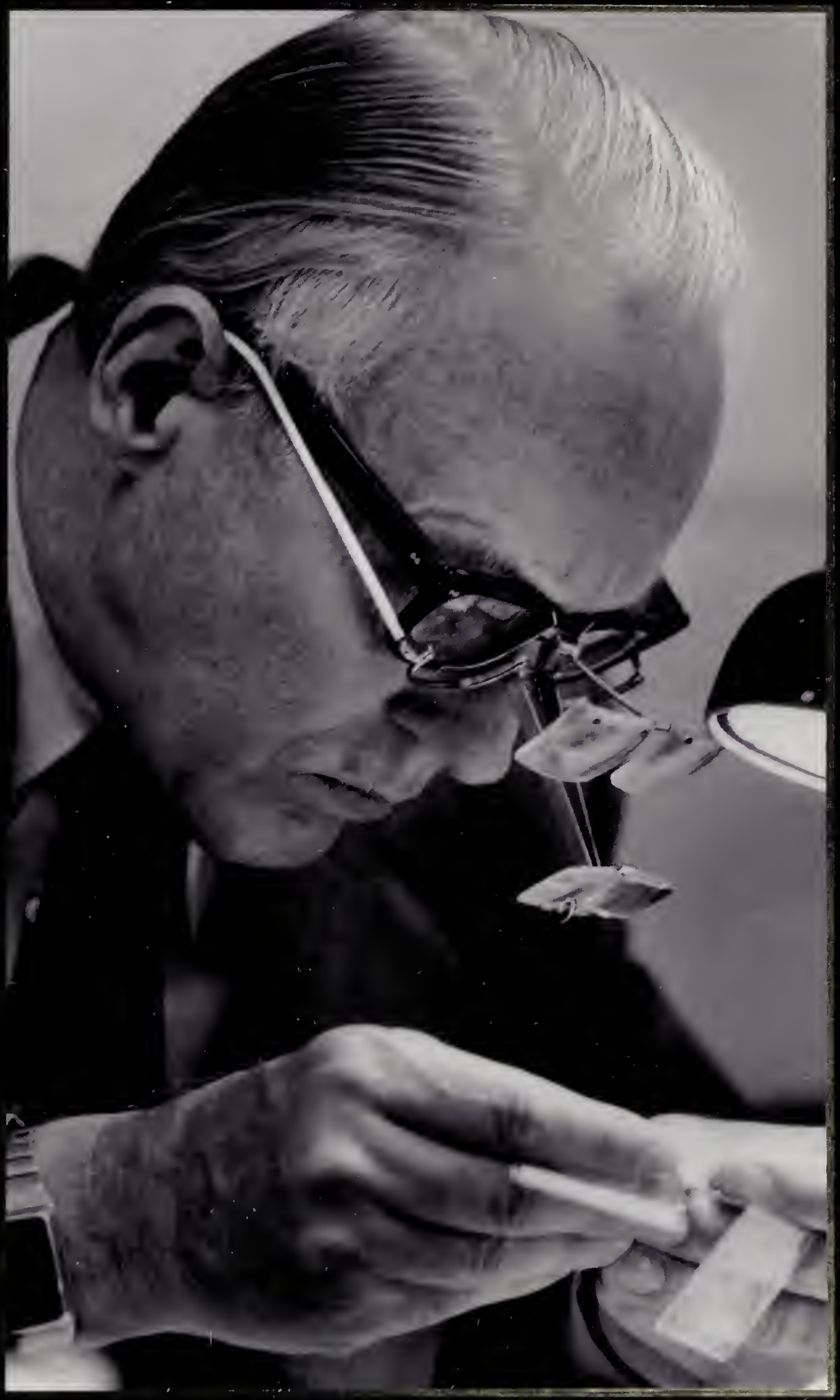
RY W. BASS, JR.

Collection

—PART II—



October 2-4, 1999

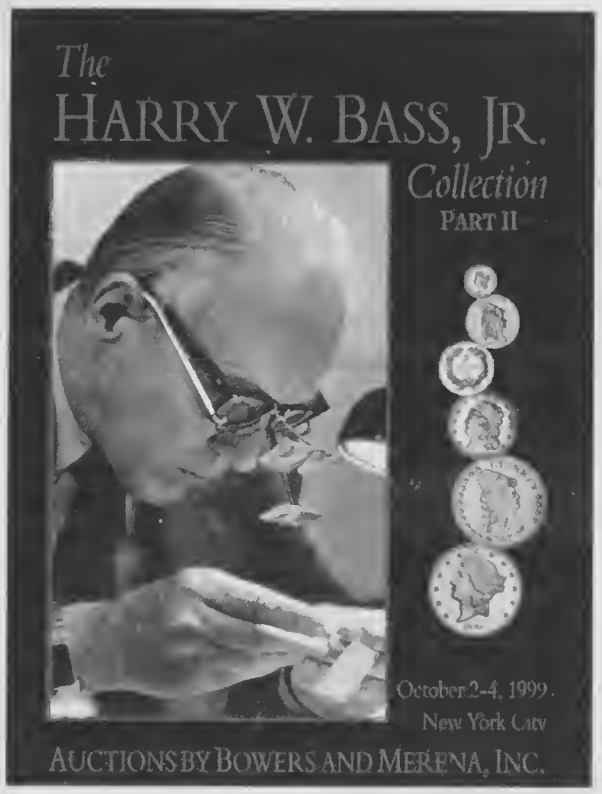
New York City

AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.

Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc. • Box 1224 • Wolfeboro, NH 03894

PRICES REALIZED

THE HARRY W. BASS, JR. COLLECTION *Part II*



October 2-4, 1999
New York City

1855-C gold dollar realized $92,000

1829 $5 realized $241,500

1795 $5 realized $138,000

1854-S $2.50 realized $135,700

1797 Small Eagle $10 realized $103,500

Proof 1891 $20 realized $166,750

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	5980.00	14	488.75	26	4830.00	38	862.50	50	1725.00	63	2530.00	75	3680.00	87	2760.00	99	10925.00	112	3220.00
2	3105.00	15	546.25	27	460.00	39	6900.00	51	1265.00	64	977.50	76	5750.00	88	805.00	100	4140.00	113	3220.00
3	1725.00	16	2415.00	28	13800.00	40	12650.00	52	10350.00	65	1265.00	77	6900.00	89	2185.00	101	805.00	114	9775.00
4	747.50	17	2300.00	29	9775.00	41	9775.00	53	3335.00	66	1150.00	78	2300.00	90	2300.00	102	92000.00	115	13800.00
5	1150.00	18	3105.00	30	6325.00	42	690.00	54	977.50	67	1265.00	79	1725.00	91	48300.00	103	19550.00	116	862.50
6	3795.00	19	8050.00	31	3335.00	43	7475.00	55	1380.00	68	1380.00	80	391.00	92	24150.00	104	8280.00	117	5520.00
7	7360.00	20	5060.00	32	2185.00	44	7475.00	56	1495.00	69	747.50	81	1035.00	93	13225.00	105	5060.00	118	575.00
8	4600.00	21	2185.00	33	10350.00	45	2185.00	57	14950.00	70	1610.00	82	11500.00	94	16100.00	106	29900.00	119	9775.00
9	3795.00	22	2530.00	34	690.00	46	3220.00	59	862.50	71	10350.00	83	3910.00	95	17250.00	107	11500.00	120	5750.00
10	977.50	23	488.75	35	391.00	47	1035.00	60	546.25	72	10925.00	84	805.00	96	11500.00	108	4830.00	121	16100.00
11	10925.00	24	1955.00	36	8625.00	48	546.25	61	20700.00	73	3105.00	85	29900.00	97	2990.00	110	1380.00	122	1265.00
12	2990.00	25	7475.00	37	1610.00	49	7475.00	62	6900.00	74	1380.00	86	24150.00	98	21850.00	111	1955.00	123	460.00

Prices realized include the buyer's fee—Lots omitted represent unsold lots known to us as of the sale date.

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
124	13225.00	189	805.00	255	805.00	320	14950.00	385	4140.00	451	747.50	519	8625.00	585	977.50	652	10350.00	717	26450.00
125	690.00	190	805.00	256	920.00	321	3451.15	386	2415.00	453	26450.00	520	805.00	586	11500.00	653	7475.00	718	57500.00
126	17250.00	191	805.00	257	690.00	322	2443.75	387	3680.00	454	25300.00	521	862.50	587	17250.00	654	9775.00	719	92000.00
127	12075.00	192	977.50	258	2530.00	323	3105.00	388	1610.00	455	2185.00	522	1955.00	588	3795.00	655	6900.00	720	69000.00
128	12650.00	193	1495.00	259	1495.00	324	1840.00	389	27025.00	456	3450.00	523	1265.00	589	10925.00	656	10925.00	721	115000.00
129	747.50	194	25300.00	260	833.75	325	546.25	390	3680.00	457	1150.00	524	9775.00	590	3450.00	657	8050.00	722	19550.00
130	805.00	195	24150.00	261	78200.00	326	39100.00	391	4140.00	458	1495.00	525	1092.50	591	8912.50	658	34500.00	723	6900.00
131	16100.00	196	6612.50	262	55200.00	327	13800.00	392	2760.00	459	2300.00	526	1063.75	592	2415.00	659	9775.00	724	25300.00
132	5290.00	197	2990.00	263	12362.50	328	9775.00	393	632.50	460	1725.00	527	6325.00	593	8740.00	660	3910.00	725	16100.00
133	4830.00	198	3220.00	264	3450.00	329	23000.00	394	920.00	461	20700.00	528	2990.00	594	1955.00	661	1150.00	726	16100.00
134	6325.00	199	1380.00	265	19550.00	330	14375.00	395	7475.00	462	9200.00	529	4140.00	595	1610.00	662	8050.00	727	7475.00
135	1725.00	200	603.75	266	18400.00	331	36800.00	396	3450.00	463	2760.00	530	8625.00	596	3450.00	663	920.00	728	9200.00
136	17250.00	201	6900.00	267	14375.00	332	3220.00	397	2530.00	464	1380.00	531	4025.00	597	529.00	664	9200.00	729	9775.00
137	2530.00	202	747.50	268	16100.00	333	575.00	398	1380.00	465	2012.50	532	2990.00	598	1725.00	665	14950.00	730	10350.00
138	19550.00	203	718.75	269	20700.00	334	1150.00	399	2185.00	466	8625.00	533	977.50	599	1725.00	667	4830.00	731	12650.00
139	6325.00	204	603.75	270	29900.00	335	115000.00	400	1035.00	467	20700.00	534	552.00	600	2277.00	668	3220.00	732	13800.00
140	1380.00	205	4370.00	271	14950.00	336	6900.00	401	747.50	468	14375.00	535	21275.00	601	4600.00	669	1092.50	733	26450.00
141	460.00	206	747.50	272	40250.00	337	12650.00	402	18400.00	469	1380.00	536	2760.00	602	368.00	670	1092.50	734	10350.00
142	632.50	207	805.00	273	36800.00	338	5290.00	403	5060.00	470	632.50	537	1265.00	603	690.00	671	27600.00	735	3220.00
143	2185.00	208	1725.00	274	10925.00	339	1322.50	404	2760.00	471	747.50	538	8625.00	605	11500.00	672	19550.00	736	24150.00
144	1380.00	209	805.00	275	6670.00	340	13800.00	405	34500.00	472	135700.00	539	632.50	606	2300.00	673	9775.00	737	13800.00
145	1265.00	210	6037.50	276	6670.00	341	7475.00	406	2990.00	473	3680.00	541	17825.00	607	2070.00	674	920.00	738	10925.00
146	483.00	211	2760.00	277	5980.00	342	18400.00	407	16100.00	474	1092.50	542	6900.00	608	977.50	675	24150.00	739	14950.00
147	690.00	212	3910.00	278	4485.00	343	14375.00	408	5750.00	475	1092.50	543	1380.00	609	18400.00	676	1955.00	740	4140.00
148	460.00	213	4140.00	279	1495.00	344	2645.00	409	1495.00	476	41400.00	544	373.75	610	6900.00	677	17250.00	741	20700.00
149	39100.00	214	3220.00	280	5750.00	345	12650.00	410	977.50	477	8050.00	545	27600.00	611	13800.00	678	21850.00	742	17250.00
150	1840.00	215	3910.00	281	2415.00	346	977.50	411	1495.00	478	29900.00	546	5750.00	612	8050.00	679	17250.00	743	16100.00
151	891.25	216	3450.00	282	1840.00	347	23000.00	412	805.00	479	8625.00	547	6325.00	613	7475.00	680	6037.50	745	5750.00
152	506.00	217	690.00	283	488.75	348	4830.00	413	23000.00	480	6325.00	548	747.50	614	4140.00	681	1955.00	746	4370.00
153	5290.00	218	5520.00	284	805.00	349	10350.00	414	11500.00	481	6900.00	549	920.00	615	5520.00	682	46000.00	747	1495.00
154	3680.00	219	4830.00	285	661.25	350	3680.00	415	6900.00	482	1092.50	550	431.25	616	471.50	683	7475.00	748	18400.00
155	2990.00	220	2185.00	286	6210.00	351	2645.00	416	6900.00	483	23000.00	551	3680.00	617	4600.00	684	29900.00	749	13800.00
156	2300.00	221	1495.00	287	4830.00	352	1092.50	417	4370.00	484	2760.00	552	230.00	619	1265.00	685	16100.00	750	5520.00
157	920.00	222	1610.00	288	4485.00	353	19550.00	418	2760.00	486	23000.00	553	8050.00	620	1092.50	686	8337.50	751	7475.00
158	6325.00	223	632.50	289	3910.00	354	1840.00	419	5520.00	487	2300.00	554	2990.00	621	6900.00	687	2990.00	752	6325.00
159	8050.00	224	4025.00	290	9775.00	355	1840.00	420	1207.50	488	1150.00	555	9487.50	623	2300.00	688	41400.00	753	2990.00
160	1840.00	225	1725.00	291	7475.00	356	2300.00	421	1380.00	489	25300.00	556	2300.00	624	3680.00	689	1610.00	754	20700.00
161	1610.00	227	13225.00	292	3910.00	357	4600.00	422	39100.00	490	12650.00	558	345.00	625	632.50	690	25300.00	755	6325.00
162	920.00	228	3910.00	293	2875.00	358	12075.00	423	16100.00	493	3910.00	559	11500.00	626	2185.00	691	12650.00	756	9200.00
163	4600.00	229	2300.00	294	977.50	359	4255.00	424	5520.00	494	10925.00	560	1725.00	627	4600.00	692	5750.00	757	24150.00
164	16100.00	230	2070.00	295	431.25	360	4370.00	425	5750.00	495	1782.50	561	7762.50	628	19550.00	693	7475.00	758	6037.50
165	2300.00	231	1092.50	296	2070.00	361	3335.00	426	8625.00	496	5060.00	562	488.75	629	2760.00	694	2990.00	759	7015.00
166	2070.00	232	1092.50	297	36800.00	362	2760.00	427	2300.00	497	1265.00	563	2530.00	630	1495.00	695	32200.00	760	5290.00
167	1150.00	233	488.75	298	3105.00	363	2530.00	428	431.25	498	977.50	564	3220.00	631	2070.00	696	32200.00	761	1840.00
168	404.80	234	10350.00	299	920.00	364	6325.00	429	575.00	499	7475.00	565	8625.00	632	12650.00	697	9200.00	762	8050.00
169	5520.00	235	3910.00	300	517.50	365	20700.00	430	10350.00	500	4140.00	566	1725.00	633	1955.00	698	12650.00	763	8050.00
170	4600.00	236	1380.00	301	1207.50	366	17250.00	431	8050.00	501	20700.00	567	1725.00	634	1207.50	699	29900.00	764	5290.00
171	2530.00	237	6900.00	302	546.25	367	10925.00	432	9200.00	502	690.00	568	19550.00	635	2012.50	700	10350.00	765	36800.00
172	1610.00	238	747.50	303	3220.00	368	2760.00	433	10350.00	503	10925.00	569	10925.00	636	1265.00	701	12650.00	766	25300.00
173	9775.00	239	575.00	304	5520.00	369	8625.00	434	1265.00	504	2070.00	570	1552.50	637	4370.00	702	9200.00	767	17250.00
174	7187.50	240	1380.00	305	37950.00	370	4600.00	436	5750.00	505	4600.00	571	805.00	638	1725.00	703	6900.00	768	10350.00
175	6900.00	241	483.00	306	69000.00	371	2415.00	437	2645.00	506	2185.00	572	13800.00	639	920.00	704	18400.00	769	7187.50
176	2185.00	242	1380.00	307	4370.00	372	1610.00	439	5750.00	507	414.00	573	3450.00	640	1265.00	705	10925.00	770	6900.00
177	1495.00	243	1840.00	308	14950.00	373	1725.00	440	1092.50	508	16100.00	574	805.00	641	1495.00	706	21850.00	771	19550.00
178	4370.00	244	632.50	309	10925.00	374	690.00	441	1380.00	509	2990.00	575	1610.00	642	1265.00	707	10350.00	772	9200.00
179	1380.00	245	1610.00	311	805.00	375	368.00	442	747.50	510	4600.00	576	23000.00	643	63250.00	708	10925.00	773	6325.00
180	2070.00	246	8050.00	312	25300.00	376	26450.00	443	1725.00	511	6325.00	577	3105.00	644	2300.00	709	16100.00	774	6325.00
181	2530.00	247	2300.00	313	8050.00	377	4600.00	444	5060.00	512	1840.00	578	4255.00	645	1725.00	710	10350.00	775	5520.00
183	1035.00	249	632.50	314	37950.00	378	7475.00	445	23000.00	513	1495.00	579	3450.00	646	16100.00	711	138000.00	776	25300.00
184	1610.00	250	632.50	315	14950.00	379	5290.00	446	3450.00	514	4140.00	580	1495.00	647	5750.00	712	18975.00	777	10925.00
185	1380.00	251	8050.00	316	5290.00	380	13800.00	447	14950.00	515	1035.00	581	977.50	648	5520.00	713	19550.00	778	5750.00
186	1092.50	252	1265.00	317	20700.00	381	62100.00	448	8050.00	516	862.50	582	1150.00	649	4830.00	714	26450.00	779	21850.00
187	833.75	253	2760.00	318	920.00	383	12650.00	449	7475.00	517	5750.00	583	2070.00	650	920.00	715	33350.00	780	21275.00
188	1495.00	254	3450.00	319	690.00	384	6325.00	450	2530.00	518	1725.00	584	1265.00	651	25300.00	716	52900.00	781	18400.00

Prices realized include the buyer's fee—Lots omitted represent unsold lots known to us as of the sale date.

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
782	1380.00	847	5405.00	916	6325.00	983	1380.00	1049	6900.00	1117	5520.00	1189	23000.00	1257	17250.00	1324	18400.00	1395	2070.00
783	19550.00	848	29900.00	917	2300.00	984	6900.00	1050	4370.00	1118	29900.00	1190	9775.00	1258	833.75	1325	1840.00	1397	1955.00
784	5290.00	849	9200.00	918	2185.00	985	6325.00	1051	17250.00	1119	5520.00	1191	747.50	1259	2300.00	1327	6037.50	1398	4140.00
785	26450.00	850	5750.00	919	1610.00	986	24150.00	1052	2990.00	1120	23000.00	1192	6900.00	1260	4600.00	1328	6900.00	1399	632.50
786	13800.00	851	2760.00	920	20700.00	987	805.00	1053	3450.00	1121	1265.00	1193	21850.00	1261	14950.00	1329	4830.00	1401	977.50
787	6900.00	852	1955.00	921	9200.00	988	1725.00	1054	36800.00	1122	10925.00	1194	20125.00	1262	920.00	1330	5405.00	1402	575.00
788	1725.00	853	2300.00	922	1380.00	989	1035.00	1055	8050.00	1123	8625.00	1195	1955.00	1263	4140.00	1331	5060.00	1403	3680.00
789	21850.00	854	2760.00	923	48300.00	990	50600.00	1056	6325.00	1125	23000.00	1196	20700.00	1264	1092.50	1332	5520.00	1404	747.50
790	5290.00	855	1265.00	924	5060.00	992	6900.00	1057	3220.00	1126	8625.00	1197	10350.00	1265	747.50	1333	5060.00	1405	1955.00
791	44850.00	857	1725.00	925	4370.00	993	4830.00	1058	3450.00	1127	5290.00	1198	5750.00	1266	2530.00	1334	2990.00	1406	4140.00
792	8050.00	858	4370.00	926	10925.00	994	2530.00	1059	4600.00	1128	1150.00	1199	4370.00	1267	431.25	1335	3450.00	1407	747.50
793	3565.00	859	1840.00	927	1955.00	995	2300.00	1060	2415.00	1129	27600.00	1201	23000.00	1268	1725.00	1336	1955.00	1408	1380.00
794	25300.00	860	97750.00	930	14950.00	996	2990.00	1061	19550.00	1130	6325.00	1202	5520.00	1269	603.75	1337	2990.00	1409	3450.00
795	29900.00	861	8050.00	931	8050.00	997	2300.00	1062	6900.00	1131	7475.00	1203	5060.00	1271	4140.00	1338	2760.00	1410	2300.00
796	19550.00	862	1150.00	932	35650.00	998	2300.00	1063	1380.00	1132	1495.00	1204	27600.00	1272	690.00	1339	3450.00	1411	1955.00
797	11500.00	863	35650.00	933	9200.00	999	2185.00	1064	1495.00	1133	9775.00	1205	4830.00	1273	632.50	1340	2185.00	1412	1150.00
798	12650.00	864	3680.00	934	2070.00	1000	2990.00	1065	1150.00	1134	2530.00	1206	19550.00	1274	5290.00	1341	2185.00	1413	690.00
799	5060.00	865	115000.00	935	10925.00	1001	4830.00	1066	10925.00	1135	1265.00	1207	26450.00	1275	948.75	1342	4830.00	1414	2300.00
800	8337.50	866	86250.00	936	1092.50	1002	1610.00	1067	2990.00	1136	11500.00	1208	5060.00	1276	2300.00	1343	3680.00	1415	431.25
801	8912.50	867	9200.00	937	34500.00	1003	33350.00	1068	33350.00	1137	48300.00	1209	16100.00	1278	1265.00	1346	6325.00	1416	373.75
802	5750.00	868	19550.00	938	5635.00	1004	14950.00	1069	3910.00	1138	4830.00	1211	12650.00	1279	1840.00	1347	2990.00	1417	12650.00
803	15525.00	869	10925.00	939	3450.00	1005	632.50	1070	5520.00	1140	11500.00	1212	46000.00	1280	3680.00	1348	2760.00	1418	4600.00
804	10350.00	870	29900.00	940	1380.00	1006	4830.00	1071	977.50	1141	17250.00	1213	24150.00	1281	4140.00	1349	1840.00	1419	488.75
805	103500.00	871	5520.00	941	546.25	1007	5175.00	1072	10925.00	1142	5750.00	1214	2645.00	1282	2300.00	1350	1150.00	1420	431.25
806	26450.00	872	19550.00	942	322.00	1008	6325.00	1074	2990.00	1143	13800.00	1215	1150.00	1283	2300.00	1351	1495.00	1421	3450.00
807	5750.00	873	11500.00	943	16100.00	1009	2760.00	1075	16100.00	1144	6325.00	1216	17250.00	1284	29900.00	1352	1725.00	1422	18400.00
808	5980.00	874	7015.00	944	1265.00	1010	3680.00	1076	8050.00	1145	9775.00	1217	747.50	1285	3450.00	1353	1380.00	1423	862.50
809	2070.00	875	2760.00	945	1725.00	1011	1265.00	1077	17250.00	1146	6900.00	1218	8050.00	1286	5980.00	1354	2070.00	1424	1150.00
810	31050.00	876	460.00	946	1725.00	1012	1495.00	1078	3220.00	1147	4830.00	1219	11500.00	1287	6900.00	1355	483.00	1425	1150.00
811	10925.00	877	2530.00	948	57500.00	1013	19550.00	1079	2530.00	1148	10350.00	1220	3910.00	1288	4830.00	1356	368.00	1426	1092.50
812	59800.00	878	1955.00	949	20700.00	1014	20700.00	1080	1495.00	1149	2185.00	1221	632.50	1290	920.00	1357	5290.00	1427	862.50
813	2530.00	879	1610.00	950	5750.00	1015	8625.00	1082	2300.00	1150	178250.00	1222	8050.00	1291	2760.00	1358	862.50	1428	5750.00
814	52900.00	880	1035.00	951	4600.00	1016	2147.05	1083	11500.00	1151	12650.00	1223	4140.00	1292	2300.00	1359	1265.00	1429	1840.00
815	71300.00	882	690.00	952	21850.00	1017	13800.00	1084	2300.00	1152	14950.00	1224	1150.00	1293	16100.00	1360	3910.00	1430	1035.00
816	19550.00	884	8050.00	953	8625.00	1018	2530.00	1085	10925.00	1153	8050.00	1225	431.25	1294	16100.00	1361	3220.00	1432	2990.00
817	29900.00	885	4830.00	954	4830.00	1019	460.00	1086	2185.00	1154	4140.00	1226	11500.00	1295	3680.00	1362	546.25	1433	2760.00
818	21850.00	886	5290.00	955	11500.00	1020	2415.00	1087	2875.00	1155	25300.00	1227	3450.00	1296	26450.00	1363	483.00	1434	862.50
819	55200.00	887	8050.00	956	2070.00	1021	1955.00	1088	12650.00	1156	3910.00	1228	546.25	1297	2645.00	1364	805.00	1435	1265.00
820	241500.00	888	4715.00	957	1840.00	1022	2875.00	1090	920.00	1157	5750.00	1229	5750.00	1298	6325.00	1365	1840.00	1436	2760.00
821	80500.00	890	3680.00	958	3910.00	1023	5750.00	1091	920.00	1159	9200.00	1230	4140.00	1299	2185.00	1366	483.00	1437	805.00
822	25300.00	891	2300.00	959	977.50	1024	4140.00	1092	977.50	1160	4600.00	1231	1955.00	1300	13800.00	1368	8625.00	1438	5520.00
823	7590.00	892	14950.00	960	1265.00	1025	9200.00	1094	11500.00	1161	7762.50	1232	2185.00	1301	12650.00	1369	3680.00	1439	373.75
824	8970.00	893	2070.00	961	33350.00	1026	6037.50	1095	5060.00	1162	3680.00	1233	8050.00	1302	2990.00	1370	1035.00	1440	13800.00
825	8510.00	894	1955.00	962	18400.00	1028	1380.00	1096	19550.00	1163	2990.00	1234	1092.50	1303	29900.00	1371	483.00	1441	3680.00
826	8740.00	895	25300.00	963	3450.00	1029	12650.00	1097	4140.00	1164	10925.00	1235	1265.00	1304	103500.00	1372	345.00	1442	4140.00
827	4140.00	896	5750.00	964	11500.00	1030	6325.00	1098	34500.00	1166	33350.00	1236	862.50	1305	16100.00	1373	690.00	1444	3565.00
828	3450.00	897	2070.00	965	7475.00	1031	2070.00	1099	4600.00	1167	6900.00	1237	2760.00	1306	28750.00	1374	1092.50	1445	1150.00
829	2185.00	898	10925.00	966	2990.00	1032	14950.00	1100	3680.00	1168	3910.00	1238	977.50	1307	7360.00	1375	8050.00	1446	805.00
830	517.50	899	8050.00	967	8050.00	1033	2990.00	1101	8050.00	1169	14375.00	1239	1380.00	1308	13800.00	1378	2990.00	1447	3680.00
831	805.00	900	10350.00	968	4370.00	1034	5290.00	1102	3565.00	1170	69000.00	1240	977.50	1309	11500.00	1379	1380.00	1449	2300.00
832	17250.00	901	6325.00	969	4830.00	1035	1380.00	1103	2185.00	1171	14950.00	1241	8625.00	1310	10925.00	1380	517.50	1450	1495.00
833	25300.00	902	7475.00	970	6900.00	1036	10350.00	1104	20700.00	1172	6900.00	1242	5750.00	1311	52900.00	1381	5060.00	1451	920.00
835	1955.00	903	3910.00	971	7475.00	1037	3220.00	1105	2185.00	1173	4140.00	1243	1150.00	1312	8970.00	1382	2645.00	1452	747.50
836	1610.00	904	4370.00	972	5175.00	1038	1840.00	1106	23000.00	1174	2990.00	1244	517.50	1313	13225.00	1383	3450.00	1453	517.50
837	9200.00	905	2070.00	973	1092.50	1039	3680.00	1107	3220.00	1175	20700.00	1245	345.00	1314	23000.00	1384	9775.00	1454	1265.00
838	6325.00	906	5175.00	974	7187.50	1040	2530.00	1108	18400.00	1176	8625.00	1246	4140.00	1315	4140.00	1386	4140.00	1455	2760.00
839	5520.00	907	8050.00	975	690.00	1041	35650.00	1109	2415.00	1177	9775.00	1247	2760.00	1316	9200.00	1387	1840.00	1456	3680.00
840	7475.00	908	3680.00	976	1380.00	1042	1725.00	1110	13800.00	1178	4600.00	1249	690.00	1317	2300.00	1388	3220.00	1458	299.00
841	747.50	909	10350.00	977	1265.00	1043	747.50	1111	6037.50	1179	3220.00	1250	1265.00	1318	1840.00	1389	2185.00	1459	8625.00
842	3680.00	910	34500.00	978	11500.00	1044	7475.00	1112	4600.00	1181	14950.00	1251	575.00	1319	2185.00	1390	977.50	1460	690.00
843	1955.00	911	8050.00	979	805.00	1045	4140.00	1113	3450.00	1182	18400.00	1252	3105.00	1320	5750.00	1391	805.00	1461	1265.00
844	6900.00	912	8625.00	980	9200.00	1046	2990.00	1114	20700.00	1183	3335.00	1254	26450.00	1321	1495.00	1392	690.00	1462	575.00
845	2300.00	914	1840.00	981	5750.00	1047	1610.00	1115	5750.00	1185	5520.00	1255	690.00	1322	9200.00	1393	805.00	1463	2990.00
846	11500.00	915	19550.00	982	3450.00	1048	1552.50	1116	3220.00	1188	66125.00	1256	6900.00	1323	1380.00	1394	6037.50	1464	1610.00

Prices realized include the buyer's fee—Lots omitted represent unsold lots known to us as of the sale date.

