

ErrorScope

Volume 31 Number 3 | May - June 2022

Combined Organizations Of Numismatic Error Collectors Of America

In-Collar Double Strikes



In this issue:

Fred Weinberg Interview.
My Personal Experiences
With Type "H" Reverse
Washington Quarters.
1943 Cents With A Weak 4.
CONECA Errorama 2022.
Cuve's Round Up 21.
And More...

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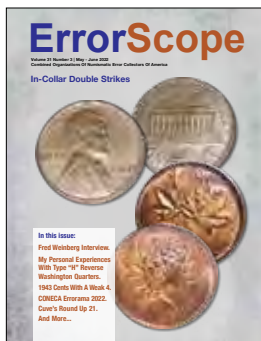
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Variety Attributions

CONECA offers an attribution service. This service enables members and non-members to send their coins to an authorized CONECA attributer through our Forum submission process who will return an opinion of each coin's attribution.

Attribution Only

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Non-members will be contacted by an attributer for current prices.

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US Errors – Mark Lighterman / striking & planchet errors only

World Errors – Mike Ellis

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- An Attributer compares a submitted variety to the list of known varieties and tries to find a match. If there's no match, he assigns it a new CONECA number or if it's a world variety, a new number in the Variety Coin Register.

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<https://conecaonline.org/attribution-services/>

For complete instructions on submitting your coin for examination services go to:

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San Jose CA 95130

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CONECA

The Combined Organization of Numismatic Error Collectors of America

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____ Renewal _____ Member # (if known) ____ New Membership ____ Gift

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 If you have questions about CONECA membership, email CONECA's Membership Coordinator at Maria@conecanline.org.
 Your membership is subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the CONECA Constitution and By-Laws.



President's Message

James Motley, CONECA President

All of the coin show reports that I am getting are telling me that dealers are buying stock like crazy and sales are brisk! Lots of good reports on the Baltimore show being busy both for buyers and sellers. Even the local shows seem to be super busy.

August 16-20, 2022 we will be at the ANA World's Fair of Money in Rosemont and the planning is happening now for the banquet. We are looking at Gibson's Restaurant and will need to have an approximate head count. If you're going to be at the convention and planning on attending the banquet, please shoot me an email soon so we can get a rough idea on the head count. Lots of gifts to give out and A LOT of award mentions from the last 2 years as well as this year's winners! Always a fun time and lots of laughs.

I again set up a table for CONECA at a show in Grand Rapids at the 4 Mile showcase venue. Turnout is steadily growing and I have gotten great responses from the folks in Western Michigan. Hey State reps, I have just gotten in a batch of the elongated if any of you doing shows are out of them.

I would like to remind all who are joining the CONECA forum to keep in mind that this is a volunteer organization. We do not have folks standing by waiting on your emails, phone calls, private messages or any other means of communication. Most of the folks working in the forum or any part of CONECA have full time jobs and do this as a way to pay back to our great hobby. Please keep that in mind before sending me an email saying "I posted in the forum and it's been 3 days and I haven't gotten a response" or "I emailed so and so 2 hours ago and haven't heard back".

We are continuing to build the new CONECA master listing database and it's really labor intensive. PLEASE, PLEASE be patient with us on this project. If you or somebody you know would like to get involved shoot me an email at James@conecaonline.org and we will find something that you can help with. I mentioned in the last issue we thought we would have a portion of the CML on the website by now, just not going as planned.

We are sitting at 981 members. (Trying to get over that 1000 hump, perhaps next time) There are a lot of things in the works right now. Some are in the early stages of development others are moving along nicely. More on that at a later date.

I would like to thank the following for their various donations to CONECA: Romeo Maynard Jr. for his continued support of the YN program. It is being used Romeo! Our YN numbers are increasing because of your generosity and Logan Wostyn's hard work. Also like to thank Charlie Bathman, Edward Kemper, Marc Bravstein, Ed Miller, Roger Gumm/G's Coin Shop, Patrick A. Moffett, Doug Jennings, and Joey Vanoni for your donations to CONECA.

As always thanks to the CONECA membership. I get a lot of emails with questions, comments etc. about things members would like to see or have changed. I try and answer every email or message I get because we value your input! Please don't email me with how did this coin get damaged emails. (Yes, I get several of them a week) Here is the canned answer to that question. I do not know as I was not there when the coin was damaged.

As always, I would encourage you to look at the advertisers in this journal and if you make contact, mention that you have seen them here!

Stay safe, stay healthy and enjoy our hobby.

Keep up the hunt!

James Motley

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CONECA State Representatives Program Update

By James Motley

We are off and running! 26 States have one CONECA State Representative and several have more. We also have three Representatives in Canada from the provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Quebec. If you would like to become a State Representative please email me, James Motley at Coneca@Alpinecomputers.net and request consideration. We have set up a web page on which you can see updates at <https://conecaonline.org/state-representative-program/>. We also have a Facebook presence, <https://www.facebook.com/ConecaStateRep>. Come check us out and LIKE the Facebook page. Even if you don't. :)

Here are the Representatives as they stand on 05-01-2022

USA

Arizona: Rick Snow - Rick@indiancent.com

Arkansas: David Smock - davidmsmock@yahoo.com

California: Allan Anderson - adesign@sbcglobal.net

Colorado: JC Stevens - jcstevens43@gmail.com

Florida:

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Robert Mellor - rm3coins@gmail.com

John H. Miller Jr. - Oncecent1909@yahoo.com

Hawaii: Joe Au-Franz - aaufranzj@gmail.com

Idaho:

Gerald Higgs - higgsgerald@yahoo.com

(Northern ID) Ron Brown - ronbrownphd@hotmail.com

Illinois: Steven Mills - millsteven@gmail.com

Kansas: Raymond Munoz - theraymondmunoz@gmail.com

Louisiana: Mira Para - mira.para@att.net

Maryland:

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Troy Moxley - cowlovers7@aol.com

Michigan:

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Logan Wostyn - zifmeister@yahoo.com

Ken Potter - KPotter256@aol.com

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Missouri: Raymond Munoz - theraymondmunoz@gmail.com

Nebraska: Lee DeBevoise - lee@fishdreams.com

Nevada: Allan Anderson - adesign@sbcglobal.net

New Jersey: Peter Lukic - peterlukic@yahoo.com

New York:

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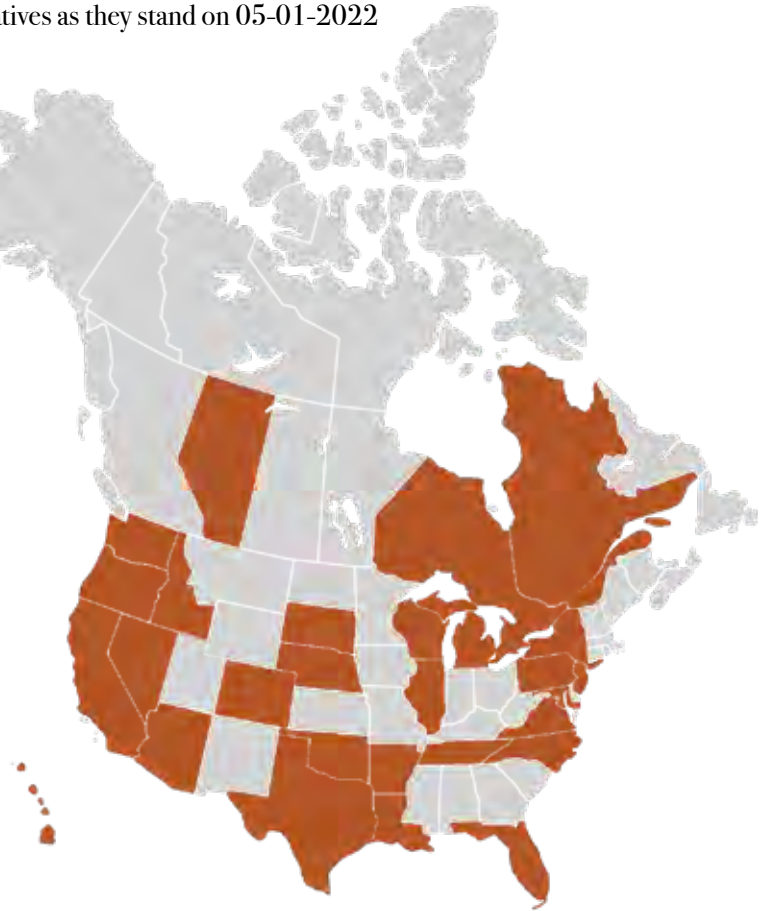
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Jon Zampedro - jon1982@jedwardscc.net

