THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024 Volume 32, Number 4



Does this coin have a Massachusetts connection?

See page 27.



Featured in this issue:

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- Book Review: Machin's Mills 2nd edition (J. Holzer)
- Elizabeth Vandyne: Kitchen Table Counterfeiter (J. Casey)
- Continental Dollar Currency Depreciation due to Counterfeiting (R. Moore)
- Rare Sightings at C4 Baltimore 2024
- C4 Coloring Sheets (B. Smith)

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1722 Rosa Americana Halfpenny.
Martin 1.1-A.1, W-1214.
Rarity-6+. VTILE DVLCI.
AU-58 (PCGS).
Ex Parmelee-Mills-Ford.
Realized $14,400



"1776" (1783) Continental Dollar.
Newman 1-C, W-8445. Rarity-3.
CURENCY. Pewter.
AU-55 (PCGS). CAC.
Realized $48,000.



1786 Connecticut Copper.
Miller 5.11-S, W-Unlisted.
Unique. Mailed Bust Left,
Sword Hilt and Guard Reverse.
VG-10 (PCGS).
Realized $20,400.

Undated (1652) NE Threepence.
Noe 1-A, Salmon 1-A, W-1. Rarity-8.
EF-45 (PCGS). CMQ-X.



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1786 New Jersey Copper.
Maris 12-G, W-4790. Rarity-4.
Date Under Plow,
No Coulter, Shaggy Mane.
EF-45 (PCGS).
From the Ross Family Collection.
Realized $28,800



1787 Connecticut Copper.
Miller 33.46-Z.22, W-4030.
Rarity-8. Draped Bust Left,
INDE/IODE.
VG-10 (PCGS).
Ex Sydney F. Martin Collection.
Realized $14,400.



1787 Fugio Cent.
Pointed Rays. Newman 11-A,
W-6780. Rarity-5+.
UNITED Above, STATES Below.
MS-65 BN (PCGS).
From the Ross Family Collection, ex Oechsner Collection.
Realized $33,600

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Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Chris Pretsch at 301 Fifth Avenue, #622, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Dues are $30 regular (including 1st class mailing of the Newsletter *within the U.S.*) and $55 (for 1st class mailing outside the U.S.); $10 for junior members (under 18 residing in the U.S.) and $15 (under 18 residing outside the U.S.)

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C4 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – DECEMBER 2024

(Christopher R. McDowell)

With snow on the ground and a chill in the air, we can now sit back and contemplate with fond memories the year that was 2024. A highlight every year for me is our C4 convention. The 2024 convention was held in Baltimore from November 14 through 16. I have decided to make this President's page my convention diary. I understand that my C4 convention experience is atypical. Everyone is free to chart their own convention course, which is part of the joy, but this was mine:

After work on Wednesday, I flew from Cincinnati to Baltimore in the evening. I made these reservations months in advance, wanting to get to the convention early in case it snowed or I was delayed. During COVID-19, I decided never to fly coach again and only go first-class. This has proven a wise decision; I will never return to steerage. The first-class beverage service and large seat took much of the sting out of being stuck on the tarmac in Chicago for over an hour in the rain.

When I checked into the Sheraton in the wee hours of the morning, I was informed there was a ridiculous $12.50 per day charge for internet access unless I agreed to sign up for their rewards program, which I refused to do out of principle. Later, I happily created a free hotspot with my cell phone. Take that Sheraton. The hotel is super convenient; getting on and off the elevator and being right in the heart of things is worth the price. Over the years, I have stayed in all of Baltimore's Inner Harbor hotels near the convention center. The Days Inn on Hopkins Place is the best bargain. One year, I decided to go cheap and spend my money on coins instead of reasonable lodging—a mistake I shall never repeat.

I looked up Baltimore's nickname, "Charm City." The city has many charms. Hidden charms, but charms nonetheless. My mistake has been not enjoying enough of them over the years. There have been a few exceptions: In 2021, I went to the Evergreen Museum and Library, the former home of Gilded Age railroad tycoon and coin collector John Work Garrett. The mansion and grounds are beautiful, and the staff generously accommodated my research—they still have thousands of coins and medals. I had a delightful afternoon there. In 2012, I visited the grave of Edgar Allen Poe. If you go, bring the old boy a shot of whiskey. A few years ago, my colonel from Fort Riley, who now lives in Baltimore, picked me up for breakfast, and we went to nearby Fort McHenry. Old Glory still waves. The truth is, I am generally so busy at the convention that I don't have much time to see the city. Next year, C4 is going to remedy this. We are organizing a C4 tour of a yet-to-be-named Baltimore attraction with a numismatic or historical connection. I hope you will join us.



← Evergreen Mansion

Edgar Allen Poe's Grave →



DAY ONE OF THE 2024 C4 CONVENTION

I woke early and went to the convention floor to oversee the C4 table setup. Craig McDonald was already there helping put things together. I quickly realized I was in his way, so I left to talk with Charlie Davis about C4's New Jersey book sales. Craig does many things for the Club; I appreciate his assistance. This year, Craig's contributions included preparing the C4 convention program, sponsored by booksellers Kolbe & Fanning. A special thank you to David Fanning for his support of our Club.

I invited the American Numismatic Society ("ANS") to set up at the C4 table. Dr. Jesse Kraft brought an incredible display of Fugio items from the ANS vault to show at our table. These items tied in nicely with Kevin Vinton's Thursday evening Newman lecture. Many C4 members are either unfamiliar with the ANS or cannot travel to Lower Manhattan to visit the American colonial numismatic treasures located there. This is the second year ANS has displayed priceless items at our C4 table. We are fortunate to team up with ANS to display these materials at our convention.

I was so busy on Thursday that I forgot my lunch appointment with Honorary C4 Life Member Chris Karstedt, only remembering when she called me. I could kick myself for letting it slip my mind. Having lunch with Chris has always been one of the highlights of every convention for me. Chris is a strong supporter of our Club and my favorite person in numismatics. Instead of having lunch with Chris, I ate with EAC President Bob Klosterboer to discuss ways our clubs can collaborate. This was a fortuitous meeting. He is brilliant, and I immensely enjoyed my time with him. On top of everything else, he gave me a nice cigar; hard to top that. Bob is also a C4 member—proof of his intelligence. We need to encourage greater cooperation between our organizations. I learned a great deal from talking with him. Good things to come.

My roommate Bruce Smith arrived. Bruce and I have roomed together off and on for years. We have occasionally driven from Ohio to Baltimore together, traversing the old National Highway. Rooming with someone is something many people at the convention do, and it is a great way to share expenses. Bruce is the luckiest person I know. I swear he has never paid full value for an item at auction. If you ever look at a prices realized list and see a coin that went for half its worth, you should know it probably went to Bruce. I am always hoping his luck will rub off on me, as I seem to be the one who always buys the coin that goes for twice what everyone thought!

Our Thursday evening dinner and lectures went off without a hitch. C4 National Vice-President Jim Glickman does a great job as our education chair. The Club's future is secure with Jim a heartbeat away from the presidency. I arranged to sit beside Chris Karstedt at the dinner, a slight consolation for our missed lunch. ANS executive director Ute Wartenberg was with us. Ute sat with me earlier this year at the Rittenhouse Society breakfast in Chicago; she is always good company and was my guest, along with Chris Karstedt, at the dinner.

The food was superb. Dennis Wierzba does an excellent job. Dennis is the shrewdest negotiator I have ever met. I am convinced we get the best deal on food of any organization that stays at that hotel, and it is entirely due to Dennis.

Our first Newman Lecturer was Emily Pearce from Yale; her talk was titled "Accessing Numismatic Objects in Museums: The Yale University Art Gallery's Numismatic Collection." Although I have been to Yale several times to see items in the collection, I still learned some new tricks from her talk. Of great interest, Emily and our second speaker, Kevin Vinton, went to high school together and had not seen one another since they were teenagers. What a small world. Kevin followed Emily and talked about Fugios in institutional holdings. I thought the two talks complemented each other nicely. The study of Fugios is a passion of mine,

and Kevin's talk was intriguing. I heard many positive comments about our Thursday dinner and lectures. The talks were livestreamed and taped and are now on the C4 website.

We raised almost $2,000 for the Club at the auction. Dr. David Menchell and Craig McDonald donated items to the auction, which otherwise consisted of duplicate books from the C4 library brought by Leo Shane. Dan Freidus called the auction again this year. Dr. Menchell also brought desserts for everyone. Our Club has many generous members.

DAY TWO OF THE 2024 C4 CONVENTION

I had to get up early the following day for the Publication Committee Meeting. We discussed much business, as the club has several books in the works. I have been on this committee for over a decade and have never been more excited about what we have in the pipeline. In 2025, the Club will be publishing my book on Betts medals. We are also working with Randy Clark on a commemoration of EAC '75. Randy is also investigating the story of Higley coppers. We eagerly anticipate that Mike Packard will have his Massachusetts coppers manuscript ready for publication in 2026.

After breakfast, I went to auction lot viewing for the upcoming Stack's auction. I again saw Chris Karstedt, who was preparing to return home early and said goodbye. Stack's seems to hire many of the same local people each year to help with lot viewing. They are lovely to talk to and represent their city well. I was only interested in a few lots. One of the significant advantages of attending the convention is lot viewing. You would think with modern photography, you could see everything in the catalog or online, but this is just not the case. I always go into lot viewing thinking I won't see anything I didn't notice in the photographs. Nothing, and I mean nothing, takes the place of holding a coin or medal in your hand and looking at it in person. After looking at the lots, I rearranged the pecking order of what I would bid on.

I went down to the C4 table to shoot a video with C4 Treasurer Carol Wolf and Jim Glickman. We filmed parts of a seven-minute video produced by Lianna Spurrier for our website about why people should join C4. This video will be posted by the time you read this so please go to the website and watch it.

After the video shoot, I gathered a few friends for lunch and went to the Pratt Street Ale House, a favorite haunt for C4 convention-goers. My lunch companions were Emily Pearce, Jeff Rock, and Julia Casey. Truly an all-star cast. Through some mysterious sleight of hand, I ended up with the bill for four crab cake sandwiches, but the company and discussion were worth twice what I paid. After lunch, I returned to the coin show and escorted someone around to meet various people, including Chris McCawley, Charlie Davis, Tony Terranova, John Kraljevich, and Vicken Yegparian. Each of these gentlemen engaged us in interesting, thoughtful, numismatic conversation. I particularly enjoy Chris McCawley's hearty laugh and philosophical perspective, even if we don't always agree.

At some point, I circled back to the C4 dealer area. On day one, I asked Mike Brooks to set aside a coin for me to think about. I pulled the trigger and made my only coin purchase of the show, a 1787 Miller 46-BB Connecticut. My frontline 46-BB is the much nicer Miller plate coin; however, this coin attracted me for two reasons. As soon as I saw it, I knew it was from the 1988 Norweb sale. Over the years, people have removed the stickers from these Norweb coins, leaving unsightly light square patches on the surfaces. I like the fact that this coin still had the original sticker. While a sticker is not technically a painted die variety ("PDV") coin, I like the Norweb provenance. This Connecticut copper is also an ink-on-edge coin. It came from the nineteenth-century collection of Dr. Thomas Hall, a numismatic pioneer and the first to set down a comprehensive taxonomy for Connecticut coppers. Dr. Hall ink-on-edge PDVs are highly sought after among

Connecticut collectors. My friend Dr. Xavier Spencer has slightly more Dr. Hall coins than me—it's always nice to snatch one he doesn't know about.

As soon as I arrived home, I used my special tool, a tile cutter gifted to me by the late Clem Schettino, to free my coin from its plastic prison. Encapsulated coins have a legitimate place in our hobby. However, I dislike the "CT 1/2 P" designation that PCGS now places on state copper holders based on a retracted and debunked article. These did not exclusively circulate as half pence in the 1780s, so we properly designate them as "coppers." This term fits because their value in commerce fluctuated wildly and was not pegged to a constant silver or gold standard. By 1789, the value of coppers collapsed due, in part, to their overproduction, increasingly lighter weight, and rampant counterfeiting. I have the most extensive collection of Connecticut coppers, and Randy Clark wrote the book on them; we agree that the "CT 1/2 P" designation is historically inaccurate. It is merely a modern marketing ploy. I prefer truth to fiction. Moreover, the plastic holder obscured my new coin's special Hall ink-on-edge markings, so I freed it.



Images of my Newly-Liberated Norweb 46-BB Hall Ink-On-Edge

After securing my purchase in the hotel room safe (under my pillow), I went to the Oriole Grill, where I met up with the usual suspects. After buying a few friends some drinks (I must keep my constituency happy), I went to the room where the Happenings would be held to ensure everything was ready. Unable to find anyone willing to be the Connecticut copper captain, I was left to lead the discussion. One of our topics was PDV Connecticuts, which let me show off my new 46-BB coin, which I had retrieved from under my pillow, along with the rest of my coins. I provided everyone at the table copies of the late Robert Martin's articles on PDVs. The people in my group were terrific; we all had a marvelous time. Thanks to our gracious sponsor, Stack's Bowers Galleries, the food was fantastic and plentiful at the Happenings. Much appreciated.



The Connecticut Coppers Happening Table

It is at this point that my memory grows a little fuzzy. At times, I question my recollections. Did I really see a water gun on the colonial paper table? Leo runs a tight ship, but a water gun? Fortunately, like the movie *The Hangover*, I was able to verify my recollections against photographic evidence recovered from my phone the next day. Yes, there it is, a giant, fully-loaded water gun in the middle of the table. I'm not going to ask. The less I know, the better. My cell phone photos also helped me make sense of Jim Glickman's new face tattoo and Jesse Kraft's missing front tooth.



The Colonial Paper Money Happening Table

After the Happenings, I made my way outside to the patio area, where I indulged in a Cuban cigar with my good friend Mark Vitunic, the Vermont Happening table leader and *C4 Newsletter* Associate Editor. Mike Wierzba graciously bought me a drink. We were joined by several non-smokers, including Julia Casey, Jim Glickman, Dan Freidus, Jeff Rock, and others, for libations and a good numismatic discussion. Cigars and drinks enhance most conversations. After a while, it got cold outside, and we went back to the bar where a larger group of C4 members had gathered.

Speaking of *The Hangover*, while in the bar, we circled around a tiny screen to watch the Mike Tyson fight. I am a connoisseur of the Sweet Science, but that was the worst pugilistic exhibition I've ever witnessed. I'm so glad no one took me up on my $100 Tyson wager. The camaraderie and fellowship were off the charts. C4 Life Member Tom Webster captured the special moment on his cell phone. Looking at the photo, I realize that I didn't know half these people just a few years ago, and now they are my life-long friends—a bond cemented by a love of colonial numismatics and a rocking good time.



C4 Fight Club

DAY THREE OF THE 2024 C4 CONVENTION

I had to be up and back in the Orioles Grill at 8:00 am on Saturday for a C4 pre-board meeting, immediately followed by a C4 Board meeting and then the C4 Annual Meeting. We are fortunate to have such a committed group of volunteers on our board, without whom the 2024 convention would not have been possible.

I arranged with Craig McDonald to share a cab to the airport after the meeting, which we did. Craig and I had lunch at the airport, and then I flew home—back to the world of people who think coin collectors are boring, but we know the truth!

I hope to see you all in Baltimore in 2025. Until then, I wish everyone well in their collecting ventures.

Christopher R. McDowell, Esq.
Cincinnati, Ohio

MINUTES OF THE C4 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 16, 2024 (9:30 AM EST) – Baltimore, MD

At 9:30 the meeting was called to order by President Christopher McDowell.
In Attendance: A circulating attendance sheet was signed by 27 members.

C4 Election Report
Following a customary round of introductions by the members, President McDowell began the meeting with the installation of new Officers, who will each serve two-year terms. Secretary Carol Wolf reported that the election concluded on October 15, 2024. The results, verified by Ray Williams and Charlie Rohrer according to C4 By-Laws, are as follows:

C4 National Officers	C4 Regional Vice Presidents
President: Christopher McDowell	Region 1: Matt Virga
Vice-President: Jim Glickman	Region 2: Tom Gesner
Treasurer: Christopher Pretsch	Region 3: Dave Menchell
Secretary: Carol Wolf	Region 4: Stan Stephens
	Region 5: George Fernandez
	Region 6: Bruce Smith
	Region 7: Wayne Shelby
	Region 8: Chris Salmon
	Region 9: Bill Mitchell

President McDowell thanked everyone for their participation, and noted that C4's first online election saved money and increased voter participation. He specifically thanked Jay Knipe and Jim Glickman for their efforts to update the club's By-Laws to permit online voting, and Carol Wolf for organizing the election.

General Introductory Comments
President McDowell then made opening remarks, encouraging questions from the attendees and underscoring Club leadership's policy of total transparency. With regards to finance, we aim to be good stewards of our money, and we actively work to fulfill our mission of spreading the word about colonial numismatics.

Treasurer's Report
Treasurer Charlie Rohrer reported that club finances are stable and similar to 2023. C4 currently has 56 life members and 407 total members. Club assets as of 11/12/24 were $103,030.88, with YTD income of $30,447.42 and expenses of $49,547.07. Account balances are as follows:
Checking: $26,639.09
Savings: $2,185.10
Total CD's: $75,067.82
Credit Card Balance: ($861.13)

An attendee inquired about Stack's Bowers Galleries' (SBG) sponsorship of the Friday night Happenings tables. President McDowell confirmed that SBG sponsored the event last year and this year. He emphasized the generosity of SBG's support, and encouraged members to make a special effort to thank them.

Further discussion addressed the temporary imbalance in finances, which is primarily a timing issue related to the recent publication of the New Jersey Companion book. It was noted that additional funds should come in from SBG consignments. C4 receives proceeds from each November sale.

Following a motion, the financial report was unanimously approved. President McDowell reiterated that the "State of the Union" is good and the numbers are strong. Later in the meeting, he praised Charlie for all his hard work behind the scenes and thanked him for years of service to the Club.

Educational Events
Education Chair and VP Jim Glickman reported on the Club's education events. The two Newman lectures on Thursday evening were excellent, well attended, and there has been positive feedback. Emily Pearce, the Ben Lee Damsky Assistant Curator of Numismatics at Yale University Art Gallery, spoke on how collectors can access museum collections more effectively, and Kevin Vinton, an avid collector and scholar, spoke on Fugio cents. Daytime lectures at the Convention included a reprise of Jim Glickman's talk on Colonial Coins 101. It was noted that the President of the EAC attended this talk and enjoyed it. Bruce Smith was scheduled to give the talk on continental currency immediately following the General Meeting. Jim encouraged members to send him ideas for future lectures and educational events.

Members expressed interest in holding C4 meetings at the ANA and EAC conventions. The Club aims to expand our reach west of the Mississippi, but it will require time, effort, and volunteerism to achieve this.

Library Report
Club Librarian Leo Shane reported on C4's lending library, which was established as one of our founding principles. A very robust list of available titles (including new titles) is posted on the website. The Club owns 70 linear feet of books. On request, Leo will send books to C4 members at no cost; return postage is paid by the member. This year the library has been deaccessioning duplicates and some items that don't get used, including an extensive collection of *The Numismatist* and *Pennywise* back issues. Sales brought in $1,200 for the Club.

Publications Committee Report
Dr. David Menchell presented an update from the Publications Committee. *New Jersey State Coppers Companion* has just been published. 60-80 have been sold; it may be purchased through Charles Davis and Kolbe & Fanning. Volume 2 of the Betts Companion will be coming out this spring. Other works in progress include Mike Packard's Massachusetts Copper book, and Randy Clark's limited edition 250-page volume on the 50th anniversary of the EAC '75 sale, featuring coins and people involved. The committee is also in the early stages of discussing material on limited colonial series (e.g., Higley coppers) that may be combined into a multi-part volume or issued as a series of monographs. An attendee inquired about the reprinting of the Machin's Mills book; this is being reprinted privately. Dr. Menchell requested that if anyone is working on a book, please let him know.

President McDowell pointed out that our publications are an important revenue source and part of our mission. C4 has published 14 books. Through our books and newsletters, we have taken great leaps in our knowledge of colonial numismatics. This will be mentioned in a new video being produced for the website on benefits of C4 membership.

In Memoriam
President McDowell then reminded the group that, at our annual meetings, we traditionally honor members who have passed away. Dick August (1940-2024) was a longtime member of C4. Dick had a sharp eye, and advanced our knowledge "into colonials when colonials weren't cool." He will be missed. A moment of silence was observed.

Convention Discussion
President McDowell thanked Dennis Wierzba for his hard work and financial stewardship in coordinating everything for the convention, securing discounts, arranging for food and reception/happening rooms, etc. The Thursday dinner and Friday evening happenings were great. He then opened the meeting to general comments about the convention.

As the convention is no longer tethered to a live, on-site auction (SBG does not require us to be in Baltimore), discussion centered on whether to consider moving the event somewhere else within the Northeast Corridor. Other historically interesting locations might offer worthwhile opportunities for group tours. For 2025, the Convention will definitely be held in Baltimore, and plans for an outing to the Maryland Historical Society or Garrett house will be explored.

President McDowell reported that, to handle increased demand, the Board had just approved adding more dealer tables. Also, Whitman has generously offered to give C4 a promotional banner in the colonial section of the next *Redbook*.

Closing Remarks
Last year, President McDowell explained, C4 set out to strengthen relationships in the numismatic community. Our relationship with Stack's Bowers Galleries is strong. In addition, we are reaching out to ANS and he has met with EAC's president to explore ways to collaborate. An EAC/C4 approved dealer list is in the works; C4 will list those approved dealers on our website. The Club will also continue initiatives like the annual metal detecting competition, and asked members to help promote this, as it is helping expand our reach and membership. In response to requests for more swag, C4 mugs are available for purchase this year. We plan to offer shirts next year.

VP Jim Glickman commented on Chris' incredible leadership and pointed out that he has been very modest about all the hard work he does.

At 10:30am, a Motion to Adjourn was made and was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Wolf, C4 Secretary

What is it?

This is a new feature which we insert from time to time to have a little fun and test the knowledge of our colonial numismatics experts. Metal detectorists are often challenged to identify a coin from just a *tiny* piece of visible detail, often with no knowledge of which side is obverse/reverse nor how to orient the coin. See if you can identify the coin (and the variety) from the picture at the right. All of the coins appearing here will be from types/series listed in the pre-federal section of the *Red Book*. Answer on page 90…



SCENES FROM C4 BALTIMORE 2024

[photos courtesy of: Carol Wolf, Ray Williams, and Eric Li Cheung]



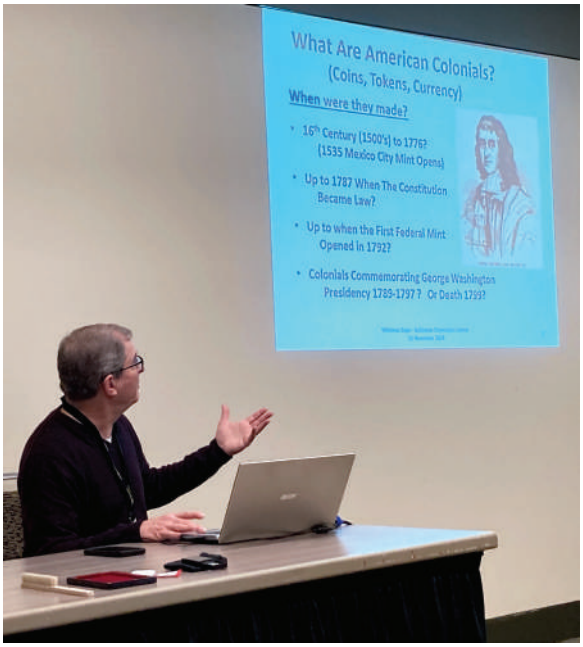
C4 Treasurer Charlie Rohrer manning the C4 table.



Thursday night opening remarks by C4 President Chris McDowell.



Thursday night book auction with Dan Freidus calling lots and C4 Librarian Leo Shane playing "Vanna White".



C4 National Vice President Jim Glickman's Friday afternoon educational talk.



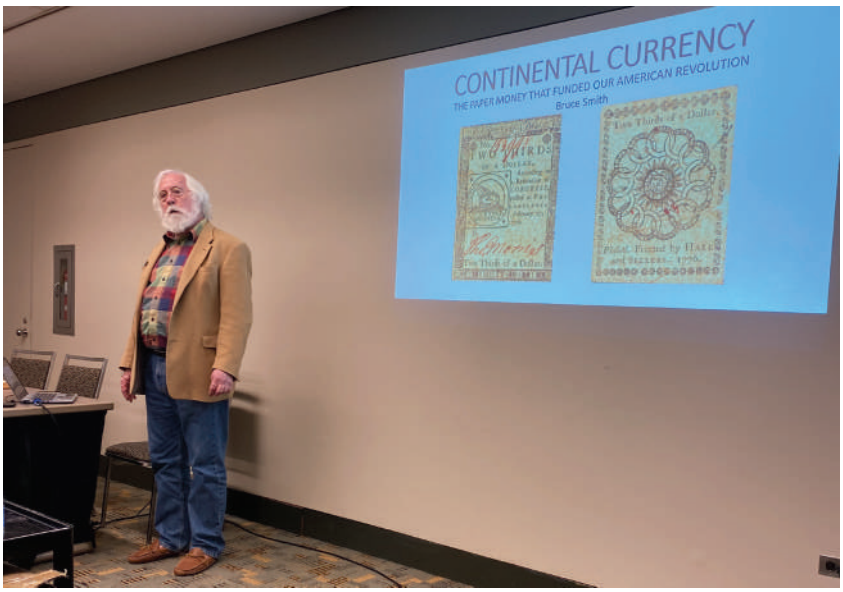
Members enjoying the Friday night Vermont Happening table.



Roger Siboni and Charlie Mamiye at the New Jersey Happening table.



C4 Secretary Carol Wolf, Jim Glickman, and Chris McDowell presiding over Saturday morning's General Membership Meeting.



C4 Region 6 Vice President Bruce Smith's Saturday morning educational talk.

3 days of bourse action



C4 CONVENTION 2024 – COLONIAL CURRENCY BREAKOUT SESSION

(Leo Shane)

On Thursday night of the convention, we once again held our Colonial Currency Breakout session. There were 12 attendees: starting clockwise from my left in the picture below Drew Golfin, Ray Williams, Bill Liatys, Chester Sullivan, Tom Gesner, Mike Brooks, Nathan Markowitz, Bill Mitchell, Dan Freidus, John Bolger, Roger Moore, and Leo Shane.



The subject of this year's session was Signers, Engravers and Printers of Colonial Notes. Each participant had a little homework to do before the session and was asked to prepare a two-minute overview on 2 signers, engravers or printers of their choosing.

Going around the table, each participant was asked to talk about the individual they chose and pass around a note(s) representing that individual. This was followed by a short discussion and a chance for others to show notes they brought on the chosen signer, engraver or printer. We went around the table twice so everyone who wanted to could talk about their second signer, engraver or printer. There were a total of 20 individuals discussed. The session lasted about 2 hours.