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1466	1610.00	1536	368.00	1607	805.00	1646	33350.00	1686	12650.00	1727	3220.00	1766	59800.00	1805	805.00	1844	2990.00	1907	6325.00
1467	6900.00	1537	36800.00	1608	32200.00	1647	747.50	1687	1610.00	1728	2530.00	1767	2185.00	1806	1495.00	1845	1380.00	1908	50600.00
1468	12650.00	1538	32200.00	1609	4370.00	1648	34500.00	1688	2990.00	1729	4140.00	1768	1121.25	1807	575.00	1846	1035.00	1909	14950.00
1469	1265.00	1539	12650.00	1610	2300.00	1649	6037.50	1689	24150.00	1730	2760.00	1769	2990.00	1808	6670.00	1847	3450.00	1910	43700.00
1471	11500.00	1540	5290.00	1611	21850.00	1650	8625.00	1690	9200.00	1731	41400.00	1770	3105.00	1809	11500.00	1848	3220.00	1911	3220.00
1472	12650.00	1541	632.50	1612	23000.00	1651	632.50	1691	13800.00	1732	14950.00	1771	1840.00	1810	1495.00	1849	3450.00	1912	3450.00
1473	55200.00	1544	5520.00	1613	50600.00	1652	36800.00	1692	1955.00	1733	11500.00	1772	2185.00	1811	1610.00	1850	48300.00	1913	5750.00
1474	39100.00	1545	5290.00	1614	805.00	1653	517.50	1693	2530.00	1734	2990.00	1773	690.00	1812	5520.00	1851	2530.00	1914	24150.00
1475	977.50	1546	5347.50	1615	24150.00	1654	25300.00	1694	12650.00	1735	2185.00	1774	1265.00	1813	2070.00	1852	2530.00	1915	55200.00
1476	1725.00	1547	10350.00	1616	414.00	1655	8625.00	1695	14950.00	1736	4370.00	1775	690.00	1814	1380.00	1853	2070.00	1916	2415.00
1477	776.25	1548	9200.00	1617	3910.00	1656	1380.00	1696	2760.00	1737	920.00	1776	632.50	1815	39100.00	1854	862.50	1917	2990.00
1478	9775.00	1549	4600.00	1618	8050.00	1657	1610.00	1697	1610.00	1738	19550.00	1777	1610.00	1816	575.00	1855	517.50	1918	52900.00
1479	2070.00	1551	42550.00	1619	3680.00	1658	23575.00	1698	3450.00	1739	6900.00	1778	2070.00	1817	862.50	1856	2530.00	1919	2760.00
1480	1955.00	1552	21850.00	1620	1610.00	1659	11500.00	1699	4255.00	1740	2530.00	1779	1265.00	1818	1955.00	1857	2530.00	1920	27600.00
1481	36800.00	1554	9775.00	1621	21850.00	1660	1840.00	1700	977.50	1741	92000.00	1780	1610.00	1819	5750.00	1858	1840.00	1921	4140.00
1482	2530.00	1555	5520.00	1622	1265.00	1661	17250.00	1701	1725.00	1742	23575.00	1781	2415.00	1820	3335.00	1859	2185.00	1922	3220.00
1483	1495.00	1556	43700.00	1623	21850.00	1662	517.50	1702	1610.00	1743	10350.00	1782	2645.00	1821	3450.00	1860	2070.00	1923	5750.00
1484	19550.00	1557	7475.00	1624	1955.00	1663	27600.00	1703	1265.00	1744	4830.00	1783	1265.00	1822	10062.50	1861	2185.00	1924	59800.00
1485	4600.00	1558	546.25	1625	36800.00	1664	3220.00	1705	6325.00	1745	4370.00	1784	7360.00	1823	776.25	1862	3450.00	1925	977.50
1486	1293.75	1559	1725.00	1626	1725.00	1665	18400.00	1706	4140.00	1746	3220.00	1785	4255.00	1824	1840.00	1863	1610.00	1926	632.50
1487	36800.00	1561	28750.00	1627	1380.00	1666	17250.00	1707	4830.00	1747	1495.00	1786	4025.00	1825	3335.00	1864	9200.00	1927	41400.00
1488	5290.00	1562	6612.50	1628	1495.00	1667	5290.00	1708	1610.00	1748	977.50	1787	14950.00	1826	3910.00	1865	776.25	1928	1380.00
1489	3335.00	1563	1725.00	1629	18400.00	1668	1840.00	1709	2185.00	1749	1725.00	1788	3910.00	1827	1322.50	1866	3220.00	1929	1495.00
1490	50600.00	1564	1495.00	1630	21850.00	1669	667.00	1710	6900.00	1750	2875.00	1789	3795.00	1828	2760.00	1867	3220.00	1930	5060.00
1491	23000.00	1565	27600.00	1631	575.00	1670	13800.00	1711	105800.00	1751	6440.00	1790	41400.00	1829	3680.00	1868	28750.00	1931	20700.00
1492	7762.50	1566	13800.00	1632	6325.00	1671	3335.00	1712	9775.00	1752	3680.00	1791	3450.00	1830	2760.00	1869	1380.00	1932	747.50
1494	63250.00	1567	471.50	1633	1840.00	1672	517.50	1713	1955.00	1753	1840.00	1792	1840.00	1831	1035.00	1870	6900.00	1933	13800.00
1495	6900.00	1569	1265.00	1634	6325.00	1674	632.50	1714	920.00	1754	3938.75	1793	1955.00	1832	1495.00	1871	29900.00	1934	690.00
1496	8625.00	1570	6325.00	1635	6900.00	1675	2990.00	1715	977.50	1755	6670.00	1794	2530.00	1833	1150.00	1872	3680.00	1935	747.50
1497	32200.00	1572	1150.00	1636	63250.00	1676	1840.00	1716	4025.00	1756	2415.00	1795	78200.00	1834	2530.00	1873	1955.00	1936	1035.00
1498	7475.00	1573	48300.00	1637	6037.50	1677	34500.00	1717	2990.00	1757	862.50	1796	16100.00	1835	69000.00	1874	6900.00	1937	1035.00
1499	9775.00	1574	10350.00	1638	977.50	1678	11500.00	1718	6900.00	1758	2875.00	1797	2645.00	1836	3450.00	1875	5290.00	1938	8625.00
1500	9775.00	1575	632.50	1639	1035.00	1679	3910.00	1719	920.00	1759	66700.00	1798	1380.00	1837	2070.00	1876	10925.00	1939	41400.00
1502	9775.00	1576	632.50	1640	1725.00	1680	4600.00	1720	1150.00	1760	1150.00	1799	2530.00	1838	12650.00	1877	4600.00	1940	1495.00
1503	39100.00	1577	32200.00	1641	17250.00	1681	3795.00	1722	3220.00	1761	2070.00	1800	632.50	1839	4830.00	1878	43700.00	1941	40250.00
1504	6325.00	1578	8625.00	1642	690.00	1682	4370.00	1723	2070.00	1762	4600.00	1801	55200.00	1840	8050.00	1879	14950.00	1943	690.00
1505	4370.00	1579	2760.00	1643	28750.00	1683	13800.00	1724	12650.00	1763	4025.00	1802	1265.00	1841	4140.00	1880	33350.00	1944	632.50
1506	39100.00	1580	2185.00	1644	460.00	1684	11500.00	1725	1725.00	1764	2070.00	1803	1092.50	1842	1610.00	1881	6900.00	1945	431.25
1507	3910.00	1581	517.50	1645	747.50	1685	8050.00	1726	9200.00	1765	1265.00	1804	97750.00	1843	1725.00	1882	2530.00	1946	977.50
1508	5060.00	1583	431.25													1883	2530.00	1947	2070.00
1509	50600.00	1584	1265.00													1884	89700.00	1948	43700.00
1510	1840.00	1585	414.00													1885	1380.00	1949	24150.00
1511	6900.00	1586	34500.00													1886	2070.00	1950	2990.00
1512	3680.00	1587	862.50													1887	632.50	1951	2990.00
1513	1495.00	1588	431.25													1888	3220.00	1952	80500.00
1514	46000.00	1589	2185.00													1889	1035.00	1953	2760.00
1515	3220.00	1590	4370.00													1890	3450.00	1954	1840.00
1518	4140.00	1591	632.50													1891	46000.00	1955	1265.00
1519	632.50	1592	3220.00													1892	1265.00	1956	3220.00
1520	25300.00	1593	33350.00													1893	2760.00	1957	8625.00
1521	5750.00	1594	4140.00													1894	2185.00	1958	14375.00
1523	6325.00	1595	6900.00													1895	75900.00	1959	16100.00
1524	2760.00	1596	5520.00													1896	39100.00	1960	13800.00
1525	10350.00	1597	3220.00													1897	747.50	1961	4830.00
1526	6612.50	1598	747.50													1898	71300.00	1962	3450.00
1527	4600.00	1599	37375.00													1899	41400.00	1963	3450.00
1528	805.00	1600	4830.00													1900	5060.00	1964	1150.00
1530	8337.50	1601	1955.00													1901	2875.00	1965	575.00
1531	8050.00	1602	7762.50													1902	57500.00	1966	2760.00
1532	5290.00	1603	460.00													1903	20700.00	1967	2530.00
1533	632.50	1604	373.75													1904	3105.00	1968	1955.00
1534	1955.00	1605	402.50													1905	28750.00		
1535	632.50	1606	862.50													1906	166750.00		

BOWERS AND MERENA AUCTION SCHEDULE

November 11-13, 1999— Baltimore, Maryland
In conjunction with the Suburban Washington/Baltimore Convention

January 4-5, 2000 — Orlando, Florida
The Rarities Sale — *Now Accepting Consignments*

March 23-25, 2000— Baltimore, Maryland
In conjunction with the Suburban Washington/Baltimore Convention
Now Accepting Consignments

May 25-26, 2000— New York City
The Bass Collection — Part III

June 23-24, 2000— Chicago, Illinois
In conjunction with the MidAmerican Coin Expo — *Now Accepting Consignments*

August 7, 2000 — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
The Rarities Sale — *Now Accepting Consignments*

August 9-12, 2000 — Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
With the American Numismatic Association Convention
Now Accepting Consignments

Prices realized include the buyer's fee—Lots omitted represent unsold lots known to us as of the sale date.

The

HARRY W. BASS, JR.

Collection - Part II

Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Bass, Jr., at the American Numismatic Society during Harry's presidency of the Society.

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About the Cover:

A selection of beautiful coins from the Bass Collection.

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COLOR PLATE I

COLOR PLATE II

266 267 268 269 270

271 272 273 274 275 276 280 287 290

297 305 306 308 309 312 314 315 316

317 320 326 327 328 329 330 331 335

336 337 340 341 342 343 347 348 353

365 366 367 369 376 378 379 380 381

COLOR PLATE III

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COLOR PLATE IV

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COLOR PLATE IX

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COLOR PLATE XI

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COLOR PLATE XII

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COLOR PLATE XVI

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COLOR PLATE XVII

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COLOR PLATE XVIII

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COLOR PLATE XIX

1918

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1931

1933

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1941

1948

1949

1952

1958

1959

1960

COLOR PLATE XX

Lot 711
2X photo

Lot 805
2X photo

Lot 820
2X photo

Lot 821
2X photo

Lot 1884
2X photo

Lot 1906
2X photo

Sections

The Park Lane Ballroom, Park Lane Hotel

Saturday Evening, October 2

6:00 PM Sharp

United States Gold Dollars: Lots 1-260
United States Quarter Eagles: Lots 261-645

Sunday Morning, October 3

10:00 AM Sharp

United States Three-Dollar Gold Pieces: Lots 646-710
United States Half Eagles: Lots 711-1302
United States Eagles: Lots 1303-1676
United States Double Eagles: Lots 1677-1968

We will have a buffet lunch and dinner for registered bidders. Lunch will be served at approximately 12:00 noon and dinner at approximately 5:00 PM.

Auction Location

The Park Lane Ballroom, Park Lane Hotel, 36 Central Park South,
New York City, NY
Telephone: 212-371-4000

Helpful Suggestions and Information

We strongly recommend that our clients who intend to view a large portion of the sale, plan to do so as early in the lot viewing schedule as possible.

Prices Realized: For prices realized after the sale, call (603) 569-5095, Ext. 98
Limit: 10 lots per caller. A printed list of prices will be mailed to all subscribers after the sale.

Special Note: Lot Viewing

See next page. Notice that the lot viewing is in two separate locations; first the Hilton New York and Towers, then the Park Lane Hotel.

LOT VIEWING

Beekman Parlor, Hilton New York and Towers, 1335 Avenue of the Americas, 53rd to 54th St.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM ◆ 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM ◆ 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

LOT VIEWING

Park Lane Ballroom, Park Lane Hotel (New Location)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM ◆ 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM ◆ 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM ◆ 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

LOT PICK-UP

The Park Lane Ballroom, Park Lane Hotel

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

BOWERS AND MERENA AUCTION SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 11-13, 1999

Baltimore, MD – In conjunction with the Suburban Washington/Baltimore Convention

JANUARY 4-5, 2000

Orlando, FL – The Rarities Sale
Now accepting consignments!

MARCH 23-25, 2000

Baltimore, MD – In conjunction with the Suburban Washington/Baltimore Convention
Now accepting consignments!

MAY 25-26, 2000

New York City, NY – The Harry W. Bass, Jr., Collection - Part III

JUNE 23-24, 2000

Chicago, IL – In conjunction with the MidAmerica Coin Expo
Now accepting consignments!

AUGUST 7, 2000

Philadelphia, PA – The Rarities Sale
Now accepting consignments!

AUGUST 9-12, 2000

Philadelphia, PA – In conjunction with the American Numismatic Association Convention
Now accepting consignments!

OCTOBER 19-21, 2000

Baltimore, MD – In conjunction with the Suburban Washington/Baltimore Convention
Accepting consignments beginning in November 1999.

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Fax us your bid sheet (any time, 24 hours a day). Our direct fax number is **(603) 569-5319.**

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Fax your bids 24 hours a day! Our fax number is 1-603-569-5319! Be sure to follow up your fax or phone bids with written confirmation.

OFFICE USE ONLY
No.
Date
Deposit
Max.
O.L.O.

IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ TERMS OF SALE BEFORE BIDDING.

Gentlemen:
Here are my bids for your OCTOBER 1999 Bass Collection. I have read the Terms of Sale (printed in the catalogue) and agree to them. I am of legal age. I understand that my bids are per lot. I agree to pay promptly upon receipt of your invoice, including postage and insurance costs.

ATTACH MAILING LABEL OR PRINT CLEARLY

Name John Dow Customer #
Street or P.O. Box 123 Pleasant Street
City Anytown, State CA Zip 12345
Daytime Telephone (123) 555-1111 Fax # (123) 555-1234
Signature (bid sheet MUST be signed) John Dow Date 9/25/99

❑ PLEASE CHECK IF THIS IS A CONFIRMATION OF BIDS SUBMITTED BY PHONE OR FAX.

Deposit on Sale
$ 3,500 –

SPECIAL SERVICES
Maximum Expenditure
$ 12,000 –
Please increase my bids
10% ❑ 20% ❑ 30% ❑
if necessary to obtain lots.

A 15% buyer's premium will be added to all successful bids.
If you are using the One Lot Only option, please use the narrow column to group the lots with a bracket:

LOT	BID	OFFICE USE ONLY	LOT	BID	OFFICE USE ONLY	LOT	BID	OFFICE USE ONLY
260	675		1,101	2,900				
261	750		1,111	3,100				
262	825		1,300	2,500				
430	1,000		1,403	1,800				
432	1,100		1,414	1,700				
433	1,050		1,429	1,650				
639	925		1595	375				
640	975		1598	425				
642	950		1604	550				

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NEW BIDDERS

The following information must be supplied to us before your bids can be executed. Bidders who are not known to us must send a deposit of 25% of their bids. The deposit will be credited toward lots purchased and any balance will be refunded within 10 working days after the sale.

Have you done business before with Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.? ❑ Yes ☒ No
Are you a dealer? No Do you have a resale number on file with us?
Other dealers with whom you have done business: National Rare Coins, Inc. Western American Numismatics, Inc.
Bank references: Anytown First National Bank Attn: Nancy Smith, Cashier

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Raymond N. Merena
Frank Van Valen
and various consultants

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Q. David Bowers
Christine Karstedt
Raymond N. Merena

Appreciation is extended to the following for the preparation of this catalogue:

Margo Russell provided certain biographical information for Harry W. Bass, Jr.

Cataloguing and numismatic expertise by Q. David Bowers, Mark Borckardt, John Pack, Beth O. Piper, Frank Van Valen, and Ray Merena.

Photography by Douglas Plasencia.

Catalogue production by Robin Edgerly, Roberta French, Jennifer Meers, and Robert Lawrence. Catalogue coordination and advertising by Christine Karstedt.

AND, thanks to the entire Bowers and Merena staff for help in many ways. The presenting of a sale such as this is a highly coordinated team effort involving many talented people.

All illustrations are of the actual items being sold.

Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc.

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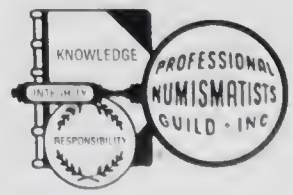
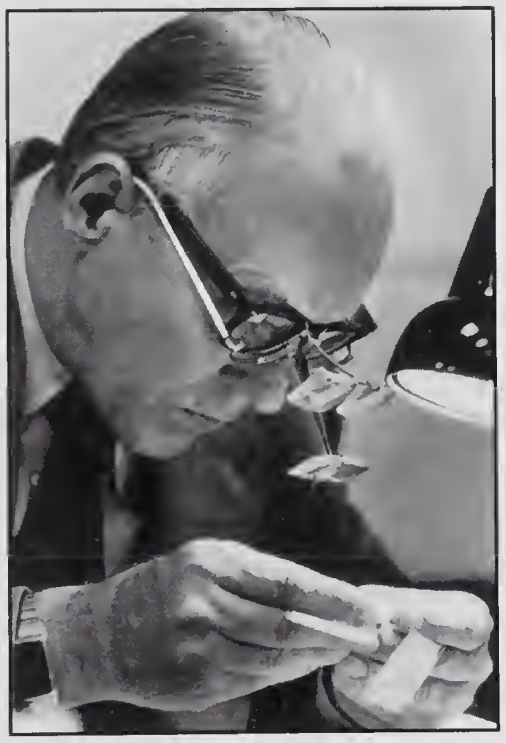


Harry Wesley Bass, Jr.

1927-1998



Harry W. Bass, Jr.

Harry Wesley Bass, Jr., was born on January 6, 1927, in Oklahoma City. He spent his childhood in Dallas where he graduated from the day school later known as St. Mark's Academy. His higher education took place at the University of Texas and at Southern Methodist University, the last being located in Dallas not far from where he made his home in recent decades.

During World War II he served in the Navy. After the war he represented the family oil interests in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, then came back to Dallas where he played a prominent part in oil exploration and served as president of H.W. Bass and Sons, Inc.

In the 1950s he took a great interest in Republican politics and in 1957 was Dallas County chairman for the Republican Party. His wife Doris recalled that he played a prominent part in advancing the interests of the Republican Party in a district that was primarily Democratic. Later he served as a state committeeman for the Republican Party representing the Dallas area.

Subsequently he became interested in computers, a relatively new field for amateurs, and computerized the party's members in his region. Later he set up a computer base for his home church, the Highland Park United Methodist Church. In the early 1990s when the Internet and e-mail became popular, Harry was one of the first to make wide use of it, and in the area of numismatics he certainly was in the forefront of the new discipline. His skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm in this area were shared with the American Numismatic Society.

During the 1970s and 1980s he was involved in the management of the Vail ski resort in Colorado and the development of the nearby Beaver Creek ski resort. In 1978 he successfully did battle with 20th Century Fox for control of Vail Associates, Inc. Bass served as chairman of the board of Vail Associates and did much during the growth phases of the resort's development, continuing his involvement through 1985. Recently, at a special ceremony, a public fountain in Vail was dedicated to his memory. The inscription reads:

"The visionary who led Vail Associates in the early planning and development of Beaver Creek. Perhaps more than any other individual, he saw the possibilities for the resort and made the extensive financial commitments necessary to launch Beaver Creek. This fountain is dedicated in his honor."

Among his local affiliations he was a member of the Dallas Country Club, the Book Hollow Golf Club, the Idle Wild and Calyx Groups, and in the 1950s was first president of the Dallas Ski Club, which he helped to form. He also served as president of the Sertoma Club in Dallas, a well-known service organization.

From 1978 through 1984 Harry Bass served as president of the American Numismatic Society, and before and after that date he was a councilor of the Society. Today, the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation works closely with the American Numismatic Society in the maintenance of its website.

Harry Bass was born to Wilma Schuessler and Harry Wesley Bass. At the time of his death, from complications of lung disease on April 4, 1998, he had been pre-deceased by both of his parents and his eldest son, Harry Wesley Bass III. He was survived by his wife Doris and four grown children: John Harold Bass, Carol Ann Bass, Robert Stephen Bass, and Beverly Bass Haralson, along with seven grandchildren, his brother Richard D. Bass of Dallas, and his stepsons Michael Calhoun and David Calhoun.

WELCOME TO THE SALE!

Your Personal Invitation to the sale of The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection - Part II

by Q. David Bowers

Welcome to the Sale

On behalf of the consignor, the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation, and with the appreciation of the entire Bowers and Merena organization, I welcome you to Part II in our series of presentations.

Part II emphasizes United States gold coins from dollars to double eagles. Harry W. Bass, Jr., enjoyed studying the specimens he owned. To him, a business strike was a *different* variety than a Proof, and whenever possible, examples of each were acquired for a given Philadelphia Mint date. Further, if either a business strike (a coin intended for circulation use) or a Proof existed with tiny differences in die characteristics, examples of each variety were acquired. Still further, to determine rarity, die state (the progress of a die, including cracks, relapping, clashing, etc.), often multiple specimens of the same variety were acquired. The result is a collection—and an auction presentation—with no equals in the history of American numismatics. Part III, to be sold May 25-26, 2000, will complement the present auction and will include additional pieces.

John Dannreuther, a well-known figure on the numismatic scene for many years, contributed an appreciation of Harry Bass, his collection and his methodology, which we print on a following page.

Gold coins offered in the present Part II include the following series to be sold in two days, followed by lot pick-up on the third:

Day I: Saturday evening, 6 p.m. Gold dollars through and including $2.50 gold quarter eagles.

Day II: Sunday morning, 10 a.m., continuous through the evening. $3 gold through and including $20. Complimentary lunch and dinner buffet and refreshments to registered bidders.

Day III: Monday morning, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Our *only* lot pick-up time slot.

I invite you to come to New York City early, view the lots that are of interest, participate in our two-day sale, and depart on Monday. Bring your family with you. The sale, at the Park Lane Hotel, Central Park South, is but a few steps from Fifth Avenue and is a short distance from museums, tourist attractions, and activities. While you are bidding, your family will be having a fine time partaking of the city's pleasures.

American Gold Coins

While the catalogue in your hands describes each series in detail, includes historical information about each denomination, and offers many numismatic treasures, the following gives a brief overview of American gold coinage:

Gold Dollars 1849-1889

Gold dollars, authorized by the Act of March 3, 1849, were minted continuously from 1849 through 1889. In the early years—the era prior to the Civil War—production was accomplished at the Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, New Orleans, and San Francisco mints. Later, gold dollars were produced only at Philadelphia, with the sole exception of the 1870-S San Francisco issue.

The Bass Collection is rich in gold dollars, the present Part II offering emphasizing business strikes, but also including selected Proofs. The depth and breadth of the present listing has had no equal in American numismatics. Condition Census and finest known examples abound.

$2.50 Gold Quarter Eagles 1796-1929

Quarter eagles, first minted in 1796, were struck intermittently until 1829, continously from that year until 1915, then intermittently until 1929. In various years, examples were struck at the Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, Denver, New Orleans, and San Francisco mints.

The Bass Collection includes important early quarter eagles of the 1796-1833 years, followed by what we believe to be the most comprehensive offering of business strike Liberty Head issues ever to be listed in a single catalogue. The most *famous* of all quarter eagles—the 1841 "Little Princess" is present and accounted for, as is the *rarest*, the 1854-S. The latter is also the *finest known*. In addition, many notable Proofs are featured.

As in other gold series, the quality is incredible. For many issues, whether your bids are successful in the present sale may well determine if you own a particular high-grade coin in your lifetime.

$3 Gold 1854-1889

Three-dollar gold coins, minted continuously from 1854 to 1889, are extensively represented in the present sale, although the "first collection," complete with the unique 1870-S, is currently being retained by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation.

High-quality business strikes, beautiful Proofs, and rarities are offered for your bidding consideration. Along the way for $3 gold coins as well as for the other series we have included information concerning die states, minting peculiarities, rarity data, and more.

$5 Gold Half Eagles 1795-1929

Half eagles commence with multiple examples of the first year of issue, 1795, and continue to include many important and rare early issues, including such landmark dates as 1815 and 1829. Liberty Head half eagles 1839-1908 emphasize business strikes, with selected Proofs as well, and is to our knowledge the most extensive offering of quality specimens ever to appear on the market in a single collection sale. These represent extraordinary pieces—including Condition Census branch mint issues—from over 30 years of Harry Bass' connoisseurship.

$10 Gold Eagles 1795-1933

Eagles of the early years commence with the first, 1795, and continue to include many interesting, important, and seldom-seen dates and die varieties, nearly all of which are of exceptional quality. Then follows a comprehensive offering of Liberty Head eagles 1838-1907, featuring some of the finest Proofs that Harry W. Bass was able to obtain, plus many outstanding business strikes.

Harry W. Bass, Jr. in 1977 upon his election as chairman of the board of Vail Associates. (The *Vail Mountain Views & Good Times Gazette*)

Among the latter are outstanding specimens of branch mint coinage from Carson City, New Orleans, and San Francisco. As explained in the listings, of all gold denominations, Liberty Head eagles are considered to be the rarest today, regarding the combination of high quality and availability.

$20 Double Eagles 1850-1933

Double eagles, first minted for circulation in 1850, are presented in depth and breadth, emphasizing Proofs, but with many outstanding business strikes as well. In connection with the offering, a study of the distribution factors affecting the survival of these coins is given.

Again, many double eagles in the Bass Collection are among the finest of their kind to cross the auction block in our generation.

Formation of the Collection

The present catalogue brings to the auction venue the fruits of over three decades of numismatic connoisseurship and inquiry.

Harry Wesley Bass, Jr., became interested in rare coins as an adult, with his first purchases taking place in 1966 and his first in-person auction attendance in 1967. From that time until his untimely passing in 1998, Harry was a major figure in American numismatics.

While his interests were many, and while our Part I sale held last May showcased his important paper money, copper and silver coins, and tokens and medals, his two major loves were his gold coins and his library. The present Part II brings the first offering of his gold coins to the auction forum, with additional examples—including major rarities—to be featured next year in Part III.

Doris and Harry Bass at Beaver Creek Resort in 1983. (From *Harry W. Bass, Jr., Memories of His Life* published by the American Numismatic Society)

Of inquisitive mind and with a generous measure of enthusiasm, Harry soon determined to learn as much as possible about numismatics. Drawing upon experience gained in the family oil business, in participation in politics on behalf of the Republican Party in Texas, in his work in Colorado ski resorts with Vail Associates and the development of Beaver Creek, he commenced with great vigor. Harry was never anyone to do something half-way!

At the outset, he was attracted by 19th-century gold coins. Anyone who has explored this fascinating pursuit will agree that it is something quite *special* to learn—after years of being in the social and business world—that there exist United States coins, made of *gold,* that at one time were familiar in banking and commercial circles, but which today are so *rare* that few have seen them. Upon further investigation, Harry learned that this series of coins, while in many instances scarce or rare, also included many pieces that were very inexpensive. In the 1960s it was possible to buy some of the more plentiful dates of $20 gold coins for less than $100 each.

As a first order of organized activity—after the thrill of discovering the American gold series—he set about building a definitive reference library on American numismatics (which currently is being featured in a series of memorable auctions by George Frederick Kolbe). Within a few years he had accomplished the feat of building one of the finest holdings of numismatic books and catalogues ever gathered by a private collector—and in later times he added to his holdings. Thus, from virtually the outset, Harry *knew* what he was looking for in rare coins and paper money.

I recall that when I first met Harry—and this was probably in the late 1960s—he impressed me with all that he knew about coins. We talked on and on about history, old-time auction catalogues, great collections of the past, and the availability of certain varieties in high grades. If I remember correctly, Harry did not ask about the coin market, price predictions, and the like. He loved the coins themselves, and prices—ever changing—were what they happened to be at any given time and would take care of themselves. As so often happens in numismatics—and which has been the case for every major old-time collection of which I am aware—the careful purchase of coins provided a great treasure for the future. As Part I demonstrated, many specimens for which Harry paid record prices proved in the long run to be some of the most astute financial investments possible. The beauty part is that along the way he *enjoyed* his purchases and the pleasures they provided.

Acquisition Strategy

Harry also realized at an early time that a listed price for a *rarity* represented either what such a piece had sold for sometime in the past, or was a ballpark estimate put down by a catalogue compiler who had to come up with *some* figure, but could find no market data. Thus, equipped with the knowledge found deep in his library, he knew that if a particular gold coin or other desired specimen was listed at, say, $1,000, but that during the past 100 years only three or four had come on the market, and none recently, he could bid $2,000, or $5,000, or even $10,000 to acquire an example at auction, and then *own it,* while everyone else was waiting to buy one at the catalogue price! Of course, after Harry bid and bought the item for $10,000, and had it in his possession, the next round of published price guides would list it at $10,000. In a way, Harry would be home free, while

others were scratching their heads in bewilderment!

On the other hand, if an item was listed at $1,000, but Harry found that each year a half dozen of them were sold at auction and even more were held in the private stocks of dealers, he could bide his time and wait for a piece that was just right in terms of *quality*. These were the days before we had MS-61, MS-62, etc., or certification services, and one person's "superb gem" might be another's "*almost* Uncirculated." In time, this undefined grading caused Harry to do several things: First, he learned on his own everything that he needed to know. As well as any *dealer* I ever met, Harry the collector had a keen eye and knew the gem from the so-so, the pristine from the cleaned. Further, he chose to buy from dealers and others in whom he placed trust, based upon his experience with them.

Today, even a casual glance at the catalogue pages to follow, and at the coins themselves during the lot viewing time prior to the sale, will reveal that Harry's coins were in the vast majority "high end" pieces.

In summary, Harry was a very sophisticated buyer.

The Collection Grows

With a connoisseur's eye and with a generous purchase budget, Harry Bass acquired many important coins and other numismatic items, working closely with Dallas dealer Mike Brownlee as well as with other leading professionals all over America. The listing of sources ("pedigrees") in the present catalogue will demonstrate vividly how wide Harry cast his net for purchases, as dozens of names are given.

Over a period of time, many important properties were offered to him, including incredibly important bank notes and currency items from the Robert Schermerhorn and William Philpott collections (sold last May in Part I), great gold rarities from private cabinets, and more. In addition, he was an active participant in person and through agents at virtually every important auction conducted during the past several decades, from the 1960s up to the time of his unfortunate passing on April 4, 1998.

I recall that during our presentation of the Eliasberg Collection of U.S. Gold Coins in 1982, Harry came to our lot viewing at the sale in New York City, brought his magnifying glass and loupe, and spent *several days* making notes of die varieties, particularly for gold issues of the early era in American coinage, 1795-1834. He brought his coins with him to the sale, so he could compare them side-by-side with the Eliasberg specimens. Along the way, during this and other sales, and during visits to private collections, museums, coin dealerships, and conventions, he acquired much knowledge concerning this specialty. After a while, the *experts* would consult *him* to enrich and enhance their knowledge!

At the time of his passing, the Bass Collection and the holdings of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation included the most extensive collection of United States gold coins ever formed. While it did not have each and every date and mintmark, it was (and still is) highlighted by the unique 1870-S $3 and many other great rarities, many of which are among the finest of their kind or are the very finest. Sometimes even a landmark rarity would be acquired in duplicate, and his array of multiple specimens of certain Proof gold rarities is, in a word, *impressive*.

Time and again, Harry was in the right place at the right time. Along the way his cabinet attained immense proportions—immense in quality, immense in importance, immense in interest.

Philanthropy and Outreach

In Texas, Harry Bass was the administrator of two nonprofit foundations. The Harry Bass Foundation, created by his father, for a long time has supported various Dallas area activities including religious and charitable institutions, hospitals, and museums. A separate foundation, the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research

Harry W. Bass, Jr. enjoying one of his many and varied interests and hobbies.

Foundation, was set up to advance research and scholarship in certain areas of United States coinage including literature, patterns, and gold coins, with particular interest in outreach on the Internet and electronic media, as well as to engage in significant philanthropic endeavors in other fields. Among its beneficiaries is the American Numismatic Society, New York City, with which Harry had close connections for a long time. For years he served as a councilor of the Society, and from 1978 through 1984 he was the Society's president. During his administration, many notable accomplishments were achieved, effectively laying the groundwork to lead the Society, founded in 1858, into the new millennium. The Society for many years has served as a bastion for numismatic research and study, and today it has the largest numismatic library in the world.

Harry W. Bass, Jr. featured on the cover of the November 1976 Colorado Business magazine. (From *Harry W. Bass, Jr. Memories of His Life*)

It is planned that the Foundation will make available to a wide circle of numismatists much information gathered over a long period of time by Harry Bass. This will include the availability on the Internet of detailed descriptions and illustrations in full color.

