



Summer 2025

Volume 33, Number 2



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Undated (ca. 1670) New Yorke
in America Token. W-1705.
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Fine-15 (PCGS). OGH.



1737 Higley Copper. Freidus 1.3-A, W-8125.
Rarity-7+. THE VALVE OF THREE PENCE /
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AU-50 (PCGS).
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The C4 Newsletter

Summer 2025, Volume 33, Number 2

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The C4 Newsletter Editorial Staff would like to thank Mark Vitunic for nearly four years as Assistant Editor for the publication. Mark's first issue was Fall 2021, Vol. 29, No. 3, where we are sure Will Nipper appreciated the help. Syd Martin, the prior assistant editor, had declined further involvement in 2020 for health reasons. Will and Mark moved the C4 Newsletter to a perfect-bound vs. loose leaf distribution (which was well received). During his tenure, Mark had been taking on increasing newsletter editorial responsibilities that he can no longer sustain. Julia and Randy will step in as tag-team assistant editors, with Will Nipper at the helm. We hope to be able to deliver the same quality product that Mark and Will have been issuing. Thank you, Mark !

Articles and classified ads should be emailed to both Editor and AssistEditor email addresses. Authors submitting articles for possible publication are, by such submission, attesting that the material is original and/or properly cited.

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Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to the C4 Treasurer (contact information on page 1). Dues for membership are \$35 (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.). Lifetime membership is available for \$1,000 with C4 board approval.

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C4 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – JUNE 2025

(Christopher R. McDowell)

Welcome to another exciting edition of the *C4 Newsletter*. Mark Vitunic has completed his tenure as assistant editor of this publication. Our Lead Editor, Will Nipper, is joined in this issue by Julia Casey and Randy Clark, two competent assistants. I believe that Randy's technical abilities and writing style complement Julia's research, tenacity, and writing; they are indeed a dynamic duo. This publication remains in capable hands with Will at the helm. The C4 Board of Directors would like to thank Mark for his many years of exemplary service to the Club. Mark was intimately involved in upgrading the appearance and style of our publication, as well as reducing costs over the years. Working on the *Newsletter* requires, to say the least, a great deal of effort. I hope that the next time you see one of the individuals involved, you will thank them for their many hours of volunteer service on behalf of our Club.

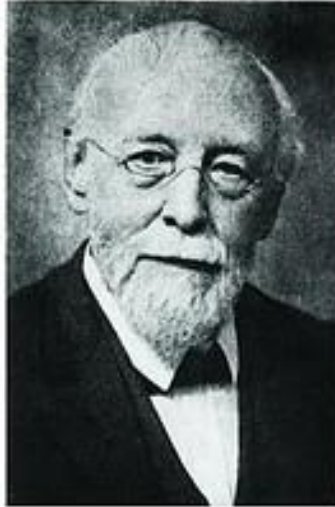
On May 24, C4 held its first Zoom chat. At its peak, we had thirty-one participants. Randy Clark gave a brief introductory talk on EAC'75, and then the floor was opened for discussion. What followed exceeded my expectations. Jim Glickman, who oversaw the event, has prepared a short article about it that appears elsewhere in these pages, so I shall not cover the same ground as he with another summary. I understand that many of our members are unable to attend our annual convention or even regional meetings; therefore, I am exploring other ways for everyone to be involved.

Based on the positive feedback, we will aim to host these Zoom chats approximately once a quarter. All members are invited to participate. We will need your email address to inform you of the time, place, and Zoom login information. Please send your email to Charlie Rohrer or me if we do not have it. At the inaugural chat, we had participants who were new to the Club alongside many life members. It was especially good to see our old friend Jay Knipe, the former C4 Secretary. Despite his recent health scare, Jay looked excellent and shared some great information with the group. We all wish you many more years of collecting and participating, Jay.

One of our newest members raised an interesting question at the Zoom meeting—one I frequently hear: What books should a colonial collector have in their library? If you asked a dozen collectors, I think you would receive a variety of answers; however, certain books would appear on every list. I invite our members to email their lists to our *Newsletter* editors. I categorize any colonial library listing into the essential books that encompass the entire scope of colonial numismatics and then delve into the specifics of the collector's interests. Since I predominantly collect Connecticut coppers and Betts medals, my specific list would look quite different from that of a Vermont collector. I will attempt to outline a general list of reference materials that I believe every colonial collector should have readily available, regardless of their specific collecting interest.

McDowell's Five Best Reference Books for New Collectors of Colonial Numismatic Items:

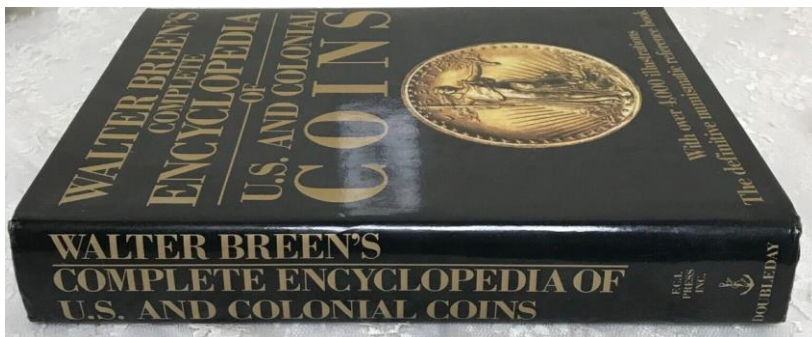
1) I believe this book will be on everyone's list. It is the granddaddy of them all: Sylvester Sage Crosby's



opus, *The Early Coins of America and the Laws Governing Their Issue, Comprising also Descriptions of the Washington Pieces, the Anglo-American Tokens, Many Pieces of Unknown Origin of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, and the First Patterns of the United States Mint*, was first published in 1875. While Crosby may not win an award for brevity in his title, his book is a masterpiece. Each major colonial numismatic series is covered. Every colonial coin collector owes him a great debt of gratitude for his in-depth research, presentation, and preservation of many original documents. I have an original copy, the price of which has stabilized in recent

years. Depending on the quality, it can be found for between \$1,400 and \$2,000. However, this book has been reprinted in modern times, as it is now out of copyright. A reprint can be had for between \$75 and \$400, depending on the quality. As Crosby's book is old, some of his research has been surpassed by recent findings, particularly in the areas of Machin's, Connecticut, and Vermont. Additionally, Crosby is not the leading source on American medals. Thus, Crosby serves as a starting point, not an endpoint, in your book acquisitions as a new collector.

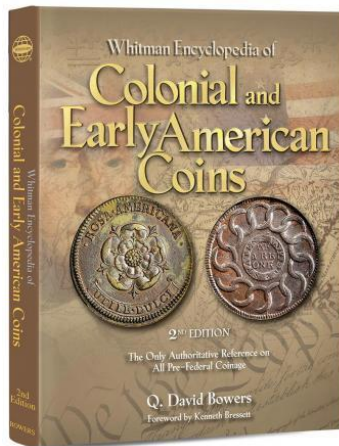
2) My second choice is a bit more controversial. It has its issues, which I will discuss, but my second pick is



Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins (1987). This book can now be found in the \$100 range, making it more affordable than Crosby. It contains updated research on colonial coins and features items not found in Crosby. Furthermore, it covers the full range of American numismatics like no other book before or since. This work is controversial because Breen was a deeply flawed man—a matter I

shall not go into at this time. In addition, Breen at times conflated speculation with factual research, and some of his findings have later been scrutinized for being incorrect or misleading. Despite these acknowledged flaws, it ranks second on my list. I will admit that as my personal research becomes more focused, I find myself consulting this work less frequently. Moreover, I do not believe it will have the longevity of Crosby's universally respected work. When it first appeared in 1987, it was a resounding success, leading thousands of Americans to collect coins. It contains a wealth of valuable information, covering more in one place than any other work.

- 3) If I am not already on thin ice with many of our readers for my second pick, I may fall through with this third pick. Mind you, I am picking general reference works for beginners.



My third pick is Q. David Bower's *Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins* (2nd Ed. 2020). This book is well-priced at around \$40.00. Julia Casey assisted Dave with this second edition and was able to make many choice improvements. I also had a very small hand in things. The book offers a concise overview of each major series, accompanied by helpful images of the various types and varieties, and includes rarity rankings, among other details. This book was never intended to be a deep dive into any one series; that is what specialty books are for. However, it does provide an overview of the entire field of American colonial numismatics, a goal it accomplishes admirably. For beginners, it will provide a wealth of valuable information to help you understand many colonial series, complete with quality images, setting you on the right path. Moreover, you really cannot beat the price point.

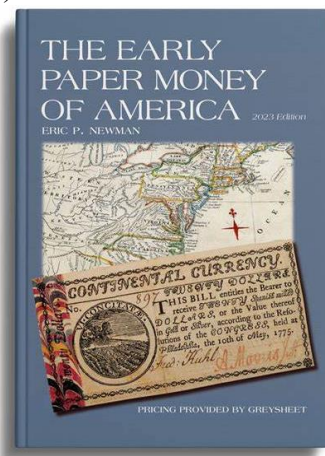
- 4) If your library includes the three books mentioned above, it will provide a broad overview of American colonial coinage. However, there will be significant areas of our collecting world you will miss. My next book addresses some of these gaps. Once again, I return to the nineteenth century and highlight C. Wyllys Bett's monumental work on American medals, *American Colonial History: Illustrated by Contemporary Medals*, which was printed posthumously in 1894. Although an original copy, like Crosby, can be pricy, reprints can be found for under \$50.



Having engaged with this book almost daily for six years while working on my three-volume update of Betts, I have come to appreciate significantly Betts' vision and thoroughness. Betts was struck down by pneumonia in the prime of his life. After his death, his brother discovered the unfinished manuscript in Bett's bedroom in the family's New York City mansion and, along with two co-authors, worked to complete it. This book encompasses the broad scope and depth of American colonial medals, from before the nation's founding through the end of the colonial era. The major shortcoming of the book is a lack of

images, which I have strived to add along with a detailed history of each medal in my Betts' companion series. Regardless of any shortcomings, it is a must-have in any complete American colonial numismatic library.

- 5) Another titan in the field of colonial numismatics, Eric P. Newman, authored my final selection, namely



The Early Paper Money of America, first published in 1967 and subsequently updated several times. This book can be purchased for under \$60. I recommend obtaining the most recent edition. In this work, Newman drew upon a lifetime of outstanding research and collecting to prepare the seminal piece in the field. Colonial paper money is currently in high demand. I would venture to say that there are many secret and not-so-secret collectors of this genre among us. Collecting colonial paper money is a gratifying pursuit and contributes to becoming a well-rounded colonial numismatist. Those C4 members who specialize in this area of numismatics are devoted to the field like few others.

These are my five suggestions for reference books aimed at new collectors. While some may disagree, and I'm sure they will, anyone who possesses these works is off to a good start. These are general reference works; within each colonial series, there are superb specialty books, many of which were published by this Club and are listed elsewhere in this Newsletter. One of the best pieces of advice I can offer to any new coin collector is to buy the book before you buy the coin—it will save you far more money than the cost of the book in the long run and make your collecting experience much more enjoyable. Collecting numismatic books is a hobby of its own—one that your C4 President indulges in. The primary drawback is that it is more challenging to hide new books from your wife than coins, medals, and paper money. My wife's sharp eye always seems to notice a new bookshelf.

Recently, I received feedback that some members feel C4 has an anti-slab bias or policy. While I cannot control members' personal preferences, I am not aware of any official policy regarding this matter. For years, I have taught the coin collecting merit badge to young scouts. Part of that merit badge covers the various ways to keep, hold, and preserve your collection, including slabs. Slabs offer several advantages over storing your coins raw, while keeping your coins in pouches and paper envelopes also has its benefits. There are drawbacks to slabs, just as there are drawbacks to other storage methods. There are also advantages. I won't go into all that here. I advise against keeping your cherished coins in old plastic flip holders due to the presence of PVC, but beyond that, do as you wish. We are a club of hundreds of people with diverse interests and opinions. One important thing is that we treat everyone with dignity and respect. No one should feel belittled or denigrated for what or how they collect. One man's trash is another man's treasure. My personal collection includes many coins in slabs, as well as numerous beautiful unslabbed coins. I love them all. Enough said.

In recent months, I have noticed an uptick in new members joining our Club. I send a welcome letter to every new member, so I should know. Unlike many other clubs, our membership remains strong and continues to grow, and our financial situation is solid.

By the time you read this, Volume II of my series on Betts medals will be available from our partners, David Fanning (Kolbe & Fanning) and Charlie Davis. This will compliment my first volume which was titled *The Early Betts Medal Companion, Medals of America's Discovery and Colonization (1492-1737)*. Volume II covers the French and Indian War period and the Indian Peace Medals issued during the reign of George III. The events leading up to our revolution were both politically exciting and significant in the field of numismatics.

My next President's Message will cover convention matters. Please visit the C4 website as the convention approaches for essential updates and information.

Until next time, I wish everyone success in their collecting pursuits.

Christopher R. McDowell, Esq.
Cincinnati, Ohio
4 June 2025



A FIND OF A LIFETIME

(Matthew Virga & AJ Kelley)

Each and every time metal detectorists venture out for a hunt, they often find themselves wondering, “Will I find something amazing today?” Most of the time, we detectorists find our fair share of nails, bottle caps, washers, and modern coinage. However, every once in a while, something completely unexpected pops out of the ground that truly shocks and invigorates you. We dream of finding George Washington inaugural buttons, a military relic of our past, or a super rare coin. We watch as our fellow diggers unearth incredible items on a daily basis. However, in the case of select items (such as rare die varieties and unusual artifacts), we often have to wait years and years before we hear of a new example being found. However, in April of 2025, one determined digger found something truly special. Let us embark on the journey of AJ Kelley, a young and up-and-coming detectorist based out of Gloucester County, New Jersey.

AJ was metal detecting a 1720s homestead in South New Jersey with his detecting friend Jay Cook in hopes of recovering the rich history of colonial America. The two diggers had been detecting for several hours, finding buttons and other relics contemporary to the period.



Figure 1 - A rendition of the homestead.

In his own words, here is AJ’s story of how he made an incredible find that day.

“Good karma exists when you do good deeds!”

Myself and my detecting friend Jay Cook met up at one of my permissions in the old fields of Gloucester County. We got the go ahead from the farmer to head out back in the fields before he ploughed in the crops for the season. Before we could swing on the fresh dirt, he asked if I could help find his keys that he dropped in the next field over.

I had Jay get a head start at the new soil while I meandered in search for the farmer’s lost keys. When I had returned an hour later with no luck of finding said keys, Jay yelled out “DRAPED BUST!” I immediately ran over to a fresh area of shrubs that the farmer cleared to turn into a corn field and saw Jay Cook’s face grinning while holding the large coin! I truly was ecstatic for his find. But soon that feeling would come onto me!

Jay and I dove face first into the pile of thicket and I got a solid 19–20 signal on the Equinox 800 under the sticker bush. This could be the anticipated find of the day I've been waiting for, I thought to myself. I dug down 4 inches in the sandy soil and I nearly fainted at the sight of the crisp "BRITANNIA" of a halfpenny facing back at me! I can describe the feeling of finding such a beautiful looking copper coin as "euphoric and heart racing." Jay and I did a little dance as we read the stunning reverse of the coin! "1778" is the date it read, and we both agreed it was a non-regal King George III halfpenny but that couldn't have been further from the case!!

Over my twelve years of metal detecting various sites in New Jersey & Pennsylvania I never found an item of such rarity and this being my first ever Machin's Mills halfpence it sure was a treasure!!"



Figure 2 - AJ posing with the coin after the find. (Photo taken by Jay Cook)



Figure 3 - Image of the copper coin, as it came out of the ground.

At the time, AJ did not know exactly what he had found and carefully pocketed the coin, leaving it untouched out of the ground. After getting home, AJ decided to seek the help of fellow diggers to identify the coin by posting the nicely preserved copper to an online forum. Within a few minutes, several colonial experts chimed in to deliver the incredible news that AJ had found a new example of the previously "unique" 1778 Vlack 13-78C Machin's Mills halfpence.

When studying the coin carefully, it is clear that this new example of Vlack 13-78C was dropped in a very high grade and was also struck from an early set of dies. Based on the remaining detail and the hard surfaces, the coin was recovered out of very sandy/gravelly soil and was most likely obverse side down in the hole. The obverse has heavier porosity than the reverse however, overall, it is in beautiful condition.