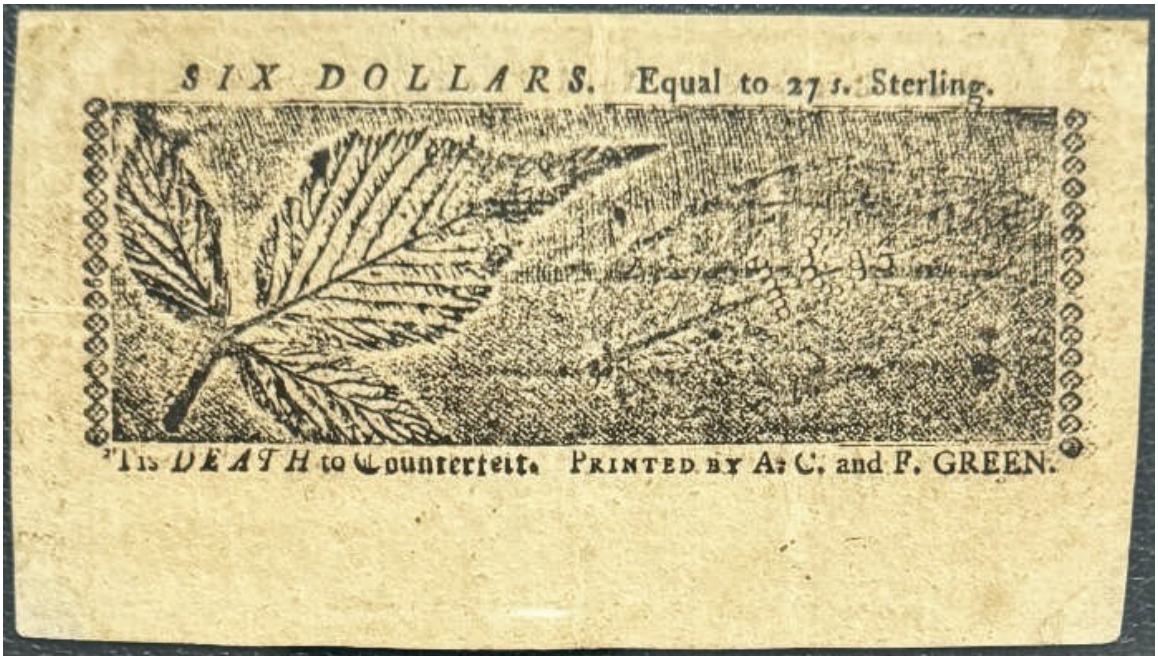
The signers, engravers and printers chosen were:

- Harry Ashby
- Thomas Mifflin
- David Brearly
- Anne Catherine Green
- Paul Revere
- M. Caither
- Boaz Manlove
- Robert Carter Nicholas
- Anthony Morris Jr.
- John Covenhoven
- John Hart
- David Hall
- Richard Caswell
- John Dunlap
- Charles Thomson
- Henry Dawkins
- William Eddis
- Bartolomew Dandrige
- Benjamin Franklin
- James Davis

Among the individuals discussed were:

- A signer of the U.S. Constitution (David Brearly)
- A co-printer of Continental Currency (David Hall)
- A signer who proposed establishing a free-school for every county in NC (Richard Caswell)
- A signer killed in action at the battle of Princeton (Anthony Morris Jr.)
- A signer who was a schoolteacher, unlike most others who were lawyers, merchants, or land owners (M. Caither)
- The first female printer of Colonial Currency (Anne Catherine Green)
- A signer who defected to the British (Boaz Manlove)
- A printer who actually created most of his wealth through land speculation (John Dunlap)
- An engraver and printer who had the notes printed in London and the plates returned to America with the printed currency (Harry Ashby)
- A signer who became one of the first Supreme Court judges (Robert Carter Nicholas)
- A signer that returned to England and published the book "Letters from America" (William Eddis)
- A signer who became the first Continental Army Quartermaster (Thomas Mifflin)
- A signer who was an orphan who did not sign but was the custodian, of the engrossed and signed parchment of the Declaration of Independence. (Charles Thomson)
- An engraver and printer who went on a famous ride on 18 April 1775 (Paul Revere)

All in all, the session was fun and interesting. Everyone had an enjoyable time and we voted to do it again next year. Next year's topic will be interesting vignettes on colonial currency excluding Continental Currency. It can't come soon enough for me.



A note from the first female printer of Colonial Currency (Anne Catherine Green).

COLONIAL PAPER ROUND TABLE – C4 CONVENTION SIGNERS, ENGRAVERS, & PRINTERS OF COLONIAL CURRENCY NOVEMBER 15, 2024, BALTIMORE, MD

(Ray Williams)

I'm sharing my experience at the Colonial Paper Round Table with the readers of the C4 Newsletter and hope others consider doing likewise in future issues. Leo Shane was our table moderator and requested that each of us bring two items and be prepared to share some information about a signer, engraver or printer.

Every one of the notes in my collection have multiple stories to tell. I chose two items from my home state of New Jersey and decided to share a paragraph or two about each. First on the hit parade is a February 1776 three-pound note printed by Isaac Collins in Burlington, NJ.

The February 1776 legislation authorized the first New Jersey paper money since the George II Act of 1764 which forbade the future printing of money. In early 1776, the Colony of New Jersey had one Governor and two Treasurers – one for East Jersey and one for West Jersey. The legislation required the signatures of two authorized signers and the Treasurer to make the bills legal tender. Besides the names of these people written into the legislation, an additional signer is named as an alternate signer, just in case one of the legislated signers couldn't fulfill their duty.

The two signers for East Jersey were Hendrick Fisher and Azariah Dunham. The Treasurer was John Dennis. For some reason I don't know (yet), Azariah Dunham was unable to sign the full quantity of notes that were issued. The alternate signer, John Covenhoven, stepped into his place. The February 1776 notes are much scarcer than the March issues to begin with, and to find one with a Covenhoven signature was a personal triumph!

Who is John Covenhoven? It was at his house that he and Richard Stockton were captured in the middle of the night by the British, dragged out half-naked, tortured, and imprisoned. His house was in Monmouth County but exactly where (Wall Township, Freehold, or Marlboro) is speculation. Covenhoven was a member of the New Jersey Provincial Congress, was involved in drafting the New Jersey Constitution, was on a committee to design the state seal, and served as a colonel in the New Jersey Militia. This patriot held a quill pen and placed his signature on my note.

My second note I shared was a 1780 issue "guaranteed" by the Continental Congress on behalf of New Jersey. The signers are David Brearley and Philemon Dickinson. The back has the signature of Joseph Borden, whose family founded Bordentown, NJ, as the Congress's representative. David Brearley is the signer I'll be talking about.

Probably the most significant accomplishment of Brearley is his involvement in drafting the Constitution and getting equal representation for smaller states. His congressional involvement resulted in the establishment of the Electoral College and creation of the office of Vice President, participation in numerous committees, and he was one of the signers of the Constitution. George Washington nominated him to the United States District Court of New Jersey. Let's not forget he was a colonel in the New Jersey Militia and was a founding member of the New Jersey Society of the Cincinnati.

There is so much known about Brearley that a book could be written. IT HAS! C4 member Don Scarinci authored a book about him "David Brearley and the Making of the United States Constitution" 2005. I highly recommend the book.

Thank you Leo Shane for organizing and moderating this event.



Ex-Newman, Lot #86128, Harley L. Freeman, O. T. Mason



A Christmas gift from Diane 2016!!! Purchased from John Kraljevich.

CHARLES "SKIP" SMITH
5/13/1940 – 1/26/2024

[Editor's note: Here a remembrance of long-time C4 member Charles Smith submitted by Jeff Rock.]



C4 members might have noticed coins from the collection of Dr. Charles W. Smith, known as "Skip" to his friends, offered in a Stack's Bowers sale in May of this year. While Skip had consigned his collection for sale, he sadly passed away before the actual auction, though I am sure he took comfort in knowing that his coins would be acquired by friends and club members who would cherish them as much as he did. Skip suffered from chronic heart failure, and passed away peacefully at his home in Old Town, Maine, with his wife Carolyn by his side. He was 83 years old, which to our parents would likely have been considered a ripe, old age, but to us today seems too soon.

While the younger crop of C4 members may not have had the pleasure of meeting Skip, he was a fixture at the earlier C4 conventions in Boston, usually attending with his close friend Dr. Phil Mossman. Boston was a much shorter journey from his home in Maine, though he did make it to a couple of the early C4 shows in Baltimore as well. Skip had been on my mailing list for a few years before I actually met him in person, and while his orders from those price lists were never large, he could always be counted on to pick out something interesting or unusual – generally the same types of pieces I would have picked out from the price lists of other dealers. Skip was not a condition snob – indeed, he preferred coins that had seen some wear and tear, pieces that actually fulfilled their intended purpose as circulating currency, and he found great charm (as many of us do) in coins that grade in the Fine-VF range. He never set out to get all varieties in a given series, as there were always rarities that he was unwilling to stretch for, but he put together a very impressive, 500-ish piece collection, ranging from Massachusetts silver coins, through all the state coinages, Fugio coppers, and some Washingtonia, all in what were perfectly acceptable collector grades; there were no finest knowns, and no extreme rarities – his collection reflected what would have been in circulation in the colonies and early United States, and that was what held his interest. Most of his coins were purchased privately at shows, or from the handful of dealers who mailed out price lists from the 1980s through the 2010s.

Skip was an early appreciator of counterfeit British and Irish halfpence, which formed the bulk of copper coinage in circulation in the timeframe that interested him most. My own collection of counterfeits grew substantially with trades from Skip over the course of a couple decades, and I still retain them in his distinct, enthusiastic handwritten envelopes; he was collecting these long before families were starting to become recognized, and gave fanciful names of his own to some varieties he owned. Skip also authored several important papers on the counterfeit series, including "The English George III Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpenny Series: A Statistical Study of Production and Distribution", which appeared in *Coinage of the American Confederation Period*, edited by Philip L. Mossman, 1996, "Cast Counterfeit Coppers in the Pre-Federal America" (co-authored with Mossman), which appeared in *The Colonial Newsletter* Issue 107, 1998, and "Imported and Domestic Counterfeit Copper Coins in Pre-Federal America" (also co-authored with Mossman), which appeared in *Circulating Counterfeits of the Americas*, edited by John M. Kleeberg, 2000.

Research, writing, and publication were routine for Skip, as his "day job" was teaching at the university level, and over the course of 40 years at the University of Maine, he authored over 70 papers. Hired as an Assistant Professor of Physics in 1968, Skip became an Associate Professor in 1974, and a full, tenured

Professor in 1980. During this period he was also a Cooperating Professor of Engineering, and served as Department of Physics Chair for 6 years. In 1993, Skip and his wife Carolyn spent a year in Oxford, England, while he worked with a colleague and became affiliated with Wolfson College as a Scholar. They also fit in a memorable tour of Egypt and the Valley of the Kings. During his tenure at the University of Maine he received the Excellence in Teaching Award in the Physical Sciences, was selected as a Distinguished Maine Professor, held Francis Crowe Society membership, was twice given the College of Engineering Dean's Award for Excellence, as well as the James and Maureen Gorman Emeriti Faculty Award. He was a member of the American Physical Society, the Association of Physics Teachers, and Sigma Xi. When he retired in 2009, Skip had spent four decades at just one employer, the University of Maine.

Like most of us, Skip had interests outside of coins, and he collected other things as well, including fly fishing rods and reels, antique clocks, and a rather sizeable group of Maine duck decoys. As with coins, Skip preferred his duck decoys to show wear and weathering from actual use, not display models that were somehow kept in mint condition (one wonders how long it will be before one of the slabbing services moves into this area as well…). He was also a keen gardener, growing not only vegetables, but laying out a traditional English-style rose garden, building a protected area for a water lily garden, and landscaping his yard with more traditional perennials. Skip and Carolyn bought their first – and only – house in Maine in 1969, an 1840s farmhouse that they shared for nearly 55 years. I well remember being regaled with tales of the beauty of Maine's landscape and coasts (and the joy of lobster rolls), sailing in summers and skiing in winters, life on the Stillwater River that was literally in his backyard, and of the fun to be had going to antique stores, estate sales, and the like for additions to his various collections, including the odd colonial coin that was still to be found in such venues.

One similarity I had with Skip, but didn't know until after he passed away, was a love of British mysteries – I would have really enjoyed hearing how a scientific mind read an Agatha Christie mystery, saw all the clues, and still got fooled most of the time!

Skip's wife Carolyn gave the perfect summing up of his life, stating that he "was a man of many interests, all of which he approached intellectually, reading about the subject before beginning his acquisitions. I think it follows the research technique he used constantly in his career as a scientist. My lasting memory of him is sitting in his favorite chair, a book in his lap, a drink beside him, tea in the morning and chardonnay in the afternoon and a cat perched nearby." May we all find such happiness in such simple things!

Skip's life was well-lived, and those of us who had the opportunity to know him had our own lives enriched by that experience. He is survived by Carolyn, his wife of nearly 60 years, his daughter, Wendy Smith M.D., his son, Jeff Smith Ph.D. and wife Clover Bachman, and several cousins.



Photo at right:
Left to right, the late Mike Ringo, Dr. Phil Mossman, and Skip performing specific gravity tests on some of their counterfeit British and Irish coppers, probably in 1997.

NOTICE:

Your Updated E-Mail Address is Crucial for your Participation in the Club



From 1885 to 1999, the cost of mailing a one-ounce letter through the United States Domestic Mail went from 2 cents to 33 cents. From 2000 to 2024, the rate more than doubled to 68 cents. On July 14, 2024, the rate will increase to 73 cents. One of the Club's largest budget items is postage. This year, under the Club's new Bylaws, we shall be voting for officers via e-mail for the first time. We need up-to-date email addresses for every member to ensure an efficient, problem-free election. Moreover, notifying members of important events through the United States Mail is now cost-prohibitive. E-mail is faster and free. Therefore, from now on, all essential membership notices will either be in the C4 Newsletter, on our website, or sent to you via e-mail. Finally, to access the Members Only Section of our website, we need your correct e-mail address.

On Tuesday, July 2, 2024, we sent this notice to all known member e-mail addresses. If you did not receive an e-mail from us on or about that date, there may be an issue with your e-mail address in the Club's system. Please contact the Club Treasurer, Christopher Pretsch, at Treasurer@ColonialCoins.org if you missed the July 2 e-mail or to confirm that we have your correct contact information. Starting in an upcoming Newsletter, we shall publish a list of members from whom we are missing e-mail addresses. This is not to embarrass anyone but to ensure we can effectively and inexpensively communicate with every member.

Christopher R. McDowell,
President C4



C4 REGION 2 MEETING AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COIN EXPO

An open meeting of C4 Region 2 was held on Friday, October 25, 2024 at the New Hampshire Coin and Currency Expo in Manchester, NH, chaired by Region 2 Vice-President Tom Gesner. Fourteen people were in attendance including the following C4 members:

Michael Callis	Floyd Greenwood	Don Slater	Dennis Wierzba
Tom Gesner	Frank Jozapaitis	Mark Vitunic	
Jim Glickman	George Lyman	Charlie Wallace	

Many attendees expressed excitement, if not glee, upon entering the capacity-filled Expo bourse. Many dealers offered colonial coins and currency, including several C4 dealers who set up for the first time at this venue.

The meeting began with attendee introductions, where they're from and collecting interests. A review of the upcoming convention and its agenda followed. Dennis Wierzba informed us of the expanded dealer bourse and food and room logistics for the Thursday and Friday night events. Jim Glickman highlighted the lineup of speakers. Most in attendance were looking forward to and planned to be in Baltimore in three weeks.

Feedback from the club's first electronic election was overwhelmingly positive. Many delighted with the ease of the process. Several noted the feedback questions were a nice ballot feature.

The main feature of the meeting was a presentation by Mark Vitunic. His talk was titled "Insights on Off-Center Struck State Coppers". Mark showed examples of off-center coppers from each of the state series. Interestingly he determined that the Vermont Landscapes appear to be unique in being struck using dies *significantly* larger in diameter than the struck design itself. Mark offered several hypotheses on how and why this may have occurred. Other theories were offered from the floor.

Special thanks to Chris Karstedt and Stanley Chu of Stack's Bowers, who generously arranged for and underwrote a light lunch for all attendees, setting everyone in a good mood for the meeting. [TG]



WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES: REPRESENTED BY THE VIRGINIA MAY 6, 1776 CURRENCY

(Roger A. Moore MD)

VIRGINIA CURRENCY DESIGN UP TO MAY 6, 1776

Virginia was the last of the colonies to emit a paper currency in June 1755. Fiat currency was actively avoided by a fiscally conservative Virginia House of Burgesses due to an aversion to money with no defined backing. However, the emergent need to finance expenditures from the recently declared French and Indian War left the House with little alternative. Following the initial June 1755 Act authorizing currency printing, eighteen additional Acts by the House of Burgesses would occur up to their May 6, 1776 Act. Though examples of the three earliest emissions may not be extant, the fourth emission, authorized on June 8, 1757, is known and has the design of the Colony of Virginia coat of arms (Figure 1). The coat of arms has the Latin motto, EN DAT VIRGINIA QUARTAM, which means "Behold Virginia contributes one-quarter of the strength."[1] The motto refers to Virginia emphasizing that its contributions to colonial America were greater than those of any the other colonies.



Figure 1. A June 8, 1757 Colony of Virginia five shillings bill having the Virginia Coat of Arms design in the upper right corner. (author)

Most of the issues that followed up to May 6, 1776, also included a rendition of the same coat of arms and same motto. Figure 2 shows a higher grade one shilling bill from the following year's October 12, 1758 emission with a more easily observable Colony of Virginia coat of arms. Of interest, the right border cut and the Colony of Virginia coat of arms on this bill were printed using two printing-plate components that were later excavated at the site of the old colonial print office in Williamsburg, Virginia.[2]

[1] Eric Newman, *The Early Paper Money of America*, 6th edition, 2023, p. 416.
[2] Roger Moore, Recovered Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia Currency Plate Parts, *Journal of Early American Numismatics*, vol. 5, no. 2, American Numismatic Society, New York, 2022, pp. 213-226.



Figure 2. October 12, 1758 Colony of Virginia one shilling bill with the Virginia Coat of Arms design in the upper left corner and a close-up of the coat of arms. (author)

The fact the Colony of Virginia coat of arms was used repeatedly on most Virginia emissions is not surprising since the Dominion Colony had close ties with the British Crown, and the shield in the coat of arms was a crude representation of the British King's coat of arms. The Colonial Virginia coat of arms was used for all later Virginia currency emissions until 1773 when the emergent need for a new counterfeit-resistant currency arose to replace the heavily counterfeited and recalled 1771 currency. For the 1773 and 1775 authorized currency emissions, currency plates were engraved and printed in England by an excellent engraver, Henry Ashby. While the Virginians were waiting for Ashby's currency to arrive in Virginia, they brought into service bank notes made for a planned James River Bank that had never been utilized due to a mandate by King George III outlawing the opening of any colonial banks.[3] However, this was also a time of increasing turmoil in the colonies as the burden of increasing taxes by the British Parliament led to resentment and rebellion. The overt expression of this resentment and rebellion could be seen in the May 6, 1776 currency emission, representing the existing dichotomy of a populous split in their loyalties between American independence and allegiance to the British Crown.

EVENTS OF MAY 6, 1776 IN VIRGINIA: CURRENCY EMISSION

Resentment over British rule had been escalating in Virginia throughout 1775 and early 1776. The Virginia House of Burgesses which had scheduled several sessions leading up to May 6, 1776, could not conduct any business due to a lack of a quorum from members refusing to attend. On May 6, 1776, the House of Burgesses was called into session once again, but again due to a lack of members attending, could not conduct business. However, the House decided not to adjourn but simply to walk away and let the House effectively die. The final minutes recorded in the *Journals of the House of Burgesses* for this session are shown in Figure 3 with the entry boldly announcing the end of the House with the large word "FINIS." The session could not have conducted business in any case since Governor Dunsmore, the British-appointed Governor of Virginia, had already fled the colony due to threats from an increasingly rebellious populace.

[3] Roger Moore, Two Existing Printing Plates for Virginia Colonial Currency: Their Authorizers, Makers, and Preservers, *Journal of Early American Numismatics*, vol. 5, no. 2, American Numismatic Society, New York, 2022, pp. 151-212.

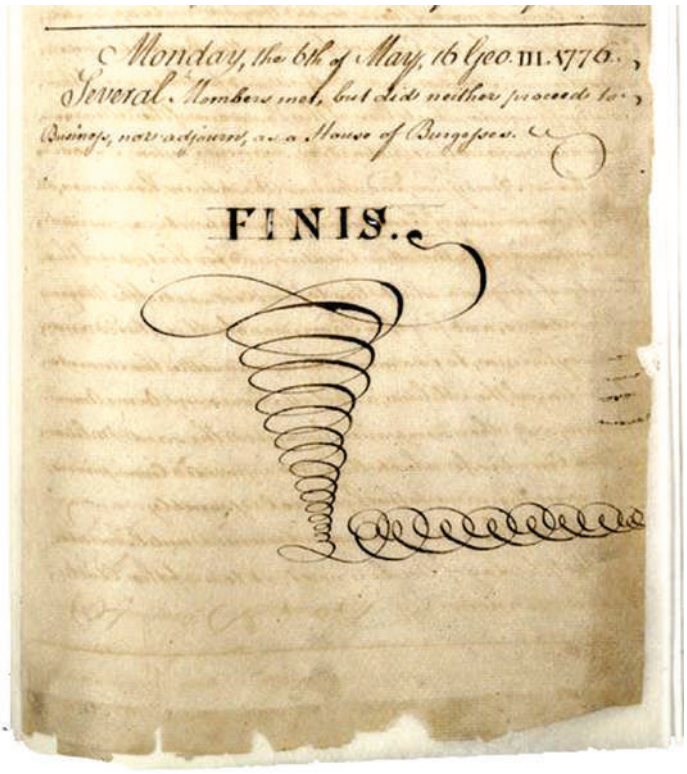

Monday, the 6th of May, 16 Geo. III. 1776.
Several Members met, but did neither proceed to
Business, nor adjourn, as a House of Burgesses.
FINIS.

Figure 3. The final minutes from the Virginia House of Burgesses from May 6, 1776.[4]

While the House of Burgesses was effectively killed, its death led to an immediate birth on May 6, 1776, when the fifth and final Virginia Revolutionary Convention members met that morning in Williamsburg and declared independence from British rule. The result was the formation of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Much work was accomplished that day with a complete overhaul of Virginia's governing body into an elected Senate and House of Delegates, a new constitution, and a detailed description of many new local and state government ordinances.[5] One detail included the penalty of death for counterfeiting officially emitted currency. The extent of the detail indicates that the patriots had discussed and decided upon this declaration of independence and constitution long before the final meeting of the Revolutionary Convention on May 6th.

MAY 6, 1776 VIRGINIA CURRENCY EMISSION

Considering the major steps taken on May 6, 1776, declaring Virginia's independence, the continued use of any official symbols or documents associated with previous British rule would seem contradictory. However, in examining the first currency produced, based on the May 6, 1776 Acts of the new governing body, expediency must have played a role in its production. Two different designs were used on the May 6, 1776 currency. Figure 4 shows one of the issued currencies, having design remnants used when Virginia was under British rule, particularly the coat of arms.[6] However, one concession on these bills to Virginia's independence was the inclusion that authorization for the currency was by the "CONVENTION," referring to the Revolutionary Convention.

[4] Final Meeting of the House of Burgesses ("Finis Document"), May 6, 1776. Virginia House of Burgesses, Journal, May 6, 1776, bound manuscript, Colonial Government, House of Burgesses, Record Group 1, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. Available online: https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/dbva/items/show/189.

[5] Full text of the May 6, 1776 minutes of the General Assembly available on pages 33 to 38 at: https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=osu.32437121669234&se.

[6] Newman, op. cit. p. 424.



Figure 4. May 6, 1776, a two-shilling bill was issued by the independent State of Virginia, but using the old Virginia Coat of Arms. (Courtesy of Heritage Auctions: HA.com)

However, under the same May 6, 1776 authorization for issuing currency, bills were produced with a radically different coat of arms that expressed an extremely anti-British Crown sentiment (Figure 5).



Figure 5. May 6, 1776, third of a Spanish Milled Dollar bill for the independent State of Virginia showing the new Virginia Coat of Arms design in the upper left corner. (92mm length, 64mm height) (author)

A close-up of the new Virginia Coat of Arms shows a powerful rejection of King George III's rule over Virginia (Figure 5). Veritus (Goddess of Virtue) has her left foot holding King George on the ground in the coat of arms. She towers over him with a raised sword in her right hand, and a spear clutched in her left.[7] The major humiliation and insult directed at King George III was his depiction as a powerless person pinned to the ground with his crown having fallen off, a sack of money spilling out beside him, and a broken chain clutched in his right hand. As if this imagery was insufficient, the October 7, 1776 emission also included the Latin motto *Sic Semper Tyrannis* meaning "Thus always to Tyrants." The engraver of this new design was

[7] Moore, Two Existing Print Plates …, op. cit. pp.203-204. Robert Scot arrived in Virginia from Edinburgh, Scotland in 1775 after having already been apprenticed as an engraver. It is thought that he was immediately recruited to engrave the plates for printing the small-sized 1775 currency. He was very active in the engraving of future currency plates and in 1780, he became Virginia's official engraver.

Robert Scot, but his impressive engraving skills were somewhat overshadowed by his lack of spelling skills since some of his initial currency issues misspelled *Tyrannis* as *Tyrannus* (Figure 6).



Figure 6. October 7, 1776 Virginia ten Spanish Milled Dollar bill with TYRANNIS misspelled as TYRANNUS. (97mm length, 66mm height) (author)

The reason for two different designs of the May 6, 1776 currency - the old British rule and the new Revolutionary designs - can most likely be explained by simple expediency. Newman explained, "Cast cuts from the July 17, 1775 small size issue were shifted and modified for corresponding shilling denominations, and new State Arms were prepared for the dollar denominations by Robert Scot."[8] The use of the word CONVENTION also appears on bills with both the designs making it clear that the authorization for their emission was from the new Independent State of Virginia and not the British Crown. Faced with the immediate need for currency to fund the revolution, 1775 currency plates with the British coat of arms were modified and used to print some of the May 6, 1776 currency. However, Scot only had time to engrave the new revolutionary coat of arms for some of the May 6, 1776 printing plates. All currency emissions following May 6, 1776, did incorporate the new revolutionary coat of arms.

CONCLUSIONS

May 6, 1776, was an incredibly important day in Virginia's history. It was the day Virginia broke from the tyranny of British rule while adopting its independent constitution and installing new governing bodies. As part of the change in governance, the issuance of £100,000 of new currency was authorized. However, the issue of the authorized May 6, 1776 currency had two very different coat of arms. Some of the bills retained the old coat of arms used under British rule, though there was text on those bills indicating the currency was authorized by the Revolutionary Convention and not by the Crown. On the other hand, some of the currency had a new Virginia coat of arms that was very insulting to the British Crown. The new coat of arms showed King George III being held to the ground by the Goddess of Virtue surrounded by symbols showing the King's loss of power over Virginia. Why would any new currency for an independent Virginia contain any British-centric imagery? The answer is likely due to the political change having occurred faster than the currency plate engravers could develop all new currency printing plates. Money was needed emergently to finance the Revolution, and while some updated plates could be made, some of the old plates needed to be brought back into service with only slight modifications. However, the printing of the May 6, 1776 currency with the two very different Virginia Coat of Arms indicates how quickly political change was occurring and the central importance of that day in Virginia's history.

