing glossy brown surfaces with some tan mixed in to the reverse toning in a woodgrain pattern. Though modest in grade, this piece offers remarkable quality and eye appeal for this challenging and condition sensitive variety. Certainly better than the PCGS grade, this coin was graded Fine in the Perkins sale and displays sharpness and surface quality commensurate with that grade. Problem-free with just a few light planchet flaws and grade consistent marks. Called second finest

known behind the Hall-Brand-Hessberg coin in the Perkins catalog when this variety was considered a low Rarity-7. While several more have turned up since then, most are quite low grade, and this attractive piece still ranks fairly high among known specimens.

PCGS# 686828.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Rosa Americana, Ltd.'s Spring 1997 Fixed Price List, lot 86; our (Stack's) sale of the George C. Perkins Collection, January 2000 Americana Sale, lot 219; Jim LaSarre, June 2006, via John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online).

Finest Known 1786 Miller 4.2-S Sword, Hilt, and Guard Reverse



1328

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 4.2-S, W-2535. Rarity-6+. Mailed Bust Left, Sword Hilt and Guard Reverse. EF-40 (PCGS). 144.7 grains. An exceptional example of this very rare variety of which just 13 specimens are definitively known. Medium brown surfaces are predominantly smooth and slightly glossy with just a few light planchet streaks on the obverse and two slightly heavier ones on the reverse. The planchet flaws are relatively minimal compared to the usual example of this or any of the S reverse varieties. No major marks, just a few faint scratches and light circulation marks. A few spots of harmless old verdigris are noted in the drapery of the seated figure, otherwise the surfaces are free from any form of corrosion. The strike is relatively full and well balanced for the variety with just a little weakness in a few places around the periphery including the date area, though the tops of the digits and most of the 6 are visible. The surface at the sword, hilt, and guard is particularly smooth and unflawed and that feature stands out boldly.

This coin is clearly the finest seen of the variety. The next best are

probably the John Carter Brown-Neil Rothschild coin graded net VF-20, and the 1975 EAC Sale-Taylor-Perkins-Partrick coin graded NGC F-12. Both of those are far inferior in terms of both strike and surface quality. Another noteworthy example in a private collection displays similar sharpness to this piece and is fairly well struck, but is dark and granular and has a severe planchet flaw. The remainder of the small pool of examples grade no better than VG and most are heavily flawed. This is a legitimately rare variety and more avidly pursued than some due to the popular Sword Hilt and Guard reverse. The three examples in our auction archives are all very low grade yet all realized four figure prices. This is an outstanding coin for the specialist and perhaps one's only opportunity to obtain a "nice" example of this variety.

PCGS# 686830.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Craig A. Whitford Numismatic Auctions, May 2007; Richard Moore, via Tom Rinaldo, August 2007. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," p. 227.



High Grade 1786 Miller 5.1-H.1 Outstanding Provenance



1329

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.1-H.1, W-2540. Rarity-5+. Milled Bust Left. EF Details—Planchet Flaw (PCGS). 121.0 grains. Superb sharpness and overall quality for this scarce and often poorly produced variety. There are some planchet flaws, which is the norm for this Miller number, mostly on the obverse, but the nicely centered and well executed strike is remarkable and highly atypical. The surfaces are glossy olive-brown and there is nothing worth mentioning in the realm of post-strike impairments other than some light scratches in the left obverse field. Excellent fullness of detail on both sides and only light wear. The 5.1 obverse, found only in this one combination, is distinctive in appearance due to its hand-cut detail and those intricacies are on full display here.

Painted die variety attribution in the left obverse field in the hand of William Wallace Hays, one of many famous collectors to have owned this coin stretching back to Dr. Hall in the late 19th century. There are just a few examples that are clearly finer than this piece, though none by a large margin. One of those slightly finer pieces was also owned by Dr. Hall (later Brand, Taylor, and Partrick). Therefore, Hall was willing to sell this piece to Hays in March of 1890 according to the round “circle H” ticket that accompanies the coin. With wonderful history and a high ranking in the census, this is a desirable example for specialists.

PCGS# 686831.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Dr. Thomas Hall, March 1890; William Wallace Hays; Charles Steigerwalt's October 1903 Fixed Price List; Hill-ryer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 252; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.



Rare 1786 Miller 5.2-H.1, ex Hall Finest in Private Hands



1330

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.2-H.1, W-2545. Rarity-6. Mailed Bust Left. EF-45 (PCGS). 126.4 grains. Impressive surfaces gleam with original mint gloss. Beautiful golden-tan color that is even across both sides save for some darker toning within the modest planchet flaws. Somewhat softly struck as is typical for the variety, and perhaps there is the barest rub on some of the high points, but the technical grade is obviously better than EF. It was graded EF-40 in the Taylor sale, a catalog known for its conservative grading, but the description notes B.G. Johnson described the coin in 1935 as “Uncirculated, weakly struck on a poor planchet.” While the planchet isn’t perfect, it could certainly be much worse, and the glossy luster and choice color more than make up for it. Consistent with a coin that saw little to no circulation, there are no contact marks worth mentioning and no other post-strike issues of any consequence.

The only example that we are aware of that is any better than this piece is the fabulous Mint State coin in the ANS Collection.

After that this is clearly the finest seen. The Norweb-Perkins-Partrick coin was erroneously described in the Perkins catalog as comparable and even “arguably better” than the present coin, presumably because the latter was not seen in person. The grade of NGC F-12 received by the former in the Partrick sale confirms they are not in the same league. Other noteworthy examples were sold in our (Stack’s) May 2007 sale and our January 2012 sale of the Tanenbaum Collection, but both pale in comparison to the Martin coin. With the added status of being a frontline Dr. Hall Collection coin, with his painted attribution on edge, this is easily the most desirable example of this rare variety available to collectors.

PCGS# 686832.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Dr. Thomas Hall; Virgil Brand; New Netherlands Coin Co’s 51st Sale, June 1958, lot 72; Heritage’s September 2005 Long Beach Auction, lot 191; Heritage’s March 2006 Palm Beach, FL Auction, lot 21.

Outstanding 1786 Connecticut Copper



1331

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.2-I, W-2550. Rarity-4. Mailed Bust Left. AU-50 (PCGS). 129.1 grains. A gorgeous 1786 Connecticut, exceedingly well struck on a nearly flawless planchet, and extraordinarily well preserved with real mint luster lingering in the legends and no distracting marks, flaws, or other irregularities. Steel-brown and light olive in color and the fields actually have a bit of prooflike flash to them, especially on the reverse, which reveals some blue and rose iridescence. As perfectly centered as could be hoped for, the obverse with a majority of the border visible. The reverse die was slightly larger in diameter such that the letters of LIB and the date digits are very close to the border, but remarkably still fully on the planchet. Only a trace of weakness is noted at the very center of each side where there remains some original planchet texture that is only minutely rough. Early die state, prior to the swelling at UC in AUCTORI, and both obverse and reverse have an

overall crisp appearance. This adds to the impressive eye appeal. One of the finest of the variety, only the PCGS AU-58 Garrett coin that we sold in November 2016 as part of the Anderson-Gleckler Collection for \$9,400, might exceed it. That coin was slightly sharper and more lustrous, but also not as well centered nor on as high quality a planchet. Beyond the die variety though, this is the sort of coin that will catch the attention of collectors of high quality date or type coins. Precious few 1786 Connecticut possess this sort of detail, quality, and aesthetic appeal.

PCGS# 686833.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Bowers and Merena’s) March 2001 sale, lot 2212; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Randy Clark’s “The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788,” pp. 1, 232, 251, 265, 276.



Wonderful Mint State 1786 5.2-L Ex Norweb-Terranova



1332

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.2-L, W-2555. Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Left. MS-61 BN (PCGS). 124.7 grains. Frosty light chocolate-brown surfaces with some reddish-tan undertones and faint streaks of darker toning where the planchet was ever so slightly flawed. Genuine mint luster persists across almost the entirety of each side, the distinctive gleam of a Mint State Connecticut copper immediately evident to the viewer. The eye appeal is fantastic as there are no marks, spots, or flaws that distract. Close inspection with a glass reveals just microscopic planchet laminations and a handful of trivial scratches that are presumably all that is keeping this coin from an even higher grade. Nicely struck with no weakness at the centers, only a touch soft at NE of CONNEC and IB of LIB which was opposite the obverse die bulge. Well centered on both sides, the obverse detail fully on the planchet and just a small portion of the bottom of the date digits missing the planchet on the reverse. Dies oriented medal turn as usual.

A lovely coin that is among the very best seen of the variety and indeed a candidate for finest known honors. Other top specimens include the Stepney Hoard 1975 EAC Sale, Picker, Garrett, and Hall-Brand-Partrick coins, the latter graded NGC MS-62 BN and called finest known. The Partrick coin has perhaps comparable luster to this coin, but also some obverse planchet flaws and spots of verdigris. We suspect that if this coin were compared side by side to the Partrick piece, as well as the other coins mentioned, the present coin's grade, quality, and eye appeal would rise to the top.

PCGS# 686834.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. From our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Norweb Collection, Part II, March 1988, lot 2492; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Obverse plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," p. 232.



1333

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.2-O.2, W-2560. Rarity-5+. Mailed Bust Left. EF-40 (PCGS). 138.2 grains. Described in our sale of the Craigie Collection as: "A truly rare variety, with just 14 examples listed at the time of the Martin annotated Perkins. None was present in the Ford sale. This one is likely among the finest known, with high quality gloss on deep chestnut brown surfaces. The devices contrast nicely with attractive golden high points. Very boldly detailed, obverse centered a bit left, reverse centering ideal and showing a complete date. An obverse striation stretches from under

A of AUCTORI to the central neck, while the reverse shows minor flaws at IN of INDE, at the ankle, and at 8 in the date. Both sides show interesting topography, with substantial swelling at southwest obverse and top of reverse." This is indeed a high end example of this tough variety. We have seen none materially nicer, save for the off-the-market ANS coin ex Canfield.

PCGS# 686350.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our sale of the Ted L. Craigie Collection, January 2013 Americana Sale, lot 11125.



Lot 1334
1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.3-B.2, W-2565. Rarity-7+. Mailed Bust Left, Hercules Head.
AU-53 (PCGS).



The Garrett 1786 5.3-B.2 Hercules Head One of Four Examples Known An Elite Connecticut Copper Rarity



1334

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.3-B.2, W-2565. Rarity-7+. Mailed Bust Left, Hercules Head. AU-53 (PCGS). 121.0 grains. A preeminent highlight of the Syd Martin Connecticut coppers offered in this sale, here is arguably the finest known example of a legendary rarity, the 5.3-B.2 Hercules Head. Along with the 5.3-G to follow, these two extremely rare varieties of this iconic type have long held an elevated stature among varieties of the series. Their special status stems from their well established rarity, and from the fact that they involve a distinct and popular head type. The rare Hercules Head varieties have been well known for over a century. Miller had an example of 5.3-B.2 (later the Ford coin), and Hall had an example of 5.3-G, the lot to follow. Despite their early discovery and obvious diagnostics, extremely few have come to light over the years, just four examples are known of 5.3-B.2 and five of 5.3-G. Not only is 5.3-B.2 the slightly rarer of the two, it also carries more numismatic significance in the context of the series, as it features a distinctive reverse die found only in this combination.

Remarkably, three of the four examples of this variety are in high grade, nearly Uncirculated condition. This is quite incredible for such a rare variety and also considering the lower grades in which examples of the common Hercules Head variety, Miller 5.3-N, tend to come. This impressive coin is clearly the choicest among the four known examples of 5.3-B.2. It boasts glossy, lustrous, unflawed surfaces that are a natural mix of light golden-brown and darker chocolate. A short scratch on the reverse shield is the only mark we can find. A bit of harmless old dirt along the lower reverse rim and in the right obverse field is noted and gives the coin nice originality if anything. The strike is ideal, perfectly centered and the detail well brought up in general with slight weakness evident on small portions of the central motifs. There is very little if any actual wear. The familiar Hercules Head obverse die appears crisp and new. This is likely the first use of that die. The reverse, on the other hand, appears little used in some respects, still showing fine die finishing lines and no flowlines, but is sinking dramatically in the fields and

two very heavy die cracks are forming at the upper obverse rim, with other spidery cracks along the lower left border. This is clearly a die that failed spectacularly and quickly, no doubt the cause of the variety's rarity today.

With the sale of this coin, all four examples of the variety will have appeared at auction since 2000. The 1975 EAC Sale-Perkins coin, the only really worn example but still a nice VF, realized \$21,850 in our January 2000 sale of the Perkins Collection. The Miller Sale-Ford specimen realized \$80,500 in our May 2005 Ford sale. That coin was called Uncirculated and is more sharply struck than the present coin, but also had some planchet flaws on both sides and was slightly off center. The Ford catalog called it technically the finest known but second to Garrett's, the coin at hand, in terms of eye appeal. The most recently discovered specimen is a PCGS AU-50 that realized \$86,250 in an April 2010 Heritage sale, and a bargain \$26,400 when resold in the Twin Leaf Collection in our March 2019 auction. That piece, similar to the Ford coin, was marginally sharper in strike but also off center and had a few planchet flaws. All three high grade examples have remarkably similar color, suggesting the planchets were all from the same small section of planchet stock, again pointing to an extremely limited production and confirming the real rarity of the variety. While making a finest known claim for this variety is problematic (Syd diplomatically noted this coin as "Tied FK"), we consider it to be the most attractive specimen. Its first auction appearance in over 40 years is an exciting opportunity and will reward one lucky collector with a supremely desirable Connecticut copper.

PCGS# 905516.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Col. James Ellsworth Collection; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of the Garrett Collection, Part III, October 1980, lot 1345; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 233, 255, 276.



Lot 1335
1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.3-G, W-2570. Rarity-7+. Mailed Bust Left, Hercules Head.
EF-45 (PCGS).



Extremely Rare 1786 Miller 5.3-G Hercules Head Ex Hall-Brand-Newman Finest in Private Hands



1335

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.3-G, W-2570. Rarity-7+. Mailed Bust Left, Hercules Head. EF-45 (PCGS). 132.7 grains. An impressive match for the preceding lot, here is the finest privately held example, and arguably the finest overall example, of the other famous Hercules Head rarity, Miller 5.3-G. This is an interesting muling of dies that combines the Hercules Head obverse with the workhorse reverse G die commonly seen on the 4.1-G and 5.4-G marriages. While neither die is rare on its own, in combination with each other they form one of the most esteemed rarities of the series. Just five examples are known and not only is this one of the finest, but it also has the oldest provenance, back to Dr. Hall with his attribution on edge, and is most likely the discovery coin.

Attractive deep brown surfaces have a pleasing gloss and overall fairly high grade appearance. Some light planchet flaws are seen on both sides, nothing severe, and there is a bit of natural planchet porosity in the reverse fields. A pair of light scratches in the field above the seated figure's outstretched arm are the only marks to note. The strike was solid and nicely centered, the legends and date full, the motifs bold with perhaps a little bluntness on the effigy. Only lightly worn and certainly very close to if not fully AU in terms of technical grade.

A sharp example in the ANS Collection, ex Canfield with his painted attribution, is the only rival to this piece for finest known honors. It displays slightly more detail from a sharper strike, but the surfaces appear inferior and have traces of verdigris, though no real flaws. The remaining three specimens are much lower grade. These include the VF but very rough 1975 EAC Sale coin, the strong VF but damaged Robert Martin coin, and a recently discovered rough G-VG example. It is no wonder then that the remarkable coin on offer here, by far the finest available to collectors, realized a vigorous \$99,875 when it first appeared at auction in the Newman sale of May 2014. This is a price level exceeded by only a few other Connecticut varieties, namely the likes of the incomparable 1787 1.4-WW Seated Figure Facing Right, as well as the legendary 1.2-mm Muttonhead and 4.2-F.6 African Head. This is indeed among the most coveted and esteemed Connecticut copper varieties and this piece, with its superior condition and provenance to the venerable Dr. Hall, is a trophy coin for the advanced collector.

PCGS# 803678.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Dr. Thomas Hall; Virgil Brand, via B.G. Johnson (St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.); Heritage's sale of the Eric P. Newman Collection, May 2014, lot 30069.



Extraordinary 1786 Hercules Head Connecticut Finest Graded at Either Service



1336

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.3-N, W-2575. Rarity-2. Mailed Bust Left, Hercules Head. AU-55 (PCGS). 157.6 grains. Outstanding quality for this iconic Connecticut copper head type. Impeccable medium brown surfaces are satiny smooth and have overall high grade gloss and traces of mint frost within the protected areas of the legends and reverse clash marks. Nicely struck on a superb quality planchet, the lone flaw is neatly hidden in the Hercules head's wreath left of the eye and appears to just be part of the detail. Wonderfully hard and smooth copper in general; close scrutiny reveals only microscopic marks, a faint scratch in the right obverse field, and a thin arcing lamination above the date — items that wouldn't even be worth mentioning if the coin weren't so perfect otherwise. Dead centered on the obverse, the reverse slightly off to 6 o'clock though some of the date is still visible. Some bluntness of strike is noted on the effigy's hair and laurel wreath, the definition there not quite as sharp as sometimes seen, but the detail overall is excellent and particularly bold on the face and mail. Usual clashed die state with strong incused detail from the obverse visible around the reverse peripheries and the die is swollen in the fields on that side.

This is a significant and highly desirable specimen of the popular Hercules Head type, one of the standout examples we've seen among the fairly plentiful population. This piece is

the single highest graded 1786 Hercules Head at either PCGS or NGC. The only other coin approaching this level that has appeared on the market in recent years is the Oechsner-Partrick example graded NGC AU-53 that realized \$13,800 in Heritage's sale of the Partrick Collection. It was a well struck piece from a similar die state with more detail in places than the present coin but displayed rather uneven color and some patches of slightly rough patina. The absolutely choice color and surface quality of the offered Picker-Terranova-Martin example will make it preferable to many collectors. Interestingly, some of the highest grade Hercules Head coppers out there are not examples of the common 5.3-N variety, but rather of the rare to extremely rare Miller 5.3-B.2, 5.3-G, and 1787 7-I varieties. The more available 5.3-N variety is only infrequently encountered better than VF making it challenging for type collectors seeking a high grade example of the head style but not wanting to pay the premiums associated with the rarer die varieties. Though this coin will not by any means be cheap, it is a perfect candidate to represent the Hercules Head type in a high quality cabinet.

PCGS# 686351.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the Richard Picker Collection, October 1984, lot 152; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Obverse plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 233, 251.



Stunning Mint State 1786 Miller 5.4-G Ex Harlan P. Smith Sale (1906)



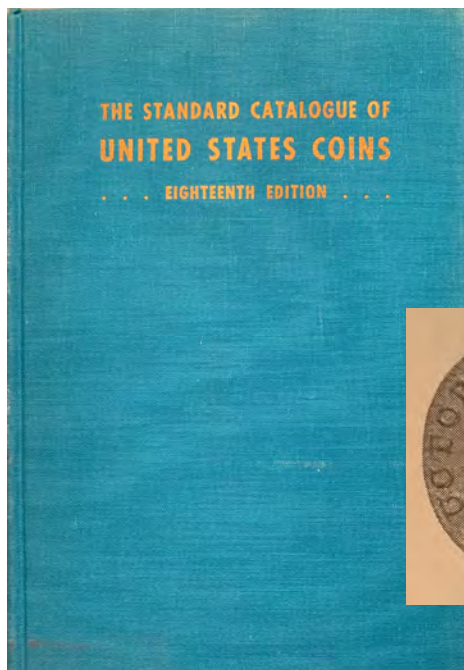
1337

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.4-G, W-2580. Rarity-2. Mailed Bust Left. MS-62 BN (PCGS). 146.1 grains. A beautiful Connecticut copper with lustrous light brown surfaces and vivid blue toning outlining much of the detail that emerges under direct light. Both sides are full of original mint gloss and frosty luster with subtle cartwheel effect. Crisply struck with remarkable centering, there is just a hint of softness at the central obverse and upper reverse but this coin is still well above average for the date and variety in terms of strike. Only trivial marks and tiny planchet flakes can be found and the surfaces are impressively smooth and well preserved overall. Delicate clash marks from the date are seen above the obverse effigy's head and are seldom discernible on other examples.

This piece traces its history back to the Chapman brothers' 1906 auction of the Harlan Page Smith Collection, one of the great sales of the early 20th century, and was one of just a few Connecticut coppers plated in that catalog. It later went to Eric Newman who sold it privately to Mike Ringo as payment for Ringo's appraisal services. Newman apparently was alright letting this one go as he had two other high grade examples of the variety, one of which graded NGC AU-58 and the other NGC MS-61BN (later upgraded to PCGS MS-62BN). There are only two graded higher for the date at PCGS, one MS-62+BN and one MS-63BN. The last PCGS MS-62BN coin to sell, the aforementioned Newman coin, realized \$15,600 in our May 2019 Baltimore Auction. Here is a memorable piece with top notch eye appeal and great provenance.

PCGS# 686352.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the Harlan P. Smith, Esq. Collection, May 1906, lot 98; Eric P. Newman; Michael K. Ringo; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Wayte Raymond's Standard Catalogue of United States Coins, all 18 editions, 1935-1957.





Choice 1786 Miller 5.4-N Rarity



1338

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.4-N, W-2585. Rarity-6+. Mailed Bust Left. VF-20 (PCGS). 148.2 grains. One of the more pleasing examples extant of this interesting and rare 1786 variety, of which barely more than a dozen specimens are known. This variety combines the workhorse obverse die of the common 5.4-G and 5.4-O.1 varieties with the N reverse most often seen in combination with the 5.3 Hercules Head obverse. Problem-free medium brown surfaces are glossy and attractive with only grade-consistent circulation marks and no flaws or roughness. Notably well centered and evenly struck, while many specimens of this variety, including the few technically higher grade pieces, have some degree of strike weakness or centering issues. The Ford-Partrick NGC AU-53 is the finest known, followed by the Hessberg-Old New England Collection-Twin Leaf NGC VF-35. The present coin is on par with the next best examples including the 1975 EAC Sale, Taylor-Perkins, and Keller coins, but appears more attractive and problem-free than the first two and better centered than the last. A solid Condition Census piece and a great find for the quality-conscious specialist.

PCGS# 905507.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.

The 1975 EAC Sale Miller 5.5-M



1340

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.5-M, W-2595. Rarity-3. Mailed Bust Left. AU-53 (PCGS). 118.9 grains. A very handsome piece with slightly lustrous light steel-brown and reddish-tan surfaces. Nicely struck on an unflawed planchet, the entirety of the design on both sides is fully and evenly impressed with no areas of weakness. Just slightly off center, only the very tops of ET LIB affected. No distracting impairments nor serious marks, a minor scratch across the shoulder the only one to note. A well preserved and little used coin with just light wear on the high points and frosty luster remaining in the peripheral fields. Pedigreed to the famous 1975 EAC Sale, a desirable provenance for specialists. The sale contained the Q. David Bowers Collection of Connecticut coppers, itself a composite of several of the great collections of the preceding decades including those of Richardson, Bryant, Craige, and Kessler. It was the most extensive offering of Connecticut varieties up to that time and the first thoroughly cataloged auction treatment of the series. It served as a reference work for many years to come.

PCGS# 686354.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Pine Tree Auction Company, Inc.'s Early American Coppers Society Convention Sale, February 1975, lot 48; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.



1339

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.4-O.1, W-2590. Rarity-2. Mailed Bust Left. VF-35 (PCGS). 137.2 grains. A choice and very attractive example that seems easily deserving of a higher grade. Lovely light olive and steel-brown surfaces with traces of glossy luster in the fields. Well struck and nicely centered on an unflawed planchet. There is no trace of weakness on the devices, the legends are complete and bold, and the date is clear and mostly on the planchet. While not quite of Condition Census caliber for the die variety, the aesthetic appeal is exceptional and makes this coin more desirable than its grade level implies. A really handsome piece that served as a frontline example of the variety in two great collections.

PCGS# 686353.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.



Magnificent Finest Known 1786 Miller 5.6-M Ex Mills-Parsons-Garrett-Terranova



1341

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.6-M, W-2600. Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Left. MS-62 BN (PCGS). 125.5 grains. A fabulous Connecticut copper with some of the most pristine and lustrous surfaces one will find on a 1786, let alone this scarce variety. Beautiful light brown and steel with peeps of rather bright mint red clinging to some of the letters, date, and within the recesses of the mail and seated figure. Satiny luster fills the fields, and even crosses the devices, on both sides. A glass is required to find only trivial abrasions that have no import to the overall appearance. The planchet is hard, smooth, and just about perfect in quality. Softly struck at the effigy's forehead and corresponding area of the reverse at the seated figure's legs, as often seen on the variety. Otherwise very sharply struck and with satisfying centering on both sides. The high quality surfaces and amazing preservation make this coin a joy to study. All of the tiny cracks, die finishing lines, repunching, and other fine detail of the dies are fully appreciable and astonishingly crisp. This coin possesses probably the highest technical quality and boldest luster of any Connecticut in the present offering, and that's saying something.

This is by far the finest known example of the Miller 5.6-M variety. Almost all other specimens, of which there are probably

no more than 50 or so altogether, are either heavily flawed, heavily worn, or otherwise problematic. The Oechsner and Old New England Collection coins were both fairly attractive and reasonably problem-free, but only VFs. The Newman and Partrick coins had EF or better sharpness but were badly flawed and the latter scratched as well. A survey of all the other major Connecticut copper offerings over the years will show what a monster the offered coin is. One of the real gems of the present sale and a piece that has been off the market for over 40 years. Comes with a distinguished, century-old provenance as well, not surprising for such an extraordinary coin.

PCGS# 686355.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the John G. Mills, Esq. Collection, April 1904, lot 254; Henry Chapman's sale of the Hon. George M. Parsons Collection, June 1914, lot 162; Col. James Ellsworth Collection; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of the Garrett Collection, Part III, October 1980, lot 1347; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins p. 68. Also plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 236, 251, 268, 276.



Exceedingly Rare 1786 Miller 5.7-G Only Three Known



1342

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.7-G, W-2605. Rarity-8-. Mailed Bust Left. VF-25 (PCGS). 131.2 grains. An exciting appearance of arguably the finest of just three known specimens of this extraordinarily rare die pair. The 5.7-G variety was discovered by David Palmer in 2002 and was the first new 1786 Connecticut to be discovered since Miller's work was published in 1920. Previously, this obverse was known to have been paired with reverses H.1 and O.2. The reverse was known to have been mated with obverses 4.1, 5.3 (one of the rare Hercules Head varieties) and 5.4. A second example was found in 2010 and sold in our January 2011 Americana Sale and from there went to the Twin Leaf Collection. The present coin came to light in 2012. All three examples are in the same general grade range, but this coin seems to have the edge and would certainly be the highest graded at PCGS. The discovery coin has similar sharpness and surfaces but has an X scratch on the obverse. The second found

was called F-15 when sold raw in 2011 and PCGS VG-10 in the Twin Leaf sale.

This coin has decent dark brown surfaces with tan high points. Some minor surface roughness and light planchet flaws are noted, as well as a patch of reddish patina on the reverse. There are no serious marks and the overall appearance is quite pleasing. Fairly well centered and has solid VF sharpness except where weakly struck at the lower obverse and upper reverse. The die break on the neck that confirms the 5.7 attribution is clear. This is a major rarity and one of just three R-8 varieties among the 1786 Connecticut. Offered here in the best condition available, this is a real prize for an advanced specialist.

PCGS# 686356.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Kevin Vinton; Jeff Rock, August 2012.



Superlative 1786 Miller 5.7-H.1



1343

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.7-H.1, W-2610. Rarity-5-. Mailed Bust Left. AU-58 (PCGS). 141.2 grains. A gorgeous coin, described in our September 2005 sale as: "Choice About Uncirculated, nearly Mint State. Lustrous, golden brown surfaces are quite glossy and attractive on the obverse. The reverse is similarly lustrous but displays two-tone brown color, with chestnut brown dominating the upper reverse and a lighter, ruddy brown decorating the lower reverse. The luster is quite amazing on both sides, the obverse fairly fully struck with just a touch of high point weakness. The reverse is a trifle weak at the lower reaches, but all details are plainly visible, including the date. The obverse is off center toward the top, with the die edge coming into view at the lower reaches, while the reverse is nearly perfectly centered. This specimen is undoubtedly very high in the Condition Census, finer than Ford's granular EF, Perkins' grainy Choice VF, and Taylor's rough VF's."

This outstanding piece certainly ranks very high among specimens of the variety and seems to be the most obvious candidate for finest known honors. While there are a handful of challengers in terms of sharpness, this coin's planchet quality and impeccable surfaces significantly elevate it above the rest. This is the finest graded of the variety at PCGS and the other AUs pale in comparison. A remarkable piece that will no doubt generate significant interest from Connecticut copper connoisseurs.

PCGS# 686357.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) September 2005 sale, lot 262; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 238, 251, 263.



1344

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.7-O.2, W-2615. Rarity-6. Mailed Bust Left. VF-20 (PCGS). 130.0 grains. Glossy steel-brown with subtle flecks of brick over most of the surface, this requiring magnification to detect. Slightly granular over both sides. The obverse exhibits some light streaks, one of which might be an ancient scratch. The reverse has a fairly extensive network of shallow fissures and some microscopic abrasions that are well patinated. Obverse legends are very clear, but the rougher state of the reverse has interfered a bit with the clarity on this side, the date being the most affected feature.

It is ghostly, but mostly discernible. A rim cud centered over the C of CONNEC extends to the top of that letter and evenly to each side for a total length of approximately 11 mm. A challenging variety with only a few dozen examples known.

PCGS# 686358.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova at the 2002 EAC Convention; our sale of the Twin Leaf Collection, March 2019 Baltimore Auction, lot 8119.

Outstanding 1786 5.8-F ex Ford



1345

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.8-F, W-2620. Rarity-4. Mailed Bust Left. AU-58 (PCGS). 136.6 grains. A remarkably high grade and nicely struck example of this conditionally challenging variety. Miller 5.8-F is a rather available variety, even in technical high grade, but is notorious for being very poorly struck from worn dies, often on poor quality planchets as well. Witness the three Mint State examples from the Stepney Hoard, two of which we recently sold as part of the Robert Martin Collection. Those are perhaps technically some of the finest known but all are missing significant detail from weak strikes and are also plagued by planchet flaws. The present coin displays a much fuller than average strike, thanks in part to its early die state. The surfaces are a deep reddish-brown with glossy luster. Light flaws

in places on the obverse, and the reverse surface was slightly granular pre-strike. Some of the detail falls off the planchet as is virtually always the case, but the motifs are complete and crisp, and the legends and date all readable if incomplete. An excellent representative, well pedigreed and of Condition Census quality. Worthy of inclusion in a high grade variety set.

PCGS# 686359.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Thomas Elder's May 1917 sale, lot 797; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 269; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 239, 261.



Lustrous 1786 Miller 5.8-H.2 Hall Ink On Edge



1346

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.8-H.2, W-2625. Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Left. AU-58 (PCGS). 117.0 grains. A lovely and well pedigreed Connecticut copper that is among the finest known examples of the variety. Lustrous chocolate-brown surfaces are quite impressive and free from all but a few small planchet flaws on each side. Very well preserved with only microscopic abrasions and little to no wear. Called "Mint State or virtually so" in the Hessberg catalog. Well struck and just about perfectly centered. The remarkable strike, luster, and choice color converge to give this coin exemplary eye appeal. Dr. Hall's attribution is seen neatly painted on the edge.

The one and only challenger to this coin for finest known honors that we are aware of is the Ford example. It was graded Choice About

Uncirculated and realized \$8,050. The Ford coin appears similarly sharp to the present piece but without any planchet flaws. An in hand comparison would be required to see which has the better luster and if that makes up for the minor planchet issues. Beyond these two, EF seems to be about as good as this variety gets, the Oeschner-Partrick, Crosby-Garrett, and Taylor coins being among these second order examples. An outstanding Connecticut with the added desirability of being a Hall ink on edge coin.

PCGS# 686360.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Dr. Thomas Hall Collection; our (Stack's) sale of the Edward Hessberg Collection, June 1991, lot 1363; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Reverse plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," p. 264.



1347

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.8-O.2, W-2630. Rarity-5+. Mailed Bust Left. VF-30 (PCGS). 141.8 grains. Misattributed as 5.7-O.2 in the Ford sale, this coin was the finer of Ford's two 5.8-O.2 varieties and is decidedly sharper and finer than both the Taylor and Perkins specimens of this very scarce Miller number. Surfaces are deep coffee bean brown with hints of green and steely patina in places; the obverse shows some superficial planchet striae under magnification, the reverse is smoother in comparison. Boldly impressed with excellent central detail on obverse and reverse. Both sides are struck subtly off center, cutting off only the very tops of a few letters, while a rim disturbance at 4 o'clock on the obverse hallmarks

this coin. Struck from the failing state of the reverse die, which is sinking in the area in front of Liberty's head. A wonderful coin, certainly Condition Census for the variety, and with an illustrious pedigree stretching back over a century to 1890!

PCGS# 686361.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Charles Steigerwalt, 1890; William Wallace Hays; Charles Steigerwalt's October 1903 Fixed Price List; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 268; our January 2010 Americana Sale, lot 4160; our sale of the Anderson-Gleckler Collection, November 2016 Baltimore Auction, lot 5219.



Superior 5.9-B.1 ex Ryder-Boyd-Ford



1348

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.9-B.1, W-2635. Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Left. EF-40 (PCGS). 160.3 grains. Choice glossy surfaces with rich reddish chocolate-brown color. A remarkably high quality example of this scarce variety and probably among the finest known. The only minor flaws are a few small voids in the centers of each side, as made, and some weakness at the rim from 3 to 4 o'clock on the obverse and the corresponding reverse rim where the planchet was tapered thin. Nicely struck otherwise and well centered. The motifs are fully struck and the date bold. Minor scratch in the upper left reverse field, no other notable marks. This variety is seen with several different die rotations, although we don't recall seeing another fully medal turn like this coin. This piece easily surpasses all others

we have seen. The Taylor and SLT coins come close in sharpness but each has deficiencies. While a few other EFs are rumored, we highly recommend the present coin as a likely unimprovable example, and one with fine old provenance.

PCGS# 686362.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Lyman H. Low's sale of the J. Coolidge Hills Collection, December 1923, lot 105; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part IX, May 2005, lot 272; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 240, 254, 276.

Incredible 1786 Connecticut Overstrike



1349

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.9-B.1, W-2635. Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Left—Overstruck on a George II Great Britain Halfpenny—VF-25 (PCGS). 134.0 grains. As described in our sale of the Craige Collection: "An amazing new discovery in a series that has been intensely studied for a century and a half: an undescribed overstrike on a 1786 Connecticut, a date that has never yielded an overstrike to the knowledge of Phil Mossman (who documented state copper overstrikes in Appendix 2 of his magnificent *Money of the American Colonies and Confederation*) or to the knowledge of your cataloger. The bust of the undertype is aligned nearly 180 degrees from that of the Connecticut dies, with the distinctive ribbon ends easily seen at the Connecticut portrait's forehead. The curvature of the dome of the head and the bust truncation match those found on the earliest type of George II halfpenny. Some of George's profile is also seen, but unfortunately the periphery and reverse yield no additional hints. A worn George II halfpenny the cataloger had

handy weighed in at 131.5 grains, making the weight range likewise compatible. The coin itself is dark olive brown, somewhat granular, with some old worn pin scratches around both sides, particularly at left obverse and left and lower reverse. As merely a specimen of the M. 5.9-B.1, it's a pretty good one, not far off the quality of coins like Taylor or Oechsner. As a unique overstrike, it is clearly of far more interest than as a pretty good 5.9-B.1. Perhaps the most interested person in this coin would have been Mr. Craige — he seems to have missed the undertype, noting nothing of it on his envelope." Syd certainly wouldn't have missed the undertype. This is one of several incredible overstrikes in his collection, though by far the most remarkable Connecticut, and exactly the sort of piece he sought out to add depth and intrigue to a series.

PCGS# 686362.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our sale of the Ted L. Craige Collection, January 2013 Americana Sale, lot 11136.



The 1975 EAC Sale-Taylor-Terranova 5.9-L High Condition Census Rarity



1350

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.9-L, W-2640. Rarity-7-. Mailed Bust Left. AU-53 (PCGS). 129.0 grains. One of the outstanding examples of this very rare variety. This die combination was unknown to Miller and not discovered until the 1950s by "an Eastern collector" and first published in Barnsley's update to Miller in the March 1964 *Colonial Newsletter*. At the time the present coin was sold in the 1975 EAC Sale, it was described as unique, meaning this is presumably the discovery piece for the variety. Impressive light steel and reddish-olive surfaces are smooth, unflawed, and totally problem-free. Somewhat soft definition on the obverse due to the worn and clashed die, but distinctively high grade with subtle satiny mint luster lingering on both sides. The smooth fields allow the obverse clash marks to stand out boldly, including a full date above the head and sharp olive branch under AUC. Outstanding quality that would be desirable and noteworthy on almost any 1786 variety, all the more so on this rarity.

Perhaps 12 examples are known of the Miller 5.9-L die pair, only 10 of which are definitively confirmed. This piece sits at the very

top of the Condition Census along with a recently discovered NGC AU-55 that we sold in our August 2019 ANA sale. That piece is slightly superior from a technical standpoint, it has more luster and is just about unworn, but also has some distracting planchet flaws on both sides and less ideal centering as the date is partially off the planchet. Most collectors would certainly prefer the aesthetics of the present coin. After these two, the sharp but porous coin in ANS would be next, and the remainder are mostly quite low grade. This is a great opportunity for specialists to fill this tough hole with perhaps the only example in existence that doesn't have some sort of drawback.

PCGS# 905517.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Pine Tree Auction Company, Inc.'s Early American Coppers Society Convention Sale, February 1975, lot 57; Pine Tree Auction Company, Inc.'s John Carter Brown Library Collection Sale, May 1976, lot 510; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Frederick B. Taylor Collection, March 1987, lot 2375; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 240, 267.



The 1975 EAC Sale 1786 5.9-Q



1351

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.9-Q, W-2645. Rarity-5+. Mailed Bust Left. EF-40 (PCGS). 123.6 grains. A pleasing and well detailed example of this scarce variety, probably in the top 10 of perhaps 40 to 50 total specimens. Called “Finest known, unapproached in grade by any other seen to date” in the 1975 EAC Sale catalog. Today we know of the Norweb, Hall-Brand-Oechsner-Partrick, and Newman coins that either rival or slightly exceed this piece, as well as two nice examples in the Connecticut State Library. The present coin is certainly in the mix with its sharp, perfectly

centered detail and attractive medium olive-brown surfaces that are free from post-strike issues. Planchet lightly flawed with striations across the lower obverse and upper reverse, and a bit of flakiness at the upper obverse. Nowhere are the flaws overly severe and the eye appeal remains quite positive.

PCGS# 686363.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Pine Tree Auction Company, Inc.'s Early American Coppers Society Convention Sale, February 1975, lot 56; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.

Finest Known 1786 Miller 5.10-L With Dr. Hall's Ink on Edge



1352

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.10-L, W-2650. Rarity-5+. Mailed Bust Left. AU-53 (PCGS). 128.0 grains. When priced at \$5.00 by B.G. Johnson in 1936, this superb Connecticut copper was called “Uncirculated” and “weakly struck,” a combination of words which very only superficially define this finest known survivor of the die marriage. The lustrous, glossy brown obverse is lighter golden-brown in the protected crevices of the legends and devices, areas where the original mint color was last to fade. The reverse is similarly lustrous but a darker olive-brown hue, perhaps a result of storage in a wooden cabinet reverse side down by Dr. Hall or some other early collector. Given the slightly greater wear on the reverse than on the obverse, there may be literal “cabinet friction” at the high points of the reverse of this coin!

The surfaces are almost wholly unflawed, with only a thin planchet flaw noted in obverse effigy's epaulet, which has created a small carbon spot in that area. As B.G. Johnson had noted in 1936, the strike is weak, probably the result of a thinned area of the planchet

at the obverse effigy's head, face and adjacent field, as well as the corresponding areas of the reverse, chiefly the shield and adjoining designs. The fields are otherwise as struck, the individual luster flow lines clearly visible, as are the finer marks in the die (like the meteor shower of delightful markings in the lower left obverse field) that are the first to disappear with even the briefest period in circulation. Here is a technically fascinating coin that boasts both quality and pedigree, having graced several significant collections since collected over a century ago by Dr. Thomas Hall, whose white ink on edge “5-10 L” attribution is still boldly visible around the 5 o'clock position when viewed from the obverse.

PCGS# 686364.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Dr. Thomas Hall; Virgil Brand; New Netherlands Coin Co.'s 51st Sale, June 1958, lot 77; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Frederick B. Taylor Collection, March 1987, lot 2379; our sale of the Robert M. Martin Collection, November 2019 Baltimore Auction, lot 5111. Obverse plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," p. 241.



Rare High Grade 1786 Miller 5.10-P



1353

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.10-P, W-2655. Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Left. AU-53 (PCGS). 147.6 grains. An extraordinary example, far and away finer than almost all others seen. Not an overly rare variety, but almost invariably found graded Fine or lower. VFs are noteworthy and the best most of the great collectors were able to locate. The 1975 EAC Sale coin was a decent VF, Taylor and Perkins had flawed VFs (the Perkins coin later graded NGC F-12 in Partrick), Ford's was a strong Very Fine, while most other major collections made do with lower grade pieces if at all. Syd acquired this superior example privately back in 2004 and this is its first appearance at auction. Generous frosty luster remains on handsome golden-brown surfaces. Weakly struck at the bottom of the obverse and the top of

the reverse, but otherwise bold and well centered. A few light flaws are seen across each side, none individually notable or distracting. A nick at the seated figure's head is the only mark to mention. A solid AU Connecticut copper, lustrous and scarcely worn. We know of just one other high grade example of this variety, a Hall Ink on Edge coin described as Choice Extremely Fine, but that could be AU. It's a sharp piece with a better overall strike, but it's unclear whether it has the luster of this piece.

PCGS# 686365.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Christopher B. Young, 2004. Reverse plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," p. 272.

Lovely 1786 5.11-R, ex Terranova



1354

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.11-R, W-2660. Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Left. EF-40 (PCGS). 133.5 grains. A choice, Condition Census example of this interesting variety, the reverse of which appears only on this and the rare 4.2-R marriage. The R reverse features a unique ornament following INDE, a cluster of seven dots, and this feature is on display as boldly as ever on this coin. Handsome light to medium olive-brown surfaces are remarkably hard and smooth with no roughness or notable marks. There are a few very light planchet flaws on each side that add a little rustic character to this 1786 Connecticut without materially affecting the eye appeal. A well executed strike is centered and full with just a touch of weakness at the outer rim

over TORI and IN. The date is impressively bold and has a border of denticles beneath it. The Ford-Partrick coin graded AU in Ford and NGC MS-61BN in Partrick is the only piece we are aware of that is technically finer, but it was not as well struck. The Hall-Hessberg and 1975 EAC Sale coins are other noteworthy examples but this piece seems to surpass them. A great piece that offers undeniably rare condition and eye appeal for the variety.

PCGS# 686366.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012.



Exceedingly Rare 1786 Miller 5.13-I Unique in Private Hands



1355

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.13-I, W-2665. Rarity-8. Mailed Bust Left. VG Details—Graffiti (PCGS). 124.6 grains. An extraordinary rarity among the 1786 Connecticuts, one of just two known examples and the only one in private hands. Though not listed in Miller, the variety was published soon after in the 1920 Canfield and Ryder “Additions and Corrections” article. Obverse 5.13 was new and is still known only in this combination. One distinguishing feature of the die noted by Canfield and Ryder is that the effigy has a “Roman nose.” The die is different in many respects from the usual 5.2 obverse normally found with reverse I, the presence of a breastplate here being one notable difference. The discovery coin, ex Canfield and now in ANS, was the only example known until the present coin was discovered in 1988. This piece is similar in grade to the Canfield coin, perhaps just a touch more worn but a decent VG with clear diagnostics and fairly pleasing surfaces for the grade. There are some scratches on each side and some barely noticeable graffiti in the left obverse field pointed out by PCGS. Surfaces are predominantly smooth steel-brown with some scattered granularity. The legends are full while the date is mostly indistinct due to centering and wear.

What might be even rarer than the coin itself is the circumstance of its discovery. This piece was actually cherry-picked from the master cherry-picker himself, Mike Ringo, by Ed Sarrafian

on the bourse at the September 1988 Greater New York Numismatic Convention. John Kleeborg recounts the story in his remembrance of Ringo in the December 2007 *Colonial Newsletter*: “Mike had just acquired a group of Connecticuts and had set them aside in his case, intending to attribute them later; and the collector bought the coin unattributed. Mike later visited me at the ANS, and said, ‘Could you show me a copper of that variety - so I may impress it onto my stupid brain?’ Ringo certainly wouldn’t have missed that variety a second time, and no doubt gave extra scrutiny to every 1786 Connecticut he came across from then on. If there were any other specimens of the variety to be found on the continent, Mike would have been the person to find them, but none have turned up since. The coin went from Sarrafian to noted Connecticut collector Jim Goudge who held the coin as a crown jewel of his collection for decades until Syd acquired it in 2018. This is the first ever auction appearance of the variety and a thrilling opportunity for advanced Connecticut copper specialists.

PCGS# 905508.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Michael K. Ringo, September 1988, Greater New York Numismatic Convention bourse; Ed Sarrafian; Jim Goudge, March 2018. Obverse plated in Randy Clark’s “The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788,” p. 244.

Discovery of a Second Connecticut 5.13-I of 1786
from James H. Goudge; Canoga Park, CA

(TN-125)

I am pleased to report the discovery of the second known Miller 1786 5.13-I. The coin was discovered on Thursday, September 8, 1988 on the bourse of The Greater New York Numismatic Convention by Chicago area collector Ed Sarrafian.

The coin was examined by this writer and noted Connecticut specialist Robert Martin who confirmed the discovery. The coin is now in the Goudge collection of Connecticut Coppers.

Editor’s note: We hope to obtain a high quality photograph of this new discovery suitable for publication. The specimen appears to be very similar in condition to the ANS specimen. If any other specimens of 5.13-I of 1786 are known, please advise ye Editor.



1356

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.14-S, W-2670. Rarity-5. Mailed Bust Left, Sword Hilt and Guard Reverse. VF Details—Cleaned (PCGS). 149.0 grains. Among Syd's earlier Connecticut copper purchases, one of a handful of 5.14-S Sword Hilt and Guard examples he would acquire over the years. While not without issues, he retained this specimen in his frontline set for its noteworthy sharpness including one of the boldest sword hilt and guard features we have seen. Steel-brown and orange, cleaned and there appears to

be some repair and reengraving of detail at the top and bottom of each side. This variety is notorious for planchet flaws and this piece has its fair share, though we note no additional roughness or marks of much consequence.

PCGS# 686367.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Christopher B. Young, November 1994.

Magnificent 1786 Draped Bust Left The Guide Book Plate Coin



1357

1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 6-K, W-2690. Rarity-5. Draped Bust Left. AU-55 (PCGS). 133.3 grains. Stunning quality for this challenging and significant major variety. Choice, glossy surfaces are a perfectly even and ideal shade of light brown across both sides. Extremely well preserved and barely worn, frosty luster shows at the peripheries of this totally unflawed and almost entirely unmarked coin. The only minor imperfection to note is a tiny rim nick above the colon after INDE. It is barely noticeable and at first glance just appears to be part of the punctuation or border. As exemplary as the surfaces are, the strike is perhaps even more remarkable. Boldly impressed almost everywhere and as well centered as this variety ever comes allowing for a full, bold date. The date is really the most important feature of the variety, the thing that distinguishes this rare 1786 type from the ubiquitous 1787 Draped Bust Lefts, and is weakly struck or off the planchet of so many other examples.

This is the finest graded of the 1786 Draped Bust Left major variety by 20 points at PCGS, one of just 11 total graded at that service. At NGC, only the famous 7-K ex Newman-Twin Leaf,

the rarer of the two 1786 Draped Bust Left varieties, is graded slightly higher at AU-58. Otherwise they are all VF and below at that service as well. Syd considered this the finest known example of Miller 6-K and it seems to be the obvious choice for that title. It is far superior to all that have shown up on the market in recent decades, and it appears easily finer than 1975 EAC Sale and Garrett which are the more noteworthy examples when going back further. The Norweb-SLT coin was nearly EF with nice surfaces but weakly struck with a hardly visible date. It realized \$9,775 in our January 2012 sale. The Choice VF Ford-Twin Leaf piece brought \$4,080 in our March 2019 but again had some weakness at the date and was no better than VF. All pale in comparison to the present coin, certainly one of the most memorable major variety coins in this offering.

PCGS# 686368.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the Herbert M. Oechsner Collection, September 1988, lot 1058; Anthony Teranova Collection, January 2012. Plated in A Guide Book of United States Coins. Plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," pp. 248, 251, 266, 276.



The Taylor-Perkins 1786 Miller 7-K One of Seven Known



1358

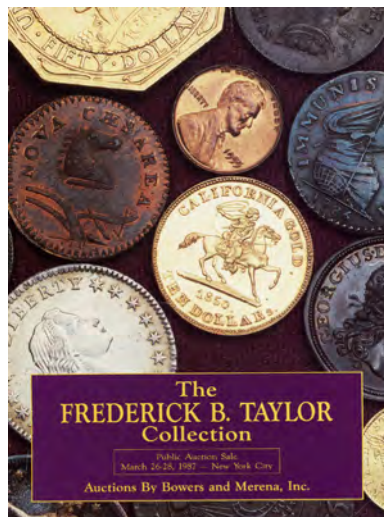
1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 7-K, W-2695. Rarity-7. Draped Bust Left. EF Details—Edge Damaged (PCGS). 139.3 grains. A well pedigreed example of this classic rarity, of which just seven specimens have been located since Crosby plated and described the variety in 1875. This piece has sharp, well struck detail and rather glossy surfaces with attractive two-tone brown color. Two strong rim dents are obvious on the obverse at just past 6 o'clock and at 9 o'clock. They appear more like straight planchet clips on the reverse while a third rim bump is seen more clearly on the reverse over B in LIB and is less noticeable on the obverse. A few light planchet striations run diagonally across each side, and there is a little bit of underlying roughness, but no major issues besides the rim bumps. Painted attribution in the left obverse field and "M" in the right, characteristic of coins from the Frederick A. Canfield Collection formed in the early 20th century.

This coin sits right in the middle of the Condition Census for the seven known examples. The finest is the Crosby Plate-Hall-Brand-

Newman-Twin Leaf coin graded NGC AU-58 which realized \$38,187.50 in Newman and \$19,200 in Twin Leaf. Vying for second place would be the sharp EF in ANS ex Canfield and the Roper-Richard August piece which is even sharper but dark and not perfectly smooth. The present coin would come next although it would perhaps be rivaled by the less sharp but problem-free Taylor:2389-Partrick piece. The sixth and seventh examples, including the Miller-Ford piece and a 2004 eBay discovery, are both much lower grade. Despite its imperfections, the satisfying sharpness and noteworthy provenance of this piece make it desirable.

PCGS# 905518.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Frederick A. Canfield; Pine Tree Auction Company, Inc.'s John Carter Brown Library Collection Sale, May 1976, lot 513; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Frederick B. Taylor Collection, March 1987, lot 2388; our (Stack's) sale of the George C. Perkins Collection, January 2000 Americana Sale, lot 251; Jim LaSarre, June 2006, via John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online). Obverse plated in Randy Clark's "The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788," p. 249.





Lot 1359

1786 Connecticut Copper. Bungtown. Miller 123-T, W-2495. Rarity-8-. Mailed Bust Right, Large Ornate Head, INDE ET LIB, Backwards D. VF-20 (PCGS).



Legendary 1786 “Bungtown” Connecticut The Finest and Only Privately Held Example of Three Known Provenance to Dr. Maris



1359

1786 Connecticut Copper. Bungtown. Miller 123-T, W-2495. Rarity-8-. Mailed Bust Right, Large Ornate Head, INDE ET LIB, Backwards D. VF-20 (PCGS). 154.3 grains. There are few Connecticut coppers as legendary, as mysterious, as coveted, and as valuable as the fabled “Bungtown” issues. Their incredible crudeness and extreme rarity place them in a class of their own among varieties of the series and they have captivated collectors and researchers since the earliest days of the hobby. They are obviously not officially sanctioned issues of the New Haven mint, but neither are the myriad Connecticut varieties struck at Machin’s Mills and other unofficial mints that are firmly established members of the Connecticut copper canon. While some writers have suggested the Bungtown pieces might be 19th century fantasies, there is no evidence to support that. On the contrary, their appearance in auction catalogs as early as 1862, as well as the fabric and appearance of the coins themselves, strongly points to an 18th century manufacture, probably contemporary or close to the regular Connecticut copper coinage. The Bungtown class includes Connecticut coppers and British halfpennies (as well as one piece that combines the two) — the two most common copper coins in circulation in the late 1780s so it would make sense that a counterfeiter would choose those two subjects.

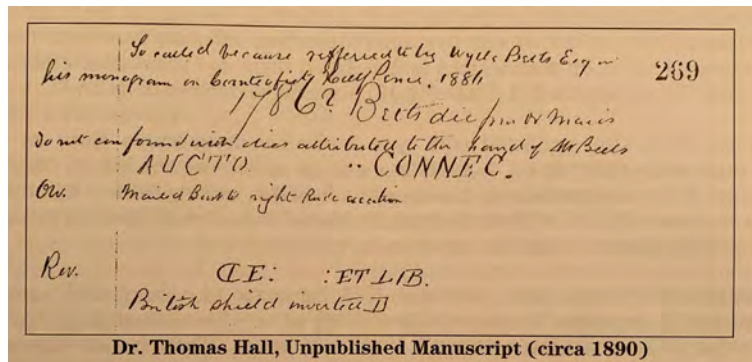
As an overall series, there are just eight known Bungtown coppers, four Connecticuts, three British halfpennies, and one mule with a Connecticut obverse and Britannia reverse. All are dated 1786. Only five of the eight are in private hands. A number of purported Bungtowns that appeared on the market in the 2010-2014 period, at least six different pieces, are modern counterfeits. Among the genuine pieces, there are two different varieties of Connecticuts, now called Miller 123-T and 124-T. The amazing specimen offered here is of the former variety, one of three known but the only one in private hands. It is also the clear finest of the three, the other two being quite rough or flawed, and is one of the finest overall Bungtowns in existence. The surfaces are a glossy and pleasing light brown, the copper of exceptionally nice quality for the type with a fairly high grade appearance beneath a thin layer of grime. The detail of both sides displays well as the strike was nicely centered and fairly well balanced with just a little weakness at the left side legends. Double struck with slight rotation between strikes which caused what

appears to be two dots before CONNEC, different than the other specimens of this variety, but the extra dot is actually just the remnant of the top right leaf of the laurel wreath from the first strike. Some intriguing detail is also present at the obverse rim at 9 and 11 o’clock, perhaps vestiges of a previous strike or other manufacturing anomaly, and there is a depression on the reverse rim opposite the 9 o’clock detail. Dies rotated 40 degrees counter-clockwise.

In addition to the superior quality of this example, it also boasts one of the best and oldest provenances of any of the Bungtown coins. Dr. Hall described this very coin in his ca. 1890 unpublished manuscript on Connecticut coppers and mentions that it came from Dr. Maris. Hall’s description of the legends matches perfectly what is visible on this coin, and he also describes the two dots before CONNEC. The coin passed from Hall to Virgil Brand and then to Eric Newman. It finally appeared at auction for the first time in Heritage’s May 2014 sale of the Newman Collection where it generated a great deal of excitement and realized \$99,875. It occupied a place of distinction in Syd’s incomparable collection and was undoubtedly one of his most treasured pieces. A fitting capstone to this incredible offering of Connecticut coppers.