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Alberta: Randy Ash - zonad1@gmail.com

Ontario: Roger Paulen - sherwood.park.pennies@gmail.com

Quebec: Christian Houle - canerrorcoin@gmail.com

CONECA Membership News

By Maria Rickert-Kittell

CONECA would like to thank the following members for their generous contributions to our organization:

Charlie Bathman - \$37.50 General Fund	Edward Kemper – donation of mint stamps
Anonymous - \$50.00 General Fund \$50.00 Youth Fund	Romeo A. Maynard - \$240.00 for Youth Scholarships
Marc Bravstein - \$15.00 General Fund \$15.00 Youth Fund	Ed Miller - \$50.00 General Fund
Roger Gumm/G's Coin Shop - \$25.00 General Fund	Patrick A. Moffett - \$200.00 General Fund
Doug Jennings - \$10.00 Youth Fund	Joey Vanoni - \$15.00 General Fund

Welcome to our 46 new CONECA members. Total Membership – 981

Recipient of the Romeo A. Maynard Scholarship for Young Numismatists

AJ Gaspar – recommended by the ANA

New Members	Recommended by	New Members	Recommended by
Ruby Abernathy	Self	Irv Herling	CONECA
Arther Acevedo	Internet	Charles Heydenreich	Self
Wilbert Anderson	Self	Gregory Hunziker	Self
Jack Angus	CoinHelpU-Daniel Malone	Charlotte Jobe	Self
Frank Baze	Cherrypickers' Guide	Tamara Lesnar	Internet
Thaddeus Beadle	Blue Ridge Silver Hound	Jay Lundreen	Jimmy Krozel
Alex Bradley	Mike Diamond	Tyrone Macaluso	James Motley
Niko Bradway	Ike Group website	Dennis Marsh	James Wiles
Jason Brown	Self	Leanna McGovern	Self
Gwendolyn Bryant	Silverridge	Christopher Mills	Internet
Scott Burgess	Dr. Daniel Griffin	Jim O'Donnell	Internet
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Clay Cogdill	Self	J. Richitt	Self
Bart Conard	Self	Jim Rospierski	CoinHelpU
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Join CONECA

If you would like to join CONECA, or have any questions concerning your membership, please contact:

Maria Rickert-Kittell • P.O. Box 223 • Armada, MI 48005-0223
or by email: maria@conecaonline.org

A copy of the membership application form may be downloaded at
<https://conecaonline.org/join-or-renew/> or you may pay using PayPal from the same page.

Adult one-year membership - \$25.00 YN one-year membership - \$10.00
Foreign Adult one-year membership - \$37.50 Foreign one-year Online Only membership - \$25.00
Foreign YN one-year membership - \$20.00
Contact Maria for Life, Family, and Organization Memberships.

CONECA Errorama 2022

Come one come all to
CONECA Errorama 2022
Rosemont III
August 16-20

In conjunction with the 2022 American Numismatic Association's World Fair of Money.

After two years of either the ANA show being canceled and the reduced availability to restaurants in the area to hold banquets, CONECA is planning to hold its Annual Awards banquet again this year.

We are hoping to hold the banquet at Gibson's Steak House on Thursday Aug 19th. We need to start planning now so we can account for how many people are thinking about attending so we can start setting the reservations. Please contact Jim Motley at James@conecaonline.org if you are even thinking about attending.

CONECA will also be manning a club table and holding our annual membership meeting as always. Further information on dates and times will be posted in the next issue of the Errorscope.

Let's hope to see you all there!

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Young Numismatists Program

By Logan Wostyn

Hello everyone.

In the last issues I asked the YN's to tell me about why they started collecting, what kept their interest, do they do this as a family and what are their ambitions in the coin world. These were some of the answers I received.

Mathew Says

"I began coin collecting years ago when my Grandpa would give my cousins and I coins for Christmas. Every year we would get a partially filled blue Whitman album. Ever since I opened the album, I was hooked. I started coin roll hunting and I joined online forums like *CoinTalk.com* and this only made me love coin collecting more. I bought some books and supplies, and went deeper into the hobby. I expanded my interests from only US coins to foreign, ancient, errors, and more! I became even more interested in coin collecting, and I printed up some business cards and I started to purchase coin collections locally. There is nothing more exhilarating than digging through a box of coins untouched for decades and trying to find a key date or something cool. I hope to someday own my own coin store or at least work at one. Coin collecting is my favorite hobby, and it would be awesome if I could make a living doing what I love!"

Julian Says

"I collect error coins with my Dad. He has been collecting coins his whole life, and when he showed me a bunch of them as I was younger, I thought a lot of them just all looked the same. But when he showed me some error coins in his collection, they were unique and cool. None of them looked the same, and I wanted to know more about them. I put together some questions about some error coins in his collection, and I asked one of the coin experts in his coin club to explain them to me. My Dad said that I should submit the questions to *ErrorScope* Magazine for some expert answers. With his help, we sent those questions into *ErrorScope*, and they wrote a 1-page writeup on my questions in June 2017. Ken Potter gave some great answers. Here are a couple of the questions:

How is it possible that a coin can have a D over S mint mark? It just does not make sense to me that a D mint mark can overstrike an S mint mark if the D mint mark comes from a die at the Denver mint and the S mint mark comes from a die at the San Francisco mint, and these are in two different mints in states hundreds of miles away from each other.

It puzzled me, how do odd shaped error coins get outside the mint? I get rolls of coins at the bank and look through them to find error coins and I never find any major errors except for tiny cuds and die cracks. You can't fit a

broadstruck coin into the wrapper of a roll of coins, it's too big to fit. Ken Potter explained how coins are delivered from the mint in bags, not in coin rolls.

My Dad brings me to our coin club meetings in Portland Oregon. The President of the club gives away a coin to any kid who joins a meeting. So he learned that I was interested in error coins, and he gave me a neat error coin, but he did not tell me what the error was. It took a while for me to figure out what it was, but eventually I figured it out. It was a die clash Jefferson Nickel, and I figured it out because it looked like an W was in front of Jefferson's head and a O was behind his head. A little while later I found a coin just like it on eBay, and it was a die clash and double struck. That was a really cool coin, and my Dad suggested that we write up another *ErrorScope* story to talk about the two coins. So that story was put into the August 2018 *ErrorScope*. We called the story "*Two Illusive Jefferson Die Clashes*." My Dad says that he likes coin collecting because it was a fun thing for him to do with his Dad. He thinks it is a fun thing to do with me to. He calls it father-son time and money that is very well spent. That makes cents to me."

Jason Says

"I started collecting coins when I was in elementary school. My grandfather had collected coins and gave some to my dad, and I always knew about them and loved when my dad would let me look at them. My family kept all of our change in a big bag, and already fascinated by coins, I found it and spent a long time looking and picking out the older ones. I remember picking through and trying to find the state quarter errors but never found them. I did however find a 1964 quarter, and for some reason I thought that 1964 was a clad coin—I still kept it. One of my friends at school also collected coins, and had a lot from his grandfather. He and his family helped fuel my interest for the hobby as we collected together. I would bring my coins to school to show him and we would talk about the hobby. When I was with my parents and they had to go to the bank, I would get a roll of pennies—it was only 50 cents. I would open the roll at home and look through it, keeping the ones I liked.