To further its philanthropic objectives, the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation commissioned our firm to showcase at public sale many important items from its vast and impressive holdings. Part I was held last May, the catalogue for Part II is in your hands, and Part III is planned for next year. No effort has been spared to make the series of catalogues a fine memorial to Harry's efforts and also references of lasting numismatic importance and value.

In addition to the auction presentations, our organization has commenced working closely with the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation to collate Harry's notes and create a sylloge, or *catalogue raisonné* of the items currently being retained by the Foundation as well as notes on many other pieces. Along the way, the sylloge will contain information about Harry Bass' life, connoisseurship, the history and background of the series he collected, and much other information that should prove to be of interest, value, and importance. While various series will be showcased in the sylloge, its focal point will be American gold coinage of the 1795-1834 era. The volume will present historical, numismatic, pictorial, and technical information not hitherto available from a single source. Further announcements concerning the sylloge will be made at a later date.

In the Pantheon of Numismatics a special place has been reserved for Harry and his memory, and generations from now he will still be remembered as one of the foremost figures in our field. The sylloge will share Harry's knowledge and enthusiasm with the numismatic world.

Appreciation

I express my deep gratitude to Doris (Mrs. Harry) Bass, Michael Wylie, David Calhoun, and Michael Calhoun—the trustees of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation—for consigning these memorable gold coins and other items to us. The staff members of the Foundation, including Ed Deane, Georga Peraza, and others, have been of great help in many ways.

In addition, numismatists and historians from several sectors have been consulted on certain listings and are credited on a separate page, along with the Bowers and Merena staff members who have worked so long, so diligently, and with such enthusiasm in bringing the present catalogue to you.

And, I appreciate the fine memories I will always retain of Harry. Last year numismatic bookseller and auctioneer George F. Kolbe, who had been consigned major parts of the Bass Library, asked me to say a few words about Harry for use in the preface to his first catalogue. I did, he used them, and here they are:

Harry was a collector's collector, a numismatist and gentleman of the highest order, and I think that all of us associated with him can be very proud of the connection.

Here at home, the Bowers and Merena team members each had vital parts. A separate listing of our staff gives all of their names. The catalogue you hold in your hands was specifically the work of the following:

The present catalogue was researched and prepared by (alphabetically) Mark Borckardt (early issues 1795-1839), Ray Merena, John Pack, Beth Piper, and Frank Van Valen.

John Pack, our auction director, also helped with research and technicalities. Denise D'Eri and Beth Piper kept track of many details.

Douglas Plasencia took the photographs. I believe you'll agree with me that they are among the finest ever to appear in print in any catalogue we've ever done.

Aspects of typography and layout were accomplished by our Graphic Arts Department including Robin Edgerly, Roberta French, Robert Lawrence, and Jennifer Meers.

Chris Karstedt worked continuously with David Calhoun and the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation in the selection, presentation, publicity, and other aspects of the present coins and catalogue.

What did *I* do? I guess the answer is a bit of all and everything, working with the cataloguers and researchers listed above, plus adding introductions, text, and commentaries, and acting as editor.

Of course, while the catalogue was a tremendous amount of work for all of us, it was also very enjoyable. How fortunate we are.

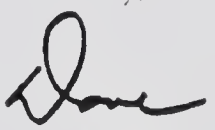
The Sale and *You*

Looking toward the present Part II, I thank each and every one of you who has acquired the present catalogue, reads through it, and participates in a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If you are a specialist in one of the gold series showcased, welcome. However, part of being a numismatist is having a generous measure of intellectual curiosity. Indeed, throughout his lifetime, Harry Bass' objective was to acquire items that *interested him,* not what someone else wanted him to buy. I hope that in perusing the pages you will find many items to pique your interest and, perhaps, start a new specialty in American gold coins, the *crème de la crème* series of United States coinage and financial history.

As the years go by, the pedigree "From the Bass Collection" on a numismatic item will give it a special cachet.

While the catalogue itself has much historical and numismatic information, if you as a successful bidder on some of the rarer or more infrequently offered items would like additional information, I invite you to address a personal letter to me, and I will recommend further areas of inquiry, or will send additional information from the Bowers and Merena archives and library.

Sincerely,



Q. David Bowers, Chairman
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

An Appreciation of the Bass Collection

by John Dannreuther

John Dannreuther, a highly qualified student of numismatic history and technology and a long-time figure on the professional numismatic scene, contributed this appreciation and overview of the accomplishments of Harry W. Bass, Jr. Mr. Dannreuther has spent many hours examining the Bass Collection coins, studies which will be reflected in his forthcoming book on United States gold dollars 1849-1889.

Harry Bass was a man whose passion was collecting United States gold coins. Starting in 1966, he methodically assembled a gold coin collection that would eventually include over 6,000 examples!

Not only did he collect by date and mintmark, he collected by die variety *and* die state! Besides being the most complete die variety and die state collection of United States gold coins ever assembled, the Bass Collection is also the *finest condition* set of all time! For over 30 years, he singled out specimens for his collection, some by private treaty, others through public auction. When Mr. Bass decided he needed a certain coin, his resolve to buy it was immense, as those who bid against him in auctions will quickly attest! Few collectors, other than large cent variety specialists in the copper series 1793-1814, collected with such passion (and those collectors of copper cents can be grateful that these coins were not a Bass specialty as well!).

Mr. Bass was just as interested in a worn 1836 quarter eagle that was a rare variety as a Proof Classic Head quarter eagle. (I recall that he bought the run of Proof Classic Head quarter eagles in the 1982 Eliasberg United States Gold Coin Collection sale, all the dates from 1834 through 1837; there was no 1838 quarter eagle in Proof, which I am sure he also would have purchased had it been included in that landmark auction.)

Although Mr. Bass did not assemble a collection as massive as the super collector Virgil Brand, he was just as consumed by the "coin bug" as was that Chicago beer baron of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A few super rarities also are missing from the Bass holdings, but the collection more than makes up for the few absent examples with Mint State *and* Proof examples of many issues! (Not to mention the varieties and die states of so many different dates and mintmarks!)

Upon his passing in 1998, Mr. Bass donated his collection to the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation. This auction is the second of three Bowers and Merena sales of part of this collection to raise money for the philanthropic work of this foundation. (The Foundation developed the American Numismatic Society web site on the Internet and maintains it.) With the proceeds from this sale and subsequent ones, the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation will be able to continue its research and educational efforts.

Mr. Bass' seminal work on gold die varieties will propel researchers into the next century. Although he never published his die variety work (a comprehensive *sylloge* by the Bowers and Merena staff is being prepared), his countless hours of study have blazed the way for future numismatists. His notes provide the basis for the identification of many die varieties, and numerous die states of federal-issue gold coins. As previously noted, there has never been such a complete collection of United States gold coins to afford researchers with this unique opportunity to compare varieties and their multiple states. The forthcoming sylloge, a profusely illustrated hardbound reference work, will share much of Mr. Bass' knowledge, as, indeed, the present auction catalogue does.

By returning much of this fabulous collection to the current numismatic fraternity, including many coins that have been off the market for a quarter of a century or more, the Foundation will make many collectors smile. I have to think that Mr. Bass also is smiling as these incredible examples find new homes in the collections of today's numismatists, many of whom were his friends. One can only hope that their new owners appreciate and care for them as Mr. Bass did.

It is highly unlikely that this many dates, mintmarks, varieties, and die states of United States gold coins will ever again be assembled by a single collector. The catalogues of these sales will be treasured among bibliophiles, collectors, researchers, and anyone interested in gold coins. The depth and breadth of this assemblage of glittering numismatic items will dazzle even the most advanced gold specialist. The superb, full-format Bowers and Merena cataloguing will further enhance these landmark sales, although, even with *no descriptions at all*, these sales would draw all the gold "luminaries" to New York City to be part of the present event.

All numismatists can thank Mr. Harry Bass and the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation for the opportunity of a lifetime.

Another fine
Bowers and Merena sale
is about to begin...

SECTION ONE

Saturday Evening, October 2, 6:00 PM Sharp

United States Gold Coins: Lots 1-645

GOLD DOLLARS 1849-1889

The Bass Collection Gold Dollars A Complete Offering

Except for a few pieces kept by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research foundation for its type set, the gold dollars acquired by Mr. Bass are offered in this sale and, in the year 2000, in Part III.

The present sale presents the crème de la crème of the Bass Collection business strike issues—including coins of the branch mints—as well as many incredible Proofs. Part III will emphasize Proofs, with business strikes being subsidiary.

The Bass Collection gold dollars described in the following pages are absolutely complete as to date and mintmark, from 1849 to 1889, containing at least one of each and sometimes several. The annals of American numismatics will no doubt forever remember the offering. Today, you can be a part of history as it is being made. Opportunities abound, the result of three decades of scholarship and connoisseurship by Harry Bass, combined with his hoarding instinct. If one gem was nice to own, and another came along, he would often buy it as well! Virgil Brand, who did the same thing a century earlier, would have been proud!

Highlights in the Bass Collection of gold dollars include Charlotte and Dahlonega gold dollars of the general era 1849-1861, among which will be found many Mint State coins, typically including Condition Census or finest known examples. The connoisseur and specialist in C- and D-Mint coinage will have opportunities which may well not be repeated in our lifetime, if ever.

New Orleans coins are likewise spectacular as are the issues from the San Francisco Mint. Among the latter issues of the late 1850s are some of the greatest condition rarities in the American gold series, although their elusive status is not widely known.

Philadelphia Mint coins are complete in unbroken sequence from 1849 to 1889 and include many gems and delicacies not often encountered. Again, remarkable opportunities are presented.

The History of the Gold Dollar

Interestingly, the first American gold dollars were not struck by any federal mint but, instead, were produced by a private coiner, Christopher Bechtler, who had a small mint at Rutherfordton, North Carolina, where he processed gold extracted from hills and stream beds of the nearby region. Such pieces were simple in design and consisted only of lettering and numerals. However, they served well and were popular in the Carolinas and Georgia and were occasionally seen farther afield.

In 1836 the Philadelphia Mint struck patterns for the gold dollar. These are of an exquisite design and display on the obverse a liberty cap surrounded by resplendent rays, a popular motif that recurs in numismatics (examples include the February - March 1836 Steam Coinage medal, many silver and gold coins of Mexico, Hard Times tokens, and a reverse die cut in the 1860s by James Adams Bolen).

The reverse of the pattern dollars displayed a palm branch arranged in a circle or loop. Examples were struck in gold as well as other metals. Despite the success of the patterns, gold dollars were not adopted at the time.

In January 1849 James B. Longacre engraved on gold discs several patterns for a dollar. To increase the diameter of the coin but retain the same metallic content a hole was put in the center, in the manner of Chinese coins. On March 3rd of the same year the gold dollar denomination was authorized by Congress. The weight was established at 25.8 grains.

From 1849 until the Civil War gold dollars were made in large quantities and were extensively used in circulation. Despite their inconvenient size, they found ready use in the channels of commerce. After the Civil War, with the exception of a few scattered years, coinage diminished sharply. The nadir was reached in 1875, when just 400 business strikes plus 20 Proofs were struck. The present Bass Collection offering includes two gem business strikes, itself a situation almost as remarkable as the coins themselves!

From 1879, continuing through the 1880s gold dollars became a popular item of speculation, and coin dealers, collectors, jewelers, and others hoarded them, causing current issues to sell for a slight premium. Because of this, mint-state ex-

amples of the 1879-1889 years exist today in significant quantities relative to their modest mintages. In contrast, gold dollar dates of the mid-1860s, also minted in modest quantities, were overlooked, and all are rarities today.

There are numerous rare issues among the 1849-1889 gold dollars. All pieces from the Charlotte and Dahlonega mints are elusive, and several, including 1854-D, 1855-C, 1855-D, 1856-D, 1857-D, 1858-D, 1859-D, and 1860-D are very rare. One of the most famous of all rarities is the 1861-D issue. These pieces were apparently struck after the Dahlonega Mint was captured by the Confederate States of America forces. No coinage records were kept. Most Charlotte and Dahlonega (in particular) pieces are very weakly struck. The same situation occurred with most quarter eagles and half eagles from the same two mints.

It seems that gold dollars last circulated on a widespread basis in the East and Midwest in 1861. After that time the Treasury Department stopped paying them out at face value, and examples could be acquired only by paying a premium, a situation which remained in effect until December 1878. Mintages 1879-1889, of small quantities each year, seemed to have been relegated to distribution at a small premium through banks, rather than being everyday items in pocket change.

Gold dollars were discontinued in 1889. Almost immediately, they became highly desired by numismatists, and ever-increasing premiums were paid for them. By that time many of the earlier dates were already regarded as being scarce.

The Charlotte and Dahlonega Mints

The prime desiderata in the gold dollar series are the issues struck at the branch mints in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Dahlonega, Georgia. In the present catalogue, coins from these mints are presented in the various denominations from the gold dollar to the half eagle. In this connection, brief histories of each facility may be of interest:

The Charlotte Mint

Authorized by Congress in 1835, the Charlotte Mint had certain operations underway in 1837, although the opening did not occur until 1838. Gold denominations eventually coined there included $1 (beginning in 1849), $2.50, and $5.

For many years the hills of North Carolina had been a source for gold bullion. Deposits were found in streams, embankments, and in tunneled mines. During the 1820s quantities of the precious metal were shipped to the only federal mint then in operation, that at Philadelphia, a journey involving loss of time and exposure to danger. A miner or mining operator desiring to send gold to Philadelphia for coinage had to wait multiple weeks before it was returned in coin form, and only then could the proceeds be spent. Meanwhile, at least 5% had to be paid in insurance and transportation. This was a generation before John Sutter even dreamed of having his employee John Marshall and others set up a sawmill on the American River, leading to the discovery of gold on a large scale in California in January 1848. In the 1830s, gold mining was an important activity in the Appalachian Mountains in the North Carolina and Georgia area. Important gold strikes in 1830 had led to such private minters as Templeton Reid and the earlier mentioned Christopher Bechtler producing their own gold coins. As events would prove, Reid's activities were ephemeral but the Bechtler enterprise was long lived.

Responding to the local demand, Christopher Bechtler, of Rutherfordton, NC, set up his own mint circa 1830, and in time produced many thousands of gold dollars (the most popular denomination), $2.50 pieces, and $5 pieces, which found ready use in local channels of commerce. Interestingly, after the Charlotte Mint became a reality in the same state in 1838, the government allowed the Bechtler family to continue its private coinage operations, which was done until circa 1852.

The following brief historical sketch of the institution is from *The Annual Report of the Director of the Mint,* 1913, and includes some information not generally known to numismatists:

> The United States Assay Office at Charlotte, N.C., was closed finally on June 30, 1913, Congress having failed to make provision for its support beyond that date. Such pieces of equipment as were valuable for further use were shipped to other institutions of the service and the remainder of the furniture and outfit was sold at auction on the premises and the proceeds turned into the Treasury. In recent years the receipts of bullion at the Charlotte office have been insufficient to warrant its continuance, amounting in the last fiscal year to only $29,428.30.

The Charlotte assay office was originally established as a coinage mint in an act approved March 3, 1835, which also established branch mints at New Orleans, La., and Dahlonega, Ga. The mints at Charlotte and Dahlonega were designed to serve the gold-producing districts of the southern Appalachian region, which at that time comprised the only gold-mining territory in the United States. New Orleans was an important commercial port, and the mint there was expected to operate upon foreign coin and bullion. From 1804 to 1823 small deposits of native gold aggregating in three years $47,000 had been received from this state. [Shipments] gradually increased, and in 1829 they amounted to $134,000, and there was also $2,500 from Virginia and $3,500 from South Carolina. In 1830 Georgia entered the list of gold-producing states with an output of $212,000, and the yield of the four States aggregated $466,000. In 1831 Alabama and Tennessee each made a small showing, and in 1834 the southern Appalachian region made its best output, approximately $900,000. In the following year the act providing for the three new branch mints was passed.

In November, 1835, Levi Woodbury, secretary of the Treasury, was notified by Samuel McComb, who had been appointed to select a site for the Charlotte branch, that he had purchased from William Carson and F.L. Smith a full square containing nearly four acres of land for $1,500.

Proposals for the erection of the building were advertised for in the *Charlotte Journal, Washington Globe, Richmond Inquirer,* and the *North Carolina Standard.* The contract was awarded to Perry & Ligon, of Raleigh, NC, on October 15, 1835, at $29,800, to be completed January 1, 1837. The cost of the machinery, to be furnished by the director of the Mint at Philadelphia, was estimated at $15,000. Coleman, Sellers &

Sons, Philadelphia, furnished the steam engine, shaft, etc., for $8,297, while Merrick, Agnew & Tyler furnished coining presses, draw benches, etc., for $6,690. This equipment was shipped to Charlotte in April, 1837. Considerable difficulty occurred in transporting the heavy machinery to Charlotte, and the steam engine was not set up until August.

John H. Wheeler of North Carolina was appointed as the first superintendent. J.H. Gibbon and John R. Bolton, of Pennsylvania, were appointed assayer and coiner, respectively. In December 1837 the secretary of the Treasury was advised that the deposits of gold had amounted to $130,600, and the coinage to $84,165. The dies for this coinage were made at the Philadelphia Mint, and in transmitting them the director of the Mint urged Col. Wheeler, the superintendent, to hasten the coinage, and mentioned that although the dies are dated 1838, there was no objection to using them in 1837. The reason given for the haste was that the equipment might be tested, particularly the operation of the coinage press by steam power, which was regarded as, in some degree, experimental. The application of steam power to coinage was first made in this country at the Philadelphia Mint in 1836.

On the night of July 27, 1844, the Charlotte Mint was nearly destroyed by fire, which occurred in the coining room and nearly consumed the entire building. The machinery was seriously injured, but the records, being stored in the vault, were not injured. Mr. Caldwell, the superintendent, reported that evidently the fire was the work of a thief, as his living apartments had been entered and articles stolen.

The present building was authorized by Act of March 3, 1845, and was completed at a cost of $31,572.97, and occupied in 1846, and used for coinage purposes until May 20, 1861, when North Carolina entered the Confederacy and operations were suspended. The building was used during the Civil War as a Confederate hospital.

In 1867 the assay office at Charlotte was re-established by Act of Congress dated March 19, and was maintained as such until the close of the fiscal year 1913. The mint at Dahlonega was never reopened after the Civil War. Coinage operations resumed at New Orleans after the war, but were suspended and the coining machinery removed in 1910.

After the Charlotte Mint building was closed for assaying and other functions in 1913, it was largely unoccupied, although the Charlotte Women's Club met there from time to time. By 1932 it was decided to demolish the structure to make way for an expansion of the post office. Local citizens rallied to the cause and were responsible for having the building relocated to a park-like setting, where in 1933 it received a charter as the Mint Museum of Art. On October 22, 1936, the facility was dedicated for its new use. Today, the former Charlotte Mint is an attraction in the city and houses a nice collection of art and antiquities along with some reminders of its coinage history years earlier.

The Dahlonega Mint

Authorized by Congress in 1835 and open for business in 1838, the Dahlonega Mint, nestled in the hills of Georgia, remained in operation until the first year of the Civil War, 1861. It is not widely known, but information extracted from the Annual Report of the Director of the Mint, various issues of the 1850s, reveals that in several years gold from California provided the main source of bullion for this mint, located in a remote town in the hills of Georgia! Beginning in 1851 and continuing through 1854, this was the case, although substantial quantities were used in other years as well.

The Dahlonega Mint facility, small in size, produced gold coins exclusively, of the denominations $1, $2.50, $3, and $5. With North Carolina and Georgia being one of America's earliest important sources of the precious yellow metal, most metal was taken from ore mined in the region and from placer nuggets.

In 1835 the federal government, realizing that America was expanding and that important precious metal discoveries were being made at distances from Philadelphia, passed legislation providing for the first branch mints. Facilities were to be set up in New Orleans, Louisiana (serving the rapidly increasing trade in the Mississippi River basin); Charlotte, North Carolina; and Dahlonega, Georgia. The latter two facilities were intended to make it convenient for miners and others to exchange gold bullion for coins. Otherwise, the shipment of raw gold overland to Philadelphia was fraught with peril, typically involved payment of at least 5% for insurance and transit, and necessitated a delay amounting to weeks.

An interesting view of the Dahlonega Mint, as written by Dr. Richard Doty of the Smithsonian Institution, and given in the Proceedings of the American Numismatic Society Conference, New York City, November 4-5, 1989, is quoted with permission. The story relates the travel of the Mint's fair-haired son, Franklin Peale, who at the time was responsible for the majority of innovations made at the Philadelphia Mint and who had more knowledge of coinage procedures than anyone else on the staff (years later, Peale would fall from grace and would be fired, but that is another story):

> Franklin Peale and his daughter departed Charlotte on the evening of Saturday, November 10, and they arrived at Dahlonega the following Wednesday afternoon. The trip had been arduous, "the latter part of the distance being through rough mountain roads." The ill fortune which had dogged Peale's activities in Charlotte followed him to Dahlonega: neither Mint Superintendent Singleton nor any other official was there to receive him, and Peale was left to his own devices.
>
> All the same, the mint building was, at first glance, in better shape than he had been led to believe. The concept of the arches (one of whose collapse had inspired his mission) had been abandoned in favor of simpler, but sturdier, construction, and Peale was of the opinion that the building would serve its purpose well enough.
>
> Within two days, he had revised his judgment downward. Closer examination had revealed a crudity of construction, poor brickwork, and mortar inadequate to hold the bricks together, the products of "ignorance on the part of the contractor and the drunken and bad habits of the workmen" employed in the construction. But the artisans sent down from Charlotte to assist in the final phases of the Dahlonega construction were now present, and Peale was currently making rapid strides toward reforming the work, pulling down the remaining

arches and overseeing the construction of the melting furnaces. He expected to finish his mission at Dahlonega in five or six days, "after which I will return home without delay, say the second week in December." He expressed guarded optimism about the mint's reason for being—the nearby gold fields: "every hill is filled with auriferous quartz and every valley and gorge with the debris." The problem was that the workings were extremely inefficient, so that "the mining operations are at this moment languishing." Still, there was a great opportunity for improved technology, "that must some future day yield certain and great returns."

Eight days later, Peale was still in Dahlonega: the state of the mint was even worse than previously believed, and a quick return to Philadelphia (upon which the Mint Director was becoming increasing insistent) was out of the question.

The main problem centered on the mint edifice; here, Peale's prose becomes somewhat breathless, but it is probably best to let him tell the story in his own fashion:

"The workmanship of the Mint edifice is abominable, a letter might be three times filled with the details or errors and intentional mal [sic] constructions, the first and greatest of which may fairly be traced to Philada, in ordering a brick building in a country where there is no clay, the material employed for the brick making being the red soil of the gold region, a decomposed granite" put into brick by men who certainly deserve diplomas for botching—All this in, "which would have been an ideal building material for the mint."

The theoretical overseer of the building activity was Col. Few, who had rarely visited the construction site; Peale was certain that the Colonel was responsible for many of the mint's difficulties. The inventor had spent the past several days working furiously to shore up current problems and anticipate future ones, and he could do no more. Despite all of its defects, no alternative existed to accepting the edifice as it was, "or there will be no Branch at Dahlonega, a large amount of the appropriation having been spent;" Congress was hardly likely to be generous enough—or foolish enough—to grant a second appropriation for a second attempt. On that realistic note, Peale prepared to close out his mission and come home.

He and Anna left Dahlonega at the end of the month, making a circuitous and eventful journey back to Philadelphia. Peale's ill luck pursued him north, just as it had followed him south. While traveling through Virginia, the train on which he and his daughter were passengers met with "the perils of the most horrible accident" that has occurred for years. A fine new engine "was thrown off the track by an iron plate rail which was raised up at one end. The engine was brought up against the side of the ditch, where a fearful crash took place."

Miraculously, no one was killed, although nearly 20 people were injured, some of them severely, Peale escaped unhurt, although his daughter received a minor back injury. He credited their deliverance to the fact that they had been traveling in the middle passenger car, which, instead of being crushed by the force of the accident, had simply been raised off the tracks and thrown to one side.

Shaken but unhurt, the little party continued its journey to Philadelphia. Peale was in Washington by December 15, and he expected to make the final leg of the journey home by steamboat on the following Sunday. By the 23rd, he was back at his desk at last, composing an outline of his travels and findings for the Mint Director.

Dr. Doty continued by relating that Peale in his report listed certain construction defects, including the substitution "of lath and plaster in the cornices, a roof which leaked, the necessary abandonment of the first-floor arches, and the poor quality of the bricks used throughout the building," placing blame for these problems squarely on the shoulders of the elusive Col. Few. Faced with these difficulties, Peale had labored manually to render the building suitable for the purpose for which it had been conceived. He thought it would now serve, and he advised its acceptance as part of the U.S. Mint. But he also thought it would be a good idea to set aside monies for the structural repairs which would certainly come due.

By 1838 the three branch mints had been erected and facilities were more or less in order. The New Orleans Mint was of immense size, and the Charlotte and Dahlonega structures were much smaller in dimension. In the same year coinage commenced, gold at Charlotte and Dahlonega, and silver in New Orleans (the New Orleans Mint would not strike its first gold coins until the next year, 1839).

By January 13, 1838, Mint Director Robert Maskell Patterson was able to issue a report which noted in part:

The machinery for the branch mint at Dahlonega, in Georgia, was sent to Savannah in May, and difficulty and delay also occurred in its transportation by land. After the workmen employed at Charlotte had finished their task, they proceeded to Dahlonega, to erect the machinery there; and they completed this work early in November.

Rather than being state of the art, the equipment furnished to Dahlonega included used machinery and devices that were technologically obsolete, at least in comparison to the smoothly operating steam-powered presses that had been set up in Philadelphia and which were first used for striking medals on March 23, 1836. The refining of gold, the preparation of metal strip, the cutting of planchets, and the striking of coins seems to have been a rather rustic operation at Dahlonega, which, in terms of the coins produced, resulted in pieces that had a very distinctive appearance. Whereas gold coins struck in Philadelphia in 1838 and later years were apt to be much alike, having been made on high-speed steam presses, Dahlonega products were often crudely struck, with weak areas in the dentils or devices, and sometimes indistinct, particularly at the centers. Of course, it is precisely this rusticity that makes such pieces appealing to numismatists today. The same naive or rustic characteristics apply to Charlotte gold, but not as much as with Dahlonega products.

Numismatic Notes

Gold dollars were made of three major types, as delineated below. Today, the collector of design types will seek one of each. More expansively, within the year 1849 several sub-types exist of the Type I motif.

Type I
1849-1854

The first design, the Liberty Head or Coronet type, made its debut in 1849 and was continued through part of 1854. The design of Miss Liberty on the obverse was of the same style used on the pattern $20 gold coins of the year. She faces left, her hair tied at the back, and wears a coronet inscribed LIBERTY. Thirteen stars surround.

The reverse depicts a wreath open at the top enclosing the numeral 1, the value DOLLAR, and the date. Varieties of 1849 gold dollars exist with "Open Wreath" and "Closed Wreath," the latter style being that continued through early 1854. The inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA surrounds. Measuring just 13mm in diameter, the gold dollar of the 1849-1854 type is the smallest United States coin, being even smaller than the 14mm silver three-cent piece. Production was continuous from 1849 through 1854. Examples were produced primarily at the Philadelphia Mint, but the facilities at New Orleans, Dahlonega, Charlotte, and San Francisco contributed as well. All of the Charlotte and Dahlonega coins are scarce today, and some are very rare.

The type set collector will probably want to acquire a Philadelphia Mint gold dollar in this span, for these are far more plentiful than those of branch mints and also are better struck. Charlotte and Dahlonega coins in particular are nearly always very weakly defined in certain areas. Examples of Philadelphia Mint gold dollars are readily available in various grades from Very Fine to AU. Uncirculated pieces are scarce, and superb Uncirculated coins are rare.

During the Type I period, the total mintage of business strikes amounted to 12,565,273 coins. Proof quantities were not recorded, but were a few dozen at most, if even that many.

Type II
1854-1856

In 1854 James B. Longacre restyled the gold dollar to an increased diameter of 15 mm, a move intended to make the gold dollar easier to handle in commerce. This diameter was retained for the rest of the life of the denomination.

The obverse motif was changed to the head of an Indian princess, wearing a feather headdress and a band inscribed LIBERTY, facing left, with UNITED STATES OF AMERICA surrounding. The reverse shows a wreath of corn, cotton, wheat, and tobacco, similar to that used on the $3 of the same year (and the Flying Eagle cent minted later, beginning in 1856).

From the very outset difficulties in striking ensued. The high relief of the head of Miss Liberty on the obverse caused the situation in which metal flowing into the deep die recess for the obverse prevented the relief areas on the corresponding part of the reverse, particularly the central two digits of the date, from striking up properly. Also there were problems with the striking up of the wreath and certain parts of Miss Liberty's head.

After a coinage in 1854 at the Philadelphia Mint, a coinage in 1855 at the Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orleans mints, and a coinage in 1856 at the San Francisco Mint only, the obverse motif was modified. In the 1854-1856 span there are several scarce issues and two rarities, the 1855-C and 1855-D.

Total business strike mintage for the Type II design, combining all dates and mints, amounted to a paltry 1,633,426. No wonder the term scarce is applicable to even the most available varieties. A handful of Proofs were also struck and were not recorded.

The type collector will have no difficulty in encountering a Philadelphia Mint coin of 1854 or 1855 in any desired grade from Very Fine through AU. Uncirculated pieces are scarce, and superb Uncirculated coins are seldom met with (the present sale being an exception!) Nearly all pieces are lightly struck at the center of the date on the reverse, so this is to be expected. Indeed, this is the reason the design was changed in 1856. The 1854-1856 dollar, usually called the Type II, is the scarcest of the gold dollar designs and is the key to a gold dollar type set.

The Bass Collection includes incredible specimens of the different varieties within the Type II design and offers opportunities never before equaled in the auction venue.

Type III
1856-1889

In 1856 James B. Longacre redesigned the gold dollar in an effort to create a motif that would strike up sharply and properly, the Type II being a failure in this regard. The Indian princess style of Miss Liberty was continued, but in the new version the relief is lower and the details are different. Changes were also made in the reverse wreath. The result was a coin which indeed could be struck properly, with the result that gold dollars of the Type III design usually are well struck in most areas, including the central two digits of the date (the area which caused a problem on the preceding type).

The Type III or Large Head motif was produced continuously from 1856 through 1889, although during and after the Civil War, mintages were exceedingly low for all years except a few. The nadir was touched in 1875 when just 400 business strikes and 20 Proofs were struck. Gold dollars were not circulated from 1862 to 1878, and saw only limited use after that time. Eventually the denomination was discontinued in 1889.

Along the way, the total mintage for business strikes of the Type III design amounted to 5,327,363 coins. Proofs were made to the extent of an estimated 8,500 or more, spread over all of the dates, although records are incomplete. Complicating the Proof situation is that today for some issues there is no unequivocal distinction between a Proof and a business strike, this being true for certain issues circa 1879-1889.

The type set collector can easily locate examples of the more plentiful dates in desired grades from Very Fine to AU. Uncirculated pieces are scarce, and superb Uncirculated are scarcer yet, although a flurry of investment and speculative activity

which occurred among jewelers and numismatists during the 1879-1889 years resulted in the survival of more Uncirculated specimens of these dates than would otherwise have been the case. Proofs were minted of various Philadelphia Mint dates, with those struck from 1884 through 1889 being produced in relatively large quantities, although there are mysteries—such as: if the huge number of 1,779 Proof gold dollars saw production in 1889, why are only a few dozen known today.

The Charlotte, Dahlonega, and San Francisco mints each struck a few varieties in the Type III series. All are rare, some extremely so if in high grades such as AU or Mint State.

Collecting Considerations

Of all gold denominations, dollars were the most popular with numismatists during the 19th century. Virtually all attention was paid to the coins by date, with few if any collectors caring whether a coin had a C, D, O, or S on the reverse. Typically, cataloguers and dealers did not even bother to notice. An 1849 gold dollar was an 1849 gold dollar. Period.