PCGS# 905519.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Dr. Edward Maris; Dr. Thomas Hall; Virgil Brand, via B.G. Johnson (St. Louis Stamp & Coin Co.); Heritage’s sale of the Eric P. Newman Collection, May 2014, lot 30065. Plated in Randy Clark’s “The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers 1785-1788,” pp. 287, 290, 292.



Dr. Thomas Hall, Unpublished Manuscript (circa 1890)

END OF SESSION I

The
Sydney F. Martin
Collection

PART II

WASHINGTONIANA



SESSION 2

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022, 12:00 PM ET

LOTS 2001-2276



THE SYDNEY F. MARTIN COLLECTION OF WASHINGTONIANA

Sydney F. Martin was a well-known coin collector. As is true for many, he began his collecting journey somewhat modestly, buying objects that piqued his interests, often for very little money. He was driven by interest in historical coins, and as his collection grew, so did his understanding of the material, both technically and in terms of context.

As he became a more astute collector, he focused increasingly on America's colonial period and the rich body of coinage used in early America, especially those produced by the various states. These are fascinating issues that tell a story of transition from colonies to the United States.

Among those central to that period of American history, one figure stands out prominently—George Washington. And so, medallic portraits of Washington became one of Syd Martin's favored series and he pursued them vigorously until he could no longer. While the idea of completion of any series is relative and subject to the whims and desires of any given collector, it is clear that Syd was not finished with this series. Given more time, he would have acquired many more pieces, and probably upgraded some earlier purchases along the way. But, this stated, his accomplishments with this collection rank it among the finest we have ever offered. Though incomplete, as are all to some degree, few collections are so replete with rarities. As such, it is a cabinet that few could hope to duplicate or surpass. Cataloging this collection seemed at times to bounce from one highlight to the next, with little in between. It has been a real pleasure to study and describe these pieces and to see something of Syd in the selections he made.

Notable among these are medals that reflect directly upon Washington and his status as the first Executive, rather than items that used his portrait for other means. The funeral medals are a superb offering of the Perkins types, including all metals: gold, silver, copper and white metal. It is an extensive offering. Medals struck in 1832 to honor the centennial of Washington's birth were another clear focus, though the original output was small and there is little to choose from. In this genre can be seen two unique medals: the Centennial Anniversary medal based on the famous C.C.A.U.S. design, and the Cordwainer's medal. Other rarities include a fine tinsmith's medal (a very rare issue) and silver Civic Procession medals (as well as other compositions). This was a particularly interesting group to work with. A later offering will feature a series of Bicentennial of Birth medals from 1932, a series that Syd worked on extensively and wrote a manuscript on before his passing. It is now available as a print-on-demand reference from the American Numismatic Society.

Washington's inauguration was another focus. It was the moment that firmed up his place in the history of the United States, a status unlike that of any other figure. It was also a

landmark moment in the transition from pre-Revolutionary America to the United States as we know it today.

The first medallic celebrations of this event were in the form of clothing buttons, and Syd Martin's collection of this series is a landmark in itself. The approximately 50 buttons in the Martin Collection include numerous types, most of which have long been generically associated with the first presidential inauguration. Many undoubtedly are, but others seem to celebrate the office of the presidency in a more general manner, or simply the United States, as statements of patriotism in the young nation. The March 4, 1789-dated Memorable Era buttons are worth pointing out, as they commemorate the very beginning of the United States, the day specified for the commencement of the nation's operation under the authority of the Constitution. Taken together, these buttons reflect upon a fascinating time—the literal birth of a nation.

No American historic figure is more present on coins and medals than George Washington. This is fitting, as Washington can safely be identified as the first American celebrity, one who arguably earned that title at just about every turn. He was, in many ways, the quintessential American.

He was admittedly born into some advantage, with a notable degree of family wealth centered primarily on the farmland where his eventual home Mount Vernon stood. But his father died young, as was true of most of the Washington males that had come before George. His great-grandfather died at 46, his grandfather at 38, his father at 49, his two older brothers at 34 and 41. Upon the passing of his father Washington was, at the age of 11, bequeathed certain family lands and 10 slaves, but as a juvenile, his life was largely dictated by a domineering mother. He was her eldest child and she never remarried. As was typical of the time, this status carried with it numerous burdens, while luxuries such as the formal classical educations that his elder brothers had received would not be available to George—a detail that he regretted throughout his life, and one that he worked hard to overcome. As biographer Ron Chernow wrote, “the furnace of ambition burned with a bright, steady flame inside this diligent boy.” Indeed, he yearned for acceptance into the highest of social circles and worked at every turn to polish himself in a manner fitting of inclusion. He largely succeeded, but despite the land-wealth he was born into, money itself could be tight and the path toward his success was almost solely paved by his own ambition, self-directed effort and strict attention to every useful detail. For what he aspired to and accomplished, his beginnings were in many ways quite meager, and his success was largely his own.

His records as a surveyor, planter, landowner, soldier, revolutionary and statesman all point to a person with



unfailing focus and extreme dedication to any cause that he found worthy of his attentions. The result of it all was undying admiration, a deep-seated gratitude and immense reverence for him expressed by virtually all the free people of the nation, from the time of his election onward. The medals struck in celebration of him are many, quite diverse and range in date from 1777 to the present day. To collect these

can be an endeavor without end, but any collector knows that the pursuit is much of the thrill, and this series has a great deal to offer in this respect. The Martin Collection holdings offer something for anyone with even a casual interest, but advanced collectors will realize many opportunities in the pages to follow.

"I trust some of your readers may not find it uninteresting to glance at a description of these relics of the preceding half century, showing us, as they do, the gratitude felt by the contemporaries of Washington, for the great services rendered his country, as well as the veneration in which his name was held, both at home and abroad."

—A.S., Brookline, Massachusetts

February 10, 1859

In *The Historical Magazine*, March 1860

Outstanding Voltaire Medal The Genesis of Washington Portrait Medals



2001

Circa 1777 Voltaire Medal. Musante GW-1, Baker-78. Copper. MS-63 BN (PCGS). 39.9 mm. 349.6 grains. Rich chocolate and mahogany brown, with an area of deeply faded tan in the lower quarter of the obverse. Traces of vibrant original red remain close to many of the reverse letters, with faded accents of the same being seen through some of the intricacies of the central reverse. Beautifully struck, multiply so, as usual, but with all the elements crisply defined and the fields gently prooflike. A slightly later die state with a reverse rim break near 8 o'clock. This is among the most handsome examples we have offered, and it is a fitting beginning to the Sydney Martin Collection of Washington medals.

The Voltaire medal is a must-have for any serious collection of Washington portrait medals, as it is the first such piece known to have been produced. The fact that the portrait is clearly *not* Washington's has never clouded its status or desirability, as the legends clarify the intent. No one is certain who made this medal, or even its country of origin, but it is clearly European, and people in Europe who knew what Washington looked like were very few and far between. Benjamin Franklin, living in Paris at the time, was one of those people.

The portrait is virtually identical to that seen on a very rare medal celebrating Scottish philosopher David Hume. It is not particularly convincing as his portrait either, but a fairly good argument could be made for such attribution if compared with the bronze statue of Hume in Edinburgh, Scotland, by facial features alone. Both medals

are clearly by the same hand, as are two other rare works. One is a medal celebrating the Chevalier d'Eon, the other is the *Franklin of Philadelphia* medal. Aside from stylistic similarities and shared letter punches, the most distinctive feature shared by all these finely engraved medals is the conspicuous absence of a signature, adding a degree of mystery to them all.

Of these four issues, it would seem only the Washington medal, long and probably mistakenly named for Voltaire, was a commercial success. The other three range from very scarce in the case of the Franklin and d'Eon medals, to extremely rare in the case of the Hume.

What we do know of this issue is the following: The medals were being struck as of April 1778, and there is reason to believe that striking had commenced in 1777. We also know that Benjamin Franklin was in the possession of one in 1778, in Paris, and that he made a gift of it that same year. There is a good chance he knew the author of these medals, but his papers have revealed no clues. The fact that Franklin felt it worthy as a gift is not insignificant, as it speaks to an undeniable degree of satisfaction in the work, and a recognition of its historical significance by someone who understood the value of such medallic monuments. From this, we can also say that this medal, from its very genesis, has been accepted as an important memorial to Washington's character and talent.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex A.H. Baldwin & Sons, October 1973; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part XIV, lot 326.



Lot 2002

Circa 1786 Non Vi Virtute Vici Copper. Small Head. Musante GW-7, Baker-13, Breen-977. Copper.
AU-53 (PCGS).



Choice 1786 Non Vi Virtute Vici Copper A Classic Early American Rarity



2002

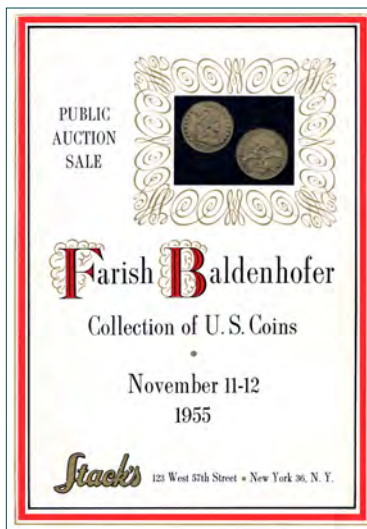
Circa 1786 Non Vi Virtute Vici Copper. Small Head. Musante GW-7, Baker-13, Breen-977. Copper. AU-53 (PCGS). 28.3 mm. 135.0 grains. A handsome specimen of this early rarity, with slightly olive brown surfaces that are largely glossy and fairly uniform save for some gentle brick highlights through the recesses of the obverse legend. The most obvious mark is a partial planchet cutter impression that curves through each side, near the center. This is as made, and in terms of handling there is little to speak of beyond one thin reverse scratch. Slight porosity or roughness is noted through the upper and leftmost areas of the obverse, but as noted, the overall impression is of a glossy and most handsome example. The centers exhibit minor weakness, but nearly all the major design elements can be made out with ease. Beautifully centered on both sides with the legends and date full and well away from the rims.

An early rarity that is reported to be represented by somewhere between two to three dozen specimens, depending upon the source. In the modern era, as third-party grading has become an essential marketing tool, the population data has become increasingly useful in determining market availability. NGC has graded four pieces,

while PCGS reports nine grading events. Several pieces are in institutional collections such as ANS and Colonial Williamsburg, and those will not be available to collectors. Among those in collector's hands, several are rough, so pieces with choice surfaces, like this one, are outstanding and quite desirable. It has been more than four years since one appeared in our sales, and the last was a tooled, pitted VF from the Archangel Collection. This is far prettier and will probably be seen as very much worth the wait for anyone who has been seeking this tough type.

The Non Vi Virtute Vici copper has long been recognized as a rarity. The earliest auction appearance we have seen was in the 1863 Benjamin Haines Collection sale, where one in "remarkably fine condition" was identified as "one of the very rarest of the early colonial or Washington pieces." It brought \$56, selling to William Sumner Appleton.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the Farish Baldenhofer Collection, November 1955, lot 46; our (Stack's) sale of the Park Collection, May 1976, lot 57; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of the Donald F. Herdman Collection, December 1977, lot 5066; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Sebring and Garbe Collections, March 1996, lot 1123; Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.





Non Vi Virtute Discovery Coin With Previously Unrecorded Reverse Believed Unique



2003

Circa 1786 Non Vi Virtute Vici Copper. Small Head. Musante GW-7 var., Baker-13 var., Breen-977 var. Copper. VG Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 29.1 mm. 65.8 grains. An obvious ground recovery, with dark, granular surfaces, sizable areas of shallow pitting and areas of hard earthen patina. Still, most of the major design features can be discerned allowing for the identification of this new variety. Struck on a thin flan of light weight, but clearly from the same obverse as the fine example offered above. Nearly all the obverse letters are visible and it is clear that the positions are a direct match to the long-documented, usually seen obverse. The reverse is a different story, however. Again, the letter positions can be discerned, and they are extremely similar to the previously known reverse, as are the date digits. However, the central figure is quite different. The outstretched arm clearly points directly to the E rather than the N, the base on which the figure sits is larger, and the liberty cap

is closer to the head. Though the roughness masks it somewhat upon first glance, close study reveals a likely catastrophic break on this reverse that probably put it out of service very soon after striking commenced. It is probable that this is the earlier of the two die marriages. The break is a large cud, cutting across the top of the I of EBORACENSIS, swallowing most if not all the final S, and extending across the feet of the central figure.

Though the Non Vi Virtute Vici copper has been recognized as an important rarity for at least a century and a half, and close attention has been paid to this issue by colonial coin enthusiasts, it was not until 2013 that this new variant was discovered. As far as we are aware, this discovery piece remains the sole survivor from this pair of dies.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Discovered by a metal detectorist and purchased from Mike Wierzba, November 2013.





Lot 2004

Circa 1789 Washington Before Boston Medal. First Paris Mint issue. Musante GW-9-P1, Baker-47B, Julian PR-1. Copper, Bronzed. SP-62 (PCGS).



Lovely Washington Before Boston Medal Paris Mint Original in Bronze



2004

Circa 1789 Washington Before Boston Medal. First Paris Mint issue. Musante GW-9-P1, Baker-47B, Julian PR-1. Copper, Bronzed. SP-62 (PCGS). 68.8 mm. 2363.5 grains. Lovely olive and rich chocolate brown surfaces are gently mottled with traces of mahogany and superficial nuances of blue. Gently prooflike in the fields with soft satiny character across the sharp devices. Only minimal handling is noted, including the occasional small ancient nick. To clarify the character of these, a couple are noted on Washington's cheek, and another is in the right obverse field. No others are worthy of mention and, in general, this is a beautifully preserved specimen of this famous medal. Struck from a later die state, with the usual prominent spalling marks that formed early easily seen here. These are near the lower hair curls, at the M of SUPREMO, at ER of ADSERTORI and in other areas to a lesser degree. That in the right obverse field is not that prominent, but there is a patch of soft spalling behind Washington's head. Even the gold original presented to Washington, likely among of the very first few struck, has most of these features. The reverse of this medal also exhibits a slight buckling at the upper center, in the field, from gentle sinking of the die.

The Washington Before Boston is arguably the most historic of all Washington medals, for it celebrates not only Washington, but a critical military victory for the Continental Army, one which would be significant in the lead-up to the eventual establishment of the United States as an independent nation. It was the first award medal authorized by the American Congress

and enjoys broad appeal among collectors focused on various aspects of American history, well beyond George Washington.

As noted above, Washington's personal gold medal still exists, thankfully preserved and cared for by the Boston Public Library. A few silver originals exist (we are aware of 11, though the majority are in institutional collections). These are clearly great rarities and command six-figure sums when sold. As such, a fine original bronze is the closest most collectors may come to the original award. This said, in recent years it seems that interest has been growing for nice examples and prices have been increasing somewhat reliably alongside that growing demand. It seems that collectors have come to realize just how historically significant these medals are, and it is tough to know when that trend may plateau. After all, the Washington Before Boston medal has been desirable to collectors virtually since the time of its first striking, and the proof of this is that both the Paris Mint and the U.S. Mint have produced copies of various sorts for more than 200 years to fulfill collector demand. Naturally, original Paris Mint strikes like this are the most prized and the most desired, but no one is making any more originals and superior quality examples are not nearly plentiful enough for every interested collector to own one. A fine Washington Before Boston may be considered a highlight of most collections, and even in a cabinet as vast as Sydney Martin's, we would venture to say that this was a medal he was extremely proud to own.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Mike Wierzba, August 2018.



2005

Circa 1850s(?) Washington Before Boston Medal. Third Paris Issue. Error Date Corrected. Musante GW-9-P2A, Baker-48, Julian PR-1. Joined Copper Shells. Choice Extremely Fine. 69.0 mm. 608.0 grains. Glossy dark brown with soft mottling and gentle chestnut tones. Just a trace of rub on the high points. Not a struck medal, but a somewhat carefully made piece constructed of two electrotype shells somewhat thoughtfully joined. The piece is clearly hollow, and thin, without the heavy lead filler often seen in electrotypes, and close examination of the edge reveals an unusual joinery that seems to include integral triangular and rectangular tabs folded from the reverse to the obverse, then smoothed and finished. Still, the seam is clearly evident. The thinness of the shells and

missing interior support has allowed for some minor dents and other associated irregularities.

This is the Washington Before Boston variant with the error date corrected. Struck examples are very rare, and we know of just nine, making it far rarer than an original in bronze, or silver, for that matter. It would seem the very transition from the originals to the error date variety to this corrected version attracted an electrotype producer. Neil Musante includes two images of error date electrotypes in his reference, both at ANS.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Sherbrooke Seminary; Enchères Champagne Auctions, Montreal, November 2019, lot 366.



2006

Circa 1920 Washington Before Boston Medal. Fifth Paris Issue. Musante GW-9-P5, Baker-49AG, Julian PR-1. Silver. Cornucopia and ARGENT Edge. SP-61 (PCGS). 68.2 mm. 2341.2 grains. Somewhat dull gray silver with some slightly deeper toning in places. A bit of light handling and a thin, very light scratch are noted in the left obverse field. A reverse edge bump is also seen. While the Paris

Mint edge mark suggests a broad vintage of 1880 or later, a fine matte finish points to an early 20th-century production for this piece. In addition, there is an old museum accession number in red ink on the edge, 1920.10.1, which leads one to believe that this might have been acquired new in 1920. A rare medal in silver from any period.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection.



Lot 2007
1790 Manly Medal. Original. Musante GW-10, Baker-61. Silver.
SP-58 (PCGS).



Stunning Original Manly Medal in Silver With Period Fitted Clamshell Case



2007

1790 Manly Medal. Original. Musante GW-10, Baker-61. Silver. SP-58 (PCGS). 48.2 mm. 850.9 grains. An incredible medal. One might well stop right there, if this were not such an historic, rare and desired piece. Lovely pearlescent gray silver dominates the palette, while nuances of mottled blue, violet, green and rose iridescence can be detected throughout the protected recesses on both sides. The design is gently outlined by this toning, and the legends and obverse rims are similarly highlighted. The reverse, being in generally lower relief that did not allow for larger air pockets between the recesses and the surface of the case, toned a bit more evenly, though there are still a couple of areas that exhibit greater depth of color.

Fairly well struck for an original Manly medal and clearly impressed upon a cast flan, with tiny casting imperfections remaining in the otherwise smooth surface in places. The obverse detail is crisp, as usually seen. The reverse is softer, showing signs of multiple impressions, also as typical, but the reverse legend is complete and sharper throughout than seen on many Manly medals. Pleasantly full rims frame the designs of both sides, while the fields reveal tantalizing traces of reflective flash. A couple of tiny marks may be detected under close study, but none is serious in the least. This is likely due to the long-term protection provided by what seems to be an original period clamshell case.

The case is constructed of thin wood strips, coiled and glued to loosely fit the diameter of the medal. This was finished with interior paper rims to tighten the fit, and green silk was added in both sides of the interior as a soft bed for the precious contents. The exterior appears as Morocco leather, but is likely a heavy, textured paper, finished with a sealant to give it durability and the gloss of tanned leather. The brass hinge and eye hook clasp are intact and functional. The case itself is a remarkable survivor and seems to have served its purpose handsomely.

The Manly medal is among the classics of the Washington portrait series, essential for any serious collection of medals produced in honor of the first President. Indeed, it is believed to have been the very first such medal struck in the United States, and the effort was deemed respectable enough that documents were produced and signed by prominent figures attesting to the

quality and trueness of the likeness of Washington. At least three such original documents survive, one of which was reproduced in our May 2004 sale of the Ford Collection, Part II. It appeared for sale in our August 2021 sale, and realized \$9,000, more than most Manly medals. The documents are reported to variously bear the signatures of the governor of New York, mayor of New York City, governor of Pennsylvania, Lafayette, and other notables. Nearly all Manly medals offered are struck in brass or, possibly another cupric alloy (brass being quite specifically an alloy of copper and tin), while impressions in silver are great rarities. Only the most advanced collections will include an original in silver. We are aware of just nine examples of this medal in silver, with two at the ANS. As a rule, many years pass between offerings. We were fortunate to have one of these in our March 2021 sale, but at that time it had been nearly 17 years since we last sold an original Manly medal in silver.

The medal sold in our August 2021 sale realized \$15,600. While important as a silver original, it was among those that had the name of the publisher, Manly, tooled from the reverse. No one knows who did this or why, but it is a feature of many original Manly medals, in silver, brass and white metal. We have not seen this removal on any of the reissues of the 1850s. As such, it is clear that it was done early, likely near or at the time of the original distribution of these medals. It is common enough to warrant acceptance of any so-tooled Manly medal as a distinct and collectable variety. Still, pieces like this, without such alteration, are clearly the best and most desired, and this is easily among the three finest known, though it is tough to know which one would rank as the finest without having them side-by-side. That sold in our May 1998 sale and the recently sold Donald Partrick specimen are the other two contenders for finest.

The first auction appearance of an original silver Manly medal we are aware of took place in England, at Mr. Sotheby's house. That piece was sold in March of 1819, as property of James Bindley, Esq. It realized 18 shillings but was group-lotted along with a 1795 silver dollar and a silver Myddleton token!

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Fred Baldwin, June 1965; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 68; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Amazing Prooflike Original Manly Medal in Brass



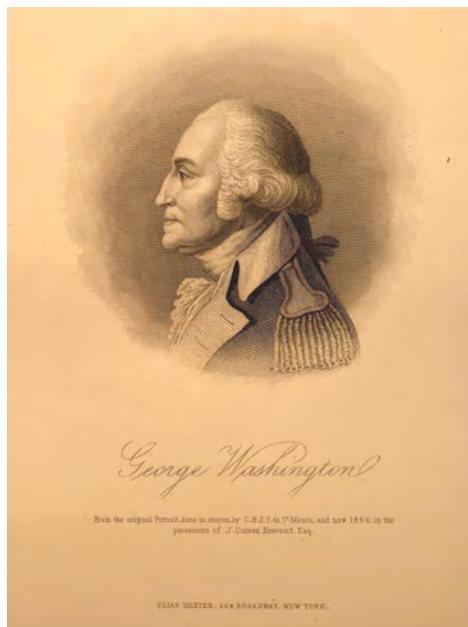
2008

1790 Manly Medal. Original. Musante GW-10, Baker-61B. Brass. SP-62 (PCGS). 48.5 mm. 534.2 grains. This piece deserves the sharing of a short story. Upon sliding this medal from the envelope and setting eyes on the reverse for the first time, the present writer thought, "oh, a nice reissue Manly." Not so! That is how nice this medal appears in hand. Though we have seen generously red ones and other nice pieces, none has been so striking as this. Brass Manly medals are plentiful enough that it is fair to suspect a technically nicer one exists somewhere, but this is certainly the nicest brass original the writer can recall seeing.

The initial mis-assignment as a reissue may be blamed on the highly unusual and stunning prooflike fields. The depth of the mirrors is unlike any Manly we recall and gives incredible aesthetic appeal. Both sides are largely pleasing light olive brown with deeper toning outlining the devices and through the legends of both sides. When turned in the light, flashes of

iridescent blue, rose, soft green and gold come to life in the lively fields. Faint traces of faded red still cling to some of the most protected areas. Close inspection reveals no notable flaws from handling, but it is clear that even the strong multiple strikes were not enough to fully eradicate the natural roughness of the cast planchet. Still, the details are unusually sharp, with full definition of even the fine hairlines in Washington's head, and incredible relief through the entirety of the reverse legend. Even without the other notable attributes, this detail alone would set this medal apart from most of its peers, as softness and unevenness in the reverse design is the norm. In fact, considering the features mentioned, it is hard to not point to this as truly special. Rarely was such obvious care taken in the production of a brass Manly medal, and the care this has enjoyed across more than two centuries of handling is clearly remarkable.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.





Superb Original Manly in White Metal



2009

1790 Manly Medal. Original. Musante GW-10, Baker-61A. White Metal. SP-58 (PCGS). 49.1 mm. 630.9 grains. Beautiful light pewter gray on the obverse, with only slight mellowing to deeper gray on the higher points of the relief. The reverse is lighter overall, with tight outlines of lustrous brilliance around the letters of the legend and especially in the recesses of the inner rim. Crisply detailed throughout, which is not typical of Manly medals in general, though these rarities in softer white metal do tend to come sharper than the usual brass ones.

Though we have enjoyed what might be called a flurry of offerings over the last three years or so, this is legitimately a rather scarce issue in this composition. Before 2019, it had been nine years since we had seen any example and it is likely that once this sells, it might

be some time before there is another available (five others have just found new homes with collectors). This stated, even if another does come up for sale, it is not likely to be as nice as this. The present writer has identified 25 distinct specimens in his Census, and this is easily among the finest. Only a couple, including the Yale University and Lucien LaRiviere examples, have respectable claims to being finer, and that is debatable. In addition, a couple of very nice medals are among those with the publisher's name tooled from the reverse. That is not a concern here, as J. MANLY & c. 1790 is quite sharply expressed. A truly superb medal with delightful eye appeal, suitable for the finest Washington cabinets.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.

Outstanding Second Obverse Manly in Silver Extremely Rare



2010

"1790" (Circa 1850s) Manly Medal. Second obverse. Musante GW-11, Baker-62. Silver. MS-63 (PCGS). 49.1 mm. 695.4 grains. A stunningly attractive medal with deep gray silver generously accented by mottled rose, gold and blue toning throughout the prooflike fields. Struck boldly, bringing the design features into crisp detail, but as usual for these reissued medals, the rims are irregular, thick and broad, partly the result of multiple impressions from the dies to bring up the motifs fully. Just a trace of friction on the highest points, but little evidence otherwise of any handling. A single curling lint mark is noted in the left obverse field, as made.

The first public offering we are aware of for this medal in silver was in W. Elliot Woodward's March 1865 sale, at lot 3304. It was described by design type and with the simple piece of

salesmanship, "splendid and rare." This was just a few years after these are believed to have been struck, but it would seem that Woodward's statement was perhaps more factual than even he could have known at the time. Woodward would sometimes quote mintages when he knew them, so the fact that this information is missing here suggests that he wrote having seen no others in silver (or an extremely limited number). Today, the present writer is aware of eight different specimens in silver—truly a rarity and on par with the originals! All seem to be in very nice condition, speaking to the likelihood that these were struck to order and tended to be ordered by numismatists who cared for them. This is particularly nice, and quite beautiful.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex our (Stack's) 1991 Fixed Price List of American Historical Medals, lot 138; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Choice Manly in Bronze Second Obverse



Extremely Rare Manly Medal in White Metal Second Obverse The Rarest Variant



2011

“1790” (Circa 1850s) Manly Medal. Second obverse. Musante GW-11, Baker-62B. Bronze. SP-64 BN (PCGS). 49.3 mm. 905.5 grains. A most handsome medal, the obverse being light mahogany brown with faint traces of faded red in the recesses. The reverse is slightly deeper chocolate brown, with a couple of tiny areas of superficial spotting and a small nick at the top of the I in RESIGNED. The eye appeal overall is superb, with glossy surfaces verging on prooflike in the fields. Sharply struck as usual for this reissue, with thick rims. These are unusually even here, and the designs boldly expressed, particularly among the finest details of the Washington portrait, in extremely high relief.

The Mason & Co. sale of November 1878 included a note that these were “struck from Lincoln’s dies,” the English coin dealer. James Manly died in 1795, and according to research by Neil Musante, his will mentioned a single son, who resided in London. The assumption is that these dies were in Manly’s estate and transferred to his son upon the elder’s passing. While these reissued pieces of English origin are not nearly as prized as the original medals, they are all quite rare, and even in bronze, likely more so than the original 1790 medals. They are also generally better preserved and immensely attractive. As noted in the description of the silver example offered in the previous lot, these were almost certainly sold directly to medal collectors, rather than distributed more broadly to general fans of Washington. As such, they entered collectors’ hands directly and were better cared for on the whole. Reissues though they may be, today no serious Washingtoniana collection may be considered complete without one of these, or two, or three!

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex F.C.C. Boyd Estate; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 76; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.

2012

“1790” (Circa 1850s) Manly Medal. Second obverse. Musante GW-11, Baker-62A. White Metal. MS-62 (PCGS). Uneven patina on both sides includes areas of deep gray, lighter, more brilliant silver, and even nuances of olive in the left obverse field. It is unclear what caused this distinctive unevenness, but some curious angular patterns suggest that it might relate to it having been folded up into some paper long ago. Whatever the case, to varying degrees, such unusual toning patterns seem to be the norm for the extremely rare white metal reissues.

Somewhat unevenly struck, as typical for all the 1850s Manly medals, with broad, thick rims, but also with remarkable sharpness throughout the details including full expression of the portrait and full reverse legends, including the publisher’s identity near 6 o’clock. While this feature has been removed from some of the originals, that does not seem to ever be the case for these reissued medals, so this, again, points to an early genesis of that alteration.

Aside from the unique gold original and one fire-gilt specimen we have handled, the white metal impressions from these dies are the rarest of the Manly medals that are occasionally available. We are aware of just four such specimens, one of which we have not seen images of, but is supposedly in the collections of the ANS in New York. As such, this is considerably rarer than silver impressions of either vintage, and far rarer than white metal originals.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our sale of March 2017, lot 50.



Superb 1791 Large Eagle Cent One of the Finest Seen



2013

1791 Large Eagle Cent. Musante GW-15, Baker-15, Breen-1206. **Copper. Lettered Edge, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. MS-64 RB (PCGS).** 29.5 mm. 187.0 grains. An outstanding example of this early classic, with more original color than we recall having seen on any other. Probably about 70% or so of the original orange red color remains, with slight mellowing in the open fields and the high points toned to warm, light tan. Naturally the most robust color clings closer to the devices where the surfaces have been most protected. A blush of soft blue-green and violet is noted over Washington's head, and there are a few ancient light patina spots here and there, not unlike those seen on famous hoard coins like certain early large cent and half cent varieties. Sharp, satiny and lustrous with some prooflike accents in the fields. A common enough issue to find in general, but almost never available with an appearance this pristine.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2014

Circa 1791 Small Eagle Cent. Musante GW-17, Baker-16, Breen-1217. **Copper. Lettered edge, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. AU-58 (PCGS).** 29.3 mm. 189.0 grains. Lovely dark chocolate brown with subtle traces of deep tan flecked across the surfaces coming into view when studied closely. Sharp and glossy with inviting suggestions of prooflike character in the fields. One trivial rim bump is noted on the obverse but is easily overlooked. Essentially ideal eye appeal and a perfect example to represent this popular coinage proposal.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Cherney Collection, December 2003.

Tinned Small Eagle Cent Variant



2015

Circa 1791 Small Eagle Cent. Musante GW-17 var., Baker-16 var., Breen-1217 var. **Copper, tinned. Lettered edge, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. EF Details—Plated (PCGS). About Uncirculated.** A rare variant that is not published in the major references. Softly lustrous bluish-gray where the applied surface is intact, though it has worn through on the highest points of design which, in turn, has created a bit of a cameo contrast. Though we suspect this was not done at the time of striking, it was clearly done long ago while years of circulation or handling still remained in its future. We have seen at least one other example seemingly so treated. An interesting and rare variant.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of June 2010, lot 72.



Lot 2016
Circa 1791 Liverpool Halfpenny. Musante GW-18, Baker-17A, Breen-1222. Pewter. Plain edge.
AU-55 (PCGS).



Unique Liverpool Halfpenny in Pewter From the Norweb Collection



2016

Circa 1791 Liverpool Halfpenny. Musante GW-18, Baker-17A, Breen-1222. Pewter. Plain edge. AU-55 (PCGS). 28.8 mm. 156.8 grains. A rarity that we have only seen once before when this piece appeared in our November 2006 sale of the Norweb Collection of Washingtoniana, the first time it had appeared at auction in more than a half century. It has now been a part of the Syd Martin Collection for more than 15 years. When we sold it last, it realized considerably more than we had anticipated, becoming the ninth highest price realized of the 136 Norweb lots, and among the highlights of that offering. Little has changed regarding this piece since that time, so we describe it here as we did then, with minor edits and additions:

Even light pewter gray with attractive surfaces, not exactly lustrous but not dull in appearance either. Extremely sharp and well defined, unsurprising given the metallic composition. Each and every porthole is defined on the reverse and Washington's epaulet shows complete and distinct fringe. Further, the planchet is a full millimeter larger than the copper specimen in the preceding lot [Norweb:2018]. While a millimeter seems small, it means that the date is complete and the legends are likewise fully on the planchet. Some very faint pits are seen above the date and scattered in the fields and there are some minor hairlines, but it has very nice visual appeal overall. From a technical perspective, this pewter halfpenny is fascinating and significantly distinctive

from the rare copper issues. The die rotation is different; this piece is medal turn, as opposed to the typical coin turn for copper specimens. The reverse die is different than that used on a normal Baker-17, though of the same general type with certain minor variations—a different wreath, lower sail on the main mast is raised and not lowered, rigging is slightly different, etc. Further, the obverse appears to be in an earlier die state than that seen on the copper specimens, with no patch of rust under SHI of WASHINGTON, a much smaller rust pit between WA of the same word, and other indications. Studying this piece next to a copper piece is instructive and engrossing. This die variety and the pewter composition are both considered unique, listed as such by Fuld (1965), Breen (1988), Fuld (1995), Rulau (1999) and Musante (2016), without so much as a rumor of another. This piece turned up in the B.G. Johnson estate and may trace its provenance back to one of the great collections he helped disperse, i.e. Col. Green or Brand. It sold at auction twice in the early 1950s, bringing \$72.50 in 1951, and was off the market until our 2006 sale where it realized \$103,500.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the estate of B.G. Johnson; Hans Schulman's sale of April 1951, lot 1077; New Netherlands Coin Co.'s 35th sale, November 1951, lot 557; Oliver Futter (a New York cabbie); B. Max Mehl to Mrs. Norweb; our (Stack's) sale of the Norweb Collection, November 2006, lot 2019. Plated in Fuld (1995), Rulau (1999) and Musante (2016).



Scarce Liverpool Halfpenny



2017

1791 Liverpool Halfpenny. Musante GW-19, Baker-17, Breen-1223. Copper. Lettered edge, PAYABLE IN ANGLESEY LONDON OR LIVERPOOL. AU Details—Cleaned (PCGS). 27.4 mm. 141.9 grains. Light steely tan with subtle rose accents in some of the recesses. Faint hairlines can be detected on close study, but the overall color is suggestive of a very light cleaning. Still, the detail is quite sharp, this having been a little handled example that likely entered a collection early on. Struck slightly off center on a flan that was a little too small, as usually seen for the issue, but the date is full and no letters are less than 50% present. Traces of soft luster remain,

and the small rough patch from die rust or spalling is clearly evident in the left obverse field, as made. A bit scarcer as the English token variants go, enough so that this issue was sometimes given valuable plate space in 19th-century sales. When the Benjamin Haines collection was sold in 1863, the Liverpool halfpenny was called “extremely rare” with the note that only one other was known to him. It sold to Colin Lightbody for \$25, the same amount a C.C. Wright Signing of the Declaration medal would bring just two months later.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2018

1793 Ship Halfpenny. Musante GW-20, Baker-18, Breen-1225. Copper. Lettered edge, PAYABLE IN ANGLESEY LONDON OR LIVERPOOL. AU-58 (PCGS). 30.1 mm. 172.7 grains. Glossy olive brown with nuances of faded tan. Traces of lingering red are in the recesses of the reverse legend and central motif. The usual light spalling near WAS and the final N of WASHINGTON is noted, as is the standard light buckling in the upper left reverse field. The reverse

rim bulge near 5 o'clock is also present, but not as pronounced as sometimes seen. About as nicely struck as these come, with most of the fine details nicely expressed, including fine die finishing lines in the reverse field. Minor shallow voids in the upper reverse field appear as made. An earlier state example, struck from unclashed dies.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2019

1793 Ship Halfpenny. Musante GW-20, Baker-18, Breen-1225. Copper. Lettered edge, PAYABLE IN ANGLESEY LONDON OR LIVERPOOL. EF-45 (PCGS). 29.7 mm. 164.2 grains. Glossy medium brown with traces of faded tan mottling. Slight roughness in the fields is as made and seen on both Martin Collection examples. Actual marks of handling are few, consisting of light wear and a

couple of tiny abrasions. Quite attractive. Struck from a later state of the dies, with more pronounced sinking of the central reverse, a larger bulge in the rim near 5 o'clock and strong clash marks through the legends.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased in September 1992, source unrecorded.



Extremely Rare 1793 Ship Halfpenny With Plain Edge Among the Finest Known



2020

1793 Ship Halfpenny. Musante GW-20, Baker-18A, Breen-1226. Copper. Plain edge. EF-45 (PCGS). Deep olive brown surfaces are glossy but still retain traces of natural surface grime that adds to the very wholesome and original appearance. Minimal handling, consistent with the grade assigned, but a well-struck piece that exhibits more of the finer detail than many would in this condition. Struck from an early state of the dies, with minimal reverse buckling. A handsome example struck on a planchet that did not receive the normal lettered edge device for the ship halfpenny, creating a very rare variant for specialist collectors. Baker did not seem to have known about this variety in 1885, but George Fuld added a note about it in his 1965 revision of Baker's work, identifying himself as the owner of one.

Walter Breen stated that three were known to him, including an unplated one that was the source of the Dalton & Hamer listing, presumed in an English collection. The other two he listed, Roper:376 and EAC 1975:491, are in fact the same specimen.

PCGS has graded four specimens as problem-free, one as Fine, two in this grade and one AU-58+. Of the two EF-45 examples, this is clearly the finer as the other one has obvious oxidation. NGC has a single EF in their Census records. Based on this data along with a casual study of auction appearances, we suspect that there might be eight to 12 in existence, but this seems to be the second finest known.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), September 2009.



Lot 2021
1792 Roman Head Cent. Musante GW-21, Baker-19, Breen-1249. Copper.
Proof-64 RB (PCGS).



Very Rare Roman Head Cent With Provenance to 1895



2021

1792 Roman Head Cent. Musante GW-21, Baker-19, Breen-1249. Copper. Proof-64 RB (PCGS). 30 mm. Beautifully toned in rich pastels, with vibrant rose, blue, green, gold and violet mottled over much of the surface, though generous red undertones remain. Narrow outlines of bold orange red remain close to some of the letters of the legends. A spot in the back of Washington's hair is a useful identifier that this piece came from the Ford Collection in 2004. The spot seems to have formed since the 1904 John G. Mills sale, where it was plated.

Referred to in the 19th century as the *Naked Bust* to differentiate it from other Washington President obverses bearing the same date, in an era when photographic illustration was rare, this issue was recognized as an important entry in advanced Washingtoniana collections as of the Civil War. A "fine copy" appeared in W. Elliot Woodward's October 1863 sale of the Jeremiah Colburn Collection and realized \$1. This is the first example we are aware of being mentioned. It was published in March 1860 as being in the Colburn Collection, in Volume 4 of *The Historical Magazine*, on page 85. However, that entry was drafted in February of 1859, well in advance of the publication date. The price of \$1 suggests strongly that it was literally a copy of an original, and not a genuine impression. The fact that high-quality copies already existed by 1863 suggests that a market had been established, and that the piece was already identified as exceedingly rare.

The first certain appearance we are aware of was in the 1864 John McCoy sale, where W. Elliot Woodward referenced this issue in his presentation of another type (GW-30 or GW-31), "The rarest of all the Washington Cents, the naked bust alone excepted." In his presentation of the Roman Head cent, at lot 2460, he wrote the following: "This piece, the celebrated Roman or Naked bust Washington Cent, of 1792, the owner considers far more desirable and more valuable than any other American coin or medal. Three specimens only are known in the country." It realized \$480, selling to Colin Lightbody for an extraordinary amount of money in the numismatic marketplace of the 1860s. Indeed, in the same sale, \$137.75 was spent on *all these* rarities, combined: 1792 pattern disme, 1792 half disme, "Eagle on Rock" trials, 1794 Pattern silver dollar in copper.

Notably, Woodward's comment that only three were known in this country points to his position close to the genesis of their appearance here. In fact, he wrote in his 77th sale catalog,

in 1885, that the first "known to American collectors was imported by Mr. Davenport in a parcel of English tradesman's tokens. Many years afterward I bought the piece and sold it in the McCoy collection to Mr. Lightbody..." While Woodward suggests the McCoy piece was the first to appear, he did write of two others in 1864, so it would seem the memories may have been embellished a bit. Today, more than a century and a half after that 1864 sale, we are aware of only about 17 distinct specimens, though there are likely a few we have not identified, as indicated by Fuld's assertion that about 20 were known. It is clear the original issue was very small, whatever the reason, and for its entire time in America, it has been an object prized by collectors.

As we wrote in our 2006 presentation of the Norweb specimen, "for years Breen's 'effeminate emperor' projection and aspersion upon the character of this piece has been bandied about, but the true purpose was surely not satire. Rather, since nearly every specimen known is in a well-preserved Proof state, it seems that this was just one more token struck to feed the passions of the British token collectors of the day. Breen's implication that these were some kind of secret, hidden from view until the 1860s, does not stand up when the evidence that a boldly signed die trial of this obverse exists, identifying the author as 'I.G. Hancock' or the young John Gregory Hancock. Hancock, aged just 17 when these dies were engraved, would likely not have conceived this as a massive satire, but rather as a play on the Roman coins and engraved gems that most engravers studied during the 18th century as they learned their craft."

This medal was notably missing from our recent sales of the E Pluribus Unum Collection of Washington medals and is especially notable for not being included in the William Spohn Baker Cabinet, sold by us on behalf of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, in November 2019. Years can pass between offerings, though in some eras there have been flurries of offerings from the small number of pieces known. It is not an issue that can reliably or easily be found when sought, however. This last sold publicly, by us, 15 years ago.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from S.H. & H. Chapman's sale of the Richard B. Winsor Collection, December 1895, lot 259; S.H. & H. Chapman's sale of the John G. Mills Collection, April 1904, lot 149; Hillyer Ryder; F.C.C. Boyd Estate; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, Lot 25; our (Stack's) sale of October 2007, lot 4686.



Lot 2022

1792 Pattern Washington Half Dollar by Peter Getz. Musante GW-22, Baker-24C. Silver.
Ornamented edge of the host coin. SP-10 (PCGS).



Very Rare 1792 Pattern Half Dollar The Eli Hilles Specimen With Provenance to the 1790s



2022

1792 Pattern Washington Half Dollar by Peter Getz. Musante GW-22, Baker-24C. Silver. Ornamented edge of the host coin. SP-10 (PCGS). 33.5 mm. 203.9 grains. Relatively uniform medium gray silver on the obverse. The reverse is light gray on the higher areas of relief, while deeper gray toning in the fields helps to accentuate the designs. Struck in medal-turn orientation and somewhat unevenly, as often seen on impressions from these dies in both silver and copper. The detail of the obverse legend is weak from about 9 o'clock to 1 o'clock, but nearly all the letters can be discerned. This side is struck slightly high on the flan, but the letters, if fully developed, would all be unencumbered by the rim. The reverse is somewhat more aggressively off center toward 1 o'clock, and the detail is weak in that area with most of the letters near the 1 o'clock position gone, including ES OF, as well as the upper right wingtip which is just off the edge.

A fairly smooth general appearance is quite inviting, and the lack of a suspension piercing (or subsequent plugging) that plagues so many of these coins makes this a particularly appealing piece. A single thin scratch extending into the field from Washington's nose is noted, and a small series of short scratches is also noted at the lower reverse. Considering the state of many Getz half dollars, these details are easily forgiven on this specimen.

This appears to be struck on a Spanish American 4 Reales, but it is very difficult to state with certainty. Very little of the undertype is visible. In fact, it is so little that most would miss it with ease, and the edge is worn enough to make the edge device uncertain. However, directly above Washington's head, in the space between WASHINGTON. and PRESIDENT, can be seen the ghostly shadow of D from the host coin, along with a possible period and the curve of an adjacent G, which would match a 4 Reales. However, George Fuld suggested that it might be over a French half-ecu, which would have similar letters in its legend.

This is number 19 in George Fuld's roster of specimens, though he identifies it as having a plain edge. He does have the incredible provenance correct, though, as this was consigned to the March

1995 Bowers and Merena sale by the descendants of a man who may well have been the first to own it, a teenager at the time of Washington's death in 1799. The family stated it had been in their care since the 1790s and carried as a pocket piece by their ancestor. This is a remarkable provenance for one of these, as it speaks to enormous reverence for the memory of Washington.

In 1928, Samuel Eli Hilles published a history of the Hilles family, *Memorials of the Hilles family, more particularly of Samuel and Margaret Hill Hilles of Wilmington, Delaware, with some account of their ancestry and some data not before published...* The Samuel and Margaret referenced as the focal points of the history were the grandparents of the author, brother and sister-in-law of Eli Hilles, the carrier of this medal. Margaret Hill Hilles, Samuel's wife, and Eli's sister-in-law, is stated in the book to have met George Washington as a girl of six years old, interestingly, in 1792: "President Washington came down the street with his staff and stopped in front of the two children; then addressing grandmother [Margaret Hill Hilles, at the age of six] said, 'Well, my little lassie, how is your grandmother to-day? What makes your cheeks so red?' She answered, 'Mush and milk'. He shook hands with grandmother and took her cousin in his arms and kissed her; then said, 'Give my love to your grandmother.'" The time and place ("the South side of Walnut Street, just above Fourth Street, Philadelphia") are proper for such a casual run-in with Washington, as this is but three blocks from Congress Hall, and four blocks from Washington's home site in Philadelphia, where the Federal Government was located at the time. The close proximity and clear family acquaintance with Washington is intriguing in light of the story surrounding this Getz pattern and would explain why someone in the Hilles family might elect to carry such a memento for many years.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Eli Hilles of Wilmington, Delaware (1783-1863); Elizabeth Barker Hilles, daughter of Eli Hilles (1813-1907); Samuel Eli Hilles; Margaret Hilles Shearman (1883-1964), who offered this piece to Eric P. Newman, in 1955; Unnamed descendant of the Hilles family, and consignor to our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of March 1995, where it appeared at lot 3373; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Lot 2023

1792 Pattern Washington Cent by Peter Getz. Musante GW-22, Baker-25A, Breen-1358. Copper.
Plain edge. EF-45 (PCGS).



Extremely Rare “Piedfort” 1792 Getz Pattern Struck in Copper



2023

1792 Pattern Washington Cent by Peter Getz. Musante GW-22, Baker-25A, Breen-1358. Copper. Plain edge. EF-45 (PCGS). 35.7 mm. 331.4 grains. Deep chocolate brown surfaces on both sides are glossy and uniform. Soft luster remains on the obverse, while suggestions of prooflike character in the reverse field serve to further accentuate the design details, which are already struck in somewhat high relief. Struck on an unusually large flan, with the obverse nicely centered, the rims broad and prominently dentilated. The reverse is slightly misaligned, an issue that plagued the Getz pieces, but here the diameter of the planchet allowed for complete expression of all major design features. Only the dentilated border is missing on the reverse, from about 8 o'clock to 12 o'clock. The opposing arc of the reverse rim is thickly bordered with long dentils fully developed.

The initial eye appeal is superb, though close inspection reveals an unfortunate series of obverse scratches that diminish the technical quality a bit, yet somehow do little harm to the overall aesthetic and the impression this large piece makes in hand.

Walter Breen described this variant as a “jumbo piedfort,” his reference number 1358 in his *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. He listed just two known examples, that from Stack's 1967 Charles Jay sale, and another that passed through

several Bowers and Ruddy sales, the Stack's Reed Hawn sale, and most recently the Partrick Collection. This piece was overlooked by Breen, having been in the 1978 Robert C. Hall sale by Bowers and Ruddy. Today, it remains one of just three known examples with a diameter over 35 mm and a weight of more than 300 grains. This is the heaviest of the three, by a tiny margin. The next in line is the recently sold Donald Partrick specimen, which was presented incorrectly as unique with a coin-turn alignment. This is also struck in this orientation, and we wonder if the third known example is as well. The large size certainly sets these three apart, and if they should be the only ones in this orientation, it does suggest a separate and purposeful nature to their production that is different from the others seen. The scratches on this notwithstanding, they are also all three in relatively nice condition, so it stands to reason that these might have been presentation specimens that were handled with greater care than others from the outset. This example is specimen #15 in George Fuld's survey.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of the Robert C. Hall Estate, October 1978, lot 1165; Anthony Terranova; Henry Garrett; Early American History Auctions, December 1999, lot 19; Roger Siboni, in trade, November 2006.





The Unique Fonrobert Half Dollar



2024

Circa 1850 Fonrobert Half Dollar. Musante GW-25, Baker-26. Silver. Plain edge. EF-45 (PCGS). 34.3 mm. 213.6 grains. Mottled rose, gold and pale blue-green toning accents are seen on both sides, but it is slightly more vibrant through the obverse periphery than elsewhere. Generous light gray silver remains closer to the centers. A very interesting piece that appears to be a direct copy of GW-23, the unique Large Eagle half dollar, itself believed a fantasy copy roughly based on the works of Peter Getz, though with the eagle styled after the 1791 large eagle cents, perhaps. That piece has a long illustrious provenance, and though parts are questionable, as suggested by Musante, we know that it appeared in the November 1862 sale of property from the Joseph Finotti Collection, cataloged by W. Elliot Woodward.

This copy was die-struck, with some careful burnishing done at the time of manufacture to effectively give the appearance of greater age. Today, we recognize that stylistically this is more modern than the 1792 date might suggest, but at the time, very little had been published with images. Both collectors and dealers had to rely on largely descriptive texts, line drawings and direct experience with medals to make conclusions about any pieces not well known to them. Naturally, the rarer the object, the more likely one could be fooled if the work was good enough. This seems to be such a case. This piece first turned up in the German sale of the Jules Fonrobert Collection, in February 1878, conducted by Adolf Weyl. Thanks to a line-drawing plate, it is unmistakable as the medal sold therein at lot 6103. Weyl cataloged it as the only example known in circulation and pointed out that it differed from all others known in that the

hair was styled differently, without side curls (as seen on the Getz portrait). Though a German national, Fonrobert is known to have lived in New York City for a number of years in the 1850s, during which time he is believed to have been an active collector, though he is not recorded as a known direct buyer in any auction sales. Most likely, he bought through an agent, but this time in America, and the fact that he was likely a newcomer to American numismatics, would have made him an ideal target for a piece like this, and would explain how it ended up in a German collection by 1878.

Though it may have been born a concoction designed to fool a prominent 19th-century collector, its list of owners since its debut have given it a degree of *authenticity* as a meaningful entry into the vast body of medals produced in honor of Washington. In fact, it is somewhat legendary, as are all the collectors who have owned it. It was likely made as a one-off in the heyday of Washington medal collecting in the 1850s, and the quality of the work is actually quite good, not that much different than the Idler copies of Getz's works made by Robert Lovett, Jr. around 1860. It is also unique and among the few pieces that carry a solid provenance of nearly 150 years. Syd Martin is only the sixth collector to have owned it.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Adolf Weyl's sale of the Jules Fonrobert Collection, Berlin, February 1878, lot 6103; Professor Charles Anthon; Bangs, Merwin & Co.'s sale of the Charles Anthon Collection, October 1884, lot 407; T. Harrison Garrett; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of the Garrett Collection, Part IV, March 1981, lot 1718; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 34; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2025

Circa 1860 Idler Copy of the Getz "Half Dollar" by Robert Lovett, Jr. Musante GW-27, Baker-25K. Silver. EF-45 (PCGS). 33.8 mm. 191.3 grains. COPY removed from the reverse, though not terribly effectively as each letter can still be seen upon close study. Attractive light gray with soft blue and rose iridescence mottled through the fields.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection.



Lot 2026
1797 George Washington General Grand Master Medal. Musante GW-29, Baker-288B. Brass.
Engrailed edge. VF-20 (PCGS)



1797 General Grand Master Medal An Early American Classic



2026

1797 George Washington General Grand Master Medal. Musante GW-29, Baker-288B. Brass. Engrailed edge. VF-20 (PCGS). 35.3 mm. 257.7 grains. Light olive brown over much of the surface, while some deeper ruddy brown patina is noted in the recesses. A trace of darker encrustation is noted in the reverse periphery, near 12 o'clock, and tiny green deposits are seen elsewhere in the dentils. Some trivial porosity and a few ancient scratches are noted under magnification, but the first impression is of a fairly smooth and glossy medal. A faint planchet crack is noted from the edge left of the date, extending into the bust, while a couple of smaller separations are noted at the rims. Such *as made* defects are not unusual on these medals. In fact, several of the few known pieces exhibit some type of flan split, while others are corroded or holed. This can only be described fairly as perfectly pleasant in the context of all the known survivors. This is from a later state of the dies, with a horizontal crack through the central obverse, extending from the hair knot to the field, just left of Washington's chin.

This is a very rare medal and opportunities to acquire it are few and far between. The 1981 Garrett Collection sale included an extraordinary silver example, as well as a uniface piece. Similarly, the Ford sale in 2004 included a lone brass example and was the last we handled until the 2019 offering of the William Spohn Baker Collection. More recently, the rediscovery of the unique plain edge example provenanced back to R. Coulton Davis (1890) created a lot of excitement when it brought \$84,000 in our Spring 2022 sale.

The cabinets of David Dreyfuss, Gilbert Steinberg, Lucien LaRiviere, and Charles Wharton were all missing this type, while the Fairfax Collection, offered in our May 1993 sale, included a lower grade one with a serious flan crack. The Norweb family owned a holed specimen but donated it to Western Reserve Historical Society, and it is now at Colonial Williamsburg.

Through a combination of George Fuld's survey of specimens, published in 2009, and our own efforts, we are fairly confident of 17 known survivors struck in brass, and two-sided. In addition, a couple more institutionally owned ones have been reported but remain unconfirmed. There are also two or three reported in silver, and four uniface brass ones. The silver and uniface examples were clearly special, perhaps made with different uses intended from the outset. Of the brass examples confirmed, at least eight are likely permanent residents in institutional collections, explaining why these are so rarely available.

As given in our recent sale of the Davis specimen, "the connection of these medals to Peter Getz of Lancaster is both evident and undocumented. The portrait on this medal is not a precise match for those found on the 1792 private patterns by the Lancaster silversmith, but it is either by the same hand or, quite possibly, a copyist's attempt. The detail on the epaulet is quite different, but otherwise the portrait here is plainly copying the 1792 pieces by Getz. Numismatic tradition has long attributed these to Getz's hand, and even today he's as good a guess as any. Getz was an active mason in Lancaster, was master of his local lodge in 1794, and he worked as a die engraver in this era. However, Neil Musante suggested in his *Medallic Washington* that this medal was probably not by Getz. His reasoning is arguable (it hinged on the famous but now broken ladle owned by a Virginia Masonic lodge), but his conclusion is probably right.

"The key piece of evidence in identifying the authorship of this medal was discovered in an unusual place: the archives of the descendants of Adam Eckfeldt, which hit the market in 2014. A manuscript entitled 'An inventory of Coining Machines taken from Richard Harpers & sent to the Mint of United States by order of the Mayor of this City Aug. 29th, 1797.' The authors of 1792: Birth of a Nation's Coinage make the assumption that Richard Harper was the son of the recently deceased minter and sawmaker John Harper of Philadelphia, who died in either late 1796 or early 1797. The inventory is fascinating, including '1 Coining press compleat with a Leaver without balls,' a cutting press, a rolling press, and most everything else someone would need to operate a private mint. For our purposes, the dies on hand are most interesting. They include a single die for 'Jersey halfpence' along with '2 Dies of General Washington Heads' and '1 [die] of the face Masons coat of Arms.' In other words, this 1797 inventory from the estate of John Harper appears to list the obverse and reverse dies of this exact medal.