AJ sought the advice of well known detectorist and C4 member, Wayne Shelby. With guidance from Wayne, several conservation methods were carefully explored to ensure the coin was treated with the utmost care and respect for its historical integrity. After weighing different approaches, the final option considered was a gentle soak in olive oil to help loosen the surface dirt without compromising the coin's patina. AJ brought the coin home and followed this method, successfully lifting the attached soil. After the soaking, he rinsed the piece in warm water to remove the residual oil. This conservative approach helped reveal the coin's details while preserving its authenticity—thanks in large part to Wayne's thoughtful direction. My experience is that mineral oil is less invasive than olive oil and typically yields the same effect. Patience is key, dirt can be temperamental!

Here are a few photos of the coin after light conservation.



Figure 4 - Image of the Vlack 13-78C after conservation.

As a senior in high school about to embark on his college journey, AJ made the thoughtful choice to part with the coin after consulting experts and realizing its considerable market value. The sale not only honors the artifact's legacy by placing it in the hands of a dedicated collector's cabinet, but it also provides AJ the means to help fund his education and invest in his future. This entire experience has also shaped AJ's view on colonial history and invigorated his interest in pursuing the collecting of U.S. colonial coins. Here is AJ in his own words, on the impact this experience has had:

Before the discovery I did not know how vast the colonial coin collectors group was and it was through many fellow C4 community members I was taught of the sheer history of the Machin's Mills coin operation at Newburgh, New York (1787-1789) and the famous Revolutionary War story behind Thomas Machin!

It was a long adventure of learning that I went on, but it was certainly fun. I am saddened to part with this extraordinary coin but it will be put towards my future. There will be more amazing discoveries to come out!

One of the most rewarding aspects of this discovery was witnessing how the entire C4 community came together to support AJ. From the outset, respected figures like Ray Williams, Roger Siboni, Wayne Shelby, myself, and others acted quickly to ensure AJ wasn't taken advantage of, advising him not to clean or alter the coin and helping him understand its historical significance.

This experience reflects the very best of what C4 stands for: a dedicated network committed to mentorship, ethical guidance, and preserving the integrity of colonial numismatics while inspiring and protecting the next generation of collectors.

Conclusion:

Extraordinary finds like this Machin's Mills halfpenny not only elevate the excitement around metal detecting and historical exploration, but also reignite interest among numismatists in lesser-studied colonial coin series. The efforts of passionate diggers continue to uncover forgotten chapters of America's early monetary history, while collectors — both seasoned and new — are increasingly drawn to the rich stories these coins represent. Together, they play a vital role in preserving and celebrating our shared past, one discovery at a time.

[Editor's note: The 1778 Vlack 13-78C was the last "unique" R9 variety listed in the Machin's Mills series. With two now known, it is officially an R8. The newly found specimen weighs in at 111.1 grains.

The original discovery coin was written up in the Fall 2008 C4 Newsletter and in the December 2008 edition of The Colonial Newsletter, both articles authored by George Seifrit. The discovery coin weighed in at 101.2 grains. It was sold publicly by Stack's Bowers January 2011:6051 and again by Stack's Bowers March 2023:1112, as part of the Sydney Martin Collection. The discovery coin was also documented in The History and Coinage of Machin's Mills by Howes, Rosen, and Trudgen. Perhaps we can have one of those authors comment on the new specimen to see if prior thoughts on striking order still hold.

A picture of the discovery coin is shown below for comparison, from the March 2023 Syd Martin sale.]



Figure 5 – The 2008 Vlack 13-78C Discovery Coin (for Comparison) from Stack's Bowers March 2023.



HARRY ASHBY'S APPROACHES FOR FOILING COUNTERFEITING OF HIS 1773/1775 VIRGINIA NOTES, ESPECIALLY FOR THE HIGHEST DENOMINATION

(Roger A. Moore)

WHY WERE THE ASHBY NOTES MADE?

Periodic counterfeiting of currency was a constant problem for all the colonial colonies in the 1700s. For Virginia, the extensive counterfeiting of the authorized 1770¹ and 1771² currency emissions was devastating for the colony's finances and trade.³ In January of 1773, the Treasurer of Virginia, Robert Carter Nicholas, was alerted to the massive counterfeiting operation of the 1771 issue. A gang of counterfeiters located in Pennsylvania had produced large quantities of extremely high-quality forgeries of the 1771 notes.⁴ The counterfeits were so deceptive that even with the help of a group that included engravers of the 1771 issue, it took two days of study to determine characteristics that distinguished the legal note from the counterfeit.⁵ The counterfeits were so perfect that they threatened the credibility of Virginia currency within the colony and could also undermine inter-colonial and international trade. The Virginia House of Burgesses took action on March 13, 1773, by authorizing a recall and destruction of all 1770 and 1771 currency, and ordered its replacement with a new currency emission of £36,340 in "promissory notes."⁶ Due to Nicholas's deep concern about Virginia's currency's vulnerability, he decided that an expert engraver was needed to prevent repeat counterfeiting episodes. His agent in London was requested to find a quality English engraver to produce new currency plates and print the needed currency on high-quality paper that counterfeiters would find difficult to duplicate. After a detailed search, Harry [also called Henry] Ashby was the engraver selected.⁷ However, the need for the replacement currency was immediate, so Nicholas used other methods to fill Virginia's currency void until Ashby could send the currency and engraved plates to Virginia. One of these plates is extant and resides at the Virginia Historical Society.⁸

¹ On November 7, 1769, an Act by the Virginia House of Burgesses provided for the emission of £10,000 of new currency in 1770, to support numerous monetary needs of the colony. The currency was primarily for tobacco farmers whose tobacco, stored in government warehouses, had been destroyed by a flood. Also, £2,500 was allocated to the Colony of Virginia's application to the King of England for minting copper halfpence. Ironically, in the same session, the House also passed a strong anti-counterfeiting Act stipulating death without clergy as a penalty. This Act was ignored by the counterfeiters.

² Roger Moore, "Two Existing Printing Plates for Virginia Colonial Currency: Their Authorizers, Makers, and Preservers," *JEAN*, vol. 5, no. 2, December 2022, pp. 166-170. Another disastrous flood in late 1770 also destroyed the accumulated tobacco in government warehouses owned by the tobacco growers. An Act of the House of Burgesses on July 11, 1771, authorized the emission of £30,000 in new paper currency.

³ Roger Moore, "More on the Virginia July 11, 1771 Currency," *The Colonial Coin Collectors Club Newsletter*, vol. 32, no. 1, Spring 2024, p. 45-51.

⁴ Ray Williams, "Counterfeiting in Colonial Virginia," *The Colonial Coin Collectors Club Newsletter*, vol. 31, no. 4, Winter 2023, p. 48-50.

⁵ Moore, "Two Existing Printing Plates," pp. 166-170.

⁶ "Act for the better securing the public credit of this colony," *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619*, Richmond, Franklin Press, 1821, vol. 8, pp. 647-651.

⁷ Moore, "Two Existing Plates," pp. 171-178, 201-202. This reference provides a detailed account of the search for an engraver and a substitute currency to fill the gap in Virginia's financial state while the new currency was being produced. Ashby performed many engraving jobs but was particularly known for his skill in engraving currency printing plates for local and foreign banks.

⁸ *Ibid.* pp. 152-153. The Virginia Historical Society accession number is 1833.1 for the copper £3 Ashby plate donated to the Virginia Historical Society by Dr. Daniel Norborne Norton in 1833. It measures 267 grams, 4.875 inches high, 8 inches wide, and 0.0625 inches thick.

WHAT VIRGINIA CURRENCY DID ASHBY MAKE?

Ashby engraved four large plates to print oversized pieces of Virginia currency: denominations of £1, £2, £3, and £5. Figure 1 shows a representative example of a note printed from the £3 copper plate made by Ashby, and now located at the Virginia Historical Society. Note that spaces were left blank within the engraving for handwritten additions. Also, there are small additions within the scrolling on the left of the note with the words “*Ashby sc*” and “*London*,” emphasizing the origin of who and where the note was produced.

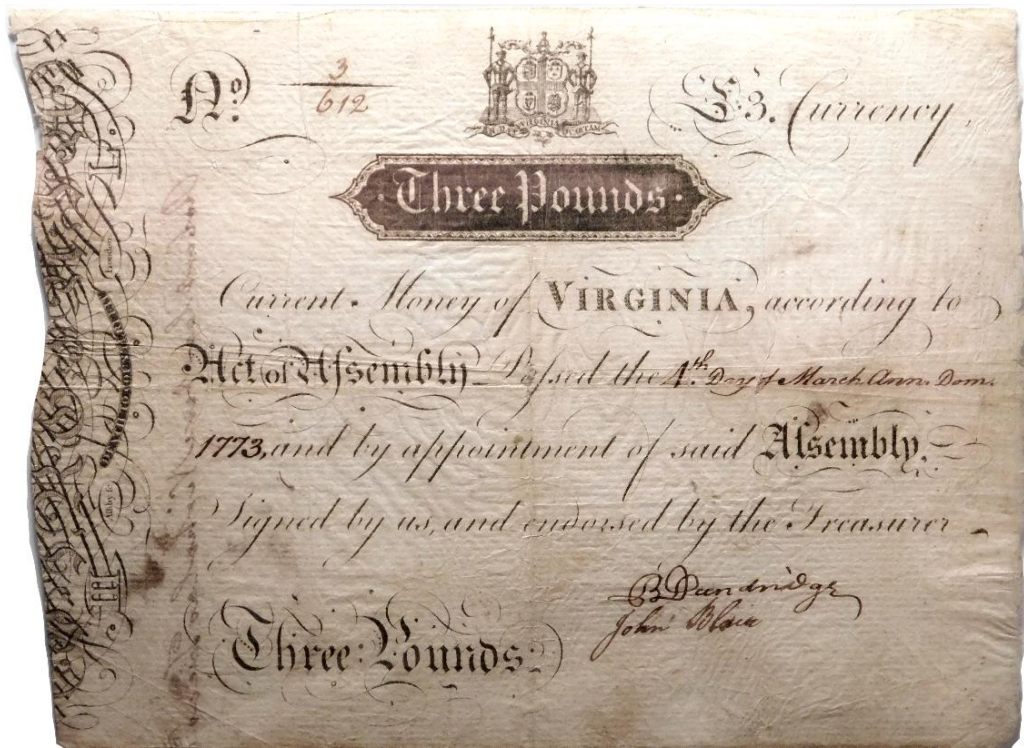


Figure 1. £3 Ashby note authorized by the March 4, 1773, Virginia House of Burgesses Act.⁹ In his classic book, *The Early Paper Money of America*, Eric Newman listed the number of each denomination of the Ashby notes produced and used for emissions of Virginia currency in 1773 and 1775 (Table 1).¹⁰

TABLE 1: NUMBER AND VALUE OF ASHBY NOTE EMISSIONS

NUMBER OF NOTES IN EACH ASHBY NOTE DENOMINATION ISSUED IN 1773 AND 1775			
DATE OF ISSUE	DENOMINATION	NUMBER NOTES ISSUED	£ AMOUNT ISSUED
MARCH 4, 1773	£1	1,100	£1,100
MARCH 4, 1773	£2	1,300	£2,600
MARCH 4, 1773	£3	500	£1,500
MARCH 4, 1773	£5	900	£4,500
TOTALS		3,800	£9,700
JULY 17, 1775	£1	8,999	£8,999
JULY 17, 1775	£2	5,597	£11,194
JULY 17, 1775	£3	3,500	£10,500
JULY 17, 1775	£5	3,294	£16,470
TOTALS		21,390	£47,163

⁹ Unless otherwise indicated, all images are from the author’s reference collection.
¹⁰ Newman, Eric P., *The Early Paper Money of America*, CND Publishing, 2022, pp. 421-423.

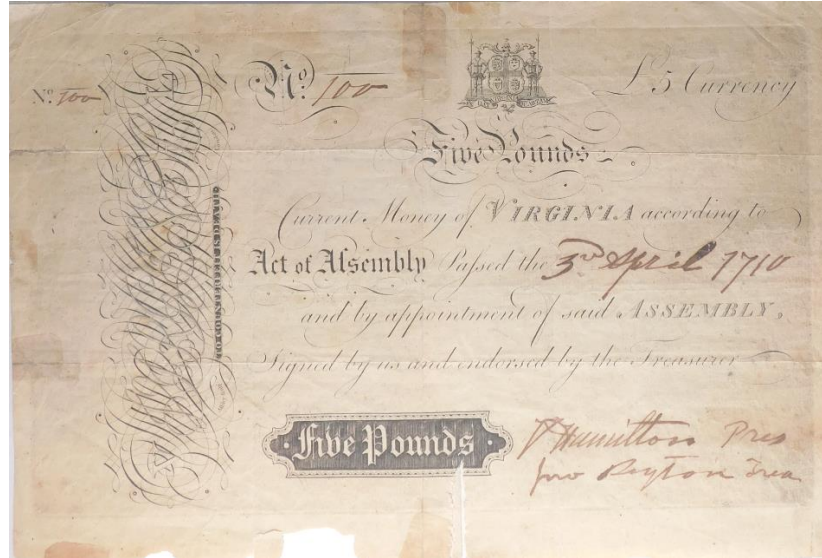


Figure 2. A complete £5 Ashby note that, on issuance, would have a patterned cut made through the scrolled engraving area to the left. The resultant note and severed stub would have the same number written, allowing matching when the note was redeemed.¹¹

WHAT METHODS DID ASHBY USE FOR PREVENTING COUNTERFEITING AND IDENTIFYING VIRGINIA CURRENCY THAT HAD BEEN COUNTERFEITED?

INDENTING:

Figure 2 shows a complete, uncut Ashby note before being cut and issued.

Before notes were issued, the complete uncut notes would be retained in a book of notes at the Virginia Treasury, attached to the book by its left side margin. Each specific note was labeled with both the number of the note in the book and the number of the book, since there were many books of notes. The note's number and the number of the book were written in the upper left corner of the note in the two designated spots indicated by the engraved "No." When the note was to be issued, a wavy cut was usually made within the scrolling on the left side of the note, leaving the small numbered stub in the book. The large portion, which was the issued note, contained the rest of the scrolling (Figure 1). When the note was eventually redeemed, the note's numbers were used to find the associated stub's number. Since the cut used to separate the stub from the note was unique for each stub/note pair, matching the two would determine whether the note was official or counterfeit.

PROGRESSIVELY COMPLEX ENGRAVING WITH INCREASING VALUE OF NOTE:

The scrolling on the left side of each note holds hidden within the scrolling the word VIRGINIA, as well as the Roman numeral representing the English pound value of the note. The changing aspect of the word VIRGINIA with the four different denominations was not apparent to the author until examples of each denomination were studied. An image of the scrolling for each denomination is provided in Figures 3A-D. Since each of these notes had been individually cut through the scroll when issued, the tops of some letters in VIRGINIA are missing from the note.

¹¹ The rare uncut £5 Ashby note in Figure 1 is part of the David Gladfelter reference collection. Unfortunately, inappropriate graffiti was written on its face at some point in its life.

For the £1 note (Figure 3A), the word VIRGINIA is quite discernible, and the engraving of each letter is done in plain block letters without ornamentation. Additional wording was incorporated into the scrolled area on two curved lines: DEATH TO COUNTERFEIT. The word VIRGINIA within the scroll for the £2 note (Figure 3B) has lettering that is more stylized and embellished with significant internal ornamentation in the structure of each letter. However, the lettering of VIRGINIA is easily discernible within the scrolling, as well as the wording on one curved line with the warning: TO COUNTERFEIT IS DEATH.



A - £1 note.



B - £2 note.



C - £3 note.



D - £5 note.

Figure 3 – The left border scroll is shown for each denomination of the Ashby notes, with the word VIRGINIA incorporated within the scrolling. Due to the indent being cut, the tops of some letters are missing, but the missing parts are present on the stubs left at the Treasury office.

With the £3 note (Figure 3C), the lettering of VIRGINIA takes on an even greater stylized appearance with multiple curves and extensions of each letter, making discernment of the word VIRGINIA more difficult. This difficulty is further exacerbated due to the overlay of the scrolling on top of the lettering curves. Once again, the stark warning is provided in one curved line: DEATH TO COUNTERFEIT. The £5 note (Figure 3D) reaches the highest level of obscuring the word VIRGINIA within the scrolling. In fact, without knowing the word VIRGINIA was incorporated into the scroll, one would most likely not discern its presence. The lettering is much thinner, which allows each letter to blend into the engraved scroll lines. In addition, each letter, with its stylized extensions, overlaps with other letters, causing confusion among the lines. This was a phenomenal engraving accomplishment by Ashby and one that would be sure to overwhelm any counterfeiter attempting to duplicate it. The usual warning is also supplied on a single straight line: TO COUNTERFEIT IS DEATH.