In 1893, Augustus G. Heaton published his treatise, *Mint Marks,* which included this commentary, giving a view of the situation at the time, this following a comment that collectors of gold coins were content to acquire coins from any mint, to satisfy the need for a given date:

"Since the suspension of the gold dollar coinage in 1889, the piece has been much used for ornament, and regardless of date or condition, now commands nearly 50 cents premium. It has attracted great attention from many collectors who have sought no other gold series, and its mint marks have become generally very rare."

Heaton was one of the great personalities in numismatics a the time, was prominent in the early affairs of the Americar Numismatic Association (serving for a time as its president) and did much numismatic research. He continued by listing the varieties of which he was aware, such information not be ing readily available in any other numismatic publication. He suggested that his little treatise might stir interest in collecting mintmarks, by finding pieces in circulation or at banks, stating that if they "should establish correspondence and exchange one might soon hear of far advanced gold mint mark collec tions which would be an honor to the enterprising numisma tists possessing them."

Collecting gold dollars by date and mint soon achieved a degree of popularity, with perhaps one or two dozen numisma tists aspiring to form such sets. Larger denominations, particu larly $5, $10, and $20, were nearly completely ignored.

Beginning in the 1930s, a passion arose for the collecting of gold coins of all denominations. By that time, many opportu nities were long gone.

Today in 1999, gold dollars appeal to tens of thousands or perhaps even hundreds of thousands of numismatists, most of whom aspire to own one of each of the three design types. However, there are at least several hundred specialists who seek date and mintmark varieties, with the number of would-be acquisitors often exceeding the number of choice pieces available!

Now, the Harry W. Bass, Jr., Collection, Part II:

Outstanding 1849 Gold Dollar

Open Wreath
Small Head, No L

(2X photo)

1 **1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6000. Small Head, No L. MS-65 (PCGS).** Bright satiny yellow gold lustre with very few abrasions of any sort. The pattern of satiny lustre and reflective surface appears on this example as does peripheral weakness noted at the outer tip of some stars.

This variety is very scarce with a very small percentage of the 1,000 coins struck surviving today.

This is the very first gold dollar issue listed by Walter Breen in his *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. Breen suggested all examples of this variety were struck on May 8, to the extent of 1,000 coins. Although proposals for the gold dollar denomination had been rejected on several previous occasions, as far back as Alexander Hamilton's original coinage proposal in the early 1790s, discovery of gold in California was enough to influence Congress to pass a proposal in 1849. The bill to coin this denomination was introduced in Congress on January 25, 1849. James Barton Longacre produced the dies which were completed on May 7, 1849. The next day, initial examples of this denomination were produced, including the present coin.

From Stack's sale of the Jay Collection, October 1967, Lot 183.

Choice 1849 Open Wreath Gold Dollar

Small Head, No L

(2X photo)

2 **1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6000. Small Head, No L. MS-64 (PCGS).** Very similar to the previous lot and from the same obverse and reverse dies. A lovely example with satiny yellow gold lustre. A few very minor surface marks are noted, although these are virtually imperceptible and expected at this grade level. The satiny lustre gives way to very slight reflectivity framing the bust of Liberty. Slight peripheral weakness is noted, as in the above lot, with the outer tips of some stars and the border denticles most affected.

Two stars below the bust of Liberty are sharply recut as is another star at 3:00. The reverse die has a curved bisecting crack from the rim at 2:00 to the rim at 9:30. Another crack from the rim at 11:30 joins the first crack just left of the large numeral 1. A few other minor die cracks are noted.

From Pine Tree Rare Coin Auctions' sale of September 1973, Lot 356.

Choice Mint State 1849 Gold Dollar

Open Wreath
Small Head, No L

(2X photo)

3 **1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6000. Small Head, No L. MS-63.** Sharp central design details with slight peripheral weakness. Lustrous satiny yellow gold with minor surface marks as expected for the grade. From the same obverse die as in the previous lots, but with a different reverse die.

A die crack from the border passes through the upright of T in UNITED to a berry. Another crack passes between ST to the terminal leaf in the left branch. Other very minor die cracks are noted. A prominent die scratch from a leaf in the terminal triplet in the right branch extends through the upright of F to the border.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Marks Collection, October 1971, Lot 1594.

4 **1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6000. Small Head, No L. MS-62.** Lustrous light greenish gold with minor hairlines resulting from an old cleaning. Same dies as previously.

The bisecting reverse crack is just beginning to form at the rim at 9:30.

Purchased from Edwin Shapiro, October 30, 1972.

5 1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6000. Small Head, No L. MS-60. Sharply struck central devices with satiny yellow gold lustre and peripheral weakness as described in several previous lots. Very minor hairlines and other abrasions.

Gold coin enthusiasts would do well to consider the various 1849 Small Head varieties offered in the present catalogue. In comparison to the regular (Large Head) issues these pieces are very rare. As they become better known, demand will no doubt increase.

The reverse die cracks noted previously are all visible although not as advanced.

From Ravcoa's sale of February 1972, Lot 693.

Golden Dozen

6 **Assortment of Type I and Type III gold dollars:** ☆ 1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6000. Small Head, No L. MS-60 ☆ 1851 MS-60 ☆ 1852 AU-58 ☆ 1853 MS-60 ☆ 1856 Slanting 5. AU-58 ☆ 1857 AU-55 ☆ 1858 AU-58 ☆ 1859 MS-60 ☆ 1861 MS-60. Heavy die clashing. Small scrape is noted on the obverse ☆ 1862 MS-60 ☆ 1873 Open 3. MS-60 ☆ 1874 AU-58. A well-matched grouping with the earlier dates being yellow gold and the later being orange-gold; each piece displays lustrous surfaces. An ideal opportunity to get a running start on a gold dollar collection, each piece having the memorable Bass Collection pedigree. (Total: 12 pieces)

Extensive Date Run of Gold Dollars

7 **Grouping of Type I and Type III gold dollars** ☆ 1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6000. Small Head, No L. MS-60 ☆ 1850 MS-61 ☆ 1851 MS-60 ☆ 1852 MS-60 ☆ 1853 MS-61 ☆ 1856 Slanting 5. AU-58 ☆ 1857 AU-58 ☆ 1858 AU-58 ☆ 1858-S EF-45 ☆ 1859 MS-60 ☆ 1861 MS-60 ☆ 1862 MS-60 ☆ 1873 Open 3. MS-61 ☆ 1874 MS-61. Only L on Headband. An attractive and lustrous grouping. Another opportunity to get a very nice start on a specialized collection by adding over a dozen pieces with the Bass Collection pedigree. (Total: 14 pieces)

Lovely 1849 Gold Dollar

Open Wreath
Small Head, With L

(2X photo)

8 **1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6001. Small Head, With L. MS-65 (PCGS).** This wonderful gold dollar has bright yellow gold lustre; slightly reflective obverse and frosty reverse. A few minor hairlines are noted along with scattered orange copper spots. Very narrow obverse borders are characteristic of the Small Head, with L variety. This example has flat obverse fields.

This 1849 gold dollar has a flat obverse field with little in the way of dishing or, more properly, *basining*. This aspect of die preparation in the mid 19th century has been treated only lightly in the literature, most often in connection with Morgan silver dollars, seldom with gold coins. Note our later commentary under Proof gold $10 pieces of the early 1860s.

Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 3, 1971.

Gold Dollar Starter Set

9 **Selection of Type I and Type III gold dollars:** ☆ 1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6001. Small Head, with L. AU-58 ☆ 1850 MS-60 ☆ 1851 MS-60 ☆ 1852 AU-55 ☆ 1852-O EF-45 ☆ 1853 AU-55 ☆ 1854 Type I. AU-58 ☆ 1856 Slanting 5. VF-35 ☆ 1857 VF-30. Several small scratches are noted on the obverse ☆ 1858 AU-50 ☆ 1858-S EF-40 ☆ 1859 AU-50 ☆ 1861 EF-40 ☆ 1862 AU-50 ☆ 1873 Open 3. AU-55 ☆ 1874 AU-50. Another nice grouping, complete with Bass Collection background and pedigree, with most pieces displaying original mint lustre. (Total: 16 pieces)

10 **Pair of 1849 gold dollars. Open Wreath. Breen-6002. Small head, with L:** ☆ MS-62. Lustrous yellow gold ☆ MS-62. Scratched with some obverse hairlines. (Total: 2 pieces)

Splendid Gem 1849 Gold Dollar

Open Wreath
Large Head

(2X photo)

11 **1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. MS-66 (PCGS).** This outstanding gem has rich, creamy yellow gold lustre on the obverse with reflective, prooflike reverse. Extremely sharp design details are evident on both sides. A stunning specimen that will delight the type collector as well as the gold dollar specialist. Quality such as this is seldom encountered *anywhere.*

Die polish lines are visible on the obverse with diagonal striae on the reverse. Few of the obverse stars are poorly formed with very heavy points opposite thin points. The reverse has E of STATES sharply doubled.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, August 26, 1980. The Bass Inventory notes that this was Lot 4656 in an unrecorded auction.

Choice 1849 Gold Dollar

Open Wreath
Large Head

(2X photo)

12 **1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** This lovely example has slightly reflective yellow gold lustre on obverse and reverse. Very sharply struck save for very slight weakness on the highest points of Miss Liberty. Very minor planchet granularity is noted on both sides, as struck, and weakening the digit 8 in the date.

Third of four types identified for the gold dollars of 1849. The Small Head, No L and Small Head, With L types are scarcer than this Large Head variety or the Closed Wreath variety.

Minor striae are noted on obverse and reverse. A fine die crack from the border through I of UNITED continues through the wreath and DOLL to the digit 9.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 23, 1971.

Another Choice 1849 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

13 **1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. MS-63.** Frosty yellow gold lustre with very minor hairlines and abrasions are mixed with thin die polish lines. An attractive example.

Minor die cracks connect the tops of some letters on the reverse.

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, April 23, 1973.

14 1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. MS-62. Reflective bright yellow gold with a few very minor surface marks. A pleasing example of the Large Head type with Open Wreath. All details are boldly defined.

Die cracks connect the tops of some letters on the reverse.

Purchased from World-Wide Coin Investments, April 16, 1967.

15 1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. MS-62. Satiny yellow gold lustre with sharp design details and very minor surface marks. A pleasing example.

A die crack through I of UNITED, the wreath, DOLL, and the digit 9, continues through the right wreath and final A to the border.

Purchased from Edwin Shapiro, December 16, 1971.

Lustrous Grouping of Gold Dollars

16 **Lustrous grouping of gold dollars:** ☆ 1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. MS-60 ☆ 1851 AU-50 ☆ 1856 Slanting 5. AU-50 ☆ 1857 AU-55 ☆ 1858 AU-55 ☆ 1859 AU-58 ☆ 1861 AU-50 ☆ 1862 AU-55 ☆ 1873 Open 3. AU-58 ☆ 1874 AU-58. Only the letter L is seen on the headband, a curious situation of incomplete lettering sometimes also seen on other dates, most notably those of 1873. (Total: 10 pieces)

Selection of Gold Dollars

17 **Selection of gold dollars:** ☆ 1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. MS-60 ☆ 1852 AU-55 ☆ 1856 Slanting 5. EF-45 ☆ 1857 EF-45 ☆ 1858 AU-53 ☆ 1859 AU-55 ☆ 1861 EF-40 ☆ 1862 AU-50 ☆ 1874 AU-58. No LIBERTY on Headband. A well matched grouping with each piece displaying various degrees of mint lustre. (Total: 9 pieces)

Another Grouping of Gold Dollars

18 **Grouping of gold dollars grading AU-58, except where noted:** ☆ 1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head ☆ 1853 ☆ 1856 Upright 5 ☆ 1857 AU-55 ☆ 1858 ☆ 1869 MS-60 ☆ 1861 AU-55 ☆ 1862 ☆ 1873 Open 3 ☆ 1874 Only L on Headband. Each display some original mint lustre. (Total: 10 pieces)

Value-Laden Group of Gold Dollars

19 **A very nice group of gold dollars, no duplicates, containing a number of scarce, rare, and interesting pieces:** ☆ 1849 Open Wreath. Breen-6003. Large Head. AU-50 ☆ 1850 AU-55 ☆ 1851 AU-55 ☆ 1851-O AU-50 ☆ 1852 AU-55 ☆ 1852-O EF-40 ☆ 1853 AU-55 ☆ 1853-O AU-55 ☆ 1854 Type I. EF-45 ☆ 1854 Type II. EF-45. Double Date. Always popular for type set purposes, and additionally interesting because of the date ☆ 1855 EF-45. Closed 5s. Popular Type II design ☆ 1856 Upright 5. VF-30. Notably scarcer than the usually seen slanting 5 variety. ☆ 1856 Slanting 5. VF-35 ☆ 1857-S VF-30. Medium S. Date a little above center ☆ 1858 AU-50 ☆ 1858-S VF-35. Not expensive, but certainly scarce ☆ 1859 AU-50 ☆ 1860 AU-58 ☆ 1861 VF-35 ☆ 1862 AU-50 ☆ 1866 AU-50, polished. One of the key dates of its era, rare in any and all grades ☆ 1871 AU-58. Same comment as preceding concerning rarity ☆ 1873 Open 3. AU-50 ☆ 1874 AU-50 ☆ 1876 AU-55. A nice example of the Centennial year ☆ 1877 AU-55 PL. Low mintage issue always in demand ☆ 1880 AU-50, polished. Another popular low mintage issue ☆ 1884 AU-50. Low mintage. (Total: 28 pieces)

Gem Mint State 1849 Gold Dollar

Closed Wreath

(2X photo)

20 **1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6005. MS-65 (PCGS).** A superb gem example with frosty yellow gold lustre and virtually pristine surfaces. Extremely sharp design details are noted on both obverse and reverse. Perhaps the most pleasing 1849 gold dollar in the present sale. A true winner from an aesthetic viewpoint. Examine it in person, and you will fall in love with it—as did the cataloguer. Certainly, it is one of the most pleasing 1849 gold dollars in existence anywhere.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (MS-66).

This is Breen's Heavy Date variety, perhaps the most common of all 1849 gold dollar varieties, however, none are common in gem Mint State condition. Perfect dies.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, December 16, 1971.

Pleasing 1849 Closed Wreath Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

21 **1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6005. MS-64 (PCGS).** An attractive, sharply struck example struck in bright greenish yellow gold. Full frosty lustre is evident on both obverse and reverse. A few very minor surface marks are noted only with magnification. Heavy Date variety.

From Stack's sale of October 1971, Lot 655.

Mint State 1849 Gold Dollar

Closed Wreath

Kagin: "Presentation Piece?"

22 **1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6005. MS-62** (PCGS). Fully prooflike and highly attractive with sharp central design motifs. Minor hairlines are mixed with die striae and scattered surface marks, all very minor in nature. An aesthetically pleasing example of the Heavy Date variety. Offered by Kagin's in 1977 as "1849 Presentation Piece?" The circumstances of mintage and distribution are not recorded, but the prooflike surface of this piece is quite *special*, and just as it was worth a second glance to Art Kagin and Don Kagin over 20 years ago, we suggest that the prospective bidder take a lingering view of it today.

Interesting horizontal die scratches are noted at the bottom of the reverse.

From Kagin's ANA Sale, August 1977, Lot 4702, described there as very unusual and rare prooflike (possibly 1849 presentation piece.)

23 **1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6005. MS-62.** Heavy Date variety. Attractive light yellow gold lustre with a few very minor abrasions.

Purchased from John N. Rowe III and Michael G. Brownlee (Rowe and Brownlee), February 24, 1967.

Octette of Gold Dollars

24 **Group of About Uncirculated gold dollars:** ☆ 1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6005. AU-58. Light toning over lustrous surfaces ☆ 1856 Slanting 5. AU-50. Light striking visible on both obverse and reverse ☆ 1857 AU-50. Some light striking is noted mostly on the obverse ☆ 1858 AU-53. Lustrous ☆ 1859 AU-58. Lustrous ☆ 1861 AU-50. Lustrous ☆ 1862 AU-50. Minor obverse rim nicks noted ☆ 1874 AU-58. (Total: 8 pieces)

Treasure Trove of Gold Dollars

25 **A nice selection of various gold dollar mints, dates, and types—a numismatic treasure trove:** ☆ 1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6005. AU-50. Some mint lustre remaining ☆ 1849-O VF-20 ☆ 1851 AU-50. Heavy die crack connects stars two through four, several other minor cracks are noted ☆ 1851-O EF-45 ☆ 1852-O VF-25 ☆ 1853 EF-45 ☆ 1853-O AU-55 ☆ 1854 Type I. EF-40. Partly repunched date ☆ 1854 Type II. EF-40. Triple row of beads above LIBERTY. Always popular because of the design type ☆ 1855 EF-40. Thin letters and date. Another popular Type II issue ☆ 1856 Slanting 5. VF-20. Damage noted in right obverse field ☆ 1857 VF-25. Small obverse rim nick at 11:00 ☆ 1857-C F-12. Struck on a problematic planchet with areas of heavy porosity surfaces burnished to hide same ☆ 1857-S VF-35. Medium S with date well below center ☆ 1858 AU-50. Some mint lustre remaining ☆ 1858-S VF-30. Repunched mintmark ☆ 1859 EF-45. Hairlines noted on both surfaces ☆ 1860 AU-55. Heavy die clashing ☆ 1860-S EF-45. Attractive surfaces. Scarce in all grades ☆ 1861 VF-30 ☆ 1862 EF-40. A few obverse digs, heavy die clashing on reverse ☆ 1866 AU-53. Lustrous. Very elusive. A century ago this was recognized as a prime key date in the gold dollar series, but since then the limelight has faded or has even been extinguished, and while the 1866 remains as elusive as ever, not much attention is paid to it ☆ 1871 AU-55. Lustrous. Another hard to find Philadelphia Mint business strike issue ☆ 1873 Open 3. AU-50. Raised die line from ear lobe to base of bust ☆ 1874 VF-35. Obverse marks noted ☆ 1877 MS-60. Lustrous orange-peel surfaces. A pleasing example of this exceedingly popular date ☆ 1878 AU-50, polished ☆ 1884 MS-60. Brilliant and lustrous. (See our expanded comment concerning 1884 business strikes under Lot 235 of the present sale) ☆ 1889 MS-60. Brilliant and lustrous. Last of the long line of gold dollar dates. (Total: 29 pieces)

Lovely 1849 Gold Dollar

Closed Wreath

(2X photo)

26 **1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6006. MS-65 (PCGS).** Bright and frosty yellow gold lustre with a few minute surface marks. An aesthetically desirable example of the final type of 1849 gold dollars. This Closed Wreath type continued through the end of the design in 1854. This variety has thin numerals in the date, described by Breen in his *Encyclopedia* as very rare.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (MS-66).

The reverse has several die cracks from the border through various letters of AMERICA.

It is to be remembered—and we reiterate this several times throughout the present sale—that grading numbers are one thing, and aesthetically desirable coins can be something else entirely. During his collecting career, Harry Bass strove to acquire coins that had excellent appearances. Thus, as his holdings expanded and his connoisseurship was sharpened, many pieces of exquisite quality were obtained. Today in 1999, probably nine out of 10 Bass Collection gold coins in the present sale are above average for their grade number, sometime *far* above average. When comparing population reports and surveys, it should be considered that in all likelihood the number of examples would fall short of comparable pieces in the Bass Collection. Moreover, while population reports are interesting, there is a passion for resubmitting coins to the same and other services, with the result that a listing that appears to represent several coins may in fact be for only one single specimen.

The seller of this coin, Don Quiggins, listed in the pedigree, is not remembered by us. The Bass Collection sources represent a veritable *Who's Who in American Numismatics*, ranging from famous dealers, collectors, and auctions, to obscure personalities. The sylloge now in preparation for the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation is planned to contain a biographical listing of all identified coin sources.

Purchased from Don Quiggins, November 4, 1972.

27 1849 Closed Wreath. Breen-6006. MS-62. Variety with thin numerals in the date. Light greenish gold with very slight surface reflectivity and minor hairlines, along with a few other abrasions.

From New Netherlands Coin Company's 61st Sale, June 1970, Lot 419.

Mint State 1849-C Gold Dollar Rarity

Closed Wreath

Among the Finest Known

(2X photo)

28 **1849-C Closed Wreath. MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous light greenish yellow gold with typical design definition for this issue. Lightly abraded surfaces as expected for the grade. The obverse has a convex appearance resulting from the basined coinage die.

A lovely, indeed *incredible* example of this important rarity, one of just five or six Mint State survivors from a mintage of just 11,634 coins. This mintage figure includes both the Closed Wreath reverse and the few struck with Open Wreath.

According to Douglas Winter's census in *Charlotte Mint Gold Coins,* there is one gem MS-65 and four other Mint State coins, all approximately MS-60. He was unaware of this coin when compiling his reference. Actual comparison with these other four coins may be necessary to determine the actual rank among the finest known of this issue. In Walter Breen's *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins,* the author succinctly stated "Usually VF or worse; prohibitively rare choice." By any evaluation, the Bass Collection coin stands high among surviving pieces. As such, the opportunity is exceedingly important.

PCGS Population (July 1999): 3; 5 finer (MS-63 finest).

Again, we call attention to the possible duplication, sometimes extensive, in population reports. A better view of *true rarity* can be obtained from the Douglas Winter text or any other detailed numismatic *study* (should anyone care to compile such). Population reports are very "rough" and tend to distort *true rarity,* making pieces appear more plentiful than they are—due to resubmissions.

On June 10 and on June 13, die pairs for 1849-C gold dollars were shipped from the Philadelphia Mint (where dies for branch mints were made) to Charlotte. On July 10, two more reverses were sent. Most probably, the shipment of June 10 had the "old" reveres with open wreath, as used on Philadelphia Mint coins earlier in the year, but in this instance with a tiny C mintmark—creating the 1849-C Open Wreath of which just five specimens are known today.

From the other dies were made the 1849-C Closed Wreath, to the extent of 11,634 pieces, a quantity just about half of that of the next smallest production, that of the Dahlonega Mint, and but a tiny fraction of that registered at Philadelphia. The 1849-C gold dollars were placed quietly into circulation, apparently without any ceremony or special notice. Not a single example was set aside for the Mint Cabinet. Over a century later, in 1988 Walter Breen made specific note of what happened regarding availability (as quoted in the main description in the present lot).

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Choice Mint State 1849-D Gold Dollar

Condition Census Quality

(2X photo)

29 **1849-D MS-63 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous light greenish gold with extraordinary design definition. Both obverse and reverse borders are extremely sharp. Slightly reflective fields gradually change to frosty lustre at the borders. A few very minor surface marks are noted. A minor scratch from the F in OF extends below AM. Two varieties of this issue are known, both from the same obverse die. Probably one of the finest six or seven known examples of this date. In *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint,* author Douglas Winter noted that this issue "is very rare in Mint State-62 and it is extremely rare in accurately graded Mint State-63."

As a class, Charlotte and Dahlonega gold dollars are exceedingly rare in Mint State. The Bass Collection offering handily eclipses any other auction or presentation of which we are aware, bringing to market a remarkable combination of exceedingly high quality plus in many instances depth in the form of duplicates. Of all of the mints active in America during the 19th century, fewer pieces were struck at Dahlonega than anywhere else, followed by Charlotte. Moreover, such coins were not numismatically desired in their own time, and not even the Mint Cabinet saved specimens. Thus, pieces slipped into circulation where they soon became worn or lost, or eventually melted. The word O-P-P-O-R-T-U-N-I-T-Y comes to the fore in almost countless times in the present sale, including among the stellar listings of Charlotte and Dahlonega issues.

PCGS Population: 6; 3 finer (MS-64).

The reverse exhibits extensive die cracks, both radially from the border toward the center, and peripherally through the legend.

First year of the gold dollar. All pieces are of the Open Wreath or later configuration, as the dies were shipped from the Die Department of the Philadelphia Mint, June 2-4, 1849 (received in Dahlonega on June 16); by this time the Closed Wreath style had been superseded.

From the outset, striking of Dahlonega Mint gold dollars was typically light and irregular. Quoting David Akers' 1975 study, "The 1849-D is often softly struck on the hair, giving the appearance of wear even if there really is none."

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Julian Marks Collection, October 1971, Lot 1597.

Another Mint State 1849-D Gold Dollar

Rare and Beautiful

(2X photo)

30 **1849-D MS-62 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold lustre with a few very minor surface marks. Sharply struck with strong border details. From the same reverse die as the preceding lot. Not only is this the first year of issue for the denomination and mint, but also the first of two varieties in the emission order. This example is probably among the top dozen known examples.

Shattered reverse although the die cracks are not as advanced as noted in the description of the previous lot.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Choice AU 1849-D Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

31 **1849-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous greenish gold with lightly abraded surfaces as expected for the grade. Quite sharply struck although the borders are poorly defined. This example and the next are from a different reverse die. Only a few collections over the years have had an 1849-D gold dollar in a high grade such as this. In a relative sense, *except for the Bass Collection*, here, indeed, is a rarity!

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shnford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1690.

A Fourth 1849-D Gold Dollar

As Incredible as it Seems

(2X photo)

32 **1849-D AU-55.** A fourth example of this issue, in this case very lightly circulated. Traces of wear are visible on the highest points of the design. Nearly full greenish gold lustre with very pleasing surfaces, in fact, nicer surfaces than the MS-60 offered in the lot above.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 30, 1971.

Amazing Gem 1849-O Gold Dollar

Condition Census

(2X photo)

33 **1849-O MS-65 (PCGS).** A wonderful example with frosty greenish gold lustre and pristine, virtually mark-free surfaces. Very sharply struck, in fact, fully struck save for very slight weakness at the borders. Although 215,000 were minted, perhaps only 40 to 50 Mint State examples survive, and most of those are just MS-60 or MS-61 at best. The cataloguer for Paramount, in 1975, noted: "this frosty gem is as choice as any that I have ever seen of this date and I would not be surprised to see it bring close to four figures." Of course today, a quarter century later, the prospective purchaser should change "close to four figures" to read "close to five figures."

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-66).

The reverse exhibits light die rust and extremely faint clash marks.

We have no way of determining what is "out there" in the rest of the numismatic field, but we feel this to be a truly amazing coin, as did the Paramount cataloguer, and we seriously doubt if it can be exceeded in the combination of numerical grade plus all important aesthetic value by any other specimen.

From Paramount's sale of the Davies and Niewoehner Collections, February 1975, Lot 408. Pedigree incorrectly stated by Winter in "New Orleans Mint Gold Coins" as Superior 2/1975, Lot 408.

34 1849-O AU-58. Lustrous light orange-gold with only faint traces of wear.

Several obverse die cracks and a short reverse crack through M of AMERICA.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 515.

35 1849-O AU-55. Light yellow gold with considerable frosty lustre impaired only by very light wear. Pleasing surfaces with only a few very minor hairlines and other abrasions. A nice example of the grade.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Gem Mint State 1850 Gold Dollar

Finest Certified

(2X photo)

36 **1850 MS-66 (PCGS).** Superb frosty yellow gold lustre. Slightly weak on the very highest points of Miss Liberty's hair, otherwise quite sharply defined. This is a relatively common date, however, of much finer quality than normally seen. A delightful gem for the date or type collector.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Faint die polish lines are noted on both obverse and reverse, this probably from relapping or resurfacing the dies. The aspect of die striae and polish lines have been very lightly treated in numismatic literature, and yet is interesting and is one of the keys to effective study of Mint procedures. Thus, here and there throughout the Bass Collection listings we make note of such features. The reverse has a very thin bisecting crack from the border at 4:00 through CA, right branch, ribbon bow, left branch, and I of UNITED, not quite reaching the border at 8:30. Some missing or attenuated design details suggest this reverse die has been lapped.

Purchased from John N. Rowe, III, August 19, 1966.

(2X photo)

37 **1850 MS-63 (PCGS).** Satiny greenish gold lustre with a few very minor surface marks. Very sharply struck with slightly reflective, almost prooflike surfaces. A very pleasing coin for the specialist, or for the date or type collector, with considerable aesthetic appeal.

Nearly vertical striae appear on both obverse and reverse, in this instance seeming to indicate a very early striking from the die pair. Perfect obverse and reverse dies (no cracks).

Purchased from Walter Matloff, February 29, 1972.

(2X photo)

38 **1850 MS-63.** Frosty light greenish gold lustre with very slight weakness only on the highest points, representing as they do the deepest recesses of the coinage dies. A few light surface marks are noted, however, none are serious or particularly different from what would be expected on an MS-63 coin. A nice coin for your type set.

Peripheral die cracks on the reverse connect most letters of UNITED STATES OF.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Rare Mint State 1850-C Gold Dollar

Mintage: 6,966 Coins

(2X photo)

39 **1850-C MS-61 (PCGS).** Reflective light yellow gold lustre with extremely sharp design details and scattered surface marks, most notably a short diagonal scratch in the left obverse field. An extremely important opportunity for the specialist, this example is among the five or six finest known. Fifth finest known in Douglas Winter's census grades just MS-60, the present piece is Condition Census per the literature. Winter further noted: "While slightly overrated in lower grades, this date is a legitimate rarity in full AU or Uncirculated." This is the second lowest mintage of any Charlotte Mint gold dollar issue with 6,966 coins struck and perhaps 1% surviving today. Walter Breen observed that this issue is extremely rare in Mint State. Indeed, over the years very few true *Mint State* examples have ever been seen, even by the most expert of experts.

PCGS Population: 6; 4 finer (MS-62).

Taken at *face value* these numbers would indicate that there are 10 MS-61 and MS-62 1850-C gold dollars in numismatic hands, not to mention any pieces that may have been certified by NGC, ICS, and other services. We suspect that reality in terms of *different specimens* is otherwise. No doubt the net number is a much smaller figure.

Two pairs of dies are known for this issue, both with the Closed Wreath, which by that time had become standard. Mintage decreased to just 6,966 coins, creating the lowest production figure of any gold dollar of the years 1849-1853.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Important Mint State 1850-D Gold Dollar

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

40 **1850-D MS-62 (PCGS).** A lovely example with satiny bright yellow gold lustre and wonderfully sharp design definition. The surfaces are quite choice for the assigned grade with a few very minor hairlines. One of the very finest in existence, a truly important Dahlonega coin, a landmark for the specialist in the series. With regard to mintage and rarity, this issue is in the middle of the series of Dahlonega Mint gold dollars.

In 1850, this Georgia mint produced 8,382 gold dollars, the third highest mintage of any issue from 1849 to 1861. Perhaps it is this mintage that explains why this issue is so underrated. Only four issues are rarer in high grade according to Douglas Winter. His "High Grade Rarity" ranks the number known in AU-50 and higher grades, certainly appropriate information in relation to the present sale. Interestingly, this present issue is ranked between 1860-D and 1861-D issues for rarity in high grade.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-63).
Minor reverse clash marks.

Three pairs of dies, including three reverses dated 1850, were shipped from the Philadelphia Mint to Dahlonega on December 11, 1849, for use in 1850; another pair of dies was sent by mistake to the Charlotte Mint, but on April 3, 1850, were forwarded from that point to the correct destination. Apparently, a larger mintage was anticipated than actually occurred. This was to be the story of many issues of this era, for it was easier for the Philadelphia Mint to make up a larger group of dies on speculation than to later receive orders from a distance and make up the die pairs individually. Considering the time needed to make the dies, the set up at the Philadelphia Mint, and the time lag in communications, the latter method would have caused more problems than the procedure used, even though at first glance the making of extra die pairs seems redundant.

The mintage of the 1850-D went into circulation, and all the pieces were used intensively. The typical grade tends to be quite low, in fact, per David Akers, "the third lowest average grade of any gold dollar in the entire series."

Purchased from Fred Sweeney, September 18, 1972.

