

ErrorScope

Volume 31 Number 4 | July - August 2022

Combined Organizations Of Numismatic Error Collectors Of America

Hubbed-In Debris



In this issue:

Fred Weinberg Interview.

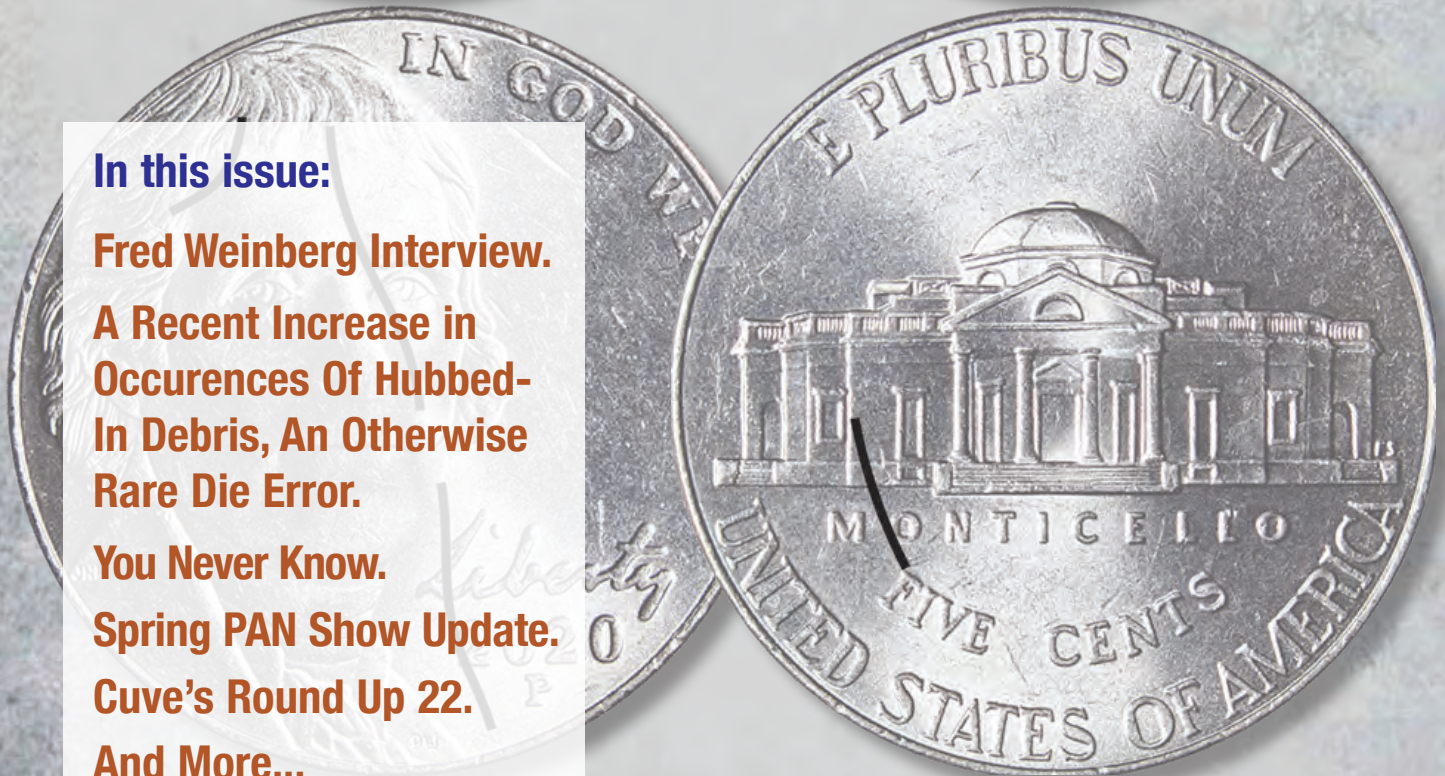
A Recent Increase in Occurrences Of Hubbed-In Debris, An Otherwise Rare Die Error.

You Never Know.

Spring PAN Show Update.

Cuve's Round Up 22.

And More...



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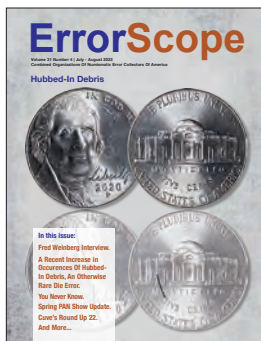
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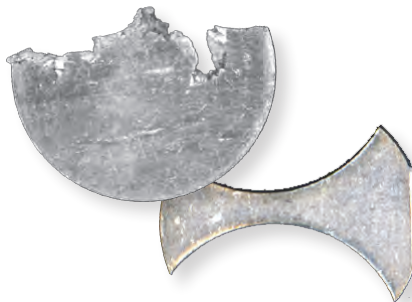
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Variety Attributions

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Attribution Only

\$4 per coin for CONECA members.

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

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Flying Eagle & Indian Cents – Rick Snow

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Seated Liberty & Barber Coinage – Chris Pilliod

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US Errors – Mark Lighterman / striking & planchet errors only

World Errors – Mike Ellis

Note Regarding Submissions

- An Examiner diagnoses and describes mint errors. He's a diagnostician.
- 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.

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

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

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

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All copy and payments must be sent by the 15th of the month, two months prior to the month in which the ad will appear. CONECA reserves the right to reject any ads that are controversial, contain counterfeit or altered coins, or are submitted by any dealer who does not adhere to good business practices.

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*Six issues of Business Card ads for \$150.00

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CONECA

The Combined Organization of Numismatic Error Collectors of America

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Additional membership applications and PayPal payment options are available at <https://conecanonline.org/join-or-renew/>
 If you have questions about CONECA membership, email CONECA's Membership Coordinator at Maria@conecanonline.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

It's still a sellers' market out there. Key date coins and most errors are selling for well over prices that haven't been seen in a long time. Most know that a portion of Fred Weinberg's private collection has been sold on various auction sites and the prices from what I hear have been super strong.

This is an election year at CONECA, if you would like to serve on the board or become an officer, please contact me and send a short BIO on yourself and if you want to run for a specific seat include that for me as well.

Don't forget about the upcoming ANA Convention, August 16-20, 2022. We will be at the ANA World's Fair of Money in Rosemont. 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. We have limited seating available so get your name on the list. 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 continue to set up a monthly table for CONECA at a show in Grand Rapids Michigan (Thanks to show promoter Michigan Expos for the free club table) and now setting up monthly at a show in Royal Oak Michigan as well. Turnout has steadily grown as more and more folks are finding about the error guy answering questions and looking at their coins for them. Hey State reps, I have just gotten in a batch of the elongateds 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 sitting at 985 members. A slight dip in numbers from last time. I am still optimistic that we will hit that 1000 mark.

I would like to thank the following for their various donations to CONECA: Anthony A. Anello Jr., Charlie Bathman, Richard J. Carlson, Jeff Einstein, Donald Green, Edward Kemper, Osvaldo Latorre, Lee Roschen, Vince Kaercher and Robert C. Van Leer.

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. (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

Write an article for publication in *ErrorScope*.

Please send your literary material
to the editor,
Allan Anderson
3958 Hamilton Park Dr.,
San Jose CA 95130
editor@conecaonline.org

You may type the material directly in an email or send it as an attached document.