The progressively more ornate and stylized lettering of VIRGINIA within the scrolling by Ashby was an intentional attempt to confound any counterfeiters. Ashby's expertise in producing this currency was specifically sought out due to the Virginia colony's need to avoid the disastrous counterfeiting they had experienced with their 1770 and 1771 currencies. It is no accident that the higher the note's denomination, the more difficult it is for a counterfeiter to reproduce an exact copy. The 1770 and 1771 currencies had primarily their highest denomination notes, the £5 notes, extensively counterfeited.¹² Therefore, Ashby paid particular attention to making his highest denomination notes the most difficult to reproduce. His approach seems successful since no counterfeits for any of his notes are known. Figure 4 provides examples of the differences in the rendition of the letter R in VIRGINIA for each of the four denominations.



A - £1 note.

B - £2 note.

C - £3 note.

D - £5 note.

Figure 4. Comparison of the letter R in VIRGINIA for each of the four Ashby note denominations.

CHOICE OF PAPER QUALITY AND WATERMARK FOR THE PRINTING OF ASHBY NOTES:

Being known for engraving currency plates for both local and international banks, Ashby was well aware that one important method for confounding counterfeiters was to use the highest quality paper when printing that would otherwise be unavailable to a counterfeiter. The size alone of large notes printed on exceptionally fine laid paper with distinctive watermarks was an important method to allow easy discrimination of an official note from a fake. Unless the counterfeiting operation was very sophisticated, the forgers' ability to obtain the highest quality paper was nearly an insurmountable problem, and combined with the paper having a special watermark, would make their ability for successful counterfeiting essentially unreachable. An example of the faint, centrally placed VIRGINIA watermark on a £2 note is shown in Figure 5-A, and a close-up of the scroll watermark that occurs on the note's right edge is shown in Figure 5-B.

Due to the very thin, high-quality paper used by Ashby to print the Virginia currency, the central VIRGINIA watermark on every piece of currency inspected by the author has been faint and usually incomplete. The mould used to produce the watermark was unable to make adequate thinning of the paper fibers on already

¹² Newman, p.419. The 1770 issue also had the lowest denomination of £1 counterfeited.

very thin paper, which caused the watermark to be poorly defined.¹³ However, every Ashby note does have at least some observable letters in the VIRGINIA watermark. Because of this, the author has taken the liberty to construct a composite line drawing of the watermark, illustrated in Figure 6, that provides the general appearance of the VIRGINIA watermark.

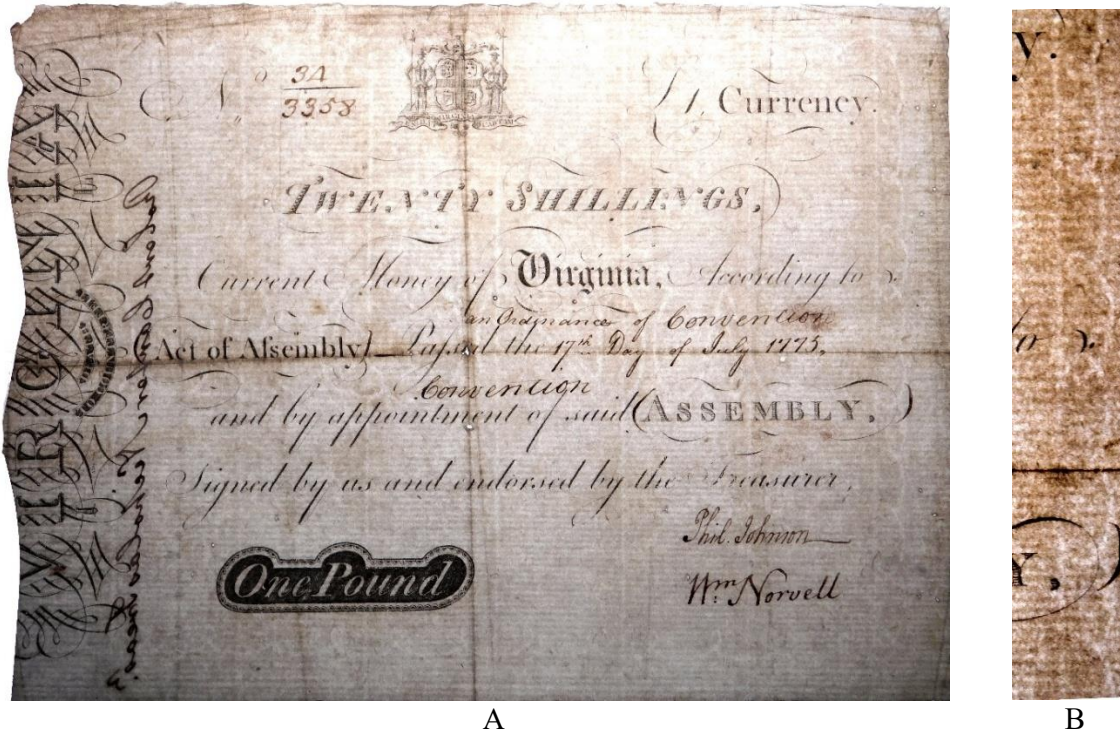


Figure 5. A) £1 note (20 shillings) showing a faint central watermark, which is the word VIRGINIA, and B) a close-up of the ornate scroll watermark on the right edge of the note.

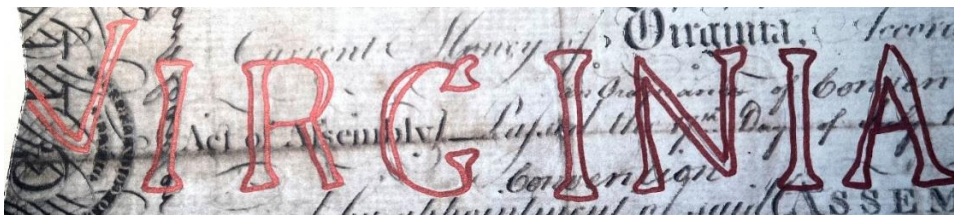


Figure 6. Composite VIRGINIA watermark made from partial watermarks from a number of Ashby notes.

¹³ Paper was made during the colonial period by dipping a screen made using numerous parallel drawn copper wires stretched over a frame into a vat of water containing floating fibers of flax, wood, silk, or other fibrous material. The higher the number of copper wires in the screen, the finer the resultant paper product. The finer the type of fibers used in the vat, and the more thinly they were spread on the screen while retaining the paper's integrity, the higher the quality of the paper. When a watermark was desired for the paper, a wire construction of the watermark design would be made and sewn to the paper-making screen. When the fibers were distributed on the screen, they would be slightly thinner over the watermark construct, making the paper thinner in those areas. A number of factors, including the type of fibers used to make the paper, could affect the appearance of the resultant watermark. Also see: Moore, *Two Existing Printing Plates*, p. 177. Nicholas also pointed out the difficulty in seeing the VIRGINIA watermark, with the statement, "It's a Pity that Virginia wrought in the Grain of the Paper had not been made plainer; it is hardly legible in the Samples I have received....Perhaps after all, the exceeding Thinness of the Paper would not admit of its' being better done."

The question remained whether Ashby used paper with progressively more intricate watermarks based on the increasing value of the notes he printed. This would be patterned after his increasingly complex engraved designs for VIRGINIA in his left-sided scrolls for increasing denominations. However, this did not seem to be the case. Having acquired six Ashby notes, including all four denominations, the author compared the discernible portions of the VIRGINIA watermark from each. Based on the details, this inspection revealed that all were made with paper using the same VIRGINIA watermark mould. Two examples of the watermark with visible INIA letters from VIRGINIA are shown in Figures 7A and 7B from the £1 and £2 notes, respectively. They both show the exact same positions of the watermarked letters in relation to the paper's vertical chain lines.¹⁴

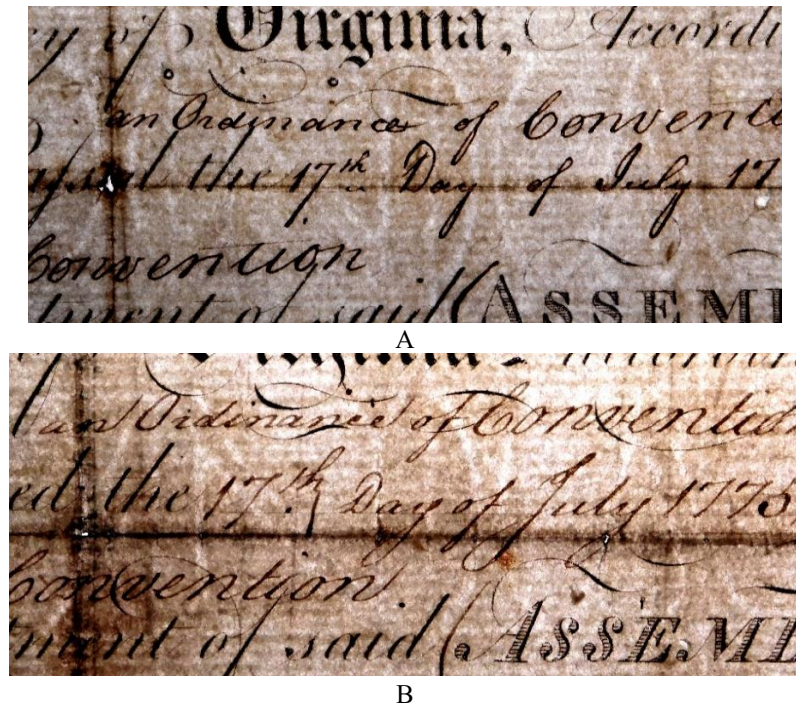


Figure 7. The INIA letters of the VIRGINIA watermarks on A) £1 and B) £2 notes. The letters' positions to the chain lines are exactly the same. The positioning of the letters to the chain lines also exists for the £3 and £5 notes.

So, the conclusion is that the same paper was used for all denominations of the currency with the same watermarks. No complexity increase in the watermarks occurred as the denomination increased. In five of the notes, the orientation of the VIRGINIA watermark was in the same direction both vertically and horizontally as the face of the note. In one, the Virginia watermark was vertically and horizontally oriented in the same direction as the back of the note. This difference for the outlier was simply due to the paper being horizontally rotated when placed on the printing press.

¹⁴ Laid paper, the only paper available during the colonial period, was made using a screen with drawn copper wire. When the paper was made, each copper wire (paper varied between 16 and 23 wires per inch, depending on quality) produced a faint watermark on the paper. These are called laid lines and can be seen as closely spaced horizontal lines in Figure 7. In addition, wooden struts were used to stabilize the screen, and the copper wires were sewn to these, with the sewing resulting in the formation of somewhat larger watermarks on the paper running perpendicular to the copper wire watermarks. These thicker watermarks were called chain lines and can be seen as slightly larger vertical lines spaced about one to two inches apart in Figure 7. On the actual paper without magnification, they are usually about one inch apart.

EMBOSSING THE ASHBY CURRENCY:

On September 10, 1773, Robert Carter Nicholas wrote to his agent in London, who was arranging for Ashby to produce the new counterfeit-resistant Virginia currency. He requested that each note have a design embossed onto it.¹⁵ The idea was that this step, combined with all the other anti-counterfeiting techniques, would serve as an impossible hurdle for a forger to overcome. When samples of the new Ashby currency arrived in Virginia for evaluation, no embossing had been performed. There was no further follow-up on this issue, though Ashby most likely thought any embossing should be performed at the Virginia colony with whatever design they felt appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Extensive counterfeiting of the colony of Virginia's 1770 and 1771 currency emissions threatened the colony's internal commerce and eroded merchants' confidence in neighboring colonies and other nations from accepting any of Virginia's currency. A recall of both emissions was necessary, as was their replacement with a new currency that had added elements to protect it from being counterfeited. The Treasurer of the Virginia colony, Robert Carter Nicholas, enlisted his agent in London to employ a high-quality engraver who could produce the new currency. The stipulation was that the new currency should be difficult to counterfeit and one that could be easily differentiated from any forgeries that were produced. Harry Ashby was chosen as the engraver due to his proven skill in engraving and printing quality currencies for local and foreign banks. Ashby incorporated several methods in his production of the new currency to deter, if not prevent, counterfeiting. Used extensively for lottery tickets, though rarely for colonial currency, the Ashby notes were indented, meaning they had an extended portion on the left side of the note bearing the same number as the note's body. When issued, the main body of the note was uniquely cut from the small numbered stub. The stub was retained at the Virginia Treasurer's office, and when the note was redeemed, the cut side of the note was matched with the cut side of the numbered stub, thereby ensuring the note was not a forgery. Another anti-counterfeiting device aimed at preventing the higher valued notes from being forged was the use of increasingly complex and intricate engraving in the currency's design. This is best seen in the engraved word VIRGINIA encompassed in scrolling on the left side of each note. As the denomination of the notes progressed in value from £1 up to £5, the word VIRGINIA became more ornamentally elaborate and stylistically convoluted. Any counterfeiter would have been confounded by the increasingly elaborate letter designs hidden within the complex lines of the scrolling of the higher value notes. Finally, the size, quality, and watermarks on the paper used to print the currency added to its anti-counterfeiting measures. The "large sizes" notes departed from most of the currency produced for the colonies, and the very high paper quality would have been unattainable by any but the largest counterfeiting operations. Adding a watermark was extra insurance against the notes being forged, though the colonists criticized the watermarks as not being well defined at the time. All of Ashby's methods to reduce the chance of his notes being counterfeited would have to be rated as a success since no counterfeits are known.



¹⁵ Moore, "Two Existing Printing Plates," p. 177.

C4 HOLDS INAUGURAL ZOOM CHAT

(Jim Glickman)

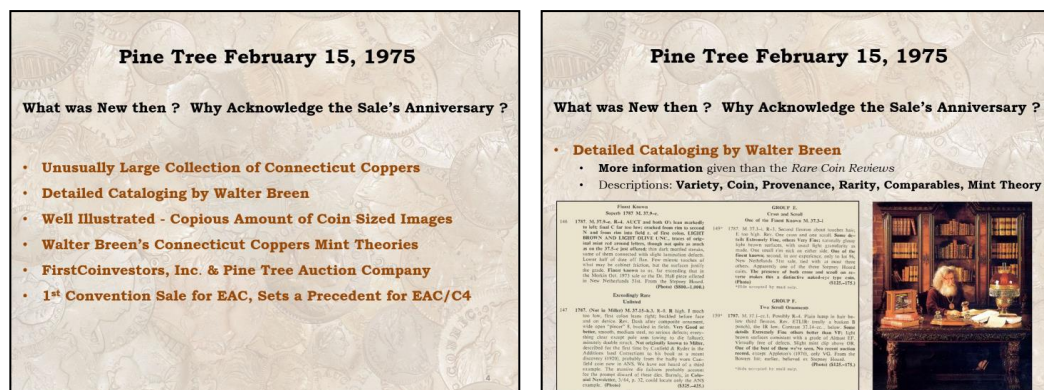
On Saturday, May 24, 2024, C4 successfully commenced a new tradition by holding its inaugural C4 Zoom Chat. The event brought over 30 members together for an enjoyable afternoon of colonial numismatic conversation. Initiated by President Chris McDowell, C4 Zoom Chats are informal hour-long virtual gatherings to discuss colonial numismatics, share a new purchase or favorite item, hear the latest news in our corner of the hobby, and reconnect. The larger goal is to get us together during the long months between in-person gatherings and major shows, share knowledge and information, and foster enjoyment of the hobby. They are designed for both long-time and newer collectors.

The format involves having a member give a short talk about an interesting topic, take questions, and then open it up for general comments and questions. Participants can put their questions or topics in the “chat,” and they will be called on. It really is what our members want it to be through their participation. As has often been said, we need opportunities to talk to each other about our beloved hobby, because who else will listen to us? C4 Zoom Chats will provide such opportunities.

The inaugural Zoom Chat was a bit of an experiment, and we weren’t sure how it would go. To our delight, it went very well, proving to be an enjoyable way to spend some time on a Saturday afternoon. I acted as moderator, ably assisted by Zoom-master Craig McDonald. We had approximately 31 participants, with a good mix of old friends and newer members. First, Randy Clark gave a wonderful talk on the groundbreaking EAC 75 Sale and his new book about it, accompanied by a well-conceived PowerPoint demonstration.

Folks asked Randy a number of questions. We then opened it up for general conversation, and a great, fast-paced conversation ensued. Show and tell highlights included an important recent metal detecting find of a rare Machin’s Mills variety, also a New Jersey 56-n struck over an uncertain Machin’s Mills variety, and a beautiful Pine Tree Shilling, which is now able to be traced to a spectacular provenance. It is expected C4 Newsletter articles will be forthcoming for each of these.

We plan to hold C4 Zoom Chats approximately three or four times per year. We hope to increase our participation, so come join us for an enjoyable time. We look forward to seeing you there.



