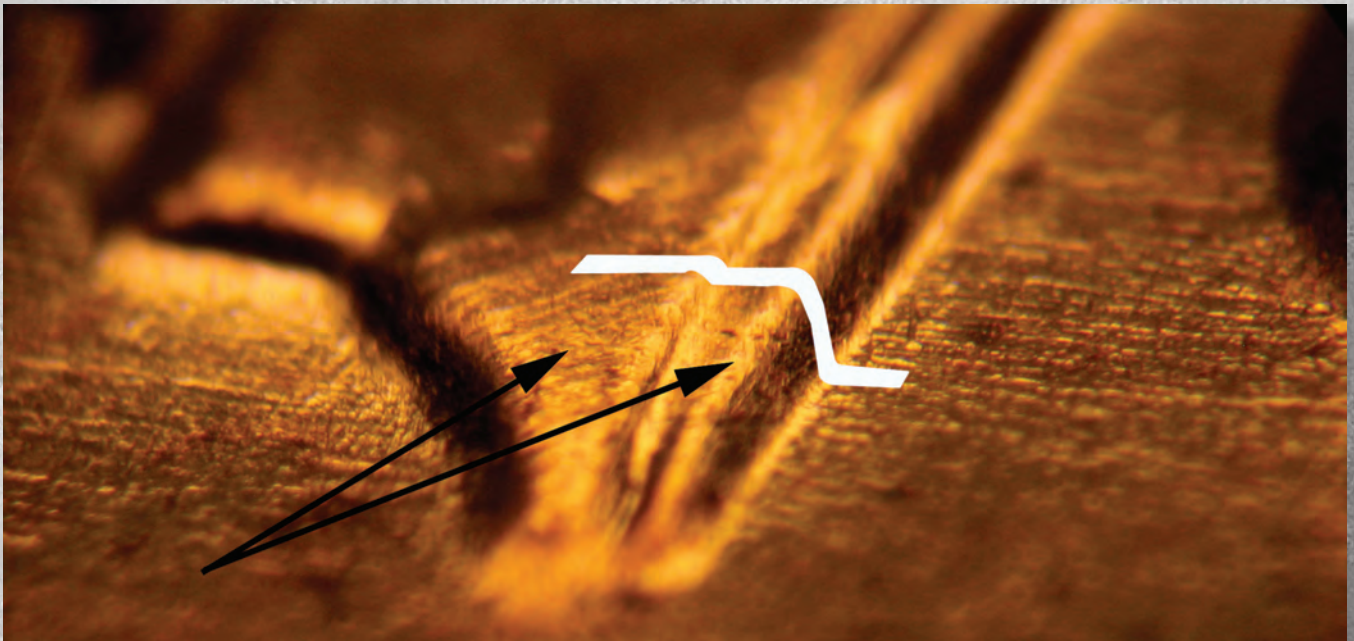
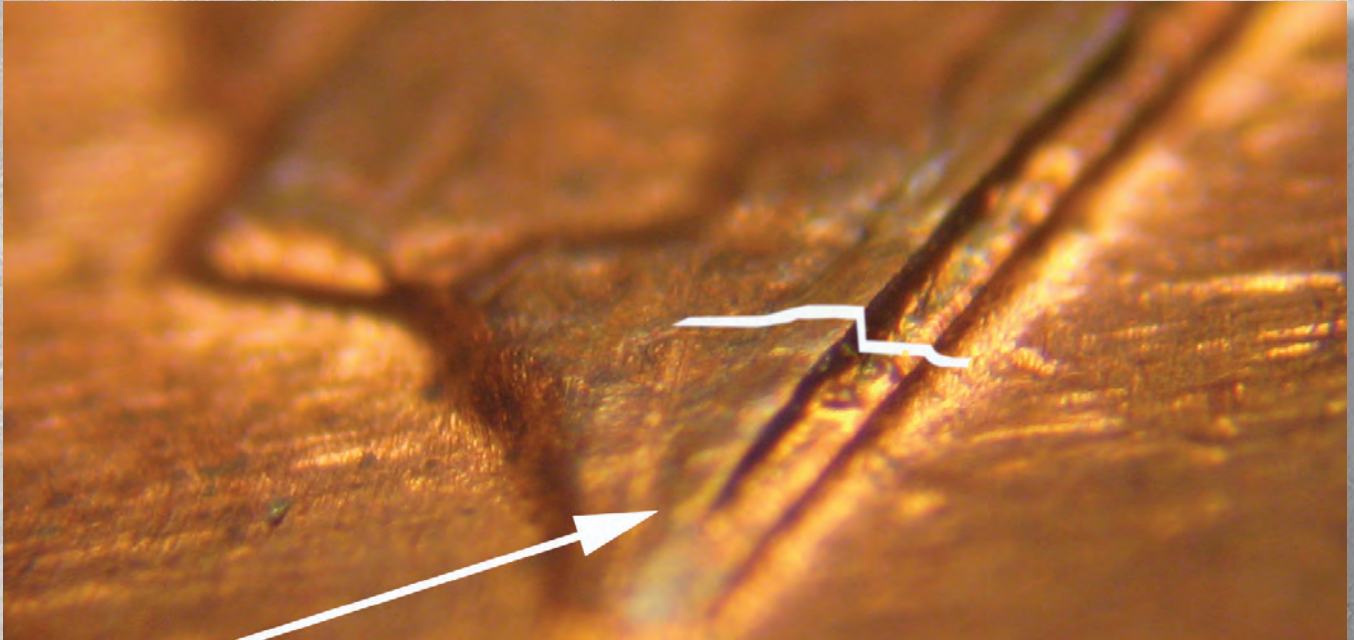


ErrorScope

Volume 35 Number 1 | January - February 2026
Combined Organization Of Numismatic Error Collectors Of America
CONECAOnline.org



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Combined Organization of Numismatic Error Collectors of America

Volume 35 Number 1 | January - February 2026

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President's Message

James Motley, CONECA President

With the increase in silver prices we have taken down what is left of the silver bars we had from the website. We will evaluate this as a board down the road.

We are already starting to get ready for the ANA convention. August 25-29 Pittsburgh, PA. We will of course have our general meeting, a table at the convention center and a banquet which is being worked on as this is being typed! If you have anything you would like to donate as a giveaway at the banquet, we accept most anything coins or error/variety related. I can tell those that attend there will be some books there.

Error and Variety auctions have been once again getting a ton of support and prices reflect the excitement within our hobby.

We need help at CONECA. We need somebody that can do data entry, (uploading photos to the website) somebody to take over the webmaster position, (knowledge of WordPress is a must) and somebody to do the membership stuff (adding new members, sending out renewals etc.).

There has been an erroneous thread put on a respectful Facebook group stating that CONECA's website along with several other error/variety sites are going away. It is 100% false and is being addressed. So please no more emails, PMs etc asking about it. I am hopeful that it gets taken down before it goes much further.

CONECA is at the FUN show as this is being written, there will be a report in this issue elsewhere on the show.

A gentle reminder for CONECA Members. If you have a change of address, we need you to email us your new address to membership@conecaonline.org. You can also mail us the information to CONECA PO Box 466, Davisburg, MI. 48350. We will continue sending your journals to the old address until we get a new address and then I get complaints saying, "I haven't gotten an *ErrorScope* in 6 months since I moved, why?"

CONECA Master Listing (CML): We are still chugging along and adding as we can. We do have all of Kevin Flynn's information that we will be adding as well as time permits. We are always looking for data entry help with this project. If you're inter-

ested let me know at James@conecaonline.org. We also just got an updated 3 cent Doubled Die File list and photos from Frank Leone that will be posted soon. (Thank you Frank)

CONECA Forum: Keep in mind that the Forum is a separate entity from the main website. It requires special software and that requires a separate login. We are getting a lot of attention in that area from newbies and advanced collectors alike. If you join the forum and spend some time answering questions for new collectors, please keep in mind that you too were a new collector at some point and be nice. If I find anyone calling somebody names or trying to embarrass somebody, I will engage in that conversation. We are all in this together. We also do not tolerate foul language, that will result in a ban from using the forum. Explain your answers if you can and if you don't know the answer please just move along to the next thread or post. BE NICE, make somebody smile and help them learn. If you do participate in the Forum, keep it amicable, things get nasty occasionally and I do NOT tolerate it. Just keep it civil. Just because some random people post a video on YouTube or Facebook does not necessarily mean they know what they are talking about.

Membership Update: We are sitting at 1045 members. 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! When you send me photos of your coins, I may pass them along to another member of the team if I am too busy, but they do get looked at.

The following have made monetary donations to CONECA over the course of the last few months: **Burnis Acuff, Charles Assetta, Lyle Augustine Jr., Chequita Boyd, Michael Kolenda**, and as always, we would like to thank Romeo Maynard Jr for continued support for the YN Group. If I have missed anyone, please email me and I will make sure a proper thank you is in the next journal. Thank you all so much!

Stay safe, stay healthy and enjoy our hobby. Keep up the hunt!



Organization

Club Officers

President	James Motley
Vice President	Mark Lighterman
Treasurer	James Zimmerman
Secretary	Jason Cuvelier

Board of Directors

Membership	James Motley
Publications	Allan Anderson
Youth Director	Logan Wostyn
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Webmaster	Open
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CONECAonline.org	Open
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Errorscope Editor	Allan Anderson
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CONECA Membership News

by James Motley

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

Burnis Acuff, Charles Assetta, Lyle Augustine Jr., Chequita Boyd, Michael Kolenda,

We are in a transition right now and apologize if we missed anyone in the above list. Please email me and I will make sure that it gets added to the next journal. membership@conecaonline.org

CONECA offers a warm welcome to all of our new members! Total Membership—1045

New Members	Recommended by	New Members	Recommended by
Marlene Andes	Internet	Callum Attencio	Dept S
Kayla Avery	Red Book	Chief Robert Bass	Dept S
David Belville	ANA	Frank Blount	James Wiles
Nathan Brown	Cherry Pickers	Mark Buford	Dept S
Cara Byington	Dept S	Kris Coogan	GPT
Sean Craig	Google	Michael Crowley	Dept S
Brad Daugherty	Dept S	Karon Deaguero	Podcast
David Denton	Google	David Furlong Sr.	Pittsfield Precious Metals
Patricia Gottshall	Numismatist	Susan Hadik	Daniel Malone
Douglas Harms	Dept S	Xavier Harris	Internet
Larry Hayano	Internet	Michael Hennessey	Chat GPT
Brian Howell	Dept S	Franklin Johnson	Dept S
Yvette Jones	Sam Sommer	Michael Kahre	Google
Matt Kinney	Dept S	Michael Kolenda	Cherry Pickers
Wayne Lamay	AI	Dennis Law	Ken Potter
Cal Lenderman	James Zimmerman	Fletcher MacDonald	Jennifer Telfer-Mellen
Angel Malonado	Dept S	Vincent Mancini	DoubledDie.com
Eugene Mechetner	Dept S	Jason Mondy	Dept S
Dan Naylor	Daniel Malone	Steven Nelson	Dept S
Poon W Ng	Google	Mario Piazzolla	Cherry Pickers
Logan Piszczek	Greg Bennick	Karla Preas	Coneca Website
John Pryor	Jon Sullivan	Chris Puri	PCGS
Julius Racanati	Internet	Lawrence Ragsdale	Dept S
Wendy Simmons	Daniel Malone	Timothy Smith	Cherry Pickers
Philip Sothen	Dept S	Bryce Stalvey	Daniel Malone
Steven Standley	Dept S	Stephen Sul	Daniel Malone
Eric Sumner	Dept S	Anna Sword	Dept S
Luciana Thum	Dept S	Anthony Tuccio	Jamestown Coin Club
Luis Vazquez	Daniel Malone	Daniel Ward	Chat GPT
Lucas Whitfield	Jon Sullivan	Geoffrey Willis	Google
Keith Burube	Dept S		

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

Adult one year membership—\$25.00

YN one year membership—\$17.50

YN one year online only membership—\$7.50

Foreign one-year membership - \$37.50 • Foreign one-year online only membership—\$25.00

Contact Membership Team for Life, Family, and Organization Memberships.