Rare Mint State 1850-O Gold Dollar

Finest Certified

(2X photo)

41 **1850-O MS-64 (PCGS).** Very sharply struck in light yellow gold with frosty lustre. A delightful example of this rarity, indeed among the very finest known examples. Just 14,000 gold dollars were struck in New Orleans during the course of the year by a wide margin the lowest mintage of any gold dollar issue from this mint. The finest noted by Douglas Winter is a different coin graded MS-64 with a small number of MS-63 examples in the census.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.
Minor rust marks are visible on Miss Liberty's neck and jaw.

Purchased from Walter Matloff, February 29, 1972.

42 **1850-O AU-55.** An altogether pleasing example of this scarce issue with considerable frosty lustre and attractive orange and lilac toning. Very sharply struck. A few minor surface impairments are noted, including short parallel scratches below the neck truncation.

Minor rust marks are visible on Miss Liberty's neck and jaw.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 1920.

Superb Gem 1851 Gold Dollar

A *Rarity* So Choice

(2X photo)

43 **1851 MS-66 (PCGS).** Rich frosty yellow gold lustre with sharp design details exhibiting only very slight weakness on the highest points. This is a wonderful coin especially suited for the type collector. The mintage of this issue is exceeded only by the 1853 issue, thus, this issue must be considered common. Still a rarity, as are all Type I gold dollars, when in gem Mint State condition.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 13, 1971.

Another Superb Gem 1851 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

44 **1851 MS-66 (PCGS).** Frosty deep yellow gold lustre with very sharp design details. Another very pleasing example for the connoisseur.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, March 14, 1972.

Frosty Mint State 1851 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

45 **1851 MS-64 (PCGS).** Frosty light yellow gold lustre with a hint of orange toning on the high points of the obverse. A wonderful example at this grade level—certainly in the top 1% of survivors of coins of this date.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 23, 1971.

Choice Mint State 1851 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

46 **1851 MS-64 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous light yellow gold with a faint trace of amber toning. A few minor surface marks are noted, consistent with the grade assigned.

From the Goliad Corporation, December 16, 1971.

47 **1851 MS-63.** Another choice Mint State example of this popular issue with frosty light yellow gold lustre and very minor surface marks. Sharp design details although the lower obverse stars are weak.

Purchased from Walter Matloff, February 29, 1972.

48 1851 MS-62. A further attractive Mint State 1851 gold dollar. Sharply struck with pale orange-gold lustre and very minor abrasions. A splash of light orange toning is visible on the reverse.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 30, 1971.

Attractive Mint State 1851-C Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

49 **1851-C MS-63 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with frosty yellow gold lustre and light orange toning. A most attractive example with only a few minor surface impairments. With a mintage of 41,267 coins, this single issue accounts for 35% of the total gold dollar production at the Charlotte Mint. Therefore, this issue is the most common of any Charlotte gold dollar and the only one generally available in Mint State condition. Don't be fooled, however, for Douglas Winter noted that only 10 to 15 Mint State examples survive. Common only by Charlotte Mint standards, this is a rarity in absolute terms.

Light die polish lines are visible. The reverse has a die crack connecting the tops of F AM.

Apparently three pairs of dies were sent from Philadelphia to Charlotte. Beginning around this time, leftover obverse dies from earlier dates could be used, as the obverses were dateless. Only detailed studies of minute die differences would pinpoint such a procedure, and to date that has not been done (we note here that Douglas Winter's later book on *Dahlonega* gold coins contains much technical die information, but the Charlotte text is not as technical). No doubt if Doug Winter picks up quill pen and returns to his writing desk on the subject of Charlotte gold, the present catalogue will be quoted extensively (permission granted).

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

50 **1851-C AU-58.** Light yellow gold with sharp design details and nearly complete lustre. Very lightly abraded surfaces, much nicer than generally seen among coins from this southern mint.

A die crack connects the border with the left side of final S in STATES.

From Stack's sale of December 1972, Lot 472.

51 **1851-C AU-55.** Lustrous light greenish gold with very pleasing, in fact choice, surfaces. Another opportunity for the specialist, or the date or type collector, to acquire a pleasing example of this issue.

A die crack connects the border with the left side of final S in STATES.

Purchased from Rarcoa, July 24, 1972.

Condition Census 1851-D Gold Dollar

Tied for Fourth Finest

(2X photo)

52 **1851-D MS-62 (PCGS).** Brilliant, frosty light yellow gold with sharp design details. Very minor surface marks are noted, including a small abrasion on Liberty's cheek. Considerable die polish is visible on the reverse. With a comparatively high mintage of 9,882 coins (only 1849-D has a higher mintage among Dahlonega Mint gold dollars) this issue is the second most available among all gold dollars from this mint. For the collector desiring a nice Mint State Dahlonega Mint gold dollar for his or her type set, this is an ideal candidate. As with all coinage, however, it is important to remember that mintage figures tell only part of the story. While we suggest that a mintage of under 10,000 coins is rather high for these issues, this mintage would suggest a major rarity if in the context of Philadelphia Mint gold dollars of this same design. Only a few finer examples exist, according to the Condition Census reported by Douglas Winter.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Regarding the existence of coins and their *availability*, sometimes the twain do not meet. Of a given issue five or 10 coins might be in collections or museums, but it can also be the case that examples will appear on the market only at widely spaced intervals.

Five 1851-D reverse dies were shipped to Dahlonega, but so far as is known, just two were pressed (literally) into service, both eventually cracking. The mintage of 9,882 pieces was accomplished on two deliveries (from the coining department to the registration or shipping department) of 3,147 in February and 6,735 in June. The circumstances of distribution of the 1851-D are not known, but studies of extant pieces (including David Akers' excellent study on) reveal that this variety is more often seen in higher grades such as AU, than are most other Dahlonega pieces. One of the mysteries of this or any other coin is that, except for cabinet pieces (non-existent in the Dahlonega series), coins hold their secrets well—one does not know where they have been over the years.

From Stanley Kesselman, August 30, 1971.

Important 1851-D Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

53 **1851-D AU-55 (PCGS).** This is the second most common Dahlonega Mint gold dollar, despite a mintage of just 9,882 coins. In comparison with all Type 1 gold dollars, however, the mintage is seventh lowest of 23 issues. Light yellow gold with nearly full lustre and very lightly abraded surfaces. Quite sharp although not fully struck. In the context of Dahlonega Mint gold dollars, this example is far above average in terms of design definition.

Heavy obverse and reverse clash marks.

From Stack's sale of the Charles Jay Collection, October 1967, Lot 196.

(2X photo)

54 **1851-D AU-50.** Light greenish yellow gold with considerable remaining lustre and very pleasing surfaces. Slightly weak at the center of the obverse. Quite scarce at this grade level.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

55 **1851-D Net EF-45,** sharpness of AU-55, polished. Greenish yellow gold with extremely sharp design details.

The obverse has a small rim break, or cud, at 1:00. Clash marks are visible on the reverse.

Purchased from Joe Flynn, Sr. Coin Co., December 13, 1972.

56 **1851-O MS-62 (PCGS).** This desirable Mint State example has bright yellow gold lustre with sharp design details. A few very minor abrasions are noted, taking the form of minor surface marks and faint hairlines. Although 290,000 coins were minted, very few survive in grades better than MS-60. Heavy obverse stars as described by Breen and Winter.

The obverse has two die cracks, one from the border at 9:00 to Miss Liberty's eyelid and into her hair; the other from 11:00 to the center of her coronet.

Purchased from Walter Matloff, February 29, 1972.

Lovely Gem 1852 Gold Dollar

Superb Quality

(2X photo)

57 **1852 MS-66 (PCGS).** An aesthetically desirable example with frosty yellow gold lustre. Sharply struck with virtually flawless surfaces. A planchet flake is noted at the base of the large digit 1 on the reverse.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (MS-69 finest).

The obverse has several parallel die lines of varying length diagonally down to the left from Miss Liberty's neck and jaw. Two curious raised dots appear in the reverse field, one below the upright of D and the other below the tail of R. These appear perfectly round and do not resemble random rust marks.

On the reverse, repunching is visible inside the loop of 5 just above the bottom curve.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, November 9, 1971.

Choice Mint State 1852 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

58 **1852 MS-64.** Sharply struck with frosty light yellow gold lustre and very few minor surface marks. An attractive example for your type collection or date set.

The obverse die is shattered with a series of fine die cracks. The reverse is the same die described in the previous lot, including the curious raised dots.

Repunched date as described in the lot above.

Purchased from Walter Matloff, February 29, 1972.

59 **1852 MS-63.** Lustrous light yellow gold with a few very minor surface marks. A lovely coin for a type set. After all, in the wide world of numismatics, really nice MS-63 Type I gold dollars are not all that easy to find, particularly in relation to the demand for them.

The top of the digit 1 in the date is doubled, however, not enough for this to qualify as Breen-6020, the rare variety with recut 18.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, March 9, 1971.

60 1852 MS-62. Lustrous and sharply struck in light greenish gold. A few very minor surface marks are present, however, this is a lovely Mint State gold dollar.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA Sale, August 1968, Lot 760.

Amazing 1852-C Gold Dollar

From the Norweb Collection

Among the Finest Known

(2X photo)

61 **1852-C MS-64 (PCGS).** Possibly the second finest known example, exceeded only by a gem that appeared in Auction '81. Sharply struck in brilliant greenish yellow gold, the obverse fields around the border are frosty, changing to prooflike around the devices. This surface provides an attractive frame for Miss Liberty. The reverse has a small planchet imperfection, as struck, upward from the second L in DOLLAR. Douglas Winter noted this flaw is common to several known examples of this issue: "A number of examples show weakness from the bases of LA in DOLLAR up to the base of 1 (i.e., the denomination). This was caused by the adherence of some foreign matter to the dies at the time of striking. As this was mint-induced, and is frequently seen on surviving examples, this 'imperfection' should not adversely affect the value of the coin." This spectacular coin represents the finest certified by PCGS. The issue is scarce in all grades; the mintage of 9,434 coins is the second lowest Charlotte mintage of the design.

PCGS Population: 8; none finer.

We thank David T. Alexander for the two nice articles he has contributed to *COINage* magazine on the numismatic legacy of Emery May Holden Norweb and the Norweb family. These are written in an interesting manner and no doubt have served to introduce this super-collector lady to a wider audience than originally achieved through the book written by Michael Hodder and your editor, *The Norweb Collection: An American Legacy*.

In the early 1980s when we showcased the John W. Adams Collection of 1794-dated large cents in a special catalogue all its own, we noted that John, while he collected coins, also "collected collectors." To him, the pedigree of a coin added a great deal of interest and desirability to a specimen. In the intervening years we have seen many other numismatists subscribe to this theory. Today, in 1999, the correct attribution of a pedigree to a famous collection, or a notable hoard (our recent sale of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* treasure coins comes to mind), or some other tangible link with a person or historical event, can immensely increase its appreciation to its owner. Fortunately for participants in the present sale, Harry Bass kept meticulous records, and all but a few of the individual lots are accompanied by pedigrees as to his source. To each of these listings must now be added the Bass Collection pedigree itself.

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, March 1988, Lot 1865. Formerly from Sotheby's sale of the King Farouk Collection, February 1954, Lot 285.

Desirable 1852-D Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

62 **1852-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold lustre with reflective surfaces obscured by only the slightest wear on the high points. Very light surface marks are noted, considerably less abraded than it may appear at first glance. A splendid, indeed *memorable* example of an issue which when seen is apt to be in much lower grade. Another *find* for the specialist.

Numerous die polish lines and clash marks, as struck, give the appearance of somewhat marred surfaces. Douglas Winter alluded to this in *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint* when he noted "due to a number of distinct striking characteristics, the surfaces of most 1852-D gold dollars have a decidedly 'busy' appearance. There are usually multiple clash marks before the face of Liberty and the nose is always broken. This is the result of die lapping and is evidenced by a shiny area in front of the forehead. The obverse shows a number of raised die scratches which can be seen even on worn specimens." This example shows all of these various characteristics.

On the reverse, several radial die cracks extend from the reverse border inward.

In 1851 the Philadelphia Mint shipped two 1852-D reverse dies to the Dahlonega Mint, but it is believed that only one actually saw service. At the time there were still sufficient undated obverse dies on hand to take care of anticipated requirements. In due course, 6,360 pieces were struck, but what happened to them no one knows for sure. It is known, however, that today the 1852-D is significantly rarer than its low mintage suggests, and is a prime key in the series.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 12.

63 **1852-D AU-50.** An attractive example with greenish gold surfaces and considerable frosty lustre. Considerably high aesthetic appeal with very pleasing surfaces for the grade. This example has the reverse rotated almost 180° from the normal position.

Very similar die state to the previous lot, perhaps just slightly earlier.

From Paramount's session of the Auction '86 sale, Lot 1846.

Desirable 1852-O Gold Dollar

Probably Condition Census

(2X photo)

64 **1852-O MS-63.** Sharply struck with satiny greenish gold lustre and very few marks of any kind. This issue is much scarcer in choice Mint State quality than the mintage of 140,000 coins would suggest. The presently offered example is probably among the top six known examples, though brushmarks are noted.

A heavy die crack from the border passes through the star at 12:00 and through the coronet to Miss Liberty's hair. Another crack joins the star at 3:00 with the border.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 16, 1972.

65 **1852-O AU-58 (PCGS).** Frosty light yellow gold lustre with scattered surface marks as expected. Quite sharply struck although portions of the obverse and reverse borders are weak. A pleasing coin for the date collector or variety specialist.

The obverse has minor die chips near the star at 2:00.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, April 1970, Lot 618.

66 1852-O AU-55. Light yellow gold with considerable lustre. An attractive example of this scarce issue.

An obverse die crack from the border passes through the star at 1:00 to the top of Miss Liberty's head.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

67 **1853 MS-63 (PCGS).** Deep yellow gold lustre, satiny in nature, with few minuscule abrasions. An attractive example of this plentiful date; an ideal choice for the collector of coins by design type. An interesting coin, as well, for the die state specialist.

Several very light die cracks extend through several stars on the obverse.

From Stack's sale of February 1972, Lot 588.

68 **1853 MS-63.** Lustrous light yellow gold with extremely sharp design details and only a few very light scattered marks. An attractive type coin.

From New Netherlands Coin Company's 61st Sale, June 1970, Lot 427.

69 **1853 MS-63.** Another delightful Mint State 1853 gold dollar with lustrous light yellow surfaces and only a few scattered surface marks. A desirable example of the issue.

Similar obverse die cracks as found on the first example of this issue offered above, however, not as advanced.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 30, 1971.

Quintette of 1853 Gold Dollars

70 **Quintette of 1853 gold dollars, each graded MS-62.** All are brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 5 pieces)

Amazing 1853-C Gold Dollar

Among the Finest Known

(2X photo)

71 **1853-C MS-62 (PCGS).** This amazing jewel has deep greenish gold lustre with faint orange toning. Softly struck on the high points of Ms. Liberty's hair. Although the surfaces do show very minor abrasions, overall, this is one of the finest existing 1853-C gold dollars. Not specifically mentioned by Douglas Winter in his roster of finest examples, he notes only one MS-63 example, another graded MS-60 to 63, and the balance of Mint State examples all in the MS-60 range. Winter further notes that this is one of the rarest Charlotte Mint gold dollars in Mint State condition.

Perfect dies.

From Stack's sale of March 1973, Lot 735.

Rare 1853-D Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

72 **1853-D MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous dark yellow gold with extremely choice surfaces. The quality of this example is exceeded by very few, if any other survivors from the mintage of just 6,583 coins. Sharply struck with very slight weakness on the highest points of the hair and among the wreath. The borders are bold and complete. Compare this with the Breen description quoted below. Douglas Winter reported only three finer examples in his Condition Census. Of course, unless various examples are seen at the same time side by side, there is no way of knowing as to whether "finer" examples are, indeed, truly finer.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (MS-64 finest).

Several die file lines and polish lines are noted.

Three 1853-D reverse dies were supplied to the Dahlonega Mint, but it seems that just one of these was used to produce the recorded mintage of 6,583 pieces. Sufficient obverse dies still remained on hand. In his *Encyclopedia* Walter Breen comments: "usually poorly struck." The same remark could be repeated throughout the present or any other offering of Dahlonega Mint issues.

From Stack's sale of March 1973, Lot 736.

73 **1853-D EF-45.** Light greenish gold with minor surface marks. Considerable lustre remains and the impression from the dies was quite sharp.

Light clash marks are visible on both obverse and reverse.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

74 **1853-D EF-40.** An attractive example with minor abrasions and other impairments. Typical grade for most 1853-D gold dollars in numismatic circulation. The reverse of this example is rotated 90°.

Minor die cracks and clash marks.

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, April 14, 1972.

75 **1853-O MS-62.** Highly lustrous deep yellow gold with very choice surfaces. Perhaps finer than the grade assigned, this is a delightful Mint State example. Interestingly, the New Orleans Mint struck an identical number of gold dollars in 1851 and 1853, however, this 1853-O issue is more available, especially in Mint State quality.

Light die rust is noted on the obverse.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

76 **1853-O MS-62.** Satiny greenish gold lustre with very nice surfaces for the grade. Extremely sharply struck. A small dark stain is visible below the bust, serving as a pedigree marker.

Purchased from Walter Matloff, February 29, 1972.

Choice Mint State 1854 Gold Dollar

Type I

Liberty Head

(2X photo)

77 **1854 Type I. MS-64.** A wonderful example with extraordinary design details and lovely deep yellow gold lustre. The surfaces are virtually flawless. Although not a scarce date, the mintage of this final Type I issue was limited to under one million coins. A coin equally suited to the specialist, the date and mintmark collector, or someone seeking a piece simply for a type set.

The reverse has an interior cud, or die break, on the leaf below I of UNITED, attached to that letter.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 532.

78 **1854 Type I. MS-63.** A wonderful, sharply struck example with bright yellow gold lustre and minimal surface abrasions.

A small bulge is located in the upper left obverse field, in front of the forehead. Clash marks are noted inside the wreath.

Purchased from John N. Rowe, III, August 19, 1966.

79 **1854 Type I. MS-63.** A lovely Mint State example with bright, frosty yellow gold lustre. A few scattered surface marks are noted.

From the same dies as the previous lot with the obverse bulge and reverse clash marks both visible.

Purchased from Rarcoa, April 24, 1972.

80 1854 Type I. MS-62. Another lovely Mint State 1854 gold dollar with sharp design details and frosty light yellow gold lustre.

From the same dies as the previous two lots with the obverse bulge smaller and the reverse clash marks fainter.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

81 1854 Type I. MS-62. Highly lustrous bright yellow gold with sharp design details, another wonderful opportunity.

From the same dies as previous lots, the obverse bulge as on the last lot, the reverse clash marks very faint.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 16, 1972.

Rare 1854-D Gold Dollar

Just 2,935 Minted

(2X photo)

82 **1854-D Type I. MS-61 (PCGS).** This wonderful Dahlonega gold dollar has nearly full bright yellow gold lustre with a hint of orange, and with very pleasing surfaces, free of any serious impairments. Several heavy die scratches are present on both obverse and reverse, strictly as struck and not affecting the quality of this coin in any sense. Douglas Winter listed only four Mint State examples of this date in his reference on Dahlonega gold, with another small group of AU-58 coins. Of course, he was not aware of this example and it is not included in his roster. Only three examples in his Condition Census are reported at a finer grade than this. This issue has the lowest mintage of any Type I gold dollar. Respectable strike although the lower left portion of the wreath is weak.

As is so often the case in the Bass Collection, the opportunity to acquire a rarity is more important than the price paid. No matter what the successful bidder pays for this 1854-D, he or she will then own it, while hundreds if not thousands of gold dollar aficionados will still be seeking a similar specimen and dreaming of an ownership opportunity.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).

Among Type I gold dollars of the 1849-1854 era, the 1854-D stands tall and proud among Dahlonega issues. First, it is the absolute rarest, both from a mintage viewpoint (2,935) and from the aspect of examples than can be traced today. It is believed that all were struck from one reverse die (the obverse has not been as closely studied), this die being one of three shipped to Dahlonega for use this year. Again, enough obverses were on hand that no additional obverse dies were required. Regarding the number surviving from the 2,935 mintage, a ratio of 3% to 4% would suggest about 100 pieces, which, indeed, is probably quite close to the mark. In any given year, very few pieces appear on the open market.

Purchased from Walter Matloff, February 29, 1972.

83 **1854-S Type I. AU-58 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with attractive orange-gold lustre. Frosty lustre gives way to reflective, nearly prooflike surfaces around the devices. A most attractive presentation. Just 14,632 gold dollars were minted in San Francisco in 1854. This is the first year of operation at the San Francisco Mint and the only Type I gold dollar from this mint.

Perfect dies (no cracks). Faint striae visible on the reverse, perhaps indicating that this is an early impression from that die.

From Stack's sale of April 1978, Lot 762.

84 **1854-S Type I. AU-55.** Another lovely example of this issue, deep yellow gold with considerable lustre and traces of dark orange toning. Sharply struck with very choice surfaces, especially in the context of this grade.

From Stack's sale of March 1973, Lot 740.

Choice Mint State 1854 Gold Dollar

Small Indian Head

(2X photo)

85 **1854 Type II. MS-64 (PCGS).** A lovely example with soft, satiny yellow gold lustre; traces of olive patina are visible on obverse and reverse. Very minor surface marks include a thin hairline scratch in the left obverse field. The new and very scarce small Indian Head, often called the Indian Princess design by James Barton Longacre, makes its debut. This design was only issued for three years from 1854 to 1856 with a total mintage well under two million coins. Examples are scarce in any grade and choice or gem Mint State coins are quite rare. The design was poorly laid out for coinage and most examples quickly wore down leaving few high grade survivors. Walter Breen suggested that under 16,000 coins survive for the type with many of these weak or in low grades, a large percentage also showing traces of solder or other indications of use in jewelry.

Extensive die rust is noted around the obverse border, through the legend.

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, April 14, 1972.

Another Choice 1854 Gold Dollar

Type II

(2X photo)

86 **1854 Type II. MS-64 (PCGS).** A splendid example of this popular, short-lived design type, featuring frosty bright yellow gold lustre and very sharp design details. This must be considered one of the finest of all certified MS-64 Type II gold dollars. This rare prize is deserving of an enthusiastic bid.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

87 **1854 Type II. AU-58.** Sharply struck with considerable light yellow gold lustre, nearly complete. A very pleasing example of this initial Type II issue.

Purchased from Paramount, August 10, 1971.

88 **1854 Type II. AU-55.** Lustrous light yellow gold with pleasing surfaces. Slightly weak at the highest points of the Indian, typical of this design.

Purchased from George Gozan, February 28, 1967, via Aaron Feldman.

89 **1854 Type II. AU-55.** Sharply struck with light greenish gold lustre and very faint pinkish orange toning. An attractive example with choice surfaces.

Purchased from Abe Kosoff, July 23, 1973.

90 **Pair of 1854 Type II gold dollars:** Both graded AU-50 with nice lustre for the grade. (Total: 2 pieces)

Phenomenal Gem 1855 Gold Dollar

Extraordinary Aesthetic Appeal

91 **1855 MS-65 (PCGS).** One of the Philadelphia Mint highlights among the Bass Collection of gold dollars. This incredible coin combines brilliant, frosty yellow gold lustre with light pinkish orange peripheral toning. A few very minor surface abrasions are noted, only with the aid of magnification. Although not the highest numerical grade example certified, it is hard to imagine any with a higher degree of aesthetic appeal. When catalogued for the 1975 ANA Sale, Superior Stamp & Coin Co. noted the quality of this coin: "An absolutely magnificent example of the popular Type II gold dollar. This is the finest example of an 1855 gold dollar we have seen. Fully struck up including the date with full rich mint lustre and a delicate blend of orange toning. The surfaces are immaculate and this coin is worthy of a record bid."

From Superior's ANA Sale, August 1975, Lot 1312.

Choice Mint State 1855 Gold Dollar

Sharply Struck

(2X photo)

92 **1855 MS-64 (PCGS).** Another wonderful Mint State example of this important type issue. Sharply struck in bright yellow gold with full frosty mint lustre. A faint trace of light orange toning is visible. The present offering of Mint State 1855 gold dollars presents an important opportunity to examine and bid on a selection of grades and quality.

Light obverse and heavy reverse clash marks.

From New Netherlands Coin Company's sale of June 1967, Lot 513.

Another Choice Mint State 1855 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

93 **1855 MS-63 (PCGS).** This lovely Mint State example is sharply struck and features frosty light yellow gold lustre. A few light hairlines and other very minor surface marks are noted, although not unexpected for the grade. Had we not just offered two higher grade examples, we would certainly suggest that this is among the most important Type II gold dollars we have recently offered. Indeed, in a typical high-grade collection, this present piece would be a landmark.

Purchased from William Youngerman, January 25, 1973.

Lovely Mint State 1855 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

94 **1855 MS-63 (PCGS).** A very attractive example with brilliant frosty light yellow lustre. A few very minor surface marks are noted with only a faint reverse hairline standing out. Sharply struck with strong hair details and sharp definition among the top plumes of the headdress. Scarce in nice Mint State quality.

From Lester Merkin's sale of June 1970, Lot 423.

Lustrous 1855 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

95 **1855 MS-63 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with frosty bright yellow gold lustre and minimal surface marks. A highly attractive example for the date or type collector. A final opportunity to compete for a truly beautiful 1855 gold dollar at the MS-63 level.

Light obverse and reverse clash marks.

From Pine Tree Rare Coin Auctions' sale of March 1974, Lot 22.

A Final Mint State 1855 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

96 **1855 MS-62 (PCGS).** Wonderful bright yellow gold lustre with very slight impairments. From the aesthetic viewpoint, this has the appearance of a much higher grade. When the obverse is viewed from the 1:00 position, this has the appearance of a small sauce pan. An interesting striking variant, strictly as made and not affecting the grade in any way.

Struck through a piece of lint or thread, with the associated depression in the coin confined to the central obverse device. Prominent clash marks are visible on both obverse and reverse.

From Superior's ANA Sale, August 1975, Lot 1313.

97 **Pair of 1855 gold dollars:** Both are graded AU-50 with some original mint lustre remaining. (Total: 2 pieces)

Elusive 1855-C Gold Dollar

Probably Second Finest Known
From the Harold S. Bareford Collection

(2X photo)

98 **1855-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Nearly full bright greenish yellow gold lustre with light planchet roughness, strictly as minted. Slightly reflective surfaces. A few very minor abrasions and hairlines are noted. Unusually sharp strike including a full, complete digit 8 in the date. This is an exceptional example and is listed as second finest known by Douglas Winter in his reference on Charlotte gold coinage. Winter noted that only seven or eight examples from the original mintage of 9,803 coins grade better than EF. He stated that this issue "is very difficult to find choice. Any strictly EF or better example is a legitimate rarity. Only one strictly Mint State coin is known."

Further, Walter Breen commented in his *Encyclopedia* "Untraced Uncirculated; prohibitively rare AU; Extremely rare EF, usually comes VF or worse with weak 8 and LL." The offering of the present coin, therefore, is an extraordinary opportunity for the specialist. It is interesting to note that Harold Bareford was enamored by the strike exhibited, for on his original collection envelope that accompanies this lot is the notation "numerous die lines or suction marks. Full struck date. The only 1855-C I have ever seen so."

In their catalogue of the Harold S. Bareford Collection, Stack's noted: "Brilliant Uncirculated. Frosty mint bloom with delicate coppery overtones. The reverse, as usual, is better struck than the obverse but it is, by far, better than normally encountered. The clash marks are lightly in evidence. The planchet is excellent and overall it is a very attractive coin. The date is fully struck up. Of the four Mint State specimens recorded by Akers, we've sold three of them. This is the best of all and it could probably be the 'Finest Known.' Ex David Bullowa, October 10, 1951."

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-61 finest).

Light obverse and reverse clash marks.

The term "suction marks," used by Harold Bareford, reflected state of the art knowledge in the 1940s and 1950s. Indeed, in 1950 Milferd H. Bolender frequently the term in his book on early silver dollars 1794-1803. Over two decades earlier, M.L. Beistle, in his book on early half dollars, used the term *akcidefect marks*. Today, the term *clash marks* supercedes all of these. Simply stated, the expression refers to artifacts left on the die surfaces when obverse and reverse dies came together in the coining press without an intervening planchet. Certain details of the obverse die were transferred in mirror image to the reverse die, and vice versa.

Three pairs of dies were shipped from Philadelphia, including obverses, as the earlier styles were no longer usable. Apparently, two obverse dies were employed and but a single reverse, that having the mintmark in a very small letter.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 30. Formerly from David Bullowa, October 10, 1951.

Outstanding 1855-C Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

99 **1855-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Another important example of this very rare issue, far finer than normally encountered [see comments above]. Considerable reflective lustre, in fact nearly full. Considerable planchet roughness is noted, as struck. A light vertical scratch is noted on the Indian. Typical weakness (normally encountered on authentic pieces) includes flat hair details, weak 8, and missing LL.

PCGS Population: 4; 5 finer (MS-61 finest).

Light reverse clash marks.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of November 1972, Lot 1057.

(2X photo)

100 **1855-C VF-35.** A third example of this rare Charlotte Mint issue, this having deep orange-gold surfaces with typical surface roughness as normally encountered. The strike is actually slightly nicer than normally seen. A few very minor surface marks are noted. Overall, nicer than most survivors.

Light obverse and heavy reverse clash marks.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, September 24, 1970.

101 **1855-C Net VF-25;** sharpness of VF-35 with a slightly wavy planchet. A few minor surface imperfections are noted as well. Very sharply struck for this issue with full 8 and LL. An important opportunity. This is the fourth (and final) 1855-C gold dollar in the present sale. Now one might be tempted to believe that this is a plentiful issue, however, such is not the case. In the nine-year period from 1988 to 1997. only 78 auction appearances occurred, an average of less than eight per year. The present sale does give collectors a choice of quality and ample opportunity to acquire an example.

Light obverse and faint reverse clash marks.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Lovely Mint State 1855-D Gold Dollar

Extremely Rare Such

Finest Certified

Possibly Finest Known

102 **1855-D MS-62 (PCGS).** An amazing example of this very rare issue, one of just 1,811 coins struck, the only Dahlonega Mint gold dollar of the small Indian Head design. Very sharply struck with reflective medium yellow gold and faint traces of pinkish orange toning. Although slightly weak hair details above the eye are noted, the strike is much better than usually seen. Extremely important is the strong date with *full, sharp digit 8.*

Douglas Winter noted: "A high-grade example of this issue with above average eye appeal is almost unheard of." In *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint,* Winter also noted that an MS-62 example, certified by PCGS, and residing in the North Georgia Collection was the only known Mint State example, that coin being plated in his book. The present example, another Mint State coin and also PCGS-certified MS-62, appears to have a nicer strike and probably qualifies as finest known.

The specialist is advised to discard all conventional wisdom concerning price levels and to "go for it!" Otherwise, a generation of collectors may come and go without a comparable opportunity.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Microscopic horizontal and diagonal striae are noted on both obverse and reverse. Heavy obverse and reverse clash marks. Dahlonega and Charlotte gold dollars of this era have many interesting idiosyncrasies—these giving each issue a "personality" all its own.

Purchased from Manfra, Tordella, and Brookes, December 10, 1974.

Desirable 1855-D Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

103 **1855-D AU-53 (PCGS).** An attractive, sharply struck example of this very rare issue. Light greenish gold with choice surfaces and considerable lustre. Just 1,811 coins were struck, the sixth lowest mintage of any gold dollar issue. The other five include 1856-D, 1860-D, 1861-D, 1875, and 1880. Douglas Winter noted: "The 1855-D is the second rarest Dahlonega gold dollar and the rarest in high grades. It is very desirable as it combines genuine rarity in all grades with its status of being the only Type II gold dollar produced at this mint." Although, based on condition, this example is only in the middle of all survivors, based on surface quality and aesthetic appeal, this coin ranks near the top of the pack.

Light obverse and heavy reverse clash marks.

From Stack's sale of March 1973, Lot 744.