As a coiner, Harper is not necessarily the engraver of this medal; indeed, he may have been contracted by an engraver like Getz to produce them. Saw makers weren't usually the artistic sort, but someone had to have engraved the dies for the cents Harper struck privately in 1795, now known as "Jefferson Head cents. It could have been Harper, or Getz, or someone else entirely.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Rare 1792 Washington Born Virginia Variant The Musante Plate

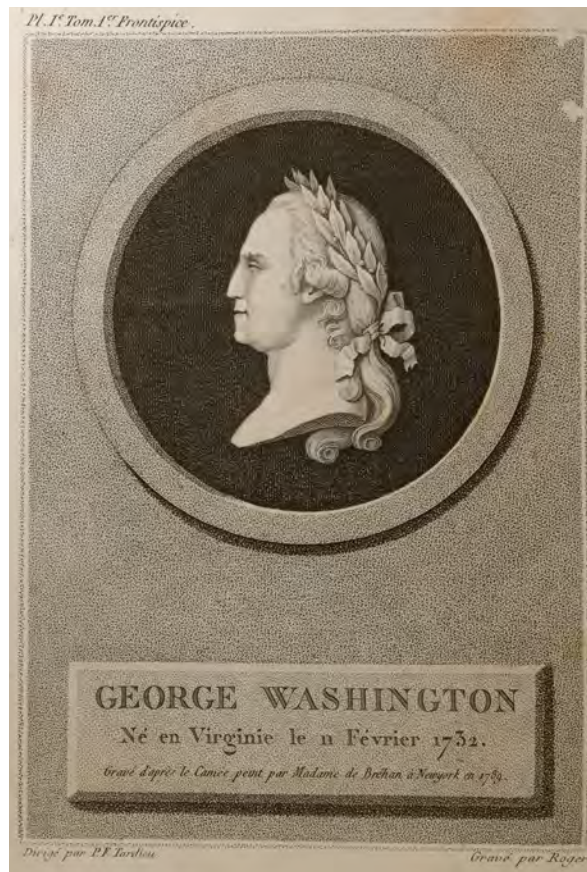


2027

Circa 1792 Washington Born Virginia Copper. Musante GW-32, Baker-60 var., Breen-1238. Copper. Plain edge. Fine Details—Cleaned (PCGS). 30.1 mm. 173.4 grains. Fairly uniform deep brown but with some light obverse abrasions and hairlines evident upon close study. The obverse is well detailed for the grade, and sharper than the reverse as often seen on Washington Born Virginia pieces, as the low relief of the reverse legend often didn't strike up well. This is smooth through the reverse center, but sharp enough at the periphery to determine it to be the rarer reverse. We are aware of about 10 of

these. Though Musante lists them with both plain edges and lettered edges, all that we could find with edge types noted in past sales have been plain. However, this is not specified for some pieces. This die pairing was unknown to Baker in 1885. The reverse used here was only identified as paired with the 1792-dated WASHINGTON PRESIDENT obverse by him.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Long Island Numismatics, January 2002.





Lot 2028

Circa 1792 Washington Born Virginia Copper. Legend Reverse. Musante GW-33, Baker-60, Breen-1239. Copper. Plain edge. MS-63 BN (PCGS).



Incredible Mint State Washington Born Virginia Copper From the Norweb Collection



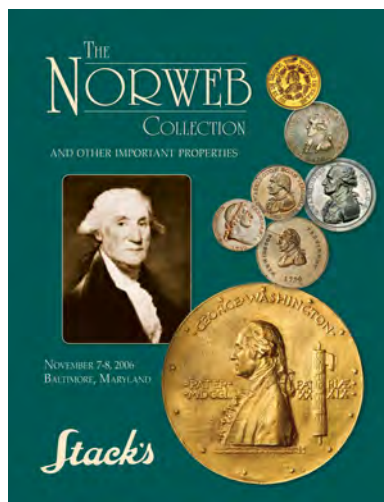
2028

Circa 1792 Washington Born Virginia Copper. Legend Reverse. Musante GW-33, Baker-60, Breen-1239. Copper. Plain edge. MS-63 BN (PCGS). 30.5 mm. 167.2 grains. One of the truly incredible items revealed in our 2006 sale of the Norweb Collection, a piece that had been off the market since Mrs. Norweb bought it privately from B. Max Mehl in 1937. It is lustrous light brown with surfaces gently reflective in the fields where traces of faded red remain in some of the recesses. This is most notable around BORN on the obverse, with traces on the reverse also seen, especially at DENT of PRESIDENT. The strike and sharpness are superb, and a semicircle of rarely seen denticles frame the tops of both sides. A long lintmark curls between the bust truncation and 11 below; another is seen above THE near the top of the reverse. No flaws are notable, just a tiny pit above E of AMERICAN and a spot above IN of WASHINGTON.

When we sold this in 2006, it was the finest graded by PCGS. In the ensuing years, some great holdings have been dispersed and while it is no longer the finest certified, it is notably among the finest of the issue to survive, an issue that more often than not tends to be weakly struck Very Fine, or worse.

While this piece is not a pattern for a coinage contract, it does seem likely they were placed into circulation. Were this primarily intended as a commemorative medalet, more of the known pieces would be Mint State or very high grade, but only a handful can be considered so fine.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex B. Max Mehl, January 1937; Mrs. R. Henry Norweb; our (Stack's) sale of the Norweb Collection, November 2006, lot 2055; our (Stack's) Americana Sale, September 2009, lot 4192.





Lot 2029

1792 Washington President Pattern. Legend Reverse. Musante GW-35, Baker-59A, Breen-1235. Copper. Lettered edge, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. EF-45 (PCGS).



Extremely Rare 1792 Washington President Legend Reverse; Lettered Edge The Second Finest



2029

1792 Washington President Pattern. Legend Reverse. Musante GW-35, Baker-59A, Breen-1235. Copper. Lettered edge, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. EF-45 (PCGS). 172.5 grains. Somewhat mottled olive and steel brown give the appearance of an ancient cleaning that has long since toned back, but there are no unsightly hairlines or other associated problems, and the overall eye appeal is not unpleasant. It is also the second finest of the very few survivors. A couple of faint scratches and scattered marks are noted alongside the soft wear that indicates this piece actually circulated as a commercial copper for a short time before being plucked out and saved as something obviously unusual and special. Rather well struck, with both sides nicely centered and just a trace of the usual softness at the central reverse where the pressure was just not enough to completely express the fine details in opposition to the high relief of the portrait on the obverse.

One of the rarest of the Jacob Perkins pattern issues, this type is scarcely ever offered, especially with the edge lettered, as here. Walter Breen listed just four known specimens in his *Complete Encyclopedia* in 1988, while three were reported as known by Rulau and Fuld in their 1999 revision of the Baker reference. Musante also reported four, but only Breen listed those known to him, as follows (with adjustments for modern appearances):

1. Joseph Mickley; Col. Mendes Cohen; William Sumner Appleton-Massachusetts Historical Society. Plated in Musante. Called "polished" in the literature.

2. Matthew Stickney-Col. James Ellsworth-Garrett Collection, March 1981:1733 Donald Partrick, HA, March 2021:15157, graded VF-20 (NGC) @ \$36,000.
3. John L. Roper, Stack's, December 1983:400. *Reverse nearly smooth.*
4. J. Carson Brevoort-Lorin G. Parmelee (1876)-Isaac F. Wood- Norweb, Stack's, November 2006:2053 graded AU-55 (PCGS) @ \$92,000; Donald Partrick, HA, January 2021:3963 graded AU-55 (NGC) @ \$78,000. *Finest.*

To this listing, we can add these additional pieces:

5. Bowers and Merena, September 1984:777. *Similar to Garrett sharpness, but reverse center dig and scratches.*
6. Stack's Privately, 1983; Anthony Terranova; The Archangel Collection, Stack's Bowers Galleries, October 2018:7129, graded EF-45 (PCGS) @\$66,000. **The present specimen.**

Specimen number #4 above is clearly the finest known of the six we are aware of, while Specimen #1, and this appear similar, aside from #1 having been described in the past as "polished." That would leave this as the second finest known of the recognized survivors.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Stack's, privately, 1983; Anthony Terranova; our sale of the Archangel Collection, October 2018, lot 7129, via Anthony Terranova.



2030

Circa 1959 Albert Collis Restrike of the Washington Born Virginia Obverse. Uniface. GW-37, Baker-22B, Breen-1245. Copper. MS-66 RB (PCGS). Robust orange red luster, with just a trace of blue toning on the highest points. Struck from a transfer die that was reportedly made from the original obtained by Collis from descendants of Jacob Perkins, around 1959. One of 5,019 struck in copper, joined by one in platinum, seven in gold and 22 in silver.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchase from Northeast Numismatics, via eBay, December 2004.



2032

Circa 1793 Washington Success Token. Large Size. First Obverse. Musante GW-41, Baker-265A, Breen-1287. Brass. Plain edge. AU-50 (PCGS). 25.4 mm. 62.8 grains. Golden olive surfaces with some darker patina in the reverse recesses, while about 25% or so of the original tinning remains. A couple of ancient and light abrasions are noted at the central reverse, but the eye appeal is quite pleasing overall. Struck from the late die state, with a prominent obverse crack crossing Washington's nose, extending from the rim over the G of WASHINGTON to the rim over his head, at 11 o'clock.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from France, via American Heritage Minting (William Paul), December 1995.

Lovely 1792 Twigg Medal



2031

Circa 1792 Twigg Medal. Musante GW-38, Baker-65. White Metal. MS-64 (PCGS). 35.6 mm. 277.0 grains. Essentially brilliant surfaces with traces of pale blue and gold detected under strong light. A few microscopic flecks are noted on both sides, consistent with complete originality. Boldly struck and pleasantly prooflike in the fields, while the devices stand out with a fine satin frost. A tiny void near Washington's epaulet is as made and corresponds to a larger formation that was clearly irregular in the flan and struck mostly smooth when this was made. Many Twigg medals have similar ghostly shapes at their centers and speak to a consistent peculiarity with the flans. According to Neil Musante, Charles Twigg was a Birmingham, England-based toy maker. He made very few medallic works, and this is the only one devoted to Washington. Though Twigg medals are often nice and remarkably free of pesting and other problems of early white metal issues, this example is particularly so. The first sale of a Twigg in the United States we are aware of was in the May 1860 Cogan sale, where it was described as "excessively rare" and sold to John McCoy for \$6.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2033

Circa 1793 Washington Success Token. Large Size. Second Obverse. Musante GW-42, Baker-266, Breen-1282. Brass. Reeded edge. AU-55 (PCGS). 25 mm. Slightly mottled deep olive brass with some slightly darker areas through one quadrant of the reverse. Nicely struck, though the all-seeing eye is fairly flat as usual. Somewhat glossy, with faint suggestions of retained luster. A pleasing example of this early political, thought to have been issued at the time of Washington's second inauguration, which took place in the Senate Chamber of Congress Hall in Philadelphia on March 4, 1793.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our sale of March 2017, lot 401.



2034

Circa 1793 Washington Success Token. Large Size. Second Obverse. Musante GW-42, Baker-266B, Breen-1283. Brass. Plain edge. VF-35 (PCGS). Blue-green and deep olive gold patina with minimal traces of orange in the periphery. A couple of small darker spots are noted on the obverse. Good detail for the grade, this having been struck better than many. The all-seeing eye is still without its central detail, but it is in better relief here than even on the higher grade reeded edge example offered in the previous lot.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection.



2035

Circa 1793 Washington Success Token. Large Size. Third Obverse. Musante GW-43, Baker-265 var., Breen-1288. Brass. Plain edge. AU-55 (PCGS). Glossy golden brass and olive brown with areas of deeper color in some of the obverse recesses. Weak at the central reverse, as usual, but quite sharply detailed on the obverse. Patches of advanced spalling on the reverse, as on all seen. An easy variety to spot for the large obverse die break that crosses Washington's head diagonally upward to the right, not to be confused with the more commonly seen variant with an equally severe break that terminates much higher on the left and much lower on the right. This die pairing had not been documented by Baker in 1885; considering that he would have necessarily relied upon note taking and memory and could easily have not noticed the differences in these two dramatic obverse breaks, this omission might simply have been an oversight.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's sale of August 2007, lot 52.



2036

Circa 1793 Washington Success Token. Small Size. Musante GW-44, Baker-267, Breen-1289. Brass. Reeded edge. MS-63 (PCGS). 19.5 mm. 34.4 grains. Pleasing light golden brass with bright, lustrous outlines to the obverse motifs. The reverse displays soft lilac and rose mottling. Gently prooflike in the fields and well struck, though the usual softness at the all-seeing eye is present. A particularly attractive example of this small-size variant.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the Lawrence R. Stack Collection.

Outstanding Small Format Success Token Plain Edge; Mint State



2037

Circa 1793 Washington Success Token. Small Size. Musante GW-44, Baker-267A, Breen-1290. Brass. Plain edge. MS-63 (PCGS). An outstanding example with superb aesthetic appeal. Generously reflective fields accentuate the definition of the sharp, satiny devices while rich mottled orange, blue, gold and violet accent both sides. Though the all-seeing eye is missing internal detail, as usual, this is a very nicely struck piece featuring strong details throughout the rest of the design. A small natural flan split is noted near 6 o'clock on the obverse, extending up into the bust. It might prove tough to find one with better eye appeal than this.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's sale of October 2010, lot 3416.



2038

Circa 1793 Washington Success Token. Small Size. Musante GW-44, Baker-267B, Breen-1289 var. Copper, tinned. Reeded edge. AU-50 (PCGS). Though we are fairly confident that deeply toned brass examples of this issue have been mistakenly identified as copper in the past, we are cataloging this as copper based on the deep brown surfaces that don't seem to suggest anything else. This said, only an XRF test would reveal this with certainty, and this also might be a deeply and deceptively patinated brass one. Clearly tinned, with perhaps about 35% of the original applied surface still present on both sides. Evenly struck, glossy and quite pleasing. Whether copper or brass, this is a rare variant as few are seen tinned. Just a couple of tiny scratches and nicks will be seen under magnification, as will a few tiny flecks of green in the reverse recesses.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Tom Rinaldo, May 2009.



Extremely Rare Success Token Brass; With Scalloped Edge



2039

Circa 1793 Washington Success Token. Small Size. Musante GW-44 var. Baker-Unlisted, Breen-1292 var. Brass. Scalloped edge. AU-55 (PCGS). 18.9 mm. 32.3 grains. A really interesting specimen from the Martin Collection, one that seems to have eluded most writers over the years, suggesting great rarity. We sold a silvered brass example that has masqueraded as silver for years in our November 2021 presentation of the E Pluribus Unum Collection. The plating of that gave it a curious look and both major grading services declined to certify it, despite its purported provenance back to Virgil Brand, per Breen. It was last sold in our December 1983 Roper sale. When we cataloged it (on both occasions), it was the only piece we recalled having seen on a scalloped planchet of this nature, but this is very different. It is clearly a struck brass piece, with no surfacing to mask its finer details. This is a very rare specimen of this series.

The surfaces are rich golden brass with just enough patina and trivial spotting to speak to its considerable age. It has been nicely cared for, however, as it is lustrous and very attractive. Only a slight obverse scratch is noted, in the left field.

As stated in our November 2021 sale, George Fuld did not mention this variant in his reissue of the Baker reference in 1965, nor was it clearly mentioned in the Rulau-Fuld version, though there is mention of a “scalloped edge” which is defined therein as the “peculiarly reeded edge” normal to the Baker-267 variant. This seems a possible confusion of notes. Breen cataloged the Roper piece as “unique” both for its assumed silver composition and its edge, presumably.

In recent years, Neil Musante published this very piece, plated on page 101 of his *Medallic Washington*. Though the plate makes it appear as a white medal, in hand it is unmistakable as brass. It would seem that with at least two scalloped examples in existence, this variety is more than a curiosity and is a legitimate, rare, and highly collectable variety of the small Success medal.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from James King, July 2008.

Outstanding Liberty and Security Penny



2040

Circa 1795 Liberty and Security Penny. Musante GW-45, Baker-30, Breen-1254. Copper. Lettered edge, AN ASYLUM FOR THE OPPRESSED OF ALL NATIONS. MS-64 RB (PCGS). 33.3 mm. 304.8 grains. An exceptionally beautiful example. Light reddish brown on the obverse with outlines of more fiery orange around the legends. The reverse is similar, though with considerably more of the inviting original coppery orange through the fields. Glossy and lustrous throughout with immensely satisfying eye appeal. Though slightly off center on the thick flan, the impression is bold with all details nicely struck up, including faint die finishing lines in areas of the fields are easily lost with minimal handling. The edge device is likewise crisp, with original red remaining in the recessed letters. A very handsome example, probably warranting the term, ideal, even for the most discriminating collector.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2041

Circa 1795 Liberty and Security Penny. Musante GW-45, Baker-30, Breen-1254. Copper. Lettered edge, AN ASYLUM FOR THE OPPRESSED OF ALL NATIONS. EF Details—Holed (PCGS). 33.8 mm. 299.4 grains. Pierced for suspension. Deep steel brown surfaces with areas of green and ruddy oxidation noted on the reverse, and within a small edge chip at 6 o'clock relative to the obverse. A fascinating example of this type. While these *come nice*, as seen in the previous lot, this has character that inspires the imagination. Though the suspension piercing is the first unusual element seen, this is dramatically and boldly double struck. The legends on both sides, Washington's face and other details are fully expressed twice, with about a 3-millimeter shift between the two impressions. In most cases, a strong secondary strike will remove much of the first impression, but not so here, making this among the more visually interesting pieces we have seen. This is a very rare error on this type, and one must wonder if the piercing isn't related to its unusual character. Perhaps this was pierced to be worn by someone not too far removed from the maker as a curiosity, as no collector would likely have holed such a piece. Whatever the precise history, this certainly has a story to tell, as this was clearly worn as an adornment of some fashion for a time and it shows the expected handling and wear.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Chris Stevens, December 2016.



2042

Circa 1795 Liberty and Security Penny. Musante GW-45, Baker-30D, Breen-1254. Copper, Fire Gilt. Lettered edge, AN ASYLUM FOR THE OPPRESSED OF ALL NATIONS. AU-53 (PCGS). Mostly steel brown across the gently worn high points, rims and more exposed areas of the fields, while the remaining surface area retains much of the original light golden gilding. Fire gilt examples of this medal are quite scarce, and the one thing that ties most known examples together is that they tend to have most of their gilt surface lost. We sold a scratched one recently with full gilding, but we must

look back to the 2006 sale of the Norweb cabinet to find another with close to full gilding in our archives. When compared to those we have handled in the interim, this has more of the lustrous gold surface remaining than any of the others. The fire-gilding process was dangerous, exposing the makers to lead fumes. These specially prepared pieces tend to be the rarer versions of their production output.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Mike Wierza, June 2008.

Rare Corded Rims Liberty and Security



2043

Circa 1795 Liberty and Security Penny. Musante GW-45, Baker-30E, Breen-1253. Copper. Corded Rims. Lettered edge, AN ASYLUM FOR THE OPPRESSED OF ALL NATIONS. Uncirculated Details—Scratched (PCGS). 33.2 mm. 303.1 grains. Handsome deep chocolate and olive brown surfaces with traces of lingering orange close to some of the letters. One short scratch is noted over Washington's brow, but this can be largely forgiven considering the otherwise lovely quality, combined with the general rarity of this variant. Boldly struck from apparently fresh dies that imparted pleasing prooflike character to the fields which, in turn, nicely accentuate the sharp design features. Comparison of this piece to the superb example of Baker-30 offered above reveals that this is clearly an impression from an earlier state of the dies. The fine die lines mentioned in the referenced description are much crisper here.

Essentially perfect centering, with the serrated or corded rims giving the rims a finely toothed feel to the touch, not unlike a dull, fine saw blade. Close examination reveals these to have been added after striking, by hand. As such, this took quite a bit of effort and might explain why such finishing was apparently abandoned, causing this handsome variant to be quite rare today. These seem to be about as rare as the fire gilt specimens, with perhaps a dozen or so survivors. For some reason, however, these corded rim medals are nearly always in nice grade whereas the fire gilt medals are typically well worn. This is strongly suggestive of divergent distribution paths for these two rarities, but the original output was clearly small in both cases.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Lot 2044

1795 Liberty and Security Penny. Musante GW-47, Baker-32, Breen-1258. The Rare Dated Type. Copper. Lettered edge, AN ASYLUM FOR THE OPPRESSED OF ALL NATIONS. AU-58 (PCGS).



Very Rare 1795 Liberty and Security Penny



2044

1795 Liberty and Security Penny. Musante GW-47, Baker-32, Breen-1258. The Rare Dated Type. Copper. Lettered edge, AN ASYLUM FOR THE OPPRESSED OF ALL NATIONS. AU-58 (PCGS). 32.0 mm. 307.7 grains. Glossy olive brown with slight mottling on the obverse and areas of deeply faded tan blended into the reverse palette. Tiny flecks of original orange red remain in some of the tight recesses among the letters of the legend. Gentle prooflike character remains in the fields on both sides and the eye appeal is superb. One thin old scratch is noted in the upper left reverse and is the only mark that seems worthy of mention. A couple tiny spots in the patina are noted on the obverse, but are of little consequence. Softly defined on the high points as on all seen, these being struck in somewhat low relief.

This is one of the nicest examples we have handled of this rarity, though admittedly, few are ever seen. Our online archive going back to the 2006 Norweb sale contains just five pieces, including

the example long believed a plain-edge rarity, and one rough example. The online Heritage archive includes only a single additional piece, a lower grade, corroded example. In all, it is believed that perhaps just a dozen survive, suggesting that the original mintage for this larger format of the dated Liberty and Security was very small.

As far as we are aware, this is probably the second finest in private hands. The only one we have handled that is finer is the Breen plate piece, which we sold in our August 2012 sale. It was graded MS-64 BN by PCGS and realized \$51,750, the record price for this issue. Though graded lower, aesthetically this looks virtually identical. Another superb piece is in the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society and is plated by Musante. That, again, looks virtually identical to this one.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2045

1795 Liberty and Security Halfpenny. Musante GW-48, Baker-31, Breen-1260. Copper. Lettered edge, PAYABLE AT LONDON LIVERPOOL OR BRISTOL. EF-40 (PCGS). 29.2 mm. 130.0 grains. Dark steel brown surfaces are fairly uniform save for a couple of flecks of faded tan across the obverse. Softly glossy upon first look, but a bit of gentle granularity is noted in some of the recesses. Well centered, but not as well struck up as sometimes seen. One of four different edge variants represented in the Martin Collection for this type. Though the planchet is thin, the edge device is boldly impressed.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, March 2004.



2047

1795 Liberty and Security Halfpenny. Musante GW-48, Baker-31B, Breen-1261. Copper. Lettered edge, BIRMINGHAM REDRUTH SWANSEA. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 28.5 mm. 125.1 grains. A specimen that was clearly a ground find, with rough surfaces, remnants of crusty deep olive oxidation and clear evidence that some of the same was tooled off. Still, the detail is largely quite sharp and most of the edge device is not difficult to read. One of four different edge variants in the Martin Collection.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased in March 1994, source unrecorded.

Scarce 1795 Liberty and Security Halfpenny ASYLUM Edge; Ex Norweb



2046

1795 Liberty and Security Halfpenny. Musante GW-48, Baker-31A, Breen-1263. Copper. Lettered edge, AN ASYLUM FOR THE OPPRESSED OF ALL NATIONS. MS-64 BN (PCGS). 29.0 mm. 138.8 grains. Glossy chocolate brown with a few flecks of faded tan in the right obverse field. Slightly prooflike, with nice eye appeal. Some striking weakness at the centers but major elements are mostly clear, save for a few of the shield stripes. Nicely centered and evenly struck otherwise. A couple of fine planchet lines that didn't strike out are noted through the shield, and a small void in the left shield easily identifies this as the Norweb specimen. As we wrote in that November 2006 sale, "Fuld estimated 'about 15 specimens known' in his 1995 monograph, while Breen enumerated 12 different examples in New Netherlands 60th sale." Since that time, we have had a few offerings, suggesting that the number known may have increased a bit, but some are quite rough, and this remains among the nicer we have seen. This edge type was lacking from both the extensive Jack Collins fixed price list and the 1996 Stack's auction of the Collins collection. Gilbert Steinberg's was EF+ and Garrett's was VF+, which helps put this one into perspective.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Virgil M. Brand Collection; B. Max Mehl, on January 11, 1937 for \$50; our (Stack's) sale of the Norweb Collection, November 2006, lot 2038.



2048

1795 Liberty and Security Halfpenny. Musante GW-48, Baker-31C, Breen-1262. Copper. Plain edge. VF-30 (PCGS). 27.2 mm. 103.7 grains. Uniform deep steel brown with no serious marks. Struck on a plain edge flan and highly unusual as such. Called "very rare" by Breen who cited no examples. We have six of these in our online archives, reaching as far back as December 2005. Most but not all of these are on narrower flans, like this one, with none of the dentils present. This is an interesting piece, not only for its rare plain edge, but also for the striking error evident at the edge near 7 o'clock. It appears that this blank planchet very slightly overlapped another already-struck piece that had dentils, as these are impressed into the reverse side of the tab. On top, the small arc of dentils are from the obverse die used to strike this impression, and the expansion of the tab allowed for these to be struck up. This was called "double-struck" on Syd Martin's envelope, but this appears to be the result of a single strike, with an interfering secondary token in the way. Either way, this is an interesting example.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of July 1993, lot 177; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 138.



2049

Ireland. Dublin. 1795 Irish Halfpenny / Liberty and Security. Baker-31M, Breen-1266, D&H Dublin-9. Copper. Lettered edge, PAYABLE AT LONDON LIVERPOOL OR BRISTOL. VF-25 (PCGS). 28.9 mm. Fairly smooth deep steel brown surfaces. Slight weakness at the centers and toward 12 o'clock on the obverse. Struck from the same reverse die used on the Liberty and Security halfpence and often collected in association.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Murray, November 1992.



2050

Circa 1795 Grate Halfpenny. Large Buttons. Musante GW-49, Baker-29, Breen-1274. Copper. Lettered edge, PAYABLE AT LONDON LIVERPOOL OR BRISTOL. MS-63 BN (PCGS). 28.7 mm. 135.1 grains. Beautiful chocolate and olive brown with soft accents of faded orange in the peripheries. Glossy throughout with slight prooflike flash in the fields that gives this exceptional eye appeal. Very nicely struck with the entirety of the grate and hearth ornamentation sharply expressed. In 1988, Walter Breen identified Grate halfpence with this edge device as very rare, noting that there were only "4 or 5 known" and citing only the Roper and Robison pieces. There are four in our online archives, not including this one. The ones Breen cited do not appear to match this one, nor do they seem to match those in our archives, bringing this easily found total to seven. Rulau and Fuld noted about 10. This said, most do not have the overall quality, eye appeal or strike of this superb example.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2051

Circa 1795 Grate Halfpenny. Large Buttons. Musante GW-49, Baker-29AA, Breen-1271. Copper. Diagonally reeded edge. MS-64 RB (PCGS). 28.0 mm. 141.5 grains. Generous faded red remains in outlines around the central motifs and behind the legends. This gives way to light olive brown in the more exposed areas. A few light spots are noted, but these are probably very old and stable as they are reminiscent of the flecks seen on old hoard coppers stored long term in kegs, such as the Randall Hoard large cents. A bit of central softness is noted in the strike which is a common feature of this type, but most of the major elements are reasonably sharp.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2052

Circa 1795 Grate Halfpenny. Large Buttons. Musante GW-49, Baker-29AA, Breen-1271. Copper. Diagonally reeded edge. AU-55 (PCGS). 28.2 mm. 139.8 grains. Medium steel brown with deep tan highlights close to the rims. A somewhat handled piece, with scattered small nicks and marks visible under magnification. Though a duplicate, this is interesting as being from an earlier die state, with only the very beginning of the obverse crack at the I of FIRM, connecting this letter to the rim. On most seen, this crack is considerably more advanced. Nicely struck with good detail through the central reverse.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection.



2053

Circa 1795 North Wales Halfpenny. Two Star Reverse. Musante GW-51, Baker-34, Breen-1294. Copper. Plain edge. VF-35 (PCGS). 27.0 mm. 92.8 grains. Glossy olive and steel brown with a slightly mottled appearance. Excellent eye appeal at first glance, with only a few scattered marks and a couple of surface deposits noted upon closer inspection. As these were made to look old and worn from the outset, what constitutes *nice* tends to be defined by eye appeal more than anything else, and this offers that comfortably. Obverse die broken in the left field, as usually seen.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from France, via American Heritage Minting (William Paul).



Rare North Wales Halfpenny With Lettered Edge



2054

Circa 1795 North Wales Halfpenny. Two Star Reverse. Musante GW-51, Baker-34A, Breen-1296. Copper. Lettered edge, PAYABLE IN LANCASTER LONDON OR BRISTOL. EF-40 (PCGS). Uniform dark brown on the obverse while the reverse is a bit lighter, featuring soft mahogany brown tones. A faint scratch over the bust is noted, otherwise most of what might be deemed wear or handling is *as made*. These were made to look old and worn. They were softly struck from a broken and clashed obverse die that imparted a bit of an abused appearance at the outset. In fact, this is quite pleasing, with good, fairly even detail. Slight slippage in the application of the edge device resulted in partial overlap of LANCASTER and LONDON. Interestingly, this identical situation was noted on the William Spohn Baker specimen in our November 2019 sale.

Baker wrote of this lettered edge variety in 1885 by pointing to the specimen in the 1883 Chapman sale of Sylvester Crosby's collection, where it was described by Haseltine as "perhaps unique." In Crosby's own 1875 reference on the early American circulating coinage, he discusses the four-stars reverse type alongside this as both unique, both in his own collection. Today, several are known of each of these variants, and both are well-collected, though both remain relatively rare.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Murray, January 2013.



2055

Great Britain. Hampshire. Circa 1795 Evasion Halfpenny with North Wales Reverse. Dalton & Hamer-90. Copper. Plain edge. VG Details—Graffiti (PCGS). 26.9 mm. Smooth dark brown surfaces are glossy, but several scratches are noted on the obverse. Struck from an aged state of the obverse die giving it a rougher appearance than it might otherwise have. Struck from the North Wales reverse die and often collected in concert with the Washington-portrait issue sharing this reverse.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection.

Rare North Wales Halfpenny With Four Star Reverse



2056

Circa 1795 North Wales Halfpenny. Four Star Reverse. Musante GW-52, Baker-35, Breen-1298. Copper. Plain edge. VF-30 (PCGS). 27.2 mm. 115.1 grains. Smooth dark brown on both sides but for a small oval of darker patina just right of Washington's face. Glossy and quite pleasing, with only a few scattered marks seen up close that are typical of the grade. The generally uneven appearance is typical of the issue. As noted previously in this sale, the North Wales coppers were made to look rugged, old and worn. When the four-star variant was struck, the obverse die had failed fairly seriously, so these tend to look a bit rougher than the lettered edge and plain edge, two-star variants. This is particularly choice and though the detail is weak in places, this too is as expected for the issue.

As noted in the description for the lettered edge variant offered in a previous lot, Sylvester Crosby published in his 1875 *The Early Coins of America* that this variety featuring four reverse stars was unique, represented by only that in his own collection. Nearly a century later, George Fuld stated that just six were known when he published his 1965 revision of Baker's reference on Washington medals. By 1999, that estimate had been revised to seven or eight. Though the number has climbed over the years, it has slowed in growth dramatically, suggesting that the true number extant is indeed quite small. It is probably realistically 12 to 15 pieces, and the same is likely true of the lettered edge variant. With the quality and eye appeal offered here, this is a prize for the specialist. It has been off the market since Syd Martin bought it in our (ANR) December 2005 sale of the Old Colony Collection, setting a record price for the variety at the time. Only a single piece has realized more at auction.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (ANR's) sale of the Old Colony Collection, December 2005, lot 114.



Early State 1783 Georgius Triumpho



2057

1783 Georgius Triumpho Token. Musante GW-54, Baker-7, Breen-1184. Copper. Early Die State. AU-55 (PCGS). 28.3 mm. 137.7 grains. Smooth and glossy medium chocolate brown surfaces are remarkably uniform and appealing. Only the most trivial marks are noted and the detail is quite superb. The latter feature has as much to do with the die state as with strike and preservation, perhaps even more so. This is one of the earliest die states we have seen for this type which is usually seen from broken and distorted dies that left areas of significant weakness from the moment of production. Careful study reveals only the faintest trace of the vertical failure in the left reverse field, seen as merely a slight, narrow bulge. We cataloged the Washington items mostly raw and now that this is in a PCGS holder, this die feature will likely be hard for some to detect through the plastic. There is no break through the basket, nor any of the usual sinking of the die. The head of the reverse figure is flat, but that is standard. A special example of this type worthy of a fine collection.

Interpreting these designs is an ongoing debate. Traditionally, these have been taken to refer to the triumphant George Washington on the obverse, as the victor in the American Revolution, which is generally accepted. The reverse has long been described as Britannia in a cage of 13 bars, representing the 13 colonies, supported by France via fleurs-de-lis at the corners. Though Britain may have lost the War, in no manner does it seem to have been *caged* or *imprisoned* by the Colonies. As such, the more recent suggestion this may reflect a balloon basket lifting Liberty, with the aide of the French is a bit more appealing to the writer, and a lot more fun. As it happens, the first hot air balloon ride was in September 1783, the same month the Treaty of Paris brought the American Revolution to its official close. According to Musante, this historic ride was taken by a sheep, duck and rooster, but a manned flight occurred two months later.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2058

1783 Georgius Triumpho Token. Musante GW-54, Baker-7, Breen-1184. Copper. AU-53 (PCGS). 28.2 mm. 114.2 grains. Deep chestnut brown with nuances of mahogany. Glossy throughout and nicely struck, with better than usual definition seen through the central obverse. The reverse is struck from the die in the middle to late die state, with the usual prominent break in the left field, extending into the basket below. Slight sinking of the die is noted, as are traces of spalling in the fields at left and right. A very handsome specimen and fully original, with traces of natural debris in some of the tighter recesses. A popular type celebrating the American victory in the Revolution led by the triumphant George Washington, supported by France, and sealed by the Peace of 1783.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Mayflower Coin Auctions' sale of December 1967, lot 6; our (Stack's) Americana Sale, January 2000, lot 153; Rosa Americana, October 2001.



2059

1783 Georgius Triumpho Token. Musante GW-54, Baker-7, Breen-1184. Copper. VF-20 (PCGS). 27.9 mm. 112.7 grains. Glossy medium to light brown. Clearly a specimen that saw more circulation wear than those offered in the previous lots, with a few superficial marks noted under magnification. However, a significant part of the "wear" is probably fairly assigned to the failed state of the dies. Spalling and sinking in the obverse fields is fairly well pronounced, while the usual breaks, aggressive spalling and sinking of the reverse are well developed and give the piece a rather rustic appearance, as on all seen of this late die state. The major design elements remain clear, and the condition is quite satisfying overall.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jeff Rock, via eBay, April 2009.



Extremely Rare 1783 Georgius Triumpho Muling Paired with a Counterfeit Danish West Indies Reverse Just Two Known



2060

1783 Georgius Triumpho-Contemporary Counterfeit Danish West Indies Muling. Musante GW-55, Baker-Unlisted, Breen-Unlisted. Copper. AG-3 (PCGS). 29.2 mm. 122.6 grains. Glossy dark brown on the obverse with an appealing and very uniform appearance. A small void in the center corresponds with a similar but shallower feature on the reverse, clarifying this as a natural planchet flaw. Other marks on this side are few and far between, with only a small nick left of the hair tie and a few tiny pricks in the right field. The reverse is virtually identical in color, but it is microgranular and doesn't have quite the same degree of gloss. Marks on this side are largely confined to ancient and faint handling scuffs. Both sides are somewhat weakly struck, but the generally flatter relief of the reverse design didn't give it much of a chance in the production process, as the higher relief of the opposing portrait absorbed much of the metal. Still, the letters of the legend are mostly visible, as is the date and traces of the rigging of the ship motif. An example of the intended issue that used this reverse design is included here for comparison, and both pieces are plated on page 112 of Neil Musante's *Medallic Washington*.

Struck from the Georgius Triumpho obverse in its later state, this example appears to exhibit a greater degree of degradation than even the late state Triumpho offered in the previous lot. Heavy die flow lines are evident through the legends, distorting and thinning some letters, while a similar effect has weakened George's hair tie. Notwithstanding, all the major elements of the obverse are fairly clear, with all letters fully legible and George's outline complete, save for where the spalling bulge right of the mouth has merged into the mouth itself. A similar situation is true of the reverse die, which was used to strike counterfeit Danish West Indies 24 Skilling pieces, and later, this muling in a later die state. Aggressive peripheral die flow lines are noted through the letters and what appears to be a sizable break crosses the final date digit.

Just two examples of this rarity are known, both announced in a 2002 *Colonial Newsletter* article by Syd Martin and Mike Ringo. The authors make a case that the two known examples were likely struck in England (where both pieces were discovered) from discarded dies that ended up in the maker's hands. It also seems clear that these did circulate, and not lightly. While this is nicely centered and was probably lightly struck on purpose to preserve die life, the other example (also plated in both Musante and in the *Colonial Newsletter* article) was much more crudely made, dramatically double struck and on a somewhat oval flan. To use the worn out die from a counterfeiter's operation in concert with the aged and well-used die for the Triumpho token issue was not a great starting point for anything commercially viable, and judging from the existence of just two examples, neither was it a long-lived operation.

Martin and Ringo commented, "Both examples discovered show evidence of extensive wear, suggesting that these mules actually circulated. Further, their rather crude overall fabric, the poor quality planchet stock, and the lack of quality control argue against their being made specifically for collectors, as was generally the case with improbably muled Condor [sic] tokens." This is a good observation regarding intent, as there is no reason to believe these were curiosities made to sell to collectors. These were crude counterfeits of the period, intended to circulate in commerce, and they are of a weight and size standard similar to the usual Georgius Triumpho tokens, which are considerably heavier than the typical Danish West Indies counterfeits.

Also included with this lot is an example of a counterfeit Danish West Indies 24 skilling in brass. It is struck from the same reverse die as used on the Georgius Triumpho muling and makes for a useful comparative piece. It is Very Fine, or so, weighs 96.0 grains and measures 26.8 mm. (Total: 2 pieces)

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier, discovered in England; Long Island Numismatics (Gary Parietti), January 2001.



Extremely Rare Washington the Great Copper



2061

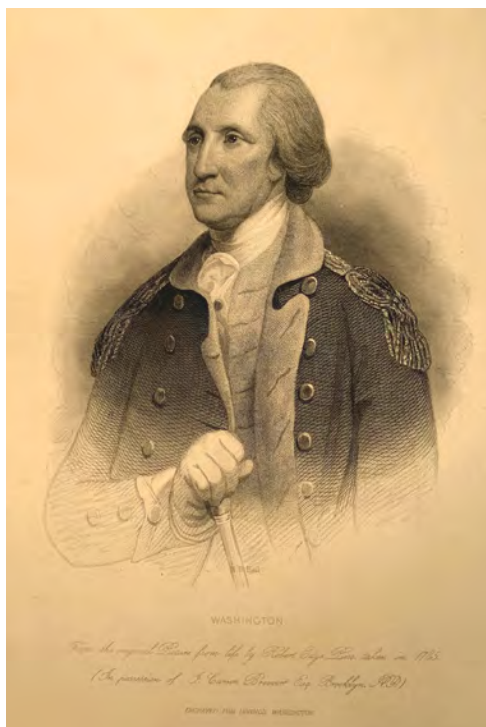
“1784” Circa 1795(?) Washington The Great or “Ugly Head” Copper. Musante GW-56, Baker-8, Breen-1185. Copper. Plain edge. Poor-1 (PCGS). 26.3 mm. 83.5 grains. Deep mottled olive and brown surfaces seem largely smooth and slightly glossy on first glance, but up close are mildly porous throughout. Scattered tiny marks and ancient scrapes are seen, but most have been long since smoothed by what appears to be considerable circulation wear. The obverse legend, reading WASHINGTON THE GREAT D.G. is lost, as is the reverse design, which featured 13 rings corresponding to the original colonies around, with the date 17/84 at center.

The first mention we are aware of for this type is in *The Historical Magazine*, Volume 4, July 1860, on page 215, where it is mentioned as follows: “WASHINGTON CENT. — A strange Washington cent in the possession of Dr. Gibbes [Dr. Robert Wilson Gibbes, M.D.] of Columbia, S.C., does not seem to have been described..” A description is then given: “Obverse: Head of Washington, extremely rude; legend, Washington the Great, D.G. Reverse: a chain of rings, each bearing the initial of a State, and in the center, 84.” According to James Ross Snowden’s 1861 work on the medals of Washington, Dr. Gibbes had presented his piece to the Mint Cabinet, and it is a good thing, as his home and remaining collections were reduced to ashes by

William Tecumseh Sherman’s forces in 1865. Snowden commented that the piece was “rude in design and execution, but is a very rare, and probably a unique, piece.” No further information was given, or presumably known. The first public sale we are aware of occurred in the April 1863 sale of Edward Cogan’s coins. He commented that only two were known, the one being offered and that in the Mint Cabinet. Cogan’s, though badly defaced by a large reverse engraving, realized \$60 and sold to William Sumner Appleton. It went to the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1905, where it remains. For some perspective on that sale, Appleton paid \$10 less for a copper Getz pattern and \$85 for one in silver in the same sale.

Forwarding to the present, little has changed in terms of our understanding of these pieces, except that after all these years of study and search, they remain very rare, indeed. Clearly, the output was very small, and it has been posited that they were originally struck to appear old and worn, but by whom and when is unknown. Though the reverse design is lost on this one, and the obverse legends, too, the distinctive portrait is unmistakable.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Christopher B. Young, October 2010.





Lot 2062
Circa 1816 Halliday Medal. Musante GW-57, Baker-70B. Silver. Thick flan.
SP-62 (PCGS).



Unique 1816 Halliday Medal in Silver A Landmark Rarity With Illustrious Provenance to 1870



2062

Circa 1816 Halliday Medal. Musante GW-57, Baker-70B. Silver. Thick flan. SP-62 (PCGS). 54.3 mm. 1570.9 grains. An immensely attractive medal, with essentially ideal aesthetic qualities for a large silver piece of this vintage. Generous brilliant silver remains on both sides, including the beautifully rendered portrait of Washington on the obverse, and most of the reverse motif as well. Both areas exhibit a fine satin texture, giving them soft luster. Both the texture and tone set them apart from the fields in a most delightful cameo contrast. The fields are prooflike and deeply reflective, exhibiting soft mottled cabinet toning of pale blue iridescence that clings to the design features. Traces of deeper gray and the occasional wisp of violet are also noted in the recesses. A few scattered nicks and other trivial signs of handling are noted, but these are mostly seen under close study. Otherwise, the appearance is very choice, indeed.

Though the surfaces have seen a bit of light handling, it is nostalgic to consider the hands responsible. From Thomas Halliday to some mid-19th century buyer in London, perhaps? Then to Mr. Fewsmith of Philadelphia, the coin dealer Ebenezer Locke Mason, Sylvester Crosby, John Haseltine, George Fuld, Richard Picker, John J. Ford, Jr., the Stack Family and Michael Hodder, and, of course, Syd Martin. Naturally, those handlers of recent times are not likely to have applied a single mark to this exceptional rarity, but those famous names of old, from a time when numismatic preservation was understood in very different terms, all probably picked this medal up for study or friendly *show and tell* many times. Every trivial mark is part of that story.

The strike is bold, with exceptional detail throughout. It is clear from study of the reverse that at least four impressions were required to strike up the motifs to their desired relief and crispness. Very tight outlines from earlier impressions may be seen close to the letters in the legend. The planchet was substantial, thicker than seen on nearly all Halliday medals that have passed through our hands. The lone exception was the unusually thick bronze with ornamented rims in our November 2021 sale. The plain rims on this silver example are fully 5 mm thick, a solid millimeter thicker than the bronze in the next lot, which is far more typical.

In 1885, the venerable Washington historian William Spohn Baker introduced the Halliday medal in his catalog as follows:

The most important medal in this group [Military and Civil Career] in an artistic point of view, and as recording two of the most significant acts of Washington, is the 'Commission Resigned, Presidency Relinquished...' He further commented that "both the obverse and reverse are engraved in the very best manner," and identified it as "one of the valuable pieces of the series," noting that "impressions have become very rare.

Baker misunderstood this piece, believing that it was the original conception that was copied for Joseph Sansom's medal of similar design. The opposite is true, but it would be difficult to argue with Baker's commentaries on the quality of the artistry displayed in this medal, and its significance overall, both in terms of subject matter and rarity.

As alluded to earlier, the first public appearance we are aware of for this piece was Mason & Co.'s Fewsmith sale in 1870. It had the briefest of salesmanship in the catalog, as typical of the period: "'1797,' proof; excessively rare; cost Mr. Fewsmith \$50." It sold for \$12 to Sylvester Crosby. When Crosby's collection was sold, in 1883, it was described similarly, though noted to be "very thick" and "unique." It realized \$45. Fewsmith's \$50 purchase price, being much higher than the 1870 realization, suggests that Fewsmith likely acquired it in the late 1850s or early 1860s, when Washington medals were all the rage in the United States, but we have not been able to find his source.

In recent years, fine Halliday medals of all stripes have enjoyed a substantial increase in auction realizations. As far as we are aware, the Gem thick bronze referenced above holds the record for that composition, at \$10,800. Perhaps what Baker had to say about the significance of the medal has reached a new sympathetic audience, or maybe the market has simply expanded. This unique silver impression presently holds the record for the issue, at \$23,000 from its 2004 sale in Ford, but that figure is likely to very shortly be in second place.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Fewsmith Cabinet (at a cost of \$50); Ebenezer Locke Mason & Co; Mason & Co.'s sale of the Fewsmith Cabinet, October 1870, lot 1501 (at \$12); Sylvester S. Crosby; John Haseltine's sale of the Sylvester S. Crosby Collection, June 1883, lot 351 (at \$45); George Fuld, 1954; Max Schwartz; Richard Picker for John J. Ford, Jr. January 1968; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 92; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Superb Bronze Halliday Medal Among the Finest Seen



2063

Circa 1816 Halliday Medal. Plain rims. Musante GW-57, Baker-70C. Copper, Bronzed. SP-65 (PCGS). 53.7 mm. 1042.7 grains. Unquestionably among the technically finest and most handsome Halliday medals we have had the pleasure of offering. The surfaces are not far from pristine, with only the most trivial marks noted under magnification. Both sides are rich mahogany brown with nuances of faint mottled tan and olive that are frequently seen in bronzes from this period. However, casual inspection reveals near-perfect uniformity. Somewhat satiny and glossy on the reliefs while suggestions of prooflike character in the fields serve as an ideal ground to accentuate the

design. Boldly struck and simply beautiful. This was considered by Michael Hodder the finest of Ford's five examples and it is certainly one of the two nicest we recall having seen. The other, graded by PCGS as SP-65, just like this one, is the thick bronze referenced in the previous description which sold for \$10,800 in our November 2021 sale.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Randolph Zander; New Netherlands Coin Company, October 1970; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 93; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Fine Old Electrotypes of the Crosby-Garrett Halliday



2064

19th-Century Halliday Medal Electrotpe. Ornamented rims. Musante GW-57, Baker-70. Silvered Copper. Extremely Fine. 54.0 mm. 1185.9 grains. Light satiny silver surfaces with some deeper gray toning in the recesses that give this a bit of antiqued appearance. An unusually fine electrotype that was clearly made with great care and attention to detail. Though it was cleaned long ago, and it has numerous small marks and hairlines, the applied silver surface seems to only be broken at a couple of tiny points of relief, exposing what is likely copper beneath. It is apparently heavily plated, as made, with the standard edge seam extremely fine and not as easily seen as on some such copies. Perhaps most remarkable is the heavily ornamented rim. The rare white metal impressions are found with four different rim styles, including plain and three differently styled rim ornaments. This copies exactly one of the three ornamentation styles, which can be seen on the Sylvester Crosby-Garrett Collection specimen sold in our November 2020 sale, of which this piece is a direct copy.

An interesting piece that has every appearance of significant age, and there is circumstantial evidence to suggest that this might well have been made by or for Crosby himself. He is known to have been associated with electrotypes of rarities and since this piece is clearly a copy of one he owned, the pieces fit neatly into the puzzle. In fact, the June 1883 auction of his collection included more than 100 lots of electrotypes, several group-lotted. Lot 566 is intriguing: "Casts and Electrotypes of large medals. Rare Washington, Preble, William IV., Nathaniel Greene, etc. 7 pieces." The scratches on this piece, in the obverse field, are direct matches to the Crosby-Garrett medal and, thus, for this medal, they are *as made*.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier likely ex Sylvester S. Crosby in the late 19th century; unknown intermediaries; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2012, lot 106 (erroneously described as "silver plated white metal").



2065

Circa 1806-7 Sansom Medal. Presidency Relinquished. Original. Early impression. Musante GW-58, Baker-71A, Julian PR-1. Copper. SP-64 BN (PCGS). 40.5 mm. 406.8 grains. Deep chocolate brown with nuances of mahogany outlining the motifs. Only a couple of small marks are noted, one on Washington's shoulder, and another at the shield on the central reverse. Both break the otherwise uniform

patina and are slightly lighter, but the surfaces are free of other noteworthy imperfections and exhibit slight prooflike character. An original impression and struck from the dies in their early states, without spalling.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Presidential Coin and Antique, via eBay, February 2004.



2066

Circa 1806-7 Sansom Medal. Presidency Relinquished. Original. Early impression. Musante GW-58, Baker-71A, Julian PR-1. Copper. SP-63 BN (PCGS). 40.5 mm. 440.0 grains. Lovely mahogany bronze on the obverse with faint golden accents in the fields. The reverse is similar rich brown with soft blue and violet iridescence through the fields. Prooflike on both sides with sharp, satiny devices. A few minor marks are noted under close study, but only one is easily

seen just right of Washington's chin. Evidence of prominent double striking is noted in the reverse legend. Original, and struck from the dies in their early, unspalled state. A classic early American mint medal celebrating a central tenet of the United States government—the peaceful transfer of power.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex F.C.C. Boyd; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 104.



2067

Circa 1806-7 Sansom Medal. Presidency Relinquished. Original. Early impression. Musante GW-58, Baker-71B, Julian PR-1. White Metal. SP-62 (PCGS). 40.4 mm. 353.5 grains. An unusually nice example of this medal in this more fragile composition. Essentially brilliant with bold prooflike reflectivity through the fields serving as an attractive background to the frosty white devices. Some light hairlines in the fields are almost unavoidable on these, while only a few minor pesting spots are noted. One just right of the portrait and

a couple of superficial ones at the lower right of the reverse ground are the only ones immediately noticed. Most of these are moderately to heavily pested, so this is really outstanding both technically and aesthetically. An early impression, without spalling. The first offered and finest of John Ford's three examples.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the F.C.C. Boyd Estate; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 105.



Lot 2068

Circa 1859 Sansom Medal. Presidency Relinquished. U.S. Mint Restrike. Musante GW-59, Baker-72 (unlisted in gold), Julian PR-1. Gold. SP-55 (PCGS).



Magnificent Presidency Relinquished Medal in Gold Unique in this Composition



2068

Circa 1859 Sansom Medal. Presidency Relinquished. U.S. Mint Restrike. Musante GW-59, Baker-72 (unlisted in gold), Julian PR-1. Gold. SP-55 (PCGS). 40.6 mm. 665.6 grains. Suspension hanger at 12 o'clock, presumably as issued. Rich uniform gold surfaces with faint traces of slightly deeper orange tightly following arcs of the inner rims. A multitude of evenly distributed fine marks and a few extremely faint hairlines are noted under magnification, but virtually none of these are serious enough to distract the eye or warrant further discussion. The most trivial of rim bumps is noted on the obverse near 3 o'clock, but one must look for it, and while doing so, the eye is easily drawn back to the remarkable overall bigger picture, a *Sansom medal in Gold*.

Apparently struck from the dies in their early states. The obverse formed a small spalling patch on the rim over NI, which does not seem to be present on this piece. Later, the portrait also became pebbled with light spalling and then both features expanded in depth. Though worn, the recesses of this piece would likely show these features, had this been a later impression. Most likely this was struck somewhat early, after the restrikes entered production in 1859.

This unique medal was unknown to William Spohn Baker when he published his landmark study of the Washington medals in 1885. Eighty years later, George Fuld remained unaware of it when he published his revision of Baker in 1965. More than three decades later, this was still unknown to Fuld and Rulau when their updated version of *Medallic Portraits* was published in 1999. For this medal not to have come to the attention of Baker within perhaps two or three decades of its striking is notable, as it suggests that its manufacture was in no way tied to the numismatic trade of the day. The hanger, finely but simply

made in gold, and drilled into the edge, is likely original and also speaks to a production that was for something other than a collector's cabinet. The wear pattern undeniably suggests the same. For presumably many years, this was hidden away in the vast holdings of F.C.C. Boyd, and then it was given the identical treatment in the care of John J. Ford, Jr., who is said to have privately prized this unique rarity. Why it was never discussed or shared over those many years is something of a mystery, but John Ford in particular would have seen value in such a secret, so in his case it is somewhat understandable. Nonetheless, as the writer was once told by a mentor, "there are no secrets in the coin business," at least none that last forever. True to that, this piece was finally revealed to all in our May 2004 sale of the Ford holdings.

Though medals from these dies are certainly *available*, seeing the single known impression from them in gold is a bit arresting and something that arouses the imagination. This was not a cheap thing to make, so whoever commissioned its striking was someone of means, and it was clearly worn as an adornment. Undoubtedly, some social circle was long aware of this medal, and saw it many times, but collectors of Washington medals would have to wait. We can only assume that Syd Martin's imagination was also captured by the revelation of this prize and he was not likely to let it escape. It was considered "one of the high points" of the Ford Washingtoniana by Michael Hodder, and we would venture to state the same of its status in this collection as well.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex F.C.C. Boyd; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 108.



2069

Circa 1859 Sansom Medal. Presidency Relinquished. U.S. Mint restrike. Musante GW-59, Baker-72A, Julian PR-1. Copper. SP-63 (PCGS). 40.5 mm. 596.9 grains. Olive brown with mottled surfaces displaying traces of deep tan and steel. Glossy with soft prooflike reflectivity in the fields, and nicely struck on a thick flan with broad borders and fine wire rims. A single tiny corrosion spot is noted against the edge of the fasces. Otherwise, only minor marks are noted. An early die state impression.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Charles Kirtley, via eBay, October 2001.



2071

1796 Repub. Ameri. Medal. Musante GW-61, Baker-68. Copper. MS-66 BN (PCGS). 33.1 mm. 300.3 grains. Lovely deep mahogany on the obverse while the reverse is deeper brown. Mottled pale blue, rose and gold iridescence is seen through the fields on both sides. Sharp and glossy on the devices while the fields are generously prooflike. One tiny superficial spot is noted on Washington's cheek. The finest of five different examples revealed in Part II of the John J. Ford, Jr. sales and easily confirmed by a few minuscule rim anomalies. Beautifully preserved with excellent eye appeal.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex F.C.C. Boyd; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 83.



2070

Circa 1879 Sansom Medal. Large Format. Musante GW-60A, Baker-73B. White metal. AU-58 (PCGS). 45.7 mm. 653.4 grains. Pleasing light gray surfaces with more brilliant outlines around the design features, while much of the surface has mellowed a bit. A few scattered light spots, but none seems threatening in the least. Very pleasing aesthetic quality for one of these larger-format Sansom medals.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) Philadelphia Americana Sale, September 2011, lot 211.



2072

Circa 1800 Repub. Ameri. Medal. Musante GW-62, Baker-69. Copper. MS-64 BN (PCGS). 32.9 mm. 318.4 grains. Dark brown with soft blue overtones in the prooflike fields. A couple of superficial spots are noted on the obverse, but they are not serious. Obviously double struck with the reverse sharply exhibiting the evidence of the earlier impression in the form of prominently doubled letters throughout. Nice bronzes from this die pair are quite a bit scarcer than those from the 1796-dated obverse. Struck in coin-turn orientation.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from NASCA's Wayte Raymond II Sale, June 1978, lot 3816; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 90.