CONECA

The Combined Organization of Numismatic Error Collectors of America

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Renewal
 Member # (if known)
 New Membership
 Gift

<u>Adult Membership (U.S.)</u> Six bimonthly issues of ErrorScope per year and online access to current and back issues	<u>Bulk Mail *</u> ___ 1 year \$25.00 ___ 2 yrs. \$50.00
<u>Youth (under 18) Membership (U.S.)</u> Six bimonthly issues of ErrorScope magazine per year and online access to current and back issues Date of birth _____	<u>Bulk Mail</u> ___ 1 year \$10.00 ___ 2 yrs. \$20.00
<u>Youth (under 18) Membership (Foreign)</u> Six bimonthly issues of ErrorScope magazine per year and online access to current and back issues Date of birth _____	___ 1 year \$20.00 ___ 2 yrs. \$40.00
<u>Family Membership</u> (One Adult Membership and one additional family member in the same household, with additional family members extra) Six bimonthly issues of ErrorScope per year, one subscription per household, and online access to current and back issues	<u>Bulk Mail *</u> ___ 1 year \$37.50 ___ 2 yrs. \$75.00 Additional family member(s) _____ x \$12.50 = _____
<u>Life Membership</u> (Available after one year of membership) Under age 55 Date of birth _____ Age 55 and over Date of birth _____	<u>Bulk Mail *</u> ___ \$750.00 ___ \$650.00
<u>Club Organization Membership</u> Six bimonthly issues of ErrorScope per year with no online access to current and back issues	<u>Bulk Mail *</u> ___ 1 year \$25.00 ___ 2 yrs. \$50.00
<u>Foreign Membership</u> Six bimonthly issues of ErrorScope per year and online access to current and back issues or Online only access to current and back issues of the Errorscope	<u>First Class Mail</u> ___ 1 year \$37.50 ___ 2 yrs. \$75.00 <u>Online Only</u> ___ 1 year \$25.00 ___ 2 yrs. \$50.00
Donations to CONECA are graciously accepted. Donations to CONECA may be tax deductible. Check with your accountant.	\$ _____ YN Programs \$ _____ General Fund
*To upgrade from Bulk mail to First Class mail add \$12.50 yearly for each subscription of ErrorScope.	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Name _____ Email _____
 Address _____ Phone Number (optional) _____
 City _____ Referred by _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Password (Minimum seven characters) _____
 Parental Consent for YN's _____ (For access to the Members Only section of the CONECA website)

Please make your check or money order payable to "CONECA" and send to:

CONECA Treasurer PO Box 48 Shanksville PA 15501

Additional membership applications and PayPal payment options are available at <https://conecaonline.org/join-or-renew/>

If you have questions about CONECA membership, email CONECA's Membership Coordinator at Maria@conecaonline.org.

Your membership is subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the CONECA Constitution and By-Laws.

CONECA Attribution Services

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

\$6 for members and \$10 for non members, per coin.

In addition to the per coin fee, an additional \$10.50 will be added for priority postage to return the coin(s) (unless the submitter provides their own prepaid envelope) and any extra money for insurance above the insurance provided by the post office.

Attributers by Name

Lead Attributer — Jason Cuvelier

General Attributer — John Miller Jr.

Flying Eagle & Indian Cents — Rick Snow

Two Cents & Three Cents — Frank Leone

Shield & Liberty Nickels — Ken Hill

Seated Liberty & Barber Coinage — Chris Pilliod

Trade, Morgan, & Peace Dollars — Mike Fey

Type, Commemorative, Bullion, and Gold — (Not available until further notice)

United States 20th Century Die Varieties Attributer — (Not available until further notice)

CONECA Examination Services

Error Examinations

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

Examination Only

\$6 for members and \$10 for non members, per coin.

In addition to the per coin fee, an additional \$10.50 will be added for priority postage to return the coin(s) (unless the submitter provides their own prepaid envelope) and any extra money for insurance above the insurance provided by the post office.

Examiners by Name

US Errors — Mark Lighterman / striking & planchet errors only

World Errors — Mike Ellis (Not available until further notice)

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:

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

Young Numismatists Program

By Logan Wostyn

Hello everyone,

As always, I'm happy to see you all participating and earning these wonderful prizes I have sitting here waiting for you. Im keeping this issue's YN challenge simple. Take a look at your collection and let me know a few easy answers.

#1) What is the oldest Error coin you own?

#2) How did that Error happen?

#3) What made you purchase that particular Error?

Logan

Donations to CONECA

CONECA is a 501 (c) (3) tax - exempt charity and public supported organization as defined in sections 170 (b) (1) (A) (vi) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Donations to CONECA are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Federal ID #46-0343568.

Mail Donations To:
CONECA Treasurer - PO Box 48, Shanksville, PA 15560

Retraction: Double Struck Proof Ike Dollar Confirmed Counterfeit

By Greg Bennick

Mistake made! Collectors typically love errors, but this is a mistake that no one likes to admit. Facts have come out recently about the double struck proof Ike dollar which I reported on last spring, a coin that made the cover of this magazine. This new information proves that it was not an authentic mint error. The circumstances around its discovery and the details of the coin itself were presented in a way that suggested authenticity. Upon closer recent in person examination, I confirmed that the coin is indeed a fabrication and was manufactured outside the mint with intent to deceive. It is an excellent fake, but two diagnostics, one accidentally overlooked during first examination, show that the coin is not authentic. The coin has reeding which is not consistent with an in-collar double strike. The reeding looks slightly unusual, which is deceptive, but it does not look distorted or abnormal as it should if the coin had been struck twice in collar. In addition, we didn't weigh the coin last year. I weighed the coin in person recently on a very accurate scale and found it to be a full two grams light. The coin has since been rejected by third party grading. While not the first mistake I have made, I would love for this one to have been the last!

CONECA State Representatives

by James Motley

We are off and running! 21 States have one CONECA State Representative and several have more. We also have one Representative in Canada from the province of Ontario. 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 01-01-2026

USA

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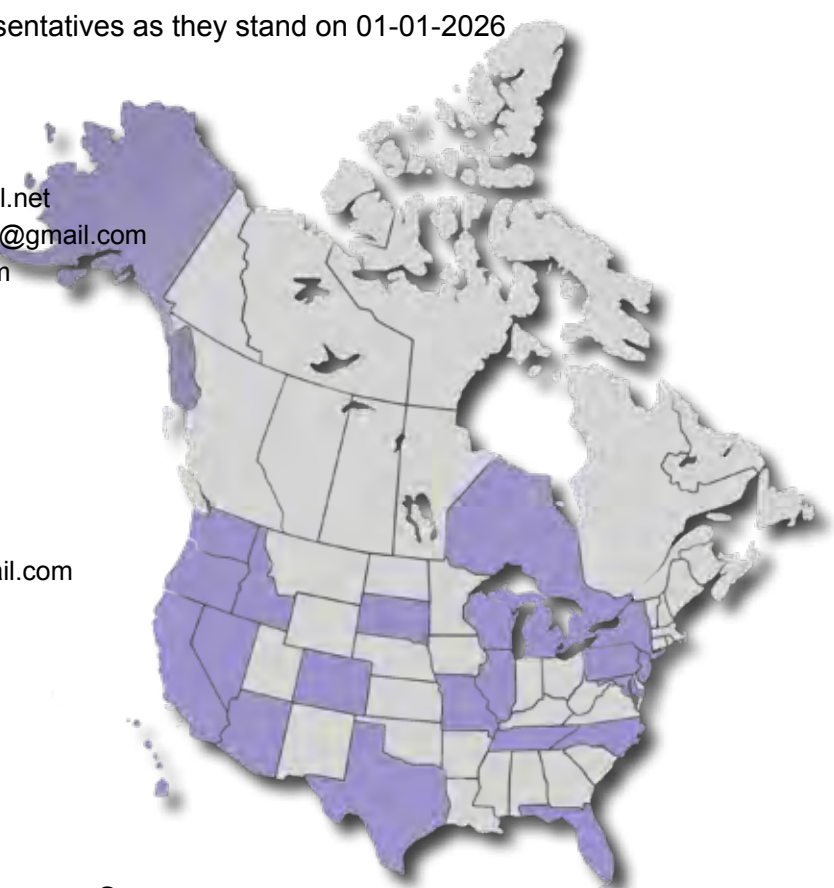
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conecaonline.org

Visit the **CONECA Website**
at <https://conecaonline.org>

Welcome to the CONECA Website

CONECA (pronounced: CŌNECA) is a national numismatic organization devoted to the education of error and variety coin collectors. CONECA focuses on many error and variety specialties, including doubled dies, Repunched mintmarks, multiple errors, clips, double strikes, off-metals and off-center just to name a few. CONECA offers a lending library, examination, listing and attribution services; it holds annual meetings at major conventions (referred to as Errorama) around the country.

CONECA was formed through a merger of CONE and NECA in early 1983. To learn more about the fascinating history of the Error Hobby and the history of CONECA, we encourage you to visit those pages on our site.

We have a new set of CONECA medals that are available to order. You can go to the CONECA website to purchase using Paypal or if you want to pay by check or money order, please email James Motley at James@conecaonline.org so he can reserve your order.

We have a silver round celebrating our 40th year which we had struck over the left-over 30-year rounds that Ken Potter had purchased from the club ten years ago. Then we had two different copper rounds made: one from the new 40th Anniversary die and the other as an over stamp with 40 over 30 and the dates changed. Remember there is only a mintage of 50 each.

The coppers are \$25 for a set shipped.

Silver rounds are not available at this time.