Lustrous 1855-O Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

104 **1855-O MS-60.** A lovely example with slightly reflective greenish gold lustre and considerable eye appeal. Very sharply struck with full hair details and sharp wreath details. This wonderful coin is one of only two branch Mint Type II gold dollars that is reasonably attainable in Mint State, although someone having this on a want list may have to wait a year or two or three for a piece of this quality.

Purchased from Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, February 15, 1973.

Another Lovely 1855-O Gold Dollar

105 **1855-O AU-58 (PCGS).** Very pleasing light yellow gold lustre with a whisper of faint orange. Very sharply struck, in fact, one of the sharpest strikes we have seen on a Type II gold dollar. An ideal candidate for a type set.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 23, 1970.

Prooflike 1856-S Type II Gold Dollar

Finest Certified

(2X photo)

106 **1856-S Type II. MS-63 (PCGS).** Repunched 6 in date. This variety was not recorded by Breen and we can't recall seeing this described in past literature. Fully prooflike bright yellow gold surfaces with few very minor abrasions or imperfections. Extremely sharp strike with all obverse and reverse details boldly defined. The Normal S and Doubled S varieties are approximately equal in rarity, both varieties being scarce, but neither is a major rarity.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Purchased from R.E. Wallace, April 25, 1978.

Desirable Mint State 1856-S Gold Dollar

Small Indian Head

Type II

(2X photo)

107 **1856-S Type II. MS-61 (PCGS).** Normal 6 in date. Bright yellow gold with above average design details. The obverse has frosty lustre and the reverse is prooflike. Highly attractive and quite desirable. The opportunity to bid on a single Mint State example of this issue seldom occurs. Offerings of more than one Mint State coin must be regarded as quite unusual.

PCGS Population: 4; 5 finer (MS-63 finest).

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 24, 1971.

Lustrous 1856-S Gold Dollar

Only Type II Issue of the Year

(2X photo)

108 **1856-S Type II. Breen-6045. Double S. AU-58 (PCGS).** A wonderful example of this popular issue, the only Type II gold dollar issue minted in 1856 and the only coin of this design produced in San Francisco. Adding to the overall interest is the prominent doubled mintmark. Slightly reflective bright yellow gold with nearly full mint lustre and extremely sharp design definition.

The obverse has two sharp die cracks.

From Lester Merkin's sale of February 1972, Lot 330.

109 **1856-S Type II. Breen-6045. Double S. EF-40.** Sharply struck and attractive with minor surface marks. A pleasing candidate for the date, type, or variety collector.

The obverse has two sharp die cracks.

110 **1856-S Type II. EF-40.** Normal 6 in date. A delightful example with very pleasing light greenish gold surfaces.

From Lester Merkin's sale of February 1972, Lot 329.

Selection of Gold Dollars

111 **Selection of gold dollars from 1856 intermittently to 1874:** ☆ 1856 Upright 5 (2). MS-60 and EF-40 ☆ 1856 Slanting 5. (2). EF-45 and EF-40 ☆ 1857 (4). EF-45 (3) and another EF-40 ☆ 1874 AU-55. LIBERTY on Headband (2) ☆ 1874 MS-60. Only L on Headband. Bent. Each pieces displays some original mint lustre. (Total: 11 pieces)

Gem 1856 Gold Dollar

Slanted 5 in Date

(2X photo)

112 **1856 Type III. Slanted 5. Breen-6047. MS-65 (PCGS).** A gem example with frosty bright yellow gold lustre. Although not fully struck, most details are quite sharp. A coin with wonderful aesthetic appeal. Debut of the large Indian head, the design that would finish the series in 1889. This is a rather plentiful issue, however, still scarce in gem condition and in demand by first year type collectors.

Diagonal striae are noted on the obverse, seemingly indicating a very early strike from this die. As a die was used, the striae or die finish lines tended to wear away.

Purchased from George Stroup, February 29, 1972.

113 **1856 Type III. Slanted 5. Breen-6047. MS-63.** Sharply struck with frosty deep yellow gold lustre. The surfaces are very nearly flawless, a lovely example.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, May 7, 1969.

Extremely Rare 1856-D Gold Dollar

Low Mintage of 1,460 Pieces

A Dahlonega Mint Classic

(2X photo)

114 **1856-D AU-55 (PCGS).** Light greenish gold with considerable remaining lustre. Quite sharply struck with minimal surface abrasions. Some areas along the edge have flattened or missing edge reeding. Just 1,460 coins were struck, among the lowest mintages of any gold dollar issue. The obverse has the letter U almost missing, a characteristic of all genuine 1856-D gold dollars.

At the time of mintage, no pieces were saved by numismatists. The coins slipped into circulation, and over a period of years most became lost. Today only a few dozen are believed to exist.

The Philadelphia Mint shipped three pairs of 1856-D dies to Dahlonega on March 11, these being received on April 15, a transit time of three weeks. As had been the case in 1855, obverse dies were no longer usable from earlier times, as the design had changed. The reverse die known to have been employed has an upright 5 in the date; presumably the other two dies did as well, but this is not known.

Only 1,460 1856-D gold dollars were minted, and most have long since disappeared. The number known can only be estimated, but may well be fewer than 20 to 30. By any standard, here is a major American rarity, and yet the 1856-D has received very little publicity. This may be its own fault, simply from the lack of available specimens in any grade coming onto the market. And, when they do, the typical piece, showing extensive wear, is not apt to cause a great deal of excitement to anyone except a specialist or a knowledgeable collector. Be that as it may, the 1856-D today is truly rare, but is usually available at a price less than the more often seen 1860-D and 1861-D. (Of course, the 1861-D has its own story to tell and cannot really be a part of this comparison).

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Wonderful Gem 1857 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

115 **1857 MS-67 (PCGS).** A superb example with bright and frosty yellow gold lustre and virtually flawless surfaces. This wonderful example has the crisp, brilliant appearance normally associated with Mint State coins of the 1880s. Gem examples of this coinage issue are seldom encountered.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-68).
Light clash marks on obverse and reverse.
Purchased from Malcolm Varner, April 21, 1972.

116 1857 MS-62. Sharply struck with attractive light yellow gold lustre.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 24.

(2X photo)

117 **1857-C EF-45.** Light greenish gold with considerable remaining lustre. Light planchet porosity is noted, apparently as struck. This example survives from an original mintage of 13,280 coins. A scarce coin in any grade. Douglas Winter suggests that only 100 to 110 coins survive, with only 10 to 13 examples better than EF-45.

1857-C is important as the first Charlotte issue of the Type III design, none having been coined in 1856. By this time the demand for the gold dollar denomination must have been small, perhaps due to the proliferation of pieces made in the same state by Bechtler. Whatever the indication, those depositing gold bullion called for higher denominations during this era, most often the half eagle. As it developed, no gold dollars were struck in 1858 either.

Among 1857-C gold dollars there are three die varieties, each of which has a significantly larger mintmark than seen on the next earliest issue, the 1855-C.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA Sale, August 1968, Lot 1447.

118 1857-C Net VF-20; sharpness of EF-40, however, bent with minor rim marks. Light greenish gold surfaces.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1688.

Wonderful 1857-D Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

119 **1857-D AU-58 (PCGS).** A lovely example of this very scarce Dahlonega gold dollar, typical weakness being demonstrated on both sides, however, this is much sharper than often seen. Both obverse and reverse have full denticles with only those at the top reverse being weak. Nearly full lustre is retained with slight reflectivity. This example is among the very finest known with possibly only six or seven finer examples surviving.

When offering this coin in 1985, Paramount provided very similar comments: "Extremely well struck for the issue; in fact, this is at least as sharp as any 1857-D we've seen. The planchet and lustre are also outstanding and the coin shows just a hint of friction in the fields and on the highest points of the design. Overall, this specimen is one of the best, if not the very best, 1857-D gold dollars that we have ever seen or handled."

The mintage of the 1857-D was but 3,533 coins, sufficiently low to automatically create a rarity. Add to that the neglect by numismatists and others of Dahlonega Mint coins and factor in the high grade of the present piece, and all elements combine to create another Dahlonega Mint classic.

Light reverse clash marks with a thin die crack above the wreath.
From Paramount's Auction '85 sale, July 1985, Lot 1371.

Second Desirable 1857-D Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

120 **1857-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Another exceptional example of this prized issue. Slightly weaker than the lot above, however, retaining nearly full light greenish gold lustre. Very choice, nearly flawless, surfaces for the grade. The opportunity to bid on two exceptional examples of this rare issue very seldom occurs.

Light reverse clash marks with a thin die crack above the wreath.
Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Finest Certified 1857-S Gold Dollar

Choice Mint State

(2X photo)

121 **1857-S MS-63 (PCGS).** This rarity displays exceptional deep yellow gold prooflike lustre with very few microscopic abrasions. This is almost certainly the finest known example among the few survivors from a mintage of just 10,000 coins. Sharply struck with superb aesthetic appeal. Only the fifth 1857-S gold dollar certified Mint State by PCGS, and considerably underrated in today's market.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Light obverse and reverse clash marks.

One of our methods used by the present cataloguer (Mark Borckardt) to determine if a particular date is fairly priced, underrated, or overrated is to determine how much money would be required to purchase the entire population of a given issue compared to others of the same design type. We quickly examined the Type III gold dollars from 1856 to 1862 based on PCGS population and *Coin World Trends* and discovered that this issue is fourth on the list of the most underrated. The following listing indicates these four (with total *Trends* value for the entire Mint State population) along with the single overrated issue: 1856 Upright 5 ($16,300); 1860 ($32,415); 1857-C ($36,750); and 1857-S ($38,500). Compare this to 1862 ($801,300)!

From Mid-American's sale of August 1991, Lot 616.

122 **1857-S AU-50.** This scarce issue is seldom encountered in AU grade. Light yellow gold with sharp design details. An attractive example.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 17, 1971.

123 1857-S EF-40. Light greenish gold with minor surface depressions on the obverse.

From Superior's sale of the Davenport Collection, February 1977, Lot 617.

Lovely Proof 1858 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

124 **1858 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A wonderful cameo Proof in brilliant greenish yellow gold. Sharply struck. Light hairlines and surface abrasions are noted but are only a minor inconvenience. A very pleasing example of this Proof rarity, one of only 10 to 12 examples known. Walter Breen, in his *Proof Encyclopedia*, was only able to trace nine examples with the present coin not on the list. A few marks keep this from the Proof-65 category. This lovely piece, pleasing in appearance and extreme in rarity, is among the finest of only 10 or 12 pieces known.

In 1858, Proof gold coins could be ordered singly from the Mint. There are no records as to how many were sold, but perhaps the figure is fewer than 20. Often a span of *years* will pass between our offering an example in one of our sales.

From Stack's ANA Sale, August 1976, Lot 2733. This specimen was acquired by the Museum of Fine Arts many decades ago.

125 1858/7 Breen-6055. MS-62. "Overdate." Sharply struck with a few very minor surface marks, including a thin vertical scrape below the bust.

Walter Breen described this variety as an 1858/7 overdate. If this is the coin he recorded from a "Texas private collection," it is not an overdate. The small defects around the digit 8 are from clashed dies.

Breen, in the assigning of the *overdate* descriptor to dies, Walter Breen often seemed to add a generous amount of wishful thinking and imagination. In general, we tend to be more conservative. This saves having to de-list varieties at a later date. Today, in 1999, the record, if examined carefully, shows quite a few overdates that have fallen from grace, including the 1869/8 Indian cent and the 1889/8 half dollar, to mention just two. Of course, when a variety is indeed an overdate, then it is quite important. However, in the gold series there do not seem to be quite as many overdates as are listed in the Breen *Encyclopedia*.

From Lester Merkin's sale of February 1972, Lot 331.

Mint State 1858-D Gold Dollar

Condition Census

(2X photo)

126 **1858-D MS-62 (PCGS).** Frosty light yellow gold with a trace of deeper yellow toning. A relatively sharp strike with light abrasions. Microscopic striae provide for slightly reflective characteristics. Weakness is noted on the hair beneath the headband, the second and third feathers, and the digit 5 in the date. Despite the relatively high population, this example was specifically listed third in Douglas Winter's Condition Census of 1858-D gold dollars.

PCGS Population: 5; 6 finer (MS-65 finest).

Light clash marks.

The Philadelphia Mint shipped three pairs of 1858-D dies to Dahlonega in December 1857, these being received on January 6. Mintage amounted to 3,477, but distribution had to have been different than with 1857-D, for today the 1858-D, while scarce in its own right, is significantly more available than its 1857-D counterpart.

As such the presently offered Bass Collection 1858-D would be a good consideration not only for the specialist but, in a more expanded sense, for an interesting addition to a type set of U.S. coins by design—to illustrate the Type III motif.

From Mid-American's sale of August 1991, Lot 618.

Scarce Mint State 1858-S Gold Dollar

Finest Certified

(2X photo)

127 **1858-S MS-63 (PCGS).** Satiny orange-gold lustre with a few very minor hairlines and other imperfections. Sharply struck and quite attractive. David Akers noted that strictly Uncirculated examples of this issue are "all but nonexistent." Just 10,000 coins were minted; Breen noted these are extremely rare in Mint State. The present coin is probably one of the finest known, even finer than the Eliasberg Collection AU-55 example.

There are many treasures in the Bass Collection, many Condition Census and finest known pieces. However, among these, the present 1858-S must rank high in terms of true rarity that is not widely appreciated. This may be a once in a lifetime opportunity.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Reiterating earlier comments, population numbers *may* indicate duplicate submissions of the same piece.

From Paramount's Auction '86 sale, July 1986, Lot 1853.

Lovely Cameo Proof 1859 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

128 **1859 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold cameo Proof with deep mirrored fields and frosty devices. A delightful presentation. A few minor hairlines and other defects are present, however, these are quite minor. Extremely sharp impression with all details bold. Probably fewer than 20 Proofs of this date survive. A fantastic gem, a highlight among 19th-century Proof gold coinage.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Julian Marks Collection, October 1971, Lot 1599.

129 1859 MS-62. Sharply struck with frosty deep yellow gold lustre. A few minor marks are noted, otherwise an attractive example.

Purchased from Rarcoa, July 24, 1972.

130 **1859-C EF-45.** Bright greenish gold surfaces with considerable remaining lustre. Lightly brushed at one time. Slight surface roughness is noted, as struck. Low mintage of 5,235 coins. Douglas Winter described this issue as a "sleeper" among Charlotte Mint gold dollars. The 1859-C is the swan song of the Charlotte Mint issuance of this denomination.

Planchets were produced at the Charlotte Mint by casting gold into ingots, then running the ingots through a rolling mill, reducing the spacing between the rollers several times until the acquired thinness was obtained. It would be interesting to study a number of Charlotte Mint gold dollars to see if any of the planchet defects are repetitive; that is, if they are found in the same pattern on more than one coin. If so, this would indicate rust or problems on the steel rollers. Otherwise, the problems were probably mainly due to annealing and lamination.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Wonderful 1859-D Gold Dollar

Most Beautiful Known?

(2X photo)

131 **1859-D MS-62 (PCGS).** Brilliant orange-gold with nearly full reflective lustre on the obverse; frosty reverse. Very sharply struck with superb surfaces for the grade. Light die polishing lines are visible on the reverse. This is possibly one of the sharpest 1859-D gold dollars in existence. Although this is the most common Type III gold dollar from the Georgia mint, very seldom are survivors located with as much aesthetic appeal. A coin can have a high grading number but rank in the cellar in aesthetic appeal. The present coin has both and may be the "nicest" or "most beautiful" 1859-D gold dollar in existence.

PCGS Population: 7; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

Very light clash marks.

Sometime after January 6, 1859, the Dahlonega Mint received a shipment containing two die pairs for use this year. Subsequently, 4,952 pieces were struck. Every known 1859-D gold dollar is weakly struck, a hallmark, of course, for the entire Dahlonega Mint run, but especially notable for this date. By way of reinforcement, we note that David Akers states: "A collector must be willing to accept one that is poorly struck since that is the only way the 1859-D comes." Probably 150 to 250 examples survive, making this fairly plentiful in terms of Dahlonega Mint gold dollars of the Type III style, but on an absolute basis, especially in comparison to other United States coins of the era, it is still a rarity.

Purchased from Joe Flynn, Sr. Coin Co., July 31, 1973.

A Second Lovely 1859-D Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

132 **1859-D AU-55 (PCGS).** Light greenish gold with sharp design details and very pleasing surfaces. A small rim nick is noted at 8:00 on the reverse.

Light clash marks.

Purchased from Rarcoa, February 1972, Lot 713.

A Third 1859-D Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

133 **1859-D AU-55 (PCGS).** A third desirable example of this issue. Light greenish yellow gold. Not as sharply struck as the others in the present sale, however, still a very attractive example of this low-mintage issue. Just 4,952 coins were struck. A few light hairlines are noted, although the surfaces are very pleasing.

Minor die polish lines are visible on the reverse.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 554.

Important Mint State 1859-S Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

134 **1859-S MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous brilliant yellow gold with very pleasing, choice surfaces. Only 15,000 were struck with very few survivors as nice as this example. In 1985, Paramount described this as the best example they had seen. We tend to agree with this assessment. We do not recall having previously handled a strictly Mint State example of this issue. Considerably scarcer than generally believed.

PCGS Population: 3; 7 finer (MS-63 finest).

From Paramount's Auction '85 sale, July 1985, Lot 1379.

Lovely 1859-S Gold Dollar

135 **1859-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Another important example of this i sue with considerable remaining lustre and sharp design d tails. Had we not just offered the previous higher quality e ample, we would be tempted to offer this as one of the fine we recall handling.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Gem Proof 1860 Gold Dollar Rarity

Finest Certified

(2X photo)

136 **1860 Proof-66 (PCGS).** A delightful cameo Proof in ligh greenish gold. Sharply struck with deep mirrored fields an highly lustrous devices. A few minor planchet imperfection and minuscule abrasions are noted. An important opportunity for the connoisseur. 154 Proofs were minted, however, only a small portion of these survive today, perhaps fewer than 3 coins.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Marks Collection, October 1971, Lo 1600.

Choice Mint State 1860 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

137 **1860 MS-64.** A highly lustrous brilliant yellow gold example of this low-mintage issue, one of 36,514 coins struck. We noted earlier under our commentary concerning the 1857-S gold dollar that the 1860 in Mint State is severely undervaluated and under appreciated. Be sure to bid accordingly. Boldly defined design details with very minor hairlines, otherwise, pristine surfaces. Superb aesthetic appeal; a candidate for the collector of high quality gold dollars or type coins.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1649.

Rare Mint State 1860-D Gold Dollar

Probably Second Finest Known
Dahlonega Mint Classic

(2X photo)

138 **1860-D MS-61 (PCGS).** Slightly reflective lustre showing rich yellow gold surfaces and only a few very minor abrasions, most notably a light scratch from eye to earlobe. Average strike with some weakness in the usual spots including the hair below headband, top of feathers, and date. The obverse and reverse borders are weak and show some roughness as struck. This coin is listed at the top of Douglas Winter's Condition Census for the date, however, he notes he had not actually seen the coin. With a finer example graded by PCGS, this is probably second finest known for the issue, although the other piece should be examined side by side with the present one to determine which has the finer combination of high grade *plus* aesthetic appeal.

Whenever gold dollars are discussed by date and mintmark, the 1860-D is a subject of conversation. Indeed, this is one of the great classics among Dahlonega issues.

PCGS Population: 7; 1 finer (MS-63).

The 1860-D has been very famous for a long time. Only one die variety is known, this from two pairs of dies shipped. Interestingly, the same obverse die was used the next year, to strike 1861-D gold dollars. All authentic 1860-D gold dollars are weakly struck in areas, including the U in UNITED. Planchets are of very poor quality. Thus, when seen, the 1860-D is the archetype of a Dahlonega Mint issue—just what one would expect in terms of rusticity.

The number known from the small original production of 1,566 can only be estimated, but is higher than the figure indicates, probably somewhere in the range of 50 to 100 pieces. For one reason or another, an aura has surrounded the 1860-D for a long time. Most probably this has to do with auction catalogue descriptions and other notations in print (it might be an interesting exercise for someone to review historical auction catalogues and see how the 1860-D compares with the rarer and almost ignored 1857-D)

Notwithstanding the preceding, the piece is indeed a classic, and probably will always remain that way.

From Stack's sale of December 1972, Lot 507.

Important Mint State 1860-S Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

139 **1860-S MS-63 (PCGS).** Light pinkish yellow gold lustre with minor surface marks, none serious. Very sharp obverse details, not as sharp reverse definition. Although only 13,000 were minted, this issue is not as rare as earlier San Francisco Mint gold dollars. Still scarce, however.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 1, 1972.

Another Mint State 1860-S Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

140 **1860-S MS-60.** Bright yellow gold lustre with minimal surface marks, although a small patch of brush marks in the left obverse field must be mentioned. Considerable aesthetic appeal makes up for this impairment.

Purchased from Robert Hughes, August 24, 1978.

141 **1860-S AU-55.** Sharply struck with deep yellow gold lustre. Minor brush marks are noted. An attractive example of this western issue.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1712.

142 **1860-S AU-53.** A final example with considerable light yellow gold lustre and pleasing surfaces. The opportunity to bid on four different 1860-S gold dollars at one time is very important. This is your last chance to fill this hole in your cabinet.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, May 3, 1973. Formerly from the Murrell Collection.

(2X photo)

143 **1861 MS-64.** A lovely example with bright and frosty yellow gold lustre. Very minor planchet roughness is noted, as struck. Generally very sharp design definition although IC on the obverse and 86 on the reverse are weak. The surfaces are virtually flawless, a pristine example for the date or type collector.

Light obverse and reverse clash marks.
From Stack's sale of October 1971, Lot 701.

(2X photo)

144 **1861 MS-64.** Another lovely Mint State example with frosty light yellow lustre. A few minor abrasions are in the right obverse field as well as on the reverse. Very sharply struck. The reverse is rotated 180°.

Moderate obverse and reverse clash marks with a bulge at TE in STATES.
Purchased from Joe Flynn Rare Coins, March 6, 1978.

145 **1861 MS-63.** A delightful example with frosty bright yello gold lustre and few minor abrasions. Sharply struck.

Heavy obverse and reverse clash marks.
Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

146 1861 MS-62. Satiny medium gold lustre with minute surfac roughness.

Heavy obverse and reverse clash marks.
Purchased from Mike Brownlee, April 17, 1967.

147 1861 MS-62. Lustrous orange-gold with minor abrasions. A attractive choice for the date or type collector.

Heavy obverse and reverse clash marks.
From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lo 1650.

148 1861 MS-62. Lustrous light yellow gold with minor surfac marks.

Heaviest clash marks of any 1861 gold dollar in the current sale. Promi nent bulge at lower obverse.
Purchased from Rarcoa, July 24, 1972.

Amazing Mint State 1861-D Gold Dollar

Unknown Mintage

Struck under Confederate Authority

149 **1861-D MS-62 (PCGS).** Truly an issue of the Confederacy and should be collected as such. This example is bright greenish gold with full frosty lustre. Strike typical of all known examples, UN and ICA on obverse are weak. In fact, the U in UNITED is almost entirely invisible. The reverse periphery is quite weak opposite these letters. A few very minor surface imperfections are noted, however, the overall quality is much higher than most. A small number of Mint State coins are known with this example being among the top four in the Condition Census. All 1861-D gold dollars, with an estimated mintage of 1,000 to 1,500 coins, were struck after Confederate authorities seized the facility in April 1861. They were inexperienced in minting processes and produced low-quality coinage. And still this coin has considerable aesthetic appeal. Another great treasure from the Bass Collection.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

Light reverse clash marks.

Of all gold coins in the American series, we can not think of a single issue that has more history and romance than the 1861-D gold dollar. Its story, recounted in the introduction to the present Dahlonega Mint gold coin offering, is marvelous to contemplate. In reiteration and slight expansion, two pairs of dies were sent to Dahlonega on December 10, 1860, without realizing that Georgia would be seceding from the Union within the month. The package arrived on January 7, and following instructions from the governor of Georgia, troops seized the mint. What happened after that time is not known, as no records are known to have survived. Apparently a small quantity of gold bullion was on hand, or perhaps some deposits were made. In any event, dies for the 1861-D were put into a coining press, and some pieces were run off. As there had been no 1861-D coinage prior to the occupation of the mint by Georgia forces, de facto all 1861-D gold dollars are really 1861-D Confederates States of America gold dollars. The pieces are believed to have been struck in April (Doug Winter suggests May), the same month that Confederate troops took over from their brethren, the troops of Georgia. How many pieces were struck? No one knows. Guesses have ranged from a few dozen to a few hundred to over 1,000. David Akers gives his estimate as 1,200 to 1,500 pieces. The present catalogue is comfortable with a comment such as "in the 1,000 range." Perhaps 30 to 60 specimens are known of the 1861-D gold dollar, possibly from a mintage even below 1,000, as the numismatic significance of the 1861-D was known at a fairly early date, and such pieces may have been saved at a time when other gold dollars were not.

The presently offered coin, significantly finer than the beautiful AU-55 we offered last year in the Columbia Collection, will be a centerpiece in the cabinet of its fortunate next owner.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

(2X photo)

150 **1862 MS-64.** Frosty light yellow gold abounds. A wonderful example with extraordinary design details and superb surfaces for the grade. Only a few very faint hairlines keep this out of the gem classification.

After December 28, 1861, the Treasury Department stopped paying out gold coins at par. Later, such pieces could be obtained, but only by paying a substantial premium for them in terms of Legal Tender or other federal "greenback" notes. Today, in 1999, a fair number of Mint State 1862 gold dollars survive. While the circumstances of issue are not known, it may be the case that in the 1862 year, when widespread hoarding of coins became endemic in the Eastern and Midwestern sections of the country, there was a rush to buy gold dollars from the Treasury Department, paying the aforementioned premium. No doubt there was some psychological comfort in having coins of gold in an era in which paper money showed signs of becoming king. As circumstances developed, it was not until December 17, 1878 that, *de facto*, greenbacks, silver dollars, and gold dollars were on a par with each other, this being about two weeks in advance of the date for same as mandated for Congress, January 1, 1879.

At that latter time, in late 1878, long-stored gold coins came forth from Treasury vaults. We are not certain that included large quantities of gold dollars, but probably at least some were released. From that time onward, although such pieces were supposed to trade at par, and higher denomination gold coins did, contemporary records reveal that there was a slight premium typically paid to bank cashiers and others when gold dollars were purchased. As such, they became a mini-speculation. As subsequent quantities of gold dollars were struck, 1879 through 1889, they seem to have been released through banks, but again the banks, whose personnel were wise to market considerations, often demanded and got a small premium.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

151 **1862 MS-63.** Another delightful example of this Civil War issue, this having brilliant frosty yellow gold lustre.

Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, April 17, 1967.

152 1862 MS-62. Frosty light yellow gold lustre with minor hairlines. Considerable aesthetic appeal.

From New Netherlands Coin Company's 61st Sale, June 1970, Lot 440.

Lovely Mint State 1863 Gold Dollar

From Proof Dies

(2X photo)

153 **1863 MS-63 (PCGS).** Prooflike. Highly attractive satiny yellow gold lustre, deeply reflective on the reverse. A few minor surface marks are visible, along with lint marks as struck. Considerable striae are noted as well. Sharply struck from dies described by Walter Breen as used for Proofs and for business strikes. This example has die polish below the ear, a characteristic that Breen noted for Proofs. Although we consider this a business strike, we suggest that each prospective bidder come to his or her own conclusion. This issue marks the beginning of a series of scarce Civil War and post-Civil War issues. Just 6,200 business strikes and 50 Proofs were minted.

Gold dollars of the years from 1863 through and including 1878, excepting 1873 and 1874, range from scarce to rare. In particular the dates of the mid 1860s were considered to be rarities years ago, and numismatists desired them with great fervor. Pieces that came to market typically showed wear and graded EF or AU. Only occasionally was a Mint State piece found. Today in 1999, the concept of *foundational rarity* is overlooked by buyers, who instead concentrate on high grading numbers. For many buyers, particularly newcomers to the hobby, a common date gold dollar with some extraordinary number attached to it would be more desirable to own than a truly rare gold dollar—such as a Charlotte or Dahlonega piece or, for that matter, an 1863—in AU grade or low Mint State. We suspect that in the long term *foundational rarity* will again come to the forefront, and the purchaser of an item such as this 1863 gold dollar will particularly and comfortably enjoy its ownership.

Purchased from Rarcoa, July 24, 1972.

Another Mint State 1863 Gold Dollar

Business Strike Dies

(2X photo)

154 **1863 MS-62 (PCGS).** This wonderful Mint State example displays satiny light yellow gold lustre. Numerous minor abrasions as expected for the grade. Sharply struck. From dies described by Breen as used for business strikes with the date positioned farther left than on the previous lot. An important offering for the specialist.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Rare Mint State 1864 Gold Dollar

Late Die State

(2X photo)

155 **1864 MS-63.** Brilliant, frosty yellow gold lustre with sharp design details and minor surface marks. A scarce Civil War business strike, seldom offered on the market. Late die state which Breen stated is quite rare.

Obverse cracked from the border between AT to the first feather.

In 1864 just 5,950 business strike gold dollars were made. As noted earlier, these were not paid out at par at the time, and thus there was no demand for them for use in circulation. Rather, the pieces were probably struck and stored or, in some instances, were made available as souvenirs by those who cared to pay a premium. Later, after 1889, most were melted.

From Stack's sale of March 1973, Lot 768.

156 **1864 MS-62.** Sharply struck with prooflike light greenish gold fields and lustrous devices. Light hairlines and minor surface marks are noted, along with light striae.

Light rust marks are noted on the Indian's cheek.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 20, 1972.

157 **1864 AU-58 (PCGS).** Light orange-gold with a trace of green. Moderately abraded surfaces. A scarce issue, another specimen remaining from just 5,950 business strikes minted.

Light clash marks.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Prooflike Mint State 1865 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

158 **1865 MS-65 (PCGS).** A highly attractive example of this rare date with full prooflike obverse and reverse fields. The devices are frosty with considerable cameo contrast. A few minor hairlines are noted, including a small area just below the ends of the branches. Possibly struck as a Proof, however, Proofs and business strikes are from the same pair of dies and distinguishing one from the other can be quite difficult. Offered by Stack's in 1973 as "Brilliant Proof," and we have no particular quarrel with this—we invite prospective bidders to form their own opinion and take their choice.

John Dannreuther is intently and intensely studying the gold dollar series and plans to write a book on the subject. No doubt when published, information will be available that is not widely known now. In particular, minute die varieties will be discussed, and new conclusions will be drawn that are in many instances different from conventional wisdom.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 1970.

Lustrous Mint State 1865 Gold Dollar

Important Pedigree

(2X photo)

159 **1865 MS-65 (PCGS).** A lovely Mint State 1865 gold dollar with satiny bright yellow gold lustre. Unquestionably a business strike and a delightful example at that. This Civil War issue certainly has very few, if any, peers. A small depression at the first L in DOLLAR may be a result of clashed dies rather than later impairment. This point on the reverse approximately lines up with the earlobe on the obverse.

Moderate obverse and reverse clash marks.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 48. Formerly from B. Max Mehl's sales of the William A. Knapp Collection, March 1945, Lot 886, and the Will W. Neil Collection, June 17, 1947, Lot 2314.

Another Mint State 1865 Gold Dollar

160 **1865 MS-62 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with reflective lustre and moderate abrasions, none serious, however. Sharply struck. The present offering of high quality 1865 gold dollars provides the date collector or specialist with ample opportunity to acquire a nice example.

Perfect dies.

The offering of Mint State 1865 gold dollars in the present sale is no doubt unprecedented. We haven't checked each and every auction listing throughout history, but from memory we can recall nothing similar. The production this year was just 3,700 business strikes, most of which have disappeared. Today, only a few hundred pieces exist.

From Paramount's sale of the Davies and Niewoehner Collections, February 1975, Lot 464.

161 **1865 AU-58.** Sharply struck with reflective light yellow gold surfaces. Minor hairlines and other imperfections are noted, including a small planchet flake on the obverse below ER. Possibly struck as a Proof.