I knew and looked for errors when I came across coins, but didn't avidly search for them until I went to the

bank and began buying many rolls—even boxes—at a time. This was the reason I really got into error collecting. I began finding errors that I remembered looking for and never found when I was searching through that bag. As the W quarters came out, my excitement only increased as I cracked each roll. I used Ken Potter's *Strike it Rich With Pocket Change* Book as well as other sources for information on errors. The more I looked, the more knowledge I obtained. I was thrilled when I found out that there was an error coin magazine. When I started collecting ancient coins, I had fun; but when I realized there were errors in ancient coins, I had more fun. I'm still looking for error coins, and have loved the influx of new errors to look for that the mint has been producing. The reason I look for these coins is not the value, but really the thrill and joy, and the fun of finding a coin that wasn't supposed to be made. I hope to one day find a Henning nickel, or a major doubled die, or a brockage, but I am not disappointed with what I have been finding. I hope to continue finding and collecting error coins as I get older.

Thank you for this YN challenge Miss Wostyn. I really enjoyed recalling my experiences as a coin collector, some of which I haven't thought of in a long time. God Bless you."

Adhu Says

"I had always had a fascination to look through world coins. However, I wouldn't consider myself to be a collector. One day while looking through coins, I stumbled upon wheat cents. I had read about it before and that got me excited. That got me started collecting.

I want to make a full set of 50 state quarters, national park quarters and collect <W> quarters. I only have one <W> quarter so far. I am always going to be a collector as I aspire to be a doctor, author and a hobby lover.

With error coins, I would like to collect more dramatic errors. As I am not good with using the loupe, I am more interested in dramatic errors because they are easier to see."

For this issues challenge let's have a quiz. Trust me you really want to participate in this one. The prize for this one is awesome!

1. What was the denomination of coin released with a privy mark in honor of the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII?
2. Why does age not always equal value?
3. What is Coin Wrapping Damage?
4. What Causes Plating Blisters?
5. Why was the 1943 Steel Cent struck on zinc plated steel?
6. How can you tell a regular \$1 bill from a \$1 Web Note?
7. What is the definition of devices when pertaining to coins?
8. What is the definition of incuse?
9. On what coin is the "Goatee" variety found?
10. What are "Die Trails"?
11. How many specimens of the 2000-P Sacagawea \$1 Mule have been certified by a professional coin grading service?
12. What are the 3 main divisions that errors and varieties are classified?
13. What denomination of coin is very common to find Lamination errors?
14. What is an Off Metal Transitional Error?
15. At what percentage is it considered significant in a Rotational Misalignment?

As always have fun and feel free to email me if you need help. This is not a quiz you want to miss!

Best Wishes,

Logan ■

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CONECA Offers Overstrike Medals

By James Motley

The Combined Organizations of Numismatic Error Collectors of America (CONECA) is offering a limited number of Mexican Coyolxauhqui Commemorative 50 Peso coins Overstruck with CONECA's Logo die mated with a St. Gaudens Double Eagle Liberty design on the flip side. St. Gaudens' Miss Liberty holding a torch and olive branch design is considered one of the most beautiful struck by the US Mint.

The 50 Peso coins (circa 1982-84) are 35 mm while the dies used to strike them are 39 mm. This variation in sizes was deliberate in order to give the finished pieces beautiful metal flow as often seen on wrong planchet and off metal errors.

The designs on the host coin show through beautifully with the Mexican Coat of Arms on the obverse and the Aztec goddess of the Moon or Milky Way, Coyolxauhqui, on the reverse. With a little bit of searching, the dates on most can be seen on the understrikes adding even more appeal to the medal.

The surplus from the sale is earmarked for enhancements to the the YN and the Social Media (website\ forum) Funds. Because the 50 Peso coins are copper-nickel,



CONECA is able to offer the overstrike medals at very reasonable prices. They are available for \$12.50 each or 5 for \$50. Both options are postpaid.

The medals can be purchased via PayPal on CONECA's website: <https://conecaonline.org/shop> or by snail mail.

Checks and Money Orders for the medals should be made out to James Motley and sent to:

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In-Collar Double Strikes

By James Zimmerman

Double struck coins have always fascinated me throughout my collector years. As it turns out, my favorite double strike type is the in-collar double strike where the design elements of the first and second strike are flipped over, rotated or slightly rotated on center. This error type is typically much scarcer than the typical off-center double strike and can often exhibit little detail of the original strike due to pressure from the second strike. It should be noted that the “flip over” version tends to be harder to find. Generally speaking, as with most other error types, the higher the denomination and older the series, the higher the scarcity.

In my first example (see Figures 1-2), both dates show as well as the “railroad rim” caused by the normally struck coin being partially forced back into the collar while receiving the second strike. Once a coin leaves the collar, it is difficult for it to return without causing the partial collar marks due to insufficient space to fit back in although it’s not that uncommon for the edge to look normal on genuine examples. It should be noted that the 1968-D of the underlining 1st strike is strongly displayed on Lincoln’s shoulder area due to that area exhibiting less striking pressure.



Obverse

Reverse

Figure 1: 1968-D Lincoln Cent



Figure 2: 1968-D Lincoln Cent - Partial Collar Effect

Examples of closely rotated in-collar double strikes are shown below. Examples include an 1898 Indian Cent (see Figures 3 and 4). A Native American Dollar (see Figures 5 and 6) and a 1945-P Walking Liberty Half Dollar (see Figures 7 and 8). The Native American Dollar also has its edge lettering missing.



Figure 3: 1898 Indian Cent - Obverse



Figure 4: 1898 Indian Cent - Obverse

continued on next page



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Figure 5: Native American Dollar - Obverse



Figure 6: Native American Dollar - Reverse



Figure 7: 1945-P Walking Liberty Half - Obverse



Figure 8: 1945-P Walking Liberty Half - Reverse

I have also included two Canadian cent examples. The 1969 is a very popular one with numerous examples known to exist (see Figure 9). It is my understanding that these were the result of foul play by a mint employee with 1969 being a very “popular” year for more dramatic Canadian errors. My second Canadian cent example is a 1961 cent with a close rotation of the second strike (see Figure 10).



Obverse

Reverse

Figure 9: 1969 Canadian Cent



Figure 10: 1961 Canadian Cents - Reverse

Finally, I have included a flip over in-collar double strike that was again struck a third time off center. This is the first example I have seen of an in-collar double strike that received a third off center strike although I am sure others exist (see Figures 11 and 12). ■



Figure 11: 1998 Lincoln Cent - Obverse



Figure 12: 1998 Lincoln Cent - Reverse



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Fred Weinberg

Interview

Part One

By Greg Bennick

For anyone who has collected error coins in the last half century, Fred Weinberg is both a familiar name and an inspiration. In 2021 when he announced his retirement, I knew that a comprehensive interview for *Errorscope* would be a great way for the magazine to wrap up his career, especially since he did so much for the publication in its early days. This interview was conducted in February 2022 by phone and it has been an honor to put it together for the magazine!



Greg Bennick: So, tell me: why errors? With all the things out there to collect, what's the allure of errors to you as a specialty? What's fascinated you most about them?

Fred Weinberg: When I started out collecting, as a Cub Scout, I did both stamps and coins. I always thought coins were cooler. When I was 10 or 11 years old, I started finding odd things on coins like a lot of people do. Things that just looked different. I would examine them with a magnifying glass and try to figure out what they were. Was it a lamination, was it a die crack, was it a scratch...what was it? I was already a subscriber to *Coin World*, and one of the first things I did every week when I got *Coin World* in the mail was to turn to the very last page to the "Collector's Clearinghouse", which often ran photographs of error coins that people would send in to James Johnson and Marilyn Tiernan, who were running Collector's Clearinghouse at the time. And just to see pictures in black and white of an off center penny or a double struck anything was just incredibly exciting for me. At the time, I really couldn't travel to too many coin shops unless my parents took me. I just found errors myself and thought they were fascinating because they were so different.

Also, at that time I was starting to read about parapsychology and ESP and strange things, and I just thought errors were kind of like the flying saucers, or the ESP subject, of numismatics. So that always interested me also. I learned over a period of years about the minting process, and especially so when I started going to the Error Club of Hollywood meetings in 1967, which was about six or seven years after I started collecting.