Example Slides from Randy's Brief Zoom Talk



COLONIAL HAPPENING AT THE EAC 2025 PITTSBURGH THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

(Ray Williams)

As I write, it has been a week and a half since our EAC Convention. My mind is full of good memories. Thursday evening, I moderated the Colonial Happening, an event that EAC has held for longer than I've been involved in colonials. This year did not disappoint!

We had a great time, with amiable sharing and no competition. Over thirty collectors participated this year. Collectors participating in the other Happenings are encouraged to drop in on our event when they can. Not everyone signed the attendance sheet, and four signees were illegible, so if I misspell some names, please forgive me.

This year, I decided to do a little survey of attendees — asking if they were members of EAC, C4, ANA, and ANS. Of the 32 who signed the attendance sheet, 23 were EAC members, 18 belonged to C4, 17 were ANA, and 9 were ANS. It would be nice if the number of members of each organization were closer to 32 ... but it is what it is. Certainly, more C4 and EAC members should belong to both.

Back to the Happening. There was not as much show-n-tell as in the past, but the stories shared were fascinating. Recounting personal experiences and numismatic information was the order of the day. A discussion was started about the newly discovered 1778 Vlack 13-78C Machin's Mills halfpenny, found by a young detectorist. This is only the second known example. Learning the story of this recent discovery of this incredible rarity was a treat.

Several coins, including a Maris 63-q New Jersey Copper, were shared. Initially, some thought it to be a 62-r, but the correct attribution came quickly! A counterfeit British halfpenny was shared that we call the "Clem Head." This is an endearing name for the coin whose bust portrait resembles our friend Clem Schettino (RIP). Another counterfeit halfpenny was shown that was over-struck on a "Mail Coach" Conder token. There was a punch matrix discussed, dated 1789, that was responsible for making bust punches for Charles IV half real coins in the New World. A very rare Ryder 30 Vermont copper was shared. This is the variety with the backwards (retrograde) "C" in the legend. Very desirable!

A Voce Populi "VOOE" was shared. An explanation was given that the "C" in VOCE had a die break, making it look like an "O." A Maris 35-J NJ copper was shown as the only NJ copper that has an over-date — 1787/1887. A Maris 73-aa NJ copper from the Taylor Auction was shown and discussed. There were a few other items shared during this enjoyable event.

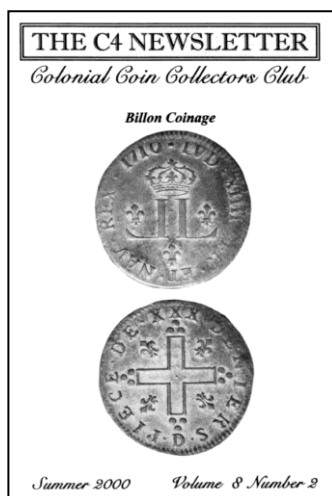
The meeting lasted from 8:00 until about 9:30. The sharing of personal and hobby stories was the highlight of the evening for me. Thanks to all who attended! The next big event for colonial numismatic enthusiasts will be November 6, 7 & 8, 2025, in Baltimore at the C4 Convention, held in conjunction with the Whitman EXPO. Then EAC 2026 in Charlotte, April 29–May 3.

EAC Colonial Happening Attendance:

John Agre	Scott Hafer	Franklin Noel	Kevin Vinton
Al Boka	Brian Herriott	Mike Packard	Mark Vitunic
Matthew Channell	John Hoskins	Darwin Palmer	Rich Weber
Doug Durasoff	Jack Howes	Dana Philippi	Ray Williams
Bill Eckberg	Walter Husak	Jeff Rock	John Wright
Laurence Edwards	Frank Jozapaitis	Roger Siboni	Mabel Ann Wright
David Falcone	George Lyman	Richard Thomson Jr	Gordon Wruble
Pierre Fricke	Bill McMahon	David Tortorice	Shawn Yancey



Image Courtesy of Al Boka



25 YEARS AGO — THE SUMMER 2000 C4N

- Message from the President (Dennis Wierzba)
- Letters to the Editor (Michael Hodder, Donald Groves, Charles W. Smith)
- The Billion Coinage of Colonial America (Robert A. Vlack)
- Butternut Bites: #5 Driving with Coins (Col. Steven Ellsworth)
- The Colonial Rarity Scale: New Jersey Coppers (Dennis Wierzba)
- Auction Notes (John Griffie)
- Update on Machin's Mills Coinage (Ed Sarrafian, Richard August)
- St. Patrick's Coinage Project (John Griffie)
- New Jersey Slides (John Griffie)



EAC 2025 CONVENTION SUMMARY PITTSBURGH, MAY 14-18, 2025 MARRIOTT CITY CENTER

(Ray Williams)

Diane and I were able to attend the EAC Convention this year and had a wonderful time. As a casual observation, I noticed that many more spouses attend EAC Conventions than attend those of C4. Is this something we should address? I believe a supportive spouse greatly enhances hobby enjoyment!

We drove 336 miles from Trenton to Pittsburgh on Wednesday. The trip was extra fun because Roger Siboni took us up on an offer to drive with us. I could tell that Diane was mesmerized by 5 hours of our numismatic conversations and learned so much! Checking into the hotel was easy, and after a frantic search for my phone (left in the car), we had dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Thursday started off as a lazy day. In the afternoon, we set up the C4 table with our distinctive tablecloth and an exhibit showcasing the covers for all 15 books published by C4. Application forms, C4 pens, sample copies of C4N, and our colonial handouts were available to all. The next event was the EAC Reception and Buffet Dinner. The food was excellent, as was the company. Then we were off to the room where the Colonial Happening was to be held. After setting up the computer and A/V equipment, there was a short time to rest up and have fun with those who showed up early. The Colonial Happening is discussed elsewhere in this issue.



C4 Table Setup at EAC2025 with Diane Williams at the Helm

Friday morning started with breakfast in the restaurant while going over the presentation I was to give shortly. Then off I went to set up my laptop and the A/V equipment again, with the hope that my talk would attract some to attend. As it turned out, about 30 collectors were curious enough to leave the bourse floor to hear what I had to say. That was very encouraging. My talk was titled: “250 Years of our Copper Coins: 1607 to 1857.” The purpose of this PowerPoint was to give a brief survey of what copper coins could be found in North America, from the Patent Farthings of James I & Charles I to the end of the production of the Large Cents. All too often, we forget that the kings of England were our kings until our successful Revolution. Also, the Dutch, French, and Swedish had colonies here too!

After my talk, I stayed to enjoy Mark Borckardt teaching us about the die-making at the first US Mint. It was well researched and supplemented by Bill Eckberg with some very new cutting-edge research. Then back to the C4 Table to relax a bit. Many attendees took advantage of a trip to the Carnegie Museum, where they could enjoy some awesome Large Cents in that collection. Diane and I decided to get dinner and retire early.

Saturday was family time for me. I visited with two local cousins who had never met Diane. It was a very fun time, but it prevented me from attending several presentations by Bill Eckberg, Melanie Eckford-Prossor, and Franklin Noel. I will make sure to watch those when they are posted on the EAC website. I did make it in time to listen to Roger Siboni. I was about 10 seconds late and walked in while Roger was saying nice things about me, thinking I wasn't there! Sometimes one wonders what's said about them when not in earshot. Roger's talk was titled "*Colonial American History as Told by Our Colonial Coinage.*" His narration was captivating, as many coins and medals were shown. This talk is well worth listening to when posted online! Then back to the C4 Table, where I packed everything to go home, as an early departure was in order for Sunday morning. Then we were off again to the hotel restaurant, where we met up with Mike Packard, Bill Eckberg, Lou Alfonso, and all four of our wives. A very fun time before heading back to the room.



Roger Siboni Talk / Dinner with the Spouses / The Jersey Boys with Ben Franklin



Sunday morning arrived, and we decided to check out and get breakfast and some swill at a rest stop on the way home. Halfway home, I realized I forgot a package in my hotel room. Several calls to the hotel and Chris McCawley (the hero of the day), and all was taken care of. Upon entering my front door, my recliner and coffee pot welcomed me, and EAC 2025 was now just good memories. Our next gathering of colonial collectors will be the C4 Convention in November. See ya there ...



REGION 2 C4 MEETING AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COIN EXPO

(Tom Gesner)

An open meeting of Region 2, C4 was held on Friday, April 18, 2025, at the New Hampshire Coin and Currency Expo in Manchester, NH, chaired by Region 2 Vice-President Tom Gesner. Ten people were in attendance, including the following C4 members:

Christopher Arnold
Michael Callis
Tom Gesner

Jesse Jaycox
Chris Karstedt
Don Slater

Dave Townson
Ken Spatola
Mark Vitunic

The meeting began with customary attendee introductions, where they reside, and collecting interests. Recent and upcoming C4 publications were discussed. Randy Clark's recent release of *The Connecticut Collection, February 1975: A 50th Anniversary Retrospective of EAC75*. Charlie Davis had the remaining two copies at his table (sold out after our meeting). The finishing touches of Chris McDowell's *Betts Medals, Volume II* were happening, if not already in press. Mike Packard's book on Massachusetts coppers was making great progress with expected publication late 2025 /early 2026. Mention was made of the C4 dues increase as of July 1, 20025. Tom concluded the Club News updates with a request for applicants to the Young Numismatist Scholarship for the ANA Summer Seminar.

The main feature of the meeting was a presentation by Mark Vitunic. He spoke on "Out-of-round colonials: Oblong planchets or just oblong coins." Mark presented examples of misshapen colonial coins across the state series. He offered several hypotheses of how and why this may have occurred during the minting process. At the conclusion of the meeting, several examples of out-of-round colonials were exhibited for viewing and further discussion.



Mark Vitunic Presenting at the Region 2 Meeting

Special thanks were extended to Chris Karstedt and Stanley Chu, of Stack's Bowers, who generously underwrote and arranged a light lunch for all attendees, setting everyone in a good mood for the meeting. As an added treat, Chris handed out Stack's Bowers hats to all attendees.



UPCOMING ANA CONVENTION IN OKLAHOMA CITY AUGUST 19-23, 2025

(Craig McDonald)

C4 will have table #1725 in the Club Midway section at the upcoming ANA World's Fair of Money show in Oklahoma City, from August 19 through the 23rd. For more information about the show and venue, see the ANA website at www.money.org/worldsfairofmoney.

Just like C4's table at the recent EAC Convention, we will have handout literature and samples of our newsletter for prospective new members to peruse. In addition, we will be selling the C4 coffee mugs. Also, a regional meeting will be open to all members and the general public on Friday, the 22nd (tentatively at 2 PM). The confirmed meeting time and room location will be included in the official show program.

As the person coordinating this activity, as of now, I am the only member who will be manning the table for the duration of the show. My wife will also be attending to help behind the table.

Here's where I need your assistance. I am asking that any C4 members who may be attending the show volunteer to serve behind the table for whatever amount of time you can offer, since obviously I would like to spend some time on the bourse, and the last thing we want is for the table to be unmanned not a good image for the Club to present.

I must submit a list of all table staffers to the ANA no later than July 11th to prepare the proper access badges or credentials. After that, it will need to be done at the show.

So, if you plan to attend and would like to volunteer to assist with the table, please contact me directly at: cmcdon0923@aol.com. Even if we've missed the 7/11 cutoff date, I will try to set you up beforehand. Worst case is that we'll need to handle it at the show.

I hope to see many of you in August!!!





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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 62.



ROBERT BOYD, JR.: FORGOTTEN PETITIONER FOR A COPPER COINAGE GRANT

(Gary A. Trudgen)

Introduction

Shortly after relocating to Federal Hall (City Hall) in New York City on January 11, 1785, the Continental Congress continued its debate on the establishment of a federal money system.¹ On May 13, a Grand Committee, consisting of one member from each of the states, released a report titled “Propositions Respecting the Coinage of Gold, Silver and Copper.” This report favored Thomas Jefferson’s suggested decimal money system, based on the Spanish milled dollar.² On July 6, Congress unanimously passed Jefferson’s plan. Within the Grand Committee report, it was emphasized that the need for a domestic copper coinage was due to the flood of counterfeit, lightweight coppers being imported into the country, which was jeopardizing the country’s financial system.³ This crisis declaration gained the attention of several individuals who believed they could profit by producing a copper currency under the direction of Congress.⁴ On August 18, “A petition of R. Boyd to be employed in coining copper, and all other applications of a similar nature or for supplying the U. S. with copper coin” is found in the *Journals of the Continental Congress* (Volume 29, page 647).⁵

R. Boyd

Robert Boyd, Jr. was born on October 30, 1734, in Ballyhalbert, County Down, Ireland. His wife, Eleanor Cockle, was born on March 24, 1744. They had nine children, the eldest was Samuel, born in 1768.⁶ Robert and his father immigrated to New Windsor, New York, circa 1755.⁷ After 1761, he and his father acquired a 100-acre farm on the northern end of William Chambers’ patent. They were blacksmiths.

When civil unrest began, leading up to the Revolutionary War, Robert Boyd, Jr. entered into public service as a member of the Ulster County Committee of Safety in 1775, a position he held until 1777.⁸ He also served as the New Windsor town clerk from 1776 through 1780. Interestingly, one of Robert’s fellow Committee of Safety members was Samuel Brewster, who operated a forge along the south shore of

¹ During the Confederation, Congress had met at five different geographic locations, the final being in New York City after having relocated from the French Arms Tavern in Trenton, New Jersey.

² Gouverneur Morris, in association with the Superintendent of Finance Robert Morris, had proposed a new system of coinage in 1782, but Congress considered it too complicated.

³ The Grand Committee wrote: “The Coinage of Copper is a subject that claims our immediate Attention. From the small Value of the several Pieces of copper Coin this medium of Exchange has been too much neglected. The more valuable Metals are daily giving Place to base British half Pence and no means are used to prevent the Fraud. This Disease which is neglected in the Beginning because it appears trifling may finally prove very destructive to commerce.”

⁴ Copper coins were a subsidiary coinage where the intrinsic value of the metal contained in the coin was less than the face value of the coin, thus allowing a profit by the manufacturer.

⁵ Contained within the same footnote is also found the following: “Memorial Walter Mould offering to conduct a Mint and Proposals of Mr. Bridgen.” Walter Mould was a talented die engraver from Bristol, England, who, in association with James Jarvis from Long Island, was proactively seeking a government copper coinage contract. Edward Bridgen, a London merchant, was communicating with Benjamin Franklin about his wish to supply America with a copper coinage.

⁶ Samuel became a prominent member of the New York bar, in partnership with Anthony Dey. They were Federalists led by Alexander Hamilton. Samuel served on the Bank of New York board of directors and as a Columbia College trustee.

⁷ New Windsor is located about two miles south of Newburgh, NY, on the west bank of the Hudson River.

⁸ The Committee of Safety passed laws, set regulations, and enacted statutes for their county.

Murderer's Creek (today known as Moodna Creek).⁹ During the war, Thomas Machin assembled sections of the Great Chain on log rafts at Brewster's Forge before floating them down the Hudson River for assembly at West Point. Thus, it is entirely likely that Robert Boyd, Jr. knew Thomas Machin, the future coiner located at Great Pond (Orange Lake), just west of Newburgh, New York.

Gun Manufactory

Two months after the "shot heard around the world" sparked the beginning of the American Revolution, Robert Boyd, Jr. and Henry Watkeys signed a contract with the Colony of New York's Provincial Congress to fabricate 1000 muskets with steel ramrods and bayonets with scabbards at a price of £3.15.0 each in New York State's money of account. On June 6, 1775, Watkeys, a New York City gunsmith, was sent to New Windsor by the Congress to consult with Boyd concerning the erection of a gun manufactory. Four days later, Boyd wrote the Congress saying: "Gentlemen, it would give me particular pleasure to have a manufactory of this kind established in this province." Subsequently, he constructed a water-powered gun manufactory along Quassaick Creek¹⁰ adjacent to George Clinton's grist mill, saw mill, and farm house.¹¹ Boyd's connection with George Clinton furthers the likelihood that he knew Thomas Machin because Machin and Clinton were friends. Also, when Machin surveyed the Hudson River through the Highlands and drew a military map for Clinton, dated January 4, 1778, he included Boyd's dwelling on the map (Figure 1). In January 1776, Boyd wrote that he had "the best gunsmiths' shop in the colonies." In 1801, he described his shop as follows:

There is on the premises a forge almost new, constructed for two fires, in good repair, and calculated to make bar iron. Under the same roof there is a trip hammer, grindstone and bellows, that move by water. Near the forge there is a large coal house...also, two new tenements under one roof, built for the accommodation of workmen, a good barn and a number of fruit trees.

After the war, he also constructed an adjoining mill for manufacturing Plaster of Paris.¹² After Boyd's death, his property was first converted into a wool carding mill and later into a paper mill.