The next deadline for submission is
August 1, 2022

CONECA State Representatives Program Update

By James Motley

We are off and running! 22 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 07-01-2022

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Arizona: Rick Snow - Rick@indiancent.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 - aauf Franzj@gmail.com

Idaho:

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Kansas: Raymond Munoz - theraymondmunoz@gmail.com

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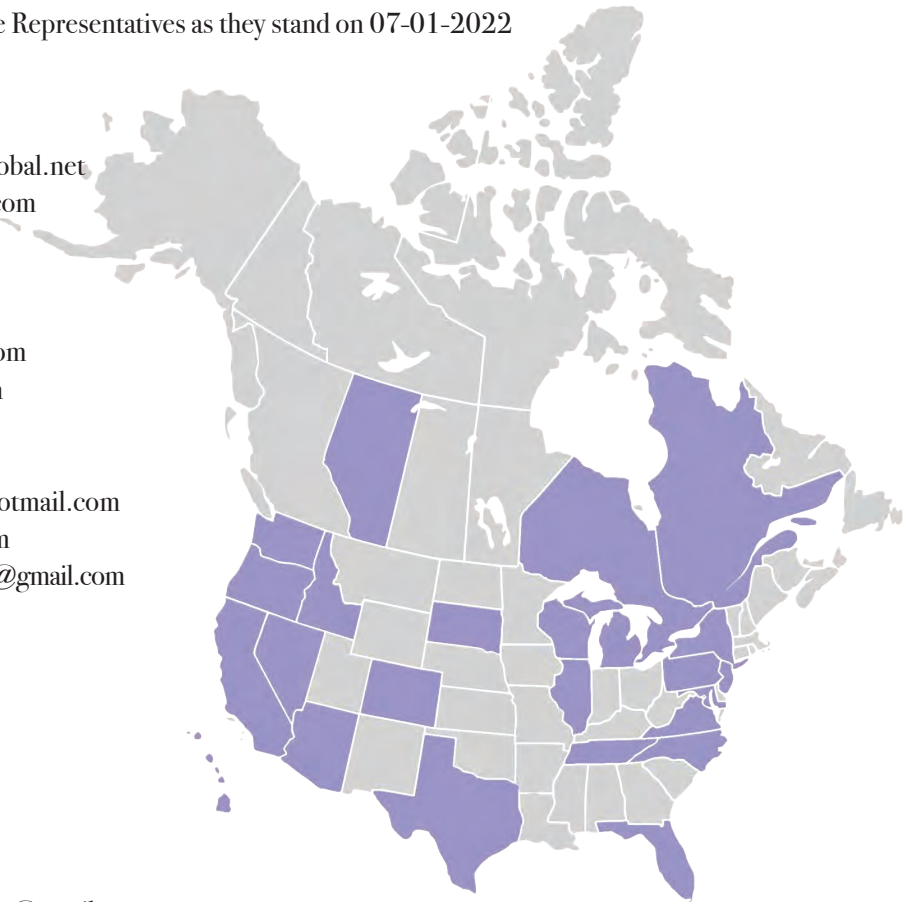
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Ontario: Roger Paulen - sherwood.park.pennies@gmail.com

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:

Anthony A. Anello, Jr. - \$10.00 each General/Youth Fund

Charlie Bathman - \$25.00 General Fund

Richard J. Carlson - \$5.00 General Fund

Jeff Einstein - \$10.00 General Fund

Donald Green - \$50.00 General Fund

Edward Kemper – donation of mint stamps

Osvaldo Latorre - \$5.00 General Fund

Lee Roschen - \$15.00 General Fund

Robert C. Van Leer - \$10.00 each General/Youth Fund

Welcome to our 53 new CONECA members. Total Membership – 985

Recipient of the Romeo A. Maynard Scholarship for Young Numismatists

Stephen Allen, Josiah Derr, and Adam Raij – all recommended through the ANA

CONECA has an additional Young Numismatist - Noel Noriega – recommended by Self

New Members	Recommended by	New Members	Recommended by
Ramon Agraviador	ANA member	Osvaldo Latorre	James Motley
John Anton	Self	Niccole Lignowski	ANA Academy course
Norman Asis	Self	Sherri Little	Cherrypickers' Guide
Melissa Brewer	Self	Mary Ann Mardis	Live Coin Q & A
Rick Carpenter	NGC	Wayne R. Matthews	Dave Brodie
Abel Carranza	Internet	Phillip Matzelle	Internet
Thomas Cooper	Self	Nikki McCaskill	Variety Vista
David Cote	Gary Cote	Tommy McDaniel	Internet
Allan Craven	Past member	Mark Morris	James Motley
Susan Davidson	Self	James Morris	ANA governor
Scott DeJarnatt	Live Coin Q & A	Janene Nicole	Self
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Lamarr Eddings	Internet	Thomas Read	James Motley
Seanna Eide	Cherrypickers' Guide	Thomas Rhea	CONECA website
Jeff Einstein	James Motley	Matthew Sandfer	Intern
Joseph M. Garland	James Zimmerman	Gary Silvers	Self
Andrue Gibbs	Internet	James Slonecki	James Zimmerman
Jaime Gonzalez	Lee Essick	Keri Suggs	YouTube
Kimberly Gore	Coin Community Forum	Rick Talanges	Ken Potter/James Motley
Amy Hanna	Internet	Bernie Tomc	Internet
John Havis	James Motley	M.E. Vick	Self
Douglas Jackson	Self	James Weymouth	Coin Forums
Patrick Jenkins	James Motley	Roy Wilson	CONECA Forum
Neil Jones	ANA Cherrypickers' Guide	Christopher Young	Self
Jennifer Justice	Self		
Rusty Zajac – rejoined through the recommendation of James Motley			

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.

Spring 2022 PAN Show Update

By James Zimmerman

Once again, CONECA was present at the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatist (PAN) Coin Show held in Monroeville, PA (Pittsburgh Suburb). PAN continues to be gracious by providing us free space for the three-day event that started Thursday May 19, 2022. I was not alone behind the table as longtime member Robert Mills helped out on Friday.

Due to the high demand for dealer and club tables, the show was held at the convention center's largest room. According to PAN officials, this show was touted as the largest coin show in the Northeast for 2022 (well over 200 tables), although with the ANA holding its Worlds Fair of Money show in Pittsburgh next Summer, PAN will not be able to make that claim in 2023. There were no COVID restrictions and for the 1st time since the height of COVID were attendees not required to wear masks as they entered the show.

As in the recent past, attendance was brisk for most of the show. Attendees also had the pleasure of meeting Ben Franklin and Abe Lincoln, viewing exhibits and sitting in on various lectures. Activity at our CONECA club table was steady as a few members stopped by as well as others who had an interest in error collecting. Our club's representation at this show is taking traction, as dealers are making referrals to our table and repeat attendees are coming with expectations



2022 Spring PAN Coin Show from L-R: Robert Mills, Joseph Garland (CONECA's newest member) and James Zimmerman

of us to being there. I signed up two new members and was able to hand out new membership applications to many potential members along with a sample copy of our *ErrorScope*. As always, I will have to wait and see how many actually signed up as a result of our club's presence.

I desperately need fellow CONECA member(s) to assist at the show, especially those that are well informed on varieties. I will ask again for anyone who is interested in helping during the Fall 2022 show to contact me. My contact information is located in your *ErrorScope*. Thank you in advance! ■

Young Numismatists Program

By Logan Wostyn

Congratulations to all who participated in last issues quiz. You will be receiving an autographed copy of the new *Strike it Rich with Pocket Change*. I'm going to leave this quiz for this issue again so others may participate. You will receive a nice prize but not the autographed book. Good luck all. Keep up the hard work.

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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Array Of Blank & Planchet Clips

By Ken Potter

This array of silver alloy dime-sized Blanks and Planchets came out of the Token & Medal Company (TAMCO) in the early 1970s. TAMCO was shut down, the principals arrested and successfully prosecuted for making the infamous 1969 counterfeit cents.

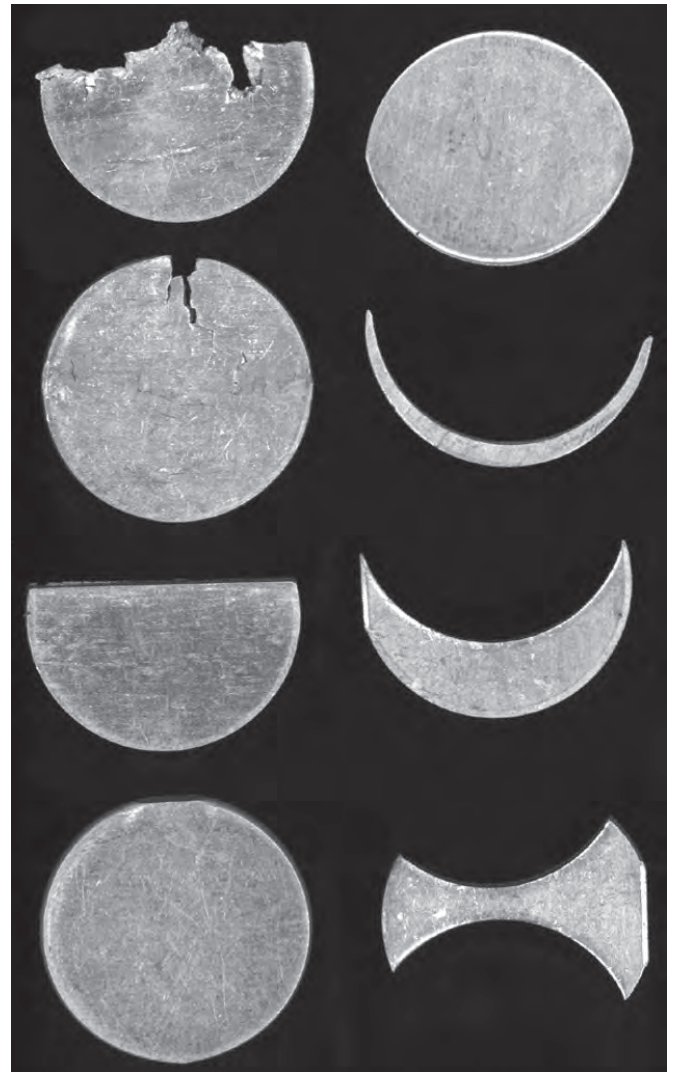
These are some of the rejects of the so-called silver dime blanks that were readied to make counterfeit 1942/41 dimes, which were never actually struck, due to the dies being seized prior to use.