Greg Bennick: What was it about coins that attracted you?

Fred Weinberg: Stamps just didn't really excite me although they were colorful. I thought coins had more heft. They were made out of metal, and they weighed something. And more importantly I had access to them. I had a paper route, like a lot of kids did in the 60s, and I would collect 25 cents a month at the end of the month from at least a few hundred people to whom I'd delivered the local newspaper. I'd come home and just dump out all these coins on my little desk in my room and start to go through them.

Maybe I would pull out a silver coin, or a lot of times there was a foreign coin that somebody tried to slip in. Interestingly enough, one of the things that really got me motivated was the time I came home one night, this would have been in the winter, around 1962 or 1963 at the latest and had that big pile of coins on my desk and there was an 1882 \$10 gold piece that somebody had given me. They probably gave it to me as a foreign coin. I found that when I collected and it was dark outside, I got more foreign coins than when I collected the change in the summertime and it was lighter outside. People either on purpose or by accident would give me those foreign coins.

So, someone had given me an 1882 \$10 gold piece. There was no way I could return it because I had no idea who amongst the few hundred people might have given it to me. That was likely the first time I ever held and touched a gold coin.

A couple of years later when the 1964 Kennedy Proof Sets came out, they were issued for \$2.10 each by the US Mint. And they immediately went up to about \$20 or \$22 per set because of Kennedy's popularity, and also the fact that the mint had announced that they weren't going to make any more silver coins. In my first bad trade deal that I can remember, I went into my local coin shop and I traded that 1882 \$10 gold piece straight across for a 1964 Kennedy Proof Set. The Proof Set today is

worth \$20 or so, and the gold coin's worth probably \$900 or \$950. So, I tell people, keep the gold, don't buy modern issues (laughs).

Greg Bennick: That's amazing! And it leads into my next question. I'm curious about your first error coin. Is it true that the first error coin you bought was a fake, as I read in a very early issue of *ErrorScope*?

Fred Weinberg: Yes, that's true. There was a coin store on Fairfax Boulevard in Los Angeles. My mother took me there one day, and I said I was interested in errors. He had a 1941 nickel that was impressed on the reverse, backwards of course, with a penny. It was a 1940 or 1950 something penny. I was about 10 years old, maybe 11, and I bought that coin for about \$4. It took me about a year and a half or so to figure out that it was what I call a sandwich coin. Somebody just pressed another coin into the nickel. I've always thought over the decades that dealer -- who I didn't see for many years after that -- knew what it was and didn't care. Because it was pretty obvious what it was once I started learning about the minting process. I was very lucky, because I got to learn the minting process from some of the great people in the error hobby from the 1950's and 60's.

Greg Bennick: Given that you got burned on your first error coin purchase (and I know that's happened to me certainly as well over the years) was that experience discouraging? What errors got you motivated?

Fred Weinberg: Well, I wouldn't say that I was discouraged. I was probably a little more upset with myself that I got taken in. But I let it slide. As far as what errors motivated me, that's tough, because before the first Error-A-Rama, which was held in Hollywood in June of 1967, my only access to errors would have either been a local coin shop - I wasn't even old enough to go to the Long Beach coin show at that point - or reading Collector's Clearinghouse in *Coin World*, or the page or two about errors which would appear from time to time in *CoinAge* magazine, or something like that. I really wasn't exposed to actual coins, aside from photographs of errors, until I started going to the local club meetings in 1967.

Greg Bennick: What were the local club meetings like? You must have been the youngest person there!

Fred Weinberg: In 1967, I had just turned 17 and believe it or not, I wasn't the youngest! I was among the youngest, but the Wallaces who I met for the first time at the Error Club of Hollywood, and then of course saw them at the Orange County Error Club, were younger than me. Donnie, Debbie, and Susan. There were two sisters and a brother, and Don and Evelyn Wallace were their parents. They owned the Wallace Trade Bindery who ended up publishing *ErrorScope* for many, many years.

So, I was among the youngest, but I wasn't quite the youngest. At the time, there were probably, oh I would say, a half a dozen high school-ish, and maybe even college kids going to those meetings. But most of the meetings were attended by adults from West Los Angeles, Hollywood, you know, the general southern California area.



From left to right: Syd Kass, Fred Weinberg, Bill Fivaz, Xan Chamberlain, Alan Herbert, Lee Gong

Greg Bennick: And this was an actual error specific club in Hollywood?

Fred Weinberg: Yeah, Mort Goodman started it with a guy named Si Kaufman from Culver City. It was after the first Error-A-Rama that was put on at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel on Hollywood Boulevard. Because of the success of the Error-A-Rama, they'd started the Error Club of Hollywood.

So it was quite exciting to every month drive up to Hollywood and there would be 30 or 40, mostly adults, sitting in the audience and we'd talk and they'd have lottery games and a presentation and a little trading, and it was wonderful. I learned a lot about the minting process from some of the experts like Mort Goodman. Syd Kass would come down on a rare occasion from Stockton. And right now I'm probably one of the few people alive that remembers meeting and spending time with Blakesley, who of course is very famous for his Blakesley effect on clipped planchets of all different types. He was a very interesting person.

Greg Bennick: Wow, what do you remember about him? I think most people only know his name...and his effect.

Fred Weinberg: You know what, Mort Goodman once told me his first name and I forgot it. I believe he only went by Blakesley, because he didn't like his first name. Whether it was Reginald or something corny-sounding, I'm not sure, but he was known as Blakesley. He was very tall and lanky, balding. I can picture him like I saw him yesterday. He was very soft spoken, very analytical and he's the one that noticed the weakness of the rim on most clips opposite the clip that's become known as *The Blakesley Effect*. But he also diagnosed and wrote about in great detail the other two methods of authenticating clipped planchets, which is number one, the metal flow towards the clip, and number two, what we call the cut and tear marks, which you can see on a curved clip and a straight end clip. You won't see these on a ragged or end of sheet clip.

I can remember the diagrams he drew of the planchet going through the upsetting mill and why with the lack of metal at this point it would cause a weakness in the rim opposite to that, because there wasn't enough corresponding pressure. So it was fascinating because people had noticed this effect, but nobody had put two and two together until Blakesley had written his papers. It opened up methods of authentication for the common coin collector to be able to authenticate their own coins anywhere in the country which they'd found without having to send those pieces into Collector's Clearinghouse.

Greg Bennick: So fascinating! My dad tells stories of finding errors in change in the 1950's. And that when he was finding clipped planchets and also laminations, that he didn't know what to do with him. He said he had bags of them and eventually just spent them because they weren't worth anything. At the time, is that where most people were finding their errors, their double strikes, and slightly more even major errors at the time? Were people pulling them out of change?

Fred Weinberg: I can tell you, believe it or not, that in 1967, '68, '69, there were not a lot of major off center or even double struck Lincoln pennies around. And if you look today at dates in the 1950s and '60s, you'll see that they're kind of scarce. Yeah, there might have been more after 1965 when they took out silver from our coins and started ramping up production in higher mintage figures. This produced a few more errors, but we rarely saw very expensive or rare error coins at all at the club meetings. At the Error-A-Ramas people would exhibit, so you'd see some great examples like a clock of off-center buffalo nickels, or a clock of double struck pennies. But at the regular monthly meetings it was things that most people found, which would have been - like you said - clips, laminations, die cracks and those sorts of things. I had a little mail order business when I was probably 15, 16 selling BIE's and die cracks for 15, 20, and 30 cents apiece plus a few postage stamps. That was my first actual dealing in coins as a business, and it was fairly successful. You can't get rich selling coins for 25 cents apiece, but you meet a lot of friends and learn a lot that way.

Greg Bennick: So, you've mentioned that first Error-A-Rama, June 1967. What do you remember about that first error convention? That must have been really exciting!