2073

Circa 1800 Repub. Ameri. Medal. Musante GW-62, Baker-69A. White Metal. AU Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 33.0 mm. 223.4 grains. Dark pewter gray on the motifs and along the rims, while the fields retain much of their original brilliance. Some light pesting on the obverse high points, at 6 o'clock on the obverse rim, and lightly across about 25% of the reverse, but this is a feature that is hard to avoid completely for these issues. Struck in coin turn orientation, as most, if not all the bronzes.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2074

Circa 1800 Repub. Ameri. Medal. Musante GW-62, Baker-69A. White Metal. AU Details—Damaged (PCGS). 32.9 mm. 201.3 grains. Deeply patinated on both sides, this is seemingly a thinly silvered example that has toned darkly. The applied surface is lost at the high points and along the rims, leaving them lighter gray. On a thin flan and struck in medal turn, which is an unusual orientation that we have seen on these before, but only on white metal impressions. Some light rim filing accounts for the grade.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from eBay, March 2002.

Extremely Rare 1797 Presidency Resigned By Thomas Wyon



2075

1797 Presidency Resigned Medal by Thomas Wyon. Musante GW-64, Baker-66. White Metal. AU Details—Damaged (PCGS). 37.6 mm. 271.8 grains. Dark gray surfaces are microporous throughout, with occasional areas of slightly deeper pitting on the obverse. Slightly lighter gray on the obverse high points, while the reverse has a soft golden overtone through the fields. Nicely struck though the flan seems to have been slightly thin at the rim toward 8 o'clock relative to the obverse. Slightly bent in this area, and with a few very minor scratches in places, but considering the great rarity of this issue and how utterly abysmal some survivors look, this is more than respectable.

This die pairing seems to have been first noticed by either John Ford or Michael Hodder, as it was first written up in our 2004 Ford Sale (Part II) as from “unpublished dies.” In fact, it was this variety plated in Wayne Raymond’s 1941 monograph, *The Early Medals of Washington*, though no mention was made of the particulars of the dies. As rare as this series is, it is not difficult to understand how these different dies were overlooked for so long. This in itself is virtually a tradition and has continued to recent times. Neil Musante described three die varieties, but four are now known. The rarity likewise made it highly improbable that two or more would be compared side-by-side. Yet, the facts point to at least four die pairings, the most common of which is represented by just 10 medals in the writer’s census.

This leaves us wondering, where are all these medals? The only viable explanation is that the dies were of such poor quality that, even striking only in soft white metal, they failed quickly, and very few impressions were produced. A number of the survivors across all die pairings are heavily pested, chipped or aggressively scratched. Of the four varieties known, Musante’s GW-63, 64, 65, and an additional one we refer to as GW-65A, the GW-64 is the second most common, with just four specimens recorded: the present example, the Ford Specimen, that in the Wayne Raymond monograph and the Bushnell-Baker example.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Presidential Coin and Antique’s sale of December 1987, lot 278; Alan Weinberg, June 2007.



THE SEASONS MEDALS

When William Spohn Baker set out to systematically catalog the enthusiastically collected and ever-growing body of Washington medals in his 1885 book, *Medallic Portraits of Washington*, he focused primarily, as the title suggests, on the portraits of George Washington found on coins, tokens and medals. The Seasons medals bear no such portraits, yet Baker included these in his reference in recognition of their historical importance and long-standing acceptance by collectors of Washington medals as inextricable entries into the series. Baker was a consummate historian and Washington scholar, so it is easy to understand why these medals would have been appreciated by him, perhaps to an even greater degree than by other collectors of the time.

Baker introduced these medals, in part, as follows:

They were unquestionably used as Indian Peace medals, the designs referring to different phases of civilized life, being intended to attract attention to its comforts and advantages, and to induce them to make a change in their habits of living.

Somewhat surprisingly considering the Washington scholar that Baker was, he did not mention that the direct inspiration for the designs of these medals was from

George Washington's own pen. On August 29, 1796, George Washington wrote a letter to the Cherokee Nation, the complete text of which is easily found on the website of the National Archives. The letter was meant to address relations with the Cherokee by way of instruction as to how they might improve their standing as peaceful neighbors of the white settlers. It is a fascinating read for its insights into Washington's thoughtful manner, but also into the decidedly inconsiderate and absolute approach the administration took toward the Native peoples. It was clearly expected that they would abandon their own customs in favor of those practiced by white settlers. Washington was specific and presented his own personal desires to retire to his plantation as guidance for how the Cherokee might best live in peace and prosperity. He described the advantages of expanding livestock and crops and that "your wives and daughters can soon learn to spin and to weave." He summarized his detailed proposals as follows:

What I have recommended to you I am myself going to do. After a few moons are passed, I shall leave the great town, and retire to my farm. There I shall attend to the means of increasing my cattle, sheep, and other useful animals, to the growing of corn, wheat & other grain, and





to the employing of women in spinning and weaving: all which I have recommended to you, that you may be as comfortable & happy as plenty of food, cloathing [sic] & other good things can make you.

Herein lie the direct inspirations for the Seasons medals, reinforced as such by the following passage from the same letter:

...before I retire, I shall speak to my beloved man, the Secretary of War, to get prepared some medals, to be given to such Cherokees as by following my advice, shall best deserve them. For this purpose, Mr. Dinsmoore [Washington's Agent to the Cherokee Nation] is from time to time to visit every town in your Nation. He will give instructions to those who desire to learn what I have recommended. He will see what improvements are made; who are most industrious in raising cattle, in growing corn, wheat, cotton & flax, & in spinning and weaving: and on those who excel the rewards are to be bestowed.

Less than two months later, on October 10, 1796, the Secretary of War wrote to Rufus King, the Washington administration's Minister to Great Britain, to procure the desired medals using sources in England. King called upon John Trumbull, the famous Revolutionary-era artist to design the medals, presumably based on a copy of Washington's letter to the Cherokee or notes taken therefrom, as Trumbull's sketches undeniably directly represent Washington's words.

Unfortunately, by the time John Adams had been inaugurated President, on March 4, 1797, the Seasons medals were still not completed, much to the discomfort of Secretary of War James McHenry. According to Father Prucha, McHenry wrote on December 4, 1797, to Rufus King, "My poor Indians are very clamorous for their medals; more so indeed than for their plows."

The medals were completed in 1798, and arrived from England in July of that year. There were reportedly 500 struck in silver and 200 struck in copper. According to Prucha, the first shipment included 326 silver medals. It is unclear which types were represented, but it was certainly an uneven distribution as this is not divisible by three. It is unknown when the copper impressions arrived. As the Seasons medals arrived so late, no new medals were specifically produced for the Adams administration, which must have distributed at least some of the Seasons medals to the Cherokee. Some or all of those that remained on hand are known to have been distributed under the Thomas Jefferson administration by the hands of Lewis and Clark. As such, the Seasons medals are tied not just to Washington, but to the first three presidential administrations as well as the famous journey of America's two most famous early explorers.

Both silver and copper examples were issued with suspension loops that proved fragile, while at least a few of each were struck for medal cabinets, and never looped. The ANS has a set of the latter in silver, as does the British Museum. The Virgil Brand Estate produced a fabulous cased six-piece set (once in the Stickney cabinet). The copper specimens in the Baker Collection seem to have been such a presentation set as well.

As far as we are aware, it is unknown who first called these the "Seasons Medals," but whoever it was didn't consider that these designs really have nothing to do with seasons, other than perhaps the spring planter. Augustus B. Sage did not use the term in his 1859 Henry Bogert sale, but by 1862 the term had been coined, as W. Elliot Woodward used it, in quotes, in his November sale of the Finotti Collection.





Lot 2076

Circa 1798 Washington Seasons Medal. The Shepherd. Late reverse die state. Musante GW-67, Baker-170, Julian IP-51. Silver. AU-58 (PCGS).



Famous and Prized Seasons Medal in Silver The Shepherd



2076

Circa 1798 Washington Seasons Medal. The Shepherd. Late reverse die state. Musante GW-67, Baker-170, Julian IP-51. Silver. AU-58 (PCGS). 48.3 mm. 719.3 grains. A delightful example of this prized medal in silver. Lovely medium silver-gray surfaces are accented by soft pale blue and rose iridescence through the fields, while the tighter recesses close to the rims and elsewhere have toned deeper gray. Sharply struck with inviting definition that makes one want to take some time studying the intricately engraved details laid to steel by Conrad H. Kuchler, whose signature may be seen at the lower right exergue. Generous prooflike reflectivity in the fields accentuates the designs further and gives the medal outstanding visual appeal.

The Seasons medals share a single reverse die, observed in two distinctive die states. The earliest seen has no break in the loop of the D in PRESIDENT, while the later state does. This may not be used to distinguish between original, Native awarded specimens and those for medal cabinets, but it does point to striking sequence, to a degree. This is from the late reverse state with crumbling in the upper left interior of the D. A break between the N and G of WASHINGTON, connecting these two letters has been removed from the medal by hand. This action was taken on four of the Syd Martin Seasons medals, excepting only the two early state, clearly issued medals from the Baker Collection. A similar smaller break connecting the E and O of GEO was not attended to on this medal, but was adjusted on

others. Direct comparison of these medals reveals the nature of this post-striking adjustment, and it is clear that it was done at the time of production. It speaks to a remarkable degree of quality control for these medals, much more than might be expected, but certainly illustrative of the care taken by the firm of Boulton and Watt, which struck these medals in Birmingham, England.

There is no evidence of a suspension hanger on this piece, suggesting it to be among those struck for collectors or gentlemen not related to the intended Native American purpose. One can easily envision those involved in the development of these medals desiring sets for themselves, and several medals do exist from this series without integral hangers, including a likely spectacular cased set of six that has not been seen in many years. For more than 150 years, a set of Seasons medals has been considered a marker of a truly great collection, for collectors of Washington medals, Peace medals, or even early American medals in general. Nearly every offering of a “set” of six includes both issued medals with hangers or remnants thereof, as well as presentation strikes like this one. However, no apology is ever made on either account, and most collectors will never own any of the Seasons medals, particularly in silver. This medal is one of just 15 confirmed specimens in the writer’s census of survivors.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our May 2015 Rarities Sale, lot 41; our sale of August 2018, lot 42, via Anthony Terranova.



Incredibly Sharp and Prooflike Shepherd in Bronze Ex Virgil Brand



2077

Circa 1798 Washington Seasons Medal. The Shepherd. Late reverse die state. Musante GW-67, Baker-170A, Julian IP-51. Copper. SP-61 BN (PCGS). 48.0 mm. 726.6 grains. "Magnificent" is the word used to subtitle this specimen in its last public appearance more than 18 years ago, and there is good reason to use it again. The surfaces are dark chocolate brown with mottled overtones of soft blue, violet and gold through the prooflike fields. In fact, both sides are generously reflective, which is rather unusual for any Seasons Medal. The strike was very sharp, so much so that even fine die finishing lines can be easily seen through the body of the bull and in the details of the home at left. Scratches that have long since toned over are found in the fields of both sides, but even these are not terribly distracting, though unfortunate they might be. Still, technical *perfection* in a Seasons medal is nearly like the proverbial hen's teeth. This is certainly a superior representative of this rare medal. Another interesting feature of this particular piece is the missing edge loop. This medal was produced with the integral

hanger, as all intended for Native distribution, but it was carefully removed and filed smooth.

Struck from the late reverse die state with crumbling in the upper left interior of the D of PRESIDENT. Small breaks between the N and G of WASHINGTON and the E and O of GEO, connecting these two sets of letters have been removed from the medal by hand. This was clearly done by the maker, as proven by the consistency and frequency of the adjustments across the medals in the Martin holdings. To our knowledge, this feature has not been noticed or published previously. One of just 16 or 17 survivors known to the writer. One, at the ANS, is described as a silver-plated bronze. As high-quality electrotypes are known, the nature of that example is a bit uncertain.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Virgil Brand Collection, April 1962; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 185; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Lot 2078
Circa 1798 Washington Seasons Medal. The Sower. Early reverse die state. Musante GW-68,
Baker-171, Julian IP-53. Silver. EF-40 (PCGS).



Historic Awarded Seasons Medal in Silver The Sower From the William Spohn Baker Collection



2078

Circa 1798 Washington Seasons Medal. The Sower. Early reverse die state. Musante GW-68, Baker-171, Julian IP-53. Silver. EF-40 (PCGS). 48.1 mm. 712.3 grains. A remarkable return appearance of one of the prizes of the William Spohn Baker Collection, sold by us in November 2019. We described it then, as follows:

Fairly light silver gray with the obverse in particular exhibiting light mottled bluish gray toning. Lightly polished surfaces and a bit hairlined, yet traces of the original reflectivity are still visible in places. Clearly an awarded medal, perhaps one of those promised by Washington to a Cherokee deemed deserving. The integral suspension loop has been lost, which is not unusual as they seem to have proven too weak to support the hard wear these medals occasionally endured. A small mounting mark is noted on the edge at 12 o'clock, where the loop had been. There are scattered bumps and nicks consistent with a piece that was worn, yet no serious damage as sometimes seen. There is evidence of coarse filing on the rims on both sides that has been there a long time. However, it appears very much like a decorative element, perhaps added by the wearer. Significantly, the file marks themselves were obviously fairly deep and yet are quite worn, nearly completely through in places. There are no signs of rim bumps or attempted removal of same. Struck through a small piece of wire in the obverse exergue, which at first glance might appear as a small scratch at U.S.A.

This identical strike-through is seen on an example of this medal at the ANS, though the position shifted between impressions, ever so slightly.

Revisiting the matter of the Cherokee as told in the introduction above, it is notable that this piece was struck from the early state reverse die which seems to be rare, even among awarded medals. As such, there is a reasonable case to be made that it did indeed get awarded among the Cherokee, as it was this Nation that had been initially promised these medals, and this Nation whose want of them so plagued the Secretary of War during the long production delay. It would naturally follow that the first shipment of medals would have contained the earliest impressions and been awarded to those longest awaiting them. Still, this does have the small breaks that connect E and O of GEO and N and G of WASHINGTON. Unlike the later state medals offered here, these two breaks are not corrected on this medal. It would appear that this degree of quality control was not undertaken until collector strikes began to be distributed, or they had not yet been noticed by the maker. One of just 14 known to the writer, though one of these is suspicious and possibly silver-plated.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the William Spohn Baker Collection, to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania by bequest, November 15, 1897; our sale of Washingtoniana from the Collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, November 2019, lot 20050.



Lot 2079

Circa 1798 Washington Seasons Medal. The Sower. Late reverse die state. Musante GW-68, Baker-171A, Julian IP-53. Copper. SP-63 BN (PCGS).



Superb Seasons Medal in Bronze The Sower



2079

Circa 1798 Washington Seasons Medal. The Sower. Late reverse die state. Musante GW-68, Baker-171A, Julian IP-53. Copper. SP-63 BN (PCGS). 48.0 mm. 724.9 grains. Another superb quality medal from this very challenging and historic series. Exceptional deep chocolate brown on the obverse with prooflike fields accented by soft blue and rose mottling. The reverse is more light mahogany brown, but equally beautiful, with soft prooflike character. Well-struck with bold details throughout and only a few minor marks. None of these seem worthy of being singled out aside from perhaps a short old scratch near 3 o'clock on the obverse. Almost identical in appearance to the ex Brand specimen of the Shepherd offered earlier, but without the more serious scratches.

Issued without the usual integral suspension loop, and likely intended for a collector's cabinet or as a gift among peers rather than for delivery to a Native American recipient, but this circumstance has allowed for the lovely state of preservation, virtually impossible on an officially awarded medal that served its intended original purpose. Late die state with the small chip inside the D of PRESIDENT. Small breaks that join the letters G and O of GEO and N and G of WASHINGTON were present on this piece, but neatly corrected by the issuer. This is one of 15 specimens known to the writer and easily among the few most handsome.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Estes Gale Hawkes, November 1975; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part XVI, October 2006, lot 104; Q. David Bowers; our (Stack's) Americana Sale of September 2010, lot 4201; Van Simmons; John J. Kraljevich, Jr.



Lot 2080

Circa 1798 Washington Seasons Medal. The Home. Early reverse die state. Musante GW-69, Baker-172, Julian IP-52. Silver. AU-50 (PCGS).



Prized Silver Seasons Medal With Hanger The Home The William Spohn Baker Specimen



2080

Circa 1798 Washington Seasons Medal. The Home. Early reverse die state. Musante GW-69, Baker-172, Julian IP-52. Silver. AU-50 (PCGS). 48.2 mm (without the loop). 710.4 grains. This medal holds the record price for any single Seasons medal sold at auction (at \$96,000, which it realized in our November 2019 sale) and, like the silver Sower medal offered previously, it has arguably the most illustrious provenance a Washington medal can have—to William Spohn Baker. A remarkable opportunity to acquire a rare and historic medal, but also to include this rare provenance in any collection, as the majority of the sale went to a single bidder who donated it all to the *Money Museum* of the American Numismatic Association in Colorado Springs.

Light bluish gray toning over much of the obverse, with a small area of rosy golden brown at the upper left and in some of the intricacies of the design. The reverse is light silver-gray with just a hint of faint champagne toning around the devices and pale blue close to the rims. This is very similar to the appearance of the other silver Seasons medals from the Baker cabinet, indicative of their long stay together. This is among the very rare examples to have been awarded, worn, and yet still have its original suspension loop intact. Indeed, there are numerous small nicks, fine scratches and even gentle edge bumps, but the loop held firm through it all, and it is among very few survivors known with this feature intact. As with the silver *Sower* above, this was also struck from the early state reverse die and the commentary

regarding the Cherokee in that lot applies here as well. It is impossible to decipher the precise history of course, but the possibility and evidence that this medal may have specifically fulfilled a direct promise and wish of George Washington is an intriguing one. Lightly cleaned as typical, but suggestions of the original reflectivity remain. Sharp, attractive and at least as desirable as it is rare. We have only sold two examples of this medal in silver across more than a dozen years, and this is one of them. The other was an unlooped collector piece. For a purist collector of the Indian Peace medal series who desires the ideal awarded specimen, the unlikely reappearance of this medal is an incredible opportunity.

One question posed in our Historical Society of Pennsylvania sale remains unanswered and intriguing, “The fact that the three designs of the Seasons medals correspond with Washington’s three different suggested goals for the advancement of the Cherokee raises an interesting question: Were the various designs awarded for advancements in the areas they depict? Did the family who learned to spin wool receive the *Home*, whereas the farmer who expanded his crops get the *Sower*?”

This is one 13 survivors known to the writer.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the William Spohn Baker Collection, to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania by bequest, November 15, 1897; our sale of Washingtoniana from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, November 2019, lot 20052.



Lot 2081

Circa 1798 Washington Seasons Medal. The Home. Late reverse die state. Musante GW-69, Baker-172A, Julian IP-52. Copper. SP-58 (PCGS).



Very Choice Seasons Medal in Bronze The Home



2081

Circa 1798 Washington Seasons Medal. The Home. Late reverse die state. Musante GW-69, Baker-172A, Julian IP-52. Copper. SP-58 (PCGS). 48.0 mm. 745.0 grains. Another superb Seasons medal in bronze, the third of three in the complete set which, in the Syd Martin Collection, stands out as a particularly noteworthy accomplishment. Not only are all three of these challenging types present, they are exceptional specimens. This is largely rich chocolate brown with generous steel blue and gold mottling through the fields. Glossy, with substantial prooflike character remaining in the fields. Boldly struck and so well preserved that every fine detail may be discerned. This includes light spalling across much of the devices, particularly around the hearth and baby. As this medal was produced with no integral hanger and it is the later die state with a chip in the loop of the D of PRESIDENT, it would be easy to surmise it to be a later restrike for collectors. Though it is the later of the observed die states, this also occurs on known presented pieces with hangers. Likewise, close study of the obviously original, presented silver *Home* medal in the previous lot reveals that this spalling occurred early, even before the late-state break in the

reverse D. Traces of the spalling can be detected on the early silver medal in the tighter recesses.

As with all the Seasons medals offered here, tiny breaks connected the E and O of GEO and the N and G of WASHINGTON. These breaks were corrected by the hand of the maker on this medal, as with all but two of the silver pieces offered here. As mentioned in a previous description, this is but an interesting detail that speaks to a remarkable degree of quality control in the shop where these rare medals were struck.

This is one of just 16 survivors in the writer's Census, and it is easily one of the two or three finest examples known in terms of overall condition. It is probably worth mentioning here for anyone who might consider waiting for a nice Native-issued piece with a hanger, just a single example has been observed with its original suspension loop intact.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex "B. Max Mehl" (George Justus), April 1964; John J. Ford, Jr; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part XVI, October 2006, lot 106; Q. David Bowers; our (Stack's) Americana Sale of September 2010, lot 4200; Anthony Terranova.



Mount Vernon, Dec. 15, 1799.

SIR,

It is with inexpressible grief, that I have to announce to you the death of the great and good General Washington. He died last evening between 10 and 11 o'clock, after a short illness of about 24 hours. His disorder was an inflammatory sore throat, which proceeded from a cold; of which he made but little complaint on Friday. On Saturday morning, about 3 o'clock, he became ill. Doctor Craick attended him, in the morning, and Dr. Dick, of Alexandria, and Dr. Brown, of Port Tobacco, were soon after called in. Every medical assistance was offered; but without the desired effect. His last scene corresponded with the whole tenor of his life. Not a groan nor a complaint escaped him, in extreme distress. With perfect resignation, and a full possession of his reason, he closed his well spent life.

I have the honour to be, &c.

TOBIAS LEER. [sic]

The President of the United States

—As printed in the Lancaster Intelligencer, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, December 25, 1799.



Tomb of Washington at Mount Vernon.





Lot 2082

Circa 1800 Washington Funeral Medal. Funeral Urn. Musante GW-70, Baker-166. Dies 1-B. Gold. AU-53 (PCGS).



Prized 1800 Funeral Urn Medal in Gold



2082

Circa 1800 Washington Funeral Medal. Funeral Urn. Musante GW-70, Baker-166. Dies 1-B. Gold. AU-53 (PCGS). 29.5 mm. 193.7 grains. Neatly pierced at 12 o'clock, as usual. Rich yellow gold surfaces are accented by traces of soft orange toning in some of the peripheral recesses and through the legends. Considerable traces of the original prooflike character of the fields are retained on both sides. Clearly handled and worn as an adornment, but the surface marks are minimal beyond some light wear and a small test cut in the obverse rim near 11 o'clock. Still, the overall sharpness and eye appeal are quite excellent, this being much sharper than the former Ford Collection example that was sold in the April 2021 Partrick sale, for just over \$50,000.

This is from a later die state than some medals seen from these dies, with a long crack passing from rim to rim from just below and left of the urn's base to just over the G at 10 o'clock. On the obverse, die state evidence consists of a hairline crack over the A of TEARS and a faint connector at the bases of IN. Circular roughness around the suspension piercing is suggestive of some type of hanger that gently abraded the gold, and this is not a feature one would expect to see from any sort of collector strike. Similarly, the edges, rims and high points exhibit a trace of legitimate wear.

The earliest appearance we are aware of for a Funeral Urn medal in gold was W. Elliot Woodward's April 1863 sale, where one was secured by a Mrs. Paige for \$55. Woodward commented that "very few specimens exist in this metal" and that it is "of the most extreme rarity," the latter italicized for emphasis. Two years later, Woodward would describe another of these for sale, including the comment, "a splendid original." Though no further discussion on the point was made at this lot, it is clear that a question had arisen as to the status of these medals. The following year, he described yet another, the Hoffman specimen, by which point it seems that the controversy surrounding them had boiled over. Woodward declared here that "several of these pieces have, from time to time, been sold as genuine, but it is now known that they are counterfeits, the dies having been in the possession of the late Dr. Edwards; they are now destroyed, together with all the pieces struck from them, excepting the few mentioned as having been sold to collectors." The next to sell was cataloged by Edward Cogan in April 1866, for Colin Lightbody. That was noted as "guaranteed original, and very rare."

It is difficult to know with certainty just what transpired, and it is easy to imagine that once the dies were discovered in Dr. Edwards' possession, Woodward (and others?) might have been too hasty in condemning them all. Jacob Perkins is known to have struck gold Washington funeral medals. An undated, but circa 1800 advertisement reprinted on page 140 of Neil Musante's, *Medallic Washington*, clearly illustrates that Perkins struck gold medals of Washington, and these, specifically for the ladies, have been taken to refer to the oval gold shells that are known to have been placed into lockets (as suggested directly

by the advertisement). It is likely, therefore, that wealthy men of Boston or Newburyport might have wished gold impressions of Perkins' funeral medals for themselves and ordered them. The evidence, though circumstantial it may be, suggests that there are originals and restrikes, potentially of both Urns and Skull and Crossbones medals in existence, though they may not be distinguishable. Die states do exist, but this can only be used to sequence struck pieces via direct comparison. It can't reliably point to an original versus a restrike as steel dies can and do break early, sometimes before they strike a single piece. Though this gold impression is from a later state of the dies, it is notable that the die rotation matches that seen on most other Urns.

The dies were cut by the esteemed engraver Jacob Perkins, of Newburyport, Massachusetts and are believed to have been struck by him and distributed at or for the civic funeral procession held in Boston. As every town seems to have set aside its own day for memorial tributes, typically including well-planned processions, it is quite possible that Perkins could have capitalized on the opportunity in several nearby towns, if his work was complete in time. Processions are noted by us to have happened in Marblehead on January 2, Hallowell on January 8, Medford on January 13, and Haverhill on February 22. Certainly, there were many more. The number of dies prepared and the different compositions suggests a fairly large output. There were at least seven obverse dies and seven reverses used on medals bearing the funeral urn motif.

Gold funeral medals have long been markers of the greatest collections, as only the most advanced collections tend to include this most precious composition. Historic collections that included them go back to at least the 1860s and include owners such as Colin Lightbody (1865), Francis Hoffman (1866), Colin Lightbody (a second one, in 1866), Charles Bushnell (1882), Sylvester Crosby (1883), Lorin Parmelee (1890), Matthew Stickney (1907), Charles Gregory (1916), and W.W.C. Wilson (1925).

We have sold many of them, and yet our online archives include not a single example in gold, as our most recent past offerings are approaching two decades old by now. We recall specimens in our Garrett (1981), Steinberg (1992), LaRiviere (1999), Western Reserve (2003) and John J. Ford, Jr. sales (2004), the latter including a remarkable *four* specimens!

Of greater significance is the fact that this issue in gold was missing from the landmark 2006 Norweb offerings, our Charles Wharton Collection sale in 2014, our several recent sales from the E Pluribus Unum Collection and, perhaps most notably, our presentation of the William Spohn Baker Collection, on behalf of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, in 2019.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection; Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006. (Appears to be the one plated in the August 1962 Empire Review, offered at \$875.)



A Lovely Silver Funeral Urn Medal



2083

Circa 1800 Washington Funeral Medal. Funeral Urn. Musante GW-70, Baker-166A. Dies 1-B. Silver. AU-58 (PCGS). 29.4 mm. 145.3 grains. Neatly pierced for suspension at 12 o'clock. A lovely toned specimen of this famous rarity. The obverse exhibits somewhat deep rose mottling at the center, while toward the rims the colors deepen toward slate and blue-green. The reverse is a bit lighter overall with more silver gray remaining at the center, while rings of blue and gold iridescence create a slight bull's eye appearance. Soft prooflike texture remains and the detail is superb throughout, this being a carefully handled example. Notwithstanding, a couple of faint scratches and other evidence of gentle wear are noted, including slight distortion at the suspension hole. Really handsome and exhibiting an earlier state of the dies than seen on the gold medal above, which was struck from the same pairing.

The short window of time between Washington's passing, on December 14th, and the first of the numerous funeral processions introduces a degree of wonderment that Perkins could accomplish so much engraving and striking in time for the events. While Washington died on the 14th, the news of the day did not travel quickly, and yet, Perkins was advertising the medals for sale as early as January 3. With at least 14 dies having been individually hand-made, he must have devoted every waking hour to these issues from the time he learned the news to the time of sale. It is very clear how Perkins likely spent his Christmas in 1799.

This was the best example in silver from Ford, Part II, where Michael Hodder subtitled it, "The Finest Seen by the Cataloguer."

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the F.C.C. Boyd Estate; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 172; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.

Another Choice Urn in Silver



2084

Circa 1800 Washington Funeral Medal. Funeral Urn. Musante GW-70, Baker-166A. Dies 4-C2. Silver. EF-45 (PCGS). 29.1 mm. 130.9 grains. Without the usual suspension piercing. Mottled surfaces display a blend of rosy gray and deep steel toning, while the highest points tend to be lighter gray. A very unusual piece considering the missing piercing, but one that might appeal to a collector who finds piercings distasteful, regardless of the purpose. Clearly handled, but sharp throughout, save for areas of weakness in the urn, which

simply did not strike up. One of seven different die combinations for the Funeral Urn medals but misattributed in our Ford sale as obverse 3. In that sale it was noted that this had remnants of what might be an edge mount, but the grading services (both NGC and PCGS) thought otherwise.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Hal Birt, Jr., September 1970; John J. Ford, Jr.; Stack's sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 177; our sale of March 2017, lot 408.



2085

Circa 1800 Washington Funeral Medal. Funeral Urn. Musante GW-70, Baker-166A. Dies 3-C2. Silver. EF Details—Damaged (PCGS). 29.7 mm. 127.5 grains. Pierced for suspension at 12 o'clock and plugged. Mostly deep steel gray with a degree of mottling in the patina and areas in the fields where the metal seems brighter and somewhat lustrous. However, closer inspection reveals some significant evidence of use, as there are many fine scratches, and it

is likely that the surfaces were smoothed a bit by whoever elected to plug the suspension hole. This seems to have been done long ago, presumably by someone who did not fully appreciate what these are and how they were used. However, the details are quite sharp, the eye appeal is rather good, and it is by no means rare to see one of these prized historic medals with a bit of restoration work.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, July 2000.

Extremely Rare Funeral Urn in Copper



2086

Circa 1800 Washington Funeral Medal. Funeral Urn. Musante GW-70, Baker-166B. Dies 3-B. Copper. EF-40 (PCGS). 29.3 mm. Pierced for suspension at 12 o'clock. Though not as exciting as an impression in gold this is probably the rarest of the funeral medals offered here. The surfaces are dark brown, with some olive overtones and traces of heavy patina in some of the protected recesses. A few of the high points have been handled enough to show occasional traces of lighter brown copper. The same is noted in parts of the suspension hole. Scattered handling marks on both sides, but none is serious enough to warrant specific mention. As we stated in our 2013 offering of this piece, there is no evidence whatsoever that this is anything but a struck medal in copper. Numerous electrotypes exist for this type (as well as of the Skull and Crossbones), so it is an obvious question to ask, but it has successfully passed the examination of several experts, and now ranks among the most important Funeral Urn discoveries of recent years. Copper impressions are

known of other funeral medals, including at least one from the 1-B die pairing, one Skull and Crossbones and four ovals, one of which appeared in our December 2004 sale as a new discovery. Even Sylvester S. Crosby owned a Funeral Urn in copper, but it is unknown which specimen was in his 1883 sale, if it has even come to light. It was described therein as “uncirculated” and “pierced.” However, as noted in our 2013 offering, the Funeral Urn medal in copper is extremely rare—indeed, it is so rare that very few collectors or specialists have ever seen an example. This is as true today as it was when this came to light almost a decade ago.

Struck from the same reverse die as used on the gold specimen offered in this sale, in a similar die state, with a long rim to rim crack beginning just left of the Urn's base, extending to the dentils over G.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier discovered on eBay by collector Thomas Donlon in Maine; our sale of August 2013, lot 4009.



Exceptional Funeral Urn in White Metal



2087

Circa 1800 Washington Funeral Medal. Funeral Urn. Musante GW-70, Baker-166C. Dies 4-C2. White Metal. AU-55 (PCGS). 29.5 mm. 104.3 grains. Neatly pierced for suspension at 12 o'clock, as usual. Light pewter gray with generous prooflike character remaining in the protected recesses, while gentle handling of the more exposed surfaces has given those areas a more satiny appearance. Mostly brilliant with just a trace of mellowing on the high points and a single small pesting spot on the reverse, near 3

o'clock. Troublesome pesting and other more serious damage is commonly seen on white metal examples, as their fragile nature generally did not allow for long-term survival as nice as this. Nicely struck with strong detail, beautifully showcasing this historic design. Struck from the same die pair as the unpierced ex-Ford silver one in this sale.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.

Another Pleasing White Metal Urn



2088

Circa 1800 Washington Funeral Medal. Funeral Urn. Musante GW-70, Baker-166C. Dies 1-B. White Metal. AU-50 (PCGS). 29.2 mm. 131.0 grains. Pierced for suspension at 12 o'clock. Some shimmering brilliance gently outlines the motifs on both sides, while most of the more exposed surface area has mellowed to soft pewter gray. A trace of residue on Washington's portrait is noted for accuracy but seems harmless. Slightly more handled than the medal offered in the last lot, but still very nice for one of these in this composition. Just a few scattered marks are noted, but the eye appeal is quite excellent.

Though there are some hairlines, there is not a trace of pesting to be found. Struck from the same dies as used for the gold medal in this sale, as well as one of the silver impressions. This is from a later die state, but the large reverse crack seems slightly less advanced than on the gold medal.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) Americana Sale, January 2003, lot 1398; Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Lot 2089

Circa 1800 Washington Funeral Medal. Skull and Crossbones. Musante GW-71, Baker-165A.
Dies 1-A1. Silver. EF-40 (PCGS).



The Famous Skull and Crossbones Funeral Medal Struck in Silver



2089

Circa 1800 Washington Funeral Medal. Skull and Crossbones. Musante GW-71, Baker-165A. Dies 1-A1. Silver. EF-40 (PCGS). Neatly pierced for suspension, as typical. A classic rarity, and among the most historic of all Washington medals, as it is among the handful that can be assigned a direct place, time and historic purpose. The mottled surfaces of this example show that history of use, with large areas of deep bluish gray patina through the protected recesses, while the more handled areas are lighter gray in contrast. Close inspection reveals numerous small scratches and other marks consistent with the intended use of these medals, yet this has no serious damage that could be considered distracting.

While the more typically seen Funeral Urn medals and oval shells in gold were clearly sold to the public at large, the Skull and Crossbones type was for a more limited, specific audience, and for adornment during a singular momentous occasion. As with the Urn medals, these were produced by Jacob Perkins. He was a member of the Masonic Brotherhood, and this type was expressly for the Masonic funeral procession in Boston. While it was reported that some 1,600 participants convened for the Masonic procession, the rarity of this medal today renders it unthinkable that any number approaching that would have been produced. Most likely, Perkins would have made as many as he thought he might be able to reasonably sell to fellow local Masonic brothers in advance of their convergence upon Boston for the February 11th event.

An announcement of the planned Masonic procession in Boston appeared in newspapers in that city as well those in the New England communities of Salem, Newburyport, Portland, Worcester, Springfield, Northampton, Stockbridge, Leominster and Dedham for several days in order to gather the Masonic Brotherhood to publicly honor Washington's memory. The event

seems to have been initially reported as planned for February 22 in some publications, and later corrected to February 11. Boston's *Russell's Gazette* advertised in their January 16 edition that the event would be on the 22nd of February, while a very similar notice appeared in Boston's *Columbia Centinel* with amended wording placing the event on February 11. This might be reflective of differences of opinion as to which date was most appropriate, as the actual date of Washington's birth was February 11, 1731. Once the Julian calendar was abandoned in favor of the Gregorian, in 1752, the birth date became February 22, 1732. This was only a change of 11 days, but at the time of Washington's birth, the English standard included March 1 as the beginning of the calendar year. When this shifted to January 1, the year of his birth changed as well.

The *Centinel* notice read, in part:

The formation of the Grand Procession will commence at ten o'clock; and at half past 11, will move from the Old State-House, to the Old South Meeting House, with the consent of the Proprietors, where an Eulogy will be pronounced by the Hon Brother Timothy Bigelow.

The Officers of the Lodges are requested to bring with them their jewels, the collars of which are to be shrouded in black crepe.

By direction of the most worshipful Samuel Dunn, grand master of Massachusetts.

Perkins would have had to work with diligent focus to prepare the dies and strike the funeral medals, as the earliest processions were dated within a month of Washington's passing. The fairly large number of dies suggests he had little interruption in the process.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. From our sale of February 2014, lot 384.



Lot 2090

Circa 1800 Washington Funeral Medal. Funeral Urn. GW on Base. Musante GW-72, Baker-167.
Dies 6-F. White Metal. AU-50 (PCGS).



Extremely Rare GW on Base Funeral Medal Musante Plate; Second Finest Known Unique without Piercing



2090

Circa 1800 Washington Funeral Medal. Funeral Urn. GW on Base. Musante GW-72, Baker-167. Dies 6-F. White Metal. AU-50 (PCGS). 28 mm. Medium pewter gray with a streak of darker patina crossing the obverse, while the reverse offers pleasing aesthetic balance. Both sides retain traces of lighter brilliance close to the motifs which serves to pleasantly outline and accentuate the design features. Traces of light surface debris, but there does not seem to be any pesting or even serious marks from handling that often plague the Funeral Medals in this relatively fragile composition.

This is an important entry into the Martin Collection of Funeral Medals. It is not only an extremely rare variant but also a specimen of outstanding quality. Most collections are missing this rare type, with the GW block letters on the base of the urn, rather than emblazoned on the bowl in script.

The most recent of these to sell appeared in Heritage's offering of the Donald Partrick Collection, in March 2021, where two GW on Base medals were included, representing two of the three (or four?) known die pairings. In their presentation, they referred to eight known specimens overall, including just two varieties, omitting reference to the third and potential fourth altogether, and counting one medal twice. We are aware of two examples for the Die Pair 5-E, not mentioned there. There are two examples known from Die Pair 7-G, and five known of Die Pair 6-F, as offered here. Another somewhat crudely made medal appeared in Ford II:183. That was from different dies altogether, but the style suggests it is unlikely to have come from Perkins' shop. The five known from 6-F, in descending order of quality, are as follows:

1. Stack's Bowers Galleries, May 2019:3268
2. Stack's Bowers Galleries, August 2013:4010; Sydney F. Martin Collection. **This example.**

3. Stack's, January 2007:6711

4. Rudy Sieck, Bowers and Ruddy, July 1981:2650; Donald Partrick; HA, March 2021:15167.

5. Heritage, April 2013:10268.

Considering the rarity of the GW on Base type overall, it is worth listing the two known examples from Die Pair 7-G, also in descending order of quality:

1. Stack's Bowers, January 2007:6710

2. Donald Partrick, Heritage, March 2021:15166 (likely the Sylvester S. Crosby specimen offered by Empire Coin Company, in 1962)

And these are the two we are aware of from the 5-E die combination:

1. The Musante Plate used to illustrated these dies.
2. Stack's Bowers Galleries, November 2015:23421.

As is evident from the listing above, this is the second finest known of the Die Pair 6-F medals, but it is also the second finest of the nine. It also stands out considerably for being the only GW on Base known without a suspension piercing. An impressive rarity that is certainly among the highlights of the Martin Collection Washington medals. This realized just over \$22,000 in our August 2013 sale, while our more recent sale, the finest graded, brought \$26,400. There is clear consistency in these realizations, but both sales pre-dated the recent increase in market enthusiasm for high quality rarities over the last two years.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our ANA Sale, August 2013, lot 4010.



(Photo Enlarged)

2091

Undated (circa 1800?) Washington Portrait Shell. Musante GW-Unlisted; Baker-Unlisted. Iron. AU-55. 21.8 x 16.6 mm. Deep slate surfaces are slightly pebbled in texture, perhaps as made. Two examples of this Berlin Iron casting are featured in a March 2009 *Collectors Weekly* article by Stephan Decatur. Therein, Decatur identifies these as being of German manufacture, circa 1800. Two provenances are given, one to a General Daniel Keim of Reading, PA, and the other “probably belonged originally to Mrs. Tobias Lear [wife of Washington’s personal secretary].” These were used in mourning

jewelry. A similar one was plated in the 1914 sale of the George Parsons Collection. That provenance was assigned to this piece in the May 2004 Ford sale, but this is clearly a different piece. Henry Chapman wrote that the Parsons piece had a “J” on the reverse, which this does not have, and the border spacing is different between the two.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 242.





2092

Circa 1800 Westwood Medal. First Reverse. Musante GW-82, Baker-81B. White Metal, Silvered. AU-58+ (PCGS). 40.5 mm. 506.2 grains. Light silver gray with soft blue and rose toning around the obverse periphery, outlining Washington's portrait and in some of the reverse fields. Apparently lightly silvered, but probably after striking as the microscopic texture in the recesses is not prooflike and smooth, but rather granular as sometimes seen on silvered pieces. The treatment is as unusual for this issue as is the overall appearance, but beneath the silvered surface, there are patches of the pesting usually seen on these in white metal. The details are quite crisp, with traces of the usual double striking on the reverse visible, and both the diameter and weight are appropriate for a white metal impression. With the pleasant color, this is in some ways much more attractive than the standard, often somewhat dull, white metal impressions. These are quite scarce, and close study of several others has suggested that they might in fact be die trials for the more commonly encountered bronzes. All seen (with opportunity for comparison) have been from earlier die states than comparative bronzes. This is the only one we recall with a silvered surface.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Paul Magriel via Paul Kagin, October 1970; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 117; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2094

Circa 1832 Stuart Portrait Medal. Musante GW-84, Baker-129. White Metal. EF Details—Holed (PCGS). 44.1 mm. 460.5 grains. Pierced for suspension near 6 o'clock, allowing the medal to be upright when the wearer looked down and held it upward, similar to the arrangement of the suspension loops on ladies' watches of the Victorian era, often worn pinned to the dress since watch pockets were not customary for women's attire. This piercing might point to it having been the property of a lady, or perhaps suspended as a gentleman's watch fob, which would be upright in the hand when grasped to pull a watch out. What is clear is that this was not in a collector's hands at the outset, and it did some utilitarian service, albeit with the memory of Washington as a sentimental backdrop. The surfaces are a bit worn, but largely smooth, featuring only a few cuts and abrasions that one would expect for a used white metal piece. The surfaces are light pewter gray and the details remain pleasantly sharp.

Though this is a fairly scarce medal, it is not that unusual for examples to be pierced. This is the ninth we have handled since 2006, and three of them have had piercings, one of which had been plugged. This suggests that these were probably sold in advance of or during one of the many public ceremonies marking Washington's 100th Anniversary of birth and intended to be personal adornments. Sales seem to have been small however as, again, this is a fairly rare issue.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the Herbert M. Oeschner Collection, September 1988, lot 1443; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 1119.



2093

Circa 1800 Westwood Medal. Second Reverse. Musante GW-83, Baker-80A. Copper, Bronzed. MS-63 (PCGS). 40.5 mm. 556.0 grains. A lovely specimen featuring deep mahogany brown surfaces that are glossy on the motifs and gently prooflike in the fields. Traces of soft blue and violet iridescence are noted in the obverse fields, adding to aesthetic appeal. Some natural surface grime and just a few minor handling marks are noted. A couple of small obverse spots are mentioned for accuracy, but don't appear threatening. Beautifully struck in high relief, as always seen, these having benefitted from great care in their production. A classic early Washington memorial medal, and the second of the two variants struck. The order given by Neil Musante is correct based on die state study, though it reverses the supposition made by William Spohn Baker in 1885 and followed by Rulau and Fuld in 1999.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased at the Wilmington Coin Show, March 1998.



Impressive 1805 Eccleston Medal



(Image Reduced)

2096

Plaster Model of the 1805 Eccleston Medal Obverse. Musante GW-88, for type. Baker-85, for type. Plaster and wood. Very Fine. 100.0 mm. White plaster, with an applied patina creating an antiqued appearance. Framed in black lacquered wood, backed with black paper. Likely a decorative piece of the 1850s, or so, but rare nonetheless. The frame has split and been glued in four places and is likely quite fragile.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Rex Stark, via Anthony Terranova.



2095

1805 Eccleston Medal. Musante GW-88, Baker-85. Copper. SP-62 BN (PCGS). 76.0 mm. 2074.6 grains. Lovely light chocolate brown surfaces with thin outlines of orange red around Washington's portrait and close to the obverse rim, while the reverse exhibits considerably more red in the more protected areas of the field. Glossy, sharply struck and very attractive. Some very light roughness from the cast planchet is seen at the central reverse, as usual, but it is very light on this medal. Four small voids in the edge were thought by Syd Martin to be mounting marks, but these are almost certainly natural flaws in the planchet, just unfortunately juxtaposed to make them appear otherwise. A lovely example of this large, impressive and early medal. When Edward Cogan's 1869 sale of the Mortimer MacKenzie Collection appeared in collector's hands, readers were treated to the first plated numismatic auction catalog in the United States. The first plate included five medals, all Washington pieces, with an Eccleston medal strikingly at the immediate center.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Noted to have been found in South Africa.



Lot 2097
1805 C.C.A.U.S. (Commander in Chief, Armies of the United States) Medal. Musante GW-90,
Baker-57, Julian CM-6. Silver. SP-58 (PCGS).



Extremely Rare 1805 C.C.A.U.S. Medal Commander in Chief, Armies of the United States The William Spohn Baker Specimen



2097

1805 C.C.A.U.S. (Commander in Chief, Armies of the United States) Medal. Musante GW-90, Baker-57, Julian CM-6. Silver. SP-58 (PCGS). 40.7 mm. 571.5 grains. We are delighted to be able to once again offer this uniquely historic example of the classic C.C.A.U.S. medal, the first in Joseph Sansom's series celebrating the History of the American Revolution. Few survivors are known, and this example was once owned by Washington scholar William Spohn Baker and holds a special status. Primarily, it carries the remarkable provenance to the man who first made the vast body of Washington portrait medals accessible to a broad scope of collectors. Secondly, as significant as that provenance is, it has been rendered a very rare one in the marketplace today because the vast majority of Baker's collection was acquired by a single bidder in our November 2019 sale and has now been donated to the American Numismatic Association in Colorado Springs. This medal, among the most important in the Baker holdings, eluded that bidder and remains one of the very few Baker Collection medals available today.

It was described in our 2019 sale as follows, with minor edits:

The obverse is deeply toned, dark bluish-gray with highlights of deep golden brown becoming evident upon more prolonged study. Though a bit subdued on this side, reflectivity is still seen in the fields. It is strongest in the recesses of the legends and outlining Washington's beautifully rendered portrait. A few light handling scruffs and hairline scratches are noted in the fields, mostly at left. The reverse was the more protected side in Baker's cabinet and is quite a bit lighter in tone. Pearlescent medium gray is accented by gentle mottling of olive and pale blue. As on the obverse, the recesses glitter with prooflike reflectivity, but more intensely so. A few small rim nicks are noted on this side, most notably near 12 o'clock, while the fields show pairs of marks left of the olive branch and above the right side of the globe. A sharp example of this elegantly designed and distinctive medal, whose dies were engraved by the talented John Reich. His mark, "R." is seen at the truncation of Washington's shoulder. No collaring mark is seen on the edge. At 6 o'clock, there is a small natural depression on the edge that precluded the full execution on the

rims of both sides. As such, what appear as tiny nicks on the rims are really just the result of a tiny planchet imperfection. The Baker number is on the edge, in red.

This is the first of Joseph Sansom's planned series of medals celebrating the History of the American Revolution. It seems that he completed four in his series while a couple of additional mulings were created at the Mint later. This was the beginning, and its date of accomplishment is fairly well documented. Sansom presented an example to President Thomas Jefferson, accompanied by his explanatory letter dated December 28, 1805, the same day that his advertisements announcing the medallic series first appeared in the Philadelphia newspapers. Jefferson, a medal collector, responded graciously and was later rewarded with an example of the Presidency Relinquished medal on March 25, 1807, and perhaps others in the series. Jefferson's C.C.A.U.S. medal still resides at Monticello.

The public notice of bookseller John Conrad & Co. solicited orders for the medal in silver at \$5, and in gold at \$50, though none in gold has ever been seen—such would be a remarkable find, indeed! A few were sold or otherwise distributed, as in the case of Jefferson's, but according to Baker, the obverse die broke early, and this brought an end to this initial entry in Sansom's series. Indeed, a set of the History of the Revolution medals once owned by the Sansom family remains intact and includes no C.C.A.U.S. medal. That set may be found in the following lot.

The C.C.A.U.S. medal has long been considered one of the landmarks of the Washington series, one that almost never appears in any but truly remarkable cabinets. We have been able to account for ten distinct specimens, two of which are in institutional collections. Of those in collector hands, we have handled all but one over the years. The first sale we are aware of was in Bangs, Merwin & Co's March 1865 James R. Chilton sale, where William Sumner Appleton was the buyer. His medal is now in the collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society. It is the first in our roster. Others are as follows:

2. Thomas Jefferson's personal specimen at Monticello.



3. Charles I. Bushnell (Chapman brothers, June 1882:1277); T. Harrison Garrett (Bowers and Ruddy, March 1981:1751). The Rulau-Fuld plate.
4. William Spohn Baker (d. 1897); Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Sydney F. Martin. **The Present Specimen.**
5. Matthew Stickney (Henry Chapman, June 1907:414); Henry L. Jewett (S.H. Chapman, June 1909:402); Thomas Elder for Stephen Nagy; Wayte Raymond(?). Plated in his monograph; George Fuld; Glendining's, October 1968; Lucien LaRiviere (Bowers and Merena, November 1999:3047)
6. W.W.C. Wilson (Wayte Raymond, November 1925:853); Wayte Raymond; John J. Ford, Jr. (Stack's, October 2004:192).
7. Federal Coin Exchange (January 1954:752); John J. Ford, Jr. (Stack's, May 2004:60).
8. Norweb Specimen (Stack's, November 2006:2050).
9. Charles P. Senter (Wayte Raymond, October 1933:106); French's, May 1970:837 (probably); Richard Picker; Stuart Witham (Bowers and Merena, September 1992:2106); Stack's, March 1993:2009; Stack's 1993 Summer FPL:7.
10. Ira and Larry Goldberg, May 2006:3304 (though this lot was not in the print catalog).

We know of several historic appearances of this type in addition to those listed above. Owners included Colin Lightbody, Mendes Cohen, Henry Holland, Isaac Wood, R. Coulton Davis, Harlan P. Smith, and Allison Jackman. Without plates or named catalogs, however, it is all but impossible to tie those appearances to medals we are presently aware of. It is possible that more specimens exist, but if so, the number would undoubtedly be very small. Some great collections of old included electrotypes to represent this rare and desired medal. Mickley owned one described as bronzed tin in addition to his silver one, and Bushnell purchased it for his collection. Sylvester Crosby only had electrotpe representation of the C.C.A.U.S. medal in his cabinet, but he had *two* of them. As the lists above illustrate, the ownership of a C.C.A.U.S. medal enters one's name into a pretty impressive group of great collectors who have owned specimens in the past, and it is not a club that is easy to get into. Certainly, Sydney Martin's name fits neatly among them.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the William Spohn Baker Collection, to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania by bequest, November 15, 1897; our sale of Washingtoniana from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, November 2019, lot 20077.





Lot 2098

Circa 1806-1808 Set of Silver Medals from Joseph Sansom's History of the American Revolution.



Important History of the American Revolution Set by Joseph Sansom Former Property of the Sansom Family



2098

Circa 1806-1808 Set of Silver Medals from Joseph Sansom's History of the American Revolution. Each described individually below. A set of exceptional historic significance. As early as late December 1805, Philadelphia bookseller John Conrad began placing a series of local newspaper advertisements offering a new "medal, worthy of the illustrious Washington, [which] has been at length executed in Philadelphia...upon the designs of a *person of taste*, under the inspection of the director of the mint, the librarian of the philosophical society, and other gentlemen of professional ability, or acknowledged judgement."

The "person of taste" was Joseph Sansom, a citizen of Philadelphia, who designed a remarkable set of four medals intended to document the *History of the American Revolution*. In doing so, he caused to be put into metal monuments to two men, a depiction of the conflict itself, a masterful expression that it had come to a close, and one critical concept that was a remarkable cornerstone of the new nation.

Sansom was not just a person of taste, but clearly a man of means and influence, one able to get the talented John Reich to cut the dies from his designs, and to have the United States Mint strike the medals. These superbly made works have remained deeply appreciated to this day.

The first medal struck in this series was the C.C.A.U.S. medal, the design offered in the previous lot. Sansom wrote to Thomas

Jefferson on December 28, 1805, presenting him an example of that first medal. On March 25, 1807, Sansom sent him an impression of the Presidency Relinquished medal, the second in the series. In the original advertising for the C.C.A.U.S., it was stated that no further medals would be produced from those dies after the close of March 1806. According to Baker, the obverse die broke early, which explains why no bronze impressions are known. Apparently, sometime after this failure and after all the C.C.A.U.S. medal impressions had been spoken for, Sansom or some family member of his decided it worthwhile to own a set of these medals. With the first issue no longer available, the threesome offered here fulfilled that wish of the complete set then possible, and remained with members and descendants of the Sansom family for more than a century.

Circa 1806-7 Presidency Relinquished Medal. Original dies. Early impression. Musante GW-58, Baker-71, Julian PR-1. Silver. SP-62 (PCGS). 40.8 mm. 441.0 grains. Deeply toned from long-term exposure to the air in the original teak frame, but some light gray remains in the fields where soft accents of pale blue iridescence add to the appeal. A trace of polish is noted on the high points, typical of early, well-appreciated medals. A few scattered marks are noted, including a nick on the cheek and a thin scratch in the plinth on the reverse. These have little effect on the eye appeal, however, as the pleasant toning and deeply prooflike fields are much more captivating. No collaring mark is



noted on this piece, similar to both the Baker C.C.A.U.S. medal and the Baker specimen of this medal.

This is the second medal in Joseph Sansom's series, struck after the C.C.A.U.S. Sansom sent a copy of the Presidency Relinquished Medal to President Jefferson on March 25, 1807, so we know that dies were completed and impressions struck by that date. As such, we have revised the dating of this issue from the traditionally used "ca. 1805." A newspaper advertisement of December 14, 1807, references this medal as one of a series of three struck "at Philadelphia by Private Order... upon the Happy Establishment of the American Revolution." This advertisement is the only contemporary reference to this set of three that we are aware of. In the advertisement, this piece is specifically referred to as celebrating "the retirement of Washington." One of the most significant moments in the early Republic was when Washington personally witnessed with satisfaction the successful transition of the office and powers of the Presidency to John Adams. Such had not been witnessed by living people at the time, based on the voice of the people, and it was a moment that left many in pleasant disbelief when it transpired. It set in place the graceful and orderly manner in which the changing of the Executive would transpire for the next 220 years.

Circa 1807 Benjamin Franklin American Beaver Medal. Julian CM-8, Betts-546, Fuld FR.M.UN.1. SP-63 (PCGS). 40.4 mm. 504.7 grains. Soft blue and gold mottled iridescence accents the otherwise deep steel gray of both sides. Boldly prooflike fields and just a general trace of polish on the high points, matching exactly the surfaces of the *Presidency Relinquished* medal above. Only the most trivial marks are noted otherwise. A lovely example of this rare and historic medal. A slight edge concavity, as made. A strong collaring mark at 6 o'clock, and a short collar break is seen at 9:30. The reverse rim shows that the die broke along the rim from about 7 o'clock to 10 o'clock, and was filed off this piece, likely by the Mint, as was a customary finishing at the time. This medal appears to have been struck in the autumn of 1807. Newspaper advertisements first announced its production in December 1807, namechecking George Clymer and Dr. Benjamin Rush, who received specimens as surviving signers of the Declaration of Independence living in Philadelphia. The reverse design is described as "the American Beaver nibbling at the Overshadowing Oak of the British Power on the Western Continent" in a newspaper piece that appeared in Philadelphia on December 1 and Annapolis on December 10. Another advertisement, of December 14, 1807, gives the brief explanatory description of "upon the Declaration of Independence," which could certainly have been the intent of the beaver just beginning to gnaw at the tree. The beaver would ultimately succeed, but at the time of the signing of the Declaration, there was still a long road ahead. The same advertisement clarified that the next and final medal in the series, that offered below, was planned but not yet prepared.