[8] *Ibid.*

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SETH REED, ALBION COX, AND WALTER MOULD: A 1786 MASSACHUSETTS COINING PROPOSAL AND THE IMMUNIS COLUMBIA COPPERS

(Julia Casey)

It was first memorialized in 1858 with John H. Hickcox's *An Historical Account of American Coinage* that "Col. Reed of Uxbridge" struck the 1786 Immunis Columbia with the shield design and E PLURIBUS UNUM reverse legend.[1] With little clarity or explanation, this rumor took hold and evolved. As of today's date,[2] the *Wikipedia.com* entry for Seth Read[3] (1746–1797) states that "According to the U.S. Treasury Colonel Reed of Uxbridge, Massachusetts was said to be instrumental in having *E Pluribus Unum* placed on United States coins." Hickcox also noted that "On 8th of March, 1786, Seth Reed presented a petition [in Massachusetts] praying to be licensed to coin copper and silver money."[4] While Hickcox did not outright state that Col. Reed and Seth Reed are the same individual, it is clear that they are.[5] The October 1871 issue of the *American Journal of Numismatics* contains another reference to Reed and the Immunis Columbia coppers. This mention merges the two Hickcox entries, though it may not have been sourced from Hickcox:

> *Col. Seth Reed of Uxbridge, petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts in 1786, for a patent to strike copper coin. It is said the "Immunis Columbia 1786," rev. a shield with "E Pluribus Unum," was presented by him as a pattern.*[6]





Lieutenant Colonel Seth Reed[7] and his home in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, as it appeared in the late nineteenth century.[8]

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[1] John H. Hickcox, *An Historical Account of American Coinage* (Albany: Munsell, 1858) pp. 78–79. This is the Maris-C New Jersey copper reverse die.

[2] December 26, 2024.

[3] The spellings of Reed and Read were used interchangeably by members of this family.

[4] Hickcox, op. cit., p. 40.

[5] Many thanks to Joel Orosz for putting the author in contact with Dan Hamelberg, who has Hickcox's holographic manuscript in his library. Interestingly, Hickcox appears to have added the information about Reed and the Immunis Columbia coinage to this entry at a later date, perhaps during editing. This implies that Hickcox was told about or discovered the connection of a "Col. Reed of Uxbridge" to the Immunis Columbia coinage sometime around 1858, and, at this time, it was not commonly known as numismatic lore.

[6] *American Journal of Numismatics*, October 1871, p. 35.

[7] *Nelson's Biographical Dictionary and Historical Reference Book of Erie County* (Erie: S.B. Nelson, 1896) image plate between pages 72 and 73. The image was enhanced and colorized by the author.

[8] Mary Hunter Buford, *Seth Read His Ancestors and Descendants*, (Boston, 1895) image plate between pages 72 and 73. The image was enhanced and colorized by the author.

Even with his documented Massachusetts coining proposal, it seems preposterous that Seth Reed, at his farm in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, could have minted the Immunis Columbia coppers. These coins, while still of mysterious origin, have been shown by Gary Trudgen to be likely the production of Samuel Atlee's New York City Brewery Mint and made as federal patterns.[9] The claim of Reed's involvement appears to be so bizarre that scholars of colonial numismatics tend to scoff and dismiss it.

Yet there was something about Reed's petition that caused it to be seriously considered by the Massachusetts House and Senate before it was rejected. The possibility has arisen that not only did Reed submit a petition, but he also presented to the General Court a notable example of coinage. The coin may have been a 1786 Immunis Columbia, and it may have been given to Seth Reed by Albion Cox and Walter Mould, who were connected to Samuel Atlee's mint and were the parties behind Reed's Massachusetts coining proposal.



1786 New Jersey Immunis Columbia, Shield Reverse, Maris 3-C.
Stack's Bowers' Summer 2022 sale of The Sydney F. Martin Collection, Lot #8001.

By March 1786, court records show that Seth Reed was deep in debt.[10] By September, he would be imprisoned as the result of a 1785 civil judgment held by Salem merchant Jonathan Haraden,[11] and there were several other legal actions against him. Interestingly, Reed also owed money to James Swan, the Boston financier, who would submit to the Massachusetts General Court his own coining proposal on March 15,

[9] See, Gary A. Trudgen, "The Wyon Problem," *The C4 Newsletter*, Spring 2024, pp. 29–36, and Gary's expansive body of work comprising research into the Atlee Brewery Mint.

[10] The November 1, 1785, judgment of the Supreme Judicial Court of Essex County shows a debt of £313, 5 shillings, and 5 pence, plus damages owed to Jonathan Haraden. "Massachusetts, United States records," images, *FamilySearch.org* (Accessed Dec. 28, 2024), image 367 of 659. In September 1785, George Irish of Middletown, Rhode Island was awarded a judgment against Reed for £94, 4 shillings, and 7 pence. "Suffolk, Massachusetts, United States records," images, *FamilySearch.org* (Accessed Dec. 28, 2024), image 591 of 716. In February 1786 a judgment was recorded against Reed by Christopher Gore of Boston in the amount of £147, 6 shillings, and 8 pence. "Suffolk, Massachusetts, United States records," images, *FamilySearch.org* (Accessed Dec. 28, 2024), image 354 of 722. There are several other judgments against Reed throughout these records, however the situation with Haraden seemed to be the most pressing at this time.

[11] "A Register of the Prisoners committed the Week of Sept 23^{d} 1786," "Suffolk, Massachusetts, United States records," images, *FamilySearch.org.* (Accessed Dec. 28, 2024), image 561 of 750. This is probably Jonathan Haradan (1744–1803), who is famed today for his exploits as a privateer during the American Revolution.

1786.[12] It is likely the extent of this debt led Reed to become involved with Cox and Mould; however, there are other engaging possibilities that may be in the background.

Uxbridge, Massachusetts is in southern Worcester County near the border of Rhode Island. Benjamin Dudley was in Newport, Rhode Island, until at least March 20, 1786. Since the fall of 1785, Dudley, who had been involved with Robert Morris's Mint of North America and the creation of the 1783 Nova Constellatio patterns, was visiting iron rolling mills in Massachusetts and writing to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge about various metallurgical concerns, including that "there may be Something Done in your State as may be usefull to the Country and beneficial to the proprietors viz Buying old Copper & making it into Sheets and Coining it into money."[13] It is possible that in 1783, Dudley relayed the details of the design of the Nova Constellatio patterns to Walter Mould, who, with involvement by James Jarvis, minted Nova Constellatio coppers at the Brewery Mint.[14] It is also possible that Dudley was able to acquaint Seth Reed with Albion Cox and Walter Mould, knowing that an estimable resident of the commonwealth would have a much better chance of being awarded a coining contract by the Massachusetts General Court.

Apparently, Reed's debt was not a serious blemish to his respectability. His family had deep roots in Uxbridge, and during the American Revolution, he had been an officer with the Massachusetts Line. Reed served in the Battles of Lexington and Concord, and Bunker Hill before ill health drove him from active service. He then involved himself in local civic duties and was elected several times to the House of Representatives of the Massachusetts General Court. His biography, written by one of his descendants in 1895,[15] does not mention his coinage proposal or difficult finances, though we do learn that by the end of 1787, Reed had left Uxbridge for western New York. Today, he is acclaimed as a founder of the cities of Geneva, New York, and Erie, Pennsylvania.

The connection between Reed, Cox, and Mould is evidenced by a series of three March-to-April 1786 deeds filed in Worcester County, Massachusetts. Something equally as intriguing about these deeds is the involvement of Michael Hillegas (1729–1804), a Philadelphian who made his fortune in sugar and iron and was Treasurer of the United States at this time. Also, is the presence of Joseph Anthony, Jr. (1762–1814), Hillegas's son-in-law and a silversmith from Newport, Rhode Island, who had relocated to Philadelphia around 1783. This is sure to inspire additional research and speculation about what may have been transpiring between these individuals. A summary of the deeds is as follows:

1) Book 99, page 218. Aaron Taft[16] of Uxbridge conveyed to Seth Reed of Uxbridge "by estimation" 300 acres of land in Uxbridge, for consideration of £3,262. This deed was executed on March 29, 1786, notarized on April 13, 1786, and filed on April 26, 1786.[17]

[12] Reed's debt to Swan was joint with his brother Josiah Reed for the sum of £57 and 7 shillings. Swan's judgment dated to December 1785 and after non-payment, Swan received additional damages on April 28, 1786. "Suffolk, Massachusetts, United States records," images, *FamilySearch.org* (Accessed Dec. 26, 2024), image 175 of 557.

[13] Julia Casey, "Benjamin Dudley: Maker of the Nova Constellatio Patterns," *Journal of Early American Numismatics*, June 2022, pp. 69-97.

[14] Trudgen, op. cit., p. 33.

[15] Mary Hunter Buford, *Seth Read His Ancestors and Descendants*, (Boston, 1895).

[16] Seth Reed's mother was Lucy Taft, and Aaron Taft was Seth Reed's cousin. Aaron Taft was the great-grandfather of U.S. President and Chief Justice William Howard Taft.

[17] Worcester, Massachusetts, United States records, images, *FamilySearch.org* (Accessed Dec. 26, 2024), image 456 of 685; Massachusetts County Court (Worcester County).

2) Book 99, page 219. Seth Reed of Uxbridge conveyed to Michael Hillegas and Joseph Anthony, Jr.[18] of Philadelphia, the same parcel of land as described in the first deed (Book 99, page 218). However, it is now described as 375 acres with "two dwelling houses, two barns, stables, out houses &c." The consideration is the same amount of £3,262. This deed was executed on March 28, 1786, notarized on April 13, 1786, and filed on April 27, 1786. The deed recited the following:

> Provided Nevertheless if the s[d] Seth Reed shall pay or cause to be paid a certain sum of money within eighteen months from the first day of May next which said Hillegas & Anthony are trustees for & between the s[d] Reed & Albin Cox & Walter Mould then the aforesaid Deed be void. Otherwise to remain in full force & virtue.[19]

3) Book 99, page 220. Aaron Taft of Uxbridge conveyed to Michael Hillegas and Joseph Anthony Jr. of Philadelphia, 180 acres of land in Uxbridge with "dwelling house, two barns, corn house & cyder house," for consideration of £1,000. This deed was executed on April 25, 1786, notarized on April 25, 1786, and filed on April 27, 1786. The deed recited the following:

> Provided nevertheless if Seth Reed Esquire shall pay or cause to be paid a certain sum of Money within eighteen months from the first day of May next which s[d] Hillegas & Anthony are Trustees for and between the said Reed & Albin Cox & Walter Mould then the aforesaid Deed to be void otherways to remain in full force & virtue.[20]

If we read between the lines, these deeds appear to reflect a scheme by Albion Cox and Walter Mould where they loaned Reed a large sum of money, and in exchange, he petitioned the Massachusetts General Court with a coining proposal.[21] If Reed's proposal had been accepted, then Cox and Mould would have presumably held the reins to Reed's Uxbridge, Massachusetts mint. By the end of March 1786, when it was clear that Reed's proposal would not be accepted, the deeds were drafted and filed as security for Reed's repayment. Wildcards are the involvement of Michael Hillegas, and Joseph Anthony, Jr., whose instrumentality based on their ties to Philadelphia and the U.S. Treasury implies that the Immunis Columbia coppers have a claim to be federal patterns, as has long been speculated.

This timeline places the minting of the 1786 Immunis Columbia coppers sometime before March 1786, which was months before the minting of any New Jersey coppers. This also places the design of the New Jersey copper reverse die of a shield with an E PLURIBUS UNUM legend appropriately to the hand of Walter Mould.[22] It may be that the failure of Albion Cox and Walter Mould to use Seth Reed to obtain a coining contract in Massachusetts was the reason they partnered with business-minded Thomas Goadsby and turned

[18] Joseph Anthony, Jr. married Michael Hillegas's daughter, Henrietta, on December 29, 1785. Joseph Anthony, Jr. was a cousin to the famed portraitist Gilbert Stuart.
[19] Worcester, Massachusetts, United States records, images, *FamilySearch.org* (Accessed Dec. 26, 2024), image 456 of 685; Massachusetts County Court (Worcester County).
[20] Ibid, image 457 of 685.
[21] During the review of the present article, Gary Trudgen commented, "This may help explain how Cox lost a large portion of his Uncle William's loan of £5775 when he came to America" (via email, December 27, 2024). Also see Gary A. Trudgen, "The Life and Character of Albion Cox," *Journal of Early American Numismatics*, June 2023, p. 16.
[22] Gary A. Trudgen, "The Brewery Mint and Decad Coppers," *Journal of Early American Numismatics*, December 2021, pp. 95-105 provides further evidence of Walter Mould's involvement with the production of the federal patterns.

their focus to New Jersey, where they were granted a coining privilege on June 1, 1786. If Seth Reed had been authorized to coin Massachusetts coppers in Uxbridge, we might have found ourselves comparing his perplexing transfiguration to a mint master in this small Massachusetts town with the parallel story of Reuben Harmon in Rupert, Vermont. Likewise, this should make us continue to question the standardized version of the origins of the Vermont mint.

It is easy to ignore the nonsensical mention in an early numismatic reference that "Col. Reed of Uxbridge," made the 1786 Immunis Columbia coppers. That Reed has been inexplicably touted as the reason we have *E Pluribus Unum* on our coins lends to the seeming absurdity of the story. Yet, there is a grain of truth in most rumors, and such is the case with the tale of Seth Reed, Albion Cox, Walter Mould, a Massachusetts coining proposal, and the 1786 Immunis Columbia coppers.

Special thanks to Gary Trudgen for his assistance with the development of this article. Many thanks to Chris McDowell for his review prior to publication.

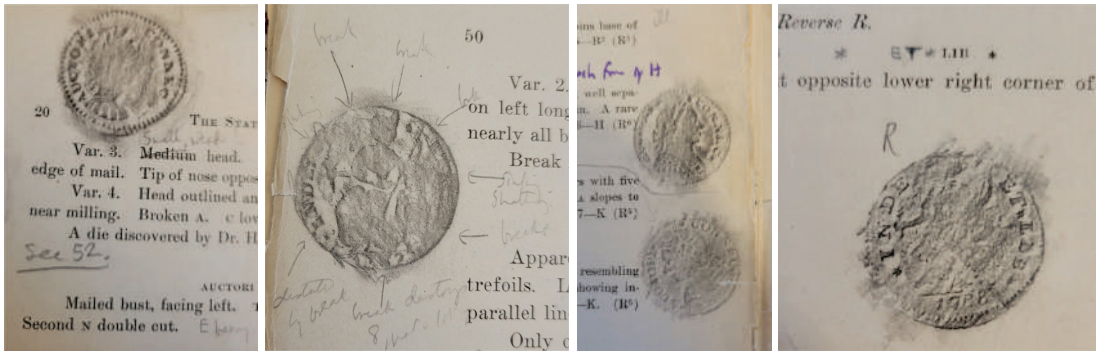


The Walter Mould connection, courtesy of Gary Trudgen.

RUBBINGS OF CONNECTICUT COPPERS IN BREEN'S ANNOTATED MILLER

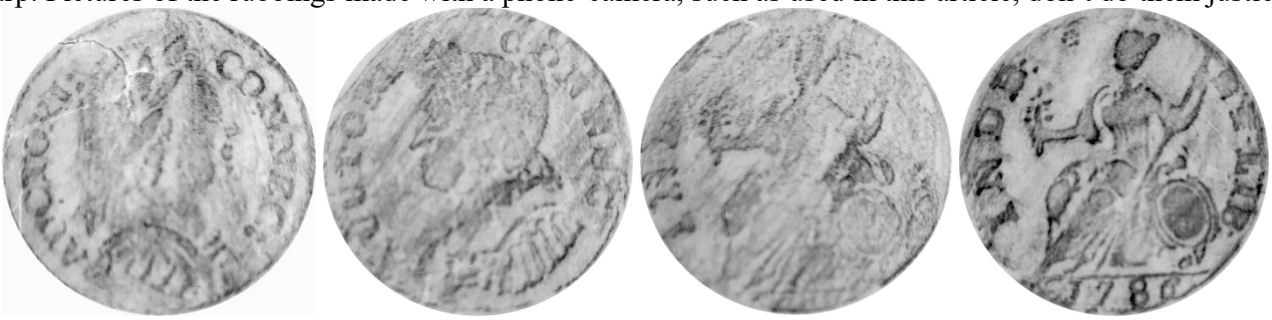
(Randy Clark)

At a recent meeting with a well-known numismatist and bibliophile I had the pleasure of thumbing through the annotations Walter Breen wrote into his personal copy of the 1919 *American Journal of Numismatics*, Volume 51 – specifically in Henry C. Miller's "The State Coinage of Connecticut." Breen was spending considerable time understanding colonials, including the Connecticut coppers series, as a result of the 1951 cataloging of the Stepney Hoard and working for New Netherlands on various sales of the Dr. Thomas Hall and Carl Wurtzbach colonials. He added observances and clarifications in his copy of Miller and noted new discoveries, much of which was shared with other collectors of the era (there are a series of annotated Millers out there with Breen-Vlack updates from this time period). These Breen personal notes likely go from the early 1950s to the late 1960s.



Example Pencil Rubbings and Notes from Breen-Annotated Miller

Particularly interesting to me were Breen's pencil rubbings of coins made directly on several pages in the Connecticut coppers section, which the ANS plates had only sparsely illustrated. Rubbings and foil-impressions were more common in the era when taking photographs was less convenient. But for me, having started collecting in the 2000s and not having been around in the mid-1950s, such rubbings were unexpectedly sharp. Pictures of the rubbings made with a phone-camera, such as used in this article, don't do them justice.



1785 M3.3-F.3 Obv. **1785 M7.2-D Obv.** **1786 M4.1-C Rev.** **1786 M5.11-R Rev.**

The 1785 M3.3-F.3 pencil rubbing is of a variety not illustrated in the 1919 AJN Miller text nor in the May 1920 sale of Henry Miller's collection by Thomas Elder. It adds to the visual knowledge base of the variety. The 1785 M7.2 obverse was added by the c.1924 ANS "Additions & Corrections" to Miller, written predominantly by Frederick Canfield, which was not illustrated. The 1786 C reverse (Taylor coin) was discovered by Breen in 1951 and only illustrated later in the 1987 Taylor Sale. The 1786 R reverse was plated in the 1919 AJN, but the Breen rubbing specimen is higher grade and shows more detail.


1787 M1.4-WW Obv.


1787 M1.4-WW Rev.


1787 M5-P Obv.


1787 M5-P Rev.

Both the 1787 M1.4-WW (Norweb coin, acquired from New Netherlands in 1957) and the 1787 M5-P (Hall coin, ANS, acquired 1952 from BG Johnson/New Netherlands) have been listed in the Connecticut taxonomy since the 1890s, but were not plated until the 1970s.


1787 M9-R Rev.


1787 M33.9-s.2 Rev.


1787 M50-F Obv.


1787 M52-G.2 Obv.

The 1787 R reverse was plated in the Miller AJN, so the supplemental rubbing is likely to add another high-grade piece to the knowledge base. The 1787 s.2 reverse and the 1787 50 obverse and 52 obverses were not plated in the AJN nor in the 1920 Miller sale (and are particularly high-grade examples, the latter in NN December 1968).


1788 M4.2-R Obv.


1788 M6-H Obv.


1788 M7-F.2 Rev.


1788 M16.7-P Rev.

The 1788 M4.2-R (Barnsley/Turoff coin) was not plated in the Miller AJN nor in the 1920 sale. The 1788 M6-H was plated in the 1919 AJN text, but the Breen rubbing is of another high-grade example. Neither the 1788 reverses F.2 (NN June 1958) nor P (Picker 1957, later in Taylor) were plated in Miller publications.

There were pencil rubbings of several other Connecticut copper varieties in Breen's annotated Miller, but hopefully you "get the picture." These were high quality rubbings of important coins, many of which would not be professionally plated with public domain photographs for many years to come. It helped to be part of an organization like New Netherlands, which was pulling colonials from Virgil Brand's stash of the Dr. Thomas Hall and Carl Wurtzbach collections through B.G. Johnson and had access to the 1950 Stepney Hoard at Stack's before most of it was sold privately in 1951.

THOMAS MACHIN'S MILLS

(Gary A. Trudgen)

Anyone with an interest in early American coinage has heard of Machin's Mills, a private copper coinage mint established in 1787 during the Confederation period of the United States. The mint was located near Newburgh, New York, on an outlet from a body of water then called the Great Pond, but known today as Orange Lake. The land where the mint was located was owned by George Clinton, the first governor of New York who was elected in 1777 and served until 1795.[1] Clinton purchased the land from Munson Ward on March 20, 1782. This plot of land consisted of 108 acres adjoining the lake on both sides of a natural overflow outlet along the eastern shore.[2] It is believed that Clinton purchased this land because the outlet fed Quassaick Creek where he had mills which were powered by the creek.[3]

Thomas Machin was a good friend of the Clinton family. During the American Revolution, General George Washington ordered Lieutenant Thomas Machin to go to the Hudson Highlands on July 21, 1776, and serve under the command of Colonel George Clinton. The American Army was fortifying the Hudson River against a British attack and needed someone to take charge of these fortifications. Machin had trained under James Brindley while in England and was an excellent civil engineer.[4] During an attack on the Hudson Highlands in October 1777 by British General Sir Henry Clinton, Machin was wounded in his right shoulder by a musket ball. He was taken to the farm of his commanding officer, George Clinton, where he received very kind treatment while he was recovering from his wound. At the end of the war, in a letter dated January 21, 1783, George Clinton asked Thomas Machin to improve his newly acquired land at Great Pond by erecting a "dwelling house and etc." Machin, who was newly married and living a short distance away at Murderer's Creek (known today as Moonda Creek) promptly agreed and got to work. On April 17, 1783, Machin wrote Clinton saying that he expected to have the dwelling house ready to move into within five weeks or near the end of May 1783.

With the house completed, Machin, who had proven himself during the war by his hard work and leadership, organized a group of local men and dug a canal, known as a millrace, from the lake shoreline to a small pond fed by the natural outlet stream, about 78 rods distant (Figure 1). The millrace, which had a drop of 18 feet from the lake to the small pond, was just north of the natural outlet stream and would be used to power watermills. A gate was installed at the input to the millrace to regulate the water flow from the lake, and further down the millrace the natural outlet stream was diverted into it. About a year and a half after moving his family into the house, Machin wrote to Alexander Clinton on December 11, 1784, saying that he had his gristmill ready to grind grain. Alexander, who owed Machin money, was the nephew of George Clinton.[5] After completing the millrace, Machin constructed a sawmill and a gristmill along the millrace, just before it flowed into the small pond. The lumber for the gristmill no doubt came from Machin's own sawmill.

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[1] George Clinton also served a second term as New York governor from 1801 to 1804 before serving as the fourth vice president of the United States from 1805 until his death in 1812.

[2] This tract of land was part of the Baird letters patent which was issued on February 28, 1716, to Alexander Baird, Abraham Van Vlecque, and Hermanus Johnson.

[3] The outlet stream from the lake is named Chamber's Creek. It flowed about three miles before joining Quassaick Creek which flows into the Hudson River at Newburgh.

[4] James Brindley (1716-1772) was a notable English engineer specializing in building canals.

[5] Alexander was the son of James Clinton.

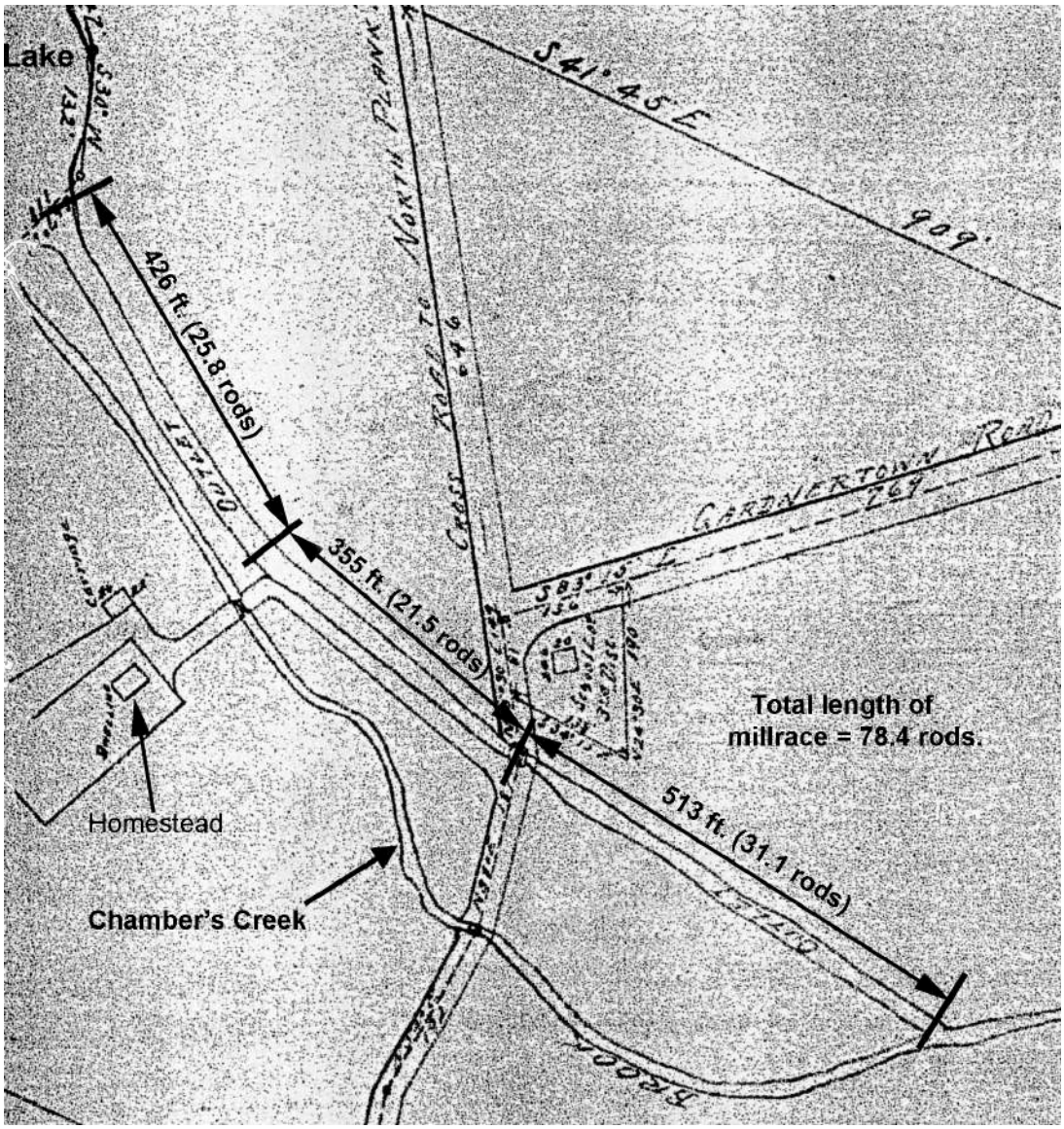


Figure 1: Annotated section of a March 1876 survey map showing the natural lake outlet (Chamber's Creek) and the millrace (labeled "OUTLET" on the map) that Thomas Machin and his neighbors dug in 1784. The total length of the millrace was 1294 feet (78.4 rods). Taken from Mill Co.'s Lands, Orange Lake, NY, map. Civil Engineer: Charles Caldwell.

On January 11, 1785, Congress relocated to New York City and again began deliberations on a national coinage. A copper coinage was of immediate interest, gaining the attention of several local citizens who believed they could profit under a government contract. Machin became caught up in this enthusiasm when he was introduced to others with the same interest. Samuel Atlee, who operated a porter brewery on the outskirts of New York City, also operated a private mint within the confines of the brewery. This mint was run by Walter Mould and Atlee's son, James. Walter Mould, an experienced coiner, was working with Congress in the hope of obtaining a national coinage contract. Later that year, Samuel Atlee purchased a 1,250-acre farm along Murderer's Creek on July 23, 1785, suggesting that he was drawn to this area from conversations with Machin. Thomas Machin knew this area well. As previously mentioned, he was living there when Clinton asked him to develop his land at Orange Lake, and during the war, Machin constructed and sank *chevaux-de-frise* in the

Hudson River at the mouth of the creek, along with a 14-cannon battery to cover the river defense.[6] On March 3, 1787, Machin was the last person to petition the New York Legislature for a copper coinage grant; Samuel Atlee's son, James, was the first. While the state was deliberating if they should mint their own copper coinage, Machin joined with five other men, including Samuel Atlee and his son James, to form a coinage company on April 18, 1787. Machin agreed that his mills at Great Pond could be used for the operation and Samuel Atlee provided the coinage machinery from his brewery operation.