New York City

On February 4, 1783, King George III ordered a permanent ceasefire in the War of the American Revolution. As the British Army and Loyalists prepared to evacuate New York City that spring, the natural advantages of the city invited exiles and newcomers into the city. However, the city had suffered widespread damage during the war. Nearly a quarter of the settled portion of the city was in utter ruin as a result of two fires, one in 1776 and another in 1778. In addition, there was a multitude of useless military defenses. Everywhere one looked, there was ruin and devastation.

⁹ Murderer's Creek flows into the Hudson River about half a mile south of New Windsor. See Figure 1.

¹⁰ Quassaick Creek flows into the Hudson River about one mile south of Newburgh, New York. It was fed by Chambers Creek which was the natural outlet along the eastern shore of Great Pond (Orange Lake) where Thomas Machin homesteaded in 1783. See Figure 1.

¹¹ George Clinton would go on to twice serve as governor of New York before serving as the fourth vice-president of the United States.

¹² The Plaster of Paris mill was used to grind gypsum crystals into a dry powder that was then used as a building material, such as a wall surface.

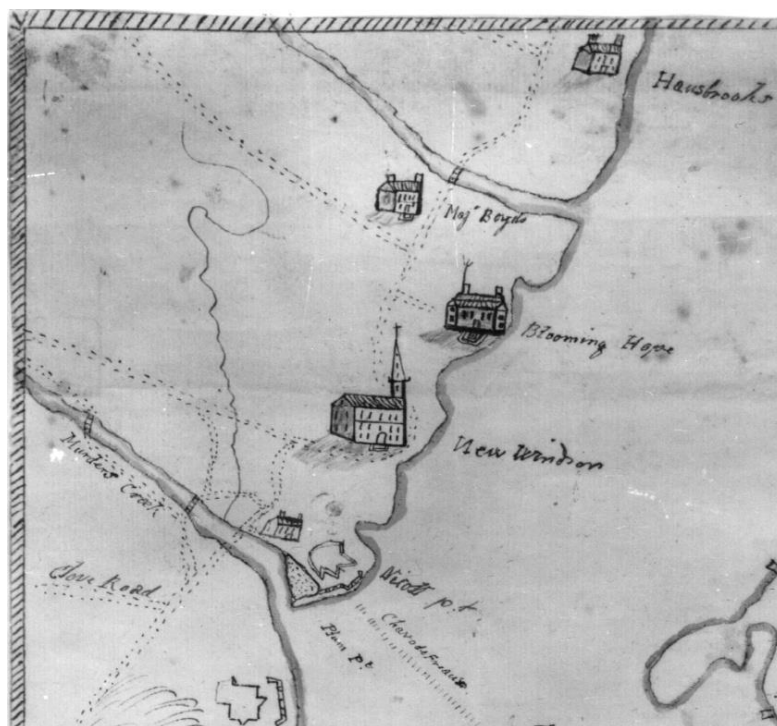


Figure 1: A section of Thomas Machin's military map [Cornell University Library] showing the location of Robert Boyd's gun manufactory along Quassaick Creek (upper unlabeled creek). The dwelling is labeled Majr Boyds which is apparently an honorary title because there is no record of him serving in the military. The lower stream is Murderer's Creek where Samuel Brewster had his forge.¹³

It is said that after the British Army finally evacuated the city on November 25, 1783, that Robert Boyd, Jr. and many others came to help rebuild the city. This may be true, but it is also apparent that he, now 49 years old, became quickly integrated into the social life of the city as he soon became involved in public service. In late February 1785, Robert Boyd Jr. and six others representing the Artificers, Tradesmen and Mechanics of the City of New York officially welcomed the Continental Congress to the city. Soon after, at the end of March, he was nominated with ten other prominent individuals from the city to run for the State Assembly from the County and City of New York. When the elections were held on April 26-28, he won a seat in the 9th New York State Legislature as an assemblyman. It was a one-year term beginning on July 1, 1785, through June 30, 1786. They met on January 12, 1786, through May 5 at the Old Royal Exchange located at the intersection of Broad and Water Streets in the city. Robert was nominated again for assemblyman in the 10th New York State Legislature, but was not elected.

With his star rising and the talk of the town about the need for a domestic copper coinage, Robert Boyd, Jr. filed a petition with the Continental Congress asking for a grant to supply the new country with a copper coinage.¹⁴ His petition was referred to the Board of Treasury, a division of Congress that dealt with economic matters, and subsequently seemingly lost to history. Congress did not issue a grant for a copper coinage until April 20, 1787, when it was given to James Jarvis, who struck the first federal coppers known today as Fugio cents.

¹³ For a full view of Machin's map see: Trudgen, Gary A., "Thomas Machin – Patriot," *The Colonial Newsletter*, November 1983, pp. 847-48. OR: Diamant, Lincoln, *Chaining the Hudson: The Fight for the River in the American Revolution*, A Lyle Stuart Book, Published by Carol Publishing Group, 1989, insert between pp. 138-39.

¹⁴ It is unknown if he submitted a pattern coin with his petition.

The General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen was founded in New York City on November 17, 1785, and still exists today. It was founded by the skilled craftsmen of the city to serve and improve the quality of life of the people of the city of New York. Robert Boyd, Jr. was elected its first president, a position he also held in 1786 and 1792. Samuel Atlee and John Bailey were charter members of the society. During this time, Samuel Atlee housed a clandestine mint within his porter brewery just outside the city limits along the Hudson River,¹⁵ while John Bailey operated a mint within his cutlery workshop on Little Dock Street in the city.¹⁶

Sheriff

On September 29, 1787, the New York City Council of Appointment elected Robert Boyd sheriff of the city and county of New York. Boyd opened his Sheriff's Office at his house on Partition Street, a little west of the south end of the Bear Market. His duties were to bring people to trial, assemble jurors, supervise the imprisonment of prisoners, and seize and sell property. He served as sheriff until November 1791.

Shortly after assuming the office of sheriff, he sat with artist Ralph Earl for his portrait (Figure 2). Earl was in town after studying with Benjamin West in London and is known for the four Lexington and Concord battle scenes that he painted in 1775. These scenes were done in collaboration with engraver Amos Dolittle, who then made them into propaganda prints.

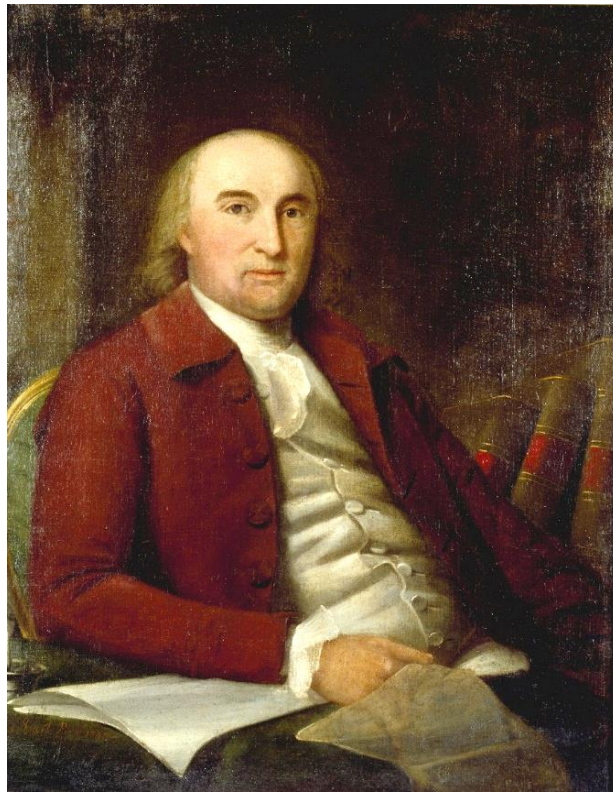


Figure 2: Robert Boyd, Jr., age 54. Painting by Ralph Earl, oil on canvas. Brooklyn Museum, Gift of Mary van Kleeck in memory of Charles M. van Kleeck. Accession Number 51.193.1.

¹⁵ See: Trudgen, Gary, "Samuel Atlee's New York City Brewery and Mint," *The Journal of Early American Numismatics*, Vol. 1, No.2, pp. 27-58, December 2018.

¹⁶ See: Trudgen, Gary, "John Bailey's New York City Mint," *The Journal of Early American Numismatics*, Vol. 2, No.1, pp. 203-20, June 2019.

After a 4-year stint as sheriff, Boyd was again elected president of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen in 1792. He was also nominated again for the State Assembly, but not elected until 1794, serving another term in the 17th New York State Legislature, which met at the Old City Hall in Albany. When the state elections were held the following year, the Common Council elected him inspector from the 7th Ward for the ensuing election.

Now in his 60s, Robert Boyd made the decision to leave the city and return to his old home along Quassaick Creek in New Windsor, which he still owned. On January 26, 1801, he was tapped again to serve the public when he was appointed judge of the New Windsor Common Pleas court. Apparently aware that his time was coming to an end, he began offering his various properties in and around New Windsor for sale. Robert Boyd died on Sunday, October 28, 1804, age 69, and was buried in the Little Britain Cemetery, Orange County, New York.

Conclusion

Robert Boyd, Jr. has been overlooked by numismatists when writing about America's early attempts to establish its own coinage. When Congress came to town in 1785 and declared that copper coinage was an immediate concern, he was one of several New York City residents who saw an opportunity to financially profit from a government contract. He had no experience with coinage, but he had a facility just up the Hudson River that could be converted into a mint. Plus, he knew a couple of other individuals with the same interest with whom he might be able to form a partnership if he obtained a contract. However, at this time, the nascent government was not prepared to issue a coinage grant, and his petition was relegated to the mists of time.

Acknowledgment

The author thanks Jim Rosen and Ray Williams for reviewing this article and offering suggestions for improvement.

Also "A petition of R. Boyd to be employed in coining copper, and all other applications of a similar nature or for supplying the U. S. with copper coin. The board of treasury to report the form of an Ordinance for the establishment of a Mint—Memorial Walter Mould offering to conduct a Mint and Proposals of Mr. Bridgen with joint Letter of Ministers in Europe dated Decem^r 14, 1782, recommending said Bridgden" were referred to the Board of Treasury to report. John Adams' letter of December 14, 1782, is in No. 84, IV, folio 309, and Bridgden's various proposals are all of that year.

Detail from *Journals of the Continental Congress 1774-1789, Vol XXIX, 1785*, p. 647 (See Author's Introduction)
(Source: Archive.org)



LOST/STOLEN EXTREMELY RARE CONNECTICUT COPPER \$5,000 REWARD OFFERED, NO-QUESTIONS-ASKED

(Jeff Rock)



Last year I sold the above 1786 Connecticut copper, Miller 5.3-B.2, to a private collector. It was sent via registered mail, but was never delivered to its new owner. The Post Office has been unable to locate it — and even though registered mail is supposed to be signed for at every step, this package never was. It was either lost or, more likely, stolen in transit. The owner and I have decided to offer a \$5,000 reward for the safe return of the coin — with no questions asked, and no legal repercussions as a result of that return. As the coin cannot legally be sold, since it lacks clear title and has been reported as stolen to authorities, we hope this reward will ensure a return of this coin.

The coin illustrated above is the actual specimen that went missing. The piece is immediately recognizable, one of just four known examples of this variety, and considered to be the finest of the four, a little weaker but more attractive than the Ford coin, which was uncirculated but with heavy planchet flaws. This coin is ex. Col. James Ellsworth Collection; Garrett Collection, Part III, October 1980, lot 1345; Anthony Terranova Collection, January 2012, and most recently in the Sydney Martin collection, October 2022, lot 1334. It is plated in Walter Breen's *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, and in Randy Clark's *The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers*. The weight is 121.0 grains.

If anyone knows of this coin, or has been offered it, please get in touch with Jeff Rock at (619) 929-7926 or at rosaamltd@gmail.com. Any contact will be completely confidential, and the \$5,000 reward will be sent upon the safe return of the coin — again, with no questions asked.



When mailed, it was in a PCGS holder with the Syd Martin provenance given, graded AU53, though the coin could have been removed from the PCGS slab at any point after it went missing.



THE RYDER-RICHARDSON 30 EXHIBITS MUCH MORE THAN A BACKWARDS C

(James Rosen)

The Vermont Copper, Ryder-Richardson 30, Bressett 23-S may be one of the most intriguing Vermont Coppers in the series, especially as it pertains to the vagaries found on its obverse. Vermont collectors know this variety very well as having a backwards C, but its obverse shows many more significant issues than just a backwards C. These issues include the filigreed or rope-like detail to the breast and shoulder areas of the armor, not found on any other Vermont copper, the poorly punched VERMON and the poorly spaced letters in AUCTORI, including the backwards C, the coarse hand engraved eyebrow and straight rather than curved hair strands at the back of the head, and of course the poorly defined bust, (see Fig. 1). The reverse of this variety, however, is well made and married to three other Bressett obverses producing B.15-S (RR-16), B.14-S (RR-17), and B.16-S, (RR-24). This S reverse is best exemplified by the RR-24, where the reserve central device is often seen quite bold, with the Union Jack in the shield being full. This variety has been known for well over 100 years ever since Hillyer Ryder mentioned it in his 1920 “The Colonial Coins of Vermont.”¹ Although the presence of the backwards C is what this coin is famous for, the presence of multiple obverse issues requires description, thought, and most importantly, explanation.



Figure 1. 1788 Vermont Copper. RR-30, Bressett 23-S. Noted by the cataloger as “Fabled Backwards ‘C’ RR-30 Vermont Copper” and “Ex Stickney (1907) and Likely the Finest Known.” Stack’s Bowers, August 2023, lot 8425.

Carlotto in 1998 was probably the first individual to delineate the multiple oddities associated with the Bressett 23 die in his *The Copper Coins of Vermont*,² although I suspect there are catalogue descriptions of this variety that do mention some of the numerous anomalies associated with this obverse besides the backwards C. It is rare, however, to see the eyebrow and the hair except on the highest-grade coins, but they can be seen with a little effort, as exhibited in Figure 1. The peculiar armor issue is very evident even in low

¹ Ryder, Hillyer. “The Copper Coins of Vermont.” Part of *State Coinages of New England*, New York: American Numismatic Society, 1920.

² Carlotto, Tony. *The Copper Coins of Vermont and those Bearing the Vermont Name*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 1998.

grade examples, especially prominent at the bottom of the bust. The presence of the backwards C is clearly an error and not some means of the engraver purposefully leaving his mark on the coin.

Vermont dies were made from obverse and reverse working hubs (in the positive), which, when examined, look just like the finished coin. These positive hubs, which comprise the obverse and reverse central devices of the coin, were then impressed into annealed die steel via a screw press, much the same way a die strikes a planchet to make a coin. It is unlikely that these hubs were “punched” into the annealed die steel with a hammer. After the central devices were imparted into the annealed steel, additional features were added to the die, specifically, the legends, most often the date, and other fragile elements of the design, such as branches, leaves, berries, pole, and cap.

It should be noted, however, that some Connecticut coppers, specifically 1785 Miller 3.5-B and 3.4-F.2, may be the products of hand-engraved dies by Abel Buell. Probably finding this to be cumbersome and time-consuming, especially with die breakage, Buell experimented for a short period of time with complex hubs for his coppers, as seen in 1786 Miller 4.1-G and 5.2-I; these hubs contained not only the central devices, but legends and dates as well. Exactly why this type of hub was abandoned is lost to history, but James Spilman suggested that hand finishing these dies was quite time-consuming.³

Once the die was finished but still in its annealed state, it was then worked on by the engraver, most likely by lapping, to remove excess steel from the surfaces of the die, a byproduct that occurred due to the displacement of steel from the dies as the hubs and the punches produced their incused design. Figure 2 shows an RR-1 with die finishing lines caused by lapping to remove excess metal. After this process was done, the die was then heated to a high temperature, usually above 910 degrees, for about an hour for every square inch of die steel. This phase is where the steel’s crystalline structure changes, and after this heating is accomplished, the die is cooled quickly by quenching in probably in an oil/water bath mixture, hardening the die.



Figure 2. 1785 Vermont Copper. RR-1, Bressett 26-Z. Noted by the cataloger as “Superb 1785 Vermont/Immune Columbia Muling.” Stack’s Bowers, August 2023, lot 8375.

³ Spilman, James, “An Overview of Early American Coinage Technology,” *The Colonial Newsletter*, No. 65, pp. 812-830, July 1983.

After this hardening step, the die is then tempered, a process that imparts a degree of ductility and reduced brittleness to the die, thus getting it ready to enter the press to strike planchets. Tempering strikes a balance between hardness and ductility, a process where the die is again heated to a lower temperature than annealing, and then the die is allowed to cool very slowly to reduce the brittleness and stress on the steel when the die becomes operational.⁴ Were all Confederation dies tempered? The large number and size of die breaks seen in these Confederation coins would suggest otherwise.