Circa 1808 Peace of 1783 Medal. Musante GW-92, Baker-58, Julian CM-5. Silver. SP-62 (PCGS). 40.5 mm. 483.1 grains. Soft blue and gold mottling over dark gray on the obverse, while the similarly gray reverse seems to have a soft blush of deep violet in the fields. Mild handling and trace of gentle polish on the

high points as on others in this original set. A shallow collar mark at 12 o'clock, similar to that seen on the early-state Baker Collection specimen, though it is better developed on that piece. A prominent collar crack at 9 o'clock matches that on the Baker specimen.

This is the fourth and final entry in the Sansom series, and commemorates the Peace of 1783, the treaty that brought a formal end to the American Revolution. This was promoted in the aforementioned advertisement (December 14, 1807) as "intended," and commemorating the "Acquisition of Independence." Clearly, it was not ready for distribution as of mid-December, so we have adjusted the likely date of production to 1808.

Frame. Approximately 170 x 62 mm, and 8 mm thick. A finely made period teakwood frame, with three cut outs for the medals. Joined by silver rods, capped at the ends, on two positions along the left and right sides. The top and bottom capped with a thick silver band, which is bent 90 degrees around the corners and secured on the sides with screws. The top bears the soldered original post and large suspension loop at the center. Along the surface of the top cap is neatly engraved, "HISTORY OF / THE REVOLUTION." Along the bottom cap is engraved, "DESIGNED BY J. SANSOM F.P.S." Sansom was a Philadelphia Quaker, member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and a silhouette artist, so the portraits were probably key elements of his personal design. He was elected to the American Philosophical Society in 1808, clarifying "F.P.S" as *Fellow of the Philosophical Society*, and according to a brief online biography of him, he was elected in direct recognition of his success with this historic series of medals.

It is recorded that two other such sets existed, though not necessarily housed in the same fashion. One was in fitted silver rings and shells case engraved "MEDALLIC HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION / PHILADELPHIA 1805" on one shell, and "DESIGNED BY J. SANSOM, ENGRAVED BY REICH" on the other. The set of three medals once in the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection and described and illustrated by Stewart Witham in his monograph on John Reich was broken up in the various Ford sales, leaving this set as the only original, intact threesome of Sansom's "History of the Revolution" medals in private hands. (Witham also notes a set forever ensconced in the collections of the American Philosophical Society.) Though this set has been disassembled with the medals now housed in PCGS holders, the suite is intact otherwise, including the small card documenting this set's 1932 loan to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A fantastic and deeply historic set of early American medals that we are delighted to be able to once again present for sale. (Total: 3 medals; 1 frame)

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex unspecified members of the Joseph Sansom family, leading to his great-great nephew, Robeson Lea Perot, as of 1932 (loaned by him to the 1932 Bicentennial of Birth celebrations at the Philadelphia Historical Society); Perot Family; Freeman's Americana Sale of April 2006, lot 1; our (Stack's) Philadelphia Americana Sale, September 2009, lot 6190; our sale of October 2018, lot 58; Anthony Terranova.



Unique C.C.A.U.S. - Birth Centennial Medal Provenance to Joseph Mickley, 1867



2099

Circa 1832 C.C.A.U.S.-Birth Centennial Medal. Musante GW-91. Baker-163F. White Metal. Genuine (PCGS). 40.2 mm. 286.3 grains. Heavy dark patina with considerable roughness not unlike fire scale, though in this case it is probably better attributed to aggressive pesting of the white metal composition. Though there is some variability in the degree of roughness across the obverse, the color is fairly consistent, and the design features are likewise of consistent sharpness, generally Extremely Fine, or so. The reverse is virtually identical, but seemingly a bit smoother.

The rarity, crude appearance, cheaper metal, and status as an obvious copy of the rare C.C.A.U.S. Sansom series die by Joseph Reich seems to have early on introduced some question as to the value of this piece, historical or otherwise. It first appeared for sale in the W. Elliot Woodward sale of the incredible Joseph Mickley cabinet in 1867, where Woodward (already the owner of the piece), commented that "this medal has been shown to many collectors, who all agree in pronouncing it unique; tin, bronzed, fine." It is clear that little was known about it, and what is perhaps most interesting about this description is the assertion that this is "bronzed." To our eyes, this is clearly a heavily oxidized white metal piece, but the pronouncement that it was bronzed seems to secure into the factual record that this piece was already heavily oxidized by 1867, likely having seen a good bit of age and careless handling before it entered Mickley's collection. Charles Bushnell added it to his cabinet for \$30, where it remained until Lorin Parmelee bought the collection intact and elected to not retain this piece.

When the Chapman brothers sold the Bushnell cabinet (for Parmelee), they also called it tin, and bronzed, along with carrying forward the understanding that it was unique. The Chapmans bought this piece in the Bushnell sale and, within the year, offered it to T. Harrison Garrett for \$15, who declined it. It is unknown why. The rough appearance could have sealed the decision, but it might have also been a lack of confidence and just too much mystery.

It next appeared in the Chapman brothers' sale of the A. Galpin Collection, in May 1883, but the Chapmans may have still been the owners. It was described by them in their second attempt as "Tin. Bronzed. Very fine. This medal was made by casting from a model. No struck impression known. Unique..." This suggests that the cast nature of the piece was probably a central concern of potential buyers and they needed to address it head-on, perhaps after criticism. Two years later, they offered it again, this time as part of their own collection, in 1885. They commented that it was "cast in lead, bronzed. Made in 1832. Unique. Very Fine..." apparently still not understanding the oxidized surface, but seeing fit to point out this was made in 1832, even though no evidence was presented.

William Spohn Baker was aware of both the Mickley and Bushnell offerings. He also did not buy it and went so far as to avoid giving it its own catalog number in his 1885 *Medallic Portraits*. Apparently, he suspected it as little more than some type of forged curiosity, but he

did mention it as the final paragraph of his introduction to the *Birth, Death and Centennial*, 1832 chapter.

The next appearance we are aware of was in the February 1926 sale of the William Havemeyer Collection, a cabinet with many nice Washington pieces, cataloged by Thomas Elder. Elder is the first to recognize this as simply "white metal," abandoning the thought it was bronzed. However, he references it as Baker-57, Sansom's famous C.C.A.U.S. rarity (in silver), so he also didn't quite get it right.

The most recent appearance was in 1997, when Joe Levine cataloged it for his Presidential Coin and Antique sale in May 1997. He once again cataloged this as bronzed, and there can be no mistake that it is the same specimen as it is clearly plated. He attempted to correct the erroneous provenance information by Rulau and Fuld and added a couple of entries. The entries given below after 1926, are repeated from the Presidential sale.

One undeniable consistency across all appearances is that no concrete information about this piece is known. This, after a century and a half, has remained largely unchanged. It is presumed that this was made as a one-off trinket in 1832, perhaps in the excitement leading up to the Civic Procession in Philadelphia. But who made it?

One circumstantial possibility lies with a bookseller, John Conrad, having had a hand in the matter. Conrad participated in distributing the original C.C.A.U.S. medals. He advertised in Philadelphia in late 1805 and early 1806, announcing that Sansom's C.C.A.U.S. had been prepared and that examples were available for examination in his bookshop at 30 Chestnut Street. He announced that he would accept orders until March 30, 1806, after which no more would be made.

John Conrad's business seems to have included family. Just two years later, a C. & A. Conrad & Co. advertised as booksellers at the same address, with later mentions appearing as late as 1811. John Conrad seems to have met with some financial failure, as in the summer of 1812, his property was sold by Sheriff's Sale to pay creditors. He seems to have returned to business in a limited way as he advertised in 1815 the publishing of a record of the War of 1812, and then "cheap letter paper" in 1820. In 1831, a John Conrad had published and was selling *The Pennsylvania State Reports for 1831*. The circa 1805 John Conrad clearly took an interest in the C.C.A.U.S. medal and could well have had a mold made from one that later could have been used to cast a piece like this. This is all conjecture but might prove a useful starting point as more minutiae of American history continues to become digitized and easily searched.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Joseph J. Mickley; W. Elliot Woodward; W. Elliot Woodward's sale of the Joseph J. Mickley Collection, October 1867, lot 2983 @ \$30; Charles I. Bushnell; Lorin G. Parmelee; S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the Charles I. Bushnell Collection, June 1882, lot 1365 @ \$10; S.H. and H. Chapman; S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the A. Galpin Collection, May 1883, lot 524 @ \$10; S.H. and H. Chapman, May 1885, lot 660; Thomas Elder's sale of the William F. Havemeyer Collection, February 1926:1562; Woodcliff Investment Corp. (William Anton, Jr.), 1970s; Stewart Witham; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of May 1997, lot 157; unnamed seller via Stack's, January 2007.



2100

Circa 1808 Peace of 1783 Medal. Musante GW-92, Baker-58A, Julian CM-5. Copper, Bronzed. SP-62 (PCGS). 40.3 mm. 548.1 grains. A really beautiful example of this early American commemorative medal. Heavily mottled surfaces feature deep mahogany, a nearly cherry-skin red and deep steely overtones. The Mint had difficulty with the process of bronzing in this period and many of the bronzes from Sansom's issues are uneven, sometimes very unattractively so. This one is an exception in the latter circumstance if not the former, as the bronzing was clearly a problem, yet the aesthetic result is most pleasing. Soft satin luster, a bold impression and virtually no handling evidence worthy of mention.

A very historic issue from the early Mint, conceived and designed by Philadelphia Quaker Joseph Sansom, who himself was an accomplished silhouette artist. Sansom successfully petitioned James Madison to have John Reich cut his dies and the Mint to strike his medals. This design, the last of four issued in his complete series, had been "intended" but was not yet ready for sale, as of December 14, 1807, so it was probably struck early in 1808. It was struck in commemoration of the Peace of 1783, the treaty that brought an end to the American Revolution and final acknowledged victory to a new Nation.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, September 2001.



2101

1808 Washington Benevolent Society Medal. Musante GW-94, Baker-327, Julian RF-23. Silver. EF Details—Damaged (PCGS). 42.1 mm. 415.3 grains. Light gray on the motifs while the recesses are more deeply toned dark gray with soft blue accents. A somewhat well-handled example of this important society badge, struck at the U.S. Mint from dies by John Reich. The integral hanger is lost, as is frequently the case with these. Several rim marks are seen on both sides, and close study reveals curious edge bumps and filing marks. Other scattered marks and abrasions are as usually seen, but despite the wear, the details remain pleasantly crisp, all things considered.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Source unrecorded.

Historic Portrait Pin of The Sons of Washington, Ca. 1810



2102

Circa 1810 Portrait Pin of the Sons of Washington. Gold. Fine. 35.0 x 28.0 mm. An oval gold pinback case holds a hand-painted miniature color portrait of George Washington. The pin is lost from the back, though the hinge mount and latch hook remain. Similarly, the crystal is missing from the obverse, allowing removal of the hand-painted portrait. Engraved on the back of the case in large, flowing script is, "SONS / OF / WASHINGTON" with ornamental flourishes left and right of center.

The Sons of Washington were a group of young Federalists, mentioned in this July 9, 1810 piece in Philadelphia's *The United States Gazette*:

"SONS OF WASHINGTON"

On the Fourth of July a society of gentlemen, associated to commemorate the virtues and services of the illustrious George Washington, assembled at the Mansion House; and at half past four sat down to a sumptuous entertainment, prepared with great taste and liberality, by the indefatigable propriety of that Hotel."

Officers of the organization in attendance were given as "James Milnor, Esq. President, Jonathan Smith and Samuel F. Bradford, Esqs. Vice Presidents." A decoration at the event was described as follows: "At the other end of the room, was suspended the American Eagle, bearing in its beak, the following motto: 'Sons of Washington — emulate his glorious example.'"

Another account, in the same paper, reports on formal toasts and exchanges between the Sons of Washington and the Pennsylvania State Society of the Cincinnati, two organizations which clearly maintained a high degree of mutual respect.

"In the evening a deputation from 'The Sons of Washington'...waited on the Society of the Cincinnati" and a member "delivered the following address:

"Mr. President,

And gentlemen of the Cincinnati, We are deputed by a Society of gentlemen, Sons of Washington, assembled at the Mansion House, to congratulate you on the return of this important and memorable day [Independence Day]"

The Society of the Cincinnati reciprocated:

"Mr. President,

And gentlemen of this respectable association appropriately designated 'SONS OF WASHINGTON.'As a deputation from the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati, we are instructed to express their grateful sense of the flattering terms, in which you have been pleased to recognize their services in the cause of our common country." And they offered that the Society had raised a toast in their honor: "'The "Sons of Washington" — Publick [sic] benefit from their patriotick [sic] institution and individual happiness to its members.'"

An interesting early portrait pin, and one that could easily have been worn during the events described in *The United States Gazette*, by a genuine early American Patriot.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Tom Rinaldo, May 2009.



2103

Circa 1819 Series Numismatica Medal by Vivier. WASHINGTON. Musante GW-98, Baker-132. Copper, Bronzed. Plain edge. SP-66 (PCGS). 40.8 mm. 576.4 grains. Beautiful dark chocolate and mahogany brown surfaces are gently mottled and accented by soft blue and rose iridescence. Well struck in very high relief, with superb definition on the highest points. Just one tiny flat spot on the highest hair curl is noted. Prooflike through the fields and satiny on the devices, without any evidence of handling that would be worth mentioning. Easily among the nicest we have seen and an early die state example without the crack from Washington's brow.

This is a seemingly under-appreciated issue that is more complex than collectors have realized. Baker noted the existence of a minor die variety in 1885, observing under his entry for B-132, "a variety of this piece with very slight differences, is noted in the Appleton Catalogue." This detail seems to have been overlooked by Rulau, Fuld and Musante. In fact, the present writer is aware of four different obverse dies for this issue, with WASHINGTON spelled correctly. This is from the die pair most frequently encountered, and it seems to be the earliest version.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Presidential Coin and Antique, via eBay, March 2006.



2105

Circa 1880 Series Numismatica Medal by John R. Bacon. Musante GW-101, Baker-130 var. Copper. SP-64 (PCGS). 41.0 mm. 508.5 grains. Lovely milk chocolate brown with a trace of faded red lingering close to the obverse rim. Pleasantly glossy on the reliefs while the fields exhibit faint prooflike character. A couple of superficial spots are noted for accuracy but have virtually no impact on this delightful medal. Unusual, very pretty, and with little handling to speak of.

We have seen other medals from these dies with either the ship's prow or pointing hand privy marks from the Paris Mint, dating those pieces to the era between 1844 and 1860. This medal features the cornucopia edge mark and the word BRONZE, dating it to 1880, the latest example of this medal we recall having examined. Regardless of the later vintage, the medal shows no signs of notable die degradation, so it would seem the Paris Mint took good care of the steel and that the dies were used very sparingly. Notwithstanding the seemingly regular appearances of this medal in our sales of recent years, this is a scarce issue, and it is particularly desirable in bronze. Just one die pair has been observed for this issue.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 1120.



2104

Circa 1830 Series Numismatica Medal by Vivier. WASHINGTON. Musante GW-100, Baker-131A. Copper. MONACHII edge. SP-63 BN (PCGS). 41.0 mm. 604.2 grains. Light olive brown with traces of underlying rose. Some faint hairlines and faint overtones of pale blue-green are noted in the fields. Well-struck in bold relief, as all seen. This variant, struck in Germany sometime between 1826 and 1844, bears the MONACHII edge mark indicating Munich as the place of production. Only one die pair has been observed with this spelling of Washington, while the reverse is that used on the earlier impressions with the proper spelling of the name, as in the case of the previous lot. This piece was clearly struck later than that one, as the reverse die has now developed a break near the rim at 5:30. Cataloged as "Rarity-9" by Rulau and Fuld, but in reality this variant is more commonly seen with the MONACHII edge mark than without.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the Jack Collins Fixed Price List, lot 124; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 184.



2106

1783 Unity States Cent. Musante GW-104, Baker-1. Breen-1188. AU Details—Cleaned (PCGS). 27.9 mm. 115.3 grains. Gently mottled deep tan and olive, and glossy throughout. Somewhat unusually well struck for the issue, with all the letters of the legends well expressed. Struck on the normal flan with natural fissured texture not quite fully struck out.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased September 1992.



Extremely Rare 1783 Unity States With Triple Leaf at F Discovered in 1973



2107

1783 Unity States Cent. Musante GW-105, Baker-1A, Breen-1187. Triple Leaf at F. EF-45 (PCGS). 28.3 mm. 111.2 grains. Uniform deep olive brown on both sides with pleasantly glossy surfaces and no serious flaws. Just a couple of microscopic hairline scratches are noted on the obverse, but the overall eye appeal is really not impacted. Worn, but well struck and much better so than the typical Unity States, with full expression of the peripheral details including the rims and dentils that are often lost to planchet unevenness. At the centers will be seen the usual shallow striations from the original planchet texture that didn't strike out, and the unique pattern will help distinguish this as the discovery specimen.

The first known appearance of this variety was in the December 1972 sale of Harmer, Rooke Numismatics, Ltd., where it was simply described as the usual and common piece. However, the astute James D. King purchased the lot and realized there was a cluster of three leaves beneath the OF on the reverse, easily

identifying this as a previously unknown die. Whether this happened before or after the sale is unknown, but in either case, he had found a prize! Walter Breen gave this a separate number in his 1988 *Encyclopedia*, along with a photo enlargement. Rulau and Fuld likewise added it to their 1999 revision of *Medallic Portraits*, though the obverse plate is erroneously not of this piece. They commented that this was “probably Rarity 8, but only one piece located,” even 25 years after its discovery. Now, another 25 years has passed and to the best of our knowledge only one other example has surfaced, in inferior grade to this one. It appeared in an Early American History Auctions sale in February 2018, lot 296, graded VG-10 by ANACS, leaving this discovery specimen the finest known by a wide margin.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Previously in Harmer, Rooke Numismatics, Ltd.'s sale of December 1972, lot 128; James King, who discovered the unique reverse; our (ANR's) sale of the Old Colony Collection, December 2005, lot 78; Heritage's sale of August 2007, lot 42.



2108

1783 Washington Draped Bust Copper. No Button. Musante GW-106, Baker-2, Breen-1189, Vlack 13-J. AU-55 (PCGS). Glossy light mahogany brown with natural darker surface deposits in many of the recesses.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Doug DiPersio, February 2019.



2109

1783 Washington Draped Bust Copper. No Button. Musante GW-106, Baker-2, Breen-1189, Vlack 13-J. VF-30 (PCGS). 28.0 mm. 110.9 grains. Attractive light brown with just a trivial rim mark on the reverse. Pleasing eye appeal.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection.



2110

1783 Washington Draped Bust Copper. No Button. Musante GW-106, Baker-2, Breen-1190, Vlack 13-J. VF-30 (PCGS). 28.3 mm. 107.7 grains. Struck on a thinner flan, which Breen gave a separate number, calling it "Rare." Dark olive brown with a few flecks of faded tan. Encrusted deposits in the peripheries and some trivial rim anomalies, but fairly glossy.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Cameo Coins & Collectibles, June 1995.

Extremely Rare Washington Draped Bust Circa 1860 Reissue in Gold



2111

"1783" (Circa 1860) Washington Draped Bust Reissue by W.S. Taylor. No Button. Musante GW-107, Baker-3B, Breen-1196, Vlack 16-K. Gold. Plain edge. AU Details—Damage (PCGS). 28.1 mm. 210.6 grains. An impressive rarity from a series that is generally available in bronze, scarcely seen in silver and virtually never seen in this most precious metal. Lovely warm golden color with a nuance of soft orange in places. Generously prooflike through the fields while the devices are sharp and satiny. Edges somewhat filed in places. Likely made to fulfill the order of a prominent collector at the time of the American Civil War, when the appeal of all Washington medals perhaps enjoyed its most vigorous state. However, it seems to have fallen out of careful hands, as a few prominent obverse nicks might indicate. These join the virtually customary few light hairlines and a couple of small patches of edge tooling which could speak to a long-ago removed mount. Close study also reveals a very faint reverse field engraving. It seems to be a date, 1808, which would not correspond to this piece in any way, but perhaps to a birth date or something else entirely. This is faint, but unmistakable once located.

Vlack dies 16-K, the obverse apparently in an earlier die state than on another example we offered from this die pair in our November 2010 sale. That seems to have been from a fairly worn state, with the dentils faded and apparent die flowlines in the fields, whereas these dentils are crisp. Additionally, pronounced repunching on the 1 and 7 in the date (not mentioned by

Musante in the die listings) is very clear, and much bolder than seen on the 17-L die pairing. Other strong repunching is noted on the A and first N of WASHINGTON,

Baker was unaware of impressions in gold, but Fuld added the footnote, "two struck in gold" to his 1965 revision of Baker's work. Breen listed this in gold, citing Fuld's note, but also giving two somewhat vague specimens, one "Henry Chapman, 1909-Brand-Pvt. coll" and the second, "Reported." Virgil Brand did have one, which was sold to Wayte Raymond in 1933, but that is all we have been able to confirm. The Rulau-Fuld revision of Baker lists a 1907 Chapman sale, but we have been unable to find it. It also references the October 1960 *Colonial Newsletter*; but that doesn't seem to include any information either. Rulau-Fuld also lists the gold impression(s?) with engrailed edges, while this one is plain. That is likely an error or assumption, as it is the most typical edge of the reissues. Perhaps another does indeed have that edge treatment, but whether another even exists is somewhat in question. No gold examples appear in our online archives and we don't recall having handled another. None of the following important presentations of Washington medals produced one in gold: Garrett, Dreyfuss, Collins (FPL featuring the F.C.C. Boyd medals, or his collection), Steinberg, LaRiviere, Norweb, Wharton, Ford, or Baker. Syd Martin stands alone.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2112

“1783” (Circa 1860) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Reissue by W.S. Taylor. No Button. Musante GW-107, Baker-3A, Breen-1195, Vlack 17-L. Silver. Engrailed edge. Proof-64 (PCGS). 28.2 mm. 151.9 grains. Deep gray silver with soft accents of pale blue and gold in the prooflike fields. The visual impact of some field hairlines is minimized by the old patina. Scarce and always desirable in silver. Struck from die pair 17-L, as are the copper and brass examples in this offering.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2113

“1783” (Circa 1860) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Reissue by W.S. Taylor. No Button. Musante GW-107, Baker-3, Breen-1193, Vlack 17-L. Copper. Engrailed edge. Proof-65 BN (PCGS). 28.0 mm. 146.1 grains. Uniform deep chocolate brown on both sides with pleasing prooflike reflectivity through the fields. Soft accents of pale blue are also noted. Struck from Vlack die pair 17-L, as the silver and brass pieces offered here.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Cherney Collection, December 2003.



2114

“1783” (Circa 1860) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Reissue by W.S. Taylor. No Button. Musante GW-107, Baker-3E, Breen-1192, Vlack 14-J. Copper, Bronzed. Plain edge. Proof-66 BN (PCGS). 28.2 mm. 143.1 grains. Dark mahogany brown with accents of blue-green and rose on both sides. A small arc of lighter golden toning is noted behind the letters STATES. Prooflike fields and sharp, satiny devices. One minuscule spot is noted in the central portrait but is barely noticeable without magnification. A handsome piece. Dies 14-J, a combination called very rare by Walter Breen, though this does not seem to be the case.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.

Very Rare Washington Draped Bust Copper in Brass



2115

“1783” (Circa 1860) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Reissue by W.S. Taylor. No Button. Musante GW-107, Baker-3 (unlisted in brass), Breen-unlisted, Vlack 17-L. Brass. Engrailed edge. MS-65+ (PCGS). 28.1 mm. 140.3 grains. An intensely attractive example from these dies in brass, a composition that was not listed by Baker, Fuld, Rulau or Musante. Clearly it is very rare. Rich golden surfaces are generously highlighted by pale blue iridescence, the reverse being particularly colorful and attractive. Boldly reflective fields are virtually hairline-free, and the satiny motifs stand out sharply against them. Beautifully struck and simply all-around beautiful! Struck from the Vlack 17-L dies as are the silver and copper examples offered here.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2116

“1783” (circa 1820) Washington Draped Bust Copper. With Button. Musante GW-108, Baker-5, Breen-1199, Vlack 22-R. Copper. EF-40 (PCGS). Dusky steel brown with slight porosity and some microscopic scale, particularly around the reverse periphery. Very well detailed on the obverse, though the central reverse is weakly struck. Boldly cracked from the left of the 1 in the date, arcing upward through the portrait and terminating at the rim between EN of INDEPENDENCE. Other cracks are also noted, but this is the most prominent. Periods after the initials in the reverse exergue. It is rare to find this variety sharper than this example.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Murray, November 2008.



2117

“1783” (circa 1820) Washington Draped Bust Copper. With Button. Musante GW-108, Baker-5, Breen-1198, Vlack 20-P. Copper. EF Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). Mostly dark olive brown with areas of deeper steel patina left of the portrait and around the reverse periphery. These are associated with some microgranularity, but the surfaces are largely glossy otherwise. A bit

of porosity is also noted across Washington’s forehead. No serious marks and fairly good detail for the issue, with pretty good expression of the central reverse design. There are straight-graded pieces in the VF to EF range, but this is a tough variety to find nicer than this.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Thomas Elder, February 1910; F.C.C. Boyd; Ted Craigie; our sale of January 2013, lot 11457.

Distinctive Washington Draped Bust Imitation INDEPEDENCE Obverse – One of Two Known



2118

1783 Washington Draped Bust Copper Imitation. INDEPEDENCE. With Button. Musante GW-Unlisted, Baker-2C, Breen-1200. Vlack 24-T (this piece). Copper. Plain edge. Fine-15 (PCGS). 27.8 mm. 119.8 grains. Glossy deep steel brown surfaces with many scattered marks from long circulation, but no damage to speak of, and most of the marks are naturally smoothed by age and handling. Though not high grade, this is a completely pleasing piece in every respect.

This first appeared at auction in 1968, where Walter Breen cataloged it for New Netherland’s 60th sale. Therein, he posited that this was a contemporary imitation of the 1783 Draped Bust, or Washington and Independence piece. There is little reason to call that into question, and it might help to explain why it is so rare. Most likely, the output was very small, and most were lost. The peculiar characteristics were described by Breen:

Massive head with bull neck, large ribbon bow behind, toga drapery low and with button, letters and date small, top wreath leaf ends almost midway between & and I, toothed border (rather than beaded) with many letters and 83 running into it; error legend, WASHINGTON & INDEPEDANCE [sic]. Rev. Liberty holding a long cone-shaped cap on pole, box not so tall as usual and longer with what looks like four drapery folds on it, no initials T.W.I. E.S. in exergue, legend runs into toothed border.

He goes on to note the uneven strike, which is most evident on the reverse and that it was “consigned to us from one of England’s oldest token collections.”

This very specimen is plated in Robert Vlack’s die study of the series, published in *The Colonial Newsletter*, in 1978, and called Rarity-8. Breen, who had cataloged it in 1968, posed the question: “Unique?” in his *Complete Encyclopedia*. Rulau and Fuld, in their revision of *Medallic Portraits*, also used this piece as the plate and assigned a Rarity-8 rating, without discussion as to any known, other than referencing “New Netherlands 488” (this piece). It is also plated in Musante where he lays out the various dies under GW-108, though it is not specifically mentioned in the listing nor given its own number. As such, it is technically unlisted in that reference.

All writers were working from the existence of this specimen, as it was the only one known for many years. We are aware of just one other example. As distinctive as this piece is—easy to pick out by the head style and certainly easy to confirm by the misspelling on the obverse—it is remarkable that only one additional example has come to light since the first auction appearance of this one at the end of 1968.

This was still believed unique when we offered it in its second-ever auction appearance in 2013, where it realized \$28,200.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex “one of England’s oldest token collections;” Fred Baldwin; New Netherlands Coin Company’s sale #60, December 1968, lot 488; Richard Picker; Ted Craigie; our sale of January 2013, lot 11458.



2119

“1783” (circa 1820) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Small Military Bust. Musante GW-109, Baker-4A, Breen-1202, Vlack 1-A. Copper. Plain edge. AU-50 (PCGS). 27.9 mm. 120.1 grains. Moderate steel brown with areas of faded tan remaining in certain of the recesses. As usually seen, the details are quite sharp. The reverse feature that has been described as a die break through the upper reverse is actually a sharp clash mark. On this specimen, further evidence of this clashing may be seen in the reverse exergue. A trace of encrustation is noted through EPE on the obverse. Struck in coin-turn orientation.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Joe Gallo, May 1993.



2122

“1783” (circa 1820) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Large Military Bust. Musante GW-109, Baker-4, Breen-1203, Vlack 7-E. Copper. Plain edge. AU Details—Rim Damage (PCGS). 28.8 mm. 110.6 grains. Attractive rich brown surfaces are glossy, and the struck surfaces are mostly free of handling marks, aside from a couple of small digs near the rims. However, this was struck without a collar, giving the piece broad, thick and uneven rims that have taken a little abuse. About four notable rim bumps mar the otherwise lovely aesthetic. Though there is some old rim damage, this is still a very visually interesting and rare piece, with excellent details throughout.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Murray, May 1993.



2120

“1783” (circa 1820) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Small Military Bust. Musante GW-109, Baker-4B, Breen-1201, Vlack 1-A. Copper. Engrailed edge. AU-50 (PCGS). 27.9 mm. 116.2 grains. Uniform deep olive brown with glossy surfaces and minimal handling marks, commensurate with the grade. Quite sharp and handsome. Just a couple of small spots are noted, along with some natural build up in the peripheral recesses. The advanced die state with a shattered obverse. Struck in coin-turn orientation.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection.



2123

“1783” (circa 1820) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Large Military Bust “Farthing.” Musante GW-109, Baker-4, Breen-1203, Vlack 7-E(?). Copper. VF Details (PCGS). 22.1 mm. 58.3 grains. Uniform dark steel brown. Glossy and smooth throughout. An interesting piece that seems to have been cut down to farthing size. While the diameter is close to what a farthing issue would have been in this era, this piece is a little underweight at about 3.78 grams when a standard farthing of the 1820s should have been about 4.5 to 4.9 grams. Given a details grade by PCGS and called “damaged,” which is technically accurate, but an assessment that seems to perhaps miss the point.

There is admittedly very little left from which to make an attribution to the Vlack dies. However, close study of the letters reveals a very fine crack through the bases of DE and passing under the of INDEPENDENCE. That crack becomes very advanced on obverse die 7, which is generally paired with reverse E, so this is very likely Vlack 7-E.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from James King, August 2011.



2121

“1783” (circa 1820) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Large Military Bust. Musante GW-109, Baker-4, Breen-1203, Vlack 6-E. Copper. Plain edge. AU-53 (PCGS). 27.9 mm. 109.0 grains. Glossy steel brown with some dark tan striations on the reverse indicative of a poorly alloyed flan. Evenly struck with good sharpness, save for the usual softness of this die pairing at 5 o'clock on the obverse and the corresponding area of the reverse. Struck in medal-turn orientation.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Extremely Rare Double Head Cent Variant With Engrailed Edge



2124

“1783” (circa 1820) Washington Draped Bust Copper. Large Military Bust Die Trial. Musante GW-109, Baker-4, Breen-1203, Vlack-9 (obverse only). Copper. VG-8 (PCGS). 37.6 mm. 412.8 grains. A uniface impression on a 1797 Great Britain penny that is likely a die trial for the Washington obverse. However, it seems to have either circulated or been well handled as a curiosity as the details are quite worn. Traces of the undertype are visible on both sides, largely at the rims, but this includes the full 1797 date. The Military Bust die designs are soft from wear, but major details are clear. A bit of damage is noted at Washington’s shoulder.

While the general weakness and overall condition of this makes a definite attribution to a Vlack die challenging, there is a very clear break attaching the base of the 1 in the date to a dentil below. That is found on the Vlack obverse 9, so this is likely the correct attribution though little else can be discerned.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Gregory Field, October 2014.



2125

Circa 1820 Washington Double Head Cent. Musante GW-110, Baker-6, Breen-1204. Copper. Plain edge. AU-58 (PCGS). 27.3 mm. 125.8 grains. Glossy brown surfaces with unusually sharp detail and excellent eye appeal. Minor natural deposits and a small superficial ruddy spot near the O in ONE. Though there is obvious die wear, faint circular die finishing lines remain visible through the fields.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.

2126

Circa 1820 Washington Double Head Cent. Musante GW-110, Baker-6A, Breen-1205. Copper. Engrailed edge. VF-30 (PCGS). 27.6 mm. 126.1 grains. Glossy deep brown surfaces exhibit numerous old marks and fine scratches, though a couple of the larger reverse marks look to be natural planchet voids, partially smoothed by wear. An unusual variant that does not seem to have been discovered until an EF example was cataloged in our (Bowers and Ruddy’s) New York Public Library sale in October 1982. In the 1999 revision of Baker, that was called “Unique” but Breen did not go that far, calling it “Extremely rare,” likely anticipating that more would turn up in time since engrailed edges were used on the Military Bust cents that are similar in fabric, style and date of production as these, and as such would be an easy oversight to make.

While the common double head with plain edge has often been mis-assigned the Breen-1205 number (due to the uncustomary layout of the photographs in that reference), this seems to be the only one in our archives with an engrailed edge. It remains very rare, indeed, and is the sort of thing that appeals to detail-oriented, specialized collectors like Syd Martin.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Peter Scherff Collection; our (Stack’s) sale of the Eliasberg and Krause Collections, March 2010, lot 2587.



Rare Second Obverse Double Head Cent



2127

Circa 1820 Washington Double Head Cent. Second Obverse. Musante GW-111, Baker-6B, Breen-Unlisted, Vlack 29-Y. Copper. Plain edge. VF-20 (PCGS). 28.3 mm. 128.8 grains. Light olive brown with a somewhat brassy tone. Smooth and glossy with good eye appeal for the grade. A rare variant that is not easy to spot, this being from a different obverse die than most seen. The differences are extremely minor and not that easy to quickly discern beyond what seems to be a generally lower relief to the strike. The upper star point on the Washington die points just right of the lower left corner point of the epaulet on this variety, while it points directly to that point on the usually seen variety (GW-110). The rightmost leaf above Washington's head points precisely in line with the left stand of the N above, while on the usually seen variety it points just slightly to the right of center. Perhaps most noticeable is the lack of the heavy curving die line that passes left from the same N on the GW-110. This is the Musante plate coin.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from John Kraljevich Americana, January 2014.



**Washington and Lafayette at Mount Vernon.
(Rossiter and Mignot, 1859)**

Historic 1824 Lafayette Visit Medalet



(Image twice actual size)

2128

1824 Lafayette Visit Medalet. Musante GW-112, Baker-198A. Silver. EF-40 (PCGS). 14.6 mm (without loop). 26.3 grains. With the original integral suspension loop not only intact, but with solid connectors that do not give an impression of fragility, though this certainly was the case for many of these medalets, as they are frequently seen with this feature lost. In fact, this is a perfectly pleasing example all around, with medium to light gray surfaces, the latter being on the higher points. A faint abrasion across Washington's portrait has left a hairline scratch, but the eye appeal is little affected. Well-struck with good expression of the date and letters of both names. The rims are uneven and thin in places, as typical.

The vintage and purpose of these medalets are undisputed. They were struck to mark the occasion of the Marquis de Lafayette's return to the United States for an American tour in 1824. He arrived on August 15 and across the following 14 months, he visited each of the States of the Union where he was met with all manner of fanfare, from the casual donning of thematic gloves, badges, belts, combs, chains, socks, silks and anything else one might imagine, to more formal engagements such as visits to Mount Vernon (where he reportedly bumped his head at Washington's tomb), a Congressional Banquet, a reception at the White House and dozens of other events. A *Grand Fete* at New York's Castle Garden was advertised for September 10. Though a French National, he was arguably the second greatest celebrity in the United States, with only George Washington ahead of him.

The matter of who made these medalets presents quite the opposite situation. For most of the last 198 years, these medalets have been attributed to Charles Cushing Wright, a resident of New York in 1824, and business partner (circa 1823-1827) of Asher B. Durand. Durand was a prominent copper and steel plate engraver and, later, painter of the Hudson River School. Wright was a highly skilled medallic engraver of his day. Both men were central figures in the establishment of the National Academy of Design a few years later. In 2008, John M. Kleeberg published a paper in the *American Journal of Numismatics, Second Series*, titled "Washington Counterstamps - The Lafayette Connection," proposing a different maker of this medalet, a New York engraver, Joseph Lewis.

Kleeberg began his proposal by arguing that Wright simply did not do the work based on the following evidence:

-A dissimilarity of letter punches used on these medalets versus those used on Wright's Erie Canal medal.

-The lack of a signature on these pieces, when Wright is known to have signed other works.

-The style of the Lafayette portrait which is much different than that seen on a Lafayette button produced by Scoville. At least one type was engraved by Wright and bears his signature at the portrait's truncation.

None of this evidence solidly discounts Wright as the maker of these medalets, however, and there remains convincing circumstantial evidence that he may indeed have been the maker, not the least of



which is the longstanding tradition of attributing them to his hand which goes back to at least 1864. In his sale of the John F. McCoy Collection in May of that year, W. Elliot Woodward attributed this medalet to C.C. Wright. Woodward, astute and active in the numismatic trade, would have presumably had some reason for such attribution. Though we do not know what that reason was, we do know that he put it in print just 8 years after Wright's death in 1857. Asher B. Durand lived until 1886, so it is quite possible that Woodward's knowledge was from a firsthand account. This detail was not addressed by Kleeberg, but it alone holds enough gravitas that it should not be discounted quickly.

As Kleeberg pointed out, there were three engravers advertising Lafayette medalets in New York at the time - Joseph Lewis, Robert Lovett, Sr., and James D. Stout. As an aside, the firm of Durand and Wright seems to have advertised nothing, though as will be illustrated, their shop was responsible for notable output at the time.

Kleeberg took the evidence of the three advertisers to mean that each engraver had produced his own medalet, assuming further that each "engraver" was also a medallie die-sinker. The evidence that seems to have directed Kleeberg to Lewis as the maker of this one is the fact that he placed a greater number of ads for *his* medal. In addition, a September 20 advertisement by Thomas Anners in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* announced his receipt of these medals for sale and included a note that "upwards of 2,000 of which were sold in ten days." Anners elsewhere labeled these "Lewis's," clarifying his source. This is the only tangible detail suggestive of Lewis as a maker, but it is not enough, as Lewis' own advertising suggests otherwise. Kleeberg assumed that the larger number of ads placed by Lewis corresponded to greater sales, and that the *2,000 sold* announcement clarified Lewis as the maker of the Lafayette medalet best known today-this one.

This has been a troubling point for the present writer, as it is virtually inconceivable that a medalet so rare today would have had an original sales volume in the *thousands* of pieces. In addition, it is worth considering that it would have been a prized artifact, cared for and saved for at least a generation. Though physically small, the sentiments were grand, and this is not the sort of memento that would be quickly forgotten or discarded. Most likely, the original issue was vastly smaller than the Philadelphia advertisement indicated. On the other hand, these were very small and being sold in competition with many other diverse objects commemorating Lafayette. It is certainly possible that the original output was large but the medalets proved unpopular, sales were disappointing, and many were simply melted. A more nefarious option is that the comment of *2,000 sold* was little more than a salesman's embellishment.

The medalet Lewis offered was "adopted and ordered" by the Committee for the Grand Fete at Castle Gardens, scheduled for September 10, 1824, language taken directly from one of his advertisements, dated September 8. Numerous advertisements were placed offering these for sale. In fact, each of the three advertisers referenced by Kleeberg, Joseph Lewis, Robert Lovett and J.D. Stout included language in their New York *Evening Post* ads stating that what they were offering for sale were the medals intended for the Grand Fete at Castle Garden:

Lovett, September 8, 1824- "An Excellent likeness of Gen. La Fayette in gold and silver, intended to be worn at the Grand Ball on the 10th inst. for sale by the subscriber, the only good likeness yet executed in medallion."

Stout, September 9, 1824- "The Subscriber offers for sale...Miniature medals in medallion of this illustrious personage, whose name is in full round the heads, which are in gold on one side, and silver on the other...they have been made expressly for the Castle Garden Ball, which is to take place on the 10th instant..." Interestingly, Stout placed two advertisements in the September 9 edition, with the second one offering Lafayette gloves bearing an engraved portrait by C.C. Wright.

Lewis, September 8, 1824- "The subscriber offers for sale at his store... an exquisite miniature likeness of General La Fayette, warranted in fine gold and silver. The Committee for the Ball on the 10th inst., having adopted and ordered the above from the subscriber for their badge, they are recommended to be worn on that occasion-the best proof of the superiority of the likeness."

Another related offering appeared in Philadelphia newspapers with similar language:

Thomas Anners (the source for the *2,000 sold* mention), offered medals September 20, acquired from Lewis, describing them as "the same kind as was worn at the Grand Fete at Castle Garden in that city [New York]..." It is clear from this that whatever was struck in New York and intended for use at the Castle Garden event, did not sell out in New York.

The similar language by the three New York advertisers does not end with the Castle Garden reference. In none of them did the advertiser refer to himself as the *maker* of such a medalet. In the Lewis advertisement reproduced by Kleeberg, Lewis was offering for sale varied goods including "Rogers' extra finished pen, pocket and sportsmen's knives" (which he certainly did not make) and "ladies' scissors, pencil cases, and visiting cards." It is highly unlikely that he was the maker of any but perhaps the visiting cards. The same advertisement closes with the following notice: "Visiting and Address Cards, Coats of Arms, Crests, &c. engraved and printed in a superior style, at the shortest notice, and on the most reasonable terms." Lewis was a plate engraver and printer, not a medallist. In the case of Stout, he also advertised as "now furnished with a great variety of this article [Lafayette Gloves]" for sale, "for the approaching Grand Ball." Interestingly, the gloves were decorated with an "excellent likeness" of Lafayette by the firm, Durand and Wright. Stout's other advertisements indicate that he, too, was a copperplate engraver as well as a general salesman of writing utensils, fancy goods, door plates and even a supplier of engraver's copper plates, acquired from a London manufacturer. Robert Lovett, Sr. had just returned to New York in 1824, and placed few advertisements. In July, he advertised his jewelry store, offering an assortment of "embossed Bristol boards, cards, writing & note paper" as well as gold chains, seals, keys and "jewellery and silver ware of all kinds made to order." He referred to himself as a stone and metal seal engraver. Though he was likely capable of producing dies for such a medalet in 1824, it seems that his medallie work was more concentrated in the Hard Times era a decade later, during which he produced his own metallic card.

Durand and Wright appear in other advertisements relating to our case. James A. Campfield ran an advertisement in New York's *Evening Post*, September 25, 1824, offering Lafayette gloves, belts, badges, sashes, handkerchiefs, etc., bearing "the only good likeness" of Lafayette, "engraved by Durand" and "worn at the Grand Fete at Castle Garden." A later advertisement by him in the same paper, August 31, 1824, offered a "miniature likeness of General La Fayette, printed on white satin ribbon...(with additional ornaments) at 25 cents...and "Ladies' Waist Ribbons tastefully ornamented with the above likeness..." Both were attributed to Asher B. Durand.

Admission tickets to the Grand Fete at Castle Garden were advertised in New York's *Evening Post*, September 8, 1824. Along with the general notice, cost and directions for application was the clear indication that the Committee of Arrangement for the Grand Fete had commissioned the printing of the official tickets. The advertisement noted that the "Tickets for the Fete will be ready for delivery on Wednesday morning" and it was made clear that orders for same should be made early so that the Committee could properly plan. This points to a contractual arrangement between the official organizers of the Castle Garden Grand Fete, and the engraving firm responsible for the tickets-Durand and Wright. An example may be seen at the New York Historical Society.



Though we have not uncovered concrete evidence that Charles Cushing Wright was indeed the maker of the Washington and Lafayette medalets, there is more than enough evidence to consider it highly likely, if in fact this is the medalet issued for the New York event. The other proposed candidates, though all advertising as engravers, never took credit for actually producing the medalets. In the cases of Lewis and Stout, they indirectly identified themselves as plate engravers and printers. They all advertised with similar language, identifying their medalets as those worn at the Grand Fete at Castle Gardens, indicating that they were probably all offering the same medal for sale, sourced from the maker. This would not have been an unusual distribution method at the time. They also sold other goods identified as having come from the Durand and Wright shop, and that firm also engraved and printed the official tickets for the event. The ties of Durand and Wright to the Grand Fete and their production of an array of retail goods celebrating Lafayette in New York indisputably tie them firmly to both the Castle Garden event and the broader retail sphere in general. Charles Cushing Wright was one of the most talented engravers of the day, working in New York. He thus seems a prime candidate as the maker of this medalet.

Undeniably, some questions do remain, largely sparked by the same body of contemporary advertising referenced above. The medalets are commonly offered in gold and silver, but where are the gold ones? William Spohn Baker reported one seen, and Fuld, Rulau and Musante appear to have trusted that entry. No citations of its whereabouts are given anywhere. J.D. Stout advertised the medalets as “gold on one side and silver on the other.” What of this variation that must have been gilt on one side? Not one such Washington and Lafayette piece has come to the attention of the writer, nor was such a variant cataloged by Baker, Fuld, Rulau or Musante.

With these questions and another contemporary print advertisement, a heretofore unexplored possibility presents itself.

The advertisements referenced above all share language and point to the same article being sold, but they share another potentially significant detail—none of them mentions a Washington portrait. Since Lafayette was the celebrity of the day, and the key selling point, it is quite possible this was omitted in the interest of streamlining the ads. However, it is also possible that the medal being offered did not have a Washington portrait on the other side.

We are aware of one medal that fits the descriptions in these advertisements. It is an oval Lafayette medalet, with his portrait on both sides. We have sold perhaps four of these over the last 15 years and one, appearing in our August 2013 Ford Sale at lot 21250, was indeed gilt on one side, unmistakably matching the language in the September 9th Stout advertisement. If this should be the medal offered in the body of advertising presented above, then it had a remarkably high attrition rate, as it is a great rarity.

Ash & Mason of Philadelphia announced on September 24th, that they had just received for sale, “La Fayette Medals, of Gold and Silver / Having on them impressions of Washington and La Fayette, such as have been recommended to be worn at the approaching Grand Ball.” This entry post-dates the Castle Garden event, but it is interesting that they had “just received” what is clearly a medalet of this specific style for retail sale, and it is the only notice we have seen that specifies Washington and Lafayette portraits on opposing sides. The question is, where was it received from? We know that the medalet offered by Lewis, Stout and Lovett did not sell out in New York, as the same was offered by Anners in Philadelphia. So, this could have been the

same New York medalet repurposed for the Philadelphia event, on September 28, or it could have been something else altogether.

The possibility that Ash & Mason were offering an entirely different medalet for the Philadelphia market is an intriguing one. If it were this one, it would naturally all but certainly remove C.C. Wright as the potential author, and open further inquiry as to who made it.

One possibility of authorship in this scenario who does not seem to have been explored is Christian Gobrecht. Gobrecht was active in Philadelphia at the time, and clearly a skilled die-sinker by that date. He is known to have produced excellent medallic works of the era, including the 1824 Franklin Institute award medal, Peale’s Museum medals, the 1826 Charles Carroll of Carrollton medal and the 1826 New England society for Promotion of Manufactures and Mechanical Arts medal. The latter two issues have some tiny lettering in their designs, and though it is an imperfect science, many of the letter forms are very similar to those seen on the medalet offered here. It is worth mentioning also that many of the coins counterstamped by these dies seem to have been high-grade issues dated 1822-1824, the kinds of coins that would presumably have been more readily found in Philadelphia in 1824 than anywhere else.

Unfortunately, further questions remain unanswered relating to these issues. In a September 13 advertisement placed by Lewis offering Lafayette medals, he requests: “Purchasers will please to mention whether for ladies or gentlemen, as a number has been prepared expressly for the ladies and the military distinct.” How are these variations different? And, significantly, who made the other extremely rare medalets that match the general description of these, but are clearly by different hands? One type is a Washington and Lafayette medalet similar to this, but of cruder style. Just two are known, and one can be seen in our November 2020 sale, lot 4340. Additionally, two more Lafayette dies of this size have been observed, one dated 1824 and counterstamped on an 1818 quarter, the other undated and countermarked on an 1817 large cent. Each is unique, as far as we are aware.

The Grand Fete at Castle Garden was a huge event with reportedly more than 6,000 people in attendance. The medalets associated with it were adopted and ordered by the committee, and they were somewhat widely advertised. These facts still suggest that the most commonly seen medalet fitting the general description would be the one likely issued for that event. It is difficult to ignore this detail, and we circle back to the 1864 publication by Woodward that Wright made these medals as something that cannot yet be dismissed. Joseph Lewis, however, is clearly out of the running as an option, and the same is likely true of Stout and Lovett.

Despite the lingering questions, these medalets have long been prized for their unique historic significance marking Lafayette’s American tour. If this is, in fact, the type issued in New York, large numbers are suggested to have been issued by the contemporary print advertising, but most have clearly been lost. Whatever the case, the fact remains that these medalets are quite rare today and only about half retain a suspension loop. Our online archives include about ten different examples sold over the last 15 years or so, while Heritage seems to have sold only a couple. Even the ANS Collection seems to be missing the type.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased privately at the Tri-County Coin Club, November 2004, source unrecorded.



(image twice actual size)

2129

“1776” (circa 1824?) Washington Medalet. Musante GW-114. Baker-199F. Silver. MS-61 (PCGS). 8.6 mm. 11.0 grains. Deep silver gray with traces of blue and gold. Boldly struck in nice relief on a relatively thick flan for the tiny size. Rim filing is certainly as made, as this is a typical finishing to remove unsightly wire rims, or ‘fins.’ This is an extremely rare “pill” medalet of uncertain genesis, but one that is decidedly earlier than the “about 1876” vintage proposed by Rulau and Fuld in their 1999 revision of Baker’s *Medallic Portraits*. It certainly existed by 1860, as one appeared in Edward Cogan’s sale of October 1860. It was described as “considered almost unique, and extremely rare,” but no further information was given, and it brought a substantial price of \$4.75, about on par with Success medals and just a couple of dollars less than a worn 1797 Masonic medal. It seems to be by the same maker as the Washington and Lafayette piece cataloged by Musante as GW-113, as the portrait appears identical, as do the letters in the legend, though the plate is not crisp. What is clear is that the W of WASHINGTON is distinctive and identical. We are aware of three historical appearances of the type, the mentioned Cogan sale, one in the 1882 Bushnell sale:1364, and one in Sylvester Crosby’s sale of June 1883:1337.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex George Fuld; Richard Picker, October 1968; Lucien LaRiviere; our (Bowers and Merena’s) sale of the Lucien LaRiviere Collection, November 1999, lot 3116; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antiques’s sale of June 2011, lot 228.



2130

Undated GW Counterstamp on a Peruvian 1792 Lima 2 Reales of Charles IV. Musante GW-Unlisted, Baker-1037. Silver. VG-8 (PCGS). 28.1 mm. Smooth dark gray surfaces. Punched almost directly in the center of the host with a small GW mark, in a rectangular cartouche. Believed to be a fantasy issue and found on several different early hosts. These are frequently found in advanced collections, if as nothing beyond a curiosity.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Allan Lee Scott Collection; NASCA, April 1980, lot 1147; John J. Ford, Jr. Collection; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 199.



2131

Circa 1828 C. Wolfe, Clark & Spies Token. Musante GW-118, Baker-588, Rulau-E NY 958. Brass. VF-20 (PCGS). Deep golden olive brass with some scattered small areas of deeper patina in places, not atypical of early brass pieces. Traces of microgranularity and a flan crack are noted, the latter extending inward from the rim, tangent to the right side of the P in SPIES. These are scarce, and tough to find nice. For some reason, many are plagued with scratches and other problems. This has a fairly well-balanced appearance and good detail. This variety was the first struck in the series issued by this merchant, a determination made by the writer upon careful study of the die states of several high-grade examples.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our Philadelphia Americana Sale, September 2011, lot 430.



2132

Circa 1830 C. Wolfe, Spies & Clark Token. Musante GW-120, Baker-589 var., Rulau-E NY 962A. Brass, Tinned. Plain edge. AU-50 (PCGS). 25.8 mm. 88.4 grains. Just a trace of soft gray clings to some of the more protected areas of the surface, but nicely complements the warm golden brass surfaces that retain traces of luster in the fields. Softly struck at the centers with the portraits softly detailed, but actually far more attractive than many seen. Some old abrasions are noted across Washington’s head and a thin, jagged scratch is just left of it, but again, this remains a very pleasing survivor from a series that often comes rough.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Coin Galleries’) sale of November 1997, lot 2653; our (ANR’s) sale of the Old Colony Collection, December 2005, lot 160; Heritage’s September 2007 Medals and Tokens Auction #427, lot 81593.



2133

Circa 1849 Birth Centennial Medal by C.C. Wright. Uniface. Musante GW-128-T2, Baker-75C. White Metal. MS-63 (PCGS). 44.8 mm. 833.6 grains. Satiny light gray surfaces retain much of their original brilliance but for a blush of soft golden gray toning. A few minor marks, the largest of which is a small scratch left of the eye that looks much like a mild toning streak without magnification. Gentle softening of the highest point of the portrait relief, but the surfaces otherwise are remarkably clean. A very attractive example of this

uniface medal, featuring C.C. Wright's large Washington portrait, with his signature beneath the truncation. The firm name, Wright & Bale is against the rim at 5 o'clock, but partially effaced from the die, so only remnants are seen.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of May 1979, lot 359; Lucien LaRiviere; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Lucien LaRiviere Collection, November 1999, lot 3077; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 159.

THE 1832 CENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

1832 marked the Centennial Anniversary of the birth of George Washington, and with his memory still very much alive more than three decades after his passing, celebrations were taken seriously. In Philadelphia, a massive Civic Procession was planned and executed. Even the newspapers in the city did not publish on February 23rd, as they were asked to not work on the day of the celebration, in honor of Washington—the day they would have otherwise prepared the 23rd's editions. The February 24, 1832, edition of Philadelphia's *The United States Gazette* offered these observations and commentaries on the events of the day, among others:

trades, professions, and companies, for the purpose of considering the best mode of celebrating the occasion; committees of arrangement were formed, and each vied with the rest in a laudable and friendly emulation, to testify his respect for the great character whose birth day they were about to celebrate. Meanwhile, artists and artisans of every description were busy in the preparation of various insignia for the occasion...

...About 9 o'clock A.M. the different trades, fire companies, and military bands, were seen organizing in their respective places of rendezvous—and the busy movement of citizens with the badges of the day, and the different insignia of their craft and their official rank, was highly interesting and enlivening, while cheerful activity beamed in every face, and showed itself in the bouyancy [sic] of every step...

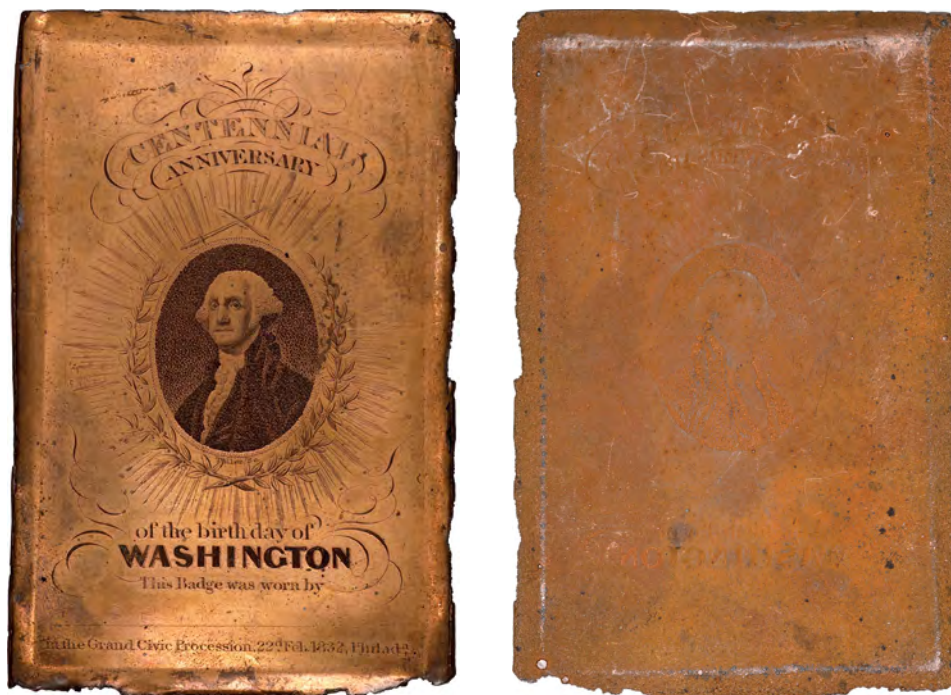
...The streets through which the procession passed, were crowded with people, anxiously gazing at the most imposing spectacle that has ever been exhibited in Philadelphia.