Long after the coinage mint at his father's mills closed, Thomas N. Machin, Jr., provided Dr. Franklin Benjamin Hough of Albany, New York, with a description of the mint operations. This first-hand description is the best available today, and it rings true with what is known about other mints of this period.[7] Junior wrote that the coinage "building was wood, thirty by forty feet, and two stories high."[8] What he described must have been the gristmill that his father built in 1784 since a mint building would not need a second story. Machin's son's information suggesting that the mint had been housed in the gristmill is supported by Sylvester Crosby's 1875 magnum opus, *The Early Coins of America*, where he quotes the numismatic notes of Charles Ira Bushnell saying "The [mint house] building was erected in 1784, by Thomas Machin, and was still standing in 1792, at which time the rollers, press and cutting machine were taken out." When the Machin coinage partnership joined with Reuben Harmon, Jr.'s coinage firm in Rupert, Vermont, the June 7, 1787 indenture states that the Machin group were to "complete at their own proper cost & charges the works now erecting at the mills of the said Thomas Machin." This could indicate that an additional structure was being erected in 1787 in support of the coinage operation.

Legal proceedings provide additional information on the structures Machin erected along the millrace before he moved his family to Montgomery County, New York in 1791.[9] Four decades later, several mill owners located further down the stream fed by the outlet that Machin had developed, obtained a court-ordered injunction against the current owner of the outlet, preventing him from restricting the flow of water to their mills. The land owner, Rufus Belknap, appealed the decision to the higher court of Chancery on October 22, 1832.[10] The injunction states in part: "That in 1783, Thomas Matchin[11] cut a canal a little to the east of the natural outlet of the pond, and extending a considerable distance, and erecting thereon, about 70 rods from the pond, a copper-mill,[12] sawmill, and gristmill, and, by erecting a dam across the natural outlet, turned the waters of the pond into the ditch for the use of the mills. The copper-mill and sawmills [*sic*] were soon abandoned and have gone to ruin: the gristmill has been suffered to go wholly out of repair, and has not been used for any milling purpose for more than two years."

Information found in the court injunction confirms that Machin had erected a third structure, called a copper mill, along the millrace. This raises the question as to what was housed in this structure that was relevant to mint operations. Machin's son and Bushnell's material point to the gristmill as being used as the mint house. Little is known about the gristmill other than its physical size, with a footprint of 1200 square feet. Two mint

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[6] Trudgen, Gary A., "Samuel Atlee's New York City Brewery and Mint," *The Journal of Early American Numismatics*, Vol. 1, No. 2, American Numismatic Society, New York, NY, pp. 40-41, December 2018.

[7] Thomas N. Machin, Jr. was born on July 17, 1785, so he was only 5-6 years old when the mint closed operations. Obviously, he saw the mint in operation but at this young age much of what he provided Dr. Hough must have been passed down to him by his father.

[8] See the appendix for Machin's son's description of his father's coinage operation.

[9] Julia Casey serendipitously found this legal information and shared it with the author.

[10] Belknap v. Trimble et al., *Reports of Cases Adjudged and Determined in the Court of Chancery of the State of New York*, Book III, The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company, Rochester, New York, pp. 281-92, 1888.

[11] This spelling of Machin's surname may indicate how it was pronounced at this time.

[12] Today, a copper mill refers to a structure for the processing of copper ore. Its use here obviously is in reference to Machin's copper coinage mint.

operations required the power of the gristmill's waterwheel. The gristmill was most likely used to power a rolling mill to reduce copper ingots to the thickness of a coin. Also, Machin's son stated that the copper blanks or planchets were placed in a cylinder along with sand, sawdust, and water and rotated throughout the night to smooth the edges prior to stamping. In addition to these two operations, it would be logical to include cutting out the blanks within the same building. Thus, the gristmill was undoubtedly dedicated to manufacturing copper blanks made ready for stamping.

The structure termed a copper mill was probably not water-powered. It may have housed the stamping press because, according to Machin's son, it was very large, with 500-pound lead weights at each end of a 10-foot-long iron bar. It took five men to operate the press. Two men swung the bar halfway around to stamp a coin, and two other men pulled the bar back, At the same time a fifth man sat in a pit in the floor, feeding copper blanks onto the anvil die face and then replacing the stamped coin with a fresh blank (Figure 2).[13] Also, an annealing furnace or hearth was required at the mint site to soften rolled ingots and the cut blanks which became work-hardened during processing. If a reverberatory furnace was used, it could have also been housed in the copper mill structure. Radford Curdy (1935-2002), a Dutchess County historian and amateur archeologist, found burnt ash when he explored the mint site, strongly suggesting that either a furnace or hearth or both were present at the site.[14] Machin's son stated that the mint workers sometimes wore masks creating terror in the community. This implies that they were outside the mint building while wearing the masks, which indicates an exterior high-temperature hearth was in use and the masks protected the men from the high heat and flying sparks.[15]

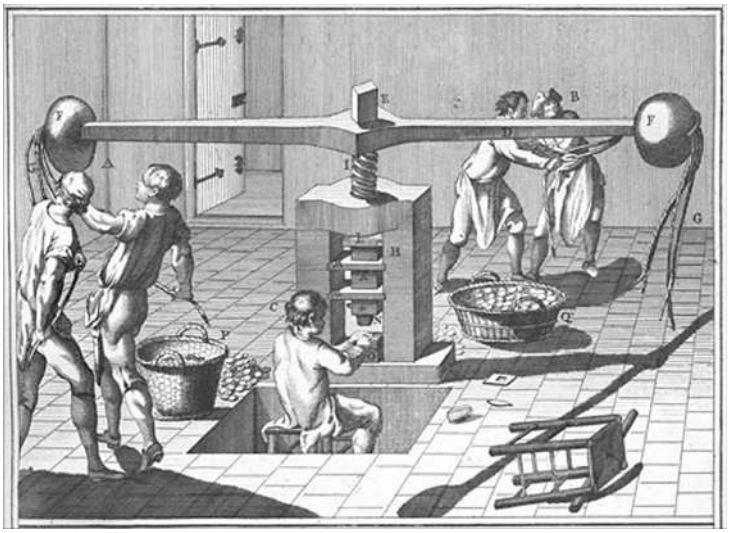


Figure 2: A large coinage press, like the one described by Machin's son. Illustration from *Diderot's Encyclopedia*, first published in France in 1751.

[13] The dies used in the stamping press for coinage were fabricated either on-site, off-site, or a combination of both locations. James Atlee is identified as the engraver in Machin's son's description of the mint and it is very likely that he was living at his father's farm along Murderer's Creek at this time. During the war, Thomas Machin assembled sections of the Great Chain on log rafts at Brewster's Forge, situated along the south shore of Murderer's Creek, one mile from the Hudson River. These sections were then floated down the river to West Point, where they were joined and stretched across the river. Since the engraver was living nearby, it is entirely plausible that Brewster's Forge played a role in making the coinage dies for Machin's mint.

[14] Fox, Mark, "In Search of Machin's Mills," *The Numismatist*, American Numismatic Association, Colorado Springs, CO, December 2012. Curdy believed the burnt ash was produced by a smeltery hearth, suggesting that the copper ingots for coining were made on site. However, it is more likely that Machin had the copper ingots produced at a nearby reduction furnace, such as the Sterling Furnace facility near Goshen, New York, where he had components for the West Point chain fabricated in 1778 and his wife's sister was living.

[15] Hodder, Michael, "Halloween at Machin's Mills," *The Colonial Newsletter*, pp. 1190-91, October 1990.

The court-ordered injunction not only provides additional information on Thomas Machin's mills, but also some detail on how Machin interacted with his neighbors and the individuals he worked with while living as a tenant on the governor's land:

Rufus Belknap, the defendant, stated: "Matchin, in his own right, or as agent of the owner of the lands at and including the outlet, erected a copper-mill and sawmill on the creek, about 70 rods below the [great] pond, and such mills going down, a gristmill in their stead: that Machin at his own cost, or that of the owners he represented, aided by the voluntary and occasional labors of the persons residing in the neighborhood who felt an interest in maintaining the mill, cut down the outlet and erected a dam, so that the waters could be maintained at the greatest natural elevation, and by means of a gate could be drawn off as the mills required; and to direct the water into the raceway to the mills, he threw up a small dam of stone and gravel across the creek just below the junction of the raceway with the creek."[16]

Joseph Hallock, when testifying for the defendant, recalled that "he lived in the neighborhood of the [great] pond while Matchin was there, and was once employed by him in his sawmill three or four months. Matchin used to draw the gate at the pond when he wanted water at his mills."

Daniel Belknap, who also testified for the defendant, reported that "he was brought up near the outlet of the [great] pond, and was at it in 1783. There were no improvements at the pond before Matchin came, and he controlled the waters at the pond. The witness owned a sawmill below, and he used to go to Matchin to ask him to let out the water, who let it run, as he was not very tenacious about it."

Samuel Weed, when testifying for the plaintiffs, or the mill owners below the small pond, said "He remembers when the dam and gate at the [great] pond were first built. Matchin lived at the outlet at the time, and he helped put in the dam and gate, as did the owners below." Weed continued saying, "the mill owners below were in the habit of sending hands from all of the mills to dig down the outlet and Matchin said they had a right to come and hoist the gate for water when they pleased."

Today, the mint site has not seen significant development (Figure 3). The ground near the mill sites has been leveled with some fill, and a fire department training center has been constructed.

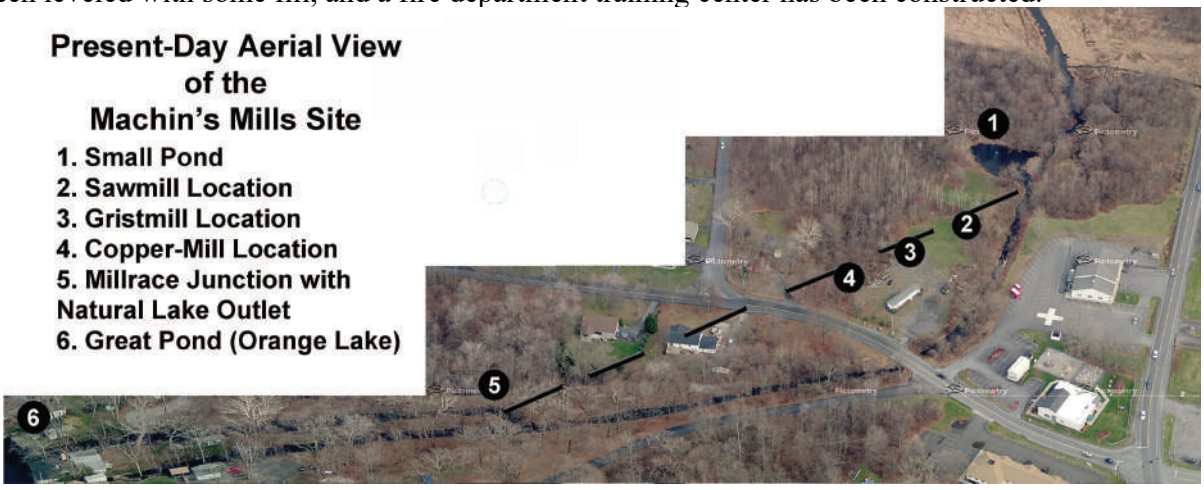


Figure 3: A present-day aerial view of the mint site shows the approximate location of the three mills constructed by Thomas Machin. The millrace was filled in between its junction with the outlet stream and the small pond and is shown by the dotted line.

[16] This statement by the defendant is fairly accurate with the exception of some confusion about the erection of the gristmill. He was probably remembering when the gristmill was refurbished after being used in the mint operations.

Conclusion

A court-ordered injunction, issued four decades after Thomas Machin closed the coinage mint, includes testimonies from his neighbors about the mint and his interactions with the community. Machin's work ethic, engineering expertise, and leadership skills had made a strong impression on his superiors during the late war. These qualities were confirmed by the legal testaments of men who lived and worked with him at Great Pond in civilian life. The injunction also provides further details on the layout of Machin's coinage mint, revealing that, besides the sawmill and gristmill, he had built a third facility known as a copper-mill, challenging the previous belief that the mint was entirely located within the gristmill.

Acknowledgments

The author thanks Julia Casey and Jim Rosen for reviewing this article and suggesting improvements.

Appendix

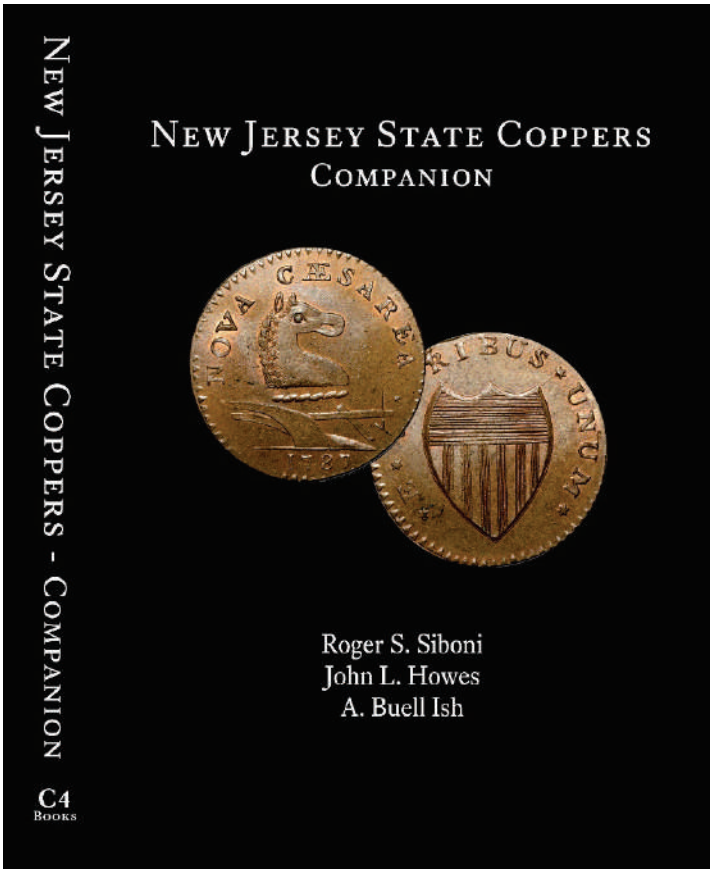
Machin's son's description of his father's coinage mint operation.

The coinage mill was from forty to fifty rods below the pond, on a canal dug for the purpose. The building was wood, thirty by forty feet, and two stories high. The metal used was copper, obtained by melting up cannon and leaving out the zinc in the alloy. The copper was then run into moulds, and rolled into flat sheets the thickness of the coin and from one to two feet wide. It was then punched with a screw, moved by a lever, so adjusted that half a revolution would press out a disk of the size of the coin. The blanks were then put into a cylinder and revolved with sand, saw-dust, and water. They were generally left revolving through the night; and the coiners circulated the story that the devil came by night to work for them. They also sometimes worked in masks to create a terror in the neighborhood. One night in the cylinder would wear the edges of the blanks smooth. The coining press was a screw, with an iron bar about ten feet long through the top. On each end of this bar was a leaden weight of perhaps five hundred pounds. The threads of the screw were large and square and worked through an iron frame. Ropes were attached to each end of the bar, and it was swung about half way around by two men pulling upon the ropes; two other men pulled the lever back, and a fifth laid on the blank with his fingers. The last operative named sat in a pit so that the lever would not touch his head. The coinage was about sixty per minute. A little silver was coined, but mostly copper, and the work was continued four or five years. Atlee, the engraver, wore a horrid mask, and frightened some boys who came to fish so that they never ventured near the mill again. The machinery was removed to New York, and the building was afterwards used as a grist mill. Machin abandoned the enterprise probably about 1790, on the adoption of the Federal constitution.



C4 Press Release: New Book on New Jersey Coppers

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4) is pleased to announce the release of its latest book on American Colonial numismatics, the *New Jersey State Coppers Companion* (C4, 2024). The book is authored by the collaborative team of New Jersey experts Roger S. Siboni, John (Jack) L. Howes, and Buell Ish. It is 400 pages and illustrated in color. C4 President Christopher R McDowell says, “It should not be confused as merely a second edition of the authors’ previously published and wildly popular book on the same topic.” According to McDowell, “It contains original and largely updated information with many never-before-seen photographs of condition census coins. This census information is critical to collectors of all New Jersey coppers.” McDowell adds, "This book is an absolute must-have for colonial coin collectors, specifically those interested in New Jersey coppers.” C4 Vice President Jim Glickman informs collectors that C4 printed a limited run of this new title, which will sell out quickly like the Club’s previous two publications on Machin’s Mills and Connecticut copper coins. The book is available now for $85 plus shipping from C4’s book distributors Kolbe and Fanning: https://www.numislit.com/ and Charlie Davis: https://www.numisbook.com/.



The Colonial Coin Collectors Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to the hobby of collecting American Colonial coins, tokens, medals, and paper money and spreading and sharing knowledge of the hobby. The Club’s website is https://colonialcoins.org/.

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ANALYZING A JOB LOT OF PATENT FARTHINGS

(Mark A. Sportack)

Thanks to a recent bout of bidder's fever, I acquired a job lot from a dealer in Ireland. This lot contained 18 patent farthings from the reigns of King James I and King Charles I as well as some medieval silver pennies. All were recovered by a metal detectorist as single finds in Derbyshire, England and acquired by the dealer as a group. As single finds, this is not a hoard. Rather, they represent a random accumulation of circulating coinage lost within a small geographic area between approximately 1616 and 1630. The widely divergent patinas and dirt deposits on these farthings reinforces their having been lost and recovered singly.

None are in any danger of winning a beauty contest, but all were attributable by reign, and all but five had legible privy marks. Not bad for 400 years in Mother Nature's embrace! Of the 18, 16 offered enough detail as to be useful in a die study. Statistically, one would not expect to find any truly rare examples, and that has been the case. Most are relatively common reign/privy combinations. I had suspected when I bought them that their real value would not be numismatic nor intrinsic. Rather, it was that collectively they offered a tantalizing glimpse into the circulating coinage of Derbyshire in the second quarter of the 17th century.

My first pass at categorization was by reign. Just two were from the reign of King James I – both Lennox issues. It is not possible to know when these farthings were deposited in the soil. One can only assume their deposition was contemporary with their issuance, or shortly thereafter. Of the two Lennox farthings, one featured a muling of a 9-jewel Annulet privy obverse with a 5-jewel reverse. This is an extremely common coin, attributed by Tim Everson as #44a. The other Lennox farthing in this lot proved to be a 5-jewel design with Grapes privy (Everson #77), also a very common variety. Neither were contemporary forgeries but with such a small sample, one can't draw any meaningful conclusions.

That only two of the 18 were made by Lennox strongly suggests patent farthings weren't very popular in Derbyshire during James I's reign. Support for that theory is found in the records of the Harington family, amidst their struggle to have their small flan farthings accepted throughout the Kingdom. Several counties refused to accept them, including Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Flintshire, and Denbighshire. Old habits die hard and even the larger-flan Lennox farthings, apparently, were not immediately accepted.

A decade later, local resistance to patent farthings seems to have dissipated in Derbyshire. The Richmond farthings are, according to this sample, eight times more numerous than the Lennox issues. I've intuitively known that Richmonds were far more plentiful than Lennox farthings. While both enjoyed approximately a 9-year production run, the Richmond series enjoyed a more robust production. This lot afforded me the first opportunity to study a grouping that was large enough to allow comparative analysis.

Studying the 16 Richmond farthings proved quite illuminating. A quick breakdown of them reveals:

- 11 can be attributed by both reign and privy mark
- 11 are authentic Richmond issues
- 5 are contemporary counterfeits made by 3 different operations
- 3 of the counterfeits came from one counterfeiter

The authentic group of Richmonds included:

- Richmond with Cross Patee privy (Everson #71f)
- Richmond with Annulet and Pellet privy (Everson #63b)
- Richmond with Harp privy (Everson #85)
- Richmond with Slipped Trefoil privy (Everson #107b)
- Richmond with Ermine privy (Everson #77)
- Richmond with Cinquefoil privy (Everson #67a)
- Richmond with Crescent, Small privy (Everson #68c)
- Richmond with Lombardic A privy (Everson #60)
- Richmond with Coronet privy (Everson #55b)
- And two with unclear privies.

The first four on the preceding list are somewhat scarce but the others are all very common varieties.

All but one of the five Richmond-style contemporary forgeries are clear enough to associate with known counterfeit families. The fifth is worn to the point where the privy is no longer evident but offers enough residual detail to see that it is not a match for any of the 45 counterfeit families I have catalogued. If this sample is representative of the circulating currency at their time of issuance, then 31.125% of the Richmond-style patent farthings circulating in Derbyshire were counterfeits. While it's not the 50% that gets repeated amongst patent farthing collectors, it's clear that a LOT of Richmond farthings were created illicitly.

A closer look at these five counterfeits reveals an even more interesting datum. They were made by three distinct counterfeiting operations. Of these three, two were previously known to me (arbitrarily identified as the Spikey Pommel and the Lotsa Lis families). The last one is not a match for any of the other counterfeits I have seen or acquired previously.

Although the Lotsa Lis family farthing included in this lot is camera-shy (id est, too ugly to pose for a camera), Figure 1 shows a similar one from my collection.



Figure 1. Lotsa Lis example

The key to identifying members of the Lotsa Lis family is the exuberant use of the fleur-de-lis puncheon. That one puncheon serves as the privy mark, the cross atop the crown's monde, the scepter heads, and all three structures within the crown's cushion. The harp's figural head and foreframe are also visually distinct to this counterfeiter.

Without effort, I have managed to acquire approximately 80 examples of this family during the last 20 years. All feature one of three privy marks: Lis, Lis Two, and Lis Three. Needless to say, all were made with the same puncheon. None are known from the reign of James I, so production seems to have been limited to just a brief time during the early reign of Charles I. Despite its apparently brief production window, surviving examples are quite numerous. This apparent survival rate strongly suggests a high production rate.

The stars of this lot were the three Spikey Pommel family fakes. As with the Lotsa Lis example, photos don't do them justice so I have included a picture of a better preserved one from my collection. (Figure 2)



Figure 2. Spikey Pommel example.

Of the three acquired in this lot, all circulated heavily and only one had an identifiable privy: a Cross Patee. This forger, unlike his counterpart at the Lotsa Lis token house, invested in several privy puncheons. Known privy marks include the Cross Patee, Cross Saltire, Fusil, Annulet with Pellet, and Lis Large.

This family is relatively rare. Since 2004 and prior to acquiring this lot, I had seen or acquired a total of seven examples. To be able to add three simultaneously – all recovered from within a limited geographic area – is a fact that cannot be ignored. This strongly suggests that they were made in the Derbyshire area and circulated most heavily there. It is more than a little ironic that in 10 short years, a county that rejected Lord Harington's tinned little farthings evolved to the point where more than 30% of the farthings in circulation were counterfeits. And some appear to have been locally produced!

This wasn't the prettiest lot I've added to my collection, nor the most valuable or desirable, but what I have learned from it was more than worth the cost of admission.

WHISKEY REBELLION HISTORICAL SITE COINS

(Mark R. Vitunic)



The week before Thanksgiving I visited one of the numerous historical sites associated with the Whiskey Rebellion, the historic Bradford House in Washington, PA, about 30 miles south of Pittsburgh. This house, built in 1788, was the home of David Bradford, considered the de facto leader of the rebellion. It was from this house in late 1794 that Bradford was forced to flee as Alexander Hamilton, supported by 13000 federal troops assembled by President Washington, came knocking on the door, demanding his surrender and arrest. Bradford escaped to Spanish West Florida, and years later was pardoned by President John Adams.

The Whiskey Rebellion (1794) along with Shay's Rebellion (1787), were two seminal events that tested the authority of the nascent federal government. In the case of the Whiskey Rebellion the issue was continued and growing opposition to a federal tax on distilled whiskey, first imposed in 1791. The uproar was at its loudest in southwestern Pennsylvania. This was an era where people on the "wrong" side of this issue, like federal tax collectors, were tarred and feathered, or had their houses burned.

On this chilly Friday in late November, I believe I was the only visitor the Bradford House had had the entire day. That's sad but was also fortunate, as I received the full attention of both docents, who were dressed in period garb. While the purpose of my visit was an interest in the history of the Whiskey Rebellion, like most coin guys I hoped there might be something numismatic to see as well.



Bradford house parlor room.



An attractive display, but all replicas.

In the parlor room, my attention was immediately drawn to a bunch of coins on an old desk! An attractive display, but alas, even from several feet away, it was obvious that they were all replicas: a NE Shilling, Pine Tree Shilling, Higley, Lord Baltimore sixpence, St. Patrick's farthing, Virginia halfpenny,

Continental Dollar, and a bunch of Spanish silver. An interesting assortment, but aside from the Spanish silver, probably very few of those coins would have circulated in Western PA in the late 1700s.

Upon sensing my outsized interest in coins, I was subsequently shown a small binder containing 5 colonial notes and was told that these were reproductions too. However, on inspection, it was immediately clear that unlike the coins, the notes were real, which they were surprised to hear. No great rarities of course but cool to see. The notes, donated to the museum in 2018, were:

Pennsylvania 40 Shillings, Dec. 8, 1775
Maryland 2/3 Dollar, Apr. 10, 1774
Pennsylvania 18 Pence, Apr. 10, 1777
Pennsylvania 2 Shillings, Apr. 25, 1776
Continental Currency, 50 Dollars, Sep. 26, 1778

I asked them. "OK, Anything else?" "Yes, there's a coin from the 1700's on display across the street at the visitor center!" Excited, I made that my next stop after finishing my tour. The coin turned out to be a 1723 George I halfpenny, found on the farm of John Holcroft, a contemporary of David Bradford. Holcroft was another leader and propagandist of the Whiskey Rebellion, going by the pseudonym "Tom the Tinker". The coin was disappointing: a common, low-grade ground find which one would expect to find in a $1 dealer junk box. At least it was far more likely to have circulated in Western PA in the 1700s than the replica types.



A 1723 George I halfpenny, found on the farm of John Holcroft.

The volunteers at the museum were very receptive to my interest in numismatics. One of them asked if I knew anything about a piece of Massachusetts silver that they had heard about recently in the news "which sold for a lot of money". Undoubtedly, they were referring to the second-known Massachusetts NE threepence which 4 days earlier had hammered at auction for $2.52M!

HIDDEN GEMS

(Matthew Virga)

Introduction

"Where are the colonials?!" I hear this question quite a bit when I am at coin shows or talking in numismatic circles with friends. Oftentimes, there is a significant gap from one numismatic purchase to the next and it's hard to predict where the next coin for your collection will surface and when. Whether we're walking the bourse in Baltimore, scouring the back pages of Google, trying to snipe a coin off eBay, or digging deep in resource material for education, what we are seeking is a fresh "hidden gem" that further fuels our collecting interests. The beauty in the journey is that one collecting interest often dovetails into another and you may discover something that you had not intended to. At the end of the day, the numismatic river never ends and there is always another stone to overturn!

The purpose of this article is to highlight and shine a small spotlight into some of my more recent colonial coin finds in order to show that hidden gems are truly still out there ready to be discovered or rediscovered. As I am writing this article. I am humbled by the memories already made and friendships that have been kindled. I am indebted to the wealth of knowledge that has been made available to me through C4 and my numismatic friends.