**View The Color Version of ErrorScope
In The Members Only Area of Our Website
<https://conecaonline.org>**

1971 (P) “Needled Leaves” Reverse Washington Quarter

By Lee Roschen

Before I get to the main topic of my story in regard to this unusual Washington Quarter, I first would like to extend thanks to fellow CONECA member Greg Bennick for inviting me to help out at the CONECA booth at the American Numismatic Association World’s Fair of Money in Oklahoma City this past August. This was my first time representing CONECA at a major coin show of this size! Teaming up with Greg and Kent Halland made me “feel right at home,” and was a wonderful and enjoyable experience I would consider doing again in the future.

To my fellow CONECA members who have been with the organization for as long as I have (27 years) and know a bit about my collecting pursuits, Washington Quarters was the very first series I pursued when I began my coin hobby way back in 1964. Even after all these decades, it’s still a series that holds a major interest to me. However, my interest in the Washington Quarter series skyrocketed to new heights when I made my first purchase of the *Cherrypickers’ Guide to Rare Die Varieties* (3rd edition authored by Bill Fivaz and the late J.T. Stanton, copyright 1994) 30 years ago.

The 1971 (P) Washington Quarter doubled die reverse (FS-25-1971-801) was a variety that grabbed my attention immediately. As stated in this edition of the *Cherrypickers’ Guide* on page 230, the only known example of this strong doubled die reverse at that time was an extremely fine example discovered by Natalie Halpern. Under the assumption that there must be more examples of this DDR floating around in circulation, I began picking up quarter rolls from banks in a serious search for this variety. Since that search began way back then, I have cherrypicked a whopping SIX examples of the 1971 (P) DDR, and all plucked out from bank rolls. I sent the two highest graded examples to NGC for attribution, grading and encapsulating. Both came back to me in an XF-45 grade. At that time, I originally labeled them as my “Siamese twins.” The other four examples of this DDR were cherrypicked in lower grades. Eventually, I had no problem selling all six examples of these quarters to individual buyers.



Then last year, I purchased a fresh, unopened roll of 1971 Philadelphia mint Washington Quarters. When recently finding the time to finally crack this unsearched roll open, my main goal (of course) was to get extremely lucky in cherry-picking the strong doubled die reverse in gem brilliant uncirculated. While the DDR I was hoping for never showed up, I instead spotted something else out of the ordinary with my 10X loupe that was originally given to me by J.T. Stanton about 20 years ago.

And what exactly did I come across? Something that was quite bizarre that I had never spotted on a 1971 (P) quarter previously. What can easily be seen in the microscopic photos added with my story is what appears to be a raised “needle-like” aberration on the reverse that begins on the left side of the leaf above the letter A in QUARTER. This “needle” can be further seen heading in a southeast direction. It first appears between the two leaves above the letters AR of QUARTER, disappears momentarily between the leaf above the letter R of QUARTER and the left stem, then reappears behind the horizontal crossbar of the letter T of QUARTER. What really gives the impression of this aberration being very similar to a needle is that where the needle begins above the letters AR of QUARTER, it has a very blunt and squared tip, and is at its widest point anywhere along the needle. Oddly enough, the opposite tip is sharply pointed like a needle as well. It also appears in a straight line even with the brief “interruption” as mentioned previously. I must also mention that in this roll of 1971 (P) BU quarters, I found not one, but three examples of this strange abnormality.



When preparing for my trip to the ANA in Oklahoma City in August, I packed one of these quarters in my briefcase in hopes of getting a solid analysis and opinion.

While manning the CONECA table with Greg Bennick and Kent Halland, CONECA Hall of Fame member and ANA President-elect Mark Lighterman stopped by for a visit. Upon showing Mark my unusual quarter, he summarized that the cause of this deviation was a die scratch.

With that, I visited Mr. Error Expert himself, Jon Sullivan, at his booth. Not surprisingly, he gave me the same opinion on this quarter that Mark Lighterman did. Despite the fact this 1971 (P) Quarter has nothing more than a simple die scratch on the reverse, I like this anomaly for the "character" and "uniqueness" it exhibits.

For now, I am personally labelling this odd find as the "Needled Leaves" variety as the description seems most appropriate and fits perfectly. It probably will never be included in the *Cherrypickers' Guide*, but the description of this die scratch still makes this find unusual and interesting. Now if that needle featured an eye on the blunt tip of the needle, that would REALLY be convincing! ■

Hand Engraved Die Lines Discovered on a 1955 Proof Quarter

By Michael Fey

I recently reported the discovery of hand engraved die lines on the reverse of a 1955 Proof quarter.

At least 6 prominent die lines were hand engraved on to the left wing (viewer's right) of a 1955 proof quarter to enhance feather details after die polishing. Another 3 small die polishing lines can be seen on the right wing next to the Eagle's leg. There appears to be a few other less noticeable die lines engraved into the reverse die. Evidence of excessive die polishing is best noticeable at the left wing near the Eagle's leg likely necessitating the need for the die engraver to add more detail.

Pictures of the hand engravings on the reverse of the 1955 Proof quarter were sent to Bill Fivaz, co-author of the *Cherrypickers' Guide to Rare Die Varieties of United States Coins*. He responded, "Looks Like it to Me".

After studying additional dated Proof quarters from 1955-1964, I found these same reverse die lines used for all these dates. This indicates to me that it was likely that the Master Die for these years was touched up much as working dies were touched up by hand the years prior to 1955. This is evidenced by the 4th die line, counted from right to left, as being incomplete and turning slightly to the left on all the dates from 1955-1964.

This is not unprecedented as we know of added hand engraved die lines to the Eagle's tail feathers being added for a 1952 Proof quarter that is best known as the "Superbird", as well as the 1953 and 1954 proof quarters. However, to the best of my knowledge, this is the first report of die lines found on a 1955 proof quarter and also seen from 1956-1964. New master dies were from 1965 onward. With a mintage of 378,200 for the 1955 Proof coins, it is now apparent that the Master Die was lacking wing separation details. The die engraver decided to enhance the Master Die by adding some detail. ■



Close-up of Hand Engraved Die Lines on the Reverse of a Proof 1955 Quarter

CONECA Show Report from FUN 2026 in Orlando!

Show review by Greg Bennick and John Miller

CONECA representatives had a successful table at FUN 2026 in Orlando during the weekend of January 8-11th 2026. At the table, we had Mark Lighterman, John Miller, Greg Bennick, Randy Jones, and Bob Mellor, with Mike Ellis stopping by in front of the table to offer input on varieties and errors too.

Attendance at the show was extraordinary overall, with some show estimates guessing between 6000-10000 attendees. Our table had high traffic as a result. The table had quite a few coins come through. Hopeful attendees brought what they imagined were fantastical and important (and valuable errors) only to receive solid education more often than not on machine doubling and post mint damage.

We did see some interesting bone fide error and variety coins too! We were also able to tell people about the ANA Summer Seminar and John and Greg's in-depth class during week one on mint errors, varieties, and the minting process as an opportunity for people to attend and have fun while learning more.

We had a large number of interested young numismatists (YN's) come to the table to answer the FUN questions that form a scavenger hunt of sorts for youth around the bourse floor. They got to learn the difference between a double strike, an off-center strike and a clipped planchet, and got to see examples of each, along with photos of each example. Their mission at our table was to determine which of the three coins shown was an example of an off center coin.



left to right are John Miller, Greg Bennick, and Mark Lighterman.

If CONECA members ever end up behind a table for the club, talking to YN's is an important part of the experience. A little creativity goes a long way. In terms of the questions and scavenger hunt, we ask kids if they can help us figure out a mystery, and then give them hints to help them figure out which coin is which. This is a great way to invite them into being interested to learn more.

At the table, we saw a nice strike through reeding Kennedy half (which had a bit of reeding struck through on the reverse, though not retained), and Sam Gelberd brought an interesting Lincoln cent which inspired conversation about how many times it had been struck. It clearly showed one on center strike, and one off center strike.



We looked carefully at the off center strike in hopes of finding details of another strike, and only after giving up realized that the coin had interestingly been struck twice ON center and once off center. We were looking in the wrong place! This is why when examining coins, we need to clear our minds so as not to come to conclusions before seeing all available evidence and data.

John Miller saw and examined a 1983 no S dime proof set come to the table which was a great variety find on the part of one lucky collector.



One gentleman brought a cent he'd found but couldn't identify, that turned out to be a split planchet before strike. Greg and Mike Ellis saw a Lincoln cent with an incredible die clash on both obverse and reverse which was so deep that it looked like a flip over double struck coin (though of course the diagnostics for that error type would be quite different). Both CONECA members agreed that it was the most pronounced example of a die clash which either of them had ever seen. The photo doesn't do this one justice!



We had many people bring coins to the table that showed machine doubling. Education is such an important part of what we do with CONECA. We invite all members to brush up on, learn, and spread the word about, the difference between machine doubling (which is a normal part of the minting process and not considered a mint error or variety) and genuine hub doubling (such as is the case with the famous 1955 doubled die cent). If we could have everyone learn the difference there would be many less questions at the table and many more educated collectors!

Overall, the show was an incredible success. We answered countless collector questions, signed up some curious YN's (and a couple of excited adults too!) as new members and we had a great time all throughout.

We want to thank our friends at The Gallery Mint as well (gallerymint.com) who were demonstrating the minting process a few booths away with their screw presses and in doing so informed countless attendees about the minting process. We sent many people to their booth and they sent a number our way as well which was a great connection.

See you at Summer FUN 2026 in July! For more information about the show see: <http://funtopics.com/> ■

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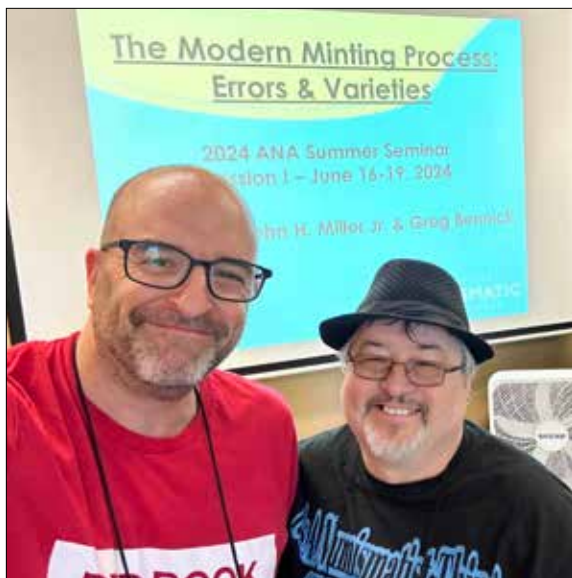
Looking Forward to the 2026 ANA Summer Seminar: CONECA Representatives to Teach Successful Error / Variety Class Once Again

By Greg Bennick

This conversation between John Miller and Greg Bennick is a great introduction to what students learn in the upcoming error and variety ANA Summer Seminar Course for Colorado Springs CO in June 2026. It is a great class for everyone from beginners to experts, from coin stores, and hobbyists. The class has a new title this year: *Major Errors and Varieties: Learning the Minting Process*. Read on to find out more about what is included if you sign up for this incredibly fun and informative class!