From Stack's sale of the Forrest Collection, September 1972, Lot 51.

162 **1865 AU-55.** Considerable greenish yellow satin lustre with minor surface marks as expected. Light pinkish toning adds to the overall aesthetic appeal.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1655.

Rare Proof 1866 Gold Dollar

Just 30 Examples Minted

(2X photo)

163 **1866 Proof-63 (PCGS).** A glittering Proof of light yellow gold with considerable cameo contrast. Minor hairlines and other small abrasions are expected for the grade. A few nearly horizontal die lines are visible at the top of the obverse. Just 30 Proofs were minted with perhaps half that number surviving today. Walter Breen noted in his *Encyclopedia* that Proofs have the top of the wreath joined while business strikes have the wreath separated. In the present sale, however, both the currently offered Proof and the business strike in the next lot have the wreath joined at top.

Whether or not the tips of the wreath are joined or separated has nothing to do with a change in the design or even a slight variation. Rather, the master die had the wreath tips joined. If impressed to less than its deepest extent into the working die, certain low-relief features on the master die would not be transferred to the working die, and the wreath might appear open on such a working die. Alternatively, a working die that was deeply impressed by the master die and which had the tips joined, could have the tips later separated if it was relapped, that process causing the grinding away of lower relief features. It is seen in the latter instance that a given die could exist in two different states—with tips joined and with tips separate, if the die was relapped after some use. These same general comments can be extended to the $3 gold series as well, that denomination having a similar reverse design.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, October 5, 1967.

Gem Mint State 1866 Gold Dollar

Incredible Beauty, Incredible Rarity

(2X photo)

164 **1866 MS-67 (PCGS).** A lovely gem example with fully prooflike orange-gold fields, lustrous devices, and considerable cameo contrast. This is a very scarce issue, one of just 7,100 business strikes produced, if this is a business strike. According to Walter Breen, this gem is from the Proof reverse die with top of wreath joined. We feel that it is a business strike issue although others may feel differently. In either scenario, the importance of this offering cannot be overstated.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, September 23, 1972.

Lovely Mint State 1867 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

165 **1867 MS-64 (PCGS).** Prooflike light orange-gold with moderate cameo contrast, a delightful business strike. Minor abrasions and hairlines are noted along with diagonal striae. This is a very scarce issue, one of just 5,200 business strikes minted.

From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 58.

Another Mint State 1867 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

166 **1867 MS-63.** Brilliant reflective deep yellow gold with lustrous devices. Very similar to the previous lot with light hairlines and abrasions, along with diagonal striae. An important offering providing specialists with a choice. The opportunity to bid on multiple examples of the many rare dates in the gold dollar series occurs very infrequently. The present sale, for example, has four different 1867 gold dollars, a situation almost unheard of.

Obverse and reverse clash marks.

From Paramount's Auction '79 sale, July 1979, Lot 205.

167 **1867 MS-60.** A third Mint State 1867 gold dollar, this example with reflective prooflike surfaces. Numerous hairlines are mixed with striae, these features almost indistinguishable.

Moderate clash marks.

Purchased from Joe Flynn, Sr. Coin Co., December 13, 1972.

168 **1867 AU-55.** Sharply struck in light greenish yellow gold, lightly cleaned at one time.

Moderate obverse and reverse clash marks.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Choice Proof 1868 Gold Dollar

Just 25 Proofs Minted

(2X photo)

169 **1868 Proof-63 (PCGS).** A wonderful light yellow gold Proof with sharp design details and moderate cameo contrast. A few light hairlines are noted. Medallic die alignment, the reverse is rotated 180°. This is one of just 25 Proofs minted, with less than 20 surviving today. An important opportunity for the specialist.

Top portion of the wreath shows considerable polished die surface.

Purchased from Strauss Coin Co., December 13, 1971.

Gem Mint State 1868 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

170 **1868 MS-65 (PCGS).** A superb example of this scarce low-mintage issue, surviving from an original production of just 10,500 business strikes. Satiny bright yellow gold lustre with cameo contrast between fields and devices. A delightful example with considerable aesthetic appeal. A splash of coppery orange toning is noted on the reverse.

From Paramount's Auction '85 sale, July 1985, Lot 1388.

Lovely Mint State 1868 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

171 **1868 MS-64 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with lustrous bright yellow gold surfaces, frosty in nature. A few minor hairlines and other imperfections are noted, however, none of these are serious. A wonderful example of this scarce issue.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1658.

Another Choice Mint State 1868 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

172 **1868 MS-63.** A pleasing example with subdued reflective yellow gold fields and frosty devices. Quite attractive despite moderate abrasions.

Purchased from Rarcoa, July 24, 1972.

Desirable Proof 1869 Gold Dollar

25 Proofs Minted

(2X photo)

173 **1869 Proof-64 (PCGS).** An attractive cameo Proof with orange-gold surfaces. Minor surface marks and hairlines are noted, and mentioned for accuracy. Just 25 Proofs were struck on February 19, 1869, with 5,900 business strikes minted four days earlier.

PCGS Population: 6; none finer.

Purchased from Rarcoa, July 24, 1972.

Gem Mint State 1869 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

174 **1869 MS-67 (PCGS).** A wonderful brilliant and frosty yellow gold dollar. Sharply struck with considerable aesthetic appeal. Quality-wise certainly one of the highlights of the present offering of gold dollars from the Bass Collection.

PCGS Population: 8; none finer.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, May 7, 1969.

Lovely Mint State 1870 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

175 **1870 MS-67 (PCGS).** A very scarce issue, one of just 6,300 business strikes minted. Highly lustrous bright yellow gold with virtually flawless surfaces. A few light die lines are visible on the reverse. Very slightly recut 0 in date.

From Stack's sale of October 1971, Lot 710.

(2X photo)

176 **1870 MS-63 PL.** Reflective prooflike surfaces with numerous hairlines and other scattered marks. Very sharply struck and quite attractive despite the surface impairments.

From Stack's sale of December 1972, Lot 519.

177 **1870 MS-62.** A third Mint State 1870 gold dollar, this sale features one multiple after another. This example is sharply struck with frosty medium yellow surfaces and very few minor impairments. An attractive type coin.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Important Mint State 1870-S Gold Dollar

Lowest San Francisco Mintage

(2X photo)

178 **1870-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Satiny lustre with very light yellow gold surfaces. Minor abrasions and hairlines are noted. This is an aesthetically pleasing example. A rarity among coins of this denomination with the lowest mintage of any gold dollar emitted from the San Francisco Mint. Just 3,000 were struck with perhaps 40 to 50 survivors remaining today, according to Walter Breen. Of course, he suggested that some additional examples exist in the form of jewelry coins. This example is certainly among the very finest of all survivors.

Walter Breen reports that two earlier dies for the 1870 coinage were sent to San Francisco in December 1869 from the Philadelphia Mint (where all dies, including those for branch mints, were made), but inadvertently lacked the S mintmark. Subsequently, two more reverse dies, these with the appropriate S mintmark, were shipped from Philadelphia and received in San Francisco on May 28.

In addition to its other attributes, the 1870-S is remarkable and interesting as the only mintmark variety in the gold dollar series after 1861.

From our sale of the Marks Collection, November 1972, Lot 979.

Rare Business Strike 1871 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

179 **1871 MS-64.** Nearly fully prooflike with light cameo contrast. Minor hairlines and surface marks are noted.

Although sharply struck and resembling a Proof at first glance, this rare gold dollar (mintage: 3,900) has die characteristics normally associated with business strikes. These include die file lines at DOL on the reverse. A diagonal die line through O of DOLLAR is noted on the next lot as well.

From Rarcoa's sale of February 1972, Lot 720.

Another Choice Mint State 1871 Gold Dollar

From the Miles Collection

(2X photo)

180 **1871 MS-64.** Brilliant, frosty yellow gold lustre with sharp design details and considerable eye appeal. Certainly among the finest of survivors of this low-mintage date. In 1968, Stack's described this as "a lovely First Strike."

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 60.

Rare Mint State 1872 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

181 **1872 MS-63 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with prooflike fields and cameo devices. A business strike, in our opinion, despite the appearance of a Proof at first glance. This is one of just 3,500 minted.

From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 65.

182 **1872 MS-60.** Light yellow gold with considerable reflective lustre. An attractive example of this scarce issue.
Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Mint State 1873 Gold Dollar

Closed 3 in Date

(2X photo)

183 **1873 Closed 3. MS-60.** An attractive Mint State example of this rarity. Light greenish gold with minor hairlines, probably once cleaned. The gold dollars of this variety have the digit 3 completely closed, with the upper and lower loops joined. This is a very rare variety with just 1,800 business strikes (Walter Breen's estimate) minted before the new Open 3 date logotype was placed in use.
From Superior's sale of the Ruby Collection, February 1974, Lot 1687.

184 **1873 Closed 3. AU-58 (PCGS).** Light cameo contrast with reflective prooflike fields. Sharply struck and quite attractive. Minor hairlines and other abrasions keep this out of the higher numeric grades. A long vertical die line is noted on the Indian's neck.
From Stack's sale of December 1972, Lot 523.

185 **1873 Closed 3. AU-58 (PCGS).** A very attractive example with fully frosty, bright yellow gold lustre. A few very minor scratches and hairlines are noted. An unprecedented third 1873 Closed 3 gold dollar. When was the last time that happened?
From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 45.

(2X photo)

186 **1873 Open 3. MS-64.** This and the next few lots provide a brief intermission between two long series of scarce and rare gold dollar issues beginning again in 1875. Of course, with a mintage of just 123,300 coins, the 1873 Open 3 gold dollar is not exactly a common date. Brilliant light yellow satin lustre with few very minor hairlines. A lovely coin for the date or type collector; one for the connoisseur.
From Stack's ANA Sale, August 1971, Lot 1931.

187 **1873 Open 3. MS-63.** Brilliant yellow gold with reflective, prooflike surfaces. A few minor surface marks and planchet imperfections keep this out of the gem classification.
From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1969, Lot 387.

188 **Trio of 1873 Open 3 gold dollars:** All are graded MS-62 with pleasing yellow gold lustre. (Total: 3 pieces)
Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967

(2X photo)

189 **1874 MS-64.** With a mintage of 198,800 coins, this is the highest mintage of any issue from 1863 to the end of the denomination in 1889. Rich deep lustrous yellow gold lustre with considerable aesthetic appeal.

Light obverse and reverse clash marks.

In 1873-1874 the Treasury Department contemplated paying out silver and gold coins once again, and some silver coins were paid out beginning in the former year. It could have been that fairly large quantities of gold dollars were minted in 1873 and 1874 to provide for this procedure. However, while silver dollars were paid out in small numbers at the time (not in substantial quantities until April 20, 1876), gold coins remained sequestered until 1878.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1664.

190 **1874 MS-63.** Another desirable Mint State example with light yellow gold lustre.
Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

191 **1874 MS-63.** Light yellow gold with slight reflective prooflike lustre providing moderate cameo contrast. Most delightful.
From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 287. Obtained as a Proof, this is an exceptionally deceptive early strike, doubtless very rare.

192 **1874 MS-63.** A lovely gold dollar with brilliant, frosty light yellow gold lustre. A few very minor imperfections are noted in the surface, however, this example has considerable aesthetic appeal.
Purchased from Malcolm Varner, June 13, 1973.

193 **Pair of Mint State 1874 gold dollars:** ☆ MS-62 PL. Brilliant. Only LI shows in LIBERTY ☆ MS-62. Brilliant and lustrous. Full LIBERTY on headband. (Total: 2 pieces)

Extraordinary 1875 Gold Dollar

Prooflike Mint State
Rarest Philadelphia Mint Gold Dollar
An American Classic

(2X photo)

194 **1875 MS-65 (PCGS).** A fully prooflike gem in orange-gold with considerable cameo contrast. Very few minor surface imperfections are only visible with magnification, and most of these are tiny planchet flakes as minted. Very sharply struck and extremely attractive. This is an old friend which we sold to Harry Bass over 26 years ago. This is an important year for gold coinage, the various coining facilities concentrating on the large double eagles. The amazing offering of a duplicate specimen in the following lot provides the opportunity for an expanded discussion of this landmark date.

PCGS Population: 6; 1 finer (MS-66).

Purchased from Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, February 28, 1973.

Prooflike 1875 Gold Dollar

Just 400 Minted
A Key to the Series

(2X photo)

195 **1875 MS-65 (PCGS).** Production of gold dollars in 1875 was limited to just 400 business strikes and an additional 20 Proofs. This light greenish gold jewel has fully mirrored fields and lustrous devices. An attractive cameo. Although, in the past, most business strikes have been sold as rare Proofs, these business strikes are more plentiful. Of course, with a mintage of just 400 coins, even business strikes are important rarities. Walter Breen suggested that business strikes outnumber Proofs by a margin of two to one. If this is correct, there are only 30 to 40 business strikes in existence and 15 to 20 Proofs. These estimates seem about right. The table below illustrates the business strike gold production for the year. In addition, 20 Proofs were struck at Philadelphia for each denomination.

A small spine, or thorn, down from the Indian's chin positively identifies this as a business strike, this per long-published conventional wisdom.

Denomination	$1	$3	$2.50	$5	$1	$2
Philadelphia	400	0	400	200	100	295,740
Carson City	0	0	0	11,828	7,715	111,151
San Francisco	0	0	11,600	9,000	0	1,230,000

From Paramount's Auction '85 sale, July 1985, Lot 1397.

Choice Proof 1876 Gold Dollar

Only 45 Proofs Minted

(2X photo)

196 **1876 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A delightful cameo Proof with deep reflective fields. Lustrous devices display bright yellow gold. All design details are sharp and the surfaces show very minor imperfections as struck. This is a very rare issue in Proof quality with 30 to 35 survivors. Business strikes are also quite rare. However, the entire issue resides in the shadow of the 1875 coins and therefore is rather underrated.

A short die line through the right base of the first A in AMERICA almost reaches M and is diagnostic of Proofs, according to Walter Breen.

Purchased from Strauss Coin Co., December 13, 1971.

(2X photo)

197 **1876 MS-64.** A lovely prooflike business strike with considerable cameo contrast. From a different obverse die than the Proof without the die line through the base of A toward M. Sharply struck with considerable aesthetic appeal. The surfaces are very nearly flawless. Just 3,200 were struck, of which probably no more than several hundred survive in various grades.

From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 70.

198 **1876 MS-63 PL.** We have categorized this as a business strike even though it is from the obverse die Breen attributed to Proofs. Full prooflike surface with lustrous, cameo devices. A very attractive example regardless of how it was struck. We suggest prospective bidders examine this choice gold dollar and make their own determination. In time, the forthcoming book on gold dollars by John Dannreuther will no doubt illumine the situation.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

199 **1876 MS-63.** An exquisite jewel with satiny bright yellow gold lustre and only a trace of reflective surfaces. Unquestionably a business strike.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of December 1969, Lot 377.

200 **1876 MS-62.** An attractive bright yellow gold example with frosty lustre and a touch of very pale orange toning.

Superb 1877 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

201 **1877 MS-66 (PCGS).** Amazing quality for the grade level. Lovely bright orange-gold lustre, reflective fields with frosty cameo devices. The business strike mintage this year continued at the low-production trend, and only 3,900 were struck. This was two years before gold dollars became a popular item for hoarding. Thus, only a few high grade Mint State pieces have.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1668.

202 **1877 MS-63.** Another bright yellow gold coin with reflective light greenish gold lustre. An aesthetic treat, a coin for the connoisseur.

203 **1877 MS-62 PL.** A further lovely example with reflective lustre and a few minor marks.

From Superior's sale of December 1972, Lot 1875.

204 **1877 MS-62.** Reflective light yellow gold with minor surface marks. Another desirable example of this scarce low-mintage issue.

From Stack's sale of May 1971, Lot 1201.

(2X photo)

205 **1878 MS-64.** A delightful example of this scarce issue, one of just 3,000 struck. Frosty bright yellow gold lustre with very choice surfaces. Light die lines fill the interior spaces of the final 8. Last year of the *really rare* business strike gold dollars.

Purchased from Strauss Coin Co., December 13, 1971.

206 **1878 MS-62.** Reflective brilliant yellow gold with very minor surface marks. A lovely example with very minor hairlines and other abrasions. Final digit 8 filled with minuscule die lines.

Purchased from Strauss Coin Co., December 13, 1971.

207 **1878 MS-60.** A third opportunity to acquire a nice Mint State example of this scarce issue. Sharply struck with lightly reflective surfaces. Final digit 8 filled as previously.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

(2X photo)

208 **1879 MS-64 (PCGS).** A wonderful gold dollar with fully reflective obverse fields and lustrous devices, the reverse having frosty light yellow gold lustre. A scarce issue with just 3,000 struck. Ever popular due to the low mintage, although not a great rarity today.

Beginning in 1879, gold dollars became a very popular speculation with the general public. At the same time, in late autumn of the year, trade dollars were also widely sought for investment purposes. While the trade dollar "bubble" petered out in 1980, gold dollars remained popular through the late 1880s. In some instances, customers of banks would place orders to be transmitted to the Treasury Department to obtain quantities, this procedure said to have been followed by T. Harrison Garrett and/or others involved with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad for the gold dollar dates 1879-1881. Documentation is scarce, and theories are abundant, so we may never know the exact truth. However, dealers were fond of calling the attention of collectors to the low mintages of the era (see note under Lot 235), this being particularly true of the silver denominations, but to an extent including gold dollars as well.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

209 **1879 MS-64.** Another delightful Mint State example, this having brilliant, frosty light yellow gold lustre. Sharply struck and with very few minuscule abrasions. Ever popular due to the enticingly low business strike mintage figure of 3,000 pieces.

Purchased from Rarcoa, July 24, 1972.

Choice Proof 1880 Gold Dollar

Just 36 Struck

(2X photo)

210 **1880 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A glittering jewel with sharp design details and bright yellow gold Proof surfaces. A few very minor hairlines and surface abrasions keep this out of the gem category. Two small coppery orange spots are noted on the reverse. Just 36 Proofs were struck with 20 coined on February 14 and the other 16 late in September, according to Mint records reported by Walter Breen in his *Complete Encyclopedia.*

This lovely coin begins an offering of eight individual 1880 gold dollars. At least this one example is a Proof with the balance being either frosty or prooflike business strikes. We will make our best attempt at distinguishing between the methods of manufacture. Walter Breen noted in his *Proof Encyclopedia:* "The coins of this date are enough to give a conscientious cataloguer or authenticator nightmares, ulcer attacks, and premature gray hair. Proofs and many business strikes come from the same dies, and most of the extant business strikes come from brilliantly polished dies on polished blanks!"

PCGS Population: 6; 1 finer (Proof-65).

Walter Breen noted the following die characteristics for Proofs: No die file marks at ATES, upper (horizontal) serif of 1 (in denomination) below adjacent leaf tip, wreath tips join.

This example meets these criteria as do four other examples to follow, including both examples with frosty lustre and mirrored prooflike surfaces. Therefore, all we can deduce from Breen's descriptions is that if an example does not match all of these characteristics, it is not a Proof.

Determination between Proofs and prooflike business strikes becomes a matter of examination of strike, surface quality, and other traits common to all Proof coins.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 1997.

Gem Mint State 1880 Gold Dollar

Frosty Lustre

(2X photo)

211 **1880 MS-65.** A lovely gem with sharp design details and brilliant, frosty mint lustre. Virtually pristine surfaces with the same die characteristics described by Breen for Proofs.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

Superb Mint State 1880 Gold Dollar

Frosty Mint Lustre

(2X photo)

212 **1880 MS-65.** A wonderful, lustrous example with brilliant yellow gold surfaces. Minuscule surface abrasions are noted along with small splashes of coppery orange toning. From Breen's Proof dies.

From Superior's sale of the Ruby Collection, February 1974, Lot 1696.

Gem 1880 Gold Dollar

Proof Dies

Frosty Lustre

(2X photo)

213 **1880 MS-65.** A superb example with brilliant and frosty yellow gold lustre and some splashes of coppery orange toning. Nearly flawless surfaces with considerable aesthetic appeal. From Breen's Proof dies yet unquestionably a business strike.

Purchased from Rarcoa, August 23, 1973.

214 **1880 MS-64 PL.** A lovely bright yellow gold cameo gold dollar with deep mirrored fields and highly lustrous devices. A prooflike business strike, based on Walter Breen's analysis, even though this looks just like the Proof offered as Lot 210. The obverse has die file lines through ATES, clearly suggesting business strike status. A small sliver of dark toning is present on the reverse rim at 1:00.

Again we note that much research has yet to be published concerning Proofs vis-à-vis business strikes in the gold series. The present Bass Collection catalogue contains much hitherto unpublished information, and the forthcoming volume by John Dannreuther will take a seven-league stride in this direction.

From Lester Merkin's sale of June 1972, Lot 354.

215 **1880 MS-64 PL.** Fully prooflike bright yellow gold surfaces with lustrous, cameo devices. A few very minor surface impairments are noted including a dark spot behind the lower hair curls. From the same dies as described by Breen for Proofs, however, we do not believe this example actually is a Proof. Certainly, each individual bidder should arrive at his or her own conclusion.

Purchased from Rarcoa, July 24, 1972.

16 **1880 MS-64 PL.** A wonderful prooflike cameo with sharp design details struck in bright yellow gold. A coin of considerable aesthetic appeal. With the die file lines through ATES common to business strikes of this issue. The fields are not quite as deeply mirrored as on others in the present offering.
Purchased from Se Ro Coins, Inc., May 15, 1971.

17 1880 MS-62. A pleasing example with satiny, reflective surfaces and light pink and lilac toning. Quite attractive despite a few minor hairlines and other abrasions.
Purchased from Se Ro Coins, Inc., May 15, 1971.

Superb Mint State 1881 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

18 **1881 MS-67 (PCGS).** This superb gem has satiny, reflective lustre with pristine surfaces. Highly lustrous bright yellow gold with very sharp design details. Certainly one of the finest survivors from a mintage of just 7,620 coins. Although several examples of this issue are offered in the present sale, all of the 1881 gold dollars appear to be unquestionable business strikes, but we certainly invite any interested bidders to a "Proof price" if they disagree!
From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Julian Marks Collection, October 1971, Lot 1605.

Lustrous Gem 1881 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

19 **1881 MS-67 (PCGS).** An incredible gem with brilliant, frosty orange-gold lustre and surfaces that define perfection. Very faint hairlines on the cheek keep this out of the superb gem classification.
From Abner Kreisberg's sale of November 1972, Lot 1071.

Gem Mint State 1881 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

220 **1881 MS-66 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with brilliant, satiny yellow gold lustre; very slightly reflective in nature. Another wonderful example with virtually perfect surfaces.
From Lester Merkin's sale of June 1970, Lot 637.

Frosty Gem 1881 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

221 **1881 MS-65.** Brilliant yellow gold with frosty mint lustre and only a few very minor surface abrasions. A lovely, high-quality example.
From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 82.

222 **1881 MS-64.** Sharply struck with reflective, almost prooflike, yellow gold surfaces. A very pleasing example.
Purchased from Strauss Coin Co., December 13, 1971.

223 **1881 MS-63 PL.** Bright yellow gold, very slightly subdued on the reverse. Reflective prooflike lustre adds to the overall appeal of this choice coin.
From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 70.

Gem Mint State 1882 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

224 **1882 MS-65.** Very sharply struck with frosty brilliant yellow gold lustre and considerable vivid orange toning, primarily on the obverse. Pristine surfaces.
Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

225 **1882 MS-64.** Satiny yellow gold lustre with very choice surfaces. A delightful example with very minor hairlines and other abrasions.

Purchased from Rarcoa, July 24, 1972.

226 **1882 MS-63 PL.** Prooflike deep yellow gold surfaces with minor hairlines and other surface marks, none serious although a small scrape is noted left of the date.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1673.

Lovely Proof 1883 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

227 **1883 Proof-64.** Pedigreed to the Garrett Collection, part of a set of gold Proofs of this year. When Stack's offered this coin in 1976, the cataloguer stated simply: "Brilliant Proof, a lovely specimen struck in deep yellow gold. Very few appearances in the past ten years." Today in 1999, the same comment is appropriate—although, of course, the 10-year period in question is different.

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 481.

Gem Mint State 1883 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

228 **1883 MS-65.** Sharply struck with reflective, satiny yellow gold lustre. An attractive business strike with pristine surfaces. Borders are slightly granular as usually seen on business strikes.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1967, Lot 397.

(2X photo)

229 **1883 MS-64.** Light orange-gold with soft frosty lustre. A fe minor hairlines are visible on the reverse. The borders ha the typical granular appearance of business strikes.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, L 1675.

(2X photo)

230 **1883 MS-64.** Brilliant, frosty light yellow gold lustre with sha design details. A few very minor abrasions are noted. The bo ders are clean, without the roughness seen on some exampl of this issue.

Light reverse clash marks.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 21, 1971.

(2X photo)

231 **1883 MS-64.** Satiny light yellow gold with sharp design detai and few very minor imperfections.

From lapped dies with considerable detail polished away. Only the L LIBERTY is visible, for instance.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 1, 1972.

232 **1883 MS-63.** Moderately reflective light yellow gold with m nor hairlines and other imperfections, including planche striations on the obverse. This latter characteristic was a resu of the minting process.

From Stack's sale of February 1972, Lot 609.

33 1883 MS-62. Light yellow gold with reflective surfaces. Minor hairlines and other imperfections are noted.

Lapped obverse and reverse dies.

From Stack's sale of May 1972, Lot 1583.

Choice Proof 1884 Gold Dollar

Repunched Date

(2X photo)

34 **1884 Proof-66 (PCGS).** The date is sharply repunched with the original date placement slanting sharply up to the right, the original digit 1 almost 50% below the final placement. Breen described this, in his *Complete Encyclopedia,* as a Proof-only variety.

PCGS Population: 6; none finer.

Although Walter Breen described this variety with sbarply doubled date as only known in Proof, the present sale has two other examples, both frosty Mint State coins.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Marks Collection, October 1971, Lot 1607.

Gem Mint State 1884 Gold Dollar

Repunched Date

(2X photo)

35 **1884 MS-65.** Reflective, satiny bright yellow gold lustre with pristine surfaces and considerable eye appeal. An example of the repunched date variety that Walter Breen considered to be Proof only, however, this example is not a Proof, in our opinion.

In 1884 Ebenezer Locke Mason, Jr., one of several dealers in the active community in Philadelphia, published on several occasions that no business strikes would be produced this year, and that the entire mintage would be limited to Proofs. During the same era he was quite cognizant of the low published mintage figures of certain other coins, and for his customers and for investors made up sets of low-mintage dimes, quarters, and half dollars. The Mint was very cozy with information it gave out in advance (prior to the publication of the *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint*), and many misleading statements reached the ears of collectors and dealers. This was in the twilight time of Mint fooling around, which seems to have begun in a significant way in late spring 1859, and the administration of James Ross Snowden, and to have ended by summer 1885. In the meantime, "official" information disseminated by the Mint, including by James Ross Snowden, Archibald Loudon Snowden, William E. Dubois, Dr. Henry R. Linderman, and Patterson Dubois is laced with lies, omissions, and misleading information.

In particular, W.E. Dubois, an accomplished writer and high-level numismatist, is viewed as being particularly deceptive, as what he committed to print was often true and often contained information not hitherto known. However, it also contained deliberate falsehoods, not identified as such.

All of this is of no particular concern today except to scholars, as few care whether or not mintage figures were absolutely accurate, or whether restrikes were made, or whether certain insiders at the Mint obtained special pieces that were not available to the general public. Today, coins are most often considered on their availability—how many exist in a different grade and format. However, we find it interesting to explore the past and to sort out, as best we can, nuances in the comments of Mint officials and favored outsiders (the latter including William K. Idler and John W. Haseltine in particular). By the way, the same sort of thing still continues. We recently read a column by David L. Ganz in which he stated that this past summer 12 *gold* strikings of Sacagawea dollars were produced and sent aboard the Space Shuttle in July. As of the time the present catalogue is being written, collectors have no way of obtaining these unless they pay a hefty price to a lucky recipient. The most honest, direct action of the Mint would be to make such new gold coins available to any and all comers at a modest price. But, we digress. Back to our listing of remarkable gold dollars...

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 1, 1972.

236 **1884 MS-64.** Brilliant satiny yellow gold with a slightly prooflike appearance. An attractive business strike example.

Light obverse and reverse clash marks.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of November 1972, Lot 1074.

237 **1884 MS-63 PL.** A lovely example of Breen's repunched date variety, with considerable prooflike lustre, a business strike in our opinion, but considered by other experts to be fully *Proof.* Catalogued by Superior in 1973 as: "Only 1,006 pieces struck in Proof condition. Tiny planchet flaw below Liberty's chin. Brilliant Proof." We take no *firm* stand on this, and invite bidders to classify the issue as they wish.

From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 86.

238 **1884 MS-63.** Another example of Breen's repunched date variety, this having reflective satiny surfaces and minor abrasions.

From Stack's sale of DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 585.

239 **1884 MS-63.** Sharply struck in bright yellow gold with reflective surfaces and minor imperfections. A lovely coin with considerable eye appeal.

Light obverse and reverse clash marks.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 50.

240 **1884 MS-63.** Deep yellow gold with reflective, satiny lustre. Very sharply struck. The reverse has a toning spot at 10:00 with a few tiny scratches. Repunched date variety.

Purchased from Abe Kosoff, July 23, 1973.

241 1884 MS-62. Reflective bright yellow gold with minor hairlines and abrasions.

Light obverse and reverse clash marks.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 15, 1967.

Gem Mint State 1885 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

242 **1885 MS-65.** This lovely prooflike business strike has lightly reflective mirrored fields and lustrous bright yellow devices. Pleasing surfaces with wonderful aesthetic appeal.

The obverse has a die crack from the top of Liberty's forehead to D in UNITED. A bulge in the field is located above this crack.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2006.

(2X photo)

243 **1885 MS-64.** Reflective bright yellow gold surfaces with minor abrasions. Sharply struck and attractive.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 586.

244 **1885 MS-63.** Brilliant yellow gold with a few minor imperfections, including a small scratch along the reverse border.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1967, Lot 398.

245 Pair of 1885 gold dollars. Both are graded MS-62 with strong mint lustre. (Total: 2 pieces)

Desirable Proof 1886 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

246 **1886 Proof-65 (PCGS).** This sharply struck choice Proof has deeply mirrored fields and lustrous light yellow gold devices, a wonderful cameo. Clearly a Proof with wavy surfaces normally associated with 19th-century Proof gold.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2007.

Gem Mint State 1886 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

247 **1886 MS-66 (PCGS).** Superb satiny yellow gold lustre wit sharp design details and superb aesthetic appeal. An impo tant business strike example. Over the years we seem to hav had relatively few business strikes of the 1886 date. Perhap they were not as subject to speculative interest as the others, o perhaps there is some other explanation.

PCGS Population: 8; 1 finer (MS-67).

Light reverse clash marks including those from LIBERTY at the dat which gives the appearance that the date has been recut.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 75.

248 **1886 MS-64.** Sharply struck with brilliant, satiny yellow gol lustre. A few minor abrasions are noted, none serious. A ver pleasing example.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

249 **1886 MS-63 PL.** Reflective greenish gold with traces of orang lustre. Minor hairlines and other surface abrasions are de tected.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lo 1678.

250 **1886 MS-63.** Pleasing light yellow gold lustre with satiny reflec tive surfaces. A few very small splashes of coppery orange ton ing are noted.

Purchased from Abe Kosoff, July 23, 1973.

Gem Proof 1887 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

251 **1887 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A lovely cameo Proof with bright yel low gold mirrored fields and lighter, cameo devices. Slightly wavy (or watery), fields; this characteristic common to Proofs of the era.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

2 **1887 MS-64.** Frosty orange-gold with very minor imperfections. Sharply struck with brilliant lustre. An attractive example of the date.
Purchased from Dan Brown, October 18, 1966.

3 **1887 MS-64.** A choice example of this issue, with orange-gold lustre. The surfaces are quite pleasing.
Purchased from Abe Kosoff, July 23, 1973.