Fred Weinberg: Well to be honest, it was actually the weekend before my high school graduation and prom night, and I made sure I had enough money for a corsage for my date and that was it! I saved the rest of my money to spend the following week at the Error-A-Rama in Hollywood. The show was put on by Mort Goodman, who I consider one of the grandfathers of the error hobby. Mort and other people were starting to get a club together in Hollywood. Error-A-Rama was at this beautiful hotel, and they had a room with bourse tables, and showcases and everything. There were dealers that I had just read about or seen their ads in the NECA - it was NECA at the time, not CONECA - the NECA *ErrorScope*. I would see names of people I recognized and got to meet them in person. A lot of them became members of the Error Club of Hollywood, but some people had flown from back east. It was the first time I ever met Arnie Margolis who came in from New York. There was also a gentleman there named Philip Spier from the south who had an incredible collection of coins.

You know, it really wasn't until I bought in 1974, the Bolt collection, the Dr. Conway Bolt collection of errors, that I realized that there were very few collectors that understood or had any interest in error coins in the 1930s, '40s and '50s. It picked up a little bit probably in the mid to late '50s to some degree. But Mort and Arnie really got it going in the mid 1960s. That was what I would call, the first new wave of error collecting. It was because of Mort and Arnie and the club and NECA in the mid 1960s.

Greg Bennick: And do you think that upswing was caused by them spreading education about the minting process, or was it info about particularly interesting error types?

Fred Weinberg: It was both of those things. Mort, just before I met him at the Error Club of Hollywood, literally drove around the United States during 1965 and 1966 giving coin club talks about the minting process and about error coins to any club in the country that would listen to him. He had this old two door car and drove it all over the country with his wife Jane, and they gave talks on the minting process. That motivated a lot of people. I think when Mort saw how interested people were to come to these meetings, that's when he started thinking about maybe an Error Club up in Hollywood, and the Error-A-Rama. They got going around the same time.



Dave Camire from NGC and Fred Weinberg.

Photo was taken at the West Point Mint in 2009, in the Gold Cage room

Greg Bennick: I remember hearing about Mort Goodman driving around the country. I think it was something you mentioned to me at a coin show. But hearing you describe it in that way is so astounding, because that truly is groundbreaking, especially at that time. It's sort of like *The Red Book* and Jack Kerouac all in one.

Fred Weinberg: That's very good! You're right. And Arnie was the one who came up with the graphics. If you look around in older issues of error magazines, there was something called Margood, which was Margolis and Goodman. They came up with a little company where you could get a picture of a Lincoln penny on a two-by-two piece of cardboard. Arnie did most of the printing. And the hole, instead of being in the center was off to the left, or to the right, and there was a diagram of a penny. You could staple the coin into that two-by-two holder and then draw on the diagram of Lincoln where the BIE was, where the die crack was, where the lamination was, and so on. That was ground breaking. It was pretty popular for a couple of years, though it lost interest over time.

But Arnie and Mort, were from both extremes across the country and they were good friends. You had Arnie in New York and Mort here in California. They were without a doubt the two people who most motivated me. Probably 80%, if not 90% of the coin collectors back in the 1960s who ended up collecting errors, were motivated and inspired by them as well.

Greg Bennick: That's fascinating. I'm actually curious about some of those names from back in the day because there's so many iconic, not just publications, but books such as *The Design Cud* or even *Error Trends Coin Magazine* and these helped form the foundation of the hobby. I was really fortunate to have met Arnie when I was a teenager. My dad took me to a coin club meeting on Long Island when I was 14 or 15 years old. And I met Arnie and Rich Schemmer and their friends. Arnie was certainly a character.

Fred Weinberg: Yes, he certainly was.

Greg Bennick: What do you remember about Arnie specifically? Because of course since his passing, he isn't here to speak for himself, but certainly *Error Trends Coin Magazine* as far back into its origins the 1960's, seemed to be hugely instrumental in bringing information and education to the hobby.

Fred Weinberg: Arnie started his first issue of *Error Trends* in early 1968. He had done a sample copy after the Error-A-Rama, and the Error Club of Hollywood started. There's a sample copy which says "sample copy" on it that I think is from the fall or winter of 1967. But I believe the first official issue was 1968. When I met Arnie in 1967 at the Error-A-Rama here in Hollywood, we for some reason just hit it off and became very good friends. Up until the end I would visit him at his house. He invited me to West Point, and I took my very first tour of the West Point Mint with him. He was definitely a character. I was born and

raised in Los Angeles and I'm more of a laid-back California-type person. Arnie was very, very New York-ish type person. Normally one would expect that we would have been like oil and water, but for some reason we always hit it off. It was like a son / father relationship. It always fascinated people to see how well he and I got along when it was hard sometimes for Arnie to get along with other people. Arnie was opinionated.

Greg Bennick: He certainly was! Those opinions were the basis of so many articles throughout the ETCM years. Why don't we talk about a couple of other iconic names, and people most of us never got a chance to meet. What could you tell us about Natalie Halpern? The hobby seemed male dominated, and as a woman so highly involved, she seemed rare.

Fred Weinberg: Natalie was not only unusual for being a female coin dealer, much less an error dealer, but also just as a woman collecting coins. Even this was very unusual back even in the 1960's. I would see Natalie every time I went to a New Jersey or New York coin show. She was always very friendly, always gregarious, smart, sharp. Everybody loved dealing with her. Back in those days back east, you'd deal with Natalie Halpern, or you'd deal with Pete Bishal. There was a crew of people on each coast. People didn't travel as much to shows. Because of my job at a company called Numismatics Limited at which I worked, I would fly to the bigger shows around the country. So I'd always go to shows in New York, New Jersey, or sometimes even Connecticut. Natalie didn't go to Chicago or to the south or out west, but I would always see her in New York. She was always great to deal with. She had a great sense of humor was a sharp dealer.

Greg Bennick: While we're on the subject, you mentioned Pete Bishal. The error hobby - because it deals with unusual and strange coins - attracts some unusual and strange people. Pete Bishal was certainly another one of those. I know that I bought coins on a number of occasions from Pete. I had came up as a punk rock kid and was singing in punk rock bands and when I first met Pete Bishal, I thought, wow, here's a guy who seems as bizarre as I feel! I always enjoyed seeing him at coin shows. What do you recall about him?

Fred Weinberg: Well, Pete was an absolute trip. He was gregarious and very energetic and outgoing. He was also very knowledgeable. His main area of study and claim to fame was that he studied all the different die varieties of the 1878 dollar and using the Van Allen book - the *VAM book* - Pete was the first person who made the argument that one of these VAMs, and I cannot remember it was VAM 18 or VAM 27, was actually one of the first coins struck at the mint when they first struck 1878 silver dollars. He did that for both the Philadelphia and San Francisco issues. So he was a true student of errors and of coins and he really studied this stuff. At shows he was always entertaining. He had a crazy personality, and everyone liked him. But like you said the error hobby attracted people who were attracted to strange coins and everybody involved had a quirk or two.

Greg Bennick: One more classic name. I want to ask about Lonesome John Devine. He was another character we haven't discussed. Can you tell us a bit about him and the role he played in the hobby?

Fred Weinberg: I would say after people like Mort Goodman and Arnie Margolis, John was probably the third or fourth most influential person in the error hobby, because he was a big promoter as well as a dealer. He had his publications, he had a publishing company called HiHo Printing where he would publish his own little price list. And for a while I think he printed the *ErrorScope* too. John was a great guy, very knowledgeable, very smart, very friendly. And I used to go out and visit him in Newbury Park, which is coincidentally, maybe 20 minutes at the most, from where I am right now here in the Valley. John was great, and had a very, very positive effect on the error hobby. He didn't travel to coin shows. I don't even think he went to the Long Beach shows. But his promotion of coins and errors and his price lists were very, very instrumental in making errors more popular.

Greg Bennick: I love it. So how did you move from being a collector to becoming a dealer? You mentioned selling BIE pennies and things like that, and later Numismatics Limited. Was Numismatics Limited your company?