1786 New Jersey Copper - Maris 18-J

My very first "cherry-pick" came in the fall of 2022. I was walking with fellow C4 member Dan Knight in Baltimore at The Whitman Coin Expo, when this example of 18-J was discovered amongst 8 other New Jersey Coppers available at a dealer table.



Out of the 8 New Jerseys, this was the only one not attributed in the case and the 2x2 flip simply said "Bridle Variety". Needless to say, as someone who collects New Jersey Coppers by die variety, I was very happy to add this one to my collection. Always check your reverses!

1787 New York Excelsior Copper - Eagle on Globe Left

In April of 2024, I was scanning eBay. Typically, colonial coins are automatically classified under "colonials" (based on the title); however, due to how the listing was titled, this coin was under a different eBay numismatic category altogether. It currently resides in an NGC holder (VG Tooled) as genuine; however, after showing the coin to a number of well-respected dealers/scholars, there is a difference of opinion as to whether it is a genuine example of the pattern or a contemporary counterfeit, due to what appears to be a casting port. Regardless, I am very happy to have acquired this piece. As a native New Yorker, and seeing this type in the *Red Book* as a kid, I did not expect to find one in an affordable price range, especially one that flew under the radar. Surprisingly, this coin was listed in a 7-day auction, and there were no other bids.



1787 New Jersey Copper - Maris 13-J - R6

In April of 2022, as part of the sale of the Long Island Collection, this Maris 13-J popped up in a secondary "Internet only" catalog. The coin is rotated in the holder; however, after rotating the photos, we can clearly see that this is indeed a Maris 13-J. It sold for $51.00. I was in complete shock after the auction ended, due to the final hammer price. At the time, it was a variety that I was missing, and to add this one, was a real treat and gift that I am very thankful for. One thing I have learned in my short time of collecting, is to really study the coins that are cataloged in auctions. Sometimes, certain coins are overlooked or misattributed.



Machin's Mills Discoveries

Ever since I picked up the first edition of "The History & Coinage of Machin's Mills" by Jim Rosen, Gary Trudgen, and Jack Howes, I have read it cover to cover multiple times. I have studied each die variety in hopes of coming across examples of the type at local coin shows and online listings. I must say that this book has been the richest numismatic literature purchase I have made to date and has been my favorite numismatic read. I am indebted to the authors and how well they assembled this book as well as the overall format.

Since 2021, and especially in the last year, I have been somewhat of a "Machin's magnet". I have found new examples of 1-47A, 2-71A, 4-75A, 5-72A, 5-74A, 6-72A, 7-74A, 6-76A, 12-78B, and 23-87C, as well as found quality examples of some of the more common varieties. I've included a few photos of the found examples below:



6-72A - R6 (Found at a coin show in Parsippany, NJ)



7-74A - R6 (Found on Facebook)



23-87C - R7 (Found on Facebook for $3.00)

Rare Contemporary Counterfeit - 1787 Massachusetts Cent

My most recent cherry-pick, and honestly, my best pick to date is this newly discovered 1787 Massachusetts Cent - Ryder 1-B. In speaking with Mike Packard, this example ranks high up in the condition census, and is the 12th known, only trailing a few premium examples. I was browsing a website that infrequently sells colonial coins and lo and behold this coin was in the directory.



1787 Massachusetts Cent - Ryder 1-B "Aged Face" - R7

Conclusion

In the world of numismatics, the thrill of discovery is both timeless and boundless. Whether it's unearthing a colonial coin that tells a forgotten story or forging connections with fellow enthusiasts who share your passion, the journey is as valuable as the treasures we seek. Each piece unearthed—be it a coin, a tidbit of knowledge, or a lasting friendship—adds depth to our collective understanding. As collectors, we are more than just enthusiasts; we are temporary curators of history, entrusted with the care and preservation of these artifacts for future generations. Every overturned stone and every new find brings us closer to safeguarding the rich tapestry of history embedded in these coins. So, keep exploring, keep learning, and keep sharing—because the next hidden gem is always just around the corner. Thank you for giving attention to a glimpse of my personal story.

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GREETINGS C4 MEMBERS FROM EAC PRESIDENT BOB KLOSTERBOER

(Bob Klosterboer)

My name is Bob Klosterboer, and I am the President of Early American Coppers (EAC). I recently participated in my first C4 convention as a new C4 member. During the convention, I had the opportunity to meet with Chris McDowell to discuss our great organizations and exchange ideas. Chris also invited me to pen a note to C4 about EAC and some of the things we have in the works.

First off, my impression of the C4 convention was that it's GREAT! I have been a member of EAC since 1987 and attended most of our conventions during that time. The C4 convention was the first time I had experienced another organization as passionate (at least) as we are at EAC. I saw a group of highly dedicated collectors and educators who are as interested in understanding more about a particular variety or die state as they are about purchasing one. The camaraderie and willingness to share their passion was evident in the educational forums, dealer tables, and less formal sessions after the bourse closed.

I also want to put in a plug for why I think members of C4 should think about looking into EAC membership. EAC differs from C4 in that we only cover coins, not currency. I found learning about early currency fascinating during your convention. EAC also covers all early American copper coins. Colonial coins, half cents, large cents, and hard times tokens. Many of the attractions to early copper, like the minting processes, die varieties, die states, survival rates, and grading, are shared between EAC and C4. We also have an annual convention that moves around the country, where we have educational forums, a large collector/dealer bourse, and a fantastic club auction. Our convention in 2025 will be in Pittsburgh, PA, from May 14 through 18 and is free to anyone who would like to attend.

I believe another attraction to EAC is the new website that we will be launching in February 2025. While our current website contains much valuable information, the new one will contain even more reference material and be easier to use. Our website is EACS.org, and it's a good place to learn more about our club and our passion.

If you are interested in checking us out further, you can go to the EACS.org site and sign up for a free 90-day membership. Signing up for the free trial membership is a good way to access the entire site and receive a copy of our quarterly journal, "Penny-wise." There is also a link on the site to ask any questions you may have about EAC or to make comments. The query comes directly to my email, and I assure you your questions will be answered.

Please reach out at any time,

Bob Klosterboer
President, Early American Coppers

Early American Coppers



If you have an interest in Early American Copper Cents, Half Cents, Tokens, Medals etc., Please visit our web page and consider joining this prestigious Club.

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EAC COLONIAL HAPPENING
MAY 15, 2025 – PITTSBURGH, PA

(Ray Williams)

The 2025 EAC Convention is being held May 14-18, 2025 in Pittsburgh, PA at the City Center Marriott Hotel. Thursday evening's "Happenings" will again be on the topics of Large Cents, Half Cents, and Colonials. The room numbers and times will be available as the convention approaches.

All are invited to attend the Colonial Happening. Those attending are encouraged to bring an item (or two or three) from their collection to share with all present. It could be a new acquisition, your favorite, something unusual, or something you have questions about. No one will be handling your coins except you and me. I will place your item on a pad under a camera, and the image will be projected on a screen for all to view and enjoy.

If you don't have something to share, attend anyway. If you are participating in the other Happenings, duck into the Colonial Happening when you have free moments and see what we're doing. This is an informal time of sharing and having fun. I hope to see many friends and new faces there. If you have any questions, email me at njraywms@optonline.net or call/text 609-647-4958.

REVIEW OF *THE HISTORY AND COINAGE OF MACHIN'S MILLS, 2ND EDITION*, BY JACK HOWES, JAMES ROSEN, AND GARY TRUDGEN

(Jesse T. Holzer)

The second edition of *The History and Coinage of Machin's Mills*, by Jack Howes, Jim Rosen, and Gary Trudgen, came out in November, and I bought a copy as soon as possible. You see, a couple of years ago, as a newish collector (new in this millennium anyway), I found that the first edition was completely unavailable, and I expect that this new one will be just as popular. It has everything that made the first edition the key reference for the Machin's Mills series, and a whole lot more.

When I did obtain a copy of the first edition, it was exactly what I needed as a collector just getting my bearings in this series. These essentials include a listing of die varieties, photos and descriptions to help identify them, rarity ratings, and condition census information. For the experts, biographical material on Thomas Machin, James Atlee, and the other central characters involved in the production of these coins enhances the enjoyment. The authors consistently supply careful references to the sources of this information. This was very important to me as an aid to understanding not just what we know about these coins but also how we know it.

A very interesting feature of this series that makes it different from the various state coppers series is that its boundaries are not so easily defined. What is a Machin's Mills copper? And what is not? Much of the history of numismatics of this series has been about constructing it, defining it, and redefining it. The authors trace this history, from Crosby and Betts, to Newman and Vlack, and beyond. They make their own contribution to this project of defining the series in at least two ways. First, their scholarship identifying the three main mints involved highlights that not all of these coins had anything to do with Thomas Machin - but we call them all "Machins" anyway, because that is how we have come to collect them, over decades. Second, by covering varieties from other series that are known or believed for one reason or another to have been coined at Machin's Mills or Atlee's Brewery or to be some other way associated, the authors posit a much expanded collecting space. For me, this complicated and ongoing history of the numismatics of the series was one of the things that got me hooked, and I have these authors to thank for that.

The new edition adds much new and valuable material. I particularly appreciated the expanded discussion of die states and emission sequences, with accompanying photos. For example, an early die state of Vlack 24-72C is pictured - before seeing that in the book, I was not even aware of the existence of that die state. I also see really helpful new die state photos for 3-74A, 9-76B, 15-85NY, and reverse 87A. The section on 13-87CT points out the very interesting fact that 13-78B was struck both before and after 13-87CT. That is not a new fact - I think it comes from George Seifrit's article in the Colonial Newsletter #138. But it is new to the book, relative to the first edition, so it's the first time I'm seeing it. Now I'm inspired to take a closer look at some examples of these varieties, and read the older literature more closely.

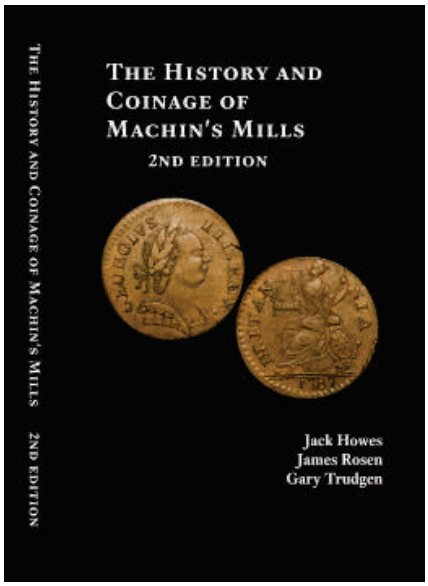
The discussion of 9-76B sent me back to the neat article by Jim and Mark Vitunic in the Summer 2023 issue of the C4 Newsletter. I really like how the authors connect back to recent research, as this helps highlight how we are still learning about this series even now. The same comment applies to the discussion of the unusually shaped S punch linking some Nova Constellatio varieties and some Machins varieties, as shown in Gary's article in the Spring 2024 issue.

My only complaint about the book is that some of the rarity ratings seem to be a bit off. 5-74A is said to be R-6, and that sounds right for the early obverse die state, but the die variety generally is more like R-4.

And 20-87C is called R-7, but it is certainly more like R-6. Those might be typos, but others seem to have been caused by the continuing accumulation of new finds. For example 6-72A might still be R-6 but it is getting really close to the edge, and I think 5-72A is already out of R-6. This is not a new challenge for rarity ratings and the authors cannot be faulted for not solving it.

More copies of this book were badly needed - this is a popular series! This new edition helps remedy that. C4 publications inevitably face a dilemma - print too few, and we cannot serve the needs of collectors, but we cannot afford to print too many. Even though this book will probably sell out soon, I have no doubt that it will get a lot of new collectors interested in Machins, just like the first edition did for me.

NEW 2nd EDITION OF MACHIN'S MILLS BOOK NOW AVAILABLE



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ELIZABETH VANDYNE: THE KITCHEN TABLE COUNTERFEITER OF MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

(Julia Casey)

Sometime in February 1776, Elizabeth Vandyne[1] took a pen and a pair of compasses and counterfeited a Continental currency three-dollar bill. After she made three of them, she moved on to the one-dollar bill and made three of those.[2] Not much is known about Elizabeth besides what is recorded during a span of a few months in 1776. Prior to this time, she appears to have been a proper colonial-era housewife who lived in Morris County, New Jersey, with her husband, Henry ("Hank"). It is unknown if the couple had any children.

Elizabeth said she copied the bills by "taking a true bill and laying it on a clean paper, and pricking it through with a pin." This provided her with the pattern of the design. She next took two pieces of paper, cut out the shape of the bills, "put some starch between, with the point of a knife, and then put the two pieces of paper together, and while they were damp, sprinkled on isinglass,[3] and then pressed with a warm smoothing-iron." Then, with her pen and also using a red ink made with horse blood[4], Elizabeth used her pinprick patterns to fill in "all the prints and the flowers." Lastly, she signed the signers' names.[5]

Henry Vandyne was incredulous when his wife told him "in a jocose way, that she could make the Continental money." He had frequently seen her attempting to do it and, at first, deterred her, "but after he saw in what manner they were done, and found they would pass, he encouraged her to proceed, by telling her he thought it would do as well as any." Henry was correct that in certain circumstances, Elizabeth's clever handiwork would pass, but it would not withstand scrutiny, and within a short time, the jig was up. By April, Elizabeth and Henry were in the Morris County jail charged with counterfeiting and passing bills of Continental currency.

Yet a problem of legality arose when it was discovered that no law specifically addressed this situation. Continental currency was not a legal tender in New Jersey. This meant that a creditor was not required to accept it for a debt, and a vendor had the right to refuse it. Elizabeth and Henry offered the forged currency to pay their debts and buy items, but all those they transacted with had a right to refuse to take the bills, just as with any barter contract. The Committee of Observation of the Township of Morris proposed the Vandynes be "punished by the common law for forgery… and as cheats, in passing counterfeit money for good." However, it was also considered that the "Colonies in general" would want to have a procedure to punish counterfeiters of the Continental currency. Not knowing what to do, the Committee of Observation sent the kit and caboodle of prisoners, affidavits, confessions, the six counterfeit bills, one true bill, and Elizabeth's implements, all

[1] Also, Vandine.

[2] There is some confusion about the number of bills Elizabeth made. She said she made three of the three-dollar bills and three of the one-dollar bills. Henry said there were four of the three-dollar bills and two of the one-dollar bills. The Committee of Observation was said to have received six bills in evidence and later reported there were seven counterfeit bills, "which we believe to be the whole number."

[3] This would have given the appearance of mica flakes in the paper.

[4] This was to forge the red ink signature.

[5] These affidavits can all be found within *From the Letters and Papers of Thomas Paine*, 1779-85, Records of the Office of Congress, 1781-89, and Records Relating to the Passing of Counterfeit Money, 1776. *Papers of the Continental Congress*, 55, M247, pp. 342-63.

"under guard of a detachment of Light-Horse" to New Brunswick for the direction of the New Jersey Committee of Safety.

The affidavits tell us how Mary, the wife of Philip Tucker received the "annexed three-dollar bill" from Hank Vandyne on March 19th in payment for a little over two dollars in articles. Mary Tucker gave Henry his change in good money. The counterfeit bill was described as "No. of said bill 24,951, date 10th May, 1775, endorsed: Printed by Hall & Sellers."[6]



A genuine May 10, 1775 three-dollar bill of Continental currency for reference. Elizabeth Vandyne counterfeited a bill with the serial number 24951. Courtesy of Stack's Bowers, March 14, 2024, lot #93009.

On March 26, 1776, Henry Vandyne's brother Isaac[7] asked for a loan of a shilling or two. Instead, Henry offered him a counterfeit three-dollar bill. Isaac tried to use the bill to buy a mug of beer from the wife of William Gordon, but they both became suspicious as it was "too blotted," so Isaac returned the bill to Henry. Henry gave a one-dollar bill to Richard Vanderhoof, who tried to pass it at Isaac Lewis's tavern in Mendham, but it was rejected as a counterfeit. On April 3rd, Henry passed a one-dollar bill to Mark Walton in Rockaway to go toward a debt. When Walton offered the bill to Caleb Howel, he was told that "he would not give a copper for it." Walton still possessed the bill when he gave his affidavit.

Like Mary Tucker, other local residents took the bills without reservation. The tavernkeeper, Cornelius Davenport, accepted a three-dollar bill from Hank Vandyne for cider and food for Hank and Isaac, and returned good money in change. Elizabeth passed a three-dollar bill to Elizabeth Fordice to pay a debt Henry owed to Samuel Fordice. Davenport and Samuel Fordice put these bills into circulation. Elizabeth also passed a three-dollar bill to John Panton to buy some calico. By this time Elizabeth and Henry began to get nervous, especially since Panton "could not keep anything in." So, Elizabeth went back the next day and took the bill back from Panton. Counterfeit bills also went to Matthew Vandyne [who may have been another of Henry's brothers]. Henry owed Matthew money and Matthew was the supplier of Elizabeth's paper, though Henry affirmed that he "believed the said Matthew did not know the paper was wanted for any bad purpose."

The last bill to be passed was a one-dollar bill that Elizabeth paid to Samuel Moon. There was now a "disturbance about the bills" in the town, and a scandal was brewing. Elizabeth returned to Moon and took the

[6] Unfortunately, a copy of this bill was not made available in the records.
[7] Isaac Vandyne is indicated to be a junior. This implies that Henry Vandyne's father was Isaac Vandyne, senior.

bill back from him. She put it in her pocket with a good bill, and they were both there when she was apprehended a short time later.

Like the Committee of Observation, the Committee of Safety did not know what to do with the Vandynes. It was ordered that they remain jailed while requests were made to the Continental Congress for advice and direction "to enable the said Provincial Congress to take such measures with the offenders, and form Regulations for preventing such offences in future…." Congress formed a committee for the "consideration of an attempt made to counterfeit the bills of credit, emitted by Congress." On June 7, 1776, the committee issued a report "that Elizabeth Vandine, the wife of Henry Vandine, of Morris County, in the Province of New Jersey, with the Privity of her said Husband, has counterfeited several Bills of the Continental Currency, some of which were passed by the said Vandine, and others of them by his wife," and the following Resolutions:

> *That it be recommended to the provincial Convention of the Province of New Jersey to direct the said Henry Vandine to make satisfaction to such persons as have been injured by taking the said counterfeit bills.*
>
> *That the said Henry and Elizabeth remain in Confinement, or be let out on good Bail for their appearance to abide their trial for the above offense, as to the said Convention shall seem most proper.*
>
> *That it be recommended to the respective Legislatures of the United Colonies to pass Acts of Legislation for making the continental Bills of Credit a lawful tender in all payments, and for the most effectual preventing the counterfeiting thereof.*

On August 17, 1776, the New Jersey Provincial Congress resolved "That the Bills of Credit emitted by the honourable Continental Congress be a legal tender within the State of New-Jersey, for all sums of money due and owing from one person to another." The following month on September 20, 1776, in what may be a direct response to the confusion over how to adjudicate Elizabeth Vandyne's counterfeit bills, was passed: "An Act to render certain Bills of Credit a legal Tender within this State, and to prevent the counterfeiting of the same, and other Bills of Credit." This act made a conviction for counterfeiting or uttering any Bills of Credit "emitted and made current by any of the Assemblies, Conventions, or Congresses of any of the United States of North America" a felony, punishable by death.

With the specific resolutions of the Continental Congress, it seems likely that Morris County controlled the charges and held the trial to determine the guilt of Elizabeth and Henry. Since the case came back to where it started, the proposal of the Committee of Observation of the Township of Morris that the Vandynes be "punished by the common law for forgery… and as cheats, in passing counterfeit money for good" may have been the outcome. However, war and upheaval were on the horizon for Morris County, New Jersey and these greater forces may have intervened to lessen the court's punishments.[8]

Elizabeth Vandyne may have been motivated by household debt in February 1776 when she came up with a scheme to counterfeit bills of Continental currency. Elizabeth was also a resourceful colonial American who may have wanted to prove to her husband, and to herself, that she had the skills to create bills that would pass. The choice of counterfeiting bills of Continental currency may have been intentionally made by

[8] Unfortunately, conclusive records have not yet been located for this trial or for what became of the Vandynes. Henry may be the same Henry Vandyne who served as a private with New Jersey troops in the Continental Army, was wounded in the Battle of Brandywine, and died in October 1777. Elizabeth may have ended up in New York City, dying at the age of 84 in 1826.

Elizabeth, knowing it was not legal tender in New Jersey and consequently not included in the counterfeiting laws. What could not be anticipated was the ripple effect of those few small bills made by Elizabeth at her Morris County kitchen table, which propelled the Continental Congress to issue resolutions and New Jersey to pass a law.



A practice emblem from a one-dollar bill made by Elizabeth Vandyne.
From the *Letters and Papers of Thomas Paine, 1779-85*, Records of the Office of Congress, 1781-89, and Records Relating to the Passing of Counterfeit Money, 1776. *Papers of the Continental Congress*, 55, M247, page 362.



A genuine one-dollar bill of Continental currency for reference. Courtesy of Stack's Bowers, March 23, 2009, lot #8668.

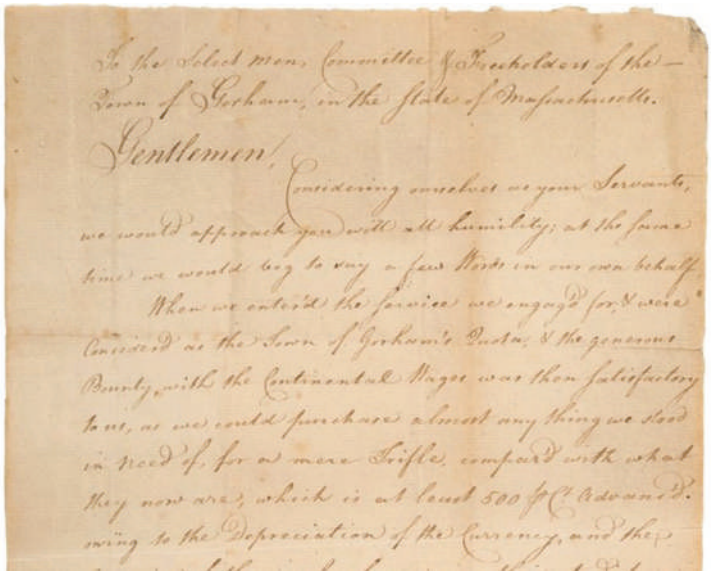
Many thanks to Chris McDowell and Roger Moore for reviewing this article prior to publication.

EFFECT OF THE DEPRECIATION OF THE CONTINENTAL DOLLAR DURING THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE DUE TO COUNTERFEITING

(Roger A. Moore, MD)

INTRODUCTION: As colonists contemplated uniting against British rule, the cost that such a rebellion would incur was very apparent, as was the lack of ways to fund such a war effort. The options were limited to revenue producers such as Continental Congressional authorized lotteries, the printing of fiat currency with future redemption dates, and incurring significant national debt with foreign sources. The issuance of fiat currency was a successful method but became a severe problem later in the war effort. Beginning in 1775 and through 1779, the Continental Congress issued $241,552,780 in paper money.[1] However, a significant amount of this total was used to redeem previously issued currency emissions due to recalls of issued currency from excessive counterfeiting. When the first congressionally authorized fiat paper money was issued in 1775, the valuation of a Continental dollar was two paper dollars equivalent to one Spanish Milled dollar. By 1779, the equivalency rate had deteriorated to the point that the official exchange rate had decreased to fifty paper dollars, equal to one Spanish Milled dollar. However, the populous opinion of paper money's valuation in 1779 was quite different. A diary written by a captured British soldier during this period showed the erosion of the spending power of the paper dollar to the extent that by 1779, the public was demanding as much as one thousand paper dollars for a Spanish Milled dollar, that is if they would accept paper dollars at all.[2] Though much of this depreciation can be directly attributed to the excessive printing of paper money with no secure backing for future repayment, this devaluation of the paper money was also exacerbated by a flood of counterfeit paper money being poured into the economy by both the British and by Americans loyal to Britain.

DEPRECIATION'S EFFECT ON THE WAR EFFORT: The rapid devaluation of the paper dollar seriously threatened America's fight for freedom from British rule. An example of this problem is shown by a letter to the Freeholders of the town of Gorham, Massachusetts on September 5, 1779, signed by "The Soldiers from & for the Town of Gorham… in Genl. Glover's Brigade" (Figure 1). The gist of the letter indicated that the severe depreciation of the Continental Currency had undermined the true level of compensation that had been agreed upon when the soldiers had enlisted. An immediate increase in the amount of compensation adjusted for the depreciation was needed or there was a real threat that the soldiers would disband, a situation that would have severely compromised the war effort.



To the Select men Committee & Freeholders of the Town of Gorham, in the State of Massachusetts.

Gentlemen,

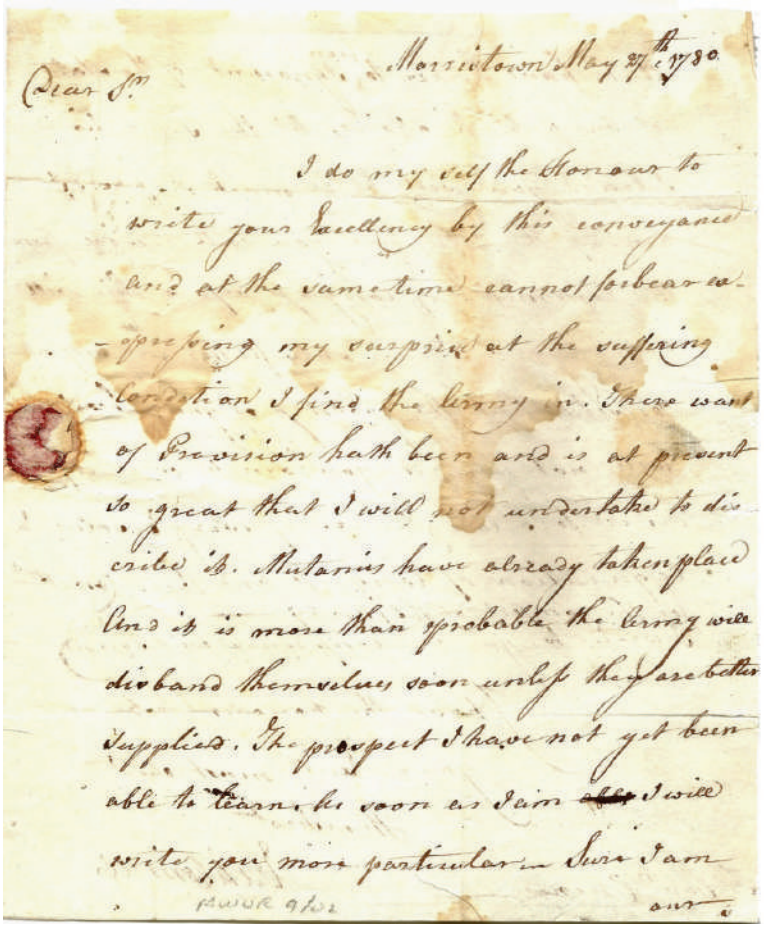
Figure 1. A letter from September 5, 1779, written to Gorham, Massachusetts Freeholders, requesting an immediate increase in soldiers' compensation due to the severe depreciation of wages from the devaluation of the Continental dollar. (author)

[1] Eric Newman, *The Early Paper Money of America*, 6th edition, 2023, p.15.
[2] E. A. Benians, (editor), *A Journal by Thos: Hughes (1778-1789),* University Press, Cambridge, 1947.