I found it quite incredible that neither Slafter,⁵ Crosby,⁶ Ryder, or Richardson⁷ mentioned the rope-like aspect of the armor on the RR-30, which makes this armor so obviously different from all the other bust right Vermont coppers. It's possible, however, that Slafter and Crosby never saw an RR-30. Although Bowers⁸ and Bressett⁹ mentioned this filigree-like feature in their description of this variety, neither one gave any explanation as to its etiology. Carlotto also mentions the armor issues, plus the coarse eyebrows and hair issues, but again does not give any hints as to why or how they got there.

Studying coins can often reveal the causes of observations — but not always. Lapping, for instance, often removes the evidence for which the die had to be lapped in the first place. After ruling out many possible causes for these observations on Bressett 23, (see below), I have concluded that this common hub, used to make other Vermont dies,¹⁰ appears to have left a very soft impression on this die, revealing very few details, especially on the armor and bust. An inexperienced coiner working in this shop may support the inferior job of hubbing the obverse in transferring the engraved elements from the hub to the die. Additionally, in support of the poor job of hubbing, is the very weak obverse bust, rarely seen with decent relief.

Noting that the coins from this die did not exhibit the appropriate characteristics on the bust, the worker most likely tried to cover up his mistake by adding the known features of the armor, hair, and eyebrow by hand-engraving them into a hardened die. And what is seen on this coin are small little scratches for the armor and small straight scrapes rather than curved lines for the hair at the back of the head and short lines for the eyebrow. Undoubtedly, the reason we observe these small scratches rather than long straight and curved smooth lines to the armor, is that these “improvements,” I believe, were made to a functional die and I suspect that it would be very difficult to engrave anything else on this hardened steel but these short scratchy lines. The same goes with not being able to add curved lines easily to the hair area and eyebrow. As no other Bust right or left Vermont coppers have the same characteristics on the armor as this coin exhibits, I feel these issues were clearly not present in the hub.

Is damage to the die during the hubbing process a possibility to explain the re-working? Die damage does not make a lot of sense in that the filigreed areas on the outline of the armor, as well as the issues with the eyebrow and hair, are much too “specific” to the die to be caused by random damage to the die, requiring re-working. Additionally, the fact that the bust on this variety is always seen in very low relief supports a

⁴ Rosen, James, “From Cannon to Coins: Pre-Federal Coinage Production,” *The C4 Newsletter*, Vol. 29, No. 2, pp. 19-42, Summer 2021.

⁵ Slafter, Edmund F., “The Vermont Coinage” A paper in the *Proceeding of the Vermont Historical Society*, Volume 1. Montpelier, VT: Vermont Historical Society, 1870.

⁶ Crosby, Sylvester S., *The Early Coins of America*, published by the author, Boston, MA, 1875

⁷ Richardson, John M., “The Copper Coins of Vermont,” published in *The Numismatist*, May 1947.

⁸ Bowers, Q. David, *The Copper Coins of Vermont and Interrelated Issues 1783-1788*, Stack's Bowers Galleries, 2018

⁹ Bressett, Kenneth E., “Vermont Copper Coinage,” *Studies on Money in Early America*, American Numismatic Society, pp. 173-98, 1976.

¹⁰ Rosen, James, and Eckberg, William, “Was Eric Newman Correct About the Punch-Interlocked Vermonts,” *The C4 Newsletter*, Vol. 30, No 4, pp.25-34, Winter 2022.

weak impression of the hub details being transferred to the die. Could these observations have been caused by the hub being sunk too deeply into the annealed steel, leaving little details on the coin, and thus the coiner having to try to fix this problem? Not likely, for if the worker wanted to fix the lack of detail by imparting outlines to the armor from this *deeply* impressed die, these lines would have been engraved even deeper into the die and thus would not have shown up on subsequent strikings. I believe that the weak impression from the hub is the only credible explanation, with the hub being very shallowly and softly impressed into the die steel, thus imparting very few hub details to the die.

When one looks at the RR-30, one can envision an inexperienced or poorly skilled coiner being given the task of sinking the hub into the steel as well as finishing the legends and other subtle elements of this die. It is important to remember that the legends, in most Confederation coins, were not hubbed but punched into the steel after the die was hubbed and still annealed. James Atlee, who was the person in charge of coining at the Brewery mint and at Machin's Mills, where this coin most likely was struck, was probably more involved with the delicate and skillful work of creating the hubs and left the less difficult procedures of hubbing the die and punching in the legends and other subtle features to other less qualified workers.

In summary, I feel that the issues seen on the obverse of the RR-30, except for the backwards C and the poor punching of the legends, are related to inadequate die production at the hubbing phase. After this die went into production, it was probably noticed that many of the obverse relief features on this coin were faint or totally absent. Then, to try and make this coin more presentable and more like its brethren, this newly or poorly trained worker attempted to rectify the problems on the bust by altering the die when it was already hardened, sadly doing an inferior job.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank Mark Vitunic for his communication with me regarding the hub theory, as well as his time and efforts in reviewing this article. Julia Casey was very helpful with inserting the photos. Also, I am thankful for the editorial staff of C4 for reviewing this article. All photos are courtesy of Stack's Bowers Galleries.



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HOW TO IDENTIFY THE SEVEN TYPES OF ORIGINAL-DIES CASTORLAND JETONS

(Chester Sullivan)

This paper offers a detailed taxonomy of the original-dies French Castorland jetons — first struck in 1796 with subsequent strikings extended into the nineteenth century. These jetons were struck privately for La Compagnie de New York to promote the company's large land holding in upstate New York. The paper identifies two main “categories” of original-die jetons and seven “types” (sub-categories), to detail striking order, edge markings and metals used.



Figure 1. Castorland Jeton in Copper. Heritage, March 2021:15041

All original Castorland jetons came from one set of dies. The hubs (for making the dies) were hand cut so the legends of original-dies Castorland jetons show spacing and alignment irregularities: such as in the word AMERICANA the I seems small relative to its adjacent C; spacing of the letters in CASTORLAND allow for the word to be read (with a bit of imagination) *C ASTOR LAND*.

In time the original reverse die cracked and was replaced with a copy reverse die. Muled specimens, struck from the *original* obverse die and the *copy* reverse die, are called First Restrikes.

Original-dies Castorland jetons should be inspected for die alignment. The provenance, including auction appearances and third-party grading, is a valuable resource and should be preserved. The original cast-iron containment block, *enclume*, was made to fit the dies precisely at La Monnaie de Paris and it did not accompany the dies when they transitioned to Monnaie de Médailles de Paris. Therefore, Castorland jetons pressed (from the original dies) at La Monnaie de Paris sometimes show die slippage.

OBVERSE. The letters of the signature [DUV.] are quite small and the signature floats above the exergue line. The bottom tip of Cybele's veil touches the exergue line. The 1 of the date touches one of the decorative grains surrounding the coin's surface, and the tips of the exergue line touch decorative grains. The ear detail and cheek of Cybele are high points. Well struck specimens show miniscule hair curls, one down from the curl behind the ear, one forward from the lock in front of the ear. Some later specimens have traces

of the obverse die rust extrusions identified by Ron Guth — at the foot of the F of FRANCO, in the field between the N and C of FRANCO, and pimples in the field between the foot of the R in AMERICANA and the tip of a laurel leaf. Some specimens show another die rust extrusion at the bottom of the fold in Cybele's veil above the L and A of CASTORLAND.

REVERSE. The serfs of the first U and the G in FRUGUM touch. This is definitive of the original reverse die. The signature is quite weak, with the letters [D. V.] misaligned. The die rust extrusion at the vessel handle (never in Type ONE and Type TWO specimens) is definitive of the original reverse die. Advanced failure of the reverse die shows a bulge in the field, left of the S of PARENS. Cross light shows distortion waves on its reflective surface. And the S also shows signs of failure. The obverse and reverse signatures differ, but both [DUV.] and [D. V.] refer to the son, Benjamin Duvivier.



Figure 2. Reverse Legend FRUGUM Detail.
Right Original Die, UG touch. **Left** Copy Die, UG wide.

EDGE. The notches, *reeding*, on the edges of Category ONE specimens (and many Category TWO specimens) was applied with a hand-cranked device. Its operator sometimes over-ran the circumference of the coin leaving a cross-hatch pattern of *reeding*. The edges of Type 6 and Type 7 Castorland jetons have a *pointing hand* symbol followed by the word for the metal, CUIVRE (copper) or ARGENT (silver). The *pointing hand* mark was used from June 13, 1845, through October 31, 1860. Some specimens show attempts to remove it.

Category ONE Castorland jetons were struck on *thick* flans with *coin-turn* die alignment at the *Monnaie des Médailles* (the medals mint) on the Right Bank in Paris, from 1796 to 1802. These consist of 100 bronzed copper and 673 silver specimens. Category ONE, types 1 and 2 are both early die states, but Category ONE type THREE shows die rust extrusion at the reverse vessel handle.



Figure 3. Reverse Vessel Detail.
Left (No Rust Extrusion at Handle), **Right** (Rust Extrusion at Handle)

Category TWO Castorlands were struck later, on *thin* flans in *medal-turn* die alignment, at *La Monnaie de Paris* (the specie coin mint) on the Left Bank in Paris, from 1802 to 1860. Fewer, but an unknown number, of category TWO jetons were struck. These sometimes show collar variations, die slippage, and some show an edge mark of a pointing hand, followed by CUIVRE (copper) or ARGENT (silver). That mark was used between 1845 and 1860. Some Category TWO specimens show collar dimension variations, and their bronzed finish can be unlike the bronzed finish of Category ONE specimens.

Category	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5	Type 6	Type 7
ONE	✓	✓	✓				
TWO				✓	✓	✓	✓

Category ONE. Type 1. On July 21, 1796 Pierre Chassanis received his first delivery of Castorland jetons. In it 100 pieces were bronzed copper proofs. Not *proofs* in the current numismatic use of the term, but *proofs* in the sense that they were made to *prove* the durability of the dies. Those jetons, the very first ones struck, do not have the die rust extrusion at the vessel handle.



Figure 4. Category ONE, Type 1. Stack's Bowers, November 2020:4248

Category ONE. Type 2. Also, there were 173 silver pieces in the July 21, 1796 delivery. They do not have the die rust extrusion at the vessel handle.



Figure 5. Category ONE, Type 2. Heritage, September 2019:4555

Category ONE. Type 3. On March 5, 1799, Chassanis received a delivery of 100 silver pieces, and on April 21, 1802, he received delivery of another 400 silver pieces. Those combined 500 pieces *and all subsequent Castorland jetons* have a die rust extrusion at the vessel handle.



Figure 6. Category ONE, Type 3. Heritage, January 2010:2395

Category TWO. Type 4. Castorland jetons in bronzed copper, having no edge mark, were minted in the time period between April 21, 1802, and June 13, 1845, using original dies.



Figure 7. Category TWO, Type 4. Heritage, April 2021:3038

Category TWO. Type 5. Castorland jetons in silver, having no edge mark, were minted in the time-period between April 21, 1802, and June 13, 1845, using original dies.



Figure 8. Category TWO, Type 5. Stack's Bowers, August 2012:11154

Category TWO. Type 6. Castorland jetons in bronzed copper, having an edge mark, pointing hand and the word CUIVRE, were minted after June 13, 1845, but before October 31, 1860, using original dies.



Figure 9. Category TWO, Type 6. Stack's Bowers, March 2023:1136

Category TWO. Type 7. Castorland jetons in silver, having an edge mark of pointing hand and the word ARGENT, were minted after June 13, 1845, but before October 31, 1860, using original dies.



Figure 10. Category TWO, Type 7. Heritage, January 2015:9043

[Editor's Note: Prior categorizations of Castorland jetons can be confusing due to listings that differentiate between original strikes and multiple types of "restrikes." The author defines coin categories and types using only the original obverse and reverse die, and does not define any of these as "restrikes," despite having been made at different time periods and mints. Walter Breen in his 1988 "Complete Encyclopedia of US and Colonial Coins" challenges the position whether original Castorland jetons, sometimes referred to as medals or demi Écus, were struck to circulate in New York or were simply gifted as honorariums in Europe. Since the Castorland settlement founding company Compagnie de New-York dissolved in 1814, technically any pieces struck after that date might be considered "late" (which would be the Category TWO types). The author has reserved the description "First Restrike" for coins after a newer, replacement reverse die was deployed after 1860 — which is not covered in this document.

The author has posted a census of original-dies Castorland jetons for peer review on the Newman Numismatic Portal, from which the illustrated Figures 4–10 in this article were selected. The census can be found at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/booksbyauthor/556055>. The author also published an extensive historical background of Castorland jetons in the American Numismatic Society Magazine, Issue 2, 2024.



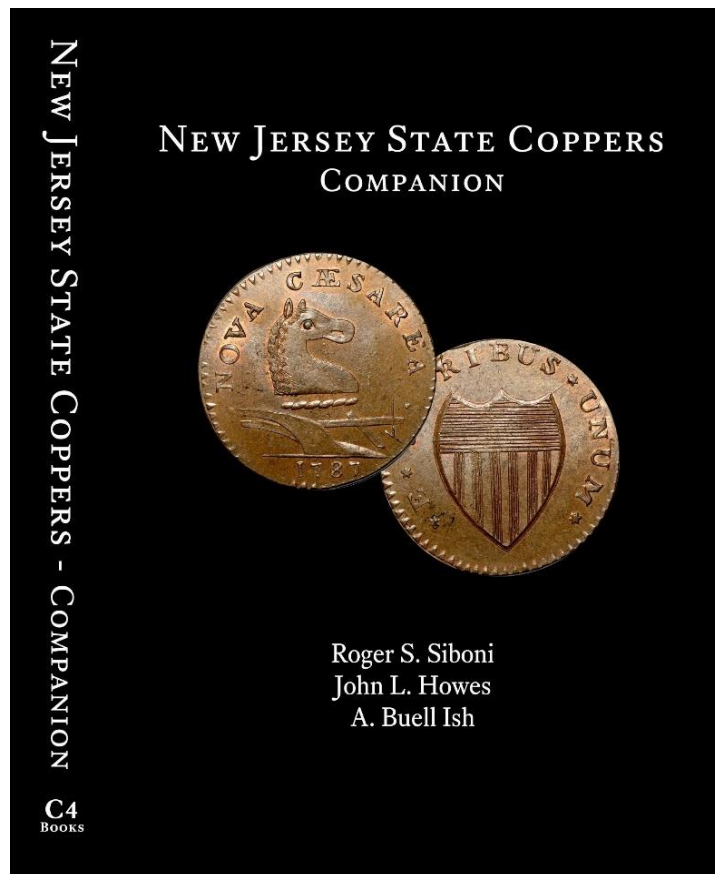
And our previous book is still available...

NEW JERSEY STATE COPPERS

COMPANION

By Roger S. Siboni, John L. Howes, and A. Buell Ish

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



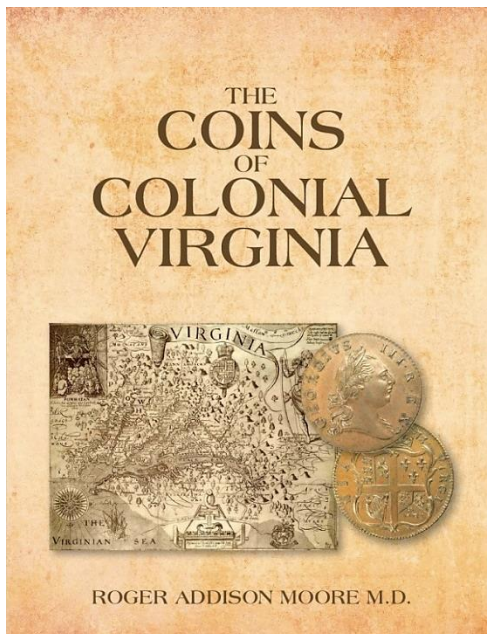
authored by the collaborative team of New Jersey experts Roger S. Siboni, John (Jack) L. Howes, and Buell Ish. It is 400 pages and illustrated in color. C4 President Christopher R McDowell says, "It should not be confused as merely a second edition of the authors' previously published and wildly popular 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.



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.