Fred Weinberg: No, and actually what I probably should tell you, and I've told this story before but it's important to me is that I had the paper route, and I had that little mail order business selling 25 cent, 30 cent error coins. But there was also a coin shop in Los Angeles called Jonathan's Coins on Manchester in Inglewood, close to Randy's Donuts. I would go in there, especially on Tuesday nights, but also on Saturdays in about 1967, '68, '69 when I could drive. It was maybe 20 minutes away from where I lived. Jonathan's Coins in Inglewood had probably the largest if not the second largest bid board in the country. There would be hundreds of people every Tuesday night fighting each other to put that last bid on the little card on the bid board and I would go there and get worked up if there was an error coin I wanted to buy. Then you'd hang around and make friends. I kind of got to be known as an error guy at Jonathan's.

Well, fast forward a couple of years later. This is now 1971. I'm now 21 years old and at my parents house in Cheviot Hills. I'm with my girlfriend at the time and she was baking chocolate chip cookies during Christmas break. I got a call from Jonathan's, and they said, "Fred, there's a guy here with a bunch of error coins. He wants to sell them. I don't know anything about them. I want you to come out here and buy this deal for me."

So I said, "Okay!" And I left the chocolate chip cookies, which is probably the only time in my life I have and ever will leave freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. I ran over to Inglewood to the coin shop, walked in and Jonathan told me that guy was in the conference room. I said, "Jonathan, I don't know how to do any of this...what do I do?" He said, "It's real simple. Buy them so that I can put them in the showcase and sell them make and make a profit. It's that easy."

I went into the room and it turns out that the person who was selling these coins was another error dealer named Jim Layman. He was from Parma, Ohio and he was driving out to Northern California to relocate and knew Jonathan's had a bid board and a coin shop and he thought, "Well, I'll sell my error inventory there." I had heard of him. He was intimidating only in the sense that he was older than me, probably in his 30's I'm guessing at the time, maybe a touch older than that, and I'd seen his name. I thought, "He's a dealer. Well, what the hell am I doing?"

Well, the short version of the story is, I ended up buying the deal from him. Jim Layman is still, to this day, my life insurance agent, because that's what his main job was in Parma Ohio. He's still a life insurance agent in Modesto, California. I ended up buying the deal from him. He left and I recall it was about \$2,200, which was a lot of money for error coins for a collection at the time. I can't remember any of the coins in the deal, but I remember the rough total amount. We gave him a check, and he left.

Jonathan came up to me and said, "I like the way you handled yourself, do you want a job here?" Until that second I had never ever considered being a coin dealer. I was happy to just be a collector. But the second he asked me that question, I knew that's what I wanted to do. I told him, "Yes I do!" I said that I'd start in a couple of weeks at the beginning of the year. We agreed that I would start at the beginning of February which is exactly 50 years ago. And I then went home and told my girlfriend, but it took me about four days to come up with the nerve to tell my middle class Jewish parents that I was dropping out of college to become a coin dealer!

Greg Bennick: That's amazing.

Fred Weinberg: It was terrifying! And surprisingly, they were pretty, pretty supportive as I recall. I finished my college tests and started the beginning of February, and worked there for a little over a year and that was my job until I got hired at Numismatics Limited, which is another story.

Greg Bennick: Well, let's jump into that. But just as a quick aside, you know I've made my living as a speaker and performer for my entire life and I've mentioned to you that I started out as a juggler when I was a kid and still use juggling and various comedic tricks in my shows. But I had the moment too, where I had to tell my parents, "Guess what? I know you went to an Ivy League school, but I'm going to be a professional juggler for the rest of my life!" So I know that feeling of dread and wonder and awe and hope!

Fred Weinberg: Exactly, the dread! And you know what looking back, I probably would have done better with my parents if I told them I wanted to be a juggler than a coin dealer. [laughter] But actually, they were fine with it. So what ended up happening was that Jonathan, though he had a big coin shop and was successful, was taking too much money out of the business himself. He never had enough cash flow. So every time somebody would come in and he would buy a coin, he had to cover the checks. So, two or three times a week I would have to drive up to Beverly Hills from Inglewood with whatever gold or rare coins we had bought in the shop that week to sell to this company called Numismatics Limited to get enough to cover the checks for everything else that he had written checks for in the prior few days.

After doing this for about a year and meeting the three owners of Numismatics Limited, I was in there one day and the two owners started asking me questions. We were in their office and they asked me, "So, how do you like working at Jonathan's?" I replied, "Oh it's great. I love it. It's exciting." They asked, "Really...you really, really enjoy it? Are you happy there? Are you learning?" And I said, "Oh yeah, I'm learning a lot! It's great. I'm buying and selling. It's wonderful!"

They went on and on for at least twenty minutes asking me if I was happy there. I must have been naïve and not realized what was happening. But finally, out of exasperation, one of them said to me, "Hey idiot we're trying to offer you a job!"

Greg Bennick: Laughs] And how many years were you with Numismatics Limited?

Fred Weinberg: I was at Numismatics Limited for thirteen and a half, maybe fourteen years.

Greg Bennick: And I'm assuming you did a lot of traveling for them?

Fred Weinberg: Oh, I traveled. While I was at Numismatics Limited, I went to coin shows probably an average of three times a month for 10 months. No traveling in December, maybe one coin show in November but the rest of the year it probably averaged two and half times a month for at least 10 months. I went to a couple of dozen shows a year. Central States, FUN, all sorts of different shows across the country. I've been to a lot of different cities, everywhere. It was fun.

Greg Bennick: That's really cool. Well let's do this. Let's dive into some questions about actual coins themselves because, well, you've seen everything! You mentioned earlier buying the Bolt Collection. Can you tell me about that?

Fred Weinberg: Sure, and that's kind of a unique story too. I was at Numismatics Limited for about two years, and one day a gentleman named John Hammrick who owned a big company called Worldwide Coins in Atlanta Georgia came out for the Long Beach Coin Show. He called me up and said, "I've got this collection of errors. Do you want to buy it?" And I said, "Certainly." He replied that he'd come by the office in a couple of hours.

I talked to Harry Gordon, the owner of the company, and I told him that there was this is a big deal coming in and I said that I thought I could make good money on it. He was so cool, and said, "That's fine, no problem whatsoever." So John Hammrick came into the office, and the collection he brought had a little over 2000 major dramatic rare US coins, mostly type coins from 1795 to about 1955. There was nothing after '55, maybe 1956. And the man who put together this collection, Dr Conway Bolt, was a famous collector known for his errors. I've found references to his name in some of the early Penny publications and you might see his name too in some of the publications that you have. He had this incredible collection. The family took it in after he died - I'm assuming around 1973 - to Stacks, and Stacks offered them \$10,000 for the whole deal.

They didn't sell it and instead because Conway Bolt's family was in the south, and Worldwide was in the south, they sold it to Worldwide. I have no idea what Worldwide paid for it. But he came into my office with eight or ten double row stock boxes of two by two coins. Again, remember that it was over 2,000 coins, and there was no way for me to figure out a cost on every single one of these coins.

So what I ended up doing was that I made a decision to start with the first boxes. They were numbered and I just ran a tape of what I would pay for the coins. Worldwide wanted \$50,000 for the collection, so to figure out if it would work - without pricing every single coin individually - I started going through the boxes of coins with a calculator typing in their retail value, and when I got to the \$50,000 and there was still like a box and a half left, I thought, "I own the deal." So we bought the deal for \$50,000.

To sell it, I told the boss, "Look, I don't want to cost 2000 coins. The easiest thing for me to do, with your permission Harry, is to let me sell these coins. The first \$50,000 will all be cost and then everything over that will be pure profit and that's just a lot easier to figure." And he said that's fine. Well, to promote the Bolt Collection, I took out ads in Coin World, Arnie Margolis wrote a couple of articles in *Error Trends*, and between customers I had and flying around to a couple of places in the south with coins to sell at coin shows, I had sold \$150,000 worth of error coins in one year and I still had two or three good pieces. I ended up getting, I'm guessing if I can remember correctly, around \$165,000 for the collection a year later, selling it one coin at a time. That was a lot of money back in 1974 to make on a coin deal.

Greg Bennick: Do you know if that collection is documented anywhere? Mike Byers seemed to think that he had a copy somewhere of what was in the collection but wasn't sure where his copy of the listings were.