A partial transcript of the letter is:
Considering ourselves as your Servants... we would beg to say a few words in our own behalf. When we entered the service we engaged for, & were considered, as the town of Gorham's Quota, & the generous bounty, with the Continental Wages, was then satisfactory to us, as we could purchase almost anything we stood in need of, for a mere trifle, compared with what they now are, which is at least 500 pct advanced owing to the Depreciation of our currency & the avarice of those who have any thing to dispose of. - But the poor soldiers have no remedy, but must continue at the same inadequate Pay he at first engaged for, which is too inconsiderable to be mentioned. - We are Fatigued with marching from one Corner of the World to Another to Defend our Country, & in particular the Proprietors of it, at home in Ease and affluence, & suffering heat, Cold, & sometimes Hunger and Thirst & in short everything but Death... We humbly beg that similar measures may be adopted for our Relief... unless some method is taken to make our Wages equal to the Exorbitancy of the Times, there's nothing but the fear of the Whip or Halter that can be an inducement to us to Continue in the Service.

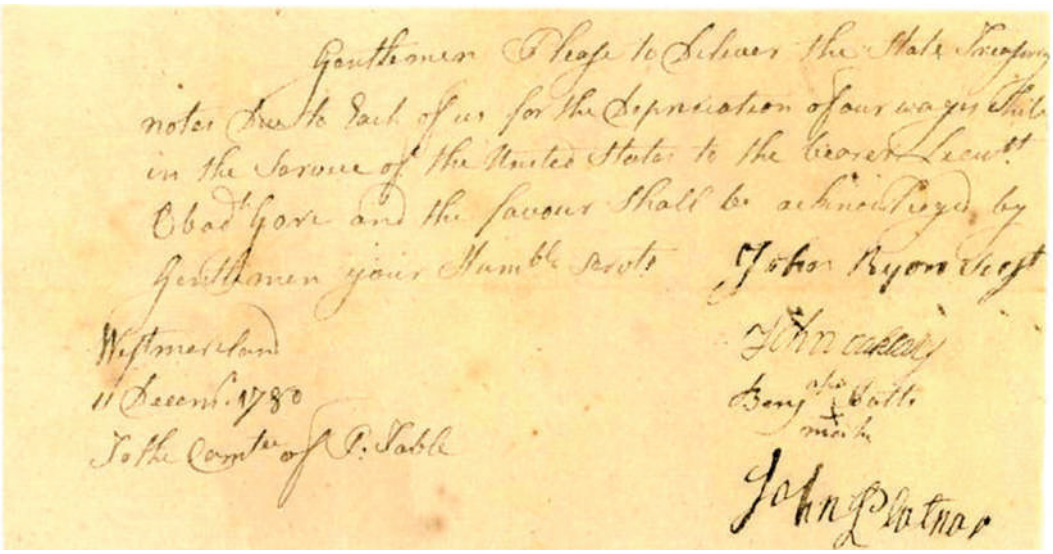
This detrimental effect of the Continental dollar's depreciation on America's war effort was felt throughout the colonies. On May 27, 1780, a letter was sent by Ezekiel Cornell, a Brigadier General in the Continental Army stationed in Middletown, Rhode Island, written to "His Excellency William Greene, Esqr., Governor" (Figure 2). The letter stated that due to the lack of supplies, no doubt caused by the reduced buying power of the dollar, a mutiny had already occurred within his soldiers' ranks, and that his brigade was about to disband unless their needs could be better supplied.

A partial transcript of the letter is:
I do myself the Honor to write your Excellency by this conveyance and at the same time cannot forbear expressing my surprise at the suffering Condition I find the Army in. There want of Provisions hath been and is at present so great that I will not undertake to describe it. Mutanies have already taken place. And it is more than probable the Army will disband themselves soon unless they are better supplied… I can only flatter myself at present that the goodness of your heart will permit you to omit your influence to a Compliance of every Resolve & requisition of Congress


Dear Sir Morristown May 27th 1780
I do my self the Honour to
write your Excellency by this conveyance
and at the same time cannot forbear ex-
-pressing my surprise at the suffering
condition I find the Army in. There want
of Provision hath been and is at present
so great that I will not undertake to de-
scribe it. Mutanies have already taken place
and it is more than probable the Army will
disband themselves soon unless they are better
supplies. The prospect I have not yet been
able to learn. be soon as I am ~~able~~ I will
write you more particular. I am Sir I am
Figure 2. A letter from Brigadier General Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene, Governor of Rhode Island, on May 27, 1780, indicated the dismal condition of his soldier's morale due to insufficient supplies due to the depreciated Continental dollar. (author)

Since the problem of the Continental dollar devaluation affecting soldiers' and the public's morale was being felt throughout all the colonies, active steps had to be taken to help retain the soldiers needed for the war effort. An example of one such remedy by the Revolutionary War Connecticut Pay-Table Committee on

December 11, 1780, was providing an increase in compensation based on the loss of wages incurred from the currency's devaluation (Figure 3).



A partial transcript of the letter is:
Gentlemen I hope to Deliver the State Treasury notes Due to Each of us for the Depreciation of our wages while in the Service of the United States to the bearer Lieutt Obad[h] Gore and the favour shall be acknowledged by Gentlemen your humble Servant

Figure 3. On December 11, 1780, additional payments made from the Connecticut Treasury based on the dollar's depreciation were delivered for distribution. (author)

Even by 1782, the issues surrounding the dollar's depreciation were actively being addressed. A letter to "John Nicholson or James Stevenson ESQs,"[3] from John Thorne, on January 3, 1782, enumerated a number of the interventions that had been used over the past year to deal with the dollar's depreciation for the soldiers (Figure 4). Without these interventions, a viable Continental Army may not have been left to counter the British.

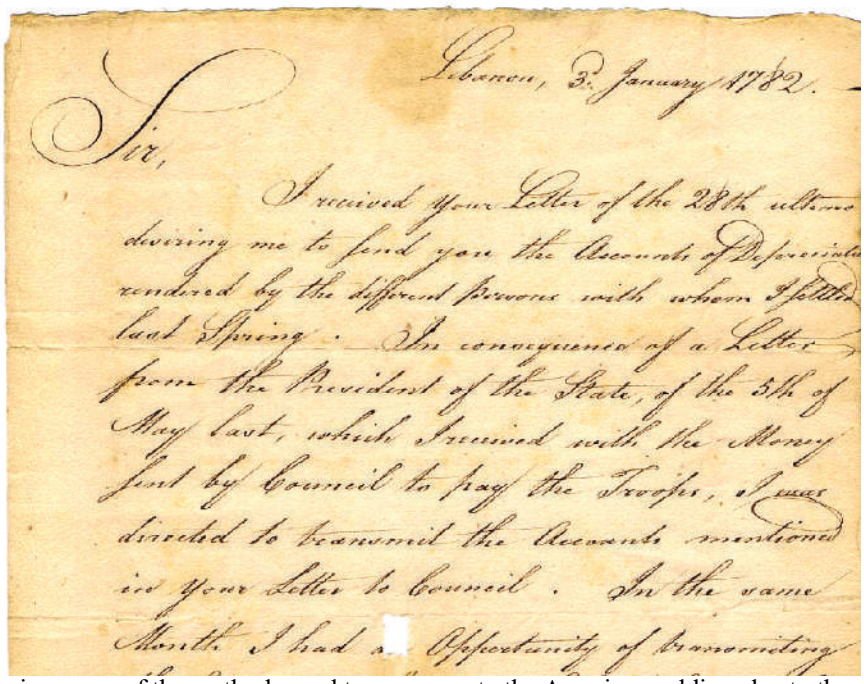


Figure 4. A letter on January 3, 1782, concerning some of the methods used to compensate the American soldiers due to the loss of value of their wages from the depreciation of the Continental dollar. (author)

[3] Nicholson, at the time of the letter, was the Comptroller-General of Pennsylvania and was the architect of the programs that brought Pennsylvania's chaotic finances under control during this period. After the War of Independence had been won, Nicholson would eventually become a business partner of Robert Morris (a key financer of the war effort), who speculated on multiple land sales throughout the colonies. However, their business crashed in 1797, and Nicholson died in debtor's prison in 1800. Stevenson was an early enlistee in the Continental Army but was captured by the British in 1777. He was imprisoned for nine months.

A partial transcript of the letter is:
I received your Letter…desiring me to find you the Accounts of Depreciation rendered by the different persons with whom I settled last Spring. In Consequence of a letter from the Pres. of the State of the 5th of May last, which I received with the Money sent by Council to pay the Troops, I was directed to transmit the Accounts mentioned in your Letter to Council. In the same Month I had an Opportunity of transmitting … Assemblyman, by him I also sent to Council the old Certificates, the Marginal counterpart Notes of the new ones, a list of new Certificates then granted, a Receipt Roll containing Sums of Money paid, signed by the Officers & Soldiers who received the same, together with remainder of the Money paid, for which Col. Greenewall brought a Receipt from the State Treasurer…"

The inflationary pressures of printing fiat currency continued throughout the colonies until secure foreign loans could be established. The government's finances were also aided by Robert Morris's infusion of his personal wealth and the development of a reasonable State taxation system. These efforts provided the United States with sufficient revenue to help stabilize the value of the currency, bonds, and other financial vehicles.

CONTRIBUTION OF COUNTERFEITING TO DEPRECIATION: From 1775 through 1779, a desperate Continental Congress authorized excessive printing of paper money to finance the War of Independence. All that propped up this fiat currency was the promise of better times ahead if the war was won. As the war dragged on with many early defeats of the Continental Army, the assurance of the currency's future viability diminished, leading to its severe and rapid depreciation. Contributing to the loss of value was the constant counterfeiting of official paper money by the British and many colonists who were either criminals or who retained loyalty to British rule. Not all colonial citizens wanted the separation of America from England, and a significant portion of the population held positive sentiments toward England. Major-General Marquis de Lafayette was astounded to find the large number of colonists that remained Tories (pro-Britain), and his observations written on December 30, 1777, to George Washington stated:

When I was in Europe I thought that here almost every man was a lover of liberty, and would rather die free than live a slave. You can conceive my astonishment when I saw that toryism was as openly professed as whiggism itself: however, at that time I believed that all good Americans were united together; that the confidence of congress in you was unbounded.[4]

Therefore, many colonists were ready and willing to aid and abet the enemy. The British also undoubtedly showed favoritism toward these loyalists and helped them in any endeavor they could to undermine America's fight for independence.[5] Most likely, this included pilfering supplies and information from colonist printers producing Continental Currency to produce accurate counterfeits, allowing the duplication of all aspects of the American emissions. There is no documentation of this pilfering, but considering how rapidly the British produced nearly exact copies immediately following the Continental Currency emission, it would seem such a scenario was highly probable.[6] In addition, the loyalists were only too happy to receive bundles of counterfeited currency from the British that they used to buy supplies from farmers and merchants, thereby depleting supplies the Continental Army could purchase for the troops. There

[4] Lafayette letter to Washington December 30, 1777. – reproduced in Lafayette's *Memoirs*, pp. 87-88.
[5] Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger, *George Washington's Secret Six – The Spy Ring that Saved the American Revolution*, Sentinel, New York, 2014, pp. 99-108.
[6] The September 1778 Continental emission was heavily counterfeited within three months of issue and was replaced with the January 1779 emission which was also rapidly counterfeited. If British counterfeiters were making printing moulds, producing paper with nearly the same watermarks as the Continental Currency in a mill, using the same typesetting, and printing the paper with nearly identical designs and features as the official Continental Currency, this author thinks it is improbable that they did so without the help of loyalists. However, this is speculation.

was a penalty for passing counterfeit notes, but the dilemma for American authorities was whether the passer was a guilty tool of the British forces or an innocent merchant who received the counterfeit in trade and passed it on to another innocent during a commercial transaction. For this reason, the Continental Congress was forced to conduct expensive and time-consuming currency recalls by replacing counterfeited paper with new emissions.

COUNTERFEITING OF THE 1778 CONTINENTAL CURRENCY ISSUES: The April 11, 1778, official emissions were extensively counterfeited, and for the September 26, 1778, issues the three highest-value notes were counterfeited.[7] Why couldn't the merchants and populace be taught to differentiate between official and fake notes? In Figure 5, the images are provided of the face of an official September 26, 1778 Continental Currency fifty-dollar note, and the same denomination of a dated counterfeit note. Can you tell the difference?



Figure 5. The face of an official September 26, 1778 Continental Currency fifty-dollar note and a counterfeit note of the same type. (Official 96mm width, 74mm; CFT 92mm width, 69mm height) (author)

The difficulty distinguishing counterfeit from real is apparent; even if slight differences are seen, one would require a detailed description of both to decide which was real. In the case of the September 26, 1778, fifty-dollar note, Eric Newman indicates two basic counterfeit emissions of counterfeit notes. One is:

$50: Base of G in Gold is too high. Left base of R in Revolution is higher than right base. In passed the ed is too high. The base of 6 in 26 is higher than the base of 2. In 26th the space between 2 and 6 is too large.[8]

Newman describes the other counterfeit emission as:

$50: This counterfeit has many variations due to movement or replacement of typeset letters. The comma after Philadelphia was originally missing and after publicity was corrected in ink and subsequently corrected by insertion of a typeset comma. The base of the first "to" is lower than the base of Bearer. The second c in according is connected to the following letter "O." In the S of the third DOLLARS there is sometimes a gap between the top loop and the stem. The h in 26th was damaged in later printings so as to appear to be a "k".[9]

Based on Newman's second description, a comparison of the two faces in Figure 5 indicates that the second imaged face is counterfeit. Specifically, the counterfeit lacks the comma after Philadelphia, and a small gap occurs between the top loop of the "S" and the stem on the third (bottom) DOLLARS. The author also

[7] Counterfeits were made of the April 11, 1778 issues for $4, $5, $7, $8, $20, and $40 denominations. For the September 26, 1778 issue, the $40, $50, and $60 denominations were counterfeited.
[8] Newman, op. cit., p. 444.
[9] *Ibid.*

noted that the "R" in CONGRESS was higher in the counterfeit, and the "O" in the third DOLLARS was lower. Figure 6 shows the backs of each note.

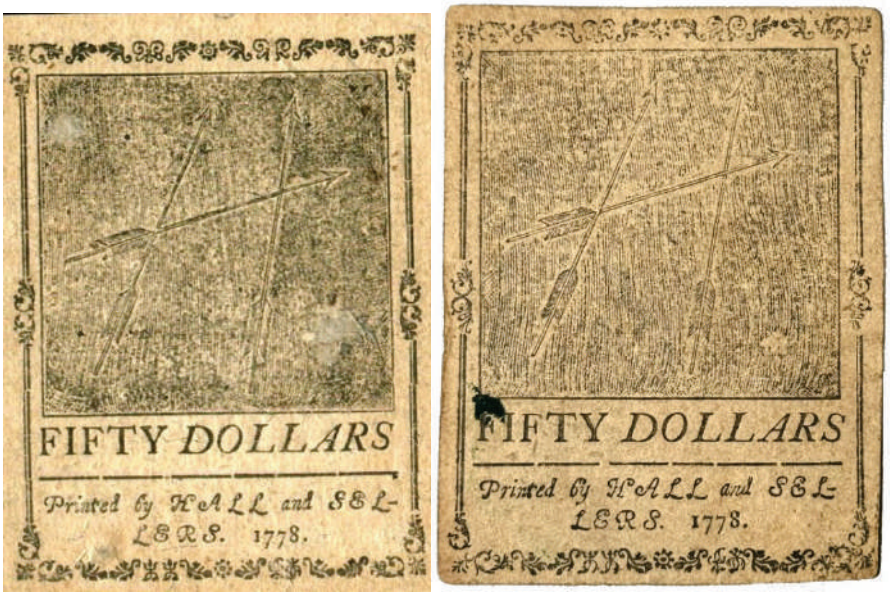


Figure 6. The backs of an official September 26, 1778 Continental Currency fifty-dollar note, and a counterfeit note of the same type.

Newman did not address the backs of the notes, which included a "nature" print of three arrows on a complexly streaked background. In comparing the official note with the counterfeit, the author noticed an easy method for distinguishing one from the other. The counterfeit seems to have more of a halo around each arrow, so the complex streaking does not come up to the arrows themselves in several places. The author wonders why the backs were not considered as a method for distinguishing the real from the fake! In any case, Newman indicated that the slight differences on the faces of the counterfeits were recognized by the rogues, who corrected them when they printed a new batch. The absent comma was easily identifiable by the public, but the counterfeiters rapidly corrected that error. All the remaining differences were quite subtle, and not all would be present on any single note. Unsurprisingly, even suspicious merchants would be confounded when presented with one of these notes about whether it was real or fake.

Another official note from the counterfeited September 26, 1778 emission was the sixty-dollar denomination (Figures 7 and 8).



Figure 7. The faces of an official September 26, 1778 Continental Currency sixty-dollar note, and a counterfeit note of the same type. (Official 90mm width, 68mm height; CFT 93mm width, 73mm height) (author)

Eric Newman indicates three counterfeit emissions of the September 26, 1778 sixty-dollar notes occurred. They were described as:

$60: Deceptive. The dot over the i in receive is on the left instead of slightly to the right of the dot over the i of milled below. In the text the base of x in Sixty is in line with instead of lower than the base of the adjacent t, The upper end of the first s in Congress aims diagonally upward instead of curling downward.

$60 The base of r in or in each use is lower than the adjacent o. The first c in according is low and the second c is small. The top of the comma after Philadelphia is above the center of the previous a. The left end of the v in receive curls down. In the top border there are no curved brackets around the n in Currency.

$60: Top and bottom decorative borders on face read the United States instead of Continental Currency and side borders read Continental Currency instead of The United States. The words in the 4th through 8th lines of the text differ in position from the genuine. The D in DOLLARS in the text is the same size as the other letters instead of being larger. Apparently printed by using some parts from the April 11, 1778 $20 counterfeit printing form.[10]

The face of the counterfeit in Figure 7 corresponds with Newman's first description, which he indicates is "deceptive." The difference in the relative positions of the dots over the "i" in "receive" and in "milled" is small. Even more difficult to discern, especially in a circulated note, are the differences in the levels of the bases between "X" and "Y" in "SIXTY." Therefore, the author agrees that the criteria used to differentiate between the official and the counterfeit are extremely subtle, and this counterfeit is "deceptive." However, Newman did not consider the backs of the notes with the "nature" print in his analysis. This author thinks the differences between real and fake are more apparent on their backs than on their faces (Figure 8).

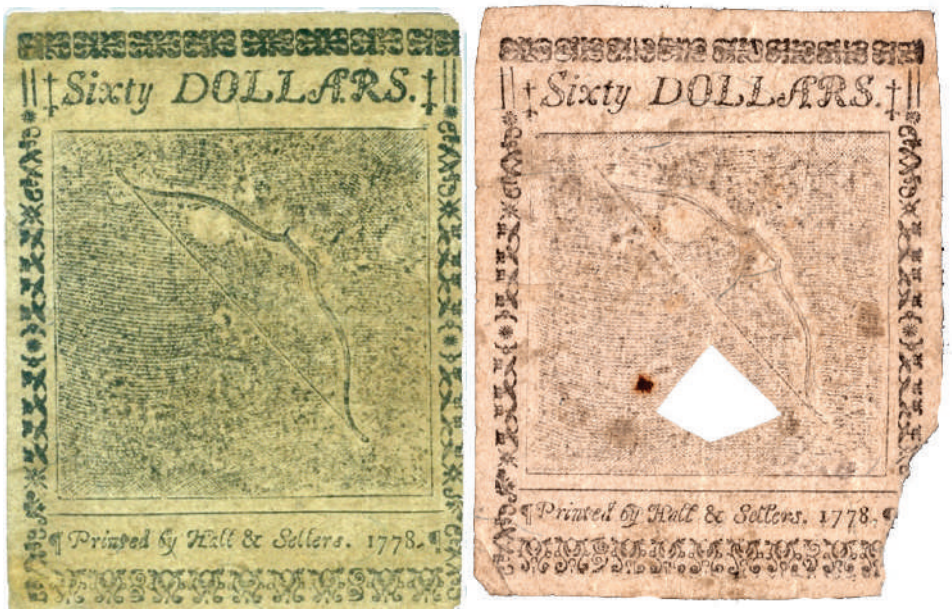


Figure 8. The backs of an official September 26, 1778 Continental Currency sixty-dollar note, and a counterfeit note of the same type.

[10] Ibid.

For the official note, the bow and string in the "nature" print have a complexly patterned background nearly touching them around their outer circumference, while in the counterfeit there is a definite larger "halo" or unprinted area surrounding these designs. In addition, the border designs have slight differences. Comparing the bottom border's repetitive design, there are nine small face-like patterns in a row in both the official and the fake notes. Counting from the left, the fifth and seventh designs used for the "eyes" in the official note differ from the others, while for the counterfeit, they are all the same. It would seem that an evaluation of the backs would have been a faster and easier way to differentiate a fake from an official note.

COUNTERFEITING OF THE 1779 CONTINENTAL CURRENCY ISSUES: Because of these high-grade 1778 counterfeits, the Continental Congress was forced to recall these issues. Francis Hopkinson, who became the Continental Loan Office's Treasurer in 1778, was now confronted with the problem of how to make the replacement issue counterfeit-proof for the planned January 14, 1779 currency.[11] For this currency, he adopted the use of two additional anti-counterfeiting devices. First, he cut specific sections out of the die which was used to print the currency in black ink, leaving blank areas on the currency where the die had been removed. He then had his printers use either a second overlay plate to print in the blank areas with red dye or "cut out paper mâché stereotype stencils to enable red and black inks to be applied to different areas on the printing chase for simultaneous two color printing."[12] Secondly, he used paper that had been watermarked to have either the words UNITED/STATES or CONFEDE/RATION on each note, depending on the denomination.[13] However, not to be outdone, the British counterfeiters were up to the task of duplicating his processes.

A comparison of an official January 14, 1779 Continental Currency eighty-dollar note and a counterfeit is shown in Figures 9 and 10.



Figure 9. The faces of an official January 14, 1779 Continental Currency eighty-dollar note, and a counterfeit note of the same type. (Official 95mm width, 70mm height; CFT 95mm width, 71mm height) (Courtesy of Ray Williams and author)

For this eighty-dollar emission, Eric Newman describes two different variations in the counterfeit notes that were produced, which were:

$80: Crude. In the first Eighty ht tilts to the right. No space between in GOLD.

[11] Roger Moore, The Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, *JEAN*, vol. 7, no. 1, 2024, pp. 89-93.
[12] Newman, op. cit., p. 328. Two-color printing had been used as an anti-counterfeiting method for years in several colonies before Hopkinson adopted its use in the January 14, 1779 Continental Currency.
[13] Roger Moore, Always Examine the Third Side of Your Currency, *The Colonial Coin Collectors Club Newsletter*, vol. 31, no. 2, Summer 2023, pp. 26-27.

$80: Crude. Upright of the t in the first Eighty slightly left instead of right of upright of E below. Tail of R in Resolution ends over the center of f below instead of to the right of the f. The space between EC of SECULORUM is abnormally wide.[14]

The face of the counterfeit in Figure 9 corresponds more to Newman's second description, with the tail of the letter "R" in Resolution ending over the center of the "f" of the word "of" below and a slightly wider space occurring between the "E" and "C" in SECULORUM. Once again, the differences are very subtle. The backs of the note are shown in Figure 10.



Figure 10. The backs of an official January 14, 1779 Continental Currency eighty-dollar note, and a counterfeit note of the same type.

This author thinks the differences are more telling regarding the backs of the notes, which Newman does not address for the counterfeits. Why the backs were not used to differentiate between official and counterfeit issues is unexplained. The dash following "SEL" is slightly lower in the official issue than the counterfeit. In addition, there are numerous differences in the "nature" print between the two, as well as the border cuts. However, until a wider group of real and fake notes are examined, it cannot be ruled out that some of these differences are due to variations in the printing press imprints or differences in the application of the printing ink.

Finally, a comparison of the watermarks on the two issues surprised the author (Figure 11). The use of UNITED STATES or CONFEDE/RATION watermarks, depending on the denomination of the official issue, was thought to be a great deterrent for the counterfeiters.[15] It was not, with the sixty-five and eighty-dollar notes being heavily counterfeited containing comparable watermarks to those on the official currency.

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[14] Newman, op. cit., p. 444. An intended watermark had been used for printing colonial currency as early as 1733 with the emission of Maryland's first paper money, though the intended use of watermarks for colonial currency would not occur again until the New Jersey February 20, 1776 issue. Pennsylvania followed with watermarks on its currency in the April 10, 1777 issue. However, unintended watermarks of early colonial currency from the use of watermarked paper obtained from foreign sources often led to various parts of watermarks appearing on them.

[15] For the January 14, 1779 issue, a UNITED STATES watermark on two lines was used for the $1, $2, $3, $4, $5, $20, $70, and $80 denominations, while a CONFEDE/RATION watermark on two lines was used on the $30, $35, $40, $45, $50, $55, $60, and $65 denominations.



Figure 11. The watermarks of an official Continental Currency January 14, 1779, eighty-dollar note, and a counterfeit note of the same type.

The watermarks of the real and fake January 14, 1779 eighty-dollar notes show slight differences, such as the counterfeit note having the "D" in UNITED more slanted, the "A" in States having a thinner base, and the first "S" in STATES being set lower. However, all these differences in the watermark can occur normally. A watermark is produced by making a design or a word with bent wire, which is then attached to the paper-making mesh-like mould, on which a fine layer of fibers floating in a water bath is distributed. The fibers then go through a process of drying, which results in the formation of a piece of paper. The watermark is nothing more than the fibers over the watermark design, having been thinned where the wire mould was placed, allowing more light to travel through the paper over the thinning. The watermark mould can become distorted as hundreds of paper pages are produced. So minor variations between watermarks are not uncommon normally. In addition, since the Continental Currency was printed in sheets with multiple pieces of currency, multiple watermark moulds were used to produce each sheet of paper, and small variations between these moulds are to be expected. The author considers the differences seen in the watermarks of the official and counterfeit January 14, 1779 Continental Currency eighty-dollar notes to not be a significant factor for differentiating the fake from the real.

Due to the close resemblance of the official and counterfeit notes, an official counterfeit detector was made available to help make a proper determination (Figure 12)



Figure 12. Face and back of an official Continental Congress eighty-dollar note Counterfeit detector. (official 94mm width, 73mm height) (Courtesy of John Bolger)

Though probably of some help in determining real from fake, the subtle differences between the official and the counterfeit would still be difficult to discern. Similarly, the watermark on the counterfeit detector would have been of little help in this determination (Figure 13).



Figure 13. Watermark on official Continental Currency eighty-dollar counterfeit detector. (Courtesy of John Bolger)

The paper used to print the Continental Currency was made by papermaker Mark Willcox at the Ivy Mills, located on Chester Creek in Concord Township, Pennsylvania.[16] The Continental Currency printers were William Sellers and David Hall, whose print office was in Philadelphia. The key question is how the British got nearly perfect paper and printing plates produced so quickly to print such exceptional counterfeit copies of the Continental Currency, duplicating nearly all the anti-counterfeiting devices. This author speculates that the British were actively being helped by Americans who continued to hold allegiance to Britain. The extent of this help may never be known, but receiving early copies of the intended currency and examples of the watermarks would have benefited the British counterfeiters immensely. The colonists were not united in throwing off the British yoke, and in the face of the Continental Army's early failures in battle and later the disastrous economic conditions caused by inflation and the devaluation of the Continental dollar, one can understand why some of the loyalists might want to secure the favor of the British when the Americans might well lose the war. The Continental Congress, facing the impossible situation of being unable to produce a secure currency, ended their printing of Continental Currency in 1779. However, additional approaches were implemented to garner needed funding for the War of Independence.