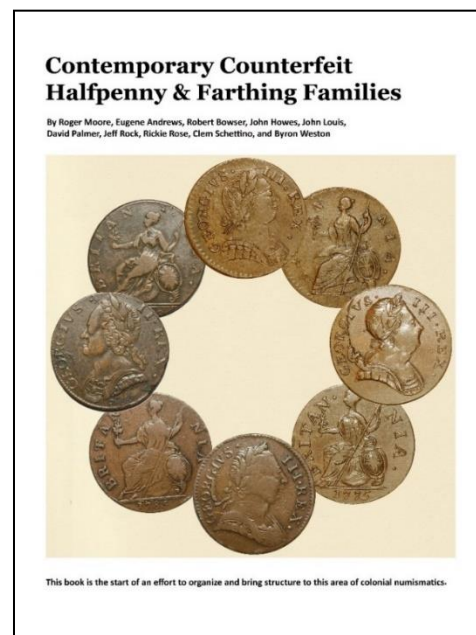
In addition to exploring the historic context in which colonial Virginia struggled to obtain hard currency, methods are provided for attributing and collecting 30 known die varieties of the 1773 copper Virginia halfpence. The book also enumerates the specifics of the Virginia halfpence metrology, rarity, 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.



A REASSESSMENT OF THE “ENIGMATIC SQUARE COIN”: MOST LIKELY AN ASHMORE COPY

(Scott Newman)

In the winter issue of this publication, I presented a speculative piece titled “*The Enigmatic Square Coin: A Lost Relic of Early American Minting?*” The article explored the possibility that a square silver specimen, stamped “NE” and weighing just under 80 grains, might represent a previously unknown experimental strike by the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Drawing from period legislation, metallurgical analysis, and historical minting practices, I made the case for cautious optimism with a plea to the numismatic community to investigate further.



In the months since its publication, that investigation has continued — and it has led to a sobering but necessary conclusion: the specimen is most likely a copy produced by Trevor Ashmore.

Ashmore, a prolific British fabricator of early American and English coin reproductions, is known to have struck “fantasy issues” that incorporate historically plausible elements with remarkable technical accuracy. Among these are various examples, many of which bear a square format and similar 1S / S1 markings, closely resembling those found on the square NE piece.

Further scrutiny of the piece revealed subtle but telling inconsistencies. Though the silver content was confirmed by XRF analysis, several characteristics match known Ashmore specimens, including the edge clipping style and punch alignment. Comparisons with other confirmed Ashmore pieces strongly suggest this item was not a colonial artifact but rather a well-made 20th-century copy.

To those who followed this story with interest and curiosity: Thank You. To those who voiced skepticism, your insights were not only valid but essential. Scholarship is not a straight path — it is shaped by open dialogue, humility, and correction.

Let this be a reminder that even compelling narratives must ultimately yield to evidence. While the coin may not rewrite history, it now contributes to it in a different way — as a cautionary tale about the fine line between discovery and deception in early American numismatics.

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Known Square Ashmore Copies

***The Journal of Early American Numismatics*** (JEAN), is a research publication and the successor to *The Colonial Newsletter* (CNL), founded in 1960. The CNL published an assemblage of the most seminal studies on colonial and confederation-era coinage of the United States. JEAN expands the focus of the CNL by exploring contributions to colonial numismatics from all the Americas. JEAN is published as a bound scholarly journal twice a year in June and December. In 2019, JEAN received the Numismatic Literary Guild award for the Best Club or Not-for-Profit Periodical. Several articles published in JEAN have received NLG prizes, including: "The Authentic Fugio Restrike Dies" by Chris McDowell and Julia Casey, 2020, "Collecting American Colonial Coins in Eighteenth-Century England" by Jeff Rock, 2021, "The Coins Made 'for the Islands and Mainland of America' by the French West India Company 1670" by Jérôme Jambu, 2022, "John J. Ford: A Life in Three Portraits" by Q. David Bowers, 2020, and "The Crane Ring of Rupert, Vermont: A Family of Counterfeiters at Reuben Harmon's Mint" by Julia Casey, 2022.

Issues of JEAN often exceed 200 pages and contain articles on a variety of early American numismatic topics. Since 1960, the pages of the CNL and JEAN have advanced our understanding of the history of colonial numismatics.

Subscribe to JEAN at the American Numismatic Society: <https://numismatics.org/about-us/publications/journals/>. JEAN is available as an added benefit to your ANS membership or at \$85 per year for non-members. Contact, Christopher R. McDowell, Editor, [crmcowell@strausstroy.com](mailto:crmcowell@strausstroy.com) for additional information.



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## RESOURCES FOR THE NOVICE AND INTERMEDIATE COLONIAL COIN COLLECTOR

(A Team of C4 Experts)

### Novice Collectors

If you are curious about colonial coins but don't know where to start, there are exciting times ahead. You probably like early American History and coins, too, which is how many of us got started. Colonial coins are generally considered copper and silver pieces used in American commerce before the United States Federal Mint officially made its own coinage (about 1793). From the time of the first settlements through the Revolutionary War to the U.S. Constitution, people in North America used a mix of everyone else's coins ... and even some made by individual states, while it was still allowed. It is common to refer to coins made before a Federal Mint as "colonial," even though for the decade following the 1783 Treaty of Paris the United States was no longer a colony (the term "pre-federal" for those years is more technically correct, but we still call them colonials).

Like someone new to surfing the web, there are things you should probably understand first, before you start clicking "Buy it Now." Some people say, "Buy the book before the coin," and there is truth in that, but the "book" does not have to be expensive or overly academic. In fact, there are some inexpensive and brief general resources that can get you up the learning curve very quickly, many of which can be borrowed from the C4 Lending Library, once you are a member.

A resource that can show a new collector what these early coins were is the Whitman "Red Book," more formally known as *A Guide Book of United States Coins*. This book is readily available in bookstores and is updated nearly every year. Its chapter on "Pre-Federal Issues" is of particular interest. Another good resource is the *Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins*, which is also easily found and packed with historical background and attribution keys. Both books advise the reader and ballpark how much these coins are worth. Other resources are *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* (1988) and Will Nipper's enjoyable *In Yankee Doodle's Pocket* (2008).

Once you have an idea of what type of early coins interest you, perhaps the next resources to consult are the websites of Stack's Bowers Galleries and Heritage Auctions. Searching their archives requires no up-front investment, and both sites contain current information on what is out there to purchase and what the market thinks it's worth. The coins on these sites have been certified as genuine, generally well photographed, documented, and attributed (often being broken into sub-types for specialists).

Many people stop here. They would like a few examples of classic colonial coins and can see what they're worth on the auction sites, then pick & choose where to put their money. These are often called "Type Collectors," not going into depth on any coinage but covering the breadth to satisfy their interests in early American history and commerce through coins.

### Intermediate Collectors

We believe the novice phase ends when you find one or two colonial coinages particularly appealing; then you want to dig deeper into the history of those coinages and their variations. That requires resources that can supply you with an increased depth of information. This is where it gets fun! We polled certain distinguished C4 experts to suggest a "top" resource list for intermediate collectors, by colonial series, to help new collectors take that next step (without drowning). The panel was asked to focus on coins made in

North America, specifically the silver coins of Massachusetts and the copper coins of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont.

The essential book that many people will first suggest is *Early Coins of America*, which was published by Sylvester Crosby in 1875. This book has been reprinted several times over the years and should still be readily available. Crosby researched the history and diversity of early coinages made for, or in, the American colonies and states. His work influenced many, if not most, subsequent authors on colonial coinage.

After Crosby, the list gets a bit more focused. A wealth of casual and in-depth articles can be found in *The Colonial Newsletter (CNL)*, EAC's *Pennywise*, the *C4 Newsletter (C4N)*, and the ANS's *Journal of Early American Numismatics (JEAN)* — most of which have indexes available. Finding information here can be a bit more time-consuming, but rewarding, as these publications represent research from many different eras and authors. The various McCawley and Grellman (M & G) *C4 Auction Sale* catalogs are also valuable for descriptions, images, and market valuation. These newsletters and catalogs are often available electronically on the Newman Numismatic Portal (<https://nnp.wustl.edu>) or on the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org>), both terrific web resources for colonial coinage. The American Numismatic Society (ANS) has an excellent searchable coin database called *Mantis* for their collection (<https://numismatics.org/search>).

Here is the recommended resource list for intermediate collectors:

### **Massachusetts Silver:**

Sydney P. Noe, *The Silver Coinage of Massachusetts*, 1945 (C4 Library)  
Carl Wurtzbach, *Massachusetts Colonial Silver Money Plates*, 1937 (archive.org)  
Louis Jordan, *John Hull: The Mint and Economics of Massachusetts Coinage*, 2002 (C4 Library)  
Christopher J. Salmon, *The Silver Coins of Massachusetts*, 2010 (C4 Library)  
Stack's, *Hain Family Collection Sale Catalog*, January 2002 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Stack's, *Ford XII Sale Catalog*, October 2005 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Heritage, *Christopher Salmon Collection Catalog*, Aug/Oct 2022, Jan/Mar 2023 (heritage.com)

### **Massachusetts Coppers:**

*Note: a major book is pending on Massachusetts coppers planned to be published by C4 in 2025.*  
Hillyer Ryder, *The Copper Coins of Massachusetts*, ANS Vol. 53 Part I, 1919 (C4 Library)  
Michael Packard, "Attributing 1787 Massachusetts Cents", *C4 Newsletter*, Vol 5, No 4, pp. 13-26  
Michael Packard, "Massachusetts Copper Rarity Estimates" *C4 Newsletter*, Vol.5, No. 4, pp. 27-28  
Michael Packard, "Massachusetts Cents of 1788," (C4 Library)  
Michael Packard, "Massachusetts Half Cents of 1787 and 1788," (C4 Library)  
Michael Demling, *Massachusetts Coppers, Attribution Guide*, 2015  
Bowers & Merena, *Frederick Taylor Collection Catalog*, March 1987 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Bowers & Merena, *Norweb Collection Catalog*, March 1988 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Stack's *Ford V Sale Catalog*, October 2004 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Heritage Auctions, *Donald G. Partrick Collection Catalog*, January 2015 (heritage.com)  
Heritage Auctions, *Dittmer Long Island Collection Catalog*, April & May 2022 (heritage.com)  
Stack's Bowers, *Sydney Martin Collection*, August 2022 (stacksbowers.com)

### **New Jersey Coppers:**

Edward Maris, *A Historical Sketch of the Coins of New Jersey*, 1881 (C4 Library)  
Michael Demling, *New Jersey Coppers, Attribution Guide*, 2011  
Roger Siboni, Jack Howes, Buel Ish, *New Jersey State Coppers*, 2013 (C4 Library)  
Roger Siboni, Jack Howes, Buel Ish, *New Jersey State Coppers Companion*, 2024  
Bowers & Merena, *Frederick Taylor Collection Catalog*, March 1987 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Stack's *Ford I Sale Catalog*, October 2013 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Stack's Bowers, *E Pluribus Unum Collection Catalog*, November 2019 (stacksbowers.com)

### **Connecticut Coppers:**

Henry Miller, *The State Coinage of Connecticut*, ANS Vol. 53, 1919 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Christopher McDowell, *Abel Buell History of Connecticut & Fugio Coinages*, 2015 (C4 Library)  
Randall Clark, *The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers*, 2021 (C4 Library)  
Pine Tree Auctions, *EAC75 Sale Catalog*, February 1975 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Bowers & Merena, *Frederick Taylor Collection Catalog*, March 1987 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Stack's, *Ford IX Sale Catalog*, May 2005 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Heritage Auctions, *Donald G. Partrick Collection Catalog*, November 2020 (heritage.com)  
Heritage Auctions, *Eric P. Newman Collection Catalog*, May 2014 (heritage.com)  
Stack's Bowers, *Sydney Martin Collection Sales*, Oct 2022, Mar/Aug/Nov 2023 (stacksbowers.com)

### **Vermont Coppers:**

Hillyer Ryder, *The Colonial Coins of Vermont*, ANS Vol. 53, 1919 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Ken Bressett, "Vermont Copper Coinage," *Studies Money in Early America*, 1976 (C4 Library)  
Tony Carlotto, *The Copper Coins of Vermont & Bearing the Vermont Name*, 1998 (C4 Library)  
Q. David Bowers, *The Copper Coins of Vermont*, 2018  
Stack's *Ford I Sale Catalog*, October 2013 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Heritage Auctions, *Donald G. Partrick Collection Catalog*, January 2015 (heritage.com)  
Stack's Bowers, *Sydney Martin Collection*, August 2023 (stacksbowers.com)  
Honorable Mention: Edmund Slafter, "The Vermont Coinage," *Coll. of the Vermont Hist. Society*, 1870 (archive.org)

### **Machin's Mills & New York Coppers:**

Jack Howes, James Rosen, Gary Trudgen, *History Coinage of Machin's Mills*, 2024 (C4 Library)  
Q. David Bowers, *The Copper Coins of Vermont*, 2018  
Jack Howes, "Guide to Identification Machin's Mills Halfpence," *C4 Newsletter*, Vol. 14, No. 1, pp. 5-13  
Jack Howes, "The Coinage of Machin's Mills," *C4 Newsletter*, Winter 2015, Vol. 23, No. 4, pp. 5-24  
M&G Auctions, "Albany Collection" (Mike Ringo), *Sixth C4 Convention Sale*, November 2000

### **Fugio Coppers:**

Eric P. Newman, *United States Fugio Copper Coinage of 1787*, 2008 (C4 Library)  
Christopher McDowell, *Abel Buell History of Connecticut & Fugio Coinages*, 2015 (C4 Library)  
Rob Retz, *Fugio Copper Notes*, (Jeff Rock editor), 2016 (C4 Library)  
Stack's *Ford I Sale Catalog*, October 2013 (C4 Library or archive.org)  
Heritage Auctions, *Eric P. Newman Collection Catalog*, November 2014 (heritage.com)  
Stack's Bowers *Pierre Fricke Sale Catalog*, December 2021 (stacksbowers.com)  
Honorable Mention: Alan Kessler, *The Fugio Cents*, 1976 (C4 Library)

For those wishing to purchase new or secondary market copies of these materials, please consider contacting C4's recommended publication distributors, Kolbe-Fanning Numismatic Booksellers ([www.numislit.com](http://www.numislit.com)) and Charles Davis Numismatic Literature ([www.numisbook.com](http://www.numisbook.com)).



## STUDYING A 1788 M4.2-R CONNECTICUT COPPER

(Randy Clark)

A recently seen specimen of a 1788 M4.2-R Connecticut copper shows detail on the coin that is typically obscured on the variety, and as a result, there are some interesting observations that can be made. The variety is listed as an R6, with 25 specimens in the current census. The M4.2-R is considered a Machin's Mills product due to the obverse bust design and unique ornamentation associated with that mint (six-pointed stars and a rosette). While classified as "usually" over-struck on Nova Constellatio coppers, those that do not appear to be (about 15%) have weak enough details that it is hard to be definitive. As a result of the generally weak Connecticut strikes over Novas (perhaps due to insufficient softening of the host coins), the variety rarely shows clear central details, with the reverses being particularly weak. The piece under study happens to be holed and plugged, which keeps it from being considered the finest known.



Recent Example of 1788 M4.2-R

Complicating the situation is that this variety clearly clashes twice with the Connecticut dies, seeing a shift of just over 10° and a small lateral displacement between occurrences on both the obverse and reverse die. The obverse is a hand-cut Machin's Mills die, and the reverse is based on a New Haven "wheat ear" reverse design (it is believed partially finished dies were sold to Machin, and the legend, date & ornamentation were added later). There is quite a bit going on with this variety.



Detail of Clashing with Connecticut Dies, Traces of the Nova Host Coin

This combination represents the only use of the 1788 obverse 4.2 and reverse R die. **Or so we thought!** The revelation that came with this particular specimen is that the 1788 reverse R die is actually a reworking of the old New Haven 1787 reverse K die — the modification likely done at Machin's Mills.

## Reworked Reverse

Central details are rarely seen on the 1788 reverse R, such as the drapery, shield, globe, and ribbons in the right field. These are normally obscured by planchet flaws, weak strikes, or under-type details. The best examples previously known of the variety, such as the Keller/R. Martin/S. Martin coin, Yale's piece, EAC75/Buckley, Taylor, and SLT all have few central features to show. The specimen under study here exhibits unprecedented detail for the variety.

What pops out are those details that are normally obscured — the effigy head, shield, globe, and particularly, the ribbon ends. The ribbon ends and globe lines are key, because the “wheat ear reverse” hub included the effigy, wheat ear, shield, and drapery ... but not the ribbons and globe lines (these unique features were added on the 1787 reverse K die by hand at New Haven). Every “wheat ear” reverse die has unique globe details and right field features (only 1787 reverses B, E, K, R, and 1788 reverse R of the wheat ears have ribbons). Likewise, the 1787 reverse K legend, date, and ornamentation were not in this hub (added by hand), but those details were mostly removed by the Machin's team as part of this reworking.