Gem Mint State 1888 Gold Dollar

(2X photo)

4 **1888 MS-65.** A superb example, boldly struck with amazing frosty orange-gold lustre. The surfaces are very nearly flawless. A delightful example, a coin for the connoisseur.
From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1680

5 **1888 MS-64.** Reflective light greenish gold surfaces with a few very minor hairlines and other abrasions.
From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Marks Collection, October 1971, Lot 1612.

6 **1888 MS-63.** Brilliant and frosty pale yellow gold lustre with a few minor contact marks expected for the grade. A pleasing example.
Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

7 1888 MS-62. Frosty light yellow gold lustre with minor hairlines and other imperfections. A desirable example.
Purchased from Rarcoa, August 23, 1973.

(2X photo)

258 **1889 MS-64.** Final year of the gold dollar denomination. Very sharply struck with frosty bright yellow gold lustre. A few minor surface marks away from gem quality. Minor splashes of coppery orange toning especially noted on the reverse.
Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, February 24, 1967.

(2X photo)

259 **1889 MS-64.** Sharply struck with brilliant yellow gold lustre, frosty in appearance. A wonderful example destined to become part of a choice to gem date or type collection.
Light obverse and reverse clash marks.
Purchased from Superior, April 11, 1973.

260 **1889 MS-63.** A final example of the final year of issue, thus bringing the present offering of gold dollars to an end. Sharply struck with frosty light yellow gold and minimal surface abrasions.

This concludes what no doubt is the most remarkable offering of gold dollars in the history of American numismatics. Opportunities exist for the connoisseur and specialist to select rarities and landmark coins, for the type set collector to acquire high grade conditions of the three major designs, and for the average interested buyer to contemplate our descriptions and select upon this coin or that coin with a special appeal—whether it be rarity of grade, or fascination of die variety, or association with history.
Purchased from Edwin Shapiro, April 7, 1969.

QUARTER EAGLES 1796 ONWARD

The Bass Collection Quarter Eagles

A Memorable Offering

The present sale showcases gold $2.50 quarter eagles from 1796 to the 20th century. The early issues, 1796-1833, are duplicates—uniformly of outstanding quality—from the collection retained by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation. The Classic Head and Liberty Head dates and varieties represent the finest business strikes obtained by Harry Bass during three decades of collecting, less a few pieces retained by the Foundation for its type set. Many outstanding Proofs are also included in the present sale, although the primary offering of Proofs will be in the forthcoming Part III sale.

The present offering will be long remembered as the finest, most comprehensive offering of business strike Classic Head and Liberty Head quarter eagles ever to cross the auction block. With the later addition of certain rare Proofs in Part III (examples being 1863 and 1875), the listings will form an important part of numismatic literature.

The History of the Quarter Eagle

The first $2.50 gold pieces, or quarter eagles, bear the date 1796, these following the introduction of the $5 and $10 denominations the year before, 1795. For many years afterward 1796 the quarter eagle was the smallest denomination federal gold coin, a status it enjoyed until the advent of the gold dollar in 1849.

In America in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, most domestic commerce was conducted by credit, drafts, and currency. Gold coins seem to have played a relatively minor part, especially in districts away from the larger cities. Although foreign commerce was dominated by silver coins, especially Spanish-American eight-real "dollars," much trade, especially with Europe, was conducted with gold coins. Gold $10 eagles were the export coins of choice 1794-1804, but after that date, when $10 mintage was suspended (not to resume until 1838), the $5 became the largest gold coin of the realm. These were produced to the extent of many hundreds of thousands of coins.

Quarter eagles were betwixt and between. Too small for convenient use in the maritime and export trade, and not needed for everyday domestic transactions normally serviced by silver coins or paper obligations, the quarter eagle denomination was made intermittently and only in small quantities. Thus, we have coinage from 1796 to 1798 and again from 1803 to 1808, followed by a long hiatus until 1821. During the latter decade, coinage was continuous. Finally, in the 1829 the quarter eagle hit its stride. From that time until early in the 20th century, examples were struck each year. In some years the production was generous. In others it dropped to only a few thousand coins, or even less.

Finally, in 1929, quarter eagles were struck for the last time. By that year quarter eagles were not regularly seen in circulation, and all were considered to be somewhat scarce. In 19[illegible] 1934, when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued mandate that the public turn in gold coins to banks and to t Treasury Department, all quarter eagles were exempt from t edict on the grounds that they all had numismatic value. Ne ertheless, untold quantities went to the melting pot.

Numismatic Notes

Quarter eagles were made in several major design type Front row center in numismatic interest are the 1796 witho obverse stars and the 1808, as both are of designs that we produced only in their respective years. The formation of complete type set of the seven major quarter eagle designs do-able, but a challenge is mounted by the aforementione pair of rarities.

Quarter eagles form a very pleasing denomination to colle They are small enough to be "cute" and cameo-like, and y large enough to study the interesting design details that ma possess.

Moreover, the series has as many challenges as any in Ame can numismatics. Many dates and mintmarks are plentif enough if VF or EF in grade, but are world-class rarities if M 60 or finer. Nearly all of the early issues 1796-1834 fit into th category. Later, for a whole string of dates in the 1860s ar 1870s, choice and gem business strikes are harder to find tha Proofs—and the Proofs themselves are great rarities.

Charlotte and Dahlonega coins, discussed at some length i our introduction to gold dollars, are all scarce, and some a major rarities. All C- and D-mint quarter eagles are exceeding important if in a grade such as AU or Mint State. New Orlea coins are among those often made in fairly large quantities, b as few if any collectors bothered to save them, they are gre rarities in high grades today. The same can be said for near all of the San Francisco Mint quarter eagles, first minted i 1854 and last in 1879.

No important collection of quarter eagles was ever forme in a short time. However, with patience—and some good fo tune (such as the opportunities provided by our sale of th Bass Collection coins)—a beautiful cabinet can be gathered.

Type I

1796 Capped Bust Right, No Stars

It is believed—based upon estimates published by Walte Breen—that only 963 examples were struck of the first qua ter eagle. Interestingly, these were of a stand-alone design, motif that would be discontinued after these 963 coins le the press. Within these 983 there are two die varieties—tw different reverse dies differing from each other only b minute details.

Believed to have been designed by Robert Scot, the 179 quarter eagle features the capped head ("bust") of Miss Li erty facing right. The field is plain, save for the date 179 below the bust.

The reverse is of the Heraldic Eagle design similar to tha

ed on gold and silver denominations of the 1800 era. apted from the Great Seal of the United States, the center otif depicts an eagle with a shield on its breast, holding an ve branch and arrows in its talons, and in its beak a ribbon cribed E PLURIBUS UNUM. A galaxy of stars is above, with roup of clouds in an arc extending from one wing to the ner. The inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA surnds. There is no mark indicating the denomination.

Of the 963 pieces believed to have been minted, it has been imated by David Akers, a student of the subject, that perps as many as 30 to 40 survive today, although other estites have been lower, even in the range of 15 to 20 pieces, d others have challenged the 100 mark. Irrespective of ich estimate you choose, the 1796 quarter eagle is famous one of the most elusive and one of the most sought-after rly American gold coins. Most extant specimens are in ades from Very Fine to Extremely Fine, although a few gher condition examples exist. Curiously, the starless obverse ld and the cameo-like effect it gave to the portrait of Miss berty resulted in an inordinate number of these pieces being ed as jewelry. Thus, today it is not unusual to find examples at once had loops attached to the edge or which have been rnished. Complicating the ease of evaluating and comparing tings of quarter eagles of this design is the general practice grade these pieces liberally, and also the high rate of submissions to grading services. Under the latter procedure, half dozen listings in population reports might represent ly one different coin. The aspect of the unknown has always qued the imagination of numismatists. With the 1796 nors quarter eagle—more than for any other design type in the enomination—there are unanswered questions as to how any exist and how the grades of extant pieces are distributed.

Type II

1796-1807 Capped Bust Right, With Stars

Following the abbreviated production of only an estimated 63 1796 quarter eagles without obverse stars, the motif was odified to add stars in the field to the left and the right of the ead. New dies were used (rather than adding stars to the verse die already employed). The reverse continued the eraldic Eagle design adopted from the Great Seal.

While it is popular to assign all With Stars quarter eagles inted from 1796 to 1807 under the heading of a single type, would be more accurate to have multiple designations within is range. The number of stars and their placement vary from sue to issue. 1796 quarter eagles with stars have eight stars to e left and eight to the right, for a total of 16, while quarter agles of the years 1797 through 1807 have 13 stars arranged various ways. 1797 quarter eagles have seven stars to the left nd six to the right, while 1798 quarter eagles have six to the ft and seven to the right. 1802/1 quarter eagles have eight ft and five right. The year 1806 comes in two varieties, eight ft and five right as well as seven left and six right.

Relevant to the subject of types the reverse has not been onsidered thus far in this narrative, but, for starters, there are varieties with 13 reverse stars as well as varieties with 14. Doubtless it is the case that the 14-star reverse, well known for its use in 1804, was a diecutting anomaly or oversight, not an intended design revision.

However, increasing the number of 1706-1807 starred obverse types from one to at least six would have the unfortunate effect that a type set of American gold coins would be more difficult than ever to finish! As it is, the numismatic community seems satisfied with the status quo.

Taking all of the quarter eagles with obverse stars, 1796-1807, as a whole, the mintage amounted to 18,524, a paltry amount when it is considered that this includes different years and varieties. Thus, it is no wonder that each and every one of these coins is considered a rarity today, with the 1807 being the least difficult to locate, but still worthy of the rarity designation.

While a few Uncirculated examples are known of scattered dates, most quarter eagles known within this span grade from Very Fine to Extremely Fine, with Very Fine being the norm. In keeping with other gold coins, mint-caused planchet adjustment marks are often seen as are areas of light striking.

Type III

1808 Capped Bust Left

In 1808 John Reich redesigned the quarter eagle. In the previous year he had restyled the motif for the half dollar, creating what numismatists of a later generation would call the Capped Bust design. Now it was the quarter eagle's turn.

The diameter remained the same as earlier, 20mm, but the obverse and reverse motifs were changed. Miss Liberty now faces left, wearing a loose cloth cap secured by a band inscribed LIBERTY. Seven stars are to the left and six are to the right, and the date 1808 appears below.

The reverse depicts an eagle perched on an olive branch and holding three arrows. The motto E PLURIBUS UNUM is on a band or ribbon above. The inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the denomination 2 1/2 D are around the border. The denomination is stated for the first time on a quarter eagle.

The mintage figure of 2,710 on its own would suggest an item of great numismatic desire, but the demand for the coin as the only year of its design type has projected it into the first rank of popular rarities among American gold coins. It is believed that perhaps a few dozen exist, nearly all of which are in the grades of Very Fine or Extremely Fine, although at least two Uncirculated coins can be accounted for.

After 1808, quarter eagle mintage was suspended. It was not until many years later, in 1821, that the denomination was again struck, at which time a modified design was used.

Type III

1821-1827 Capped Head to Left

18.5mm Diameter

In 1821 quarter eagles were again struck. The diameter was reduced from the 20mm standard used 1796-1808 to just

18.5mm. The design features the Capped Head by John Reich, but now in smaller size, with modifications to the cap, Miss Liberty's neckline, and other features. Stars encircle the portrait except for the date area.

The reverse is similar to that of 1808 by John Reich, with a perched eagle, the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM above, and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and 2 1/2 D. at the border.

Both types have a motif similar to that used in 1808, except that the portrait of Miss Liberty appears smaller and is circled by stars. This general style was continued in use through 1834. Mintages in all instances were low, with the production of one variety, the 1826, estimated at just 760 pieces. The business strike mintage 1821-1834 totaled 42,065, and perhaps 100 to 150 Proofs were struck. During the entire production period of this design, such coins did not circulate at par, but traded at a slight premium. While many coins were exported and melted abroad, it is thought that most were melted domestically.

All quarter eagles of the 1821-1834 years are rare today. Most examples seen are in grades from Very Fine through AU, although scattered Uncirculated pieces have appeared at auction, as have a few Proofs. It is not unusual for an Uncirculated piece to have a prooflike surface.

Type IV

1829-1834 Capped Head to Left

18.2mm Diameter

The design of 1829-1834 is similar to that of 1821-1827 except that the date numerals, stars, and letters are slightly smaller. The rim appears more prominent. The entire effect is less delicate than that of the 1821-1827 years.

The design is properly attributed to John Reich, but with modifications by Chief Engraver William Kneass. A discussion of the rarity of the Type IV is included under Type III.

Type V

1834-1839 Classic Head

To permit gold coins to circulate at par—which had not happened since 1815—Congress reduced the authorized weight of the various denominations through the Act of June 28, 1834. On August 2, 1834, the new standard went into effect. For the quarter eagle the weight was reduced from 67½ grains to 64½ grains.

To readily differentiate the new coins from the old, the design was changed. Chief Engraver William Kneass created what is called the Classic Head today. The head of Miss Liberty faces left, her hair secured by a band inscribed LIBERTY, stars circling her head, and with the date below.

The reverse depicts an eagle with a shield on its breast, perched on an olive branch and holding three arrows. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and 2 1/2 D. surrounds. The motto E PLURIBUS UNUM, used on quarter eagles since 1796, was omitted. The diameter remained 18.2mm.

Mintage quantities were large in the first several years of the coinage span, with the high-water mark being 1836, wh 547,986 were struck. In 1838, quarter eagles were struck Charlotte for the first time, followed the next year by supp mentary coinage at Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orlea By far, the greatest number of 1834-1839 Classic Head qu ter eagles were produced at Philadelphia.

The total business strike mintage for 1834-1839 Classic He quarter eagles amounted to 968,228 pieces. Probably few than 50 Proofs were struck. Interestingly, the presentation co sets made in 1834 for the Sultan of Muscat and the King Siam each contained two Proof quarter eagles, one of the c style and one of the new.

After August 2, 1834, earlier gold coins continued to tra at a premium at specie and bullion dealers. The earlier, heav issues were referred to as "old tenor" in financial journals.

Examples of the Classic Head can be obtained readily grades from Fine through Extremely Fine. AU pieces a scarce, and Uncirculated pieces are scarcer yet. Superb Unc culated coins are very rare. Uncirculated pieces of the first ye of issue, 1834, often display prooflike surfaces.

The lowest mintage of the type was registered by the fi mintmark issue, the 1838-C, of which only 7,880 were struc Today, this variety is very scarce in any grade and very rare the AU level. The mintmarked issues of the next year, 1839- 1839-D, and 1839-O, are all scarce, with the typically encou tered grade being VF or, occasionally, EF. Any coin in AU finer grade is a rarity. At the time, the numismatic comm nity—consisting of no more than a couple hundred widely sc tered enthusiasts—took no note of mintmarks, and not ev the Mint Cabinet saved specimens.

Type VI

1840-1907 Coronet or Liberty Head

The Coronet *(Guide Book* preference) or Liberty Head Braided Hair style, by Christian Gobrecht, appeared on t quarter eagle in 1840 and was continued uninterrupted through 1907, the longest span in American coinage history a design in use without major change or alterations. The m tif was a latecomer to the quarter eagle denomination, a r lated motif had been used on the $5 beginning in 1839 and t $10 in 1838.

The obverse depicts Miss Liberty, her hair in a bun secure with a string of beads, wearing a coronet inscribed LIBERT facing left, her head circled by stars, and with the date belo

The reverse depicts an eagle with a shield on its brea perched on an olive branch and holding three arrows. Th inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 2 1/2 D. su rounds. The diameter was further reduced and now was set 18mm.

Throughout the coinage span 1840-1907 the Philadelph Mint produced pieces each year. In general, early examples a fairly scarce, with the 1841 in particular being a prime rarit The denomination was fairly popular in American commer until the end of December, 1861, when banks and the Treasu

ɔped paying out gold coins at par. After that time, until cember 1879, gold coins were available only at a premium erms of paper money.

After 1861, the coinage scene changed. The Charlotte and hlonega mints, now under the control of the Confederate tes of America, lapsed into inactivity. The New Orleans Mint longer struck coins, and would remain dormant until 1879, which time certain silver and gold coins were again struck— not quarter eagles. The Carson City Mint, opened for busi- s in 1870, struck gold and silver coins, but no quarter eagles.

Thus, of the Liberty Head quarter eagles, only the Philadel- a and San Francisco mints struck pieces after 1861. Curi- sly, the West Coast operated under a different monetary icy during the period 1862-1879, and gold coins were exten- ely used in circulation. It was a "hard money" society until 1870s, and Legal Tender, National Bank, and other federal tes, including Fractional Currency, were not used.

Liberty Head quarter eagles were minted at San Francisco til 1879, after which time production was limited to Phila- lphia. For the remainder of the 19th century, mintages ded to be small. Early in the 20th century, a demand arose the denomination, and over 100,000 were made of each ar 1902-1907.

During the years 1840-1907 the total business strike mintage the Coronet Head quarter eagle totaled 11,921,171. Produc- n hit a high point in 1853, a year in which gold from Cali- rnia was particularly abundant, and registered 1,404,668 ces at the Philadelphia Mint. Three other years accounted production of more than a million coins at Philadelphia: 51, 1852, and 1861.

Several other issues are remarkable for their extraordinarily w mintages, these being 1854-S (246), 1856-D (874), 1863 (30, Proofs), 1875 (420, of which 20 were Proofs), 1881 (691, of hich 51 were Proofs), and 1885 (887, of which 87 were Proofs).

Proof mintage for quarter eagles 1840-1907 totaled an esti- ated 4,200 to 4,350 coins.

The type set collector will encounter no difficulty in acquir- g a representative specimen in any grade desired from Very ne through AU. Uncirculated pieces are encountered with equency, particularly those of the final years of the type. perb Uncirculated pieces are available but are very scarce in lation to lower grades. Proofs were minted continuously, th the mintages crossing the 100 mark in later years, al- ough in most instances it seems that half or more of the roofs have disappeared or cannot be accounted for, this fig- e including coins that were struck, but not sold, and were bsequently melted at the Mint or put into circulation. All roofs are rare today, this being particularly true of pieces ading Proof-64 or finer.

Type VII

1908-1929 Indian Head

In 1908 numismatists were surprised by the advent of the ew quarter eagle and half eagle designed by sculptor Bela Lyon Pratt, for no advance notice had been released concerning them. A departure from the procedure used earlier in United States coinage, the new design features were recessed or incuse in the coins, with the field of the pieces, normally the lowest part, being the highest part.

The obverse of the Pratt quarter eagle, known as the Indian Head type, features an Indian chief facing left, with LIBERTY above, six stars to the left and seven to the right, and the date below.

The reverse shows an eagle perched on a branch or log, with UNITED STATES OF AMERICA above, E PLURIBUS UNUM to the left, IN GOD WE TRUST to the right, and the denomination expressed as 2 1/2 DOLLARS below. The design copies certain features employed on Saint-Gaudens $10 gold coins of 1907.

Examples were produced at the Philadelphia Mint from 1908 through 1915 and again from 1925 through 1929. Denver Mint pieces were produced in 1911, 1914, and 1925, with the 1911-D considered to be the rarity of the series. In 1929 quarter eagle coinage was suspended. Coins of the last several years did not circulate actively but remained in Treasury vaults. Most were melted during the 1930s.

Dies were very stereotyped, with nothing in the way of die differences except for the placement of the mintmark. Harry Bass found the Indian Head quarter eagles to be less than fascinating to study and collect, and, remarkably, did not acquire even some of the commoner issues. However, he did acquire one of the finest known specimens of the centerpoint to the series, a gem 1911-D.

Business strike mintage of the Indian Head quarter eagle totaled 7,250,261 pieces. Proofs were produced to the extent of 1,827 coins, during the years 1908-1915, all with a granular or satiny Matte Proof or Roman Finish Proof finish, depending upon the year.

The type set collector can easily find examples of the Indian Head quarter eagle in grades from Very Fine to AU. Uncirculated pieces are scarce, and superb Uncirculated pieces are very scarce. The scarcity of higher grade pieces is explained not by the mintages, which in most instances were generous, but by the format of the coin. The field of a typical coin, exposed to wear and other effects, acquired marks quickly, and even storage in a mint bag was apt to reduce the grade of a piece below the Uncirculated level.

Collecting Considerations

Quarter eagles were casually collected by numismatists in the 19th century, with most serious activity limited to the issues 1796-1834, which were recognized as being scarce and desirable. By the 1880s, when coin collecting became very popular, perhaps two or three dozen collectors ordered Proofs from the Philadelphia Mint each year, the number rising slightly by the end of the century.

Although occasional mention was made of Charlotte and Dahlonega branch mint coins in auction catalogues, by and large few people cared whether a given quarter eagle had a

C, D, O, or S mintmark, or none at all. In 1893, when Augustus G. Heaton published his treatise, *Mint Marks*, interest was still at a low ebb. In time, more collectors took note, especially during the period 1905-1915 when both Edgar H. Adams and William H. Woodin wrote extensively about gold coins. Before long, the hitherto overlooked 1854-S and the earlier unrecorded 1845-O attracted attention. The 1854-S remained a prime rarity, while dozens of additional specimens of the 1845-O came to light.

Gold coin collecting in America came of age in the 1930s. The calling-in of larger denomination gold by the government in 1933-4 increased interest in them, and many numismatists who had been acquiring other series turned their attention to gold. Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., a talented Baltimore banker with a keen sense of finance and economics, found gold to be especially interesting, and was soon determined to build his collection to include one of each date and mint, a journey that was finally completed years later in 1950. In New York City, Frederick C.C. Boyd sharpened his interest in gold coins and set about filling in the blank spaces in his cabinet. Several dozen other collectors did likewise, soon leading to the realization that certain gold coins simply were not available, or at least could not be located without great effort.

Meanwhile, the inauguration in 1934 of the *Standard Catalogue of United States Coins*, by Wayte Raymond, and the launching in 1946 by Whitman Publishing Company of Richard S. Yeoman's *Guide Book of United States Coins*, broadened the appeal of gold coins to a wide audience. By the 1950s, gold coins had a wide, enthusiastic following. Today in 1999, go coins are a foundation stone in the numismatic hobby. T neglect of the series by our coin collecting forebears in the la century has created the curious situation in which many go coins with high mintages are extreme rarities if in high grad such as AU or Mint State.

Quarter eagles are most popularly collected by design type with the later issues from the Classic Head onward beir readily available. Collecting by dates and mints is an elite ch lenge, and one that has been completed by perhaps a doz collectors in the past century, the limiting factor being t 1854-S and, to a lesser extent (but only slightly), the Proof-or 1863.

Appreciation of quarter eagles can be obvious—such as in t pride of ownership of pieces that are at once beautiful, in hig quality, and rare. Or, it can be subtle, as in the study und magnification of the vast panorama of interesting die varietie and in the learning about the role coins of this denominatic played in American history.

Cataloguing the Bass Collection quarter eagles has been fascinating, extensive process. Along the way we have i cluded many notes concerning history, die characteristi (many taken or adapted from Harry Bass' unpublishe notes), and other aspects, yielding what we hope will be catalogue that will be of continuing value and interest to t numismatic community.

Desirable 1796 No Stars $2.50

A Numismatic Classic

261 **1796 Breen-6113, Breen-1. Rarity-4. No Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).** Very light greenish gold obverse with nearly complete lustre and very few abrasions or imperfections, except those present on the coin when minted. Faint vertical adjustment marks cross the center and a planchet lamination extends diagonally across the surface, most prominent at Liberty's eye. The reverse is bright green-gold and fully reflective with a small lint mark below AM of AMERICA. The central reverse shows weakness opposite the obverse adjustment marks. This is, by a small margin, the finest example we have handled, slightly nicer than the AU-55 we offered in our Rarities Sale last August or the similarly graded Garrett Collection coin.

These were the first quarter eagles produced. The mintage for the 1796 No Stars is estimated at only 963 coins, this figure including two different die variety combinations without obverse stars—creating a very elite pair!

Moreover the 1796 Without Stars is a major design type without any counterpart either in the quarter eagle or other gold series, a unique design. Thus, by definition one of these is needed to complete a type set. Further, the issue is the first year of denomination and, to reiterate, is of exceedingly low mintage. Still further, the present specimen is of superb quality. Seldom in a single coin do so many elements of numismatic desirability come together!

For the serious specialist and connoisseur, this lovely quarter eagle represents outstanding quality, certainly among the finest examples in existence. It is our estimation that from the 963 pieces coined, only about 10% survive today, many of which are in lower grades, or are impaired, or even were once used as jewelry.

Late die state with a faint obverse crack from the border at 9:00 curving up in the left obverse field. This die has been lapped with the lower curls lacking considerable detail.

A survey of early gold coins appearing in our public auctions since 1972 includes 740 quarter eagles of which 24 are 1796 No Stars coins; this figure includes some multiple listings of identical specimens.

Purchased from Colonial Coins, August 27, 1973.

Another 1796 No Stars Quarter Eagle

Outstanding Rarity and Quality

(2X photo)

262 **1796 Breen-6113, B-1. Rarity-4. No Stars. AU-53 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with a hint of green, accented by traces of orange toning. A few minor surface imperfections are visible, most notably a scrape across the eagle's breast. Considerable lustre remains, especially on the reverse. This is a very pleasing example of overall high quality, certainly in the top 20% of fewer than 100 pieces estimated to survive.

When considering purchasing an example of this issue, the published literature must be taken with a great grain of salt, as it has been numismatic practice for many years to overlook problems or even major defects. On an absolute basis, the present coin is outstanding, as examination will reveal. For the connoisseur this represents another opportunity of great importance.

Obverse lapped with low curls lacking detail. Lightly cracked from the border at 9:00.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, November 2, 1970. Earlier from Glendining's sale of October 1970, Lot 884.

Lovely 1802 Quarter Eagle

So-Called Overdate

263 **1802/1 Breen-6118, B-1, 3. Rarity-4. Overdate. AU-55 (PCGS).** A lovely, highly lustrous example in greenish gold. A few very minor surface marks are present. Very sharply struck although slightly weak at the center of obverse and reverse. This is clearly the most available variety among three 1802 quarter eagle die marriages. We estimate about 150 survivors are known from this die pair. Originally, 3,035 quarter eagles dated 1802 were struck with fewer than 10% still in existence.

When Walter Breen wrote his series of pamphlets describing early gold coinage, published in the 1960s, he assigned two different varieties and provided two different descriptions, for this die marriage. His references were based largely on earlier notes by Edgar H. Adams, Waldo C. Newcomer, and John H. Clapp, the latter of Eliasberg Collection fame. All three of these gentlemen also described two different varieties. Breen-1 was described as "Rare" while Breen-3 was described as the commonest variety of 1802.

A short die crack or scratch joins the second feather on the right with the left side of first A in AMERICA.

For his variety Breen-1, Walter Breen described a "die scratch or break from second feather pointing to top of A" which is clearly seen on this example. He further noted that "E [in STATES] is centered above space between two clouds" which is not the case. As illustrated above, the upright of E is over this space between two clouds.

1802 quarter eagles have historically been catalogued as 1802/1 overdates. We are of the opinion that minor damage to the die or punch caused the artifacts that led past numismatists to attribute these as overdates. When the sylloge featuring the Harry W. Bass Research Foundation coins is published, additional details will be included regarding early die varieties.

From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 100.

Important 1802 Quarter Eagle Variety

Breen-2, Rarity-6

Reverse Die Used in 1804

264 **1802/1 Breen-6118, B-2. Rarity-6. Overdate. VF-25.** Light yellow gold with a trace of orange toning. The surfaces have been very lightly brushed, providing a matte appearance. Light abrasions and scratches are consistent with the assigned grade. A very rare variety; this is only the fourth example we have offered at public auction since 1972. Probably fewer than 20 examples of this die marriage are known, thus this represents an important opportunity. The reverse die is that later used to strike the extremely rare 1804 13 Stars Reverse quarter eagles.

Perfect dies.

From our sale of the Dr. D.C. Montgomery, Jr. Collection, February 1976, Lot 1534.

Attractive 1804 Quarter Eagle

14 Reverse Stars

(2X photo)

265 **1804 Breen-6119, B-1. Rarity-4. 14 Reverse Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).** Very pale greenish gold lustre with attractive light orange toning. A pleasing example of this 1804 quarter eagle variety.

Perfect dies.

Two varieties of 1804 quarter eagle are known, this the more available variety with 14 reverse stars, the other having 13 reverse stars and being rarer by a quantum leap.

Interestingly, both reverse dies are also known on 1804-dated *dimes* with either 13 stars or 14 stars. It is curious to note that, among dimes, the rarity of the two varieties is reversed, with those from the 14 stars reverse being rarer. Among quarter eagles, this variety is common in relation to most others of this design type. As a date, 1804 has the third highest total PCGS population. Mintage of the two varieties of 1804 quarter eagle totaled 3,327 coins, perhaps approximately divided as 3,000 with the 14-star reverse and 327 with 13 stars on the reverse.

Purchased from Fred Sweeney, September 18, 1972.

Lustrous 1804 Quarter Eagle

14 Reverse Stars

(2X photo)

66 **1804 Breen-6119, B-2. Rarity-4. 14 Reverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with a hint of green, slightly prooflike lustre. Very light diagonal adjustment marks cross the reverse. Few very minor obverse and reverse abrasions are visible. A very attractive example which certainly rates among the finer specimens known.

Perfect dies.

The use of the same reverse die on two different denominations is unusual in *regular* American coinage, but common enough among pattern coins—particularly among mulings and curiosity. In the regular federal series we have often wondered if there might be a silver half dollar that employed a gold $10 die of the Heraldic Eagle reverse style, but thus far no matching has been made. However, we keep a weather alert for such.

From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1102.

Rare 1824/1 Quarter Eagle

Important Mint State Offering

267 **1824/1 Breen-6127, B-1. Rarity-4. Overdate. MS-60.** A wonderful bright yellow gold example of this important issue. Brilliant, frosty lustre with a hint of reflective prooflike surface. Very light obverse marks and moderately abraded reverse. Very slightly bent, almost imperceptibly so.

Each and every quarter eagle of the early (1796-1834) range is a rarity in an absolute sense, and yet with patience it is possible to put together a complete set of dates and overdates. The present Bass Collection offering, representing some of the finest pieces to have come on the market during Harry Bass' 30-year period of acquisition, offer many opportunities for the connoisseur and specialist.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, September 25, 1970.

Lovely Mint State 1825 Quarter Eagle

Reverse of 1821 and 1824

(2X photo)

268 **1825 Breen-6128, B-1. Rarity-4. MS-61 (PCGS).** Light greenish gold with reflective, prooflike surfaces. Some minor abrasions and hairlines are noted. This reverse die was used for quarter eagles beginning in 1821, with this example representing the latest die state seen, an indication of the reason this die was replaced in 1825.

The reverse has a bisecting die crack from the border between TA to the scroll, eagle's wing and body left of the shield, and right side of large digit 2, to the border below. This is the first example we have seen with this die crack.

From Stack's sale of the Ullmer Collection, May 1974, Lot 358.

Very Rare 1826 Quarter Eagle

So-Called Overdate

A Formidable Rarity

(2X photo)

269 1826/5 Breen-6130, B-1. Rarity-5. Overdate. AU-58 (PCGS). Deep greenish yellow gold lustre with considerable reflective prooflike character. Minor hairlines and other abrasions are noted, including minor scuff marks on the cheek. This variety historically has been described as an 1826 over 5 overdate. In our opinion a better description would be repunched date with 1826 over 6.

As a date, this is probably the rarest quarter eagle minted from 1796 to 1834, other contenders include only 1797 and 1834 With Motto. In a survey of our auction sales from 1972 to August 1999, we have handled nine examples of 1797, six 1834 With Motto, and seven 1826. This example is one of the seven, earlier appearing in our September 1984 sale of the Arnold and Romisa Collections. The only finer example (and marginally finer at that) is the MS-60 example we sold as part of the Garrett Collection on behalf of The Johns Hopkins University.

The true rarity of this issue is not widely known. Accordingly, the present offering represents the opportunity