The hundredth birth day of Washington was celebrated on Wednesday throughout the United States, with pomp and circumstances suited to the character and claims of our country's father, according to the feelings and view of citizens. Those who conscientiously avoid public parades, felt undoubtedly grateful for the benefits received, no less sensible of the claims for deep and lasting respect, which the services of Washington had upon them.

Philadelphia, on the occasion, manifested unusual display to give emphatic expression to feelings of love for the character, and gratitude for the services, of Washington.

For several days previous to the twenty second, the note of preparation was heard in every part of the city. The daily papers were crowded with notices of meetings of different

It was estimated that 10,000 to 15,000 people participated in the procession which was between four and five miles in length and lasted several hours (accounts vary). The few medals that follow, along with the unique GW-91 offered earlier in this sale, are artifacts that relate directly to this occasion, and are among the few such medals that can be assigned a very specific time, place and purpose.



(image reduced)

2134

Electrotype plate of an 1832 Civic Procession Badge Design. Copper. Extremely Fine. 92.1 x 59.4. mm. A fascinating artifact of the Civic Procession. Warm orange copper on the obverse with a gently polished texture, while the reverse bears the rough granular surface common to the reverses of electrotypes of the period. The design is in relief, so this was made from an impression from the original engraved plate, which would have been incuse and in reverse. This is a positive image, in relief. The central design appears on ribbons, signed by Tiller and Winship, while this more complete design bears the mark of Tiller, S.C., alone, just beneath the portrait. The small imprint at the bottom makes the vintage certain, reading: "in the Grand Civic Procession, 22d. Feb. 1832. Philada."

According to the report in *The United States Gazette* of February 24, 1832,

The COPPER-PLATE PRINTERS

followed with a car, in which a press was at work printing a portrait of Washington. The productions of this press were also distributed among the crowd.

While there is no way to tie this piece directly to this account, the copper-plate printers are among the most likely candidates of the participants in the Procession to have been responsible for a piece like this.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex John Agre and Dave Wnuck (Coin Rarities Online), January 2010.





Choice 1832 Civic Procession in Silver



2135

1832 Philadelphia Civic Procession Medal. Original. Musante GW-130, Baker-160. Silver. AU-58 (PCGS). 32.4 mm. 244.8 grains. A handsome unpierced specimen of this historic issue. Generous light silver gray remains on both sides, while soft golden brown and iridescent blue toning has begun to form on both sides. Slightly prooflike in the obverse fields, and sharply struck. The high rims of the obverse have largely protected the fields on this side, leaving most of the handling marks on the more vulnerable reverse, though aside from a few scattered and minor nicks, there is little to discuss in this regard. Struck in medal-turn orientation.

The medals of the Gold and Silver Artificers are the best known of the 1832 memorial medals, as they are the most commonly seen. This is due to a large number of restrikes taken from the dies in the late 1850s, making the design seem unfairly ubiquitous. However, a silver original, as offered here, has always been something desired above and beyond the rest. It is rare and its specific purpose holds a degree of mystery. The originals in white metal (see next lot) were struck during the parade and tossed to spectators along the route, but silver ones would have been struck under more controlled circumstances and presumably designated for a select group. They may have been carried or worn by those operating the float, or gifted to the 13 marshals of the event, or both. This is but speculation, but we know that silver originals are rare, and they certainly had some distinctive purpose in February 1832.

According to a notice in *The United States Gazette*, June 2, 1832, those responsible for the disposition of the banner and dies used by the Artificers had “deposited them in the Hall of the Franklin Institute for safe keeping.”

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from an unnamed seller, via Stack's, January 2007.



2136

1832 Philadelphia Civic Procession Medal. Original. Musante GW-130, Baker-160A. White Metal. AU-50 (PCGS). 32.7 mm. 192.9 grains. Neatly pierced for suspension at 12 o'clock. Gently pested surfaces retain considerable lustrous light silver gray in the recesses, nicely accentuating the design features. A little flat on the high points and with clear handling. This all points to a medal that was literally struck on the parade float operated by the Gold and Silver Artificers through the streets of Philadelphia on February 22, 1832 and tossed into the admiring crowd of spectators. Such medals tend to be rough, and are frequently heavily pested, but they are the single most historic iteration of this design type. Struck in coin-turn orientation.

The seventh Marshall, Robert M. Lewis, led the procession of the “CHASERS, SILVERSMITHS, WATCHMAKERS, JEWELLERS, ENGRAVERS,” as described in *The United States Gazette* of Philadelphia, February 24, 1832:

These made a splendid display. In a car drawn by four horses was a stamping press at work, the productions of which were ever and anon distributed to the spectators. This consisted of a beautiful medal, representing, on the obverse, the head of Washington on a medallion, surrounded by the American Eagle, and in the back round rays of glory. Beneath the medallion a scroll with the words in relief “PATRIAE PATER;” the whole surrounded by a plain rim. On the reverse, the words—“Struck and distributed in civic procession, FEBRUARY 22d 1832, the centennial anniversary of the birth day of WASHINGTON, by the gold & silver artificers of Philad.”

This side surrounded with a cord, outside of which is a single line. Edge plain. The profusion of gold and silver lace and glittering ornaments displayed by these trades had a fine effect.

The detail given here in the description of the medal is remarkable and speaks to a strong likelihood that the writer probably captured one for himself during the procession, from which he was able to give a thorough description, down to the edge.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Heritage, via eBay, June 2006.



2137

“1832” (Circa 1858) Philadelphia Civic Procession Medal restrike. Musante GW-130-R2, Baker-160C. Silver. MS-63 (PCGS). 32.3 mm. 235.3 grains. Beautifully toned silver surfaces display a pleasant array of golden-brown and blue-green mottling. Prooflike texture through the fields brings a degree of liveliness to the overall aesthetic. Fairly well struck, though a trace of softness is noted in the relief of Washington’s small bust. Handling is minimal with just a few minor marks scattered about. This is the most desirable of the restrike issues, as silver always expands the appeal of any issue, and it is likely almost always the rarest. A somewhat early restrike with just a single reverse crack from the rim through the IVER of ANNIVERSARY, and little expression beyond. The reverse rim is unbroken left of WASHINGTON. Struck in coin-turn orientation but rotated about 30 degrees.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Early American History Auctions’ sale of April 1999, lot 605.



2139

“1832” (Circa 1858) Philadelphia Civic Procession Medal restrike. Musante GW-130-R2, Baker-160E. Copper, Bronzed. MS-64 BN (PCGS). 32.3 mm. 282.6 grains. Rich mahogany brown with almost no handling marks. Quite pretty and sharply struck from a very early state of the dies in the era of these restrikes. The rim is unbroken left of WASHINGTON and the crack from the rim to the IVER of ANNIVERSARY is but a faint hairline break. A very pleasing example from a rather scarce die state. Struck in coin-turn orientation.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, March 2002.



2140

“1832” (Circa 1858) Philadelphia Civic Procession Medal restrike. Musante GW-130-R2, Baker-160H var. Lead. AU-53 (PCGS). 32.3 mm. 282.4 grains. Pewter gray surfaces show numerous small marks as this soft composition is rather fragile, but none is too series or distracting. Well-struck with fairly sharp details throughout. Struck in coin-turn orientation, but rotated about 30 degrees.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, October 2002.



2138

“1832” (Circa 1858) Philadelphia Civic Procession Medal restrike. Musante GW-130-R2, Baker-160D. Copper. MS-65 RB (PCGS). 32.3 mm. 331.1 grains. Struck on a generously thick flan giving this example an impressive heft. Generous original coppery red remains on both sides while accents of soft orange and violet have formed on the reverse. An unusually attractive example of this restrike, from a slightly later state of the dies than seen on the silver example above. The crack from the rim through the IVER of ANNIVERSARY is bolder, and a secondary crack has formed from its tip through the TE of CENTENNIAL. A cud has formed through the dentils left of WASHINGTON. Struck in medal-turn orientation, but rotated about 30 degrees.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Heritage, via eBay, June 2006.



2141

Circa 1878 Philadelphia Civic Procession — Washington Bookplate Muling. Musante GW-134, Baker-A286. White Metal. MS-62 (PCGS). 32.8 mm. 195.2 grains. Brilliant surfaces with sharply prooflike fields and crisp, frosty devices that stand out nicely against the reflective background. Abrasions at the right obverse fields and just above CIVIC on the reverse help to identify this as the plate piece in both the Rulau-Fuld revision of *Medallic Portraits* and in Neil Musante’s *Medallic Washington*. As reported in Musante, Harzfield commented in his own December 7, 1878 sale at lot 526 that this muling was an accidental occurrence. That being the case, and his commentary seeming also apologetic, it is likely that an extremely small number were made, probably in the single digits, though one did appear in the William Spohn Baker Collection sold by us in November 2019, at lot 20113.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique’s sale of June 2011, lot 245.



The Unique Cordwainer's Medal By Godfrey Conradt For the 1832 Philadelphia Civic Procession Second Auction Offering in More than a Century



2142

Circa 1832 Cordwainer's Medal by Godfrey Conradt. Musante GW-135, Baker-162. White metal. EF-45 (PCGS). 34.4 mm. 293.4 grains. Pierced for suspension at 12 o'clock. A great rarity, and one that can see a generation or more pass between changes in ownership. This is among the small group of medals struck in celebration of Washington's birth, and it is among the greatest rarities of the Washington medals of the era.

The surfaces are light pewter gray, with outlines of silvery brilliance around the devices and behind the letters of the legends. Though handled a bit, and showing plenty of mostly shallow, scattered marks, the overall appearance is of a fairly clean and little impaired piece. Only a couple of small rim anomalies are noticed quickly, but none is severe. Struck on a substantial flan of good thickness and metal quality, the composition fortunately having withstood the effects of time and the elements, remaining free of pesting, in contrast with other white metal pieces of this era that are frequently found heavily oxidized. Glossy hard metal throughout.

Though a somewhat crude production, it is rather well made overall. With the obverse in high relief and the reverse relatively flat in comparison, it is notable that all the details are fairly well struck up and the piece is rather handsome.

Washington's name is spelled WASINGTON on the obverse, a Germanic spelling, according to Neil Musante, who pointed this detail out in discussing the same spelling on one of the Series Numismatica medals (GW-100) struck in Munich in the 1840s. Under the bust, small lettering reads "CONRADT 170 N. Fourth St." On the reverse, THE / FATHER / OF HIS / COUNTRY / FEBR 22d / 1832 appears inside a wreath, with a very tiny italic "Phila" below, outside the wreath.

Godfrey Conradt was a relative newcomer to Philadelphia when this piece was struck in honor of the first President's centennial of birth, but he might well have been old enough to hear the tales of the general who led colonists to military victory over one of

the world's greatest military powers. His work, therefore, might have reflected reverence in addition to a simple commission, though he was not a native-born American. Conradt is recorded as having arrived in the United States in 1830, settling in Philadelphia. In the 1830 United States Census he is listed as head of household, in his 30s, with a wife of similar age and two children under five years old. His place of business, as a caster, was given as 129 N. 4th Street, above Wood Street. According to William Spohn Baker, his entry in the 1831 Philadelphia City Directory placed him at 170 N. 4th Street, in business as an engraver, aligning with his signature on this medal.

The earliest mention of Conradt's medallic efforts we are aware of appeared in 1859, in Dr. Montroville W. Dickeson's *The American Numismatical Manual*. Therein, on pages 142-143, is the unmistakable description of a Conradt medal, along with generally positive commentary on Conradt and his talents. However, this entry does not include an obverse legend, so the medal being discussed is clearly GW-135-T1, without the legend.

The same medal was offered in Ebenezer Locke Mason's sale of the remnants of the Joseph J. Mickley Collection in 1878. Mason described it as "...very good condition, struck in white metal, extremely rare, and possibly unique." It realized \$16. As in Dickeson, there was no obverse legend mentioned, nor was there comment on a suspension piercing. The Chapmans later identified the buyer as William Sumner Appleton, whose collection remains at the Massachusetts Historical Society. As far as we are aware, that medal without the obverse legend is unique.

William Spohn Baker commented about the same medal in 1885, "The only impression of this piece, which has come to the knowledge of the writer, was formerly owned by the late Joseph J. Mickley, and was disposed of at the sale of his effects, Philadelphia, November 5, 1878." He did not know the owner at the time, though it would have been Appleton.



The presently offered piece first appeared in the May 1893 Nicholas Petry sale conducted by the Chapmans, though it was clarified to be an addition to the sale and not Petry's property. It was the first offering to specify an obverse legend, and the medal sold to Charles D. Perry for \$40. Unfortunately we have not been able to locate this in the sale of Perry's holdings, so it must have been retained for a time or sold privately. In that sale, a remarkable history was given pertaining to this specimen:

Feb. 22, 1832, Mr. William L. Clayton, then a boy of six years of age, was standing at his father's door, Fifth street below Buttonwood street, Philadelphia, watching the procession in honor of Washington's Birthday pass by; when the 'old coining press' came along they were striking these medals and throwing them out to the populace, the present piece was thrown to him and he caught it. His father made a small hole in it, so he could wear it, and told him to preserve it as a memento of the occasion, and it has remained in his possession to the present time, highly prized.

The Chapmans made an interesting observation, that "it is strange that it should be one of the only two known specimens, and until this appeared the Mickley one was considered unique." Two pieces of circumstantial evidence point to a bit of confusion in this story. We know of at least two issues that were struck during the parade and tossed to spectators. The Civic Procession medals, and the tinsmith's medals. In the first case, the medals are of good size and thickness, but are not particularly well made. When they appear for sale, which is not infrequently as they are fairly plentiful, they tend to be rough, damaged and heavily pested. This seems appropriate for such a history of distribution. The case of the tinsmith's medal is different. Those are also heavily pested when seen, which is rarely. They were on very thin flans, and most were likely soon ruined, lost or discarded as cheap mementos, which they have every appearance of being. In the case of the Conradt medal, what is known just does not match up to a large number being struck and distributed in this manner. Most likely, the medal caught by Clayton as a youngster was one of the other two types and the span of years confused the matter. Nonetheless, there is no reason to doubt that he in fact owned this one, and likely for decades, perhaps even from close to the time of its production.

Rulau and Fuld, in their 1999 revision of *Medallic Portraits*, did not identify varieties with and without an obverse legend, and listed three known specimens, MHS, Norweb and Parsons. This was clearly in error, as the Norweb and Parsons medals are one in the same, and the MHS medal is a different variety. This was carried over to Neil Musante's reference, crediting Rulau and Fuld. In fact, it would seem that only one of this variant has ever come to light. Wayte Raymond mentioned it in his 1941 monograph on page 16, but did not give it a number beyond Baker's, identifying it as a "private striking used for a

special occasion, probably not over 2 or 3 made." The evidence suggests Raymond was following the unclear historical record, assuming that this and the MHS piece were of the same variety. Considering the workmanship and the aforementioned quality of the flan, it is simply not plausible that this medal was mass-produced in the parade float scenario and that only one has survived. This said, Baker did assign it a purpose.

Baker wrote in his introduction to the *Birth, Death and Centennial, 1832* chapter that Conradt prepared this medal for the cordwainers, who wore them in the Philadelphia Civic Procession. Of the Cordwainer's presence in this procession, the *United States Gazette* of Philadelphia had this to report:

CORDWAINERS.

Chief Marshal, Daniel Green.

Aids, Israel Robinson, John Johnson, Mounted, with Batons, followed by a splendid banner presented by the cordwainers of New York for the occasion, after which, an elegant banner, portrait of Washington. Inscription, 'The Father of his Country'

A Large Tri-Coloured Flag,

in the rear a splendid blue silk banner, a large eagle with armorial bearings, thirty Marshals with blue wands, wearing large blue silk scarfs crossing from the left shoulder to right hip. On the left breast, a star with silver centre; on the right breast, white satin Washington badge; silver badges suspended from the neck by blue ribbon. White kid aprons with blue trimming, bearing the arms of the craft; green and gold inscription, "Union of Cordwainers;" white kid gloves. About four hundred and thirty men wearing medals, badges, aprons and gloves, same as the Marshals.

With just one example known, there is simply no way that any significant number of the "about four hundred and thirty men" marching in this section wore badges like this one. What is much more likely is that this one was produced for the chief Marshal of the section, Daniel Green.

Regardless, the noted inscription on the cordwainers' banner matches the reverse of this medal. This detail, in concert with the mention of medals being worn and Baker's own attribution of this piece to the cordwainers results in a reasonably secure assignment of purpose and a much more complete picture of the historic background of this intriguing medal.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Philadelphian William F. Clayton, perhaps in the 1830s; the Clayton family until 1893; S.H. and Henry Chapman's sale of the Nicholas Petry Collection, May 1893, Lot 770; Isaac F. Wood; S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the Isaac F. Wood Collection, July 1894, lot 308; Henry Chapman's sale of the George M. Parsons Collection, June 1914, lot 689; purchased by Mrs. Norweb in the 1950s, allegedly "ex-England" though particulars are not known; our (Stack's) sale of the Norweb Collection, November 2006, lot 2121.



Extremely Rare 1832 Tinsmith Medal Distributed at the Philadelphia Civic Procession



2143

1832 Tinsmith Medal. Musante GW-138, Baker-161. Tin. AU-50 (PCGS). 40.2 mm. 49.0 grains. Lightly and evenly pested over much of the surface to deep gray, though the tighter recesses remain rather bright which helps to accentuate the shallowly defined design features. Struck on an extremely thin flan with partially crimped edges. This is another type that was struck during the actual Civic Procession in Philadelphia on February 22, 1832, and tossed to the crowd of spectators as with the Gold and Silver Artificers medal. This is a less substantial piece, however, and many were likely lost to oxidation or simply discarded as a cheaply made trinket after the parade. This is particularly nice and one of four plated in Neil Musante's *Medallic Washington*. Musante reports just five or six known, and this is one of just two we have handled across many years.

Of the Tinsmith's entry into the Civic Procession, the *United States Gazette* of Philadelphia printed the following report on February 24, 1832:

THE TIN PLATE WORKERS

Came on, with a broad-wheeled car drawn by six horses. The various operations of the tin plate manufacture. Medals were struck in this car, of Washington's head, surrounded by the words 'WASHINGTON, Feb 22, 1832,' and distributed amongst the people. The pedestrians in the procession wore badges of burnished tin, which had splendid appearance. The number was about 200.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Stephen Tanenbaum, August 2001.



2144

1834 American Eagle Medal. Musante GW-147, Baker-55. White Metal. Plain edge. EF Details—Damaged (PCGS). 50.0 mm. 688.6 grains. Somewhat dark pewter gray with numerous small marks and somewhat aggressive ancient smoothing in the obverse fields. Clearly exposed to the elements a bit, with the surfaces darkly oxidized, but

with a somewhat waxy appearance rather than the dull grainy texture usually seen on white metal pieces so exposed. This notwithstanding, the detail is actually quite good. Believed to have been struck on the occasion of the death of Lafayette, in 1834.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, March 2005.



2145

Circa 1838 Cercle Britannique or Heroes of Liberty Medal. Original, Plain Edge. Musante GW-149, Baker-196. Copper. SP-63 (PCGS). 51.4 mm. 1065.5 grains. Glossy light chestnut brown with traces of soft reflective character remaining in the fields. A bit handled with a trace of high point wear, slight natural deposits in the recesses and a few scattered small marks indicative of a medal that likely entered non-numismatic hands for a time, but hands that probably appreciated it just as much and shared it with friends and family. Still, the details remain sharp, and the eye appeal is very nice, all things considered. A fairly scarce medal that is well accomplished but often seems a bit underappreciated when it comes up for sale. It was inspired by the passing of Lafayette in 1834, and was conceived as

a tribute to him, Washington and Kosciusko as “Friends of the People’s Independence,” as reads the obverse legend, in part. According to Musante, “the Cercle Britannique...was a library founded in 1830 for British, American and other non-French speaking expatriates living in Paris. Membership was obtained through monthly subscription [and] the library claimed to possess over 40,000 volumes...” These medals come with a plain edge, as here, and also with Paris Mint privy marks including “BRONZE” and a pointing hand with CUIVRE. The plain edge variants have long been considered “originals,” though in truth, these were probably all struck at the Paris Mint in a very short window of time, beginning in 1838.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, August 2006.

Very Rare Original Andrew Canel Medal



2146

1841 Andrew Canel Medal. Original. Musante GW-158, Baker K-678. Copper, Bronzed. MS-64 BN (PCGS). 46.5 mm. A very rare issue, and one that we have not offered for sale since this piece appeared in our November 2017 auction.

Dark chocolate brown with iridescent blue highlights in the prooflike obverse fields. A few scattered spots are noted but they are not severe or too distracting on this otherwise very pleasant medal. Sharply and evenly struck, with the rims of both sides ornamented by fine radial lines. In their revised edition of Baker’s *Medallic Portraits of Washington*, Russell Rulau and George Fuld included this medal noting that it was “unknown to William S. Baker in his 1885 opus.” They further commented that a copper example was reported but unconfirmed. Most likely, the fact that it does not bear a Washington portrait was why Baker omitted it, but the sentiment seems to have deemed it worthy (not unlike the Seasons Medals). Baker participated in the Bushnell sale where one was offered, and he would certainly have been aware of it. The assertion that a copper example had been reported but not confirmed, right alongside mention of the Garrett specimen, which was copper and from these dies, defies explanation.

There are very few known from these dies in copper. One is the aforementioned Bushnell-Garrett specimen, this is a second. A third, unbronzed example is known to us in a private collection and another is at the ANS. In addition, one or two are believed to be in the Civic Museums of History and Art, Municipality of Trieste, where the original dies reside. Examples from these dies are also known in silver and white metal, though both are extremely rare.

According to information on the website of the Civic Museums of History and Art, Trieste, from translation: “The medal was coined on the anniversary of George Washington’s birth in honor of Andrea Canel, a shipping agent in Trieste, by American merchant captains whose 14 boats were anchored there at the beginning of 1841. Canel was given the only example and the dies, from which the family later consented to obtain new specimens.” It is probably safe to assume that no more than 15 or so were struck in all medals combined.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier donated to the American Numismatic Society by Stanley DeForest Scott to benefit the endowment campaign for the Executive Director position at the American Numismatic Society; our sale of November 2017, lot 92.



2147

“1841” (circa 1858?) Andrew Canel Medal from Copy Dies. Musante GW-159, Baker K-678B. Copper. VF-35 (PCGS). 45.5 mm. 575.2 grains. Pale mahogany brown with a curious steel gray tone across the letters of ANDREW CANEL, and in some of the recesses around nearby letters. Outlines of natural darker patina on both sides. A couple of rim bumps and small spots are noted, while a fresher abrasion across the eagle’s breast shield reveals a trace of light orange copper. The original Canel medals are well made, struck as Proofs and of fine style. This is from copy dies cut by a far less talented engraver, with cruder styling all around and it is not as well struck. This particular one is prominently double struck on the reverse, the evidence being most visible through the leftmost stars. This is a most curious issue, as both variants are very rare and the original issue was probably not only very small, but probably distributed among a very tight gathering of Americans in Trieste. It would not have been a widely known issue.

The original was conceived as a gift marking the hospitality shown by Andrew Canel to 14 American merchant vessel captains who happened to be in Trieste on February 22, 1841. On that date, Canel invited the captains to a “lavish banquet” in honor of Washington’s birthday and the captains, in turn, seem to have commissioned the medal for presentation to Canel as a mark of appreciation.

What would have prompted the need for a copy like this is virtually unimaginable. In 1863, this medal was published and briefly discussed in an Italian-language work, *Storia Cronografica di Trieste*. Therein, it was stated (from translation), “the [original] medal was to be engraved and struck in Trieste, without knowing by whom - In 1858 it was announced (see Giorn. La Bora Nr. 43) that a fellow citizen of ours, to whom the Canel family graciously granted the coin, had arranged to have several copies reproduced to enrich the various medals in our city; we do not know, however, whether the generous division has been brought to reality.” It would seem that this passage is a direct reference to the type offered here. In fact, the medal is plated in that book with a fine-quality line drawing. The letter and motif positions are different between the originals and the copies, and that illustrated is clearly one of these copies. Though the author did not know if the reproduction had “been brought to reality,” it would appear that he was working directly from one such reproduction! This suggests strongly that both originals and these from copy dies were of European origin. We are aware of six distinct specimens from these dies.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, June 2003.



2148

1844 Honor Temperance Medal by S. Schmidt. Musante GW-161, Baker-335. Silver. EF-40 (PCGS). 18.2 mm. 66.2 grains. Neatly pierced for suspension at 12 o’clock. Deep steel gray silver across most of the surface, while the high central relief of Washington’s portrait is lighter gray, as is the lower relief of the central reverse. Light natural surface debris clings to the recesses, speaking to the originality, while a short obverse scratch is noted near 5 o’clock. A distinctive and neatly designed medal that is very rare. The first modern appearance we are aware of was in Presidential Coin and Antique’s sale of November 1994:249, where it was commented that no other modern appearances were known. Presidential had three more offerings, in 1996, 1997 and 2011 (the last being this one). The 1996 medal was plated and is that imaged by Musante, but there is no clarity as to the others being three different medals. The first and third offerings were unplated, and all descriptions are virtually identical except the 1996 offering. Two appeared side-by-side in a 2017 Heritage sale. Rulau and Fuld noted six known, but we have only been able to confirm four with certainty, and six if each PCAC offering was a distinct medal.

These were engraved by Solomon Schmidt, a New Orleans die-sinker. He corresponded with a collector in 1869 regarding a proposed genuine 1815 large cent, and the correspondence was submitted to the ANS which published it in the *American Journal of Numismatics*. His letter, dated at New Orleans, February 24, 1869, is signed as follows:

“S. Schmidt,
Manager of Am. B. Note Company, and die-sinker of forty years’ standing.”

Though Musante attributes this piece to the Washington Temperance Benevolent Society, he notes that was organized in April 1840, in Baltimore. This piece clearly notes a founding date of February 22, 1844, on its reverse. The most likely candidate for this medal’s commission is the St. Louis Division No. 1 of the Sons of Temperance. According to the *Journal of National Sons of Temperance, Second Annual Session, June 11, 1845*, “Application was received from Brother Asa Spaulding, formerly of Flushing, N.Y., and others, for a charter for ‘St. Louis Division, No. 1, of the State of Missouri,’ to be located in St. Louis” on February 22, 1844. While it is noted that the charter was granted, it seems that Spaulding did not follow through with some procedural detail. In Samuel Ellis’ 1848 *The History of the Order of the Sons of Temperance*, it is clarified that the St. Louis Division did not finally begin operations until May 5, 1846. It was noted further that “Of the original applicants for the charter, but four were present out of fifteen, and but eight eventually joined the order.” If we have assigned the proper organization to this medal, it would seem sensible that the 15 original charter applicants might have ordered these badges in 1844, and thus their present rarity is explained with ease.

Historical appearances of the Honor Temperance medal are found in:

- The Finotti Collection, W. Elliot Woodward, November 1862, lot 1749 “pierced and bruised”; W. Elliot Woodward’s sale of March 1865, lot 3548, called “unique.”
- Armin Brand’s 1936 Consignments to B.G. Johnson from the Virgil Brand Estate, ex Thomas Hall, called “holed as issued.”
- S.H. & H. Chapman’s sale of the Isaac Wood Collection, July 1894, lot 357, noted as “only specimen we ever saw.”
- Henry Chapman’s sale of the George Parsons Collection, June 1914, lot 796 @ \$25. “Believed to be Unique. Baker never saw one...”

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique’s sale of June 2011, lot 251.



2149

Circa 1855 King Alcohol Medal. Musante GW-177, Baker-334. Brass. MS-62 (PCGS). 24.1 mm. 107.6 grains. Light golden brass with a few superficial spots. Well struck and lustrous. Beyond what the legend tells us, little is known about this issue. Called "Gilt" by PCGS.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from an unnamed source at the 2004 ANA Convention.



2151

1853 New York Crystal Palace Medal by Alexander C. Morin and Anthony Paquet. Musante GW-191, Baker-361A. Bronze. MS-62 BN (PCGS). 51.4 mm. 1223.5 grains. Dark chocolate brown with overtones of soft blue, rose and violet mottled through the gently reflective fields. A bit handled, commensurate with the grade, while a couple of minor rim bumps are also noted. Beautifully designed and intricately detailed, with all features brought up sharply. The obverse was cut by Alexander Morin, and the reverse by Anthony Paquet, but their compositions work nicely together. Close study of the reverse central motif virtually puts one on the ground before New York's majestic Crystal Palace. Though silver impressions naturally command significant premiums, all compositions are likely of equal rarity. According to the June 1864 Edward Cogan sale, just 35 sets of these medals were struck, and he specified that all three metals were included. These are very rare today. Our online archives include just four each in silver and bronze, and a lone specimen in white metal.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, September 2010.



2150

1889 Thirteen Links Inaugural Centennial Medal. Musante GW-187, Douglas-52A. White Metal. SP-61 (PCGS). 53.4 mm. 805.5 grains. Mostly brilliant with just a trace of soft gray toning in the prooflike fields. Satiny on the devices in pleasant contrast to the ground. A bit handled and with the flan slightly warped, but not unattractive. A distinctive design pairing an obverse with Charles Cushing Wright's high relief bust of Washington, after Houdon, with a modified reverse featuring a 13-links motif reminiscent of the early Federal period Fugio coppers, certain Continental Currency issues and the famous Continental "dollars." These were published by the Chapman brothers in 1889.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2001, lot 1304.



2152

Circa 1876 Residence of Washington Medal by Frederick B. Smith. Musante GW-215, Baker-112. White Metal. Uncirculated Details—Damage (PCGS). 63.6 mm. 1568.3 grains. Mostly mellowed to a somewhat dull pewter gray, though lighter more brilliant silver outlines remain around all the motifs and through the legends, accentuating the design. Some minor scratches are noted on the reverse and a tiny spot near the obverse rim, at the SH of WASHINGTON, invited some faint tooling long ago. Sharply detailed and aesthetically satisfying for the grade. A large and rather well-rendered medal, with the engraving of Mount Vernon thoughtfully expressed.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, January 2005.

2153

Circa 1876 Washington's Tomb Medal by Frederick B. Smith and Horst. Musante GW-216, Baker-121. White Metal. SP-62 (PCGS). 63.6 mm. 1552.9 grains. Uniform medium gray with soft prooflike reflectivity in the fields and satiny devices. A bit of handling is noted, as usual on these large, soft medals, but there are no serious marks, and the eye appeal is quite pleasing. A distinctive and well rendered medal in high relief.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, June 2004.



2154

Circa 1860 Woodgate & Co. Store Card. Musante GW-234, Baker-593A, Miller NY-973. Copper. MS-63 RB (PCGS). 27.9 mm. 147.3 grains. Pale orange and brown with some darker mottling. Light hairlines and a trace of superficial oxidation on the reverse. The obverse die bisected by a crack as on some other tokens from this die, but this does not appear to be the case for the Musante plate. This is a rare token. According to the Bangs, Merwin & Co. sale of September 1860, just three were struck in each of four metals, silver, copper, brass and white metal, making it clear that the medals were in existence by that date in contrast with the more recent assertion that they were struck a bit later.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from an unnamed source at the Garden State Numismatic Association show, June 2000.



2156

Circa 1858 George and Martha Washington Medalet by Robert Lovett, Jr. With "1792." Musante GW-264, Baker-209. Silver. AU-58 (PCGS). 20.5 mm. 74.9 grains. Lovely blue and rose iridescence over deep gray silver. A bit of light handling, but there are no serious marks, and the eye appeal remains very nice. A rare medal, and always very desirable in silver. Musante suggests that the 1792 date was for the year of Washington's re-election, but also probably correctly asserts that this would not "resonate with an audience in 1859." This piece was issued by a coin dealer, William Idler, for a numismatic audience. Considering the long-standing legend among coin collectors that Martha Washington gave her own silver for the 1792 Patterns, the writer suspects that this is the intended commemoration of this piece, one that would certainly resonate amongst the intended audience in 1860.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 231.



2155

Circa 1859 Siege of Boston Medalet with reground obverse die. Musante GW-256, Baker-50J. Copper. Reeded and Plain edge(!). MS-63 BN (PCGS). 31.5 mm. Gently mottled mahogany brown on the obverse while the reverse is a bit more deeply toned. Glossy and sharp, but with faint evidence of porosity in the left obverse field. Clearly struck twice, with the reverse being dramatically double struck. However, there is a bit more to this story as it is not a simple second impression with a rotation; it also includes a change of collar. This piece was clearly struck with a reeded edge collar first, then with a plain edge collar which crushed most of the reeding. It is an interesting and unexpected technicality.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Robert Moffatt's July 2004 Mail Bid Sale, lot 53.



2157

Circa 1864 Washington Star Medal by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-272, Baker-97A. Copper. MS-62 BN (PCGS). 31.0 mm. Deep steel brown with soft rose, violet, blue and faded orange remaining in the fields which are well-shielded by the high rims and high-relief motifs. Glossy and attractive and struck on a very thick flan, as usual. Traces of gentle reflectivity remain in the fields. The first appearance of this type we are aware of was in W. Elliot Woodward's offering of March 1864. As of October 1864, the dies were reported as destroyed.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, August 2004.



2158

Circa 1860 Sage's Historical Token No. 11, Valley Forge. Musante GW-276, Baker-Unlisted. Copper. Plain edge. MS-63 BN (PCGS). Pleasing blue and olive at the obverse center, while generous deep violet and red remain through the legends and recesses. The reverse is golden olive with traces of pale blue. Identified by Musante as an original issue by Augustus B. Sage (from dies commissioned of George H. Lovett), with a plain edge. Others, struck for J. Osborn Emery prior to 1864, are noted as having reeded edges.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our sale of October 2018, lot 10041.



2160

Circa 1860 Equestrian / Home of Washington Medal by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-279, Baker-114C. Brass. Reeded edge. MS-64 (PCGS). 31.4 mm. Boldly reflective and virtually brilliant golden brass surfaces with the faintest nuances of rose and pale blue toning. A few very small spots are scattered about. Struck with the dies in misalignment as typical of this rare series. According to W. Elliot Woodward, writing in his October 1864 sale, no more than five were struck in brass and the dies had been destroyed by that time.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Aquilino, February 2002.



2159

Circa 1860 Washington Star Obverse / Equestrian muling by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-278, Baker-177/175 muling. Brass. Reeded edge. MS-64 (PCGS). 31.5 mm. Light greenish gold brass with boldly prooflike fields and a scattering of faint spots that are almost always seen on this composition. According to W. Elliot Woodward, writing in his October 1864 sale of the J. Osborn Emery medals, not more than five were struck in brass from these dies. This is the Musante plate medal.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, January 2005.

Likely Unique Old Hasbrook House Medal in Silver



2161

Circa 1860 Washington Star Obverse / Old Hasbrook House Medal by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-282, Baker-183. Silver. Reeded edge. MS-64 (PCGS). 31.5 mm. 206.9 grains. Light pearl gray with soft rose and violet overtones in the prooflike fields. Satiny texture on the devices causes them to stand out a bit from the ground. One small toning spot and a tiny rim nick help to identify this as the Musante plate medal, but in silver there may be no others to choose from! According to W. Elliot Woodward, writing in his October 1864 sale the impression in silver was unique, and the dies had been destroyed. This was likely on good authority as his consignor, J. Osborn Emery, had owned the dies. This is the only one we are aware of, a comment mirroring that of Joe Levine when he last sold this in 2011. It may well be unique in silver, which would take the provenance directly to Woodward's October 1864 sale, lot 2411, and to J. Osborn Emery, who commissioned the striking.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier likely ex J. Osborn Emery; W. Elliot Woodward's sale of October 1864, lot 2411; J. Osborn Emery; unknown intermediaries; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 1990, lot 303; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of December 1991, lot 129; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 222.



2162

Circa 1860 Equestrian / Tappan Headquarters Medal by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-284, Baker-178A. Copper. Reeded edge. MS-63 RB (PCGS). 31.5 mm. Deep red on the obverse while the reverse has mellowed a bit with soft blue mottling in the field. An unfortunate corrosion spot is noted on this side, at 4 o'clock. Sharp and prooflike, nonetheless, and rare. One of no more than five reported struck in copper before the dies were destroyed in 1864.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 219.

Likely Unique Valley Forge Headquarters Medal in Silver



2163

Circa 1860 Washington Star Obverse / Valley Forge Headquarters muling by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-288, Baker-177C. Silver. Reeded edge. MS-65 (PCGS). 31.5 mm. 208.0 grains. Lovely light gray surfaces with boldly prooflike fields and crisp, satiny devices. The fields are awash with gold, green and pale blue mottling, just enough to add to the visual appeal without overpowering the soft gray silver beneath. Beautifully preserved with almost no handling marks visible. Clearly double struck, with an easily seen rotation between impressions noted on the reverse. Better centered than most strikes from this series. It was reported in 1864, after the dies were destroyed, that just one of each pairing in this series was struck in silver. This is the only example we have seen, so there is little reason to question this.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier likely ex J. Osborn Emery; W. Elliot Woodward's sale of October 1864, lot 2412; J. Osborn Emery; unknown intermediaries; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of September 1995, lot 5344; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 217.



(image reduced)

2164

Circa 1857 Washington Plaque by James Crutchett and Abraham Demarest. Musante GW-330, Baker T-128. Copper electrotype in wood frame. Choice About Uncirculated. 79.3 mm (electrotype) 118.4 mm (with frame). The central shell is glossy medium brown with a gentle bend noted toward 11 o'clock. Interestingly, this bend resulted in a minor separation between the outer band and the interior portrait clarifying that the metallic shell portion was made in two parts, joined together. The frame, made from wood harvested from Mount Vernon, is nicely preserved. What appears to be the original hanger is intact but has been reset into the edge. A scarce type that is rarely seen this nice.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, February 2005.



2165

Circa 1860s Double Head Medalet. Musante GW-342, Baker-95A. Copper. MS-62 BN (PCGS). 21 mm. Medium mahogany brown with light golden outlines around the devices and soft blue and violet iridescence in the fields. Struck on a somewhat thick flan. Known in silver, copper, bronze and brass, and all are noted as rare by Musante.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our sale of October 2018, lot 10057.



Rare Washington of Virginia in Silver Just 21 Struck



2166

1883 Washington of Virginia Medal. Massamore Restrike. Musante GW-352R, Baker-64A. Silver. MS-62 (PCGS). 34 mm. Deep gray mottling over most of both sides, while brilliant silver outlines remain around the design features throughout. One small darker patch of heavier patina is noted right of the bust. Nicely struck on a very thick flan, as on all seen of this rare restrike. These were struck in gold, silver, copper and brass on January 11, 1883. They were a follow-up to an elaborate hoax intended to dupe a few wealthy collectors of the 1850s into believing that the original impressions from these dies were of much earlier vintage. It would seem that Joseph Mickley, William Sumner Appleton and even Massamore himself were fooled into buying “originals” and Massamore came

to be aware of the true vintage after he purchased the dies, and the die-sinker had died. In total, 64 restrikes were made by Jacob Gminder of Baltimore, who attested to having destroyed the dies. The gold one was a single impression, apparently a commission by T. Harrison Garrett, while 21 were made in each of the remaining three compositions. Though the rarity is the same across the board, the gold piece excepted, the silver impressions are certainly the most desired by collectors. Even William Spohn Baker did not have this composition, though he had an “original” (Mickley’s specimen) and impressions in copper and brass.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Richard August, January 2017.

Intriguing 1883 Washington of Virginia Medal Fire Gilt; The Only One Observed



2167

1883 Washington of Virginia Medal. Massamore Restrike. Musante GW-352R, Baker-64 var. Brass, Fire Gilt. MS-62 (PCGS). 34.2 mm. 548.8 grains. A fascinating example of this restrike issue, the only one we have seen with gilt surfaces. The gilding is almost completely unbroken, though very trivial losses at the highest points, including the rims, seem to reveal only a slightly deeper golden hue pointing to brass being the underlying composition. As such, with one so treated, just 20 strictly brass examples should be possible if all have survived,

which is unlikely. The surfaces of this one are pale silvery gold in color, with a rich satiny luster. The gold impression is unique, and this is presumably equally rare. As such, only two collectors can hope to own this design with this distinctive appearance. A special medal and one worthy of an advanced collection.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Anthony Terranova; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Electrotype Shells of the Infamous “1794” Washington Dollar



2168

Electrotype Shells of the Circa 1860 “1794” Washington Dollar Fantasy. Types of GW-358, Baker-28. Extremely Fine. 40.5 (obverse) and 42.4 (reverse) mm. These rare pieces first appeared in our November 2016 sale, where they were described as follows, with minor edits:

“Both shells are light rosy copper with considerable original color remaining. Handling has contributed to some pale grayish steel mellowing in the exposed areas of the fields, but both are pleasantly lustrous. The obverse shell is neatly trimmed with a cleanly finished edge. Lightly scratched into the reverse of the face shell can be seen, “Not to be mate [illegible] on any account.” The reverse shell is untrimmed, with a flange of rough copper around the entire circumference. It is also dented at the center, giving it a concave shape. The differences in edge finishing account for the variation in diameters.

These shells were made from the lone known example of the 1794 Washington Dollar in copper, that sold by us in our November 2006 auction of the Norweb Washington medals (lot 2029). Several points of similarity confirm this, including, on the obverse, lint marks above the N of PRESIDENT and below the chin, as well as small nicks above WA, and at the truncation of the arm. Evidence on the reverse includes the small pits beneath the ribbon knot and in the outer field above the space between UNITED and STATES.

Similar to the 1858 Washington of Virginia medals (GW-352), the Washington Dollars seem to have begun as an attempted fraud, according to W. Elliot Woodward’s cataloging of the John F. McCoy Collection in May 1864. It was reported therein that the silver example was offered to a prominent collector as, presumably, a genuine article of the date depicted, but when the copper example appeared in the marketplace it became clear that the items were of recent manufacture. Woodward wrote in the same description that the die broke during the striking of the copper example, but failed completely upon striking a unique silver example, suggesting that he obtained some firsthand knowledge of the operation. It seems that just the two were produced, one in each composition. Edward Cogan wrote in his catalog of the Colin Lightbody Collection in 1866, the last sale that included both struck pieces, that he (Cogan) purchased them both around 1861 and was assured that they were “original” at the time, but noted that no one had seen them prior to that point.

In the Lightbody sale, the silver piece sold to William Sumner Appleton and ended up in the collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society, where it still resides. The copper impression sold to a ‘Hinman’ who is unknown to us today, but he was a collector of some taste and means, having also purchased other great items from the sale including a Roman Head cent, and six Seasons Medals. The copper piece passed through the hands of S.W. Chubbuck (Haseltine, February 1873), ‘Brevoort’ (James Carson Brevoort), and Lorin G. Parmelee (NY Stamp and Coin, June 1890), in whose sale it sold to ‘C’ as per a priced and named catalog. Though this buyer is not identified further, it is interesting that the envelopes associated with these shells bear the handwritten notations, ‘Crosby’ and ‘Crosby / House.’ The latter envelope is one of New Netherlands Coin Company, a firm that would have certainly appreciated provenance enough to record it, even if the items were deemed inappropriate for sale and to be retained by the ‘house.’ Perhaps Mr. Sylvester Crosby was the buyer of the copper impression in Parmelee, and thus had a hand in the production of these interesting shells. He is known to have had an inventory of such pieces, some of which he used to illustrate his book. A grouping of those pieces from his estate appeared in our January 2001 Americana Sale, lot 256, and an entire section of them was presented in the 1883 sale of his property. Interestingly, some of the pieces in our lot of 79 items had notes scratched on their reverses, as seen on the back of the obverse shell here. Whatever the case, these are the first we have encountered and we have never heard of any other electrotype copy of the ‘1794’ Washington Dollar fantasy. With the silver example a likely permanent resident in an institutional collection, and the copper one having brought \$46,000 in our November 2006 sale, to obtain an example of this medal is impossible unless the copper one is offered again. Even if it should be, it will most certainly be out of the reach of most collectors. These shells, while not ‘original’ (the “originals” aren’t either!), do offer a very worthwhile opportunity for an advanced collector of Washington pieces.”

Sydney Martin was that collector in November 2016, and now another collector will be able to represent this virtually impossible design type.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex New Netherlands Coin Company; our sale of November 2016, lot 86.



Unique Bushnell Series Issue



2169

Circa 1860 Washington / QUANDO ULLUM INVENIEMUS PAREM Medal by George H. Lovett, from the Bushnell series. Musante GW-368, Baker-A103C. White metal. MS-63 (PCGS). 27.7 mm. Light silver gray with just a trace of soft toning. Though a trace of handling is evident, including a couple of short scratches, faint parallel die lines should not be mistaken for hairlines. Satiny and lustrous, yet slightly reflective in the fields. A minor waviness is detected in the soft flan. One of a series produced for Charles Bushnell, most of which were made in unique four-piece sets, each design in silver, brass, copper and white metal. As far as we are aware, this one is unique in white metal, combining great rarity and an exceptional provenance to one of America's greatest 19th-century collectors. Plated by Rulau and Fuld in their 1999 revision of *Medallic Portraits*, as well as by Neil Musante in his *Medallic Washington*.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Charles I. Bushnell; Lorin G. Parmelee; S.H. and H. Chapman's sale of the Bushnell Collection, June 1882:1426 (Lot of four pieces in different metals); Henry Ahlborn; unknown intermediaries; Jack Collins; our (Stack's) sale of April 1996, lot 130; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 168.

Choice Cincinnatus of America Medal



2170

Circa 1863 Cincinnatus of America / All-Seeing Eye Medal by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-438, Baker-278. Copper. MS-65 RB (PCGS). 31.1 mm. Lovely light rosy copper with only faint mellowing in the fields and blushes of soft blue. Satiny and lustrous on the devices in pleasant contrast to the sharply reflective fields. A couple of trivial spots are noted at the upper reverse. The earliest offering we have recorded for one of these is in the estate of Dr. Frank Smith Edwards, whose material was sold by Bangs, Merwin & Co. in October 1865. The medal, in copper, went to Sylvester Crosby. Quite scarce, with just three in our online archives, but none prior to November 2019. This one has more original color than any of the others handled.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Mike Wierzba, November 2009.



2171

Circa 1861 U.S. Mint Oath of Allegiance Medal. Musante GW-476, Baker-279, Julian CM-2. Silver. SP-62 (PCGS). 30.3 mm. Struck on a thick flan and toned to a deep silver gray. However, mottled pastel iridescence adds considerably to the eye appeal, particularly on the reverse where vivid green, gold and blue enliven the prooflike fields. The high wire rims have taken some impacts, but they have largely protected the remaining surfaces from all but a few faint hairlines and a gentle softening of the highest point of Washington's hair. A popular U.S. Mint issue relating to the Civil War, and likely an early impression as those on thick flans seem to be.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, January 2005.



2172

Circa 1862 Washington's Headquarters Series by George H. Lovett. Third obverse / Harlem. Musante GW-478, Baker-184A-1. Copper, Tinned. Uncirculated Details—Environmental Damage (PCGS). 27.5 mm. Light silver gray with some deeper patina in the recesses, close to the rims, and a few chalky deposits noted there as well. Clearly tinned. However, this seems to have been done long ago, and a bit of that surfacing is lost on the highest points. This entire series from the first obverse die is very rare. Only the Harlem medals seem to have been struck in any meaningful number, and that number might be 10 or so. Our archives include two from the 2019 Baker Collection offerings in copper, and perhaps three to five more from earlier years, cataloged as Baker-184b due to an error in the Rulau-Fuld revision of *Medallic Portraits*. We have sold only one or two bearing reverses #2, #3 and #4, but none of the others in the 10-piece set for at least 15 years, or so. In silver, we have only a single medal represented, an example from the Sufferns die. We have found none in brass, which Musante lists. Very rare in any format and a bit under appreciated.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, January 2005.



2173

Circa 1862 Washington's Headquarters Series by George H. Lovett. Second obverse / Whitemarsh. Musante GW-491, Baker-194A-4. Copper. MS-63 BN (PCGS). 27.6 mm. Even light chocolate brown on the obverse while the reverse exhibits soft blue, green and gold toning in the prooflike fields. Minor green deposits are seen in some of the peripheral recesses.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Aquilino, April 1998.



2176

Circa 1863 Undraped Washington / Shield Reverse Medal by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-511, Baker-144A. Copper. MS-66 RB (PCGS). 27.7 mm. Vivid blue and violet over most of the obverse while traces of orange red remain close to the rims. The reverse is dominated by fiery orange and red with just a trace of violet. Virtually pristine surfaces in terms of handling, with only a couple of tiny reverse spots noted. One of just 16 reported struck in copper.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of July 1993, lot 188; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 193.



2174

Circa 1862 Washington's Headquarters Series by George H. Lovett. Second obverse / Valley Forge. Musante GW-492, Baker-194A-5. Copper. MS-65 RB (PCGS). 28 mm. Deep faded red on the obverse with soft blue accents. The reverse retains generous fiery orange red with blue-green and violet in the upper field. Nicely struck and prooflike with minimal marks other than a few scattered small spots, mostly on the reverse.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection; Purchased from Bill Aquilino, November 2017.



2177

Circa 1860 Brown's Equestrian Statue / Tomb Medal by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-522, Baker-127. Copper. MS-65 RB (PCGS). 27.7 mm. Soft blue and violet overtones highlight the otherwise pale golden orange surfaces. Boldly struck as always, with reflective prooflike fields and sharp, satiny devices. One of just 16 reported to have been struck in copper.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 179.



2175

Circa 1863 Undraped Washington / Tomb Medal by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-509, Baker-125. Copper. MS-65 RD (PCGS). 27.7 mm. Virtually brilliant red surfaces exhibit just a trace of faint mellowing. Uniform, with boldly prooflike fields and satiny devices that contrast nicely. A couple of microscopic spots are noted for accuracy but do not impact the visual appeal in the least. One of just 16 reported to have been struck in copper.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the F.C.C. Boyd Collection; Jack Collins; our (Stack's) sale of April-May 1996, lot 118 (part); David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 177.



2178

Circa 1863 Brown's Equestrian Statue / Shield Reverse Medal by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-524, Baker-146. Copper. MS-65 RB (PCGS). 27.7 mm. Mottled gold and orange surfaces with soft blue accents in some of the fields. Sharp and prooflike with just a couple of superficial spots noted for accuracy. One of just 16 reported struck in copper.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased at the Wilmington Coin Show, January 2002, source unrecorded.



2179

Circa 1863 Washington Double Head muling by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-528, Baker-Unlisted. Copper. MS-66 RD (PCGS). 27.7 mm. Fiery orange and red surfaces with soft outlines of gold around the devices. Boldly prooflike and beautifully preserved. Somewhat softly struck at the centers, as the high-relief portraits in direct opposition didn't allow for full expression of the designs. A muling of the two portraits in George H. Lovett's series, apparently struck intermittently between the two series and during the striking of the second series (perhaps upon occasional special orders) as suggested by observed die states. Some have a small rim cud near

10 o'clock, while other regular-series, second-obverse medals are found both with and without the break. This seems to have not been in Lovett's original 20-piece set and is probably even rarer than the intended set medals, of which 16 of each were struck in copper.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Stewart Witham Collection; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Witham and Sansoucy Collections, September 1992, lot 2133; Jack Collins; our (Stack's) sale of April-May, 1996, lot 116; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 175.



2180

Circa 1862 Washington in Semicircles and Stars / Birth and Death Medal by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-534, Baker-138. Copper. MS-67 BN (PCGS). 27.6 mm. Vivid rose, violet and blue toning over deep brown copper. Extremely sharp and prooflike with lovely eye appeal. A very rare issue represented in our online archives by just two specimens.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Garrett Collection; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of the Garrett Collection, Part IV, March 1981, lot 1791 (part); Stewart Witham; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Witham and Sansoucy Collections, September 1992, lot 2141; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 187.



2181

Circa 1862 Double Head muling by George H. Lovett. Shields and Stars. Musante GW-543, Baker-137M. Copper. MS-65 BN (PCGS). 27.6 mm. Rosy red and blue toning over deep brown copper. The center of the shields and stars die is a bit lighter orange. Slightly dusky from age and storage, but with a completely original appearance and still with strongly mirrored fields. Muled obverses of Baker-137

and Baker-139, to which Baker did not assign a separate number. Extremely rare, and the crumbling state of the shield and stars die likely explains why. Just one seems to be in our online archives, that from the William Spohn Baker Collection sold in 2019.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Said to be ex Garrett; Purchased on eBay, September 2008.



The Great Seal of the Confederacy A Very Choice Gilt Example



2182

“1862” (ca. 1870s) Great Seal of the Confederacy. Electrotpe. Musante GW-564, Baker-Unlisted. Copper Shell, Gilt. Choice Mint State. The seal itself is approximately 102 mm (with its original circular metal frame). It is housed in its original display case, measuring approximately 157 mm x 127 mm.

The details of the seal are crisp and fully executed with virtually no signs of handling. The light hairlines are clearly part of the final finishing, as these were seen on another superb example we handled recently. The surfaces are satiny and lustrous, with just a trace of toning in some of the field areas. The glass covering the seal is chipped at the edge, but otherwise intact.

The case is the original, lined in blue blind-stamped velvet. The hinges are loose but holding, while the exterior of the case has some small chips and other evidence of handling. A piece seems to have been broken from the side and repaired. Still, the whole presentation is impressive, and seals this nice, gilt, and in their original presentation cases are rare.

The original seal design was finalized on April 30, 1863, and features an equestrian Washington portrait at center, with the inscription, THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA : 22 FEBRUARY 1862 * DEO VINDICE * around. Readers of this sale will likely know that February 22 was Washington's birthday, but it was also the day selected for CSA President Jefferson Davis' inauguration. The original embossing dies were produced by Joseph S. Wyon in England, and shipped to the Confederate States. Electrotpe copies such as this are said to have been made in the 1870s and sold in limited numbers to raise funds for the benefit of Confederate widows and orphans, according to research by Musante.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, November 2005.



2183

Circa 1863 Pennsylvania Census Medal. Musante GW-572, Baker-611. Brass. MS-62 (PCGS). 36.6 mm. Warm golden brass with soft, satiny luster. Rather sharp for one of these but there is a little softness at the center of the dated side. A few tiny spots. According to the December 1865 sale by Bangs, Merwin & Company,

where a set of the four Census medals (for Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Illinois) were offered, these were struck by the Numismatic Association of Rhode Island. None that can be identified as an 1855 "original" has been seen, if in fact any were struck at all at that time. According to Musante, Horatio Storer placed the striking in 1863.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, December 2015.