Greg Bennick: What are you looking forward to most about this coming June's ANA Summer Seminar and teaching our class in Colorado Springs?

John Miller: I can't wait! I love connecting with each student and watching them learn about different errors and varieties. I love watching the light bulb click in their head when they grasp how a triple struck coin happens, or how a brockage occurs. Things like that inspire me because I love when we describe various error and variety types and students suddenly really get what we are talking about.



Greg Bennick: I agree! The light bulb going off moments are tremendous. Because the first day that we're all in there, when we start naming error types, it's like we're speaking Mandarin Chinese. And then over the next couple days, all of a sudden, things start clicking and people realize how much they have learned about mint error types, how they happen, and variety coins.

John Miller: Totally. Also, in addition to really in-depth information on the minting process, we also offer some incredible learning opportunities such as going to the Moonlight Mint and talking with Daniel Carr. He has a full working Denver mint coining press. The story behind how he acquired that press is unreal. We get to see how his press runs and actually sit there and watch him load the dies and strike coins. These are coins that students themselves get to strike and to keep! It's a totally unique experience.

Greg Bennick: I think that the opportunity to meet with him at the Moonlight Mint is unprecedented, because literally no one else in the country has the equipment that he has, meaning an actual Denver mint press on which he can strike actual coins. He's designing the dies and creating the dies and then striking with an actual mint press on Peace dollars and other struck coins...so on actual US mint products. No one else has that. It's an educational opportunity for students that they won't get anywhere else. The get to ask him lots of questions about the minting process. Talk about an educational opportunity!



John Miller: It is a direct one to one interaction. It's great. I agree. That is definitely a highlight. It's definitely something that students won't get anywhere else. I want to mention all students receive - as a gift - multiple examples of error and variety coins for their collections. We hand them out for people to keep to get people started as a surprise at the end of class.

Greg Bennick: Shh..don't give away our secret surprises! But that is true. Students get the education about numismatic errors. They get examples of numismatic errors and varieties that they get to keep. They get to strike their own coins in the Mini Mint at the ANA museum, *and* they get to go to the Moonlight Mint and strike coins. So they get two minting experiences as they learn the minting process and then of course they get to see through our explanations how that minting process can go wrong at many different stages, and as a result understand how the mint errors that we all know and love are created.

John Miller: Another little bit is that the class is small enough to where you get one on one instruction but yet large enough to where you learn from other people. That's a really

important part of all this. We keep the class size relatively small so people get one on one, hands-on training. If you go to the FUN show or another coin show and you listen to a speaker on errors, you don't get to talk to them until they are done and you kind of have to walk up and ask, "Hey, do you have a minute?" With this class, you get to sit there and explore numismatic error and variety coins and concepts with us in depth and at length and ask all sorts of questions along the way



Greg Bennick: I can say that from personal experience, because I speak at coin shows all the time about mint errors. And I can tell you that, let's say 30 people showed up and everyone had a different question afterwards, I certainly wouldn't have time to talk to every one of them. I hand out lots of business cards and ask people to email me. But at the ANA Summer Seminar, you've got multiple days to ask all the questions you want, and it is an incredible learning opportunity.

John Miller: One last thing to mention is that we bring incredible error coins for students to view. They get the hands-on opportunity to actually hold and examine for themselves all kinds of errors from basic pieces to awesome and even world class pieces. Everything becomes not just a theory as in "this might exist", but something that absolutely does exist because we actually put it in their hands. That's very cool and also really fun.

Greg Bennick: I am glad you mentioned fun. That's the other thing too. Is that we're laughing the whole time throughout the

class. It's not a serious class. We're having fun the entire time too. One thing that I'd like to say in here is that the class can really benefit people who are working at coin shops, in addition to excited collectors.

John Miller: I agree. We have found that coin shops, coin stores, and dealers, will send employees and assistants to take the class and this benefits the shops when people go back and can help out more effectively.

New Doubled Die Found for The Three Cent Copper-Nickel Series!

By Edward Fletcher

Hello all. It's been several years since I've written an article for *Errorscope*, but I thought this discovery needed to be put out there. Because of my mental health issues, I rarely leave my house these days. Luckily, there's eBay to the rescue.

Earlier this year, I was going through the 3ccn category on eBay, when I came across this 1867 3ccn. I don't know what made me look closer at this coin but when I turned the coin over to see the reverse, I saw something on the lower left side that made me do a double take.



As you can see, the ends of the left ribbons are doubled, as is the outer leaf of the first leaf cluster. In the fields behind these structures and the bow itself are many polish lines, almost like someone at the mint was trying to erase the doubling.



Also, on the obverse, the left side of the 'A' in STATES is broken. There is also evidence of a die clash running from the 2nd A in America, through the base of the bust, ending in the field above the date. Further evidence of the die clash is also a vertical line representing a portion of the roman numeral close to the back of the neck. These clash marks are seen on all four examples I have found.

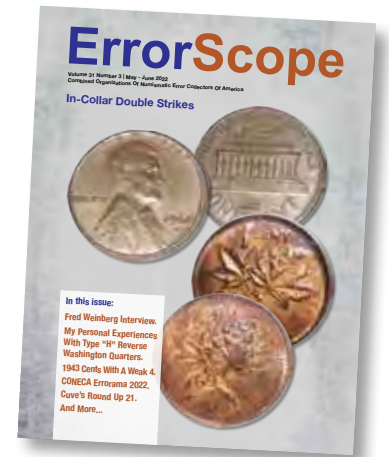
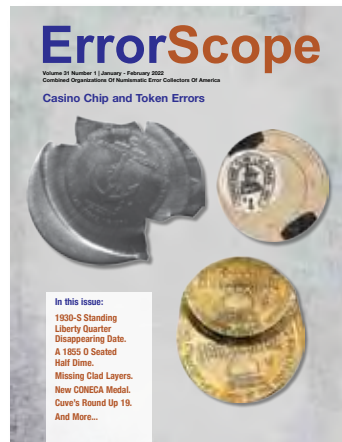
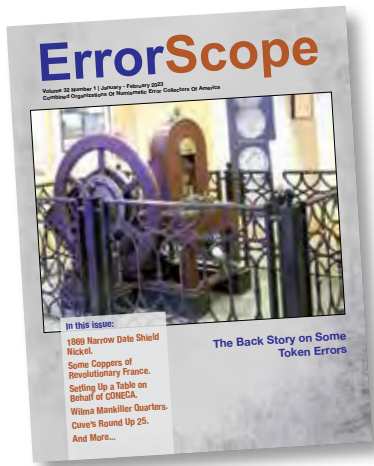


After finding a second example, I contacted Kevin Flynn, my co-author of the three cent reference, "*The Authoritative Reference on the Three Cent Nickels*", Third Edition (2009). He agreed, it was a doubled die but had never seen it before. I then went through the three cent reference published by Alan Gifford; "*The Ultimate Guide to US Three Cent Nickels 1865-1889*" (2003). Nothing was mentioned there either. So, I sent an email to Frank Leone, the CONECA attributer for Two Cent and Three Cent doubled dies. He informed me there were no notes in the CONECA files about an 1867 doubled die reverse.

I sent Frank the first two examples I had in my possession for attribution. He confirms it is a new doubled die and has listed this variety as 1867 DDR-001.

This just shows that even after more than a hundred years, new varieties can still be found on type coins. Happy Hunting everyone! ■

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The Tale of the Tails

By Robert D. Archer

As a collector of early Lincoln Cent varieties I became obsessed with the “S” Mintmarks through an experience with a spirited long distance discussion with Mr. Bill Fivaz on the 1946 S IMM001 FS501 Inverted “S” Mintmark and its’ origins.. Did you know that from 1909 to 1958 (The run of the Wheat back Cents), there have been 8 different “S” Mint marks used?

We will look at the 3, yes three “S” Mintmarks used in 1946, (MMS = Mint Mark Style)
MMS004 “Serif” “S” (Trumpet Tail) 1941 & 1942, 1945 – 1952
MMS006 “Ball Serif” “S” (Knob Tail) 1944 – 1946
MMS007 “Sans Serif” “S” (No Tail) 1946 – 1947

Always on the lookout for unique Lincoln varieties, the 1946 “S” FS-501, IMM001 is one of my personal favorites and one has to be very careful when examining this variety as it can be a costly mistake. For each variety, there are usually PUP’s or Pick Up Points identifying it.

Although three different Mint Marks were used in 1946, only the MMS006 “Ball Serif” “S” would produce this unique variety. A Serif is the embellishment at the end(s) of a letter, here are some examples of different “S”s; S,S,S,S.

The MMS006, “Ball Serif “S”, even in its correct orientation, can be easily confused for the IMM001 variety if you are not careful.

The Tale of the Tails

Here is where the “Tails” come into play. The Ball Serif “S” has a Knob shaped Tail (lower serif) as pictured below in its normal position flanked by the MMS004 and MMS007.

All three of these “S” Mintmarks have different and unique “Tails”, or Lower Serifs. Here they are pictured,

“Trumpet Tail”



MMS004 “Serif S”
Flared like a trumpet

“Knob Tail”



MMS006 “Ball Serif S”
Round Knob shaped

No Tail



MMS007 “Sans Serif S”
Flat No Tail

Above photographs credited to: Mr. Jason Cuvelier, CONECA

The “Tails” are the best way to identify the “S” Mintmark on the 1946 S issue. Now that you have seen the “Tails”, here are the full Mintmarks;

The MMS006 “Ball Serif” is the least common Mintmark of the 1946 S Series, note the open spacing of the Lower right curve.



The Upper Serif has that unique teardrop “Ball”, where it meets the Upper Left curve you will note the near vertical inside nearly forming a “V” shape. This is one of the markers or PUPs (Pick Up Points) to spot the variety.

The end of the Serif has a blunted almost squarish appearance, like a knob, hence the nickname “Knob Tail” “S”, note the flat almost 45 degree end.

The MMS004, “Serif S” has a longer, pointed Upper Serif with pronounced flared Trumpet shaped Tail (lower serif) nearly enclosing the Lower loop as seen below;



The Upper Serif has a sharp almost perpendicular front coming to a point nearly closing the upper evenly rounded inside curve.

The Lower Serif flares out of the bottom curve with the “Trumpet Tail” and exhibits a similar flat near perpendicular end face of the mintmark. Making the Upper and Lower faces of the Serifs nearly parallel.