Fred Weinberg: Yes, it's documented in a couple of different areas but unfortunately because I'm retiring I've packed everything away so I don't even have access to it right now. There was an inventory list that somebody typed up from Numismatics Limited of all the coins that I had shipped to Arnie for photographs in *Error Trends*. And that probably was 40 or 50 coins. Then I came out with a little booklet that was the same size as *Error Trends*, and it said the Dr Conway Bolt Collection on it. And it didn't list all 2,000 coins because I was busy selling them but it listed a few. It was such an incredible collection that I all I had to do was just take them to any local coin show, or any coin show around the country for that matter and I would easily sell them. Most people had not seen so many type coin errors. I mean there was some spectacular error coins from half cents to US gold coins. It was truly spectacular material. ■

To be continued in the July/August issue of Errorscope

My Personal Experiences With Type "H" Reverse Washington Quarters

By Lee Roschen

I read with great interest the story written by Joseph DeBenedetti regarding his cherry-pick of a 1970-D Washington Quarter with the extremely rare high relief Type H reverse that appeared on page 12 of the July-August issue of *ErrorScope*. First off, I offer congratulations to Joseph on locating what I consider a very lucky find of his copy of this “oddball” variety. Let this sink in. This coin had been in circulation for half a century before he plucked it from a bank roll, and nobody else previously had done the plucking! And despite the AU details grade, the fact that he found one in this most acceptable state of preservation is pretty amazing!

At this point, I wish to share my own personal experiences in locating several of these Type H reverse RDV-008 Washington Quarters.

I have been keeping my eyes wide open for these for well over 20 years, and have gone through at least \$1,000,000 worth (no, I am not making that number up) of quarters obtained from banks. Up until a few months ago, I had found a total of six circulated copies of the rare 1969-D Type H reverse Washington Quarter. Ironically, these all graded in the extremely fine range. I easily sold all six copies individually on eBay for \$40 to \$50 each. Hey, not a bad profit for a 25 cent investment! I agree with other Washington Quarter specialists that while the 1969-D with the Type H reverse is scarce, the 1970-D, 1971-D, and 1972-D Type H reverses are like looking for a needle in a haystack.

As I continued my pursuit of these rare quarters, I eventually cherry-picked two well-worn copies of the extremely rare 1970-D Type H reverse about three years apart. And as one might expect, both were cherry-picked from bank rolls. I was pretty jazzed in coming across these, but I had no idea whatsoever how much either one of these quarters were worth in their low range very fine grade.

I eventually succumbed to the idea of parting with these, and decided it was time to test the waters. I listed both quarters individually on eBay about a month apart, and anxiously waited to see what kind of bids that each of these heavily circulated quarters would bring. And seriously, I was not really expecting good results that would blow me away. However, imagine my shock and surprise when one copy sold for \$107, and the second sold for a whopping \$132! That should make Joseph DeBenedetti feel very excited about the potential value of his graded and slabbed copy of this nearly

impossible-to-find Type H reverse on a 1970-D quarter. But here is something else to seriously consider: What would the value of one of these be in a sharp gem brilliant uncirculated grade? At least a few thousand dollars? Probably! Are these quarters worth the search? My answer is a resounding YES! Absolutely and without question!

Recently, in my scanning through 1969-D Washington Quarters on eBay, I was fortunate enough to submit the winning bid of \$57 on a choice about uncirculated 1969-D Type H reverse Quarter that was in a lot with four other common date clad quarters. The obverse on this coin has very light wear while on the reverse, you could hardly tell there is any wear at all! It is by far the nicest copy of this tough variety I have ever owned. For me, she's a keeper! Or do I put it up on the auction block in the not-so-distant future to cash in on my small fortune? Only time will tell. But the level of temptation to do so is quite strong!

By the way, I have yet to cherry-pick a copy of either the 1971-D or 1972-D Washington Quarter with the Type H reverse. Of course, I would think the odds of locating a copy after all these many years since they were produced at the Denver mint is astronomical. However, my personal search continues.

continued on next page

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1943 Cents With A Weak "4"¹⁰

By Pete Apple

At the time of World War II, the metals in use for the Lincoln Cent were denied to the Mint for the duration of the war, making it necessary for the Mint to seek a substitute material. An Act of Congress approved on December 18, 1942, provided for the production of a war time cent. Low carbon steel formed the base of these coins, to which a zinc coating with a thickness of .0005-inch (12.7µm)⁷ Page 69 was deposited on each side, electrolytically, as a rust preventative.² (The coil stock was plated with zinc before the planchets were punched out, so original coins do not have plated edges).⁶ Dimensions were kept the same, but weight was reduced to = 2.689g/2.754g +/- 0.130g (Heavier weight struck later in 1943).⁵ Page 340, 342 Composition = 99.97%Fe + 0.03% C.⁴

This paper seeks to explore the theory (first advanced by Ken Potter³) of die basining being responsible for the weak 4 and/or mint mark.

Below are photo examples of a weak 4 and/or mint mark on 1943 Steel Cents from all three mints:



1943-S Weak 4 and mint mark

Photo by:
Art Therpmgroup



1943 (P)
Weak 4



1943-D
Weak 4

Photo by:
Matt Wilson

Ken Potter has argued that grease strike throughs should be more random than what we see on the 1943 cents. What we see is always a weak 4 and/or mint mark, and we seldom see such weakness on any other letter/number. Ken was working on a theory that the weakness was a result of die basining.

Starting with the Christian Gobrecht designs of 1836-40, USA coinage began to reveal a slight concavity to the fields¹, though this isn't always apparent on casual inspection. Concave fields were the result of convex die faces, and this slight curvature had to be applied in a step that was separate from the actual sinking of the die.

Not only was convex die formation geometry in 1943 a matter of trial and error by experimentation (an art rather than a science), the decision to use low carbon steel planchets² (99.97%Fe + 0.03% C)⁴ with thin zinc plating presented different metal flow characteristics than previous and subsequent planchets (95% copper and 5% tin and zinc). Those characteristics are basically that steel cents will not show much metal flow compared to copper,⁴ and that a thin layer of zinc plating is vulnerable to transference to the die steel through bonding, thus slowly filling the 4 and/or mint mark.

Visual observations indicate that the apex of the basin (specifically the higher points of the basin on the die) is not identical for each die. For some it appears to be more in the area of the 4/mint mark, and for others it is closer to the 3/rim. In fact, I have seen one example where the 4 AND 3 AND mint mark show weakness with the apex barely discernible.



Photo by: Mark Kyer

This transference and bonding of zinc is a direct result of friction between the die surface and planchet. A now widely accepted theory was proposed in the 1950s to explain metallic friction: "When two surfaces are brought together under load, local welding will occur at junction points as the pressure at the asperity tips exceeds their flow stress."⁸ Page 71 Since we encounter weakness, at times, with the mint mark also - it is unlikely that this is an issue with the hub, the mint

marks having been hand punched into each working die at the time.