Rare Letter to Hamilton in Copper Ex Charles Bushnell, 1882



2184

Circa 1864 Letter to Hamilton Medal by John Adams Bolen. Musante GW-675, Baker-257A, Musante JAB-11. Copper. SP-63 RB (PCGS). 59.0 mm. grains. A strikingly attractive example of this famous issue by John Adams Bolen, the largest of his works and one accomplished in fine style and high relief, showing his skill as an engraver and medalist. The obverse retains considerable original red, which is as unusual as it is appealing. The reverse has mellowed to medium chocolate brown, though hints of faded red and accents of pale blue iridescence are noted. A few old spots are scattered about, but considering the excellent condition and eye appeal otherwise, even a discerning collector might find these easily forgivable. Among the most well-known of Bolen's medals, this piece has long been considered an essential entry into specialized collections of George Washington medals. It is arguably one of the finest and most desired medals within this specialty from the Civil War era, a period in which collecting such pieces was fevered. This issue is widely known to have been struck in silver, copper and white metal, all with very low

mintages. One piece has been cataloged as "fire gilt," but it has not been seen in recent times. Bolen reported that 10 examples were struck in copper, while the ANS owns an example in copper numbered "14" on the edge. That piece came from Bolen's granddaughter, suggesting this was the actual number made in this composition. Today, this is one of 12 known to the writer in copper and it comes with the oldest complete provenance chain we are aware of, back to the magnificent 1882 Charles Bushnell sale. It is quite likely that Bushnell bought it "new," perhaps even directly from the maker!

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Charles I. Bushnell; S.H. & H. Chapman's sale of the Bushnell Collection, June 1882, lot 1411; T. Harrison Garrett; our (Bowers and Ruddy's) sale of the Garrett Collection, Part IV, March 1981, lot 1824 (part); Gilbert Steinberg; our (Stack's) sale of the Steinberg Collection, May 1992, lot 107; Stanley DeForest Scott; Donated by Stanley DeForest Scott to the American Numismatic Society to benefit the endowment campaign for the Executive Director position at the American Numismatic Society; our sale of November 2017, lot 117.



2185

Circa 1864 Lovett's Washington and Bolen's Liberty Cap muling. Musante GW-678, Baker-275A, Musante JAB M/E-16. Copper. MS-64 (PCGS). Handsome caramel brown with a ring of vivid blue toning around the inset of the central obverse. Similar blue, rose and gold intermingle in the recesses of the reverse. Boldly struck and beautifully preserved with prooflike fields and sharp, satiny devices. A very rare issue that we have handled on very few occasions.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Q. David Bowers Collection; our sale of the Tim Gabriele Collection, November 2017, lot 261.

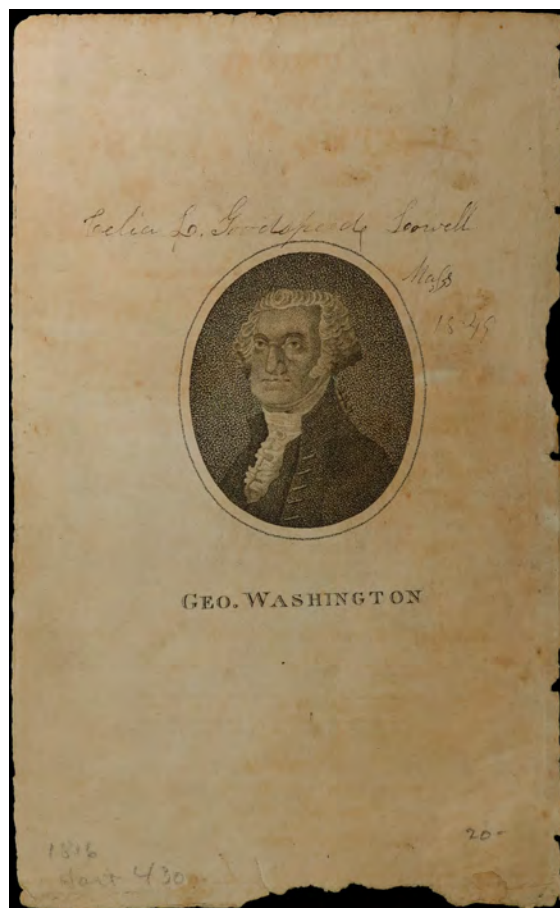
Rare Ugly Head in Copper



2186

Circa 1862 Ugly Head Medal. Musante GW-715, Baker-89A. Copper. MS-65 BN (PCGS). 37.9 mm. 352.5 grains. A lovely specimen of this distinctive medal that was often abused in early catalogs for a lack of artistic merit. Nonetheless, it has remained a prized entry in the series of Washington medals, and is notably scarce, as well as attractive, in copper. Generous vivid orange red close to the obverse rims while soft violet, blue and golden green are nicely blended through the fields. The reverse is toned slightly deeper with pale violet at the rims and richer blue-green and gold at the center. Beautifully preserved with almost no notable handling marks. A tiny spot is nestled close to the obverse rim. As reproduced by Musante, W. Elliot Woodward had this to say about the design: "For hideous ugliness the bust on this medal is unrivaled at present, and it is doubtful if it can ever be equaled in the future." Baker, clearly a gentleman, wrote in 1885 that the medal "deserves its reputation [as the Ugly Head Medal] so well as being the most unprepossessing of the entire series, that we have concluded to retain the title, although not very pleasing as a designation." The name has stuck to this day, and though experts had nothing kindly to say in the 19th century, collectors seem to have bought them right up, including Baker, who owned this in both copper and white metal. In fact, most major collections from the early 1860s to the present have included at least one of these, if not in multiple metals. Baker, an expert on Washington portraiture, tentatively attributed this as an unsuccessful attempt at copying the Gilbert Stuart portrait. However, this medal does not bear the only known portrait with such caricature-like features, suggesting that the artist might have been working from another copy of that master's work. One engraving signed by Peabody, published in the early 1820s, in Keene, New Hampshire is similar, as is another early stippled engraving we have seen. Copper impressions are quite a bit rarer than the less durable white metal ones, and today, this is counted among the most loved of the portrait medals of the 1860s.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the Norweb Collection; our (Stack's) sale of the Norweb Collection, November 2006, lot 2091.





2187

Circa 1864 Charles K. Warner Store Card. Washington and Flags. Five Lines with Eagle Reverse. Musante GW-729, Baker-582A. Brass. MS-63 (PCGS). 27.3 mm. Pleasing light golden brass with soft satiny luster. A few trivial spots are noted, but none appears threatening in the least. A very rare card, only a single example of which appears in our online archives. That was a white metal example

from the Baker Collection, sold in November 2019. Interestingly, it was that same medal used to illustrate the type in Musante's *Medallic Washington*. Opportunities for this rarity are certain to be few and far between.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Byron Hoke, January 1998.

Enemies In War Medalet With Suspension Frame Extremely Rare in this Format



2188

1865 Enemies In War - In Peace Friends Medal. Musante GW-767, Baker-174A. Silver. MS-61 (PCGS). 40.4 x 30.3 mm (total, with frame). 145.7 grains. Light silver gray with soft patina around the perimeter of the oval medallion where the frame has protected the surfaces best. The silver frame is of good construction, designed such that the medallion can be set into the body and the cover affixed to hold it around the rims. A fine seam is visible in the edge. A small plaque above the medal bears the engraved date, 1865, on both sides, while the reverse bears the engraved letters R.H.L.V. / OF C. & D.C. A curious and very rare piece. We have handled three of the sister-variant (GW-766, in white metal) in recent years, and with the obverse legend worded differently, "IN WAR ENEMIES." This example is not only a different composition, and with different presentation with its original frame, but is also from a different pair of dies (both dies differ from the other type). We suspect that it might even be of a different hand.

When Baker wrote of the general type in 1885, he knew only of the other one, and cataloged it based on the example in his own collection, in part: "The head of Washington quite neatly executed, cannot be assigned to any particular original. We are unable to give any information as to the engraver, or the time and purpose of publication." This is somewhat remarkable as not more than 20

years could have passed between the striking and Baker's writing. He clearly had never seen this variant, but if he had, we might have had a good chance of deciphering the engraved initials of the frame which must point to the issuer.

By 1999 when Russell Rulau and George Fuld published their revision of Baker's work, they still had uncovered nothing about this issue, though they knew of a single impression from these dies and cataloged it as unique. Today at least three are known: this one and the two plated in Musante. The one in Musante with the original ribbon seems to be the same specimen Rulau and Fuld plated in 1999.

With its more elaborate presentation and engraved frame, this is likely the original medal, made for whatever unknown organization or event. The white metal ones are probably copies of some sort, or unadopted trials. Most likely, this has some connection to the reconciliation between combatants of the North and South at the close of the Civil War in 1865. However, extensive study of the internet, with many guesses as to the words these initials stand for, has turned up nothing we can convincingly point to as an issuing organization.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 212.



Lovely Andrew Johnson Peace Medal The First Size



2189

1865 Andrew Johnson Indian Peace Medal. Musante GW-770, Julian IP-40, Prucha-52, Baker-173X var. (unlisted in Copper). Copper. First Size. Uncirculated Details—Damaged (PCGS). 75.8 mm. 4146.7 grains. A most handsome example of this medal with light caramel brown surfaces that feature traces of soft mottled pastel toning in the prooflike fields. Nuances of soft rose, blue-green, violet and gold are seen on both sides, while traces of faded orange remain close to the rims. Beautifully struck on a very thick flan, and exceptionally well preserved. Just a couple of trivial spots are noted in the fields and the satiny texture of the devices is gently smoothed on

the highest points of Johnson's hair. A rim bump is noted left of the date, accounting for the grade.

Though the Washington portrait is but a tiny bust on this large medal, and far from the central theme, this has long been included in cabinets of Washington portrait medals, usually in bronze, and probably out of little more than a kindly acknowledgement that Baker included this type in his 1885 work. This said, Washington is small but not insignificant in the reverse design.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) September 2009 Americana Sale, lot 6138.



2190

Circa 1867 The Union is the Main Prop of Our Liberty Medal by John Adams Bolen. Musante GW-796, Baker-259A, Musante JAB-25. Copper. MS-62 RB (PCGS). 25.2 mm. Rose and pale blue toning over faded orange copper. Some spots, a bit of lighter color on the highest points and field hairlines point to an old cleaning that has largely toned back. Minor green deposits are noted in the dentils. Just

16 are reported to have been struck by Bolen in copper, but others were made by J.W. Kline of Philadelphia, who acquired the dies. It is unknown how many were produced in total, but they are somewhat scarce. Fewer than 10 in copper are to be found in our online archives going back at least a dozen years.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, October 2001.



(image enlarged)

2191

Circa 1869 Washington in Stars / Signature Medalet by William H. Key. Musante GW-811, Baker-157A. Gold. MS-62 (PCGS). 9.6 mm. Lustrous light yellow gold on the obverse while the reverse exhibits a bit of deeper gold in the recesses. Sharp and well preserved, though a few minor marks and lines are noted. According to Baker, very few of these medals were struck before the die broke. A silver one from Baker's own collection is the only one in our online archives. This one, which PCGS determined to be the very rare gold variant, is a very special example, indeed!

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Gilbert Steinberg Collection; our (Stack's) sale of the Steinberg Collection, May 1992, lot 76; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 202.



2192

Circa 1876 Seventh Regiment New York Medal by Abraham Demarest. Musante GW-876, Baker-435B. White Metal. AU Details—Cleaned (PCGS). 44.9 mm. Satiny and uniform light gray surfaces, but harshly cleaned. A scarce medal nonetheless.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, April 2010.



2193

Circa 1876 California Medal by Albert Kuner. Musante GW-879, Baker-410A. White Metal, Silvered. MS-62 (PCGS). 42 mm. Bright silver-gray patina on very rough surfaces with diagonal striations evident on both sides. The California theme is a driver for appeal, as is the maker. Albert Kuner is better known for his part in producing several California territorial gold coins. According to Donald Kagin's research, Kuner, a native Bavarian goldsmith, arrived in California from New York on July 22, 1849 and found employment with Moffat & Company. It is believed that he did work for other firms as well, including Baldwin, Shultz and Dunbar.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our sale of November 2017, lot 120.



2194

Circa 1876 Danish Medal. MDCCLXXVI obverse. Musante GW-932, Baker-426A var. Copper, Gilt. SP-63 (PCGS). 52.6 mm. 992.7 grains. Brilliant gold surfaces with sharp, satiny devices and robust prooflike reflectivity in the fields that clarifies this was struck on a gilt flan and not plated afterwards. A few faint hairlines are noted in the fields but there are no visible breaks in the lovely surface. A variant that was not listed by Rulau and Fuld or by Musante, though we have handled a couple of examples over the years. This one is particularly attractive and would be a special way to enter this design into a collection.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Dr. Irving Schuster Collection; Bowers and Merena Galleries; Presidential Coin and Antique, via eBay, October 2008.



2195

Circa 1876 See How We Prosper Medal by Robert Laubenheimer. Musante GW-936, Baker-428A, HK-Unlisted, Socalledollar.com-7c. Copper. SP-62 (PCGS). 44.5 mm. 537.9 grains. Deep chocolate brown with gentle satin luster. A few minor marks are visible under magnification, but none is individually distracting or serious. Scarce in general, and notably rare in this composition.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Dr. Irving Schuster Collection; Bowers and Merena Galleries; Presidential Coin and Antique, via eBay, October 2008.



2197

1883 Washington Statue in Wall Street Medal by Lea Ahlborn, for the ANS. Musante GW-981, Baker S-319, Miller ANS-6. Bronze. MS-66 BN (PCGS). 57.2 mm. Beautiful deep mahogany red surfaces with a fine satin texture as always seen. Softly lustrous and virtually mark-free save for one bump on the edge of the plinth on which the Washington statue stands. Designed in America by Charles Osborne, but struck at the Royal Mint in Stockholm, Sweden. Although plans for a medal for the Centennial of Evacuation Day were set into motion well before the event, the backdated medals were not produced until late the following year and into the next. In all, 381 bronze specimens were produced. They feature an unusual concave obverse depicting the George Washington statue on the steps of the Sub-Treasury Building on Wall Street. The reverse has a more traditional rendering of the seals of the City of New York, the New York City Chamber of Commerce, and the American Numismatic Society. A type that is popular with both Washingtoniana enthusiasts and specialists in ANS medals.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, February 2004.



2196

Circa 1880 Membership Badge for Washington Legion No. 3 of the Knights of the Revolution. Plated Copper. Musante GW-Unlisted; Baker Y-105. Very Fine. 49.0 mm. 416.8 grains. Bright chromium appearance, as the few others seen. An XRF test on the surface of another example reveals this surfacing to be primarily a copper-nickel alloy. Two suspension chains but missing the pinbar that tends to be engraved with the member's name. A couple of corrosion spots, one of which near the sword reveals the copper core of this piece. A long misunderstood piece, cataloged by Rulau and Fuld as "silver" and dated to the 1800-1830 time period, based on a casual translation of the design features, without consideration of the *style*, which is rudimentary at best, and clearly more modern than suggested. We too have miscataloged this type in the past, relying upon the published works. In fact, this dates to around 1880, and was a membership badge of a fraternal order in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. "K of R," which has been speculated to stand for Knights of the Revolution, was assessed correctly by past writers. The organization of that name had been formed by 40 members (perhaps matching the number of such badges originally produced), but had been disbanded as of the 1924 publication date of *Lancaster County Pennsylvania, A History*, edited by H.M.J. Klein, Ph.D.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of the Ganter Collections, Part II, November 1994, lot 200; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 169.



2198

1883 Sons of the Revolution Medal. Musante GW-1007, Baker CA-678A. Silver. SP-62 (PCGS). 23.7 x 15.7 mm. Deeply toned with blue-green, rose and golden brown over dark steel gray silver. Gently prooflike in the fields with some handling including a small rim bump and a reverse dig at the rim near 1 o'clock. Usually seen within an engraved and enameled gold frame, and suspended from a ribbon. This was part of the Sons of the Revolution membership badge, the frame by Bailey, Banks and Biddle. These medallions are often gilt, but this one does not seem to have been so treated. Still, PCGS called this one gilt.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, November 2011.



2199

1883 Evacuation of New York Medal. Musante GW-1013, Baker-460B. White Metal. SP-63 (PCGS). 31.8 mm. Brilliant and prooflike with nicely frosted motifs. A few scattered tiny pesting flecks and small hairlines on the obverse, while the reverse is nearly pristine. Nice eye appeal for one of these, as many have been badly mishandled over the years or holed.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, July 2011.



2200

1887 International Medical Congress Medal by Charles Barber. Musante GW-1038, Baker F-378. Bronze. Uncirculated Details—Tooled (PCGS). 76.0 mm. 4083.8 grains. Light mahogany brown with some darker patina in the reverse recesses and a few small, superficial spots on the obverse. A few minor nicks including a couple gentle edge bumps, none of which is surprising considering the large size which would preclude easy storage in most cabinets of



a century ago or standard boxes of today. A small area of light tooling is noted at the back of the head. Though not cataloged by Robert Julian, this is considered a likely U.S. Mint medal, considering Chief Engraver Charles Barber cut the dies and the immense size would have required a powerful medal press to bring up the details.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our sale of November 2017, lot 121.



2201

1889 Brooklyn Bridge Medal by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-1087A, Baker-Unlisted, Douglas-7. Bronze. SP-64 (PCGS). 50.9 mm. 1164.7 grains. A delightful example of this medal in bronze, the scarcest and most desirable of the compositions by a wide margin. Deep chocolate and mahogany brown with prooflike character in the fields and subtle satiny texture on the devices. Faint accents of blue iridescence in the fields add to the visual appeal. Only minimal handling marks are noted, mostly on the reverse. The most serious of

these is a very faint scratch right of the sun rays that is barely noticed without magnification. Though the design type is fairly available, nearly all appearances are in white metal, and they are frequently marred. As noted, bronzes are quite scarce. Just three appearances are in our online archives compared to nearly 20 in white metal. This is among those bronzes, having last appeared in our September 2011 sale.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our sale of September 2011, lot 241.



2202

1889 Brooklyn Bridge Medal by George H. Lovett. Musante GW-1087A, Baker-Unlisted, Douglas-7A. White Metal. SP-63 (PCGS). 51.1 mm. 716.1 grains. Mostly brilliant surfaces accented by a faint trace of gold toning near the reverse center. Somewhat hairlined in the prooflike fields but the remaining surfaces don't show this at all, being bright and satiny. One small bump is noted beneath the bridge

on the reverse. A fairly attractive example, all things considered. A popular type struck in commemoration of the Washington Centennial of Inauguration.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased at the 2000 ANA Convention, source unrecorded.



2203

1889 Centennial of Inauguration Medal by Black, Starr & Frost. Musante GW-1108, Baker-Unlisted, Douglas-16. White Metal. MS-64 (PCGS). 50.7 mm. 912.4 grains. An exceptional example of this medal that is often found hairlined and much less attractive.

Boldly reflective fields and heavily frosted devices create a very appealing contrast. Beautifully struck and about as nice as these are ever seen.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, March 2002.



Lot 2204

1889 Centennial of Washington's Inauguration Medal by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Pre-Production Pattern. Musante GW-1135 var., Douglas-53, for type. Solid Bronze. MS-62 (PCGS).



Augustus Saint-Gaudens' 1889 Inaugural Centennial Medal

An Important Trial in Bronze

One of Only Two or Three Examples Known

2204

1889 Centennial of Washington's Inauguration Medal by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Pre-Production Pattern. Musante GW-1135 var., Douglas-53, for type. Solid Bronze. MS-62 (PCGS). 109.5 mm. 4734.7 grains. 4.7 millimeters to 4.2 millimeters at rims, 8.3 millimeters at thickest point. We are delighted to once again be able to offer this incredible medallic work, a trial used in the production process of the better-known final issue. It is glossy light mahogany and olive-brown, with a very consistent patina other than a couple of darker toned areas at the top Washington's head and over the O of COM at the upper right reverse. We last offered this in our September 2011 Americana sale, where it was described as follows, with minor edits:

The design of this important medal differs in several important aspects from the regular production issue. The great American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens had long since achieved international fame for sculpture in the round: public monuments, statuary, mortuary art. He was a profound admirer of the Renaissance medal, and this Washington commemorative was his first medal commission, created in the general style of the father of the Renaissance medal, Antonio Pisano, called Pisanello.

Washington had taken the oath office at Federal Hall in New York City on April 30, 1789 as the first president under the Constitution, a truly formative event in our nation's history. Former U.S. Secretary of State and Chairman of the Committee on Celebration Hamilton Fish only decided to have a medal at the end of 1888, leaving Saint-Gaudens and his associate Philip Martiny about four months to design, model and cast the required large-diameter medals. Saint-Gaudens preferred casting to medals struck from steel dies, especially in such ample size.

The medal would present a half-length civil bust of the first President facing left in a border of 13 widely spaced stars, GEORGE WASHINGTON above, a Roman Fasces at right with divided inscription PATER - PAT - RIAE / MDCCL - XX - XIX at center. The reverse presented a border of close-set stars around a spread eagle, TO COMMEMORATE above, 12-line inscription below identifies the cause of celebration, and a small Arms of New York City appears at lower left.

While generally similar to the adopted production design, this pattern shows significant differences. The obverse is surrounded by a high outer rim. The bust flares widely at base to 43.3 millimeters, and the four buttonholes in Washington's coat are absent altogether. The two-line inscription appearing on the adopted design, identifying Saint-Gaudens and Philip Martiny is wholly absent.

Washington's facial features are very different, presenting a large, almost bulbous nose, more jutting chin and peruke whose end is obscured by its ribbon tie. Details of the fasces are more sharply delineated, and all reverse lettering is larger, more closely set and more sharply squared throughout. The city arms is outlined at its borders and the raised outer rim is boldly toothed or denticulated.

This exciting prototype or pattern was unknown to Washingtoniana catalogers Susan Douglas, Russell Rulau and Dr. George Fuld. The first example to appear at public auction was a highlight of our (Stack's) January 2007 Americana Sale (lot 6834), where it climbed to a record realization of \$63,250.

This realized \$23,000 in our September 2011 sale, seemingly an inexplicable bargain in contrast to the first offered, considering that this one is a bit sharper overall with fewer natural casting pits.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) September 2011 Americana Sale, lot 247.



An 1849 print by Henry Sadd and John Neale, based on a painting by T. H. Matteson, depicting George Washington's first inauguration on April 30, 1789. (Library of Congress)



Lot 2205

1889 Centennial of Washington's Inauguration Medal by Augustus Saint-Gaudens.
Musante GW-1135 var., Douglas-53A. Silver Shells. AU-55 (PCGS).



Extremely Rare 1889 Inaugural Centennial Medal in Silver The Third Example We Have Offered

2205

1889 Centennial of Washington's Inauguration Medal by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Musante GW-1135 var., Douglas-53A. Silver Shells. AU-55 (PCGS). 112.2 mm. 5378.1 grains. 5.2 mm thick at the rims. Approximately 9.7 mm thick at the highest relief. Edge marked GORHAM.MFG.CO / STERLING. Another very rare variant of this popular medal, one of just three we have handled in silver. Satiny deep gray with some lighter highlights on the highest points of the motifs. Slight mottling on both sides and traces of ruddy brown patina in a couple of the recesses. A beautiful specimen of this classic American medallion sculpture by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, an extremely rare medal in this silver composition, produced from two cast silver shells, as all seen. Some mild handling softness on the high points. One faint scratch is visible in the right obverse field, and another is seen across the small shield at the upper reverse, but the surfaces are fairly clean otherwise. A few tiny edge marks are also seen. According to C.W. Bowen's *The History of the Centennial Celebration of the Inauguration of George Washington*, just ten of these were produced. Those we are aware of are as follows:

- 1) Richard Watson Gilder Specimen. Given to Saint-Gaudens' friend and member of the Committee of Art for the Inauguration Centennial Celebration. 112.1mm, 345.9 grams. Edge marked GORHAM. MFG. CO STERLING.
- 2) Stack's September 2011 Philadelphia Americana Sale, lot 249. 112.5 mm, 347.3 grams. Edge marked GORHAM. MFG. CO STERLING. **The Present Example.**
- 3) Southern Private Collection. Edge marked GORHAM. MFG. CO STERLING.
- 4) Fritz Rudolf Kunker Auction 247, lot 5631. 112.08mm. Edge marked GORHAM. MFG. CO STERLING.
- 5) Stack's January 2007 Americana Sale, lot 6835; Stack's September 2009 Philadelphia Americana Sale, lot 6215;

Stack's Bowers Galleries August 2012 ANA Sale, lot 11146. 111.1 mm, 354.1 grams. Edge marked GORHAM. MFG. CO [symbols for lion passant, anchor, and gothic G] STERLING.

- 6) Western Ohio Private Collection. 348.9 grams. Edge marked GORHAM. MFG. CO [symbols for lion passant, anchor, and gothic G] STERLING.
- 7) American Numismatic Society Collection. #0000.999.39468. 112 mm, 345.5 grams. Edge marked GORHAM. MFG. CO [symbols for lion passant, anchor, and gothic G] STERLING.

A silver example was offered in Stack's January 2002 Americana Sale, lot 434. which is undoubtedly genuine but of anomalous size and construction. At 106.6 mm it is smaller than other known examples in silver and is constructed of a 7.5mm thick collar joining silver shells for a total weight of 392.54 grams. It is in a private east coast collection. Though reported otherwise in the past, there is no specimen in silver in the New York Historical Society, a fact we have confirmed with their curator.

This medal was designed and conceived by Saint-Gaudens, the massive medallion reflecting his love for Renaissance-style cast medals as an artistic medium, and his former assistant Philip Martiny (later artistic director of the World's Columbian Exposition, 1892-93) created the models from which the medals were cast. The medals were cast in bronze for sale to the public, and many of those medals exist today. They are considerably thinner than the silver specimens and significantly lighter. The medals of this size were all cast by Gorham, the great Providence and New York jewelry and decorative arts firm also used by Saint-Gaudens to cast his Robert Gould Shaw Memorial and other works. A smaller imitative medal, design to be worn by committee members at the inauguration celebrations, was produced by Tiffany.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our Americana Sale of September 2011, lot 249.



2206

1889 Washington Inaugural Centennial Shell. Musante GW-1139, Baker-Unlisted; Douglas-59. Brass Shell, lead backing. MS-63 (PCGS). 48.9 mm. 386.2 grains. Satiny light golden surfaces with soft luster and no notable impairments except for a gentle indent in the flan just left of Washington's neck. The integral suspension hanger is intact. A handsome example of this rare piece that is not represented at all in our online archives. Called "rare" by Rulau and Fuld in their revision of *Medallic Portraits*, and "very scarce" by Musante.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, December 2008.



2207

1892-1893 World's Columbian Exposition Declaration of Independence Medal. Musante GW-Unlisted, Baker-Unlisted, Eglit-36A, Rulau-X9. White Metal, Gilt. Uncirculated Details—Mounted (PCGS). 58.4 mm. 786.3 grains. Applied suspension loop at 12 o'clock. Edge marked W. BOLDENWECK & CO / PAT'D OCT. 7 1890. Satiny light golden surfaces with just a few superficial oxidation spots. Rare with this finish.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, September 2010.



2208

1892-1893 World's Columbian Exposition Declaration of Independence Medal. Musante GW-Unlisted, Baker-Unlisted, Eglit-36A, Rulau-X9. White Metal. Plain edge. SP-63 (PCGS). 58.5 mm. 758.3 grains. With an unmarked edge. Generally bright and prooflike with only a few tiny pesting spots, mostly along the rims. Satisfying eye appeal for this issue.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, October 2004.



2209

1899 Alexandria Washington Lodge Death Centennial Medal. Musante GW-Unlisted; Baker-1837. Bronze. Uncirculated Details—Mounted (PCGS). 37.5 mm. 429.3 grains. Original affixed hanger and jump rings intact. Deep mahogany bronze with glossy surfaces and only a couple of trivial handling marks. The original suspension bar is included, along with a piece of the blue silk ribbon. The condition of the medal itself is remarkable considering the state

of the ribbon! A scarce medal for its vintage. Inexplicably not graded due to the mount, which is clearly a well-designed custom mount original to this piece, and as issued. The original suspension bar and part of the ribbon remain, and are included.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Aquilino, December 2003.



2210

1900 Hall of Fame for Great Americans Medal by Anton Scharff. Musante GW-Unlisted, Baker-E356. Silver. Uncirculated Details—Mounted (PCGS). 69.7 mm. 2038.2 grains. Screwed in suspension loop at 12 o'clock. Edge marked J.C in rectangular cartouche, as typical, with the secondary "head-in-petals" edge mark described by Rulau not executed well enough to decipher clearly, though it is present. Pale gray silver with traces of deeper patina in some of the peripheral recesses. Hairlined from old cleaning, but not

unattractive. The dies for this type were prepared in Austria by Anton Scharff, whose "signature" is seen at the lower right of the obverse. Scharff was a medalist employed by the Vienna Mint from 1866. The secondary edge mark mentioned above, clear on some examples, is a Vienna "inspection mark," as per Seymour Wyler's *The Book of Old Silver*. The medals were actually struck by the firm of Joseph Christian Christelbauer (1820-1897), which continued the use of his J.C mark after his death.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, March 2004.



2211

1902 Philo Lodge 444 Sesquicentennial of George Washington's Initiation into Freemasonry Medal. Musante GW-Unlisted; Baker PA-297. Bronze. MS-64 (PCGS). 51.4 mm. 1363.8 grains. Light olive bronze with fine satiny surfaces and subtle luster. Beautifully preserved with almost no contact marks and just a few trivial spots visible under magnification. Seemingly a different finish than we have seen on others from these dies.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Aquilino, December 2001.



2212

1902 Washington Oval Peace Medal Facsimile by the Buffalo Historical Society. Musante GW-Unlisted, Baker-174F. Silvered Copper. Choice About Uncirculated. 101.2 x 75.1 mm. 1991.4 grains. Satiny medium to deep gray patina throughout with almost no breaks in the surface, though a couple of tiny edge nicks seem to reveal the base metal beneath, as described by Rulau and Fuld. Struck as a publicity piece in celebration of the museum's acquisition of arguably the most historically significant of the genuine Washington ovals, that presented by Washington to Red Jacket. It was a centerpiece of their collections until its May 2021 repatriation to the Seneca Nation.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from the Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of December 1993, lot 78; David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique's sale of June 2011, lot 214.



2214

1908 Missouri Sons of the Revolution Medal. Musante GW-Unlisted; Baker-Unlisted. Bronzed Lead. Very Fine. 46.2 mm. With integral suspension hanger. A somewhat crude cast made from the obverse of the circa 1891 Chatham Artillery medal. The plain reverse is engraved, BY THE / Mo. SONS OF THE / REVOLUTION / FEBRUARY 22, 1908. The only one we have seen.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Aquilino, December 2001.

2213

“1789” (Circa 1915?) Nebraska Private Indian Peace Medal. Musante GW-1148 for type, Baker-173M. Copper. Uncirculated Details—Cleaned (PCGS). 63.2 mm. 1651.5 grains. An antiqued finish with warm orange copper on most of the high points and a deeper patina in the recesses. The “original” medals of this series were circulated among Native Americans, seemingly from Pender, Nebraska, in the 1890s. They frequently appear suspended around the necks of Native Americans in period photographs. Those medals were white metal, or pewter, and though a few impressions exist in copper, this one has a decidedly more modern appearance due to the unusual finish. The vintage given above is but a guess, but is probably accurate, give or take a decade.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the David Hirsch Collection; Presidential Coin and Antique’s sale of June 2011, lot 213.



2215

1908 50th Anniversary Medal of the Washington Chapter, Chicago. Musante GW-Unlisted; Baker G-310. Bronze. Uncirculated Details—Cleaned (PCGS). 56.9 mm. Pale orange copper in the fields and reliefs, while all are outlined by a deep steel patina. Either cleaned, or with a poorly applied antiqued finish, popular in the early 20th century.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Aquilino, June 2001.



2216

1913 Washington Statue in Argentina Memorial Plaque. Musante GW-Unlisted; Baker-Unlisted. Silver. Mint State. 49.8 x 70.9 mm. 1361.1 grains. Soft golden and steel gray surfaces, with little handling evident. An impressive art plaque featuring a depiction of a statue of Washington erected in Argentina in 1913. According to a translation of the reverse legend, this was erected as a gift from Citizens of

the United States living in Latin America, in commemoration of Argentina's 1810 May Revolution, regarded as the beginning of the Argentine War of Independence. The first we recall having seen. Attractive and likely quite rare, especially in silver.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Aquilino, August 2000.



2217

1913 Washington Statue in Argentina Memorial Plaque. Musante GW-Unlisted; Baker-Unlisted. Bronze. Mint State. 50.3 x 70.6 mm. 1377.3 grains. Satiny deep chocolate brown with faint steel overtones. A second example of this apparently rare plaque, though perhaps less precious than the silver one in the previous lot, it does not seem less rare as we do not recall having handled another. The obverse features a depiction of a statue of Washington erected in Argentina in 1913.

According to a translation of the reverse legend, this was erected as a gift from Citizens of the United States living in Latin America, in commemoration of Argentina's 1810 May Revolution, regarded as the beginning of the Argentine War of Independence.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Aquilino, August 2000.



2218

1914 Society of the Cincinnati Triennial Meeting Medal. Musante GW-Unlisted, Baker U-345. Bronze. MS-64 (PCGS). 50.7 mm. Light golden bronze with an antiqued finish, finely matte surfaces and soft luster. Only the most trivial handling is noted. Accompanied by the original white cardboard box of issue, with a cover label printed in pale blue. A slight separation is noted in the box base, and the label edge is chipped slightly, but it is intact otherwise. According to the entry in the Rulau-Fuld revision of *Medallic Portraits*, one of these medals was presented to “each general officer, delegate and alternate at the triennial meeting of the General Society of the Cincinnati at Baltimore” and the design was taken from a 1783-vintage proposal for a medal that was never struck at the time.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Stan Steinberg, January 2007.



2219

1916 Washington — Artistic Coinage Medal by Thomas Elder. Musante GW-Unlisted, Baker-728 for type, DeLorey-99. Brass, Gilt. MS-64 (PCGS). Brilliant and satiny light golden brass with a few scattered fine patina specks. Listed by Rulau and Fuld, but not in this composition.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Ernie Latter via eBay, January 2016.



2220

Circa 1917 Washington “Dog Tag” by Thomas Elder. Musante GW-Unlisted, Baker-Unlisted, DeLorey-102. German Silver. MS-63 (PCGS). Satiny light gray with just a few minor marks. A much later use of Robert Lovett, Jr.’s circa 1859 obverse. This can be found on page 249 of the Rula-Fuld revision of Baker. It was erroneously assigned “B-621” by Rulau and Fuld, duplicating that Baker number.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. From our sale of October 2018, lot 10071.



2221

1931 Capitulation of Yorktown Medal by Pierre Turin. Musante GW-Unlisted; Baker K-454 var. Silver. SP-62 (PCGS). 67.4 mm. 2144.6 grains. Deep gray toning with subtle rainbow overtones close to the devices and somewhat lighter gray color across the gently rubbed high points. A fine matte finish, typical of the era. Struck at the Paris Mint and marked on the edge with a cornucopia and "2 ARGENT." Apparently unknown to Rulau and Fuld in silver, as they only list this medal in bronze. This is likely very rare, and one of but a small handful of truly thoughtful Washington medals produced in this era, among many other poorly conceived pieces mass-produced for ephemeral commercial purposes. In silver, this is a special medal.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Ralph A. Edson Collection; our sale of October 2018, lot 10132.



2222

1976 Washington's Farewell Medal by MACO. Musante GW-Unlisted, Baker-Unlisted. Platinum. One Troy Ounce. MS-63+PL (PCGS). 32.2 mm. 480.6 grains. Brilliant platinum surfaces with deeply mirrored fields and sharp, frosty devices. Struck at the time of the Bicentennial, celebrating Washington's resignation of his military command and farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York, December 4, 1783. Marked on the edge as to its Platinum fineness, .999 Fine, MACO and 1 Troy Ounce.

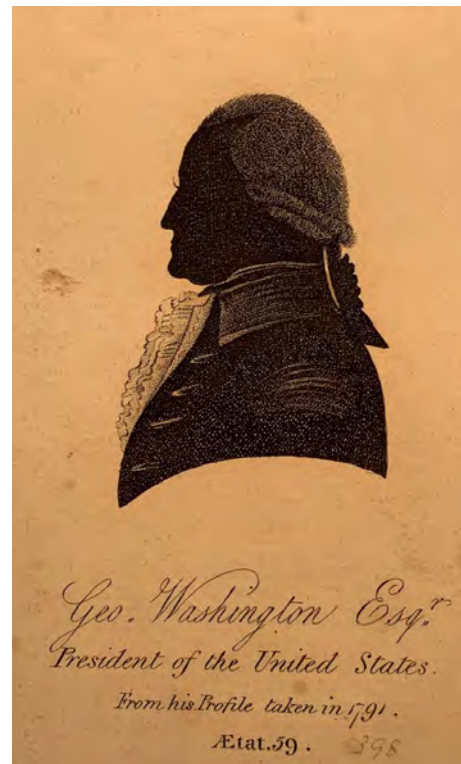
From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Bill Aquilino, January 2004.



2223

1982 Washington Portrait Medalet. Musante GW-Unlisted, Baker-Unlisted. Gold. Mint State. 15.7 mm. 7.8 grains. Brilliant and prooflike with satiny devices and just a trace of light buildup near the rims. Satiny and incuse on the reverse. Noted as a brockage, but the satiny texture is not reflective of a surface struck in that manner. This was probably made this way and intended for attachment to a larger item. Light scratches on the reverse.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Robert Moffatt, February 2014.





THE SYDNEY F. MARTIN COLLECTION OF EARLY AMERICAN BUTTONS

Featuring Washington Inaugurals and Related Issues

In the late 18th century clothing buttons in America were no small deal. They were necessities, and unlike today, they were not objects to be taken for granted. The means of manufacture were far better established in Europe than in America. At the same time, it was well understood that anything manufactured in America was good for the American economy, so efforts were made to establish button manufactories in the United States. An example of this sentiment may be found in a January 1789 notice regarding John Hancock's attire:

It must give pleasure to every patriot to hear of preference and encouragement being given to the manufactures in our country, by its most exalted citizens. We have recently mentioned several instances wherein this has been the case, and have the satisfaction of being informed, that his excellency the governor now wears a suit of green, the intire [sic] product of this state, with a silver button, manufactured at Philadelphia.

There were clearly American makers, but the vast majority of buttons advertised at the time were produced in England. Only the occasional print advertisement would mention buttons of American origin, generally with a comment that they were of good quality, lest the reader be left to wonder. One such maker, William Storer, advertised his shop in Rutland, Vermont, in 1794:

The subscriber informs the Public in general, and merchants in particular, that he has commenced the button making business, at his shop...where he makes and sells fashionable white metal coat and vest buttons, of various patrons [sic], of the first american [sic] quality, which he affords by the quantity, at a very low rate.

Brothers William and Benjamin Buel advertised their Fairhaven Button Manufactory in Vermont, in October 1791, offering to make "fashionable coat and vest buttons, of all kinds...of any pattern they wish for on easier terms than they can be purchased in New York by the same quantity."

It is also clear that buttons, though necessary utilitarian objects, were precious and generally worthy of note. Numerous newspaper announcements of runaway slaves included mention of the types of buttons found on the person's clothing, including commentary on the colors and designs. While these were simply a matter of identification in those cases, it is notable that buttons were special enough that it would be expected that a reader of the period would notice them.

The cases where metallic button designs are specified are quite scarce. One such mention was printed in June 1789, describing the buttons on the coat of John Hancock, worn during his inauguration as governor of Massachusetts: "The buttons on the coat of his Excellency were of silver, and of American manufacture—the device, a shepherd shearing his sheep—The motto, 'You gain more by our lives than our deaths.'" Another mention, in 1788, described some lost buttons as "white metal buttons flowered around the edge."

Most mentions by sellers of the period included more generic language to describe their offerings such as, from 1785, "The most fashionable plated and gilt buttons, for gentlemens [sic] wear and ladies riding dresses;" from 1788, "an assortment of common & Metal buttons;" from 1789, "a complete assortment of coat and vest buttons;" from 1791, "a variety of fashionable coat and breast metal buttons; from 1793, "coat and vest buttons of the newest fashion" and "buttons of various patterns from London, Bristol, Liverpool and Hull;" and from 1794, "Federal coat and vest buttons." Nowhere has the writer been able to find specific mention of the George Washington inaugural buttons for sale in print advertisements. These were not prepared in advance of or directly for wearing at the inaugural event, but rather as part of the broader class of "fashionable buttons" sold alongside other options in the era of the first presidential administration. This assertion is not dissimilar from comments by J. Harold Cobb, taken from the Rulau-Fuld revision of William Spohn Baker's *Medallic Portraits of Washington*, "the reason [little factual information] is known is that these buttons were considered at the time in the same category as we consider a fine pair of cufflinks and a tie pin today — accessories for the well-groomed gentleman and not considered as unusual possessions requiring historic reference or picturization."

One reference we have found that points to similar motifs being worn as adornment is from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of November 11, 1789, where a reception of Washington was discussed: "Not confined to the male creation are the testimonials of respect paid to the illustrious PRESIDENT of the United States—The ladies have invented sashes on which the bald-eagle of the Union, and G.W. hold conspicuous places."

The occasionally expressed supposition that the various "inaugural buttons" were produced to be worn at the inaugural event makes little sense for the time. In 1789, just about everything relating to the new government was, to a degree, uncertain. The idea that any button maker, European or American, would produce such objects on what could



only be deemed speculative terms in advance of an expected inauguration of an American president is simply not realistic. But, it is likely that once the deed was done, manufacturers saw opportunity and production quickly commenced.

The buttons that reference “GW” and the “the President” clearly commemorate the inauguration of George Washington. These were markers of the broadly held sentiments of affection and respect found among the citizens of the United States for their first American Executive—a man who had already experienced years of adoration, verging on hero worship, before being officially anointed as the new nation’s first formal leader. The other types can’t be so directly tied to Washington, however, but this circumstance does not diminish any of them in the least. In fact, it only serves to raise their station. Those emblazoned with “Long Live the

President” without the assignment of a person could be argued to celebrate the office of the presidency, a statement far more impactful than one that points to any individual person. Those with generic eagles likely celebrate the new nation as a whole, again a broad patriotic fashion statement. None of these buttons were produced as something so ephemeral as to be worn at a single event of governmental process, and in this lies their true historical value. Each of these buttons that have been broadly classed as inaugurals over the years really points to an individual American who, likely for the years of the first presidency and perhaps well after, chose to proudly display on his person a marker of patriotic support for the new American system of government, one conceived by a few Signers and born of bloody revolution.

BUTTONS OF THE MEMORABLE ERA

This button type, prized as the lone dated issue traditionally cataloged among the Washington inaugural buttons, is not an inaugural button at all. It is, in fact, something much more significant. The Confederation Congress, the governmental body that predated that of the United States and operated under the Articles of Confederation, selected March 3, 1789, as its official close of business. The following day, March 4, 1789, was likewise specified as the first day of operations for the United States, governed by the United States Constitution. It is the official beginning of the nation identified as the United States, as we know it today, the beginning of a most Memorable Era. The first inauguration of George Washington would not happen for several weeks, on April 30, 1789.

Lovely 1789 Memorable Era Button in Brass Original Shank



2224

1789 Memorable Era Button. Cobb-4, Albert WI-1A, DeWitt-GW 1789-4, Baker-1010. Brass. Choice Very Fine. 34.0 mm. Original shank intact. Light golden brass on the obverse with darker patina in the recessed designs that allows them to sharply stand out in a visual sense. The back is toned virtually to slate. Some ancient faint scratches on the obverse have largely smoothed out with wear, though all the details remain fairly crisp. A very attractive example of this popular and immensely historic type that has long been associated with the Washington inaugural buttons and considered a highlight among the various types.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jim Skalbe, July 2008.

A Second Memorable Era in Brass Ex F.C.C. Boyd-John J. Ford, Jr.



2225

1789 Memorable Era Button. Cobb-4, Albert WI-1A, DeWitt-GW 1789-4, Baker-1010. Brass. About Very Fine. 34.0 mm. Shank lost. Glossy olive brown surfaces are quite pleasing upon first inspection, though up close one can see that the surfaces were abraded during the normal course of use. Some traces of light porosity are also noted, suggesting that the lost shank might have resulted in this button itself having been lost for a short time. However, as noted, the eye appeal is still quite good. A trace of weakness at the upper right of the shield is the only point at which there is noteworthy loss of design, but the all-important and immensely historic legend is full and crisp. As discussed in the introduction to this section, this type has long been accepted as a Washington inaugural button, but that is not only incorrect, but also a diminishment of its true commemorative purpose.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex F.C.C. Boyd; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack’s) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 234.



Outstanding Memorable Era Button in Copper With Original Shank



2226

1789 Memorable Era Button. Cobb-4a, Albert WI-1A, DeWitt-GW 1789-4, Baker-1010A. Copper. Extremely Fine. 34.0 mm. Original shank intact. Rich brown copper with a faint rosy tone on the obverse from ancient cleaning, a remnant of the "care" these beloved buttons were often shown by their original owners. This is glossy and very sharp on the face with minimal handling or wear, though an ancient scratch passes through the right side of the shield. Slightly wavy, but with superb eye appeal and crisply defined details throughout. An old "#2" is inked in red on the back, and this side exhibits more rosy copper as well as a couple of natural casting voids. An exceptional example of the type, long identified as a Washington inaugural button. Rarer in copper than in brass.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the Herbert Oechsner Collection, September 1998, lot 1485; the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.

A Second Memorable Era in Copper With Original Shank



2227

1789 Memorable Era Button. Cobb-4a, Albert WI-1A, DeWitt-GW 1789-4, Baker-1010A. Copper. Extremely Fine. 33.9 mm. Original shank intact, but bent to one side. Pleasing golden brown copper is glossy and free of any but the most trivial signs of wear and handling on the obverse. A few scratches are noted on the reverse for accuracy. The designs are boldly stamped with even the finer details neatly delineated. This is actually marginally nicer than the button above from the face, but we have placed it second due to the bent shank which a purist might find less desirable. But, for the most significant part, the clarity of its immensely historic design, this one would be hard to beat.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jim Skalbe, July 2008.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON INAUGURAL AND OTHER PRESIDENTIAL BUTTONS

Though Washington's first term as President was to officially begin with the startup of the United States on March 4, complete establishment of the Executive Branch was delayed. The first meeting of the new Congress occurred on that day but was adjourned quickly as the attendance was insufficient to proceed. The House of Representatives first successfully met on April 1, and the Senate on April 6, the day both chambers convened for the first time in a joint session, allowing for the counting of electoral votes and certification of Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections. John Adams as Vice-President and presiding officer of the Senate, was sworn in on April 21, and Washington was administered his oath of office on April 30, 1789, at Federal Hall in New York City. Many of the buttons that follow memorialize and celebrate the first president, with a common GW motif in various styles. Others carry the

legend, LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT, some complementing a "GW," others in a more generic presentation that leaves open to interpretation the assignment of the chief executive. As such, it is possible that some of these were intended to celebrate the office of the presidency more than the executive, allowing them to be sold and worn in honor of presidential administrations beyond Washington's.

Some would assume the LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT legend to simply be an alteration of the English standard, LONG LIVE THE KING, but in fact, its first relevant utterance was made upon the closing of Washington's first inauguration. Chancellor of New York Robert Livingston, who administered Washington's oath, is reported to have turned to the crowd of spectators after his duty was done, shouting, "Long Live George Washington, President of the United States!"





Iconic General Washington / Pater Patriae Button A Distinctive Portrait Button The Prize of the Series



(Photo Enlarged)

2228

Circa 1780s General Washington Button. Pater Patriae. Cobb-20, Albert WI-B, DeWitt-GW 1789-41 (note), Baker-1014. Copper, backed in pewter, with iron shank. Fine, or so. 24.8 mm. 127.1 grains. Glossy light orange copper on the obverse from old cleaning typical of such buttons. Somewhat deeper patina in the recesses of the incuse design helps to accentuate its fine details. A few scratches and some light porosity are noted throughout, this being somewhat more attractive at a short distance than under magnification, but the design is fairly complete in delineation and there are no serious defects beyond the noted normal wear. The back is apparently a pewter alloy. Remarkably, the original iron shank remains intact, though thin and certainly compromised by oxidation to a degree.

This is the first example of this button we have handled in nearly two decades, the last being in our presentation of the Cobb Collection in January 2003, which included his personal specimen, now at Colonial Williamsburg. It was sharper and cleaner than this, also with a pewter back and iron shank, but it had a small edge chip near 1 o'clock, creating a window into the structure of these buttons. It realized just over \$25,000 in a very different market landscape. Since that time, two superior quality examples have sold at auction for more than \$200,000 each, raising the bar considerably for the best pieces. While the condition of this is not nearly as good as those, it is *complete* and no less rare. It is believed that fewer than ten of these buttons exist.

The vintage of this button has historically been casually assigned to 1789, as is the case for all the "Washington Inaugural" buttons. However, this has been called into question over the years, including suggestions that it might have been made later for collectors. There is evidence, however, that 1789 is closer to the proper vintage, or perhaps even too *late*.

The first notable piece of evidence is the existence of a very similar button celebrating British Admiral George Brydges Rodney. The two buttons are of identical artistic style, and both were produced from dies designed to make them appear hand-engraved. They also seem to share punch styles and are similar enough to suggest they could be by the same hand.

Admiral Rodney was famous for his commands during the American Revolution. He returned to England in 1782 where laudatory medals were struck honoring him circa 1781-1782 for his various exploits, at the height of his fame. He died in 1792, and his fame had largely predeceased him. It is highly unlikely that a figure such as Rodney would be selected for such a button much later than the apex of his fame, and even more unlikely that such would date to after the War (or after his passing), as his decisions proved more central to Lord Cornwallis's surrender in 1781 than to anything warranting long celebration. Had a manufacturer been seeking a valuable British subject for a commercial enterprise of later vintage, Rodney would not have been high on the list. As such, the Rodney buttons are likely from a fairly tight time frame, around 1782, the same period as the Rodney medals.

The construction itself is another good piece of evidence for an early vintage of the Washington buttons. According to Stephen Hinks' 1988 master's thesis for William and Mary College, *A Structural and Functional Analysis of Eighteenth Century Buttons*, there are four recognized technological stages of manufacture for this type of button construction, all of which were in use between roughly the mid-1700s to just after the turn of the century. These buttons are made of three parts, a stamped face, a backing of various types, and a shank that is affixed through the back. In the most fragile of these forms the shank was constructed of catgut, threaded through holes in the backing material which was made of ivory, wood or bone. Later developments included the replacement of catgut shanks with more durable metal ones of brass or iron, and replacement of the wood or bone backs with metal. At least one example of this Washington button has been reported with a bone and catgut back construction. It is referenced in our January 2003 sale as having been in the Fuld collection. The Sullivan-DeWitt entry for the type also describes it, with a note that the type also exists as a lead-filled copper shell with an iron shank, speaking directly to the style featured here.

Erik Goldstein, curator at Colonial Williamsburg, kindly examined their example closely and offered helpful commentary



on the construction. He noted that the copper face of that button was a thin shell, "strikingly similar to the repoussé faces made for the paste-filled and bone-backed buttons popular during the Revolutionary War period." He also confirmed that their specimen had a back similar to that seen here, with a shank of tinned iron "of the same basic form normally found cast into the pewter buttons made for British soldiers from the 1760s through the Crimean War." He observed that the back seems to have been poured into the copper shell while molten, and then finished smooth around the shank, a finishing feature sometimes referred to in button jargon as having been "spun." Most of the buttons with this basic construction are formed from backs with the copper shell faces crimped around the backing material. In this detail, these buttons are unusual and outliers, but Erik further commented that they have much more in common with buttons of the 18th century than anything produced as late as the mid-19th century. It is worth considering also that this type of construction was not simple and if these buttons were made much later, it would be highly unlikely for a maker to use this complex, largely obsolete form. The purported existence of one with the bone and catgut backing is further evidence that these are legitimate and of the period.

The portrait on this button is somewhat distinctive among all medallion depictions of Washington. It is also extremely similar to that seen in the central vignette of a rare Revolutionary period handkerchief in the collections of the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

The handkerchief is in cream cotton, printed in red, and measures approximately 24 x 27 inches. Washington is featured in an ornate central vignette, with an inscription on a broad ribbon below, "Commander in chief of the forces of the thirteen united provinces of North America." His identity, GENERAL WASHINGTON, is on a narrower ribbon at the top. Other patriots are featured, but each with only his name: John Adams is at the upper left, General Lincoln at lower left, Benjamin [Franklin] at upper right, and General Gre[ene] at lower right (missing pieces account for incomplete names).

According to information provided by the museum, a variant of this British-made handkerchief also exists featuring British military men, with a similar layout and color scheme. The version with the American men is published in Herbert Ridgeway Collins' book, *Threads of History: Americana Recorded on Cloth 1775 to the Present*. Therein, Collins dates this handkerchief to 1774-1778, and notes that the Washington portrait is probably copied from a portrait by Alexander Campbell.

Campbell is something of a mystery. He was credited as the source for two mezzotint copperplate engraved portraits titled *George Washington, Esqr. General and Commander in Chief of the Continental Army in America*. These were published in England, in 1775, and bore the imprint "Drawn from the life by Alexr. Campbell of Williamsburgh in Virginia." According to the website of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, "there was no such person as Alexander Campbell living in Williamsburg, Virginia. The inscription on this and two other engravings of Washington are the only record of a painter or draftsman named Alexander Campbell." The museum curator concluded that Campbell might not have existed at all, being simply a spurious American source intended to make the English prints more desirable and easier to sell.

The date range of 1774-1778 probably assumes that the supposed Campbell original was accomplished shortly before the 1775-dated print, providing a natural starting point for the portrait style. However, the title of Commander in Chief was not proper until at least June 19, 1775, when Washington was Commissioned as such by Congress.

Since there are two such handkerchiefs, one with American subjects and the other British, a brief study of the 10 featured men is possible, and their various achievements, ranks and titles suggests to us that the handkerchiefs likely date to a very brief window of time, 1781-1783. They are likely of British manufacture, which would align with the British distribution of the aforementioned 1775 Washington engraving, as well as this button (and that featuring Rodney), also likely British. Comparison of the portraits on the buttons, handkerchiefs and mezzotints reveal that those on the buttons and the textile are more similar to each other than either is to the mezzotints, so it stands to reason that they are more directly related. Quite possibly one of these forms served as the model for the other. The undeniably strong similarities between these portraits and the rarities of both forms are somewhat suggestive of contemporary manufacture, perhaps in very close proximity, adding to the body of evidence supporting a 1780s vintage of this button type. As late Revolutionary period pieces, the significance of these would be far greater than those buttons more properly classed as Washington Inaugurals, adding some solid reasoning for the prices that these have realized in recent years. They would be the first of the Washington commemorative buttons, produced in Britain in acknowledgement of an opposing commanding officer, at a time when the outcome of the War was still uncertain. That in itself is quite remarkable. They would also be among the earliest Washington portraits in metal.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's sale of September 2019, lot 43005.



Handkerchief, American or British, 1781-1783, Cotton, Collection of the Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia, PA



Intriguing Washington Portrait Medal Related to the Famous *Pater Patriae* Button



(Photo Enlarged)

2229

Circa 1780s(?) General Washington Portrait Medal. General Washington / Pater Patriae. As Cobb-20, Albert WI-B, DeWitt-GW 1789-41 and Baker-1014, for design. Uniface. Copper. Choice Extremely Fine. 25.5 mm. 102.8 grains. Rich chocolate brown with glossy and very pleasing surfaces. An incredibly curious piece that we have never seen before. It clearly relates to the famous *Pater Patriae* button, but in what specific manner, we do not know. Sydney Martin's notes indicated that he believed it a die for the buttons, but being relatively soft copper, and with no shank (die shank, not button shank) or substantial backing, it would have been fairly ineffective in such a capacity.

We are left to describe it exactly how it appears. The primary observation is that all features are in mirror image to the buttons, with all design elements in relief as opposed to incuse. Not insignificantly, this piece has every appearance of being die-struck, but interestingly, from a die that appears to be quite worn. There is extensive evidence of die spalling through the fields, as well as flowlines, particularly close to the rims where the letters of the legend are at least partially distorted. An obvious die crack extends from the rim beneath the T of *PATRIAE* to the base of the P in that word, across the exergual line.