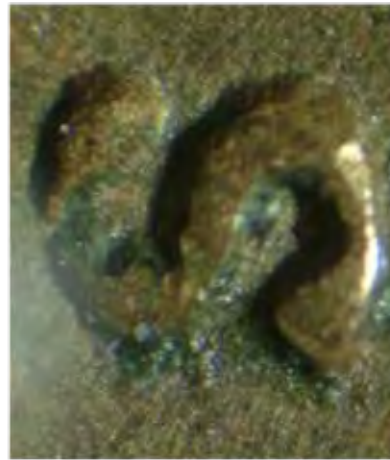
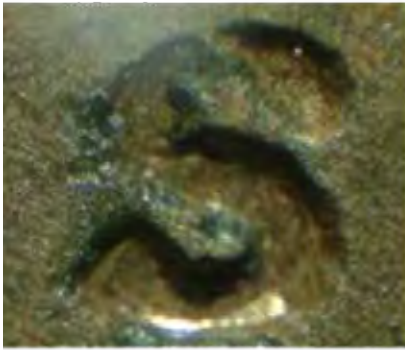
Let’s not forget the third “S” Mintmark. The MMS007. It’s the “Sans Serif” mintmark. “Sans” means “Without”, or “Without Serif’s, either Upper or Lower, as pictured below.



Here you can see the stark difference between this mintmark and the previous two. It has no Serifs. The ends of the “S” are plain. Although rare, I have seen this mintmark being offered as an Inverted “S”

Above photographs credited to: Mr. Jason Cuvelier, CONECA

So, How did it happen?



The “Ball Serif” “S” Mintmark was turned upside down and punched into a Working Hub, which in turn produced the IMM001 FS501 Inverted “S” Working Die. As you can see on this example the Upper “Ball Serif” trades places with the “Knob Tail” Lower Serif. The ball on the bottom is the PUP with the “Tail” on top!

It is the only uncorrected Inverted “S” mintmark, in the Lincoln Cent Series.



Note the position of the MM to the 9 and 4 of the Date

First Pick Up Point (PUP) is the near 45 degree angled end shaped like a blunted Knob.

Next; Note the rounded open loop from the body.

Now look for the near perpendicular inside loop rounding into the last PUP.

The “Ball” now on the bottom of the Inverted Mintmark.

Also note the Mintmark position in relation to the Date!

Remember when identifying this variety verify Mintmark position and Upper and Lower Serif placements, or rather reversals!

The Lincoln 1946 S FS-501* IMM001** is the only uncorrected Inverted Mintmark in the Lincoln series, however it is not the first! That would be the 1910 S RPM—3, which was 2, Two, Inverted S Mintmarks punched into a working hub. As it was Repunched, it is classified as an RPM.

*FS denotes the Fivaz-Stanton Classification. While **IMM denotes the CONECA Classification.

I have identified 3 Die States for this variety;



EDS, Early Die State, IMM-001, FS-501

PUPs: Flattened angled end of "Knob-tail"
Lower serif, now on "Top", Nearly complete
Upper loop and "Ball" serif now on "Bottom"



MDS, Mid Die State, IMM-001, FS-501

Flattened angled end of "Knob-tail" lower serif if still prominent, "Ball"
Upper serif shrinking in size, gap forming on top of Upper loop on
"Bottom"



LDS, Late Die State, IMM-001, FS-501

Flattened angled end of "Knob-tail" lower serif if still visible, only
the "Ball" tip remains on "Bottom", nearly all of the Upper loop has
disappeared.

Above photographs on this page from RD Archer collection

Resources

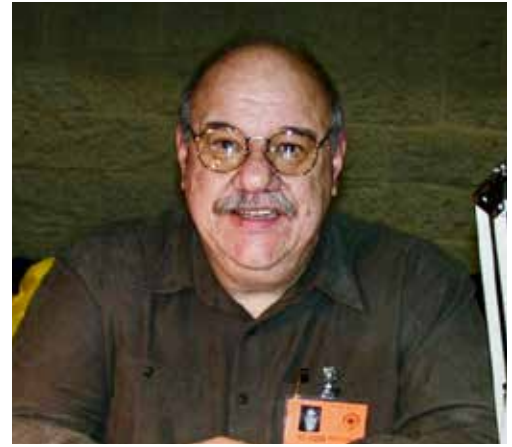
Mr. Bill Fivaz
Mr. Jason Cuvelier CONECA.com
LincolnCentResource.com
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One of the All Time Greats

Rich Schemmer

Interview

By Greg Bennick



A note from Greg Bennick: I met Rich Schemmer when I was a teenager at a coin meeting and then I didn't have a chance to speak to him again for over 35 years until he picked up the phone to answer the call for this interview! What an exciting honor to have a chance to reconnect and both still be fascinated by error coins. Rich's contributions to the error hobby certainly inspired me and pushed me to seek out more dramatic and important error coins and to study the hobby too. Without any further ado, my interview with legendary error expert, Rich Schemmer.

Greg Bennick: Hi Rich. Thanks for taking the time to connect with me! You and I last saw each other in 1989 when I was a teenager and growing up in Connecticut. My father David drove me to what I remember as a NECOLI meeting on Long Island at Arnie Margolis' home. The Numismatic Error Collectors of Long Island. Arnie was there of course. You were there. I brought a quarter with me for show and tell, a 1989-P quarter without a mintmark. This error/variety was all the rage that year...but what made mine interesting was that it was absolutely a fake. Someone had carefully used jeweler's tools to remove the mint mark. It was the perfect fake for the perfect time as everyone was scrambling to find a genuine example. You asked if he could borrow the coin for a *Coin World* article to warn collectors of the existence of fakes. I excitedly let you borrow it, and you did indeed get my coin on the cover. The headline story actually for that issue. It made me feel like I was a rock star. You eventually sent the coin back along with a copy of the issue, and that was the last time you and I spoke until tonight! Tell me about your history and how you got interested in mint errors?

Rich Schemmer: I was born in 1947. I'm 78 years old. I was born and raised in Brooklyn. In 1953, I started getting into coins. By the time I was about 12 or 13, they just grew into a fascination. But then girls came along, naturally, and that went to the side. When I was about 20 years old, I took the NYPD test for the police department in New York City. I spent 22 years with them and retired as a Sergeant in 1989. Taking a step back, in terms of errors, in 1970 I met a guy named Stan Roe. He was the president of NECOLI, which as we mentioned was the Numismatic Error Collectors of Long Island. Arnie Margolis was part of it. Geoff Noe was part of it. Stan invited me down, and I got bit by the bug. That was the end of that. I thought, "Wow, that's really interesting." I saw a double denomination, a clip, an off center, a brockage. That was 1970. Then I met a guy named Bill Fivaz, and he got me involved with Full Step Nickels and other errors. The guy that ran the Full Step Nickel Club was an old guy named Adolph Weiss. Bill and I became pretty good friends, and he invited me down to a Cherry Hill, New Jersey. My first Error-a-rama. There I met Ron Fern, John Devine, Dr King...I don't know if you remember Dr. King?

Greg Bennick: I don't remember Dr King, but Ron Fern and I talked just a couple months ago. And Bill Fivaz and I actually talked this week!

Rich Schemmer: Swell guys, all of them. Ron Fern was a great guy...*is* a great guy! And Fivaz is too. So, I got involved ever since. Like I said, Dr King was an old timer back then, but he had a major, major collection. I did the security at Cherry Hill Error-a-rama for their coins and Dr. King was showing off center Mor-

gan's, off center two cent pieces, off center three cent pieces and large cents and I was just dumbfounded. Really just wowed.



SLQ error from Rich's inventory

From there I started getting more involved with errors. I met Arnie Margolis and we went down to the Philadelphia mint a number of times. I've been to the West Point mint, the San Francisco mint, the Denver mint. The minting process just caught my eye. I loved it. Do you know that at one point, it was almost illegal to own nickels on cents back in the 70's and 80's?

Greg Bennick: It was almost illegal to own them?

Rich Schemmer: Yeah! They said they were illegally made. The Secret Service would confiscate them. In the 70's and 80's, I remember everybody was very scared and under the table about showing a nickel on a cent planchet. And if you saw a proof error, forget about it! It was like a 1964 Peace dollar.

Greg Bennick: Those would get confiscated.

Rich Schemmer: Yeah, they would get confiscated. I remember, somebody called me from the Secret Service, and saw that I had NYPD background. He started asking me questions, and one guy came and picked me up, and he drove me down to the Philadelphia Mint. He showed me a whole bunch of stuff in their office. They said, "Do you have any of this stuff?" I said, "I have some stuff from the 1970's similar to this?" The guy said, "No...no. We're not here about anything in the 70's. This is like a mid 80's thing. We're just concerned about this 1980's time period. You know, this particular mint director." I said, "No, I haven't seen any of these." Well, they had an employee at the Philadelphia Mint who was making errors. He would stick him in his shoe on the night shift. He had steel tips on his work boots. He would wait until security was lax at like three o'clock in the morning, and then was bringing them out to his car.

Greg Bennick: He'd walk them out in his boots, in his steel-toed boots? And he was making his own errors?

Rich Schemmer: Yes...he was making his own errors. The things he was making: he made a quarter on a Japanese 10 yen, on foreign planchets that we never struck. He was making all sorts of stuff. Multi struck, 25 times struck, caps, all sorts of stuff.

Greg Bennick: What year was this?



Washington quarter on 10 yen

Rich Schemmer: This was at the Philadelphia mint in the early 1980's. I can't remember the name, but they were going to use me as an expert witness. They needed me to go on the witness stand. But they never did. A guy ended up losing his job, being arrested, or whatever.