COUNTERFEITING OF THE 1780 STATE'S FEDERALLY GUARANTEED CURRENCY: By 1780, the rebelling colonies were in a severe financial situation. The growing debt of $241,552,780 due to the continuous printing of fiat Continental Currency emissions with no assurance of any value backing it, had led to severe currency depreciation. By 1780, the Continental dollar was "officially" recognized as having dropped in value to 1/40 of its face value, but the loss of public trust in paper money led some merchants to equate one Spanish Milled dollar being equivalent to 1000 paper dollars. The Continental Congress had few choices concerning how to continue financing the war and how to retire the nearly worthless Continental Currency that was still in the hands of the populace. Without the infusion of financial help in the form of loans from Spain and France and the personal financial sacrifices of patriots, such as Robert Morris, the revolution might have died.

[16] Roger Moore, Ivy Mills – Papermaker for Continental Currency, *The Colonial Coin Collectors Club Newsletter*, vol. 31, no. 3, Fall 2023, pp. 47-54. Also see - Joseph Willcox, "The Paper Mill (Ivy Mills), 1729-1866," *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia,* vol. 8, no. 1, American Catholic Historical Society, March 1897, pp. 28-85.

One scheme adopted on March 18, 1780, by the Continental Congress was to pass on to volunteering States a way for redeeming Continental Currency still in circulation while benefiting the State in paying off their taxation debt to the Continental Congress. The benefit to the state would be its ability to issue one United States guaranteed dollar from its treasury to every citizen turning in forty dollars in Continental currency. In return for every forty of these Continental dollars the state then submitted to the Treasurer of the Continental Congress for destruction, they would be credited two Guarantee dollars toward paying their tax burden. The reason people were expected to make this exchange was the state would not only replace their almost worthless Continental Currency with a bill that was guaranteed to be redeemed by December 1, 1786, with actual silver Spanish Milled dollars, and also pay 5% interest with "like money."

All states participating in the Guaranteed Bill program had their currency printed in Philadelphia by Hall and Sellers. The faces of all the guaranteed bills had the state's name and bill's denomination with the inscription:

> The Possessor of this Bill *shall be paid* [bill's denomination] Spanish MILLED DOLLARS by the Thirty-first Day of *December,* One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-six, with Interest in like Money, at the Rate of *Five per Centum per Annum,* by the State of [State's name], according to an Act of the Legislature of the said State, of the [State's date of passing Act] 1780.

The backs of all the bills had the same nature prints used on the backs of the January 14, 1779 Continental Currency, and an inscription on the backs of all the bills stated the United States guaranteed the State's pledge with the wording:

> The *UNITED STATES ensures the Payment of the within BILL, and will draw Bills of Exchange for the Interest annually, if demanded, according to a Resolution of CONGRESS, of the 18th of March, 1780.*

Only seven states agreed to participate: Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. Of interest, the counterfeiters did not ignore this scheme either, and active counterfeiting of the guaranteed bills in four of the States occurred - Maryland ($20 bills), Massachusetts ($7, $8, $20 bills), New Jersey ($5 bills), and New York ($20 bills). Connecticut had also initially planned to participate in the use of the Continental Congress's guaranteed bills, but instead, on March 1, 1780, it issued its own State Treasury bills with similar guarantees, including redemption and interest payments in Spanish Milled dollars. However, Connecticut fared no better with its currency being counterfeited than the states that issued guarantee bills, since its $40 bills were actively counterfeited. The public, having seen the degradation of the Continental Currency to the extent that it had become almost without value, was rightly suspicious of these new guaranteed bills. The lackluster public interest in the guaranteed bill program led to Congress ending the program before the end of the year leaving over $130,000,000 of Continental Currency unredeemed.[17]

Several of these bills can be compared with their companion counterfeits to show the difficulty in determining one from the other. Of interest, the counterfeiters seemed to have had greater difficulty reproducing the official watermarks on the paper used to print their fakes than the counterfeiters of the 1779 Continental Currency. The reason may be due to tightening security by the papermakers, so the counterfeiters were forced to resort to using alternative and less competent avenues for obtaining watermarked paper.

[17] Newman, op. cit., pp. 15-16. With $241,552,780 worth of Continental Currency emissions, the use of the Guarantee notes removed from circulation only $111,143,503 of the currency leaving $130,409,277 outstanding. In addition the United States took on an extra debt of $1,592,282 with the issued and accepted guarantee bills. Total debt for the United States in 1780 was $132,001,559.

MASSACHUSETTS MAY 5, 1780 $20 GUARANTEE BILL – On May 5, 1780, and June 19, 1780, the Massachusetts Legislature passed Acts allowing the emission of bills that were guaranteed to be redeemable with Spanish Milled dollars and having an interest rate of 5%. These were guarantee bills based on the Continental Congress's March 18, 1780 Act. The denominations of the bills issued were $1, $2, $3, $4, $5, $7, $8, and $20. The three highest denomination bills were counterfeited. Both official and counterfeit bills for the twenty-dollar denomination are shown in Figures 14 and 15 for comparative purposes. Their watermarks are provided in Figure 16. Newman's assessment of the differences used to determine the official from the fake bills was: "$20: N in No. has slanting uprights instead of vertical uprights."[18]

Comparing the faces of the twenty-dollar bills, the "N" in "No." is quite different between the official and fake bill with the "N" in the counterfeit being quite slanted compared to the official bill. Several other differences are also evident, with the second "t" in "States" being upright in the counterfeit while slanted to the right in the official bill. The words "thirty-first" are not hyphenated in the counterfeit and no comma is present after "*Annum*." None of these errors are subtle and could be easily distinguished by merchants being provided with their descriptions.

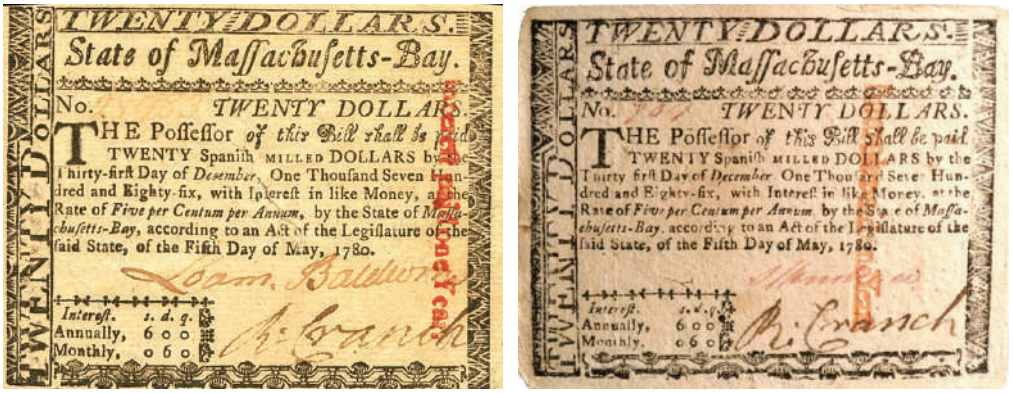


Figure 14. The face of an official May 5, 1780 Massachusetts twenty-dollar bill, and a counterfeit bill of the same type. (Official 94mm width, 70mm height; CFT 97mm width, 76mm height) (author)

Similarly, comparing the backs of the Massachusetts twenty-dollar bills shows several non-subtle differences. Perhaps the easiest to distinguish is the dot following "CONCITATAE," which is on the baseline of the letters on the official bill while elevated on the counterfeit.



Figure 15. The backs of an official Massachusetts May 5. 1780, a twenty-dollar bill, and a counterfeit bill of the same type.

[18] Newman, op. cit., p. 446.

Comparing the watermarks on the twenty-dollar bills shows a marked difference, which makes the fake easily distinguished from the official bill (Figure 16). They both have the UNITED STATES watermarks, but while the official bill's watermark has the letters evenly placed and oriented, the counterfeit has the "N" in "UNITED" reversed, and the base of the lettering is extremely irregular. It seems to the author that glancing at the watermark would be the easiest way to differentiate fake from real bills.

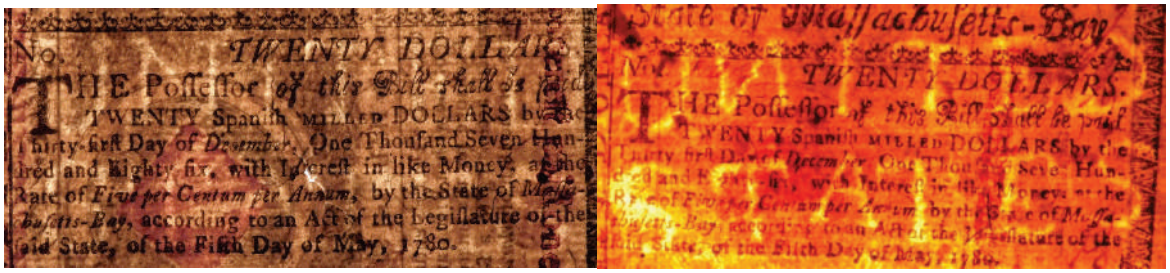


Figure 16. Watermarks of an official May 5, 1780 Massachusetts twenty-dollar bill, and a counterfeit bill of the same type.

NEW JERSEY JUNE 9, 1780 $5 GUARANTEE BILL – On June 9, 1780, the New Jersey Legislature passed an Act allowing the emission of bills which were redeemable with Spanish Milled dollars and having an interest rate of 5%. These were guarantee bills based on the Continental Congress's March 18, 1780 Act. Like Massachusetts, the denominations of the bills issued were $1, $2, $3, $4, $5, $7, $8, and $20. Only the five-dollar denomination of the bills were counterfeited. Both official and counterfeit bills are shown in Figures 17 and 18 for comparative purposes, with their watermarks in Figure 19.

Comparing the faces of the five-dollar bills, Newman's description is somewhat confusing since it refers to a design on the "back," which is actually on the face of the bill. In addition, the date given on the counterfeit issue is 09/06/80 instead of 06/09/80, which was just a simple transition of the day and the month numbers. The second portion of the description concerning the word ABSTINE occurs on the back of the bill and includes a correct 06/09/80 image. Newman's description was: "*$5: In the horizontal lie of ornaments on the back there are 14 Xs on each side of the circular ornament instead of 15 on the left side and 13 on the right. The N in ABSTINE is deformed.*"[19]

On the top of the official five-dollar bill just below the inscription "STATE OF NEW JERSEY," a line of "X"s occurs with fifteen to the left of a small circle and thirteen to the right. In the counterfeit, fourteen "X"s are on each side of the small circle (Figure 17).



Figure 17. The faces of an official June 9, 1780 New Jersey five-dollar and a counterfeit. (Official 94mm width, 70mm height; CFT 93mm width, 73mm height) (Courtesy of author and John Bolger)

[19] Ibid. p. 449.

A comparison of the backs of the five-dollar bills also shows several differences in the central area design, with the counterfeit much more crudely produced. In addition, the first "S" in "SUSTINE" is located more to the right of the underlying design in the counterfeit than in the official bill.



Figure 18. The back of an official New Jersey June 6, 1780, five-dollar bill and a counterfeit bill of the same type.

Despite the easily observed errors in the counterfeit on the printed face and back, the watermark presents a much more difficult problem for determining which is counterfeit (Figure 18). The slight variations between the official bill's watermark and the counterfeit's watermark can be explained by variations that could occur with routine usage of the watermark-making moulds.

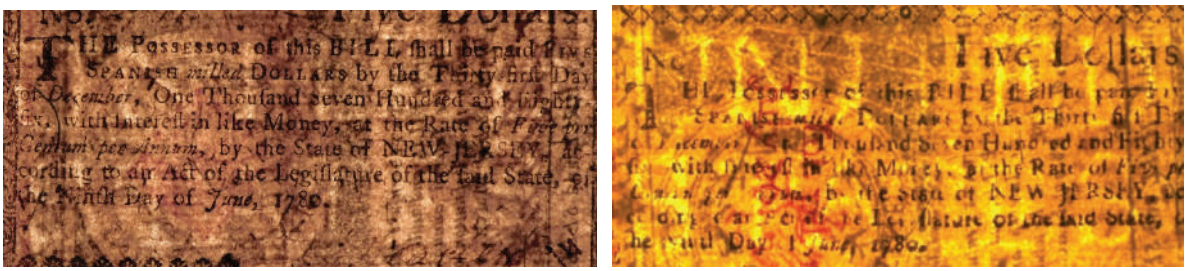


Figure 19. The watermarks on an official New Jersey June 6, 1780, five-dollar and counterfeit bills of the same type.

NEW YORK JUNE 15, 1780 $20 GUARANTEE BILL - On June 15, 1780, the New York Legislature passed an Act allowing the emission of bills redeemable with Spanish Milled dollars and having an interest rate of 5%. These were guarantee bills based on the Continental Congress's March 18, 1780 Act. Like Massachusetts and New Jersey, the denominations of the bills were $1, $2, $3, $4, $5, $7, $8, and $20. Also, like Massachusetts, only the highest denomination bills (twenty-dollar) were counterfeited. Both official and counterfeit bills are provided in Figures 20 and 21 for comparative purposes, with their watermarks in Figure 22.

Regarding the faces of these bills, Newman's description of the design differences in the counterfeit was: *"$20: In the second line of the face top border, the "o" in "of" is higher than the crossbar of the adjacent "of"…. In lower left corner the base of the I in Interest is low."*[20]

[20] Ibid. p. 450.

The face of the counterfeit in Figure 20 shows both these errors compared to the official bill. In addition, the "Y" in "TWENTY" at the top is off the baseline, the dot after the "S" in "DOLLARS" at the top is closer to the top of the "S" in the counterfeit, and in the box at the lower left corner, the design border at the top of the box for the counterfeit is placed in an irregular manner. In contrast, this design in the official bill is placed in a straight line. There are numerous other small differences but discerning them is difficult.

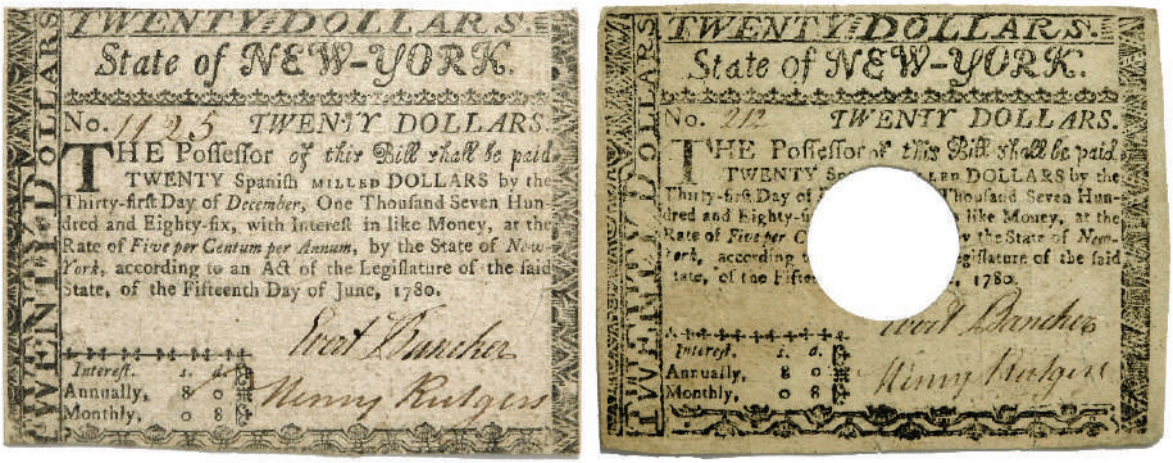


Figure 20. The faces of an official June 15, 1780 New York twenty-dollar bill and a counterfeit bill of the same type. (Official 89mm width, 69mm height; CFT 93mm width, 74mm height) (*Photos by Roger Moore with permission of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Gift of the Lasser family*)

Though Newman did not address the backs, there are several minor differences within the left and right border designs between the real and the fake bills (Figure 21). Any further evaluation is complicated by the lower quality of the official bill and the large missing central hole from the cancelation punch in the counterfeit bill. Though there is limited detail available on the central designs, the limited detail would indicate that differences may exist.



Figure 21. The backs of an official June 15, 1780 New York twenty-dollar bill, and a counterfeit bill of the same type. (*Photos by Roger Moore with permission of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Gift of the Lasser family*)

Though comparisons of the errors on the faces and backs are somewhat subtle, comparing the watermarks shows some easily recognizable and significant differences (Figures 22 and 23). The watermarks for the bill shown in Figures 20 and 21 have a normal CONFEDE RATION watermark on the official bill, while the counterfeit has a backward "N" in "CONFEDE" and the absence of the second "E." In "RATION" the counterfeit has a malformed "R" and a backward "N."



Figure 22. The watermarks of an official June 15, 1780 New York twenty-dollar bill and a counterfeit bill of the same type with reversed letter Ns and the lack of an E after D. (*Photos by Roger Moore with permission of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Gift of the Lasser family*)

The watermark on a different counterfeit June 15, 1780, twenty-dollar bill is shown in Figure 23, where the counterfeiters discovered and corrected their error with the two backward "N"s but did not add the missing "E" at the end of CONFEDE.



Figure 23. The watermark from a second counterfeit New York, June 15, 1780, twenty-dollar bill showing correction of the reversed "N"s but still lacking the letter "E" after the "D" in CONFEDE. (CFT 94mm width, 71mm height) (*Photos by Roger Moore with permission of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Gift of the Lasser family*)

Though the participating states and the United States governing bodies had high hopes that the Guarantee bills would remove the severely depreciated Continental Currency from circulation, the populace had enough of the false promises with paper money. Having experienced the severe decline in the buying power of the Continental dollar in just a few years, they wanted little to do with this new paper currency despite the promise that the bills could be redeemed with hard cash. Because of this, the effort with the Guarantee bills failed before 1780 was over.

CURRENCY ISSUED BY STATES AS THEIR OWN 1780 CURRENCY: Some states, however, continued to issue their own currency both during and after 1780. Connecticut, which decided not to join the United States in the Guarantee bill program, issued its own state bills based on the same promise as the Guarantee bills, that the bills would be redeemed and the interest paid with hard currency – not paper. Connecticut was the first state to emit its own "State guarantee" bills on March 1, 1780, followed by Pennsylvania (April 29, 1780) and Rhode Island (June 1780). The redeemable currency was in Spanish Milled dollars with a 5% interest rate. Maryland emitted a similar issue on June 8, 1780, with a 5% interest rate but redeemable in specie or bills of exchange.

Of course, the counterfeiters were unrelenting, and the state issues were as heavily counterfeited as the Guarantee issues. Connecticut's March 1, 1780 issue saw only the highest denomination – the forty-shilling bills – counterfeited (Figures 24, and 25). Newman noted that the counterfeits made the following errors: *"40s: r in Hartford and in March are normal in size instead of being too large as in the originals."*[21]

In comparing the faces of the official and counterfeit bills, it is evident that the "r" in "March" and in "Hartford" are not only slightly larger in the official bill but also seem to be printed in a bolder style. However, these errors are subtle, and the counterfeits are otherwise extremely well produced.



Figure 23. The faces of official and counterfeit bills of the same type. (CFT 73mm width; 93mm height) (Courtesy of Heritage Auctions – HA.com and author)

A comparison of the backs of the official and counterfeit bills is remarkably similar, and no discernable differences were noted by this author (Figure 24).

[21] Newman, op. cit., p. 441.

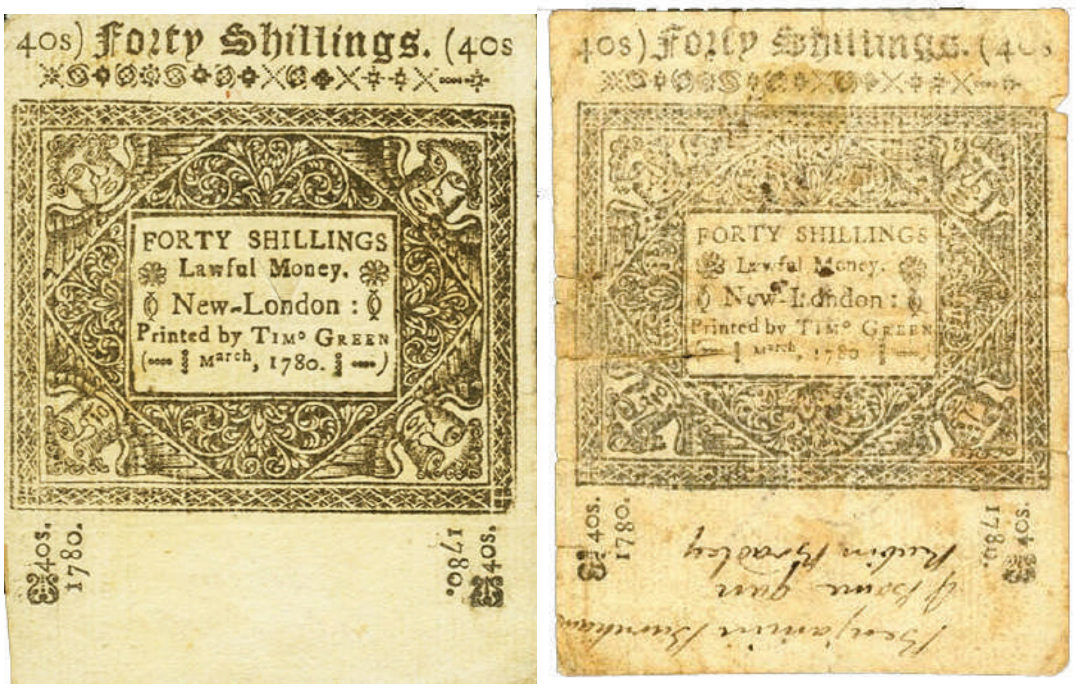


Figure 24. The backs of an official March 1, 1780 Connecticut 40-shilling bill and a counterfeit bill of the same type.

The Connecticut Legislature tried again with a new emission of currency three months later on June 1, 1780, but this time the two highest denominations of the issue – the twenty-shilling and the forty-shilling bills – were counterfeited.

In addition to the Guarantee bills, Maryland issued state currency on June 8, 1780, and October 17, 1780, with neither being counterfeited; Pennsylvania issued state currency on April 29, 1780, with no counterfeits; Rhode Island issued state currency on June 17, 1780, with no counterfeits; and Virginia was the most prolific issuer of state currency in 1780 with issues on July 14, 1780, July 14, 1780, July 25, 1780, and two different issues on October 16, 1780, of which none are known to have been counterfeited. Aside from the Guarantee bills, no other state bills in 1780 were issued by Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, or New York. North Carolina was the only state that did not issue Guarantee bills but issued state currency in 1780 (April 17, 1780, and May 10, 1780, with no known counterfeits). South Carolina, Delaware, and Georgia did not participate in issuing either Guarantee bills or state currency in 1780.

The active and excellent counterfeiting of the Guarantee bills for those states accepting their use were all printed in Philadelphia by Hall and Sellers, with the paper, whether watermarked or not, being made by Mark Willcox at Ivy Mill outside of Philadelphia. Combining this with the relatively infrequent counterfeiting of state-sponsored bills printed at multiple sites points to the possibility of compromised security at the Hall & Sellers, and Willcox facilities. No evidence exists that any malfeasance in either of these shops occurred, and certainly not by the patriots who ran them. However, this author speculates that some laborers at each facility loyal to the Crown supplied early samples of the next planned currency issues to the British counterfeiters.

COMMODITY-BASED STATE BONDS: The Continental Congress still needed to raise new money for the ongoing War effort but realized that the tremendous devaluation of the Continental dollar would prevent anyone from taking newly issued currency redeemable for paper currency. The Congress also found themselves in a desperate financial bind with decreasing faith that the Revolution would be successful. Mutiny and

desertions from the Continental Army were increasing, and the ability to recruit new soldiers was diminishing. Much of this discontent could be directly attributed to the dramatic and rapid loss of the Continental dollar's buying power that was being used to pay the soldiers. Each state had a quota for the number of soldiers that needed to be recruited in their state for the war effort, and if the state could not fulfill its quota, it was fined by the Continental Congress. This pressure for recruitment was partially relieved by assuring a recruit that the value of the sign-on payment for his service would not evaporate due to depreciation when his term was completed. The assurance that the soldier's payment would retain its value was achieved by issuing commodity bonds, where the redemption was directly tied to the equivalent value of commodities rather than redemption tied to an amount of potentially worthless paper money.

Massachusetts issued commodity bonds on January 1, 1780. The name of the bond's owner and the bond's value were written into open spaces on the bond. Redemption was to occur on or before March 1, 1785 (Figure 25).[22] In addition, the bond carried a six percent interest rate. However, the most important aspect of the bond was its redemption value, which was not tied to the value of the paper currency but rather to the amount of the state's paper currency at the time of redemption that would be needed to purchase a specific group of commodities. Thus, the problem of the rampant currency devaluation impacting redemption was eliminated. The bond states in part:

> *Both principle and interest to be paid in the then current Money of said State, in a greater or less Sum, according to Five Bushels of CORN, Sixty-eight Pounds and four-seventh Parts of a Pound of BEEF, Ten Pounds of SHEEPSWOOL, and Sixteen Pounds of SOLE LEATHER shall then cost, more or less than One Hundred and Thirty Pounds current Money, at the current Prices of said ARTICLES…*



Figure 25. January 1st, 1780-Dated Revolutionary War Period, State of Massachusetts Bay, 6% Interest Bearing Treasury "Commodity Loan." (281mm longest width, 131mm height) (author)

Using these bonds tied to commodities eased the pressure on Massachusetts's recruitment of soldiers and calmed some of the unrest in existing troops by relieving the anxiety that future payments would be given

[22] William Anderson, *The Price of Liberty*, University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, 1983, p. 89 listing #97. Also see: Udo Hielscher, *Financing the American Revolution*, Museum of American Financial History, New York, 2003, p. 23, listing #22.

in worthless paper money. However, a severe financial situation remained for the states and the Continental Congress concerning how payment for the increasing War debt could be handled. Active solicitation for loans from foreign countries was occurring, and some states were also securing secret promises from other countries to provide financial help. However, much of the debt remained. Eventually, interventions by Robert Morris, Marquis de Lafayette, Benjamin Franklin, and others were instrumental in providing the financial relief needed to carry on with the War, but that is another story.

CONCLUSIONS: To conduct the War of Independence against Britain, the Continental Congress required funds for supplies, troops, and arms. Essentially having little initial financial support, the decision was made in 1775 to issue Continental Congress fiat currency, which had no backing other than a promise for future payments. Over the years, especially when the War effort was not going well for the Americans, a loss of faith that the Continental dollar would retain its value caused its rapid depreciation. The loss of faith was also exacerbated by the British infusing large quantities of high-grade counterfeits into the economy for each Continental Currency emission. By 1779, the devaluation of the Continental dollar had become so extreme that soldiers who had been recruited with the promise of a certain salary found that salary unable to provide even basic services. Because of this, American soldiers were mutinying and deserting their posts. Initially, bonuses in Continental dollars were provided to calm the troops, which helped rebalance the losses from depreciation. However, as the dollar's depreciation continued, the saying "not worth a Continental" once again undermined the short-lived financial stability. It was not until currency and bonds were issued with the assurance that redemption would be in the form of Spanish Milled dollars or value-adjusted commodities that faith slowly returned to the wary soldiers and the public.