The recesses of the design on the actual buttons exhibit a heavily ridged patterning, which is especially notable in the exergual line, but all the raised features on this piece are smooth. Still, close comparison of the letters on both pieces suggest them to be virtually identical. In fact, a transparency overlay done by or for Syd Martin comparing this piece to one of the buttons illustrates that the designs do indeed line up rather precisely.

The flan is solid, and rings nicely. The edge is neatly filed nearly the entire way around, perpendicularly with respect to the plane of the flan, as the reeding on a struck coin would be, though it is far from perfectly even and clearly applied post-striking. Just two short areas of the edge are free of this filing, both with a nice rounded form and of almost equal length. One such point is near 4 o'clock, while the other is just above Washington's hat.

This is an absolutely fascinating item and likely unique. The assumption must be made that this piece had something to do with the original production process of the related buttons, but we do not know what that might have been. Therefore, as suggested in our main line, perhaps this is simply best understood as something beyond the context of the buttons, as a unique, uniface, and heretofore unpublished Washington portrait medal.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Discovered in England by Jim King and purchased from him, August 2007.



Smooth GW in Oval Button with Narrow Spacing With Original Shank



2230

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW in oval. Cobb-5, Albert WI-11A, DeWitt-GW 1789-7, Baker-1016. Brass. Extremely Fine. 34.1 mm. Original shank intact. A particularly choice example of this classic button. Rich chocolate brown with an unusually glossy, smooth and pleasing surface. Closer study reveals light old scratches and scuffs from use, but those are barely noticed without careful examination. The eye appeal is about as nice as is ever seen. Though the face of the button looks to be copper, the more mottled toning of the back is more suggestive of brass, which we believe this to be. All details are sharp and well balanced. The variety with the tightest spacing of the GW.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the Herbert Oechsner Collection, September 1988, lot 1487; the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.

A Second Narrow-Spaced GW in Oval



2231

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW in oval. Cobb-5, Albert WI-11A, DeWitt-GW 1789-7, Baker-1016. Brass. Extremely Fine. 34.0 mm. Original shank intact. Lovely light greenish olive brown on the obverse with somewhat more mahogany coloration in the finely stippled recesses. Mild wear and handling as expected for the grade, but without any serious marks worthy of mention. This button was once tinned and remnants of same are noted in the more protected areas of the reverse. A very handsome specimen of this iconic Washington button. Bold details, evenly impressed. The variety with the narrow spacing of the GW element.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jim Skalbe, July 2008.

GW in Oval Button with Medium Spacing Ex J. Harold Cobb



2232

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW in oval. Cobb-5a, Albert WI-11A, DeWitt-GW 1789-7, Baker-1016. Brass. Very Fine. 34.1 mm. Original shank intact. Slightly bent toward the lower left of the oval, with the obverse polished long ago and now considerably toned back to deep rosy-brown with soft gold undertones. Typical old subtle scrapes and marks in the open fields, but the details are actually very sharp. The noted bend is related to small impacts in the back. This variety is with medium spacing of the GW and comes from the famous J. Harold Cobb Collection. His tag has fallen from the back, but the rectangle where it had been affixed remains visible.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the J. Harold Cobb Collection; our (Stack's) January 2003 Americana Sale, lot 1332; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.

Sharp GW in Oval Button Wide GW Spacing Ex J. Harold Cobb



2233

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW in oval. Cobb-5b, Albert WI-11B, DeWitt-GW 1789-8, Baker-1017. Brass. Extremely Fine. 34.1 mm. Original shank intact. Another button of excellent quality from the famous Cobb Collection. Golden olive brass with subtle overtones of pale blue. Clearly polished long ago, as often seen, but not to any aesthetic detriment. Punches are sharply and evenly impressed and aside from the usual minor surface marks seen under close study, there are none that stand out specifically. The distinctive Cobb sticker once affixed to the back is no longer attached, but the mark where it was is clear. A handsome example of the widely spaced GW type, which is a somewhat rarer variant, though the Martin Collection has more than one.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the J. Harold Cobb Collection; our (Stack's) January 2003 Americana Sale, lot 1333; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Another Very Nice GW in Oval Button Wide Spacing; With Shank



2234

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW in oval. Cobb-5b, Albert WI-11B, DeWitt-GW 1789-8, Baker-1017. Brass. Choice Very Fine. 34.2 mm. Original shank intact. Fairly uniform deep olive brown with a soft greenish tint and one small area of deeper patina near the final few letters of the legend. The usual trivial handling marks, but none are serious. One minuscule edge mark is visible, if one goes looking. Glossy and quite pretty, with the details bold and the obviously original shank standing perfectly straight on the back. The wider GW variant.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jim Skalbe, July 2008.



2235

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW in oval. Cobb-5b, Albert WI-11B, DeWitt-GW 1789-8, Baker-1017. Brass. Fine. 34.3 mm. Shank lost. Deep olive brown with areas of light porosity and a slight waviness to the flan. Though a little exposed to the elements, and with the usual light abrasions, the surface patina is quite even. This, coupled with the sharp details, makes for a very aesthetically pleasing piece, regardless of the missing shank. The variant with the widely spaced GW in the oval.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the F.C.C. Boyd Collection; John J. Ford, Jr.; our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 240.



2236

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW in oval. Cobb-5c, Albert WI-11C, DeWitt-GW 1789-8, Baker-1017. Brass. Very Fine. 34.5 mm. Original shank intact. Mostly deep brown on the obverse with soft rose undertones and traces of pale blue. The colors suggest an old cleaning that has largely and somewhat pleasantly toned back. Some mild surface roughness appears to be natural to the flan, while the usual additional abrasions are faint. The widest spacing seen for the GW punch, and notable for the end borders of the LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT cartouche being more flat than angular.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection.



2237

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW in oval. Cobb-5c, Albert WI-11C, DeWitt-GW 1789-8, Baker-1017. Brass. Fine. 34.3 mm. Original shank intact. Deep steel brown surfaces are quite porous from environmental exposure, but are somewhat glossy nonetheless, which improves the overall eye appeal. Some of the reliefs are a bit lighter brown, particularly at the GW. Still quite sharp in terms of detail, so though lost for a time, this remains an appealing example, especially with the intact original shank. Another example from the widest GW in oval punch, and with the famous John J. Ford, Jr. provenance.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from our (Stack's) sale of the John J. Ford Collection, Part II, May 2004, lot 239.



Extremely Rare Circa 1789 GW Sunburst Pattern Button The Cobb Plate Button



(Photo Enlarged)

2238

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. The Sunburst "Salient" Pattern. Cobb-7a, Albert WI-5B, DeWitt-GW 1789-17, Baker-1007. Brass. Fine. 31.3 mm. Original shank intact. Dark and moderately pitted, the marks of an obvious ground find, but as noted, a missing shank is thankfully not to blame. Despite the roughness, the details of the design are quite clear, with script GW at center, LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT in an inset band around, all surrounded by 24 "pyramidal flames" radiating outward, as this motif has been labeled. Traces of lighter olive are still seen on some of the higher points, probably from handling this piece has received since it was recovered from the earth, whenever that might have been. It was in the J. Harold Cobb Collection, and is the button featured on his well-known plate. It was also plated in the 1966 *Political Campaign and Commemorative Buttons*, by Alphaeus H. Albert.

According to the 2005 revision of J. Harold Cobb's original reference, *George Washington Inaugural Buttons & Medalets 1789 & 1793*, by Kirk Mitchell, only two examples of this button were known until September 1962, when this one was discovered in a Connecticut estate. Both the original two had 23 pyramidal flames around the central motif, making this a new discovery and unique at the time. As of the 2005 revision, only one was still accounted for. Since that time, other examples of this type have surfaced including at least one with 27 radial flames, and another with 29. We have not seen another offered with this obverse variation. An extremely rare type, in any case. Cobb's tag remains on the reverse.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Estate of R.I. Bannister, Old Saybrook, Connecticut in 1962; Peter Shurto; the J. Harold Cobb Collection; our (Stack's) January 2003 Americana Sale, lot 1337; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Very Rare Circa 1789 GW Grant Button 33 Indent Variant The Cobb Plate Button



(Photo Enlarged)

2239

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. The Grant Pattern. 33 Indents at Rim. Cobb-8, Albert WI-7D, DeWitt-GW 1789-26 var., Baker-unlisted. Copper. Very Fine. 32.1 mm. With a shank, but possibly one repaired long ago. A lovely button with just the faintest bulge near the lower center, slightly softening the detail there. Otherwise, the details are fully expressed throughout. Uniform medium brown and slightly glossy, particularly at the high center, while traces of microscopic porosity are seen under magnification. Another extremely rare type that is almost never offered for sale. In fact, beyond this we have only noted one other similar piece offered recently, a

superb example with retained silvering that realized \$30,000 in February 2021. That had 32 border indentions, while this has 33. Two examples with 32 indents were offered in our January 2003 sale of the Cobb Collection. Though this did not appear in that offering, it might have at one time been in his collection. Like the rarity in the previous lot, this is imaged on the Cobb plate as well as in the 1966 Albert reference. It clearly had a small sticker on the back at one time, but that is now gone. A perfectly lovely example of an extremely rare type.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.

A Second Circa 1789 GW Grant Button 32 Indent Variant



2240

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. The Grant Pattern. 32 Indents at Rim; Close Rays. Cobb-8b, Albert WI-7B, DeWitt-GW 1789-26, Baker-unlisted. Brass. Very Fine. 32.4 mm. Original shank intact, but bent flat. Easily Very Fine or better for sharpness, but an obvious ground find that is dark and fairly evenly porous throughout. Patches of ruddy brick patina are noted on the obverse, while soft green is seen within some of the recesses. The back exhibits larger patches of each of these tones. As noted, the detail is quite sharp, with all the details very clearly visible and well defined. The number of indents near the rim are somewhat troublesome to count because in two cases, there seem to be double impressions. We have

counted each of those as two, ending up with 32 in total. These are adjacent, and near 7:30. It is possible that this feature, on other poorer quality examples could be read in one of three different ways, so it might have a hand in the various reported varieties. As noted in the description above, regardless of the matter of such minor variation, the buttons of this general design are extremely rare and virtually never offered for sale. As far as we are aware, the last we offered were the two that appeared in our Cobb Collection sale, in January 2003.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.



An Ideal Circa 1789 GW Linked States Button



2241

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW and Linked States. Cobb-9, Albert WI-4A, DeWitt-GW 1789-9, Baker-1003. Brass. Extremely Fine. 34.4 mm. Original shank intact. An absolutely lovely example of this classic and popular type. Uniform light olive brass has soft surface gloss and only the most trivial marks seen under magnification. One darker patina spot near the link for Delaware is simply toning. The flan is almost perfectly flat, and the reverse is

similarly light olive, glossy and free of problems. It would be tough to find a more ideal representative of this type that was clearly used in celebration of Washington at the close of the 18th century, but beautifully cared for.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.

Another Very Sharp Linked States Button



(Photo Enlarged)

2242

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW and Linked States. Cobb-9, Albert WI-4A, DeWitt-GW 1789-9, Baker-1003. Brass. Extremely Fine. 34.3 mm. Original shank intact. A very sharp button with light golden brass surfaces and excellent details throughout. Clearly cleaned, but that is not unusual for these, and it certainly has somewhat toned back. White deposits in some of the links helps to visually bring out the designs in these areas. Some scattered scratches and scuffs as

usual, and some hairlines as well, but this is an unusually sharp example of this classic design overall. It is the only type from this series of buttons that brings together the honor of Washington, the office of the presidency, and the United States into a single design scheme. As such, it is the most complete representative of the sentiments of the period.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jim Skalbe, July 2008.



Very Choice Linked States Button With a Trace of Silvering



2243

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW and Linked States. Cobb-9, Albert WI-4A, DeWitt-GW 1789-9, Baker-1003. Brass, Tinned. Choice Very Fine. 34.4 mm. Original shank intact. Another very choice example of this type, this one unusual for retaining a trace of tinning through portions of the obverse center. This is most strongly evident in the recesses around LIVE THE PRESIDENT, in the

script GW and to a lesser degree through some of the inner curves of the links in the upper right of the button. Faint suggestions of the same treatment are seen at the central reverse. Perfectly smooth and glossy surfaces exhibit no unusual handling marks or damage of any kind. Rarely seen tinned.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jim Skalbe, July 2008.

Extremely Rare Linked States Button With Mirror Image Reverse



2244

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW and Linked States. Cobb-9a, Albert WI-4A.1, DeWitt-GW 1789-9, Baker-1003 var. Brass. Extremely Fine. 33.9 mm. Original shank intact. Somewhat mottled golden olive brass with gentle striations in the patina when examined closely. Sharp and glossy with only a few trivial handling marks. One small toning spot at the very edge near 5:30 could probably be mistaken for an edge nick in photography, but it is not. This is the rare type with the full design visible on the reverse in mirrored image. This is in no way ghostly in expression, but rather quite intentional and in fairly good relief, considering the generally flat design. The design is somewhat weak toward the periphery, perhaps from wear,

but this would be out of balance from the sharper obverse if such was the case. The most recent example we have offered was in the William Spohn Baker Collection, presented in our November 2019 sale at lot 20006. Both had a matching degree of sloppiness in the affixing of their shanks. The Cobb Collection included an example of this type, which we called Very Fine in our January 2003 offering. Otherwise, we have seen only two others offered for sale in recent times, both missing their shanks and with extremely rough surfaces consistent with ground finds.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.



Outstanding Circa 1789 GW Dotted Script Button



(Photo Enlarged)

2245

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. GW in Dotted Script. Cobb-10, Albert WI-9A, DeWitt-GW 1789-2, Baker-1001. Brass. About Uncirculated. 35.4 mm. Original shank intact. An outstanding button, and one of the finest of the Martin Collection, rarity notwithstanding. Brilliant golden brass shimmers much like was intended when this was first made, mellowed only slightly by some light wear by a careful recipient. A couple of small toning spots are noted, and close inspection reveals some scattered small marks, none of which is distracting. The edge does show a couple of very trivial nicks. The design features are boldly delineated. The reverse is similarly nice, with a large original shank standing out sharply from the center. An iconic type of superior quality and just a hair finer

than the lovely Bushnell-Baker piece sold in our November 2019 auction. This one came from Early American History Auctions' sale of August 2010, where the description referred to it as having "Cobb's descriptive label on the back" but also as having been "one from a 'Discovery' set of four" in the subhead. The illustration includes no such Cobb label, so we suspect that detail was an erroneous cut-and-paste from a previous description. The appearance of this is certainly consistent with a "discovery set" cared for together for a couple of centuries, so that detail is probably accurate.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from "a discovery set of four"; Early American History Auctions' sale of August 2010, lot 965.





Very Choice Plain “Roman” GW Button Distinctive and Extremely Rare



(Photo Enlarged)

2246

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. Plain “Roman” GW / LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT. Cobb-11, Albert WI-8, DeWitt-GW 1789-1, Baker-1000 (but mis-described as GW in monogram). Copper. Choice Extremely Fine. 36.4 mm. With shank, but possibly reattached; edge beveled. A superb specimen of this rarely seen type with lovely, smooth chocolate brown surfaces that are glossy and free of distracting marks. This is an ideal situation on a design this plain that has few design features to minimize the impact of even minor problems. Handling marks are virtually invisible without magnified

study. It was reported by J. Harold Cobb in 1968 that just eight examples had been verified. A brief review of appearances in major sales has not given reason to believe the number of survivors is much higher, if at all. Neither Edmund Sullivan, in his revised work by DeWitt, nor Rulau and Fuld in their revision of *Medallic Portraits of Washington* located an example of this type to illustrate.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Scott W. Dolson Collection; Heritage's sale of December 2016, lot 43086.



Rare Elder Pattern Washington Button 15 Star Border; Two Floral Sprays Plated by Albert and Cobb



(Photo Enlarged)

2247

Undated (circa 1889?) Washington Button. The Elder Pattern. Cobb-12b, Albert WI-115 (this button); DeWitt-unlisted; Baker-1006J. Copper, Gilt. Choice Extremely Fine. 33.4 mm. Original shank intact. The obverse is largely copper brown with overtones of soft violet blue-green, while the incused features of the design retain considerable gilding that makes for a visually striking appearance. The gilding is intact along most of the edge of the button, as well as over the entirety of the back, so the impression is that this two-tone obverse presentation was by design. Had it been simple wear that removed the gilding, it would have affected the edge and back, at least near the rims and at the shank to a significant degree.

This is presumably named the "Elder" pattern for the floral sprays at the bottom of the design. These, while resembling elder flowers, have seven petals while the elder flower has five. Nonetheless, the shape is indeed similar.

According to Michael Hodder's introduction to our offering of the Cobb Collection, this type was first discovered in 1949, in a New Jersey collection, and it was reported in the 2005 reissue of the Cobb reference that three more were in the 1950 Ruth Find, a controversial assortment of buttons first published in May of that year. Albert studied the group and questioned the origin

of some specimens after noting that some were on usual hosts, some on planchets cut from a brass plate from one of Chatillon's Improved Balance Milk Scales, dated to 1870. Some hosts were various colonial coins. Cobb eventually became the owner of the Ruth Find buttons and also owned this one, which is featured on his plate. Albert and Cobb were in some disagreement as to the nature of some of the types, which led to their falling out of friendship, but Albert published that "an old-time well-known antiques and coin dealer of Philadelphia...told me that he knew who made these buttons; also that they were produced about the time of the Washington Inaugural Centennial in 1889." As such, the vintage of these has long been a point of uncertainty. Since the time of discovery, others have come to light in varying sizes, with varied numbers of stars and differently styled floral sprays. Several, including this one, are plated by Albert in his section titled "Other Washington Buttons." This one appeared in our offering of the Cobb buttons, and sold for \$3,450, not an insignificant sum, but less than a standard linked states brought in the same sale.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from an unspecified New Jersey Collector, ca. 1949; the J. Harold Cobb Collection; our (Stack's) January 2003 Americana Sale, lot 1348; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Extremely Rare Script GW on Plain Field Button Unknown to Cobb



(Photo Enlarged)

2248

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. Cobb-unlisted, Albert WI-20, DeWitt-GW 1789-29, Baker-unlisted. Brass. Choice Very Fine. 23.7 mm. Original shank intact. Deep olive brass with slightly deeper brown patina around the lower border. A generally smooth and inviting appearance, though some of the typical scratches and other marks are visible upon close inspection. The shank is a little bent, but there are no unusual defects worthy of mention. A very pleasing example of this rare type that was not owned or cataloged by Cobb. A very similar button is plated in Albert, but it is clearly a different specimen.

We do not find any in online auction archives of the major auction houses. However, two brass examples, both marked GILT on the back (in different punches), and one with a floral spray on the reverse, appeared in a Jeffrey Evans & Associates Sale in 2005. These were described as 7/8-inch and 1/2-inch, and both had a similar script motif on a plain field. The larger of the two had a larger engraving, filling a greater proportion of the field. Such differences speak to more than one maker, but clearly the output from any shop must have been very small. This one came from the Dana Linett Collection, who noted that "Albert's Rarity-6 indicates three to five examples of this type are known" but cites no sales of the type.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.

Handsome Pewter Script GW Rarity Unknown to Cobb



(Photo Enlarged)

2249

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. Cobb-unlisted, Albert WI-20 var., DeWitt-GW 1789-29a var., Baker-unlisted. Pewter. Extremely Fine. 19.2 mm. Lovely light gray surfaces are uniform across both sides, save for slightly darker patina close to the iron shank. A few of the usual scratches and marks are visible upon close examination, but little worthy of description is noted upon first inspection other than a couple of very faint rim bumps. A very rare type, and clearly related to that offered in the previous lot, though in smaller format and in a different composition. The two brass examples referenced in the last description, both marked GILT on the back in different punches, one with a floral spray, and in two different

sizes, in a way tie all these together as they indicate this general type was made with little consistency, even though the output must have been minute.

The David and Janice Frent Collection included a button very similar to this, in pewter, with the same type of shank attachment—an unusual feature among the GW buttons. The condition was likewise similar, and it brought \$5,250 in the February 2018 sale of that collection.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's sale of June 2006, lot 25319; Rex Stark's FPL #74, January 2013, lot 19.



Script GW and Liberty Cap Button Extremely Rare and Choice



(Photo Enlarged)

2250

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. Cobb-unlisted, Albert WI-22, DeWitt-GW 1789-31, Baker-unlisted. Copper. Extremely Fine. 23.8 mm. Original shank intact. Glossy deep brown on the obverse with subtle traces of rose and pale blue-green in certain light. A bit of natural debris is nestled into parts of the engraving, but the surfaces exhibit only a few light scratches and no serious marks. The shank appears original. Some solder is noted at the base and it is challenging to know if this is original or added, but it has every appearance of great age. Another extremely rare type that was unknown to Cobb. The last auction appearance we are aware of for this type was when

Martin bought this piece in 2017 for \$37,500. The Heritage description noted that it was the first they had seen, and it would appear no others have turned up in their sales since. Similarly, we find none in our own archives, though we have sold a seemingly related issue, with a spread eagle and virtually identical liberty cap. The price in 2017 is solidly illustrative of just how rare and prized this type is. Though it was not known to Cobb, an example was plated by Albert and it seems to be a different one from this.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's sale of October 2017, lot 43004.



(Photo Enlarged)

2251

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. Eagle with GW and Liberty Cap. Cobb-unlisted, Albert WI-23A, DeWitt-GW 1789-38, Baker-unlisted. Copper, Gilt. Fine, corroded. 22.3 mm. Shank lost. Surfaces show heavy corrosion roughness and cleaning, leaving all the flat areas deeply pitted with a finely mottled rose and deep steel brown tone. The recessed design features were gilt, which seems to have protected them from the corrosive processes to a degree, as they remain fairly sharp, and traces of the gilding remain. As noted, the shank is lost, but around where it had been, a maker's mark clearly once existed. Albert gives this to be "E & D" and "GILT" in two curved cartouches, but we suspect this mark was different, perhaps with the word PLATED instead of GILT, as the cartouche seems too long (see next). Another rarity missing from the Cobb collection and

plate, though a few in varying conditions have appeared for sale. In 2018, we offered an original set of six similar pieces, though they were unmarked on the back.

Heritage sold a virtually identical button in their September 2021 auction. It was much sharper and in significantly better condition, though still an apparent ground find, and with the shank off. That one had a much clearer maker's mark, and though Albert suggested it to be "E&D," and the writer in that sale repeated the same, it is fairly clear from the images to be "F&D." Traces of gilding remained in the recesses of that button, too.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.



Another GW, Eagle and Liberty Cap Button Extremely Rare Small Format



(Photo Enlarged)

2252

Circa 1789 Washington Inaugural Button. Eagle with GW and Liberty Cap. Cobb-unlisted, Albert WI-23 for type, but small format, DeWitt-GW 1789-38 for type, Baker-unlisted. Copper, Gilt. Very Good. 13.4 mm. Shank lost. The details are respectably sharp, considering the condition, but the raised surfaces are rough with oxidation. As with the larger-format example in the previous lot, gilding in the recesses served to protect them a bit from the environmental exposure and some glistening gilding remains. The back retains substantially more of that protective surface, and well

impressed maker's marks are fairly clear, "F.D" is raised in a curved cartouche, while "PLATED" is in another, on the other side of where the shank would have stood. A tiny piece, apparently unpublished in this format and clearly a great rarity of the series. For rarity alone, we might venture to identify it one of the highlight entries in this collection.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Joe Levine, September 2007.

Very Choice Small Laurel Wreath Button From an Original Suite of Five



(Photo Enlarged)

2253

Circa 1789 Presidential Button. Small Laurel Wreath, LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT. No Star. Cobb-13a, Albert WI-17B, DeWitt-GW 1789-25, Baker-1020. Copper. Extremely Fine. 15.0 mm. Original shank intact. A most handsome specimen of this very rare small-format button. Glossy dark chocolate brown throughout with a few of the typical ancient scratches but no impairments that could be considered distracting at all. Some of the trivial striations and scattered marks are probably from the original planchet texture, as this is seen to varying degrees on most of this type. The design is bold and even throughout. From an original suite of five buttons consigned to us in 2005, tied by a modern thread, but separated so that they could be sold as individual lots. This is one of two Sydney Martin acquired, succumbing to the appeal of keeping two of this original grouping together. All of them were nicely matched and

of similar quality. Martin bought the third and fourth offered. The second of the suite of five buttons reappeared at auction in September of 2021 and realized \$6,875—an unmistakable indication of the rarity, quality and desirability of this one. Cobb knew of just five examples in 1968, and while the suite of five would double that number, these remain quite rare. It is noteworthy that this type, while having room for a "GW" at the center, bears no indication of a particular president intended for honor. As such, this more generic type would have been salable during Washington's administration as well as later ones and could be understood as celebrating the office of the presidency rather than any particular president.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from an original suite of five sold in an unspecified auction in 2003; our (Stack's) January 2005 Americana Sale, lot 2403.



A Second Small Laurel Wreath Button From an Original Suite of Five



(Photo Enlarged)

2254

Circa 1789 Presidential Button. Small Laurel Wreath, LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT. No Star. Cobb-13a, Albert WI-17B, DeWitt-GW 1789-25, Baker-1020. Copper. Extremely Fine. 15.0 mm. Original shank intact. Virtually identical to the above button in every respect, which is not surprising since it came from the same original suite of five matched pieces sold by us in January 2005. The design is sharply and evenly impressed into the rich chocolate brown copper. A few minor scratches, a couple of tiny rim marks and a faint bend in the bottom edge are noted, but the surfaces are glossy, and the overall eye appeal is very nice, indeed. A handsome and very rare button. As mentioned in the description of the previous lot, Sydney

Martin bought the third and fourth buttons from a five-piece group, appreciating the value of keeping at least two of the original set intact. They are beautifully matched. The second of the original suite seems to be the most recent to have appeared for sale at auction. It realized \$6,875 in September 2021. It was reported by Cobb that an example of this button type was found on the New Jersey farmland of Tench Francis (d. 1800), first cashier of the Bank of North America, in a badly corroded state.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from an original suite of five discovered in 2003; our (Stack's) January 2005 Americana Sale, lot 2404; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.

Choice LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT Button Wreath and Star



(Photo Enlarged)

2255

Circa 1789 Presidential Button. LONG LIVE THE PRESIDENT. Wreath and Star. Cobb-14, Albert WI-17A, DeWitt-unlisted, Baker-1020 var. (small format). Copper. Extremely Fine. 20.1 mm. Original shank intact. Deep golden brown with substantial highlights of iridescent blue-green on the obverse, while the back is more consistent deep brown suggestive of a copper composition. Numerous fine scratches and scattered tiny flaws, the latter probably in part from natural flan texture. A bit of polishing is noted, but there are also remnants of what

appears to be tinning remaining in a few places. This one came from the Cobb Collection and has his usual sticker on the back. When he privately published his work on these buttons in 1968, he knew of just four examples of this type. Certainly more are known today, but that number is likely still very small.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex Ada Littlefield of Wilimantic, Connecticut; J. Harold Cobb Collection; our (Stack's) January 2003 Americana Sale, lot 1350; our sale of November 2017, lot 135.



Believed Unique “Darby” Pattern Button Ex J. Harold Cobb



(Photo Enlarged)

2256

Circa 1792(?) Presidential Button. The Darby 15-Star Pattern. Small Format. Cobb-15, Albert WI-18B, DeWitt-GW 1789-33 (note); Baker-unlisted. Copper. Extremely Fine. 14.9 mm. With shank but believed reattached. Deep brown with rose and blue-green accents over much of the obverse. Evidence of old polishing and a few tiny scattered marks as expected, but no impairments worthy of mention. According to the 2005 revision of Cobb, this button was discovered in 1947 and widely publicized, including on radio, television and other media. As Michael Hodder wrote in our 2003 offering of this as part of the Cobb Collection, Cobb paid \$750 for this button, which was the highest amount he paid for any of his pieces. Similarly, when we first offered it in 2003, only two other buttons in Cobb's collection realized higher prices. This was tied for third with

two others, at \$19,550. As far as we know, it remains unique, though it brought considerably less, in a very different market landscape in 2017, at \$6,600. It is on the Cobb plate and was also plated by Albert. It was named the Darby pattern for the party Cobb reportedly bought it from in 1958. Though “circa 1789” has been generically used for most of these buttons relating to the inauguration of the first President, we have assigned this one a likely date of around 1792, based on the 15-star pattern that suggests Kentucky, the 15th state, had been admitted to the Union by the time this was produced.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex “Darby” in 1958; J. Harold Cobb; our (Stack’s) January 2003 Americana Sale, lot 1351; our sale of November 2017, lot 136.



Extremely Rare 15-Star Button in Large Format Missing from our Cobb Collection Offering



(Photo Enlarged)

2257

Circa 1792(?) Presidential Button. The 15-Star Pattern. Large Format. Cobb-16, Albert WI-18A, DeWitt-GW 1789-33, Baker-unlisted. Brass. Extremely Fine. 19.8 mm. Original shank intact. Pleasing medium olive brass with soft nuances of pale blue. Typical light scratches and abrasions, but it does not appear to have ever been polished so the overall appearance is a bit more natural to numismatic eyes. Sharply and evenly struck with outstanding eye appeal. A minor bend is noted in the shank. This is another extremely rare type, so rare in fact that Cobb was never able to acquire one. He knew of two in 1968, one owned by Albert and another by collector Elmer A. Piercy. It is Piercy's that was imaged for the Cobb plate, and it's

nice, like this piece. Albert's is on his plate. We are aware of two more. One is a rather rugged-looking ground find that appeared in a Heritage sale in 2018 and the currently offered piece. The most recent to sell publicly is the Piercy-Cobb plate piece, which ended up in the David and Janice Frent Collection, and realized \$12,500 in February 2018. That was of similar quality to this one, but this is better struck with sharper details. It also had Cobb's usual label on the back, indicating that he might have tagged other specimens he examined, or he owned this and it was sold privately prior to our receiving his collection for sale in late 2002.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Rex Stark, August 2019.



THE EAGLE BUTTONS AND OTHER RELATED TYPES

As noted elsewhere in this catalog, clothing buttons of the late 18th century were notable, if utilitarian objects. Even in the case of a runaway slave advertisement, clothing buttons would be described to aid in the identification of the sought person. As such, it is not particularly remarkable that we have benefit of brief descriptions of the buttons George Washington wore on his coat on the day of his first inauguration. Those buttons are mentioned by more than one source, two of which were presented by Alpheus Albert in the introductory pages of his *Political Campaign and Commemorative Buttons*, under the header, “Washington Inaugural Buttons.” Tobias Lear, Washington’s Secretary, recounted that “they were engraved with the Arms of the United States.” Albert also gives the account of senator from Pennsylvania, William Maclay, who was an eyewitness to the inauguration: “Washington was dressed in deep brown, with metal buttons, with an eagle on them, white stockings, a bag and sword.”

Washington’s buttons were hand-engraved by an English engraver, William Rollinson, who had arrived in New York in February 1789, looking to try his luck in American commercial circles. It is not known how, but he quickly came to the attention of Secretary of War Henry Knox, who commissioned him to “chase the arms of the United States upon a set of gilt buttons for the coat which was [to be] worn by General Washington, on the memorable day of his inauguration as president,” as stated in William Dunlap’s *A History of the Rise and Progress of the Arts of Design in the United States*, originally published in 1834. According to

Dunlap, Rollinson refused payment for his work, electing to gift his efforts to the President in honor of this momentous occasion. By all accounts, Rollinson was a “chaser,” not a button maker, who found a worthwhile career in America working as an engraver for silversmiths, as a copperplate engraver and, later, in the field of security engraving.

These accounts of Washington’s “eagle” or “Arms” buttons, and the placement of various eagle buttons by Albert and Cobb in their references on Inaugural buttons, have led to a long tradition of treating these buttons as “Washington Inaugural Buttons.” Though they are certainly of the period, there is no way to firmly tie them to Washington or his inauguration, unlike those that specify Washington or the presidency. They are distinctly American motifs, however, and certainly relate to the patriotism of the period—that thrilling moment in history when a new nation had been born, one to be governed by the voice of the people. These buttons, of a few different forms, clearly found a respectable market in early America among those who could afford such luxuries as gilt metal buttons. Likewise, they are well-appreciated and vigorously sought after by collectors today as important political artifacts of the young United States. We would venture to say that Washington himself would have held any symbol of the United States and its ongoing success in much higher regard than anything having to do with him personally, or the office he held. What appears to be a gilt eagle button can be seen in a miniature portrait on ivory of Joseph Rogers, dated to 1790-1800, in the collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Rare Eagle with Motto Button



2258

Circa 1790s Arms of the United States or Eagle with Motto Button. Cobb-unlisted; Albert WI-2A; DeWitt-GW 1789-5, Baker-1011. Brass or Copper. Fine. 35.6 mm. Shank lost. An obvious ground find that is dark, virtually slate with oxidation and gently bent in more than one direction. While we are calling this Fine, the details are sharper, as this was a pretty nice button when it was lost, but the

rough, oxidized surfaces have taken their toll on the overall quality. Still, considering the surfaces, the button is remarkably satisfying for the clarity of the design and for the relative uniformity of the aesthetic. An exceedingly rare type of early eagle button.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Charles Kirtley’s sale 83, lot 1507; the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.



Extremely Rare Eagle With Glory Button The Finest Seen



(Photo Enlarged)

2259

Circa 1790s Eagle With Glory Button. Cobb-unlisted; Albert WI-15A; DeWitt-unlisted, Baker-unlisted. Sheffield Plate on Copper. About Uncirculated. 31.7 mm. Original shank intact. A most impressive early American button, with nearly the full silver plating intact across the obverse (the only surface that would have been so treated by the Sheffield plate method). The plating was clearly thick but is still compromised at a few of the highest points, showing spots of deep brown copper beneath. Otherwise, the satiny surfaces are light gray with pleasant accents of sky blue and gentle mottling. The back exhibits a bit of corrosion and is deep olive otherwise. Clearly, the surfacing of the face protected it handsomely.

We do not have this type in our archives, but we have noted sales of other specimens. This is comfortably the finest we have seen. Others noted include an extremely rough and corroded one, that might be called *unsightly*; a second of decent quality with light gilding remaining; one with fairly good Sheffield Plate surfaces that brought \$6,250 in June 2022, and this one that is clearly superior to all others and realized \$23,750 in February of 2020. The *Eagle With Glory* moniker comes from Alphaeus Albert's *Political Campaign and Commemorative Buttons*, and seems to have taken hold.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier from Heritage's sale of February 2020, lot 43011.

Handsome Eagle and Star Button The Very Rare Small Size



2260

Circa 1790s Eagle and Star Button. Cobb-17, Albert WI-12E, DeWitt-unlisted, Baker-unlisted. Brass. Choice About Uncirculated. 17.7 mm. Original shank intact. Handsome olive brass with glossy surfaces, traces of luster in the recesses and just a couple of old scratches near the right edge. Boldly impressed and with exceptional eye appeal. The brass solder at the shank appears bright, but this is typical of those we have seen of this size. The stamped surface is superb, and this was clearly never a lost-and-found button, but rather one that must have been put away shortly

after it was issued. Cobb did not own an example of this button and as of 1968, he had confirmed the location of only one, presumably that plated by Albert, which is not the same as this. It was reported that B.G. Johnson turned up a dozen from an original pair of breeches, first published in 1961. Those that have been offered in recent years seem to be nice enough to have largely come from that set, which was broken up.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jim Skalbe, March 2008.



Lovely Brass Eagle and Star Button Ex J. Harold Cobb



2261

Circa 1790s Eagle and Star Button. Cobb-17g, Albert WI-12C, DeWitt 1789-3c, Baker-1009. Brass. Choice Extremely Fine. 34.5 mm. Original shank intact. Slightly reflective from an old polishing, but beautifully toned back to a deep olive brown with varied soft pastel overtones on the obverse. The reverse is dull olive brown, with just a trace of adhesive where Cobb's own tag once was affixed. That tag identified this as "17N" which is not listed in the 2005 revision, nor in the 1963, 1964 or 1968 editions, according to Michael Hodder. Lightly scratched near the beak and right wing, but the eye appeal is still quite excellent. Very sharp and clearly a button that saw little use, perhaps on a fine dress coat. The variety with 63 border indentions, though two tightly overlap. On the reverse rim, opposite the lower left tail point, are five small raised lumps that appear almost as tiny crosses or stars. These are clearly deliberate and can be seen on the button in the next lot, too.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the J. Harold Cobb Collection; our (Stack's) sale of January 2003, lot 1357; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.

Another Superb Eagle and Star Button With Tinned Surfaces



2263

Circa 1790s Eagle and Star Button. Cobb-17g, Albert WI-12C, DeWitt 1789-3c, Baker-1009 var. Brass, Tinned. Choice Extremely Fine. 34.5 mm. Original shank intact. Lively surfaces exhibit a variety of colors, from deep golden-brown brass, to a streak of vivid coppery-orange to satiny silver which is what remains of the tinning. Subtle suggestions of reflectivity point to light polishing from long ago, which would have been standard treatment of these markers of political adornment. A few small green and ruddy oxidation deposits are noted, but none are terribly serious and due to the mottled palette, they do not stand out too strongly from an aesthetic point of view, either. The back is more uniform deep golden brown with only a couple of superficial spots. Another superb example of this type with crisp detail and nice eye appeal.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.

Tinned Eagle and Star Button



2262

Circa 1790s Eagle and Star Button. Cobb-17g, Albert WI-12C, DeWitt 1789-3c, Baker-1009 var. Brass, Tinned. Choice Extremely Fine. 34.4 mm. Original shank intact. Another really choice example with glossy olive brown surfaces and generous tinning remaining in the recesses that allow the incuse motive to boldly stand out against the ground. One curious triangular patch of light oxidation between 10 o'clock and 11 o'clock, but this is only a minor distraction. The back retains much more of the original tinned surface and as noted in the previous description, there are five small raised figures on the reverse rim, opposite the sun on this one. These appear as tiny crosses or stars but are not well formed. A curious detail we don't recall having seen before. The variety with 63 border indentions.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jim Skalbe, July 2008.

Another Very Choice Eagle and Star Traces of Gilding



2264

Circa 1790s Eagle and Star Button. Cobb-17g, Albert WI-12C, DeWitt 1789-3c, Baker-1009 var. Brass, Gilt. Choice Extremely Fine. 34.5 mm. With original shank, possibly resoldered. Lovely glossy light olive brown brass with traces of gilding remaining in some of the fine recesses of the incuse design. Typical light scratches are seen under magnification, but nothing really stands out otherwise, and the overall eye appeal is very nice. The reverse has a virtually identical appearance and no problems. The soldering is moderately bright and might be original, as some of these were made with similarly soldered shanks. It is tough to know if this is original or an old repair, but if the latter, it is certainly old and not fresh, and the loop certainly looks to be the original. Very attractive nonetheless. The variety with 63 border indentions.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jim Skalbe, July 2008.



Bold Eagle and Star Button With Embossed Reverse



2265

Circa 1790s Eagle and Star Button. Cobb-17h, Albert WI-12C var., DeWitt 1789-3 var., Baker-1009 var. Brass. Choice Extremely Fine. 34.5 mm. Original shank intact. The variant with the full design embossed through to the reverse, which is not specifically cataloged by Albert, DeWitt or Baker. Patches of deep bluish steel over otherwise light golden olive brass. This has the somewhat reflective appearance of having been polished, but close study suggests that a circular mechanical polishing might be the reason, and it looks to have been an original finishing treatment. The surface is microscopically grooved in a circular pattern throughout, yet the button looks little handled and undamaged save for a couple of shallow oxidation spots. A very attractive button, sharp and fully intact. Variant with 63 border indents.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.

Unlisted Eagle and Sun Button Variant Plain Linear Border



2267

Circa 1790s Eagle and Sun Button. Cobb-unlisted, Albert WI-12 var., DeWitt-GW 1789-36, Baker-1009 var. Brass. Fine. 33.3 mm. Shank lost, with a few faint scratches at what remains of the solder point, speaking to a likely find by someone who didn't completely understand the discovery. This is clearly a ground find, with surfaces granular and dark steel in tone, with traces of brick oxidation in some of the recesses. Despite the history, the details remain pleasantly full, with no challenges in discerning them, which is sometimes the case with grounders. This piece must have been very sharp at the time of loss, and not in the harshest of earthen matrices. An apparently extremely rare variant that was not listed in major references. It is similar to Cobb's #18, but without the additional ornamental indents at the rim. This has only the plain circle just inside the border.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.

Rare Eagle and Star Button With 72 Border Indents



2266

Circa 1790s Eagle and Star Button. Cobb-17k, Albert WI-12D, DeWitt 1789-3c, Baker-1009. Brass. Very Fine. 34.5 mm. Original shank intact. Golden olive brass with soft gold, rose and blue-green toning over porous surfaces revealing a history of some environmental exposure. Still, the overall appearance is fairly good, with no unsightly corrosion and full design details throughout. A couple of old obverse scratches help to identify this as the button featured on the Cobb plate, this having been his own example of this rare variant with 72 border indentations. His original tag remains loosely attached to the back which is more deeply patinated dark steel and ruddy brown.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the J. Harold Cobb Collection; our (Stack's) January 2003 Americana Sale, lot 1356; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



2268

Circa 1790s Eagle and Sun Button. Embossed Design on Back. Cobb-18. Albert WI-13A, DeWitt-unlisted; Baker-1009 var. Copper. Fine. 33.9 mm. Original shank intact. Cleaned aggressively and lacquered, which has maintained the bright orange color, while slate deposits are locked into many of the design recesses, serving to somewhat accentuate those details. Several scratches and somewhat worn, but the details are respectably sharp. The reverse is toned more deeply, aside from a rectangle where a sticker was affixed in the past. This was Cobb's own button and is imaged on his plate as Cobb-18, however, the descriptive listings for this number do not reflect that this is a variant with the design embossed through the back. This detail was also not mentioned in our January 2003 offering of this piece, where this was described as brass, but the appearance seems much more like copper, and that is how Cobb described it. There are 21 indents at the border, as given for Cobb-18. Quite rare. Cobb had only confirmed the locations of five examples as of 1968, compared to nearly 70 of the Cobb-17 Eagle and Star buttons and nearly 80 of the GW in oval types.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the J. Harold Cobb Collection; our (Stack's) January 2003 Americana Sale, lot 1358; Lawrence R. Stack Collection, November 2006.



Rare Unity, Prosperity & Independence Button



2269

Circa 1790s Unity, Prosperity & Independence Button. Cobb-21, Albert PC-2, DeWitt-GW 1789-12, Baker-1012. Brass. Choice Fine. 33.7 mm. Shank replaced. Sharper than indicated by the grade overall, with the detail of a nice VF or even better, but clearly a ground find bearing the crusty brick and deep steel mottled patina that comes with that history. This is largely in the recesses, however, with the devices standing out as somewhat more even brown, though the entirety is granular. Some of the visible texture is natural, however, as this type has a deeply textured surface within the recessed fields. A rare button, Cobb had only confirmed three as of 1968. A few more have come to market, but the type remains very rare. Cobb plated these among his Washington Inaugurals as did DeWitt, and Rulau and Fuld when they added this section to their Baker revision in 1999. Albert elected to treat them as more general political, and we tend to agree because the legend and style is decidedly not pointing to the first president or his administration, but rather the young nation more broadly.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the Dana Linett Collection, 2009.

Early American Mourning Button Ex J. Harold Cobb



2270

Circa 1800 Mourning Button. Copper, Tinned. Choice Very Fine. 34.6 mm. Original shank intact. Described as brass in the past, but this has a distinctive orange-brown tone more suggestive of once-cleaned copper that has pleasantly toned back. Clearly once tinned, with this treatment largely retained on the protected back. Light wear, but no serious defects. A simple design, but nicely executed, and ornamented by a fine ring of indented beads at the rim. Said to have been found in South Berwick, Maine, bought by Joseph Sawicki, and sold to J. Harold Cobb. Published and plated in *Just Buttons* in March 1965.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier discovered in South Berwick, Maine; Joseph Sawicki; J. Harold Cobb Collection; our (Stack's) January 2003 Americana Sale, lot 1364; our sale of November 2017, lot 137.



2271

Circa 1800 Mourning Button. Copper, Gilt. Very Good. 28.8 mm. Original shank intact, but bent. Dusky and granular deep olive brown with earthen highlights and traces of glittering gilding remaining in some of the recesses. A fairly well worn and clearly lost button, but remarkably recovered with the shank intact. Probably a generic mourning type that happens to conjure thoughts of the Washington funeral urn medals. Though it is probably from that era, it is not necessarily Washington-related.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Source unrecorded.



2272

Circa 1800 Mourning Button. Sheffield Plate on Copper. Extremely Fine. 16.7 mm x 13.0 mm. Original shank intact. Smooth light silver gray on the obverse, the heavy surface plating remaining quite intact. Some deeper patina in the recessed design allows it to stand out sharply from the field. Oxidized on the back to deep green, with earthen and ruddy accents. A neat little button with a fine Federal style urn at center, and simple triangular ornaments around. A type sometimes associated with Washington due to the likely period of manufacture, but this is a generic type that can't be reliably assigned to the passing of the first president, though that might well be accurate.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, June 2010.



2273

Circa 1800 Sunburst Button. Brass. Very Fine. 33.1 mm. Original shank intact, though bent. A simple ornamental button that points to a purpose of simple fashion, rather than a political one. Of indeterminate date but clearly of the period that produced the Washington inaugurals, eagle buttons and other similar pieces. Lovely deep green patina and though porous up close, the general appearance is glossy and very attractive. Blank back without maker's mark. The face shows two concentric circles of pie crimper style decoration, one centered and the other following the rim of the piece. Closer inspection reveals that there is finer radial patterning through the fields. Undoubtedly rare and quite attractive. Buttons of this general type are seen on the coat of Sea Captain William McLellan, Sr., in a circa 1800 painting by John Brewster.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. From our (Stack's) January 2008 Americana Sale, lot 5790.



2274

Circa 1895-1902(?) Lafayette Presentation Button Reissue. Albert PC-18A. Brass, Gilt. Choice About Uncirculated. 21.1 mm. Mostly brilliant golden surfaces with just a trace of faint mottling. The questionable date is taken directly from Albert's *Political Campaign and Commemorative Buttons*, this being among the latter, struck in commemoration of the set of gold buttons presented to LaFayette by Scoville when he visited the United States in 1824-25.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Earlier ex the John P. Lorenzo Collection; our (Stack's) January 2008 Americana Sale, lot 7176.



2275

Circa 1889 George Washington Inaugural Commemoration Button. Albert PC-69, Baker-1024. Glass with Brass backing. About Uncirculated. 22.9 mm. With soldered shank. Clear glass affixed to a brass backing frame. An example of this button was included in the Dr. Irving Schuster Collection of Washingtoniana, according to the Rulau-Fuld revision of Baker.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased on eBay, date unrecorded.



2276

Circa 1889(?) "Button Die." Albert WI-27 for type. Brass. About Uncirculated. 40.3 mm. A curious item, the design of which we have not seen before. The same design is plated in Albert, and the entry describes a button, with an engraved device of 33 mm diameter. He notes that it is in the Smithsonian. If that diameter is correct, this is too large to be a die, not to mention it is an unlikely material as a die would likely be steel. In short, we really don't know what it is, but as the design is plated in Albert, it seems fitting to offer it here.

From the Sydney F. Martin Collection. Purchased from Jim Skalbe, December 2007.

END OF SESSION 2

"Though our present form of government may ultimately fail, and the people of this now glorious Union sink into subjective degradation—the consequence only of the neglect of the principles he [George Washington] left them as a legacy for their guidance — his name will survive for the just and humane part which he personated in the great drama of universal human rights."

—Dr. Montroville W. Dickeson

From The American Numismatological Manual

1860

Bidding Increments

Bid	Bid Increment
\$0-\$499	\$20.00
\$500-\$999	\$50.00
\$1,000-\$1,999	\$100.00
\$2,000-\$4,999	\$200.00
\$5,000-\$9,999	\$500.00
\$10,000-\$19,999	\$1,000.00
\$20,000-\$49,999	\$2,000.00
\$50,000-\$99,999	\$5,000.00
\$100,000-\$199,999	\$10,000.00
\$200,000-\$499,999	\$20,000.00
\$500,000-\$1,999,999	\$50,000.00
\$2,000,000-\$9,999,999	\$100,000.00
\$10,000,000+	\$200,000.00

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Account Number: 2612038

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a parent’s written consent which acknowledges the Terms of Sale herein and agrees to be bound thereby on behalf of the underage Bidder. The auction sale is complete when the Auctioneer so announces by the fall of the hammer or in any other customary manner.

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Terms & Conditions – Showcase and Collectors Choice Auctions (cont.)

of all Buyer obligations under these Terms of Sale and Stack's Bowers reserves the right to require a written guarantee of such payments and obligations. Bidders who have not established credit with Stack's Bowers must furnish satisfactory information and credit references and/or deposit at least twenty-five percent (25%) of their total bids for that Auction Sale session(s) or such other amount as Stack's Bowers may, in its sole and absolute discretion require before any bids from such Bidder will be accepted. Deposits submitted will be applied to purchases. Any remaining deposits will be promptly refunded, upon clearance of funds.

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Terms & Conditions – Showcase and Collectors Choice Auctions (cont.)

c. All non-certified coins and currency are guaranteed to be genuine.

d. All certified and non-certified cryptocurrency tokens are guaranteed to be genuine only. Auctioneer disclaims any guaranty of any kind with respect to cryptocurrency tokens, including, but not limited to: face value, the contents or existence of any accounts, wallets, or other physical, digital or other receptacles of value, the existence of a cryptographic private key, or the ability to fund any cryptocurrency. Actual cryptocurrency value is neither confirmed nor guaranteed by Auctioneer.

If an item or items are returned pursuant to the terms herein, they must be housed in their original, sealed and unopened container.

e. Late remittance or removal of any item from its original container or third party graded holder, or altering a coin constitutes just cause for revocation of all return privileges.

f. Grading or condition of rare coins, currency and cryptocurrency tokens may have a material effect on the value of the item(s) purchased, and the opinion of others (including independent grading services) may differ with the independent grading services opinion or interpretation of Stack's Bowers. Stack's Bowers shall not be bound by any prior, or subsequent opinion, determination or certification by any independent grading service.

g. Questions regarding the minting of a coin as a "proof" or as a "business strike" relate to the method of manufacture and not to authenticity.

h. All oral and written statements made by Stack's Bowers and its employees or agents (including affiliated and related companies) are statements of opinion only, and are not warranties or representations of any kind, unless stated as a specific written warranty, and no employee or agent of Stack's Bowers has authority to vary or alter these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale. Stack's Bowers reserves the right to vary or alter the Terms of Sale, either generally or with respect to specific persons or circumstances, in its sole discretion. Any variation or alteration shall be effective only if in writing and signed by an officer of Stack's Bowers authorized to do so.

i. Stack's Bowers is acting as an auctioneer. Title to the lots purchased passes directly from the Consignor to the Buyer. Accordingly, Stack's Bowers is not making, and disclaims, any warranty of title.

j. Bidders shall have no recourse against the Consignor for any reason whatsoever.

k. Bidder acknowledges that the numismatic and cryptocurrency token market is speculative, unregulated and volatile, and that prices may rise or fall over time. Stack's Bowers does not guarantee or represent that any customer buying for investment purposes will be able to sell for a profit in the future.

l. Bidder acknowledges and agrees that neither Stack's Bowers, nor its employees, affiliates, agents, third-party providers or consignors warrant that auctions will be unimpaired, uninterrupted or error free and accordingly shall not be liable for such events.

11. Waiver and Release. Bidder, for himself, his heirs, agents, successors and assignees, generally and specifically waives and releases, and forever discharges Stack's Bowers, and its respective affiliates, parents, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, subsidiaries, employees, managers and members and each of them, and their respective successors and assignees from any and all claims, rights, demands and causes of actions and suits, of whatever kind or nature, including but not limited to claims based upon Auctioneer's negligence, whether in law or equity, tort or otherwise, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected (a "Claim"), which Bidder may assert with respect to and/or arising out of, or in connection with any challenge to the title to or authenticity

of any goods purchased, the sale itself, any lot bid upon or consigned, and/or the auction, except where such Claim is otherwise expressly authorized in these Terms of Sale. It is the intention of Bidder that this waiver and release shall be effective as a bar to each and every Claim that may arise hereunder or be related to the Auction Sale, and Bidder hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives any and all rights and benefits otherwise conferred upon him by the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads in full as follows:

"A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY."

12. Disputes. If a dispute arises concerning ownership of a lot or concerning proceeds of any sale, Stack's Bowers reserves the right to commence a statutory inter-pleader proceeding at the expense of the Consignor and Buyer and any other applicable party, and in such event shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. Stack's Bowers reserves the right to cancel or postpone the Auction Sale or any session thereof for any reason whatsoever. No Bidder shall have any claim as a result thereof, including for incidental or consequential damages. Neither Stack's Bowers nor any affiliated or related company shall be responsible for incidental or consequential damages arising out of any failure of the Terms of Sale, the auction or the conduct thereof and in no event shall such liability exceed the purchase price, premium, or fees paid. Rights granted to Bidders under the within Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale are personal and apply only to the Bidder who initially purchases the lot(s) from Stack's Bowers. The rights may not be assigned or transferred to any other person or entity, whether by sale of the lot(s), operation of law or otherwise. Any attempt to assign or transfer any such rights shall be absolutely void and unenforceable. No third party may rely on any benefit or right conferred by these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale.

Any dispute arising out of or related to these Terms of Sale, the Auction Sale or any lot, with the sole exception of actions by Stack's Bowers to collect amounts owed to it and other damages, shall be submitted to binding arbitration pursuant to the commercial arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association, with any arbitration hearing to occur in Orange County, California. Absent an agreement of the parties, the arbitrator shall limit discovery to that which is necessary to enable the hearing to proceed efficiently. The arbitrator shall not have the power to award punitive or consequential damages, nor alter, amend modify any of the terms of this Agreement. The award by the arbitrator, if any, may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Each party shall pay one-half the costs of the arbitration. Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the competent courts of the State of California shall have exclusive in personam jurisdiction, subject to the requirement to arbitrate, over any dispute(s) arising hereunder, regardless of any party's current or future residence or domicile. Bidder further agrees that venue of the arbitration proceeding shall be in Orange County, California; and any court proceeding shall be in the Orange County Superior Court, in the State of California, and in each case waive any claim of Forum Non Conveniens. Bidder agrees that any arbitration or legal action with respect to this Auction Sale is barred unless commenced within one (1) year of the date of this Auction Sale. AUCTION PARTICIPANT'S EXPRESSLY WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY.

13. General Terms. These Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale and the auction shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of California, regardless of the location of the Auction Sale. These Terms of Sale and the information on the Stack's Bowers' website constitute the entire agreement between the parties hereto on the subject matter hereof and supersede all other agreements, understandings, warranties and representations concerning the subject matter hereof. If any section of these Terms of Auction Sale or any term or provision of any section is held to be invalid, void, or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections or terms and provisions of a section shall continue in full force and effect without being impaired or invalidated in any way. Stack's Bowers may at its sole and absolute discretion, make loans or advances to Consignors and/or Bidders.

14. Chinese Translation. The Chinese translations are provided as a matter of convenience. In the event of a conflict, all English Terms and Conditions and lot descriptions take precedence and are binding.

Bidding in this auction sale constitutes unconditional acceptance by the Bidder of the foregoing Terms of Sale.

Please note: Transparent holders in which the auction lots are stored are to facilitate viewing and inspection of the lots and ARE NOT for long-term storage.

PCGS and NGC numbers provided are for bidder convenience only, we do not guarantee their accuracy. An incorrect PCGS or NGC number is not grounds to return a lot.

For PRICES REALIZED after the sale, call 1-800-458-4646. Preliminary prices realized will also be posted on the Internet soon after the session closes.



Stack's  *Bowers*
GALLERIES

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