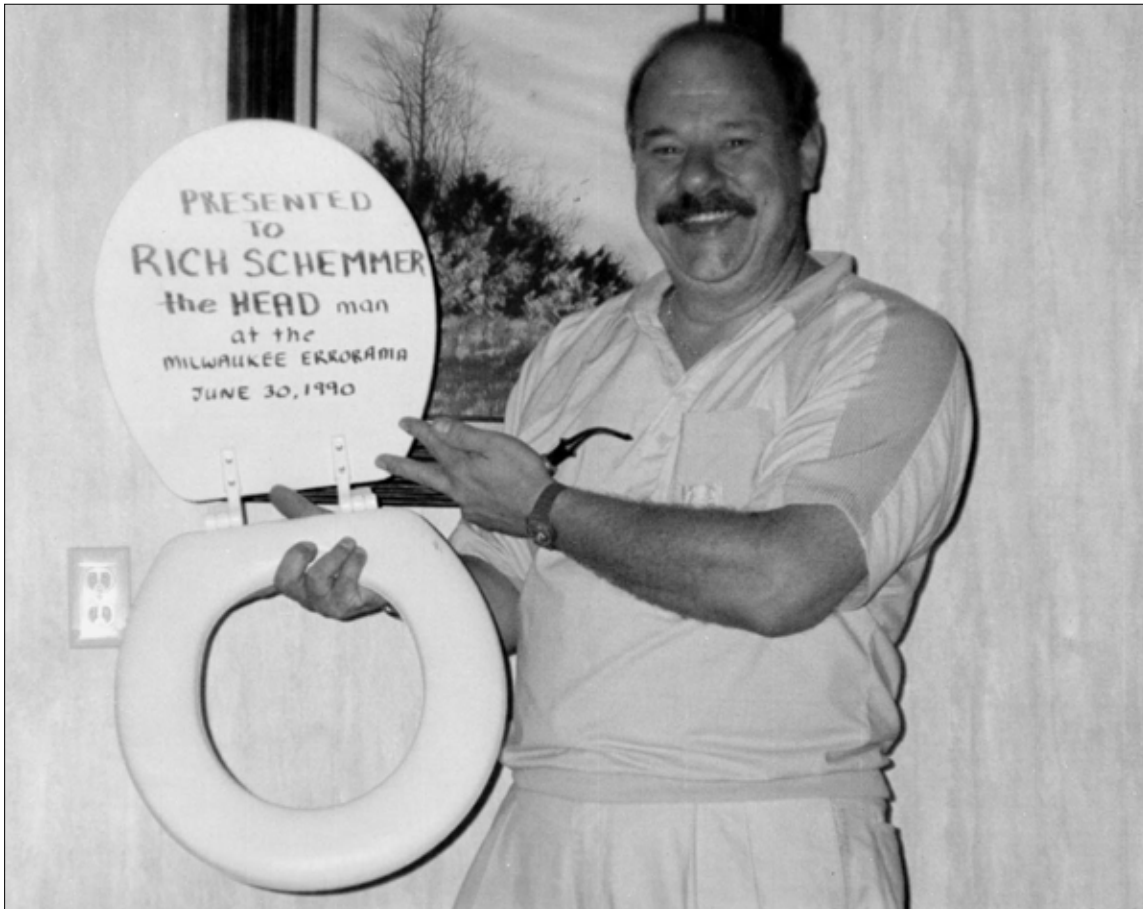
Greg Bennick: Wow, they were going to use you as an expert witness but it never went to trial?

Rich Schemmer. That's right. It never went to trial. It was interesting, because I got walked around the Philadelphia Mint and actually the agents walked me up to a bin of errors. The whole bin was full of errors. I am talking about a bin that was maybe six feet long, three feet wide, and four feet deep. Full of errors. He says to me, "What would you do if I they let you have ten minutes in this bin?" I replied, "Besides marry you?" (laughs)

Greg Bennick: (laughs) I remember in the old *Error Trends Coin Magazine*, Arnie Margolis was often printing photos of his tours of the mint where he had a chance to explore the minting process. In these photos, he'd show bins of error coins and he always said, "Look at these *mouth-watering* errors." I always remember him using the term "mouth-watering errors." These must have been tours that he did with you maybe at the time?

Rich Schemmer: Probably was, because I went down there a couple of times with Arnie. Arnie and I became pretty close friends. We only lived about ten minutes apart so we knew each other pretty well.

Greg Bennick: I actually just acquired three issues of *Error Trends*. That leaves me with only about five issues until I have a fully complete set, 1968 to 2011 or whatever it was of *Error Trends Coin Magazine*, the entire run all the issues. I'm really happy about it. Arnie Margolis most definitely changed my life. I bought error coins from him every month as a young person, and his consistency with putting out that magazine really inspired me.



Rich Schemmer: Arnie was a great guy in that sense. Very business minded. He had a good magazine. He printed the magazine out of his basement of his house. He had a whole printing set up downstairs. He taught me a lot.

Greg Bennick: I'm sure he did. Now these tours that you did of the mint...you had basically unrestricted access to the floor of the mint back then I'm assuming? Because now, of course, you see everything through plexiglass and through glass, but you had unrestricted access. What was that like?

Rich Schemmer: It was amazing. I took so many photos, so I still have a lot of photos. Up close and personal. Of dies and whatnot. I'll tell you what. We went to the West Point Mint. It was myself, David Camire. Do you know him?

Greg Bennick: Yes, from NGC. Sure.

Rich Schemmer: Exactly. From NGC. Well, myself and David Camire, and some others, we went to the West Point Mint. They took us into one of the vaults and I saw gold bars. I mean, the gold bars were sixty pounds each. But they had a gated section and I was peeking in. I took pictures of the section, and they had wooden boxes with dies in them. They had dies for Standing Liberty quarters, Mercury Dimes, all sorts of old dies. I mean, I was drooling. They let us strike coins. They treated us top notch. Well, David had a good *hook* at West Point. That's an old police term for someone who helped us.

Greg Bennick: You had connections that allowed you to get in basically, and also your background the police department probably didn't hurt either.

Rich Schemmer: Yes. They do a full background check without a doubt. And security at West Point Mint was unbelievable. At the other mints, you walk through a metal detector. But at the West Point Mint you walk through what looks like a metal detector, but it is measuring the amount of metal in your body! So, when you came back out, if you had the same amount, it means you didn't swallow any gold.

Greg Bennick: That's incredible.

Rich Schemmer: It was incredible. They were very nice. We were able to go out on the floor and watch proof coins being made and strike bullion and other things. It was great.

Greg Bennick: And this was in the 1970's or in the early 80's?


Rich Schemmer: I would say probably that was probably in the 90's. David Camire was working with NGC already, so it had to be a little later than the 80's.

Greg Bennick: I'm always curious to ask what the hobby was like, and what it *felt* like to be part of the error hobby, in the 70's. Because the hobby was different then, of course. It was just starting off. But what are your memories of what it felt like to be part of a new hobby which had just come together. Starting in the late 1950's with die cracks and whatnot and BIE cents. Then into the 60's, when people were just trying to figure out what to call these "FIDO's", as it were. What was it like being part of part of the hobby early on?

Rich Schemmer: It was really interesting and great. I mean, that's what brought me into being a dealer. I wanted better stuff, but I couldn't afford it. I had to sell stuff to buy better stuff. That's what made me a dealer. But the best part of the hobby for me are the people I met. I mean Ron Fern and John Devine, JT Stanton, Bill Fivaz, Xan Chamberlain...there's another great guy. Do you know Xan?

Greg Bennick: I know him well. He's an absolute maniac in the best possible way. (laughs)

Rich Schemmer: (laughs) Absolutely! He is a lot of fun. We shared many times and many rooms. Freddie



CONECA
The Combined Organization
of Numismatic Error Collectors of America

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Weinberg. Ed Colwell. Les Roosmalen. Les Burzinski. They are all, and were all, great guys. Just meeting these guys and hearing their stories about the hobby and their lives. To me, I enjoy people, so this has been a good part of the hobby,

Greg Bennick: I just acquired a letter. Somebody gave me some old issues of Error Trends, and a whole bunch of other error magazines because people know I love collecting anything relating to the early days of the hobby. Ephemera, magazines, papers, pins, badges and whatnot. But there was a letter in there from Natalie Halpern to a client. It is a handwritten letter from Natalie and I thought that was really neat, because I never had a chance to meet Natalie.

Rich Schemmer: She was pretty nice lady. Natalie was great.

Greg Bennick: I know that she used to collect fireman's badges or police badges.

Rich Schemmer: I remember that. I used to see her at a lot of New York City auctions.

Greg Bennick: Now, when you started becoming a collector, what did you focus on?

Rich Schemmer: In the very beginning, I liked early off-center wheat cents. From the teens, and the 1920's. That was one of my things. I started getting into double strikes on the same series. As I grew as an error dealer, one of my favorite error types were errors on Standing Liberty quarters. I sold some of them to Jay Klein, who wrote the book on Standing Liberty quarters. If you look at his book – the first ten to fifteen pages, you'll see a 40% off center Standing Liberty quarter in Gem BU. That was mine. It says "Rich Schemmer" on it.



OC SLQ



OC SLQ Rev
40% Off Center NGC 64 Full Head

Photo By Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Greg Bennick: I knew Jay Klein. I used to buy coins from him from time to time. I will look at my copy of his book for your coin. So, you went from being a collector to being a dealer. For how long were you a dealer?

Rich Schemmer: I started being a dealer about 1979. So quite a while. Thirty to forty years.

Greg Bennick: I remember in particular one single coin which you had. It was a Lincoln cent struck over a struck Mercury dime. I still have that coin in my brain. Am I remembering it correctly?

Rich Schemmer: Yeah, I do. Bill Fivaz got me interested in that because Bill had one. I was memorized. I was really taken back when I saw Bill's. When I was offered one, I had it authenticated. I think it was a 1943.

Greg Bennick: Yes! It was the 1943.

Rich Schemmer: Wish I still had it! (laughs)

Greg Bennick: What were your favorite coins that you handled over the years? The Standing Liberty quarter. That coin. Were there other ones?



Spectacular cent error from Rich's inventory

Rich Schemmer: Oh, yeah! I had a large cent. It was 50% off center, graded MS64. Mike Byers bought that one from me. He wanted it. My thing? I love double denominations. I still have one or two. I bought one of Fred's. Fred had a 1957 nickel on a struck cent, and it was a strong strike with two full dates, in MS63. When I saw the strong strike, I had to buy it. I paid a lot of money for it but I loved it.

Greg Bennick: Paying a lot of money sometimes might mean that you've overpaid, but in my opinion, if you pay a lot of money for something that you absolutely love, then it's totally worthwhile.

Rich Schemmer: Yeah, absolutely. And you know, you're not going to see another one. Say, you have an off center Morgan dollar.

There's several of them out there. But how many do you see in a lifetime?

Greg Bennick: Major off center Morgan dollars? Not many. You might see them from time to time, but 3% to 5% off center. But a major off center Morgan dollar, you don't see very often.

Rich Schemmer: Around 25% or more? You rarely see them.

Greg Bennick: Why did you decide to stop being a dealer?

Rich Schemmer: I stopped being a dealer, probably in 2012. Somewhere around there I got tired of setting up a shows, carrying the showcases, setting them up, breaking them down, traveling three to four hours by car. Sometimes the showcases are there, but it is a long trip to the shows themselves. Then it's a long four or five days at a convention where they were in San Francisco or in Chicago. I just got tired of doing that. That's a lot of work. Well, the best part was the internet. When the internet came along and you put up a website, you could reach around the world with a great inventory.



Greg Bennick: I remember you first appearing on the internet at richerrors.com!

Rich Schemmer: Yes. There were a lot of people who were against the internet at the time but I thought it was a great innovation.

Greg Bennick: It really was. The only downside to the internet is that it took away the production and distribution of many of the hand printed catalogs and the handmade catalogs. Like Len Roosmalen's catalog.

Rich Schemmer: Yes!

Greg Bennick: I collect old catalogs. *Cal Errors*. *Mike's Errors*. *California Dreamin'*. There were so many of them. I love reading them. Of course, all those things from the 1970's and 1980's disappeared with the arrival of the internet, but certainly did make error coins more accessible. And of course, it made it easier for dealers.