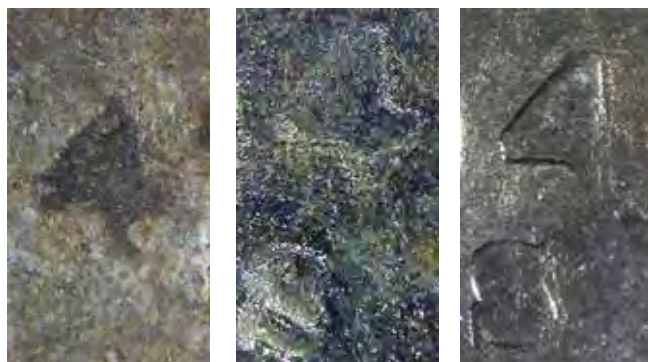
Die basining has the effect of focusing initial strike pressure on the center of the planchet¹¹ Page 5 with the pressure then radiating outwards during the completion of the strike. The initial pressure at the center of the planchet does not experience tangential sliding, but as the planchet conforms to the radius¹³ of the convex die, tangential sliding and consequently friction increases.¹¹ Page 2 (Sliding velocity and distance are important variables in friction values).⁸ Page 70 This means that the effects of friction are greater in the outer areas (a further distance from the center) of the planchet. We see the results of this friction in the form of zinc bonding and filling the 4 and or mint mark. We also see the results of such friction, on many coins, as die wear in the form of radial flow lines that generally appear more prominently in the outer areas.¹²

“Friction arises because a portion of the tangential force required to cause motion, is dissipated in non-conservative processes.”^{8 Page 70}

Another important parameter {for factors influencing abrasive die wear} is the shape of the detail on the die surfaces and/or the convexity of the dies. “Abrasive wear is much more pronounced when sharp edges or high relief detail is present.”^{8 Page 83} I would theorize that the 4 is the more common area of focus for weakness from the buildup of zinc bonding due to it being a larger volume to fill, and because it has sharper (rather than rounded) features that provide a foothold for initial zinc bonding.⁹

It is interesting that the area in LIBERTY (B through the upright in E), corresponding to the position of the 4 and/or mint mark area, seldom if ever shows the kind of weakness found in the 4 and/or mint mark area. This is likely because the B through the upright in E is a smaller area: approximately 25% smaller than the area occupied by the 4 alone and over 50% smaller than the area occupied by the 4 and/or mint mark. I can only speculate that the smaller area, most of which is indented on the die, is less affected by friction and easier filled by metal flow. “Smaller lettering in LIBERTY, together with it being more distant from the heaviest metal flow demands of the bust than is the date, mean there will be less deformation of the metal as it flows into the letters and less friction.”⁹

A comparison of these three photos illustrates a progression of the devices being filled, from virtually complete filling to partial filling. Such progressive filling of the 4 and/or mintmark is not indicative of being grease filled, but of increased zinc bonding.⁹



Conclusion

The geometry of the basining of the die, coupled with the flow characteristics of both low carbon steel and zinc, along with zinc bonding in the devices, could easily be responsible for the weakness of the 4 and/or mint mark. This would also explain why this weakness is only found on zinc plated steel cents and not copper alloy cents of earlier and later years.

While Die Basining is not the lone contributing factor to the formation of a weak 4 and/ or mint mark, Die Geometry is one of the elements responsible for that formation.

A convex die along with tangential friction create zinc bonding and buildup on the sharp edges of the 4/mint mark.

Resources

1. *What is Meant by Die Radius?* By David Lange, <https://www.ngccoin.com/news/article/489/> Accessed 1/17/2022.

2. <https://www.treasury.gov/about/education/pages/lincoln-cent.aspx> Accessed 1/17/2022.
3. Ken Potter is the author, along with Brian Allen, of *Strike It Rich with Pocket Change*. He is also editor of *Cherrypickers' Guide* by Bill Fivaz and J.T. Stanton.
4. Information from Christopher Pilliod, Sr. Metallurgist—Process Technology Group for Carpenter Technology. He has also participated in the Alternative Metals Study for the US Mint reported in 2012. He earned a B.S. in Metallurgy from Case Western Reserve University in 1979.

Date	Cu	Si	Al	Fe	C	Mn	Cr
1943	<.01	<.01	<.01	99.61	0.045	0.33	0.01
1943	0.01	<.01	<.01	99.66	0.053	0.26	0.03
1943	<.01	<.01	<.01	99.63	0.045	0.26	0.01

Certifiable results as analyzed at Carpenter Technology of three random steel Lincoln cents

5. *Coin World Almanac*, edited by P. Bradley Reed, Sixth Edition 1990, Pharos Books, New York.
6. <https://coinweek.com/counterfeits/counterfeit-detection-special-edition-reprocessed-steel-cents/> Accessed 5/3/2021.
7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30 1945 INCLUDING REPORT ON THE PRODUCTION OF THE PRECIOUS METALS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1944
8. *Surface Engineering of Coinage Dies*, A Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree Doctor of Philosophy, from University of Wollongong by H. Yasbandha, BSc, M. Eng. Faculty of Engineering, 2001.
9. Thanks to James Elliott, who is experienced in metal working, for introducing me to the concept of Friction Welding and the dynamics of metal flow.
10. Thanks to Mike Diamond, Ken Potter, Louie Atienza, and several others for feedback and critiques of earlier versions of this paper.
11. Finite element design procedure for correcting the coin-ing die profiles by Paulo Alexandrino, Paulo J Leitão, Luis M Alves, Paulo A.F. Martins, *Manufacturing Rev.* 5, 3 (2018).
12. This may also be the dynamic contributing to the die deterioration and crumbling frequently seen more prominently on the last 2 digits of the date in copper plated zinc cents.



Photo by: Ken Potter

13. Die Radius: The curvature of the die face. ■

Cuve's Round Up 21

By Jason Cuvelier

Anyone contacting me should use this email address: Cuvelier@aya.yale.edu. I am going to keep this in my article for the next several issues. This is better than other addresses from the past and better than a PM on the forum.

Below is another coin from the E Raser Collection, here we have a previously struck 1985P Roosevelt Dime overstruck by a 1985 Lincoln Cent. This example is great in that it shows many elements from both Lincoln's and Roosevelt's profiles. This is a type of error I would like to own, but is too highly priced, and rarely out of a slab (which I would prefer).



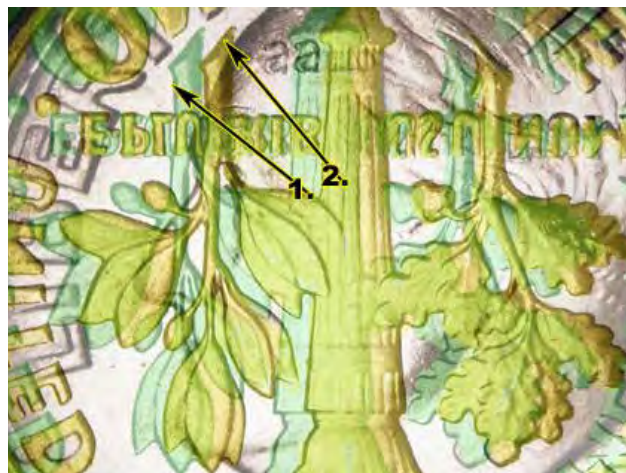
1985 Lincoln Cent struck on 1985P Roosevelt Dime



1985 Lincoln Cent struck on 1985P Roosevelt Dime

Starting immediately below I have a Type One Counterclash on a 2000P Roosevelt Dime. This was something I previously listed as CCL(T1)-10c-2000-01 on maddieclashes.com. It shows various parts of the olive branches, one olive and the stem having been re-clashed upon the reverse during a doubled-die-clash event. I have included an overlay. The clearest of the counterclashed areas is the stem. Next, member Federico Regalado sent in a 1947 Mexico 50 Peso gold coin (gold Centenario) with a nice doubled die obverse. It shows un-centered rotation along much of the periphery; I am inclined to call it a class V.

Following the Peso gold is a 1935 Lincoln Cent DDO-001 (FS-101 13.9) from the Bob Watersport collection. It too has a class V spread showing in GOD WE TRUST, eyelid and date. Next is a 1945 Guatemala 5 centavos DDR. This appears to be a class IV and a tripled die. I have wrestled with it being a class II as there is some evidence of lateral distortion along with IV, but it is tough to decide. Next is a 1947 20c Centavos Brasil with a very strong class IV DDR. Next is a 1963 Washington Quarter DDR-004 (fs-801) that exhibits a nice class VIII spread in the upper C of AMERICA and the left side of M of AMERICA with a slight spread in ST of STATES and O of OF. Lastly, I have included a 1942 Jefferson Nickel DDO-003 (FS-102 026), sporting a class IV spread showing in TRUST, the nose, eyelid and the 2 of the date.



1907 Indian Head Cent RPD-002



1947 Mexico 50 Peso Gold DDO



1947 Mexico 50 Peso Gold DDO



1935 Lincoln Cent DDO-001



1945 Guatemala 5 centavos DDR



1947 20 Centavos Brasil DDR



1963 Washington Quarter DDR-004 (fs-801)



1942 Jefferson Nickel DDO-003 (FS-102 026)

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