The Blanks and Planchets were later returned by the government as they were not considered counterfeit.

From top left counter clockwise:

- 1) Ragged Clip Blank
- 2) Ragged Clip Planchet
- 3) Straight Clip Blank
- 4) Small Curved Clip Planchet
- 5) Elliptically Clipped Blank
- 6) Crescent Clip Blank
- 7) Large Curved Clip and one Straight Clip Blank
- 8) Two Large Curved Clips and one Straight Clip Blank

Thousands of these were traded by the late Don Gordon to dealers in the 1980s as "silver dime blanks." They still plague the hobby today most often trading as genuine silver dime blanks and planchets. ■



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Rotated Dies, Our Own Half-Cents

By Mark Benvenuto

I have made the comment in past articles that one of the easiest errors to miss is the rotated die. Virtually all circulating coins minted with what we might call modern machinery have dies aligned so that we flip the coin to display obverse and reverse right side up, or we rotate it from side to side to achieve the same effect. The farther back we go in time, the more this idea breaks down. Even in what are considered good, stable governments, in the ancient world this idea of die alignment must have been some kind of luxury. After all, each coin was pounded out by hand. But the reason the rotated die is so easy to miss probably has more to do with lighting than anything historic reason. Many of us buy at shows, where the lighting is less than perfect. Dealers try to rectify that and provide good lighting with high intensity lamps, but with plenty of coins in 2x2 holders made of reflective plastic, and with many of these in pages that will hold twenty coins, there is a lot of shine coming back to our eyes. It's easy to miss a rotated die.

Not too long ago, I was presented with the option of purchasing an 1829 half cent. It wasn't at a big, all-consuming show. Rather it was from a dealer who is a friend, and the venue was a local coin club meeting. I'll admit, I'm not a huge collector of half cents, although I do find a bit of romance in these small, classic coppers, with their relatively simple design, and my own personal inability to ever find any of them in a condition like mint state. Besides, this piece, both sides of which are shown here, still had some good detail to it. All the design elements on both sides are pretty much there, including "LIBERTY" in Lady Liberty's coronet. The overall look of the piece might be called charming. This coin certainly did its work, which is why it has some wear on it. But it has some life in it still.

The local club meeting was over and I was home, where I might argue that my kitchen's lighting was better than that at the club, when I looked at this piece in more detail. That's where I caught the die rotation, which I will describe as a wonderful surprise. Maybe it's just arrogance, but I tend to associate rotated die errors with foreign coins – none of that for us Americans! Our Mint gets it right! Apparently I am very wrong.

I always think there is a potential for errors, or at least for selling them as some type of rarity, and so made it a point to text my dealer friend. After all, we have known each other for years, and I was hardly going to flip this for some quick profit at his expense. I explained that this half cent had



what I thought was a 20°-30° die rotation, and asked if he'd like to have it back, to try to sell it for more. His response was telling: "Ah, the way they made those, I'm surprised more aren't rotated."

That's an intriguing comment for a dealer to make, a person who sees a lot of coins pass through their hands, and thus come and go. As I said, I have never been a rabid collector of half cents, even though I find them interesting and a neat piece of U.S. history. It makes me wonder just how many rotated die errors are out there nestled among our half cents.

I'll probably not find out the prevalence of rotated die U.S. half cents any time soon. But I am two steps deeper into an interesting aspect of this little mystery. I have one attractive, rotated die half cent now in my collection, and I have in the back of my mind the idea that I should be checking for these rather carefully at future shows.

If anyone else is interested in this sort of hunt, please feel free to contact me at: benvenma@udmercy.edu. I'd love to hear from you. ■

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Type Collection of Error Coins From Yugoslavia

By Martin Wettmark

Josip Broz Tito (1892-1980) was dictator in the Yugoslavian Socialist federation between 1945 to 1980. The federation wanted to show independence from the Communist block during the cold war. Yugoslavia was breaking apart during the Balkan war in 1990 and the federation was split into separate states after that. In this article I present a type collection of different kinds of errors that can be found from Titos regime, mainly from the 1970 and 80:s Errors from this period are not as rare as the early Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1918-1945).



20 Para 1977 indent from fragment of other coin



10 Dinara 1977 off-cent strike



20 Para no date partial brockage



5 Dinara 1979 double strike



50 Para 1981 doubled die



10 Dinara 1984 struck on 1 Dinara planchet



50 Para 1925 off-cent strike, Kingdom of Yugoslavia

Feedback or comments are welcome: mawett99@hotmail.com ■



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Fred Weinberg

Interview

Part Two

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 is part two of the interview that was conducted in February 2022 by phone and it has been an honor to put it together for the magazine!



Greg Bennick: Along those lines, what are some specific major errors that you know of that are out there but haven't seen the light of day in decades? As you said there weren't a lot of error collectors in the 1930's and 1940s so I wonder about years gone by. My dad even once told me that he thought errors were illegal to collect early on.

Fred Weinberg: There were articles that said the Secret Service would confiscate them, and once or twice the Secret Service did, but it turned out that it was mostly false alarms. The Secret Service rarely did that. So I never worried about it.

As far as specific coins, I mean I can think of two that pop off the top my head. One which has to do with the Bolt Collection, and then another one which is another fascinating coin. Let me tell you about the first one.

So in this Bolt Collection there was a Gem 1919 Standing Liberty Quarter broad struck on a type one blank that was the size of almost a half dollar. It was spectacular. There was also a 1895 \$5 gold piece, 30% off center at 12 o'clock. Gem BU, semi proof like surfaces. I mean there were half cent, large cent errors, off metal type coins. Just incredible material.

One of my favorite coins was an 1888 Liberty nickel with a brass coil struck into the reverse of the coin. And the coil looked like a coiled snake and it had the design of the reverse of the Liberty nickel. If you lifted it up, there was the indentation of where the coil was. That was a two piece set, it was fascinating. And to this day, no one's ever seen a struck in screw or piece of metal or coil on any type coin. All that stuff didn't start happening until the 1960s.

So there's a fascinating story with this coin, I loved the piece. I advertised it for \$600 in Coin World. And somebody from Connecticut bought it out of that Coin World ad. This party had never bought an error coin from me before, never bought an error coin after. That coin never surfaced again. But I never stopped thinking about that coin and the coil.

It was 1974 when I sold it. Fast forward to 2010, and I was at the Boston ANA. I saw Bill Fivaz one morning as we're walking over to the coin show and he said, "Hey that coin you've been looking for, for decades? It's over at Sam Sloat's table." I ask, "What coin?" He said, "The Liberty nickel with the coil." I immediately ran over there. The gentleman who bought the coin from me in 1974 in Connecticut had gone into Sam Sloat's, in Stamford Connecticut's and sold him that coin about three weeks before the ANA. They'd brought it to the coin show. They put it out in their showcase for \$3500 – I had sold it for \$600 – and nobody had said a word about it for three or four days. The second I saw it, I bought it. So I got it back 35 years later. That particular coin is now in a two-piece PCGS holder with my pedigree on it, and that will be sold at the Central States Auction of my personal error coins. So that to me is a fascinating piece. It's something that I bought in '74, couldn't forget about it, bought it again in 2010, and now it'll be sold in 2022.

Greg Bennick: That's an incredible story. I'm so excited you shared that.

Fred Weinberg: It's a great item. The other coin, I just find it fascinating. I started working Numismatics Ltd in early '72, and worked for Harry Gordon – I was hired to do rare coins, but he knew I played with errors, and so he said, "Yeah, do whatever you want to do, no problem."

A few months into my working there I got an a mimeographed ad, which is how most dealers sent out their inventory at the time, from a gentleman in Cincinnati named Sol Kaplan. He and Abe Kosoff, Jerry Cohen and Abner Kreisberg, these were guys from the 1940s and '50s who were getting older in the 1960s and had played with coins. Sol Kaplan was a big time dealer in Cincinnati.

So I was looking at his list of rare coins and silver dollars and everything. I got to the last page of the mimeograph and at the bottom it said, "Patterns and miscellaneous" and there was one item listed. It said "1852 \$20 Liberty Gold struck on a large cent planchet, pictured in the Judd book, appendix A". So I immediately go to my Appendix A, there's a picture of the coin. It was \$1,000. I went to Harry and I said, "Harry, I've got to buy this coin. This is incredibly rare." He said, "Hey, if you buy it and think you can make a profit on it, great."

I bought the coin for \$1000 and I sold it for \$2500. A couple of years later I bought it back for five grand. I sold it for \$7500 to Mark Lighterman, who's a very famous collector in Florida who has probably the best collection of off metal and wrong planchet US coins. Mark still has that coin. He brought it to the FUN show maybe four years ago now, and I saw it there for the first time since the late '70s. I love that coin. To get a wrong planchet off metal US gold coin is extremely rare. And that coin today is probably easily worth a quarter of a million dollars.

Greg Bennick: Unbelievable. Is there any coin that got away? Meaning one that you regret?

Fred Weinberg: Yeah, that one. [laughter] I owned that coin two or three times. I wasn't smart enough to keep it for myself!

Greg Bennick: Are there pieces that you never owned but just loved from afar? Like you know that they exist in the world, but you never had a chance to own them?

Fred Weinberg: Some of the coins that are in the *100 Greatest Error Coins* book that Dave Camire and I published about 12 years ago, I've never owned those. Some of them I still haven't seen, although I've seen the photographs. So yes, there's always coins, whether you collect regular coins or any series within regular coins...nobody's seen everything. There are some spectacular coins out there which I've seen pictures of that I have not seen physically, that I would love to so that I could just have my eyes glaze over.

Greg Bennick: One thing that I appreciate about you and always have, and that I have heard people mention about you as well, is that any time we've ever talked at a show or on the phone, you have a little kid awe and fascination about you, about error coins. You still have that after all this time in the hobby. It's inspiring.

Fred Weinberg: Well thank you. And you know what, that's part of why I say I've never had a boring day in the coin business. I thought I would be doing this all my life. I literally did, up until a few years ago. And now there's a half a dozen reasons why I want to retire. But I've always loved coins, I've never been bored with them. And every day has been something new or something different. It's been a wonderful hobby that I turned into a profession. Not too many people can turn a hobby into a profession for 50 years.

Greg Bennick: It's true. Just in case people are curious, of those half a dozen reasons, are there any public reasons as to why you're retiring at this time, given that your energy and excitement about coins is still so high?

Fred Weinberg: There's no secrets. In no particular order, my reasons are, number one, this is my 50th year, which caused me to reevaluate everything. Number two, I'm going to be 72 in a couple of months. That's a reason to think about retiring. Number three, I've reconnected with my very first girlfriend from 50 years ago, and we're deeply in love. She happens to live in Asheville, North Carolina. So, between her living there and the virus, it's been hard. We try to see each other like every other month if possible. And, a lot of my decision was, my mother passed away at 96 about three years ago, and going through her house and all of her stuff made me realize — this is maybe reason 6.5 — as an error dealer, not just a coin dealer, but as an error dealer, I have so many strange things here in my office that if I passed away, there would be an incredible burden and stress on my daughter, and Kathy, my assistant, who's been with me for 37 or 38 years, to get rid of this stuff. They wouldn't know what to do. So between 50 year anniversary, turning 72, reconnecting with my first girlfriend, and also even a year ago, starting to think, you know what, do I really want to continue traveling to coin shows, where I'm going to a convention center in Florida, Chicago, Texas, whatever it is, where I don't know who's vaccinated? I don't know who's wearing a mask? In my seventies and eighties, do I want to expose myself to that, to sell another double struck penny?

It was a confluence of all of those things, plus the cherry on the pie being that in selling all this stuff, the coin market obviously is surprisingly strong right now. I don't think people would have thought it would have been as crazy as it's been for all

of 2021 and even for 2022. So this hot market, because of all the money floating around in the economy, whether it's artwork or NFTs or rare coins or trophy coins, the coin market on almost every level is very very strong. This market will soften, whether it's two years from now or four years from now, and then it's going to take a couple of years of a dull flat market, and then it's going to take another couple of years for the market to start to work its way up, though in another couple of years the market will be hot again. I thought about it and I said, why not take advantage of an existing market that I know is good, rather than say, well, I'll wait for the next good market that may or may not appear until 8 to 10 years from now?

So, all of those reasons, Greg, are why I decided to retire and to basically sell most of my collectibles. In addition to all of my coins that Heritage has, they also have a collection of over 200 psychedelic rock posters from San Francisco, Avalon, and Fillmore that I started collecting in the early 1980s that to some degree, I'm more excited to see what they bring. Because I know what the coins will bring within a general range. But some of these posters have not been on the market in decades, and some of them are really good condition, and that's going to be sold in April, along with my coins, at the Central States show. I'm looking forward to seeing what these posters bring.

Greg Bennick: That's really exciting! Just out of curiosity, I never even thought to ask you, what other things do you collect and are you interested in?

Fred Weinberg: You mean as far as non-numismatic or non-coin things? I would say that the posters to a degree. And if I had to think of what else, I just like collecting ephemera. Heritage also has a lot of stuff that I had a lot of fun buying. Whether it's US Mint canvas bags, or very early US Mint reports, or letters from the Treasury or letters from the US Mint talking about coins or different things. I had a book from the Philadelphia mint that listed how much pay every person got in the 1870s and 1880s, including George Morgan. I liked collecting what I call "mint" memorabilia, things related to the US Mint that weren't necessarily the coins, but they were the paperwork, or the canvas bags, or just unusual things like that. So that always kind of interested me. And the posters. I love the posters all the time.

Greg Bennick: That's great. In terms of ephemera, my living room is literally piled with paper and ephemera from your collection that I've purchased recently. I bought a full run of *Errorscope*, a full run of *The Penny*, a full run of the *Mint Error Collectors Bulletin*, along with a couple hundred issues of *Errorgram* and *Error Variety News*. I'm going to spend the next few years reading through all that. The history of the hobby is fascinating.

Fred Weinberg: You'll probably run across two dealers named Phil Steiner and Mike Zimpfer. They did a book called *Modern Mint Mistakes*, which is kind of like *Error Trends*, telling how US coins are made, and showing coins. They were also very, very big dealers. And they made a major impact on the industry from the late '60s to the early to late '70s and then they kind of just disappeared.

I know one of them was a schoolteacher, but I really don't know what happened to either one of them. But Steiner and Zimpfer, came out with a good book on coins with a lot of pictures which everybody liked at the time.

Greg Bennick: I do know it. That book was immensely influential on me.

Fred Weinberg: I tell people, part of what's made the error hobby so big nowadays, is that when I started, all you could see was *Collectors Clearinghouse*, and of course that was just a couple pages in a newspaper with black and white pixelated pictures of an off center or double struck penny or something like that. But with computers and the internet now -- and this is what I honestly believe this really helped stimulate the error hobby in the last 20 years - you go to a Heritage or Stack's website and you look up a coin, and of course the images are huge, and in color, with data about what is being sold. The visual impact is just incredible.

So there's good and bad to that. The good news is, whether it's eBay or Heritage or even my website when I had my inventory up, major error coins made an incredible visual impact on computer screens, which really excited people. I got that feedback all the time. That's the good news and that helped expand the error hobby, and made people excited to buy coins. A mimeographed piece of paper with a black and white picture that you couldn't really tell what it looked like, didn't get people excited. Now you can see the spots, and a mark, and you can tell the luster, and you can see everything. So computers have really, really helped errors. That's all the good news.

The bad news is basically the flip side of that. Because of computers, anybody that finds anything in their pocket change or roll hunting searches that looks different, either they automatically assume it's an error and worth a fortune, or, what I've been finding and it's been very frustrating just the last few years, is that they start their own website. And they'll either take a damaged coin and say it's worth \$1,000 or take a genuine error coin and say it's worth \$10,000, and they put it on their



website. And I then dealers across the country, get phone calls and emails that say things like, “I have an off center penny. How close to \$1000 will you pay me? Because that’s what somebody says it’s worth on Etsy.” Or, “Here’s this coin that’s been hit with a hammer and Etsy says it’s worth \$10,000...what will you pay me?” And I have to explain to them that these people put these things out there to get clicks or likes, and that an off center penny is worth \$10, and that a damaged coin is worth nothing.

But it’s enabled anybody to think, because of the bad information that’s out there, that any coin that they have that looks different, which they just found on Etsy for \$5000 or \$10,000, is worth that. And then they get mad at you when you tell them it’s damaged. I’ve seen the good and the bad and the plus and the minus of the Internet. Overall, obviously it’s a plus.

And most dealers just ignore phone calls and emails from people that find such things in their pocket change.

I’ve always taken the approach that it’s my responsibility as an error dealer to let people know what they have. In the old days, I would answer any email at least three times. In the original reply, “Thank you...based on your photographs you’re coin was gold plated.” They’d send me another one, asking why would people do that? And I would reply, “Well, people do that for this reason for that reason, out of boredom.” And then maybe one other follow up question. In the last couple of years, I’ve had to come up with what I call a canned reply, which basically says, “Hello, thank you for your email. However, due to all the quantity of emails that we get every day, we can’t reply to all of them individually. Please go to cointalk.com and post your images there.”

I mean I have to defer people, because people think that you have nothing better to do all day in your business but to spend ten or twenty minutes talking about their coins. And when I keep on saying to them, “Email me a picture and I’m more than happy to try to tell you what it is” and they reply, “Well, I don’t have that” then I have to say, “Well, then I can’t help you.” They will reply with “Well, but let me describe it to you...” but I can’t tell on the phone from their verbal description what it is. So then they sometimes offer to send the coin to me. I don’t have the time to do that. So the internet has been a little frustrating at times, but overall obviously it’s been a major benefit to the coin business and to errors.

Greg Bennick: This is great. Three more quick questions if I could?

Fred Weinberg: Sure!

Greg Bennick: I was talking to David McCarthy recently and he mentioned the \$4 Stella story.

Fred Weinberg: [laughs] Yeah, I’m known for that.

Greg Bennick: Just so we have it in one place for history’s sake: would you be willing to tell the \$4 Stella story?

Fred Weinberg: Sure! So, PCGS started in June of 1986, I believe. And I was one of the original 31 dealers that David Hall invited to participate and be one of the market makers. That summer, I had a good friend and customer who collected proof gold. I submitted for him his matte proof \$2.5 Indians. He had a matte proof St Gaudens and he had a \$4 Stella. He had a gem proof \$2.5 Liberty and a gem proof \$10 Liberty. And a Pan Pacific set. I mean, this guy was a major player.

I got a batch of those coins back from PCGS one day and they were put into the safe. I had started my business the year before. This was maybe fall of 1986. The bank that I was the dealing with wanted to see my operation because we were running a lot of money through the company. We kept on getting bigger and bigger and making bigger deals and more money. So the banker came to the office, and he said, can you show me some coins? I said, “Sure.”

I opened up the safe, and on a black rectangular tray, like a foot and a half long and 8” deep I probably had six or seven, just back from PCGS, proof gold coins from my customer. I opened up the safe, with the banker in my office. I took the tray to go walk into my office to show him these expensive coins, because you know, that will impress him. And as I moved, my arm hit something in this vault room which served also as our shipping room. The tray fell down on one of the shipping counters and I grabbed all the coins, put them back on the tray, walked into the office and I showed him all these coins. “This is a Saint worth \$50,000, and this one’s worth \$10,000,” and he was fascinated with all of it.

So that was a Friday afternoon. I did my dog and pony show and he left. I come back on Monday, open up the safe a couple hours later, and I go to tell the customer who submitted the coins that his coins came back and these are the PCGS grades. And as I'm looking at the tray there's all the coins except the Stella. I think, "Wait. Where the hell is the Stella?"

So I had to strip the safe. We stripped the vault room. We checked the trash cans. We checked everywhere. The problem was, the trash gets picked up Friday night, and then Saturday morning it gets delivered to the Simi Valley trash dump, about 25, 30 miles north of my office where I am now.

By the time we figured out what had happened - by Monday afternoon - and we called the building main office, and they called the trash people, it turns out that the trash that they had picked up Friday night was indeed delivered Saturday, but a lot of trash was dumped on Saturday. And there was Saturday, Sunday and Monday. There was basically three days worth of trash. They said it's impossible. You'll never find the coin. And I actually talked to somebody that worked there and they said, "It's impossible, you'll never find it."

So that's basically the story. I lost it. I lost the Stella. At the time, the coin was worth fifty grand. So I owed my customer fifty grand, which I paid him. And that coin today as a 64 would probably be worth 150 grand. But it's probably a 65 or a 66, which means it would probably be worth about 200 or 250 grand today.

Greg Bennick: Wow. This is like the story of the guy who threw out the hard drive a year or two ago with all the Bitcoin information on it.

Fred Weinberg: Yes! Thank God for him, because until he did that, I was the biggest idiot for throwing away a \$50,000 coin. [laughs] I'm happy that he lost \$27 trillion dollars or something. That makes me look like I'm sane compared to him.

Greg Bennick: So you mentioned that learning the minting process was instrumental for the hobby to grow, and probably speaks directly to a huge influx of people today saying, "Hey, I've got this coin that is for sure an error." But they don't know the minting process, therefore they have no idea that their coin is or is not an error. With the changes in minting techniques in the last 20 years, what's the best way for people - and for collectors - to find out about new minting processes? I mean, do you think Arnie's ETCM and the magazines that he put out decades ago are still relevant today?

Fred Weinberg: Yes, I think they are. Because if you think about it, the Schuler horizontal presses from 2000, give or take a year, every coin struck before that are struck on the older vertical presses. So Arnie's books or any deep information on the minting process, including, I think Amex did a couple of guidebooks, and I think the ANA did a couple of books for their summer seminars. That information is still valid because they were striking coins that way for 200 years before we went to these horizontal Schuler presses. So the minting process information is still very accurate. And I encourage people to get books, to read something online, to acquire a concept of how coins are struck. You still need to see real pictures, you still need to see real coins, you still need to go to your local coin shop and show them what you have and see what they have, and learn the difference between a scratch and a lamination, and a die crack and a scratch, and this and that, and gold plating. You need some hands-on experience. But there's a ton of information that's available today that was not available to me, or anybody 40 or 50 years ago. It's all out there.

Greg Bennick: What do you think the best way is for people readers, say, of this interview, to inspire a new generation of collectors? I remember asking Arnie this many years ago and him telling me it was an uphill battle because he felt that young people "today" were more interested in dating than they were interested in hobbies!

Fred Weinberg: What I try to do is this. I always keep a few coins at home or I keep a few coins in my briefcase when I go to coin shows. I'm constantly giving, whether it's an off-center penny or just some cheap regular coin that's worth a couple of dollars, something to any kid that comes up to me and expresses an interest in errors.

At the ANA last August for example, kids would come up and would look at my showcase of dramatic errors. They'd say, "Oh! Look at that!" They weren't quite sure what they were looking at. But I would ask them, "Do you collect coins?" And, "How long have you collected coins?" If they replied that it was more than a day, I had a little box, and I would say, "You can pick two or three out of here for free." And again, these coins had little value, but the fact that you could give something to an 8 year old, or a 12 or a 15 year old kid for free....that's how I like to motivate kids. And to tell them an interesting story or of course to answer their questions about coins.

Greg Bennick: Is there anything that we missed talking about?

Fred Weinberg: Well, something that just popped in my head. I've been lucky enough to remember when we had the 1977 ANA in Atlanta, and Arnie pushed - and I did a little bit too, though it was mostly Arnie - we pushed to get the ANA to accept errors as its own exhibit category. That was a first in 1977. So, I'm happy that I participated in that. And I've seen the evolution of the error hobby over the decades, both with the clubs, the minting process itself, and the value of coins themselves.

I feel very happy and proud that I've been able to participate in this 50 year -- it's actually probably more -- it's probably about 62 years total that I've been doing this, since I was 9 or 10. I've just been thrilled that I've been able to see how the hobby has evolved and changed and expanded so much in the last 60 plus years.

Greg Bennick: Thank you so much for everything Fred. I really appreciate it. The whole hobby does as well.

Fred Weinberg: My pleasure!

About the Author

Greg Bennick has been a wildly obsessed error collector since age twelve. He is the CONECA State Representative for Washington. He splits his time between Seattle and Portland and this is the first of many articles and interviews he has planned to share with *Errorscope* readers. ■

You Never Know, Until You Know For Sure

By Harold Skripsky

Perhaps 10 years ago I purchased a coin collection. In this collection was a bag of wheaties. Eventually I went through the cents and found an odd looking 1960-D Large Date Lincoln Cent. Noting that it was unusual I set the coin aside. I figured that perhaps it had been messed with and suspected it to be plated. So there the coin sat for many years. Then several years ago I ran into this coin again. I decided to take a closer look at it. So I weighed it and found that it weighed only 2.4 grams. The normal weight of a cent is 3.11 grams. A normal Roosevelt dime is 2.50 grams. Interesting.

As a member of CONECA I contacted James Motley and inquired if he might take a look at the coin. He agreed to do so. He took the coin to a show and he showed it to Ken Potter and Mark Longas. They thought the coin was struck on a silver dime planchet. James sent the coin back to me and there it sat on my desk for over a year. Finally I decided to send it in to PCGS and have them verify the coin and hopefully slab it. Sure enough last week it came back Mint Error, AU 55 Large date, Struck on Silver 10C Planchet. 2.48 grams. Mystery solved and now I have added a nice error coin to my collection.

All thanks to CONECA and James's help. Thank you gentlemen. ■



A Recent Increase in Occurrences Of Hubbed-In Debris, An Otherwise Rare Die Error

By Alexander B. Bradley

Hubbed-in Debris (HID hereafter) is a hypothesized die error that involves the accidental introduction of foreign material into the hubbing press during die manufacture. Such accidents are not likely to make it past inspection and are probably rare to begin with owing to the controlled conditions in which dies are produced. Suspected examples have been reported elsewhere (Diamond, 2013; 2022) but confirmation is difficult owing to a paucity of duplicates and by presumed occurrences of HID manifesting on coins as features that can be mistaken for other, more common types of errors. This article is intended (1) to provide a description of the expected morphology of HID errors, (2) to document an apparent increase in occurrences of suspected HID errors among 21st century, Philadelphia-minted Jefferson nickels, and (3) to discuss what can be inferred about the operation at the Philadelphia Mint from the distribution of these unusual die errors among circulated coins. The ultimate reason for the recent frequency of HID errors is unclear and it is not my intention to speculate here.

Morphological description of Hubbed-in Debris

Hubbed-in Debris refers to a class of die errors which result from debris being pressed into the face of a die during its manufacture. A coin struck by an affected die will exhibit a raised anomaly that is characteristically persistent across devices and generally invariant in degree of relief (though this latter characteristic can be affected by die maintenance and use). Purported examples of HID consist of linear features, possibly representing hubbed-in fragments of wire or metal shavings. These features may be restricted to the field or continue into devices with minimal interruption, owing to their having been pressed into the receiving die uniformly. Examples tend to be broad and flat, may be straight, sigmoidal, or kinked in their course, and often terminate abruptly. Examples may be sharply defined or partially effaced due to die wear or intentional abrasion. Observing HID errors requires oblique lighting which can make identification difficult. HID errors should not exhibit significant peripheral metal displacement (as in die dents or other post-hubbing accidents) because the confining pressure of the die steel does not allow the steel surrounding the hubbed-in debris to swell. The examples of possible HID reported here show no

regular pattern of location across the die face, demonstrating random emplacement of the debris. This is not unexpected and is perhaps one more way to distinguish HID from die errors which occur in some patterned manner (e.g. die cracks tending to progress from the edge of the die face inward).

Figure 1 illustrates an example of what I interpret as an HID error on both faces of a 2020-P Jefferson nickel. This coin was produced with a pair of dies that both had HID errors. The obverse anomalies are particularly apparent and exhibit the characteristics of HID errors. They span both the field and devices but retain their relief above the surface of the coin (i.e. their impression into the die).



Figure 1 - 2020-P Jefferson nickel with possible HID errors on both the obverse and reverse. The obverse shows three distinct anomalies spanning Jefferson's face and hair and the field to the west of LIBERTY and the date. The reverse exhibits a single anomaly spanning the field and Monticello to the southwest. Both images represent the same coin.

Figure 2 illustrates an interesting case because it provides additional evidence of an error in hubbing in the relationship between the error and the frosted finish of a proof. Located within the central area of Monticello of this proof 1961-P Jefferson nickel is a sinuous raised feature that differs from the other HID errors reported here in that it is a much thinner. Notably, the frosting of this particular example has clearly been imparted to the anomaly, proving that the feature was present before the die was acid-etched and polished to give it its final finish.



Figure 2 - 1961-P Jefferson nickel proof with an anomaly in the center of Monticello, interpreted here as an HID error. Note that the frosting continues over the surface of the error.

Other examples of die errors showing up in the frosted portions of proof coins exist. One 2005 Kansas State quarter proof reverse die exhibits a large hoofprint-shaped feature on the hindquarters of the bison. This feature has been variably interpreted as a die dent or gouge, but in any case, it is noteworthy in having received the same frosted sculpturing as the devices. There is no evidence of die steel displacement around the anomaly that would suggest it is a die dent, but it is conceivable that any such evidence would have been erased by subsequent modification during die manufacture. Moreover, metal displacement related to die dents is variable and its absence is not diagnostic. I do not believe this well-known error is an example of HID because it lacks the appearance of an object that was pressed into the die during hubbing. The feature does not show the uniform relief that would be expected of an HID error. Whether the anomaly represents a dent or a gouge or something else is beyond me, but the relative timing of its emplacement into the die is made clear by its having received the frosted finish.

Other errors similar in appearance to HID

The following is a list of errors easily confused with but conceivably distinguishable from HID:

Die errors

Die gouge – A linear, triangular, or semilunate feature resulting from a tool or other object incising the surface of the die. Die gouges do not regularly exhibit peripheral metal displacement and are usually interrupted as they cross over narrow die recesses, like those of letters and numbers.

Die dent – An anomaly that results from an object impacting the surface of and creating an indentation in the die. Die dents differ from HID errors in sometimes showing metal displacement in the form of pressure ridges along the edges of the raised anomaly. Like die gouges but unlike HID errors, die dents often affect the vulnerable parts of the die (e.g. the field) and may protrude from the surface of the coin unevenly. As mentioned earlier, HID involves an object being fully pressed into the surface of a die, resulting in an anomaly that is uniformly incused into the die, even when intersecting devices.

Feeder/ejector scrapes – One class of die gouge that is noteworthy here are those that result from the feeder/ejector or other moving parts scraping against a die during coining. The resulting gouge(s) will be straight, parallel when numerous, restricted to the field and other exposed parts of the die, and will occur in a predictable orientation, related to the configuration of the coining equipment (e.g. E to W among modern dimes and SE to NW among late 20th century cents).

Die crack – A continuous feature that often takes an irregular course across the face of the die. The course of a die crack can be independent of devices or influenced by them if the stresses that cause the crack are sufficiently focused by their presence. In any case, a die crack results in a raised, narrow, and well-defined feature on the coin. Like hubbed-in features, die cracks are not interrupted by devices, but unlike HID, their relief will not closely follow the topography of the coin's surface. This is because the die crack is a deep recess into which the planchet metal is extruded by the force of the strike. The crack may not achieve the same relief on the design as it does in the field because the extruded metal must reach the floor of the die recess before extending into the die itself. Moreover, effective striking pressure is lower in large die recesses, so there is less force pushing the coin metal into the crack in the die face. Die cracks often progress from the periphery of the die inward.

Die clash – A die clash occurs when paired working dies strike one another in the absence of an intervening planchet and with incorrect clearance. The result is the duplication of devices from one die onto the other. A die clash is easily diagnosed on coins by correlating the resultant anomalies with the design of the opposite die.

Planchet and striking errors

Linear plating blister – Plating blisters are hollow, raised anomalies that are the result of gas expanding immediately after strike and pushing up the overlying plating. These blisters often follow the 'grain' of the planchet, imparted by the rolling mill, and can therefore take the form of linear anomalies similar in appearance to HID errors. Linear plating blisters can be distinguished from HID errors by their alignment with the 'grain' of the planchet. As planchet/striking

errors, plating blisters will never be exactly reproduced on multiple coins, as in the case of die errors like HID.

Lamination cracks – A defect in the rolled sheet of metal used to produce planchets. Lamination errors writ large can take on many morphologies as the metal cracks, flakes, and peels. However, they are often linear due to defects having been stretched out during rolling. Like linear plating blisters, lamination cracks will follow the ‘grain’ of the planchet.

Recent occurrences of suspected Hubbed-in Debris

Until recently, errors interpretable as HID have been rare and difficult to verify, likely because dies are manufactured in a controlled environment and scrutinized for mistakes before being employed in coining. Interestingly however, there seems to have been an increase in occurrences among recent US nickels, with more examples coming to light nearly every day. To my knowledge, this trend is limited to 21st century Jefferson nickels. Because of their rarity, authenticating HID errors by identifying multiple examples produced by the same affected die (i.e. by confirming that the issue is in fact with the die) has to date proven extremely difficult. However, this is no longer the case because multiple specimens struck by the same HID-affected 5-cent die are known. This can allow for comparisons that might reveal progressive die stages. Because they can look like other errors, understanding how die wear and maintenance (i.e., intentional die abrasion) affects the appearance of HID errors may significantly aid in making positive identifications going forward.

Many examples of presumed HID have turned up which are quite prominent, raising the question of how such errors could get past quality control, especially with the advantage of modern technology. Single-squeeze hubbing, computer numerical controlled (CNC) milling of the master hub, incorporation of the date and mint mark into the master hub, etc. are all efforts by the US Mint to improve fidelity of design transfer across the production of hubs and dies. Of the HID cases presented here, two, a 2020-P (Fig. 1) and a 2021-P Jefferson nickel (Plate 2, Figs. 11, 12), show the errors on both faces, the former having one anomaly on the reverse and no fewer than three distinct anomalies on the obverse! Similar errors among Jefferson nickels are increasingly making their way onto the market and are generally being called “die dents” and given nicknames like “scar face Jefferson,” etc.

It must be noted that, to date, most alleged examples of HID have appeared on Philadelphia-minted coins, with perhaps two exceptions: a 2011 Jefferson nickel (in the author’s possession but not figured) from the Denver Mint exhibiting two faint, raised lines on the reverse, and the 2005-D “Speared Bison” nickel (see discussion below). The Philadelphia Mint produces the master dies for all US mints, so a distinct category of die error exclusive to coins from the Philadelphia Mint suggests that the errors occur at the stage

of the production of working hubs and/or working dies at the Philadelphia facility. One can conclude that this is a working die issue because each HID error is so far only known to occur on a single working die. It also must be noted that the recent increase in occurrences of HID is apparently restricted to Jefferson nickels. I have yet to observe unequivocal examples among other recent coins, suggesting that an issue with the hubbing process at the Philadelphia Mint exists in the production of dies meant for coining nickels but does not extend to the production of other dies.

Previously reported die varieties that may be best explained as Hubbed-in Debris

It should be noted that some previous discoveries are perhaps better explained as HID errors than with the diagnoses currently on offer. These include a Jefferson nickel with reverse hub doubling listed as 2019-P WDDR-016 and the famous 2005-D “Speared Bison” American Bison nickel. The former consists of a pair of anomalous raised features in the center of the Monticello (Fig. 3A). These features, together, have been interpreted as rotational hub doubling,



Figure 3. Illustrations of previously documented die errors that may represent HID. **A.** The 2005-D “Speared Bison” Jefferson nickel exhibits a linear anomaly centered on the reverse face and extending from south-southwest to north-northeast. Images courtesy of PCGS; <https://www.pcgsc.com/coinfacts/coin/2005-d-5c-speared-bison/84159>. **B.** A 2019-P Jefferson nickel with two linear anomalies in the center of Monticello, listed as 2019-P WDDR-016. The upper anomaly is interpreted here as hub doubling of the sort typical of 21st century Jefferson nickels. The lower anomaly is interpreted as HID. Image courtesy of Brian’s Variety Coins; <https://www2.briansvarietycoins.com/listings/view/1711>.



Plate 1. Representative examples of modern Jefferson nickel HID errors identified as of time of writing, with high-resolution images (left) and illustrations of each (right) outlining the exact positions of anomalies. **Fig. 1.** 2021-P Reverse. **Fig. 2.** 2021-P Obverse. **Fig. 3.** 2021-P Reverse. **Fig. 4.** 2020-P Reverse. **Fig. 5.** 2021-P Obverse. **Fig. 6.** 2021-P Reverse. **Fig. 7.** 2021-P Obverse. **Fig. 8.** 2021-P Obverse. **Fig. 9.** 2020-P Reverse. **Fig. 10.** 2021-P Reverse. **Fig. 11.** 2018-P Reverse. **Fig. 12.** 2017-P Obverse.

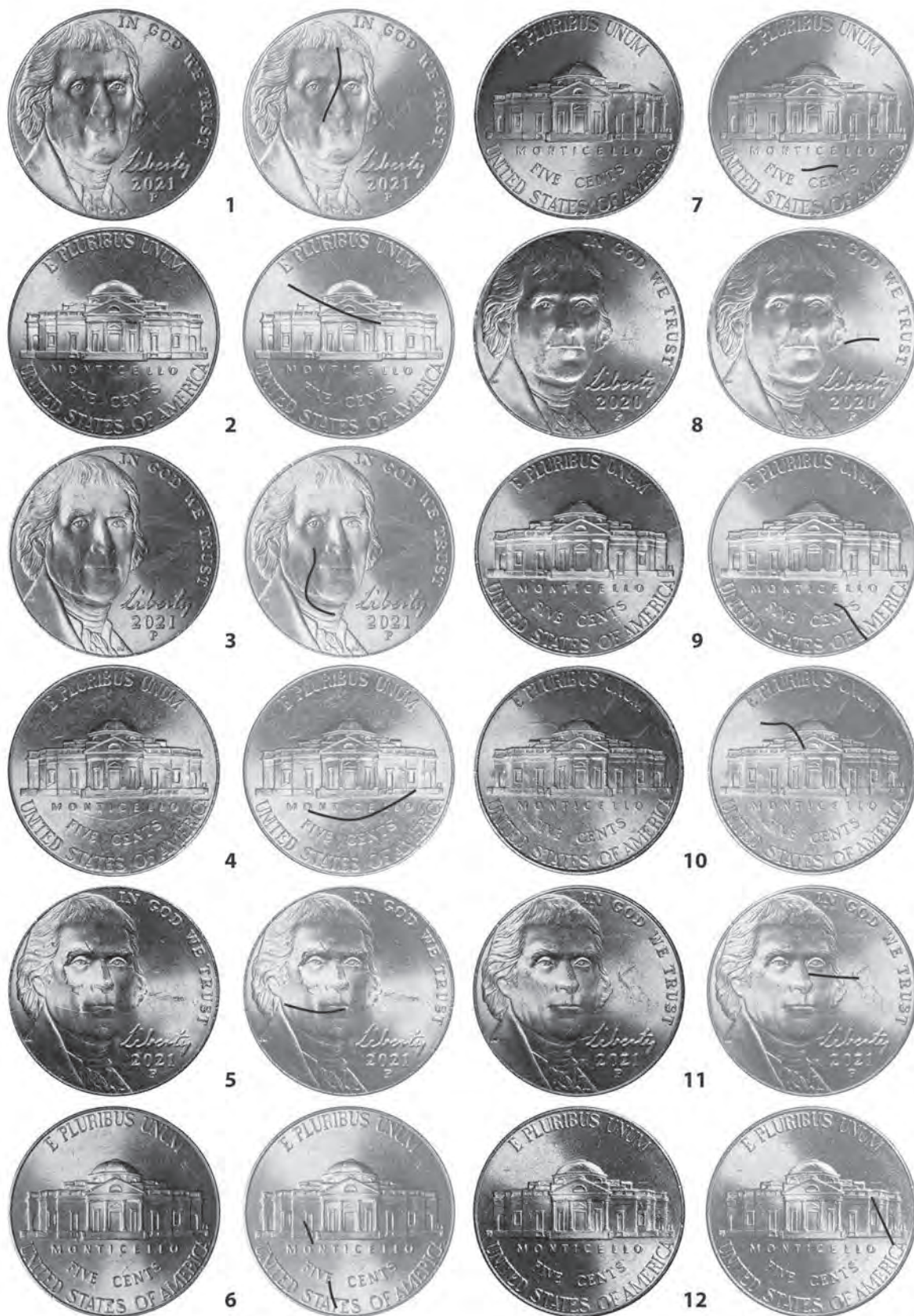


Plate 2. Representative examples of modern Jefferson nickel HID errors identified as of time of writing, with high-resolution images (left) and illustrations of each (right) outlining the exact positions of anomalies. **Fig. 1.** 2021-P Obverse. **Fig. 2.** 2020-P Reverse. **Fig. 3.** 2021-P Obverse. **Fig. 4.** 2020-P Reverse. **Fig. 5.** 2021-P Obverse. **Fig. 6.** 2021-P Reverse. **Fig. 7.** 2020-P Reverse. **Fig. 8.** 2020-P Obverse. **Fig. 9.** 2021-P Reverse. **Fig. 10.** 2018-P Reverse. **Fig. 11.** 2021-P Obverse. **Fig. 12.** 2021-P Reverse. Note, **Figs. 11 and 12** are of the same coin.

presumably tracing out the roof of the portico. However, the angle between the features is inconsistent with this interpretation and it is more likely that one is the result of minor hub doubling and the other HID (i.e. a dual die error). The southernmost feature can be seen spanning much of Monticello with minimal interruption, as is expected in the case of HID but is atypical for hub doubling.

The latter is a well-documented variety, consisting of a linear anomaly bisecting the bison on the reverse of the nickel (**Fig. 3B**). The most common interpretation of this error is that it represents a die gouge, but its morphology is more consistent with what is expected for HID. Die gouges are characterized by having sharp edges and seldom show peripheral metal displacement of the sort generated by die dents. They also tend to exhibit striations from having been cut, rather than pressed, into the die steel, and a discontinuous course interrupted by devices. None of these characteristics is present in the “Speared Bison” anomaly but it does exhibit the characteristics of an HID error, including uniform depth into the die despite spanning both the highest and deepest areas on the die face (the field and the center of the bison respectively). If this interpretation and the others presented here are accurate, then the “Speared Bison” nickel may currently be the only unambiguous HID error among Denver-minted modern nickels.

Conclusion

The die errors here are all interpreted to be the result of HID on the basis of shared diagnostic characteristics, like persistence across devices, lack of significant variation in relief, and haphazard emplacement on the die. The recent increase in frequency of suspected HID errors among Philadelphia-minted Jefferson nickels provides an unusually large sample size for an error that is normally very difficult to study, but the reason(s) for this trend is still unclear. However,

er, even with no clear explanation for the rising frequency of these errors among modern nickels, their distribution among circulated coins reveals much about the source of the issue at the mint. We can infer that the problem lies with Jefferson nickels and not with other denominations, that it is largely restricted to the Philadelphia Mint, and that it most likely occurs in the production of working dies. Finally, it may be the case that some previously identified die errors, namely 2019-P WDDR-016 and the famous “Speared Bison,” in fact represent HID errors. Future efforts to study these die errors should be aimed at determining why they are occurring as often as they currently are, despite the US Mint’s use of up-to-date technology meant to all but eliminate errors in die manufacture.

I would like to acknowledge Mike Diamond for helping to improve the quality of this article and for teaching me much about the minting processes along the way.

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Cuve's Round Up 22

By Jason Cuvelier

I have been teaching one way or another for about 20 years, nearly eight where I teach visual arts, and I can safely say the past two years, with this in particular having been the hardest I have experienced. I have so little energy for anything, including errors and varieties. I am looking forward to the summer. Below are two new acquisitions from a CONECA member. The first I have been searching for several years, a 1968 Colombia 20 Centavos with very strong off-set doubling showing on “20 CENTAVOS” and the closed encircling wreath. Next is a 1956 1 Centavo showing as a TDO on the wreath, hair details and the ear. Now I just need to find that big 1985 Mexico 5 pesos DDO. Following the 1956 is a new listing from Bob Umbarger Roosevelt Dime 2020P 10c DDR-001 showing as a class IX offset strong spread on the upper right central olive leaf in the lower right leaf cluster over the torch.



1968 Colombia 20 Centavos DDR



1968 Colombia 20 Centavos DDR



1956 Colombia 1 Centavo TDO



1956 Colombia 1 Centavo TDO



Roosevelt Dime 2020P 10c DDR-001

Below is a 1972 Lincoln Cent DDO-003 with an incomplete planchet (Clip) above TRUST belonging to the E Raser collection. This is unusual in that it is a combination variety and error. This is followed by a late nineteenth century masonic token die dated 1879 reading Mason FAIRFIELD III with a CUD, die cracks and a repunched 7 in the date. As is the case with previous token dies I have used clay to take an impression of the token die as to approximate the look of a struck coin from the die pair.



1972 Lincoln Cent DDO-003 with Clip

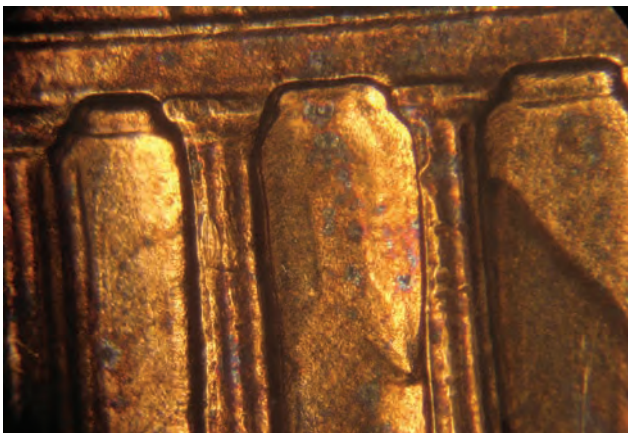
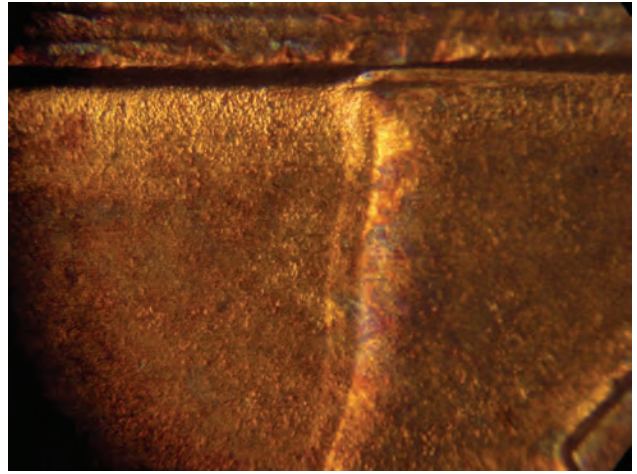


1972 Lincoln Cent DDO-003 with Clip

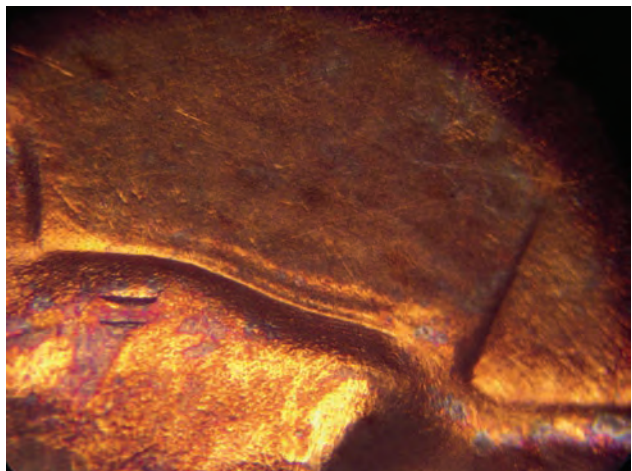


Token Die: 1879 Mason FAIRFIELD III with CUD & repunched 7

Next is a 1974D Lincoln Cent with type 1 counterclash I listed as CCL(T1)-1c-1974D-01 (LD). Here you can find counterclash marks of the forehead, and Y of LIBERTY. This coin also shows a misaligned die. After that is a 1939 Jefferson Nickel DDR-002 (FS-802) showing strong extra thickness on all lettering with a strong spread on FIVE CENTS and AMERICA.



1974D Lincoln Cent CCL(T1)-1c-1974D-01 (LD) eBay - Shortcut



1974D Lincoln Cent CCL(T1)-1c-1974D-01 (LD)



1939 Jefferson Nickel DDR-002 (2-R-II-C+VI (4) FS-802



1939 Jefferson Nickel DDR-002 (2-R-II-C+VI (4) FS-802

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