Rich Schemmer: Yeah, you learned a lot from those catalogs, too. You know, the CONE organization and NECA. They all had their own catalogs and monthly magazines. You saw pictures of the coins, along with written descriptions and stuff like that. It was great.

Greg Bennick: I still get so much out of it. I bought a coin at auction a couple years ago, a double struck Roosevelt dime. The second strike is 50% off center, and it's a full brockage reverse. I was looking at a Lonesome John catalog, and he had it in there for sale. It was obviously fifty years ago, but he described it as his favorite Roosevelt dime error of all time. Well, that made it worth so much more to me. It was a cool coin, but to me, it's incredibly cool now, because I've got the old catalog photo and description to match it. I love going through those publications.

Rich Schemmer: Oh, absolutely. I remember. If you're young enough, and you buy coins early enough, no matter what you pay for them, they're going to increase in value, just like any numismatic item of quality or rarity, over time. They'll increase in value. It's part of the hobby. When I bought my off center Standing Liberty quarter, I paid \$2200 for it. I bought that off Mike Chambers.

Greg Bennick: What do you remember about the Error-a-rama's and going to them? Because that's something that's changed over the years. Now Error-a-rama, now referred to as Errorama, still exists, but it's just a banquet, a time to get together and have a dinner. But Error-a-rama, as Fred corrected me about the spelling, used to be a whole coin show about error coins, as I understand it.

Rich Schemmer: Yeah, we would take up a whole aisle by the convention center. No matter where it was, in Cherry Hill or in Chicago. No matter what convention it was. You would have ten error dealers on each side of the aisle. You'd have 20 error dealers in total.

Greg Bennick: That's unbelievable.

Rich Schemmer: They would get a chance to go through everybody else's inventory to see if they needed anything, you know? JT and myself taught the error class at the summer seminar. We had a student in there just learning errors was the first time. He was just getting his feet wet. He's probably the largest error dealer out there today: Jon Sullivan. He was in our class.

Greg Bennick: What year was that?

Rich Schemmer: That was that had to be in the early 80's when we taught the summer seminar.

Greg Bennick: I co-teach that class now with John Miller and we have a great time with it. We go through the entire minting process and show people firsthand all kinds of spectacular error coins and variety coins. I wish there was more error dealers. I should probably take my inventory and put up a website and go into business (*both laugh*). Mike Maino is still dealing, and he was around back in the day. I bought my first coin from him when I was fifteen or so. There needs to be more! I think it's time.

Rich Schemmer: Ken Potter is still around.

Greg Bennick: Yes! Ken's around. He and I have discussed the fact that there seemed to be so many more major errors in play in the 70s and 80s. There was an explosion of interest in errors. There seemed to be a constant flow of coins, and not just clipped planchets, but off metals and double struck things and all sorts of delicious and amazing coins. But these days, one rarely sees them, even at auction and I guess they've probably just filtered away into collections. But there certainly doesn't seem to be enough material out there to fill the cases of twenty error dealers these days.

Rich Schemmer: Yeah, yeah. You're right. You're absolutely right. I have no idea. They're just in collections somewhere. I remember being with Natalie Halpern in New York City, bidding against each other for a Peace dollar on a quarter planchet. She won. I hit my limit. I was trying to build my business up. She had a lot more cash on me, and she, she ended up outbidding me. But that was a Peace dollar on a quarter planchet.

Greg Bennick: Yeah, unreal. Yeah, I've always been fascinated by Natalie, and I try to buy coins that were pedigreed or provenanced to her any chance I get. I just find it really interesting that in a male dominated hobby, that she stood out so much and was so successful as a coin dealer during a time when she proba-



Peace dollar error from Rich's inventory

bly faced some push back about that. She knew so much and was clearly an expert in what she was doing. She is, to this day, a fascinating and interesting figure in the history of the hobby.

Rich Schemmer: No doubt about it. There was another woman involved too: Marilyn Van Allen. Marilyn was a contributor for Coin World on error coins. She wrote the article on error coins in Coin World, back in the day. I don't know her maiden name. She married Leroy Van Allen. Leroy Van Allen wrote a book on Morgan Dollars, VAM's and varieties, PL's, stuff like that. They ended up getting married. That's back in the day. But she was another major person in errors.

Greg Bennick: There was also Reba Klein, as I understand it, as well. Near Syracuse. Reba Klein was another woman involved in errors as well, right? She had a regular error club in Syracuse that I barely missed in my time living in Syracuse.

Rich Schemmer: There was a couple of women on the West Coast. I think there was more women on the West Coast.

Greg Bennick: Well, what are your reflections and feelings today about your time actively in errors? I know that you said you still have a few errors in your collection, but what you know, what are your reflections today on the hobby as it stands today?

Rich Schemmer: I loved my time in errors. I enjoyed the people I met. Besides the people I mentioned... there was Ken Hill.

Greg Bennick: Yes! He lives half a mile from me. I'll probably go see him next week.

Rich Schemmer: Oh, really, he's a good guy. Yeah, he's wonderful. Say hello for me, I will.

Greg Bennick: I absolutely will. I'll email him today and do exactly that.

Rich Schemmer: I think the hobby has come a long way. But like you said, it is short on error dealers. Jon Sullivan still has a big inventory, six cases on a show. But the days of fifteen to twenty error dealers at a show...I miss those. We also saw a lot more errors in auction. You miss the people. You like your customers naturally, but you like the other dynamics, because after the show was done, you went out to dinner together, or you had a beer together. Just good times.

Greg Bennick: Well, this has been wonderful, Rich. I'm so thankful that we're in touch. I'm really honored and happy to have had a chance to talk to you again after all these years.

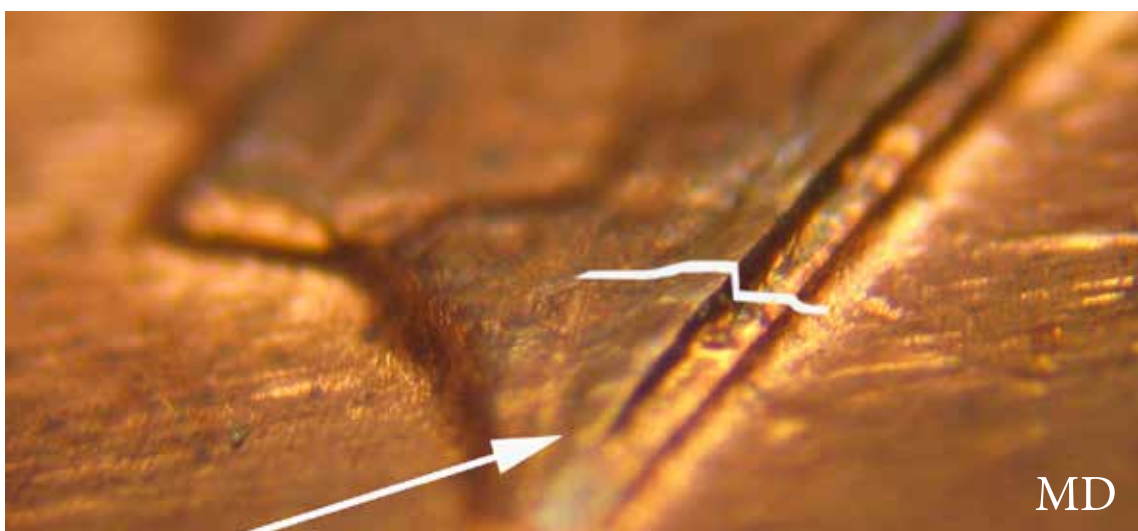
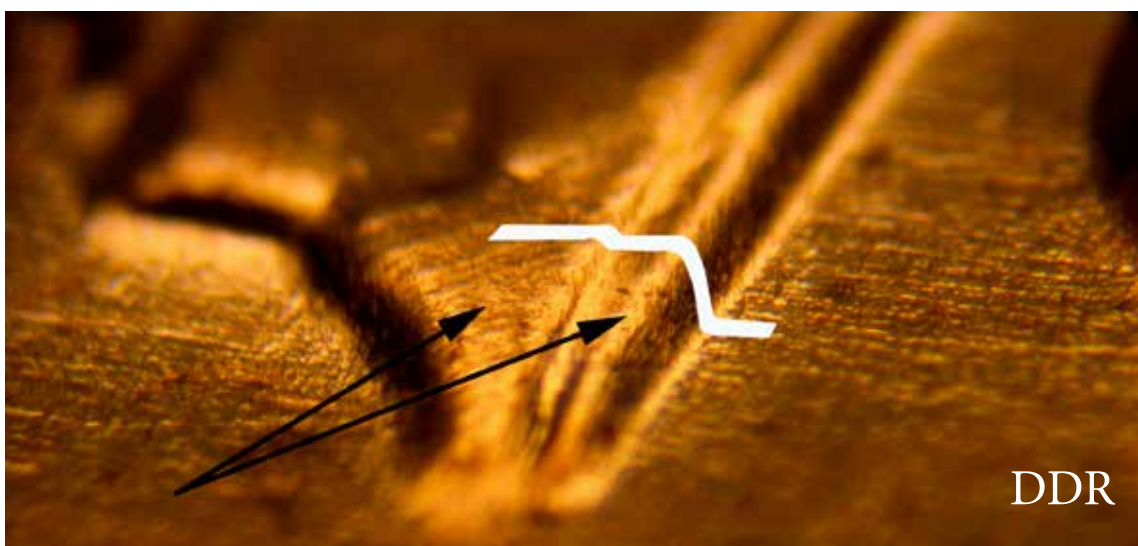
Rich Schemmer: Me too! Thank you for the interview. I am happy to have a chance to be able to help you! Thank you so much. ■