1787-Dated New Haven  
Reverse K



1788-Dated Machin's Mills  
Reverse R



50%/50% Overlay



1787 Reverse K



1788 Reverse R



1787 Reverse K



1788 Reverse R

The New Haven-made 1787 M11.2-K can be found in very high grade with clear reverse detail. Overlay analysis of the two reverses shows perfect alignment of the central effigy, “wheat ear”, shield, ribbon ends, and globe lines. Very little peripheral detail from 1787 reverse K remains, such that the 1788 reverse R legend, ornamentation, date, and exergue are all new and askew (only ET aligns between the two reverses). Significant peripheral lapping/grinding must have been used to remove all traces of prior legends, ornaments, and date, leaving central features generally untouched (just a light lapping). Dentil locations on the 1788-dated die are identical to the 1787-dated die but are recessed as one would expect from lapping.

### Overstrikes by Connecticut 1788 M12.2-C

While it is commonly known that the 1788 M4.2-R is usually found over-struck on Nova Constellatio host coins, it is interesting there are two known Connecticut 1788 M12.2-C found struck over 1788 M4.2-R host coins, which themselves were struck over Nova Constellatio hosts.

The first example of this double-host type was seen in the E Pluribus Unum (Anton) collection by Stack's Bowers in November 2020:4129. The 12.2-C obverse was struck over the 4.2-R reverse and much of the R reverse legend is visible under the 12.2 legend, including the R reverse 1788 date visible at the 12.2 obverse forehead. Similarly, the 12.2-C reverse shows much of the 4.2 obverse legend under the globe/shield and in the upper left field, including the rosette just to the left of the effigy's head.



1788 M12.2-C Stack's Bowers Nov2020:4129

1788 M12.2-C Stack's Bowers May2025:92390



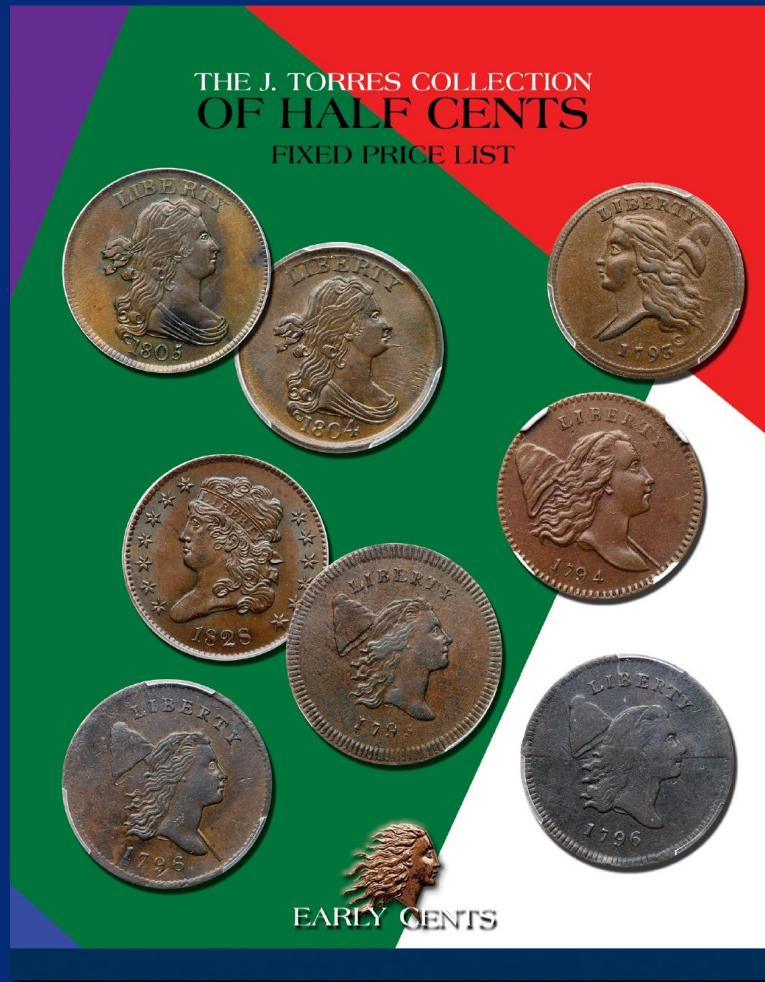
1788 M4.2-R Reference

The second example of this double-host type was seen in the latest of Syd Martin's sales by Stack's Bowers in May 2025:92390. Again, the 12.2-C obverse was struck over the 4.2-R reverse, such that INDE is visible over the 12.2 obverse head (the R reverse date is obscured). The 12.2-C reverse shows details from the 4.2 obverse in the left legend, such that AUCTORI runs from 7:00-10:00. In addition, the 4.2 obverse was known to have clashed with the R reverse (long before being over-struck by the 12.2-C), and that clash is visible on the 12.2-C reverse under the globe area (incuse DE).

It is always interesting to find new details on a series as mature as Connecticut coppers!



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## C4 NEWSLETTER REWIND

*[ Editor's Note: On May 24, 2025, C4 held its first on-line "Zoom Chat" meeting to better connect C4 club members during the year, so we thought it would be appropriate to reprint highlights from another forum that held its first internet "Numismatic Conversation" back in July 26, 2006. Held by the American Numismatic Society at their facility in New York City, the subsequent write-up in the **Fall 2006 C4 Newsletter** (pp. 27–28, shown below) is credited in the Newsletter index to Robert Martin. ]*

### ANS' FIRST "NUMISMATIC CONVERSATION"

On 26 July 2006, the American Numismatic Society (ANS) held the first of (hopefully) many "Numismatic Conversations." This event was led by Robert Hoge, and was a discussion of Connecticut Coppers, with emphasis on coins in the ANS collections. The presentation was attended by many C4 members, both in person and via conferencing interlinks over the internet (the teleconferencing was handled by Bennett Hiibner and Ray Williams).

Robert reported that approximately 10% of the estimated surviving Connecticut coinage is held by the ANS. Highlights of the coins shown included:

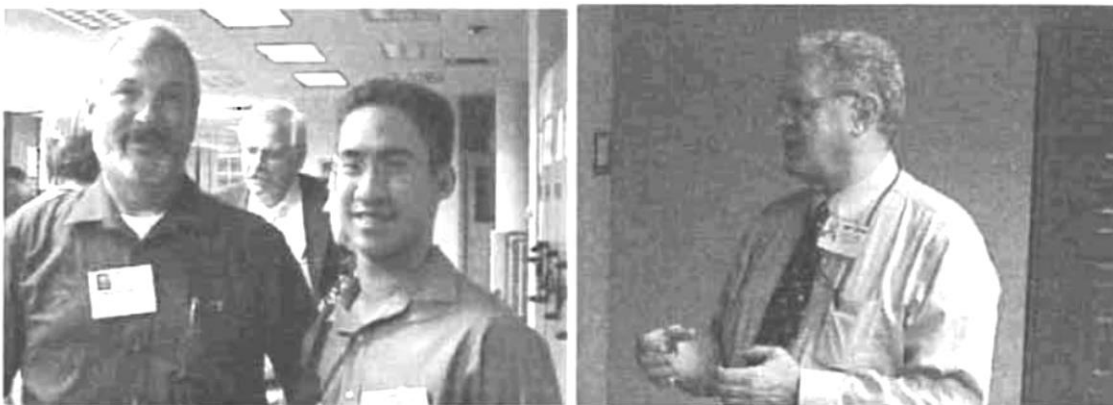
1785: 7.3-D (probably finest known)

1786: 4.2-S

1787 (all R7 or higher): 1.2-mm, 2.3-T (one of two), 33.14-Z.2 (unique),  
33.19-Z.4, 33.20-Z.11, 33.35-Z.9, 33.39-Z.13, and 13-87CT

But this is only a sampling of their superb Connecticut collection.

Some candid shots of attendees, most of whom are C4 members, are below:



Left Photo: Ray Williams (C4 President) and Eric Cheung.

Right Photo: Robert Hoge (ANS, Moderator)



Left Photo: Don Partrick (ANS President) and Roger Siboni (ANS VP)



Right Photo: Dave Palmer, Syd Martin (C4 Newsletter Editor), Robert Martin



Dave Menchell, Dave Wnuck and Leo Shane (C4 Librarian) in rapt attention.



Left Photo: Ute Wartenberg Kagan (ANS Executive Director)



Right Photo: Tony Terranova

Ray Williams had this to say of this Numismatic Conversations meeting: "I had a wonderful time today and I appreciate having the opportunity to be a small part of what was happening. I believe that these events will bring the ANS to collectors across the country in the near future."



## NEW HAVEN'S CITY SEAL OF 1784, MADE BY ABEL BUELL?

(Randy Clark)

In January 1784, the City of New Haven was officially incorporated. One year later, on January 8, 1785, Yale President Ezra Stiles, along with City Clerk Josiah Meigs, set about planning a “Seal of the City of New Haven.” Stiles’ diary entry on that date stated, “Mr. Meigs & myself forming a Device for the Seal of the City of N. Haven.” On February 3, there was a follow-up entry, “With Messrs. Hillhouse & Meigs devising a City Seal.” James Hillhouse was a central figure in New Haven after the Revolutionary War and a future sponsor of the New Haven coppers mint in October 1785. Stiles concluded his diary entries related to a New Haven City Seal on February 11, 1785.

11. Finished the City Seal. The Devise, the Harbour of New Haven, a Ship at the Entrance, and an Ionic Pillar entwined with a Grape Vine. Under the Ship at the Mouth of the Harbor MARE LIBERUM: and round the Seal SIGILL. CIVITAT. NOVI-PORT. IN REPUB. CONNECTICUTTENSIS. 1784.

Entry from Ezra Stiles’ Diary, February 11, 1785



a) Actual Seal, b) Seal Plus Wax Impression, c) Mirrored Image of Seal (New Haven Historical Society 1974.328)

The New Haven Historical Society holds what appears to be an original implementation of the City Seal (accession # 1974.328). Since the city was incorporated in 1784, that date does not help define when it was made. It is described as a “round seal engraved in polished steel; mounted on a heavy brass base.” Both the seal and wax impression were listed in the Museum’s inventory as early as 1885.

The Society associated this item with Abel Buell in their 1967 *An Exhibition of New Haven Silver*. Described as “Diameter 1½ in. The attribution to Buel is based on the fact that James Hillhouse, who was interested in Buel’s mint on Water Street, consulted with Ezra Stiles and Josiah Meigs on its adoption. Buel was probably the only New Haven man capable of producing it.”

There may be no way to prove who engraved the seal and when. Hillhouse was not associated with the mint until the following October 1785. This early design was not used for long in New Haven, being replaced by the less complex design more commonly seen from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.



Modern City Seal





## 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 in photo.

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1853 N-6  
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1856 N-16  
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1856 N-19  
PCGS MS64RB

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **C4 LIBRARY BOOK SALE – BUILD YOUR NUMISMATIC LIBRARY**

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](mailto: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**



## 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](http://www.colonialcoins.org). These books may be ordered directly from the club's two partner distributors: Charles Davis Numismatic Literature at [www.numisbook.com](http://www.numisbook.com) or Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers at [www.numislit.com](http://www.numislit.com). Books indicated with **OP** are out-of-print, although booksellers may occasionally have copies for sale.

- (1) Carlotto, Tony. *The Copper Coins of Vermont, and Those Bearing the Vermont Name*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 1998. **OP**
- (2) Clark, Randall. *The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers (1785-1788)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2021. **OP** \*
- (3) Clark, Randall. *The Connecticut Collection February 1975 (A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Retrospective of EAC75)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2025, **OP** \*
- (4) Howes, Jack, James Rosen and Gary Trudgen. *The History and Coinage of Machin's Mills*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2020. **OP**
- (5) Jordan, Lou. *John Hull, The Mint and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002. Price: \$10.
- (6) McDowell, Christopher R., *Abel Buell and the History of the Connecticut and Fugio Coinages*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2015. **OP**
- (7) Martin, Sydney F. *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2015. Price \$50. \*
- (8) Martin, Sydney F. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007. Price: \$50. \*
- (9) Martin, Sydney F. *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2011. \*
- (10) Martin, Sydney F. *St. Patrick Coinage (for Ireland and New Jersey)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2018. \*
- (11) Moore, Roger A. *The Coins of Colonial Virginia*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2019, Price \$50.
- (12) Moore, Roger A., Eugene Andrews, Robert Bowser, John Howes, John Louis, David Palmer, Jeff Rock, Rickie Rose, Clem Schettino, and Byron Weston. *Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpenny and Farthing Families*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2018, Available from Barnes & Noble, Amazon books, and other mass market retailers.
- (13) Siboni, Roger S., John L. Howes, and A. Buell Ish. *New Jersey State Coppers*, American Numismatic Society and Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2013. \*
- (14) Siboni, Roger S., John L. Howes, and A. Buell Ish. *New Jersey State Coppers Companion*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2024. **OP** \*
- (15) Vlack, Robert A. *An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2004. **OP**



## Medals from the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual C4 Convention in 1995



Recently discovered and 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 (2018) 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medals



A limited number of C4 25<sup>th</sup> 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.



## C4 (2023) 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medals

Hot off the presses to celebrate C4's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a counter-stamping of our 25<sup>th</sup> 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 (25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 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 the C4 Treasurer at [Treasurer@colonialcoins.org](mailto:Treasurer@colonialcoins.org). We will respond verifying availability and give payment instructions.



## C4 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual dues are currently \$35.00 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 of your latest *C4 Newsletter* envelope. Life Memberships can be purchased for \$1,000.00 with C4 Board approval. You can pay via Paypal (preferred) on the C4 website ([colonialcoins.org](http://colonialcoins.org)) or mail checks (made out to "C4") to the C4 Treasurer (contact information on page 1). Thank you for paying in a timely manner. It makes the Treasurer's job easier and will be much appreciated!

## PROSPECTIVE NEW 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 C4 President (contact information on page 1). The new provisional members for this quarter are:

Michael A'Brial – NY  
Edward Hollister - ME  
Jane Sancinito – MA

Christopher Arnold – MA  
Arthur Kelley - NJ  
Mike Seaney – IN

David Dittler – FL  
Louis Kramarski – NJ  
Steven Small – CA

Arthur Kelley – NJ  
Dave Lofgren – NY

## OBTAINING BACK COPIES OF C4N AND C4 AUCTION CATALOGS

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 a check (made out to "C4") to our C4 treasurer (contact information is on page 1). Upon receipt of the money, we will contact Wayne, who will mail out the material. Back copies of the *Newsletter* are \$17 for the first one ordered and \$11 for any others ordered at the same time. If you have questions about back issue availability, please contact Wayne at: [dughistory@juno.com](mailto:dughistory@juno.com).

## C4 NEWSLETTER IS ON THE NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL

Issues of *C4N* 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](http://www.archive.org/details/newmannumismatic). Newer issues of *C4N* are available in the Members Only section of the C4 website ([www.colonialcoins.org](http://www.colonialcoins.org)).

## INDEX OF PAST C4 NEWSLETTERS

The *C4 Newsletter* has an index available on our website at [colonialcoins.org](http://colonialcoins.org). There are two indexes: one by author and a second by title/topic. 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](mailto:njraywms@optonline.net).



### Answer to *What is it?* (from page 64):

1737 Higley (Granby) copper, variety Freidus 1.2-B.a, ex Ford:270 (Photo courtesy of Stack's Bowers)



## **CLASSIFIED ADS**

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All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of **text only**. Free ads should be sent to the C4N editors (contact information on page 2) and will run for four consecutive issues, unless otherwise instructed. See the counter next to the ad, e.g. [1/4 = first of four issues run].

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Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com

Complete Sets of 1894 and 1896 "The Numismatist", Also, 11 of 12 Issues for 1895.

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McCawley & Grellman, EAC Sale, 31 March 2001, Colonials, Half Cents, Large Cents, \$12 +Ship

Coin Galleries, 11 Mar 2009, Mike Ringo Counterfeits Part III, \$8 +Ship

Heritage, Whittier 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

Check Out eBay site, ID "colonialnut" for more catalogs, Email me before buying.

[1/4]

~~~~~

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[2/4]

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1816 N-3
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1816 N-5
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1816 N-8
PCGS MS64RB



1817 N-2
PCGS MS65BN



1817 N-4
PCGS MS64BN



1817 N-5
PCGS MS64BN



1817 N-11
PCGS MS65BN



1817 N-12
PCGS MS63BN



1818 N-2
PCGS MS63BN



1818 N-4
PCGS AU58



1818 N-8
NGC MS64RB



1819 N-3
PCGS MS64RB



1820/19 N-3
PCGS MS65RB



1820 N-6
PCGS MS63BN



1820 N-10
PCGS MS64BN



1822 N-7
PCGS MS62BN

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Lyle Engleson
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818-645-1602



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1822 N-10
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