After comparing official with counterfeit bills, there is no question that expert counterfeiters were helping to undermine the Continental Currency. The nearly perfect counterfeit copies repeatedly occurring after nearly every official emission necessitated the Continental Congress to expend precious resources and effort in recalling and replacing previous issues. The perfection of the counterfeiters also helped undermine the public confidence in the currency, placing the Continental Congress into an even more desperate financial situation. This author believes that the only way the British counterfeiters could have been so successful in their efforts was by having spies in the paper mill and print shop where materials could be stolen and diverted to the British. It is known that nearly half of the colonists during the War of Independence were either overt or silent British loyalists. Therefore, it is not far-fetched to speculate that the British counterfeiters had American help. By 1780, the financial situation in the American states was so dire that the fate of the American Revolution was in question. Without loans from foreign countries and personal expenditures by patriots like Robert Morris, the War of Independence might have been lost at this point in history.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Many thanks go out to two very supportive fellow colonial currency collectors, Ray Williams and John Bolger, who not only contributed images for this paper but gave me feedback on the text so that improvements could be made. In addition, Erik Goldberg's gracious help and precious time allowed me access to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation collection of colonial currency. While there, I could inspect, measure, and photograph numerous rarities, emphasizing those notes having watermarks. Erik had taken the time and made the effort to pre-screen all their currency for those I might have an interest in. Some of those photographs are used in this paper, and others will be invaluable sources of information for future papers. Last but not least, I would like to recognize Mark Vitunic, who quietly spends his time and effort putting articles written for C4N into readable condition!

RARE SIGHTINGS AT C4 BALTIMORE 2024



At the Vermont Happening Table:
3 of the 6 known Vermont
RR-32 specimens
(5 in private hands).
Photo courtesy of Eric Li Cheung.



Also at the same table:
3 of the 6 known Vermont
RR-34 specimens
(5 in private hands).
Photo courtesy of Eric Li
Cheung.

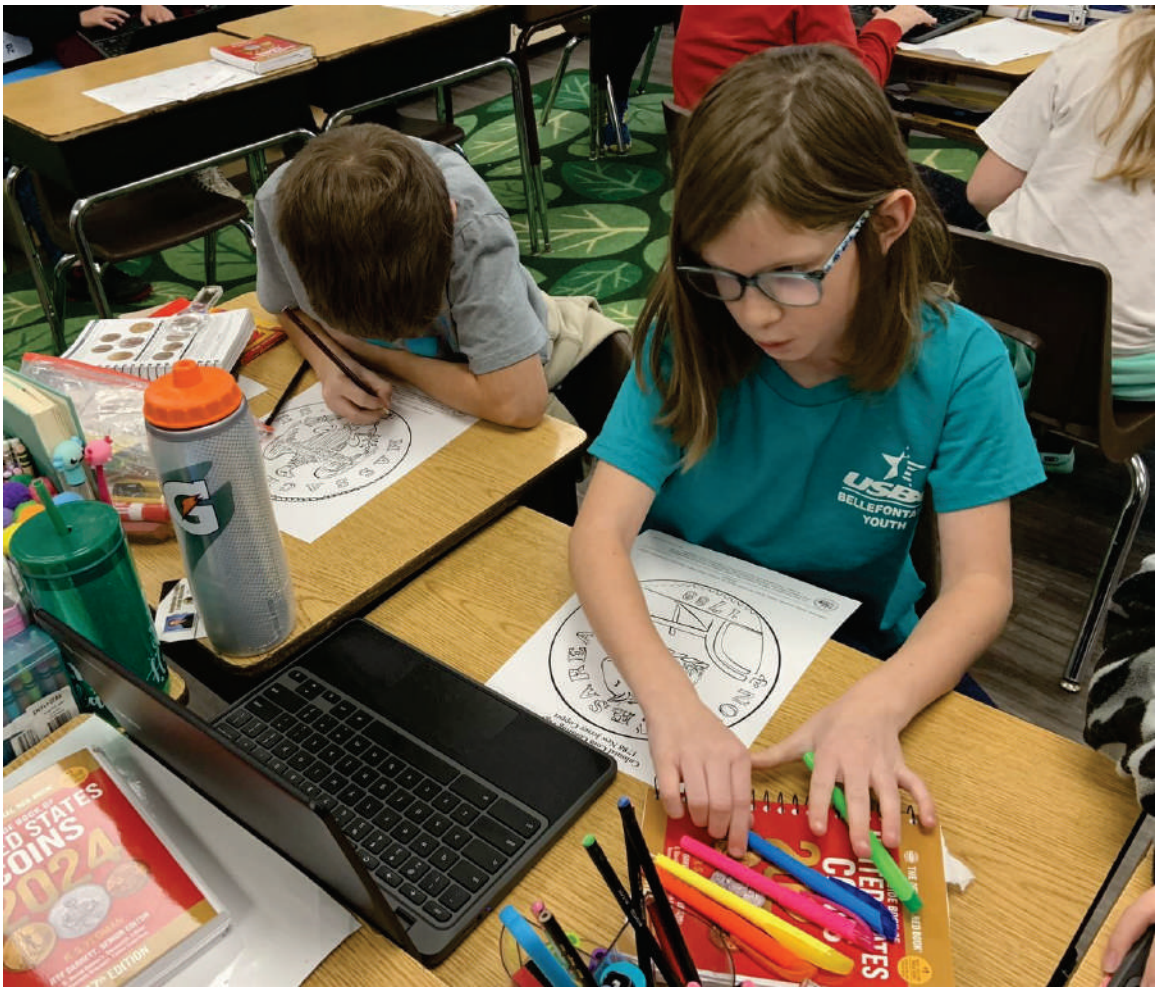


September 2024:
C4 National Vice-
President Jim
Glickman (left),
past C4 President
Jim Rosen (right),
and a monument
(Rahway Mint
marker, St.
Georges Avenue,
Rahway, NJ) in
disrepair.

C4 COLORING SHEETS

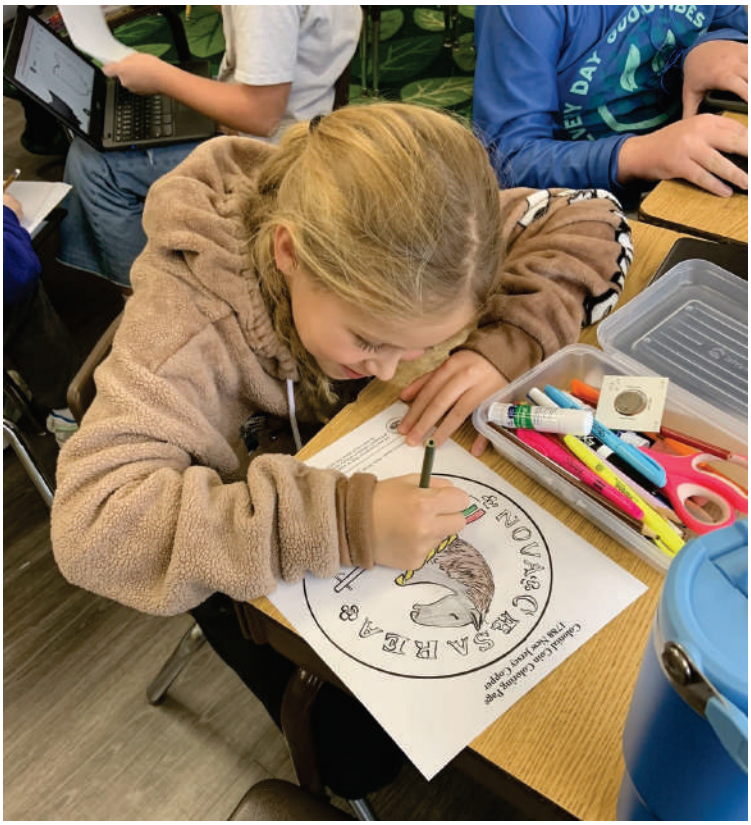
(Bruce Smith)

When the temperature dips below twenty degrees, it's time for indoor recess at the school where I teach. Factor in rainfall, and late fall through winter can see many days without access to outdoor fun. Indoor recess translates to more passive activities, and one activity that found favor among my students this year is C4 Secretary Carol Wolf's coloring sheets. Carol had these available in Baltimore and shared a PDF with me. The set includes obverses of a Fugio, an Elephant token, a Higley, a New Jersey, and a landscape Vermont, along with the obverse and reverse for a Mass cent. My students have been introduced to numismatics in a number of ways this year, and Carol's drawings have been a hit as attested to by the accompanying photos. The only downside is when a genuine Higley Copper has made it onto a student's Christmas list and Mom and Dad, I mean Santa, suffered a severe case of sticker shock. Anyway, I wanted to point out that this is a simple way to promote C4 and our segment of the hobby.



If you notice, there are Red Books on the desks. Ron Sirna got a case of them from Whitman for me (thanks, Ron).

I offer unstaged (mostly) photographic evidence. The color palate may be an issue.





The amount of verdigris on the Elephant token is alarming, but I like the rainbow toning on the Higley.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

C4 LIBRARY BOOK SALE – BUILD YOUR NUMISMATIC LIBRARY
NEW UPDATED LIST!

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club Library is deacquisitioning the following duplicate books from its inventory at fixed prices. The books are being offered at below market value to C4 members only. Limit two books per member every 3 months. Shipping included on orders totaling *over* $50. Junior C4 members (members 18 or under) may purchase up to three titles at half the list price (shipping is free on all orders to junior members). Books are sold first come first serve. To purchase, please contact C4 Librarian Leo Shane at librarian@colonialcoins.org in order to verify the book's availability. If the book is still available, Leo will confirm and provide payment instructions.

1. New Netherlands, *Fifty-First Catalog of Rare US Coins Public Auction*, 19-20 June 1958, New York, NY. Extensive colonial offerings, 246 colonial lots, many rare and seldom seen types/varieties, extensive descriptions, some plates, Good to Very Good. **$35**

2. Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, *Long Beach International Coin and Stamp Exposition Public Auction - The Newport Collection*, 30-31 January & 1 February 1958, Long Beach, CA. 77 colonial lots, some not seen that often, Good. **$8**

3. Stack's Bowers, *The Robert M. Martin Collection of US Colonial Coins*, 15 & 19 November 2019, Baltimore, MD. One of the iconic collections of Connecticut coppers, also a superb collection of over 50 lots of Massachusetts silver, New with C4 Stamp, spiral bound. **$20**

4. McCawley & Grellman, *C4 Auction 12 October 1996 – The Second Annual C4 Convention Sales of US Colonial* Coins. Deluxe hardcover edition with leatherette cover, no stamps, New. **$40**

5. Raymond, Wayte, *The Early Medals of Washington 1776 - 1834,* Wayte Raymond, New York, NY, 1941. A 16-page booklet with descriptions and photos, Good to Very Good. **$7**

6. Vlack, Robert A., *An Illustrated Catalogue of The French Billion Coinage in the Americas,* The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2014. New. **$75**

7. Marsh, John, *Clip A Bright Guinea – The Yorkshire Coiners of the Eighteenth Century,* Robert Hale, London, UK, 1971. A hard-to-find text highlighting counterfeiting in 18th century England, great reading, book is Good, dust cover Good with large cut, multiple library stamps, C4 and EAC stamps. **$25**

8. Bowers & Ruddy Galleries, *The Garrett Collection Sales for the Johns Hopkins University – Part 1,* 28-29 November 1979, New York, NY. 72 colonial lots including the finest-known Brasher Doubloon, Good to Very Good with C4 stamp and dirt spots on the cover. **$10**

9. Bowers & Ruddy Galleries, *The Garrett Collection Sales for the Johns Hopkins University – Part 3,* 1-2 October 1980, New York, NY. Over 300 colonial lots, extensively described with many photos, a landmark colonial sale, Good to Very Good with C4 stamp. **$12**

10. Jordan, Louis, *John Hull the Mint and the Economics of Massachusetts Coinage*, C4 Publications, Lebanon, NH, 2002. Extensive study of the production and politics of Massachusetts silver coinage, Like New, C4 stamp. **$10**



The Colonial Coin Collectors Club's Young Numismatist Scholarship Program for ANA Summer Seminar 2025

The American Numismatic Association's (ANA) Summer Seminar is the best educational experience in numismatics. Students can learn to grade coins, detect counterfeits, and acquire knowledge of modern printing. Whether your interest is American colonial coins, U.S. Mint products, world coins, ancients, medals, tokens, or paper money, a class or mini-seminar is available for youth and adults eager to expand their numismatic knowledge.

The class experience is a true seminar. The classes are small, and everyone participates. Students learn from their instructors, recognized leaders in their field, and their fellow students' collective experiences. The Summer Seminar consists of two six-day segments between late June and early July each year.

Summer Seminar can be a life-changing event. Past attendees have launched careers as successful numismatic collectors, authors, and dealers. The experience has guided young numismatists to become hobby leaders. For detailed information on the classes offered and schedule, contact the ANA at www.money.org.

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4) is offering a monetary scholarship for a YN (Young Numismatist) collector to attend the 2025 ANA Summer Seminar, held on the campus of The Colorado College in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado.

This is an opportunity for numismatic scholarship and camaraderie, offering students a wide and varied selection of week-long courses suited for anyone from the curious beginner to the most advanced numismatist. YNs, ages 13 to 17, stay in a Colorado College dormitory with a group of experienced chaperons and mentors. Along with attending classes, YNs participate in a variety of special activities and events designed for them. If there are no qualified younger applicants, C4 may consider awarding the YN scholarship to a young collector in the 18-22 age range.

The scholarship will be between $500 and $1,000, depending on the candidate's needs and the strength of the application. The scholarship is open to non-members of C4, but C4 members have priority. Candidates may join C4 at the time they submit their application. The award recipient must agree to take at least one class on colonial numismatics and write a 2-page paper on the experience to be published in the *C4 Newsletter*. All candidates must complete the attached application form.

Application Receipt Deadline: February 1, 2025

Send applications via email to Christopher McDowell, President C4 at: President@colonialcoins.org with a copy to crmcdowell@strausstroy.com

COLONIAL COIN COLLECTORS CLUB
Young Numismatist Scholarship Program for ANA Summer Seminar 2025

APPLICATION

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____/_____/_____

Address: _____

Parent(s) or Guardian's Name(s): _____

Parent or Guardian's email address: _____

Attach a separate sheet (for items 1 to 5) answering the following:

1. List the names of any numismatic groups to which you belong. You may submit reference letters from these organizational leaders (this is not required).
2. List any numismatic activities that you have participated in. Examples: numismatic exhibits, coin club talks/presentations, scouting, club officer or board positions, etc.
3. Write a paragraph about your numismatic collecting interests and how you started the hobby.
4. Explain why you wish to attend Summer Seminar.
5. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your numismatic interests or why we should select you?
6. Do you agree to write a 2-page article about your Summer Seminar experience and submit the paper to the editor of the C4 Newsletter for publication by August 30, 2025?
   Yes _____ No _____
7. Do you agree to take at least one Summer Seminar class dealing with American colonial numismatics?
   Yes _____ No _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature (if YN applicant under age 18): _____

Date: _____

If you wish to fill out this form online, scan the QR code below:



C4 Mugs now available!
$23 each *(shipping included)*

At the most recent C4 Convention in Baltimore, we debuted C4's first SWAG item for sale...coffee mugs. We also had free pens for passers-by to the C4 table. Response was extremely positive, with almost the entire supply on hand selling out at the show. Now we're offering them to everyone who may not have been able to be in Baltimore.

The mugs are a light tan color with the Club's logo, in brown, emblazoned on both sides. So whether you're a righty or lefty, our logo will be visible when you drink. The mugs are offered at $23 each, which includes shipping. All proceeds go directly to benefit C4! And with each mug ordered, we'll throw in a free pen, shown at right.

To order yours, please send an email to Merchandise@ColonialCoins.org, for directions on making payment and shipping.



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Medals from the 1st Annual C4 Convention in 1995!



Recently discovered and again available for purchase are a limited number of the very first C4 medals made! The obverse design, featuring part of the Vermont landscape copper motif, is very similar to that later used on our 25th anniversary medals, but from a different die. The reverse design displays images of a New Jersey copper, a Connecticut copper, and a Fugio. These medals are made of pure copper and can be purchased while supplies last for just $20 with free shipping!

C4 25th Anniversary Medals (Prices Reduced!)



A limited number of C4 25th Anniversary Medals are still available. These medals have a very attractive design and a proof-like finish. Individual copper medals can be purchased for $4, individual silver medals (one ounce, .999 silver) can be purchased for $32, or a set containing one of each can be purchased for $35. Postage will be added to your total based on how many medals you order from this page. See below.

NEW C4 30th Anniversary Medals!



Hot off the presses to celebrate C4's 30th anniversary is a counterstamping of our 25th anniversary medals. The reverse has a large "30" expertly struck over the prior "25" and the anniversary dates at the bottom were updated. Medals in both metals are available. Individual copper medals can be purchased for $5, individual silver medals (one ounce, .999 silver) can be purchased for $35, or a set containing one of each can be purchased for $38. A complete set of all 4 medals (25th and 30th Anniversaries in both metals) can be purchased for $69. Postage will be added to your total based on how many medals you order from this page. See below.

To reserve and purchase any of the above medals, contact Chris Pretsch at treasurer@colonialcoins.org. Chris will respond verifying availability and give payment instructions.

C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), visit the C4 website at www.colonialcoins.org. These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis' website at www.numisbook.com. Books marked with an asterisk are also available from Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers at www.numislit.com.

(1) Carlotto, Tony. *The Copper Coins of Vermont, and Those Bearing the Vermont Name*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 1998. **OP**

(2) Clark, Randall P. *The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers (1785-1788)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2021. **OP**

(3) Howes, Jack, James Rosen and Gary Trudgen. *The History and Coinage of Machin's Mills*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2020. **OP**

(4) Jordan, Lou. *John Hull, The Mint and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage,* Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002. Price: $10.

(5) McDowell, Christopher R., *Abel Buell and the History of the Connecticut and Fugio Coinages*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2015. **OP**

(6) Martin, Sydney F. *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2015. Price $50. *

(7) Martin, Sydney F. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007. Price: $50. *

(8) Martin, Sydney F. *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2011. Price $50. *

(9) Martin, Sydney F. *St. Patrick Coinage (for Ireland and New Jersey)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2018. Price $95. *

(10) Moore, Roger A. *The Coins of Colonial Virginia*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2019, Price $50.

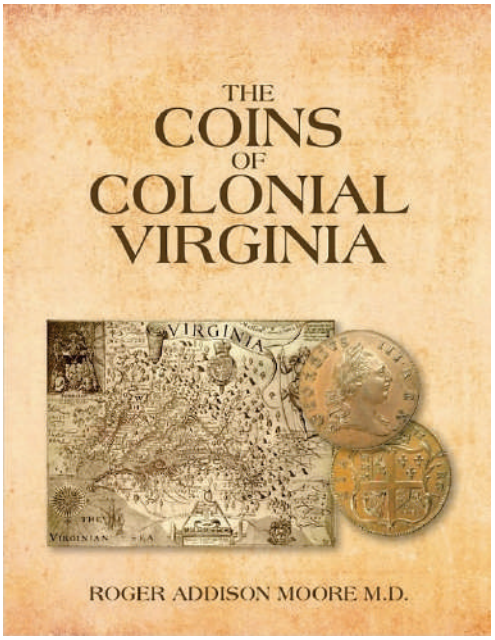
(11) Siboni, Roger S., John L. Howes, and A. Buell Ish. *New Jersey State Coppers*, American Numismatic Society and Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2013. **OP ***

(12) Vlack, Robert A. *An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2004. **OP**

Books indicated with **OP** are out of print, though both booksellers occasionally have second-hand copies for sale.

C4 BOOKS STILL AVAILABLE

The Coins of Colonial Virginia *by Roger A. Moore*
(2022 Winner of the Sydney F. Martin Numismatic Publication Award!)



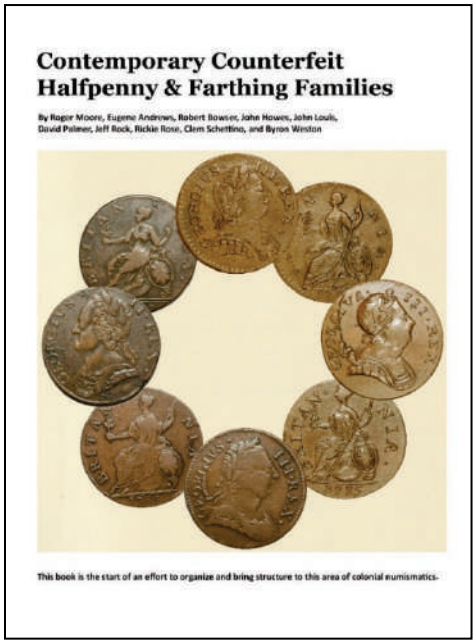
The growth and development of Virginia into one of the most important North American colonies can be traced by the economic evolution of the Dominion State as it attempted to gain the necessary hard currency needed for commerce. The history surrounding the introduction of various coinages and the use of tobacco as a commodity currency over the 150 years leading up to the final authorization of the production of Virginia halfpence in 1773 is fascinating. Equally as absorbing are the twists, turns, and dead ends encountered by the Virginia colonists as they sought authorization from the English Crown for their own coinage. It is ironic that the long-desired copper Virginia halfpence finally provided to Virginia under Warrant from King George III became available to the colonists only fifty days before the beginning of the American Revolution.

In addition to exploring the historic context in which colonial Virginia struggled to obtain hard currency, methods are provided for attributing and collecting 30 known die varieties of the 1773 copper Virginia halfpence. The book also enumerates the specifics of the Virginia halfpence metrology, rarity, and grading, as well as their numerous forgeries, facsimiles, fantasies, and oddities. Virginia halfpence can be appreciated and collected in nearly uncirculated condition and are important additions to any collection of American colonial coins.

Available at Charles Davis' website: www.numisbook.com.

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpenny & Farthing Families (2nd printing)
by Roger Moore, Eugene Andrews, Robert Bowser, John Howes, John Louis, David Palmer, Jeff Rock, Rickie Rose, Clem Schettino, and Byron Weston

This monograph is the start of an effort to organize and bring structure to this area of colonial numismatics: it breaks down the vast number of different varieties into related groups called Families. A Family of contemporary counterfeits is a group of coins that likely came from the same minting operation at about the same time. Families are logical groups that share one or more of the following attributes: dies, die making punches, or similarities in the design style. This updated large format, glossy, 294-page and profusely-illustrated-in-color hardcover is available from Barnes & Noble, Amazon books, and other mass market retailers. Check specifically for ISBN 978-1-64255-857-9.



C4 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual dues are currently $30.00 for Regular Membership ($55 if residing outside the United States) and $10.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age; $15 if non-US resident.) They are payable on a calendar year basis… due January 1. The year through which you are paid appears after your name on the mailing address label on the *C4 Newsletter* envelope. Life Memberships can be purchased for 25 times the annual membership cost, or $750.00. You can pay via Paypal (preferred) on the C4 website (colonialcoins.org) or may mail checks (made out to "C4") to: Chris Pretsch, C4 Treasurer, 301 Fifth Avenue, #622, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

Thank you for paying in a timely manner… It makes his job easier and will be much appreciated!

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

In accordance with our by-laws, those who have recently joined C4 as provisional members are listed below. If any current C4 member in good standing has a reason why any of the following should be denied membership in C4, please contact either your Regional VP or the President of the Club, Chris McDowell. The new provisional members this quarter are:

Matthew Ander – NJ	Hubert Brown– MD	Joe Duncan – IA
Kelen Gailey – MI	Floyd Greenwood – MA	Chris Hawthorn – MD
David Klein – NY	Jim Melnick – VA	Scott Newman – NY
Steven Salembene – MD	Chad Shaffer – NJ	

Obtaining Back Copies of C4 Newsletter and C4 Auction Catalogues

Wayne Shelby has agreed to store the back copies of the *C4 Newsletter*. People wishing to purchase back issues that are still available should send their money to our treasurer, Chris Pretsch, whose contact information is on page 2. Upon receipt of the money, he will contact Wayne, who will mail out the material. Back copies of the *Newsletter* are $17 for the first and $11 for all after that placed at the same time. If you have questions of what material is available, you can contact Wayne at:

dughistory@juno.com 609-261-6662 (Home)

THE C4 NEWSLETTER IS ON THE NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL!

Issues of The C4 Newsletter that are more than three years old, and a plethora of other important numismatic resources, are available online, through The Newman Numismatic Portal, at:

www.archive.org/details/newmannumismatic

(Newer issues of C4N are available in the Members Only section of the C4 website.)

RESOURCE FOR THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Our C4 Newsletter has an index available on our website at www.colonialcoins.org. There are two indexes: one by author and a second by topic/title. This is a beginning and the index will improve over time. We have intentions of updating the index within a week or two of every issue being shipped. We ask past authors and contributors to the C4N to please review their work in the index and forward any corrections/additions/suggestions to Ray Williams at njraywms@optonline.net or call.

The American Numismatic Society lacks just 10 pieces of Continental Currency for a complete set. If you would like to donate to the study collection, please contact Curator of the Americas, Jesse Kraft, at jkraft@numismatics.org. The missing notes are as follows:

February 26, 1777, $2, Friedberg.55 — May 20, 1777 $4 Friedberg.65 — May 20, 1777, $5, Friedberg.66 — May 20, 1777, $7, Friedberg.68 — May 20, 1777, $8, Friedberg.69 — April 11, 1778, $6, Friedberg.73 — April 11, 1778, $7, Friedberg.74 — April 11, 1778, $8, Friedberg.75 — April 11, 1778, $20, Friedberg.76 — April 11, 1778, $40, Friedberg.78

The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is on ForgeryNetwork:
http://www.forgerynetwork.com/default.aspx?keyword=cob

Answer to *What is it?* (from page 11):

(1688) American Plantations Token, James II $^{1}/_{24}$ Real (likely "restrike"), Newman 5-D variety
(Photos courtesy of HA.com)



CLASSIFIED ADS

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy Size
Cover page	$550	$800	$1,050	$1,300	6" x 9"
1 page	$300	$450	$600	$750	6" x 9"
1/2 page	$175	$250	$325	$400	6" x 4.5"

Please send check with your ad to C4 Treasurer, Chris Pretsch, when placing your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of **text only**. **EDITOR NOTE: FREE Classified Ads that have run for four consecutive issues will be discontinued unless instructed otherwise by the advertiser.**

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.

For Sale to a Good Home: **Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com**

Complete Sets of 1894 and 1896 "The Numismatist", Also, 11 of 12 Issues for 1895.
Other Issues from 1905 to 2024 also available. Email me for details and price.
Coin Galleries, 11 Mar 2009, Mike Ringo Counterfeits Part III, $8 +Ship
Coin Galleries, 18 July 2007, National Collection of Counterfeit 2 Reales, $18 +Ship
Heritage, Wittier Collection of Latin America Silver & Copper Coins, 2 June 2006, $9 +Ship
Heritage, Platinum Night, 14-19 August 2018, 1792 Gold Eagle & More, $8 +Ship
EAN, Sale #2, ca July 1985, Mass Silver, Lord Baltimore, State Issues, Fugios & More, $12 +Ship
Stacks Bowers, Baltimore Auction, C4 Sale, 5-10 Nov 2015, $17 +Ship
Check Out ebay site, ID "colonialnut" for more catalogs, Email me before buying.

[1/4]

For Sale: A set of 13 C4 catalogs from 1995 to 2010 (only missing 1996, 1998, and 2002). The 1995 is autographed by John M. Griffee and William Anton.

$250 includes UPS ground shipping.

Contact Frank at fpweisensee@gmail.com [2/4]

COLONIAL COIN BOOKS. Box of five books (exc. cond.) for $260 postpaid. Priority Mail Box includes: The Silver Coins of Massachusetts by C.J. Salmon; New Jersey State Coppers by R.S Siboni, J.L. Howes, A.B. Ish; United States Fugio Copper Coinage of 1787 by E.P. Newman; Money of the American Colonies and Confederation by P.L. Mossman; From Crime to Punishment: Counterfeit and Debased Coinage ... by P.L. Mossman. If interested, call me 540-292-6657. Also have Large Cent & U.S. Mint books boxed if you want those. I have Bent, Holed, and Folded books (signed) for a paltry $12 each.

[2/4]



MARCH 27-29 JUNE 19-21 NOVEMBER 6-8

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