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Cuve's Round Up 43

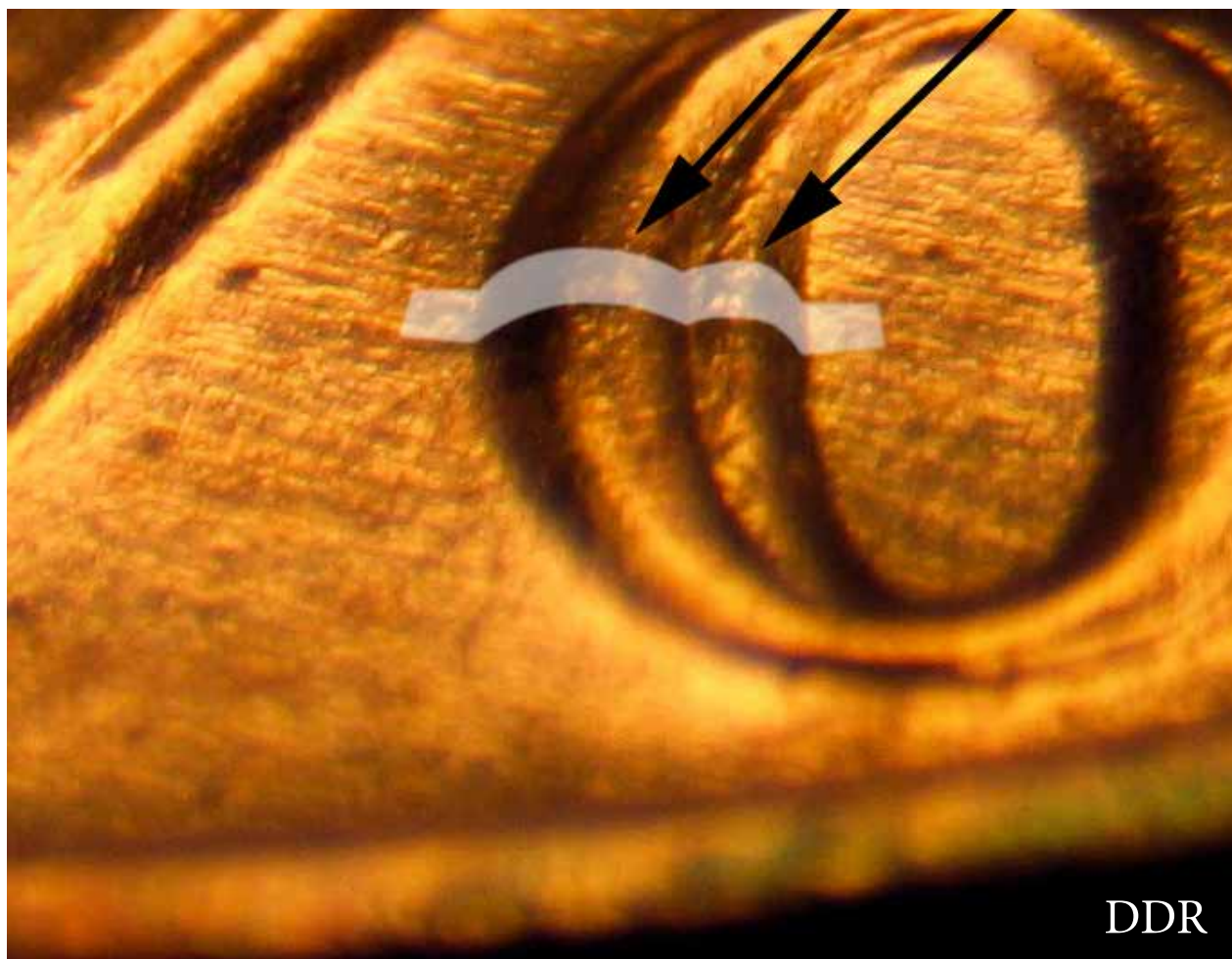
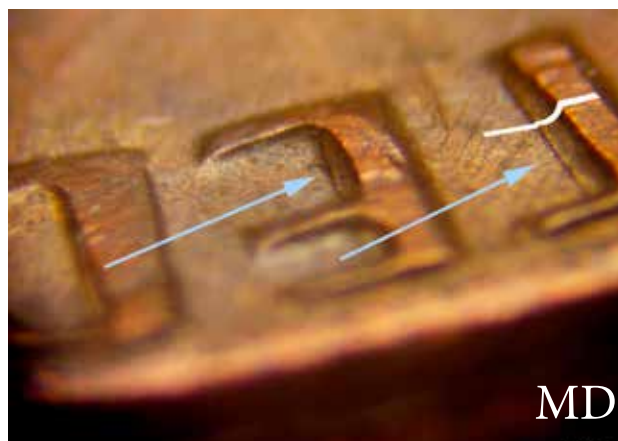
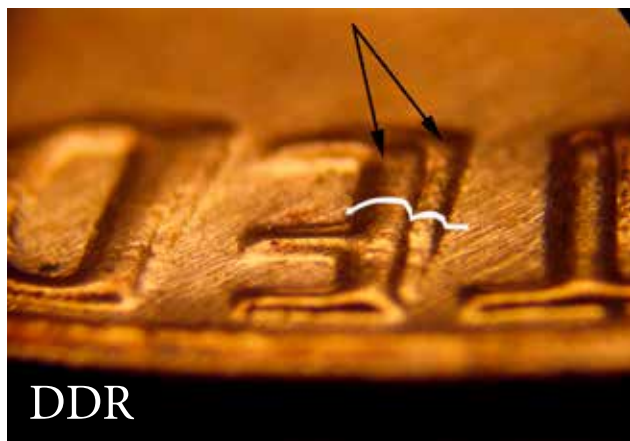
By Jason Cuvelier

I promised a new member that I would create a tutorial on machine doubling. This discussion focuses on push-type machine doubling, a commonly observed phenomenon that results from slight oscillatory movement caused by instability within the die assembly. The more coins are examined under magnification, the more frequently machine doubling will be encountered. As interest in searching for varieties and errors increases, machine doubling is often found and misidentified as a collectible variety or error. This misidentification is problematic, as it can cause searchers to lose objectivity and incorrectly assign significance to machine doubling. Overcoming this learning curve is essential to avoid flawed conclusions and common miscommunications with other variety and error enthusiasts on-line. Machine doubling is typically sharp and flat, often described as “shelf-like,” and is usually confined to the marginal areas of the affected devices. While some coins struck by doubled dies may resemble machine doubling, such cases are relatively rare. Below is an illustration showing rounded hub doubling versus machine doubling: on top is Lincoln Cent 1983 DDR-001 and the bottom image is a regular 1983 with machine doubling in a similar area of the memorial corner.



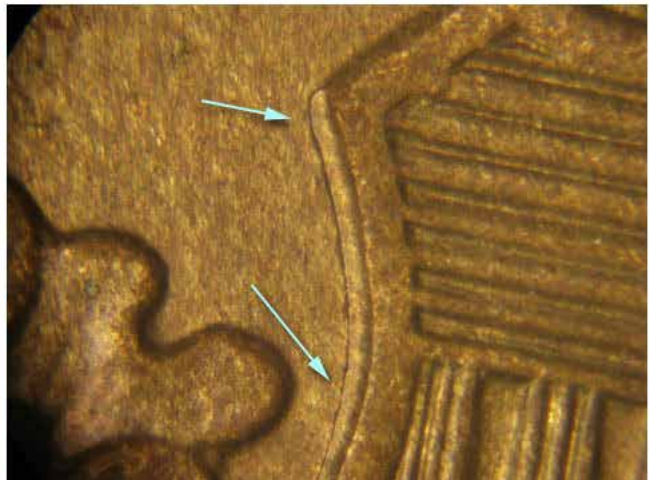
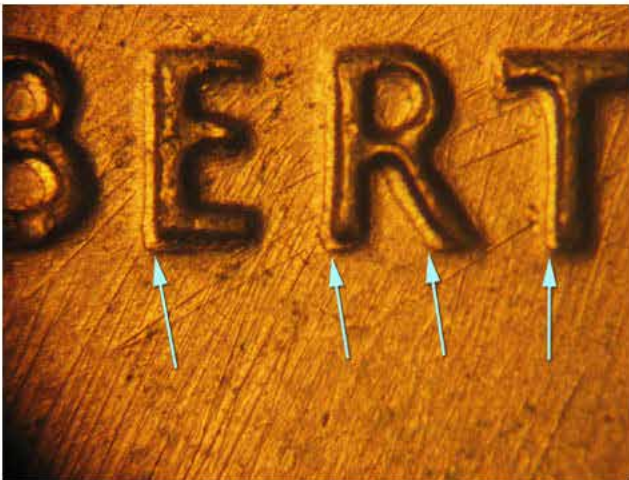
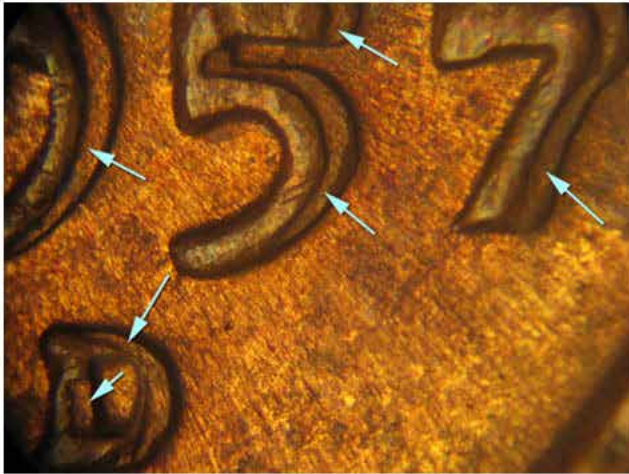
Hub doubling vs. Machine Doubling

The goal of variety and error coin hunting is the pursuit of small, unforgiving metal rounds forever marked by a moment of mechanical failure. That failure may be common or rare, easily recognized or exceedingly difficult to identify, and each carries some degree of monetary value. Machine doubling, by contrast, is extremely common and maddening to the point of exasperation. My illustrations serve merely as a starting point, as what I show is unlikely to match exactly what anyone else may observe under their own microscopic setup. Below are more 1983 Lincoln Cent shots: rounded doubling is DDR-001.



Hub doubling vs. Machine Doubling

Below are additional examples of machine doubling. Each demonstrates, to some degree, a loss of the original device being pressed down, and some areas have been leveled off. The 1957-D is particularly dramatic; the BERT (what I believe is a late 1960s Lincoln Cent) illustrates how the flattened portion of the device can be nearly level with the field; the 1969-S shows similar doubling on the mintmark; the shield on the Indian Head Cent appears more isolated; and the 1989 Lincoln demonstrates the irregular nature of machine doubling. Machine doubling can present as tripling, be painfully isolated, or appear multidimensional on both faces. No argument—including the common appeal to ignorance—can change the fact that these are all instances of machine doubling.



Machine Doubling

Now, moving on to other examples: First is a 1934 Lincoln Cent, DDO-004, featuring a bizarrely offset portion of the '93' below the date, between the numbers and the rim (with an overlay shot and one marker photo of WE). Next is a 1980-P Jefferson, double struck, with the second strike off-center and showing a partial duplication of the date. Following that is a 1985 25 Paise India misaligned die (MAD) at roughly 15%—on Indian coinage, these can be far more severe, so I would not call it severe. Then comes a 1984-P Roosevelt Dime with a strong die clash showing on both sides. Finally, a 1949 over 1948 Peru Un Sol de Oro overdate, which I strongly suspect originates from a master die, as most, if not all, examples of this date exhibit the overdate.



1934 Lincoln Cent DDO-004



1980-P Double Struck Jefferson Nickel



1985 India 25 Paise Misaligned Die



1984-P Roosevelt Dime Die Clash



1984-P Roosevelt Dime Die Clash



1949 over 1948 Peru Overdate Un Sol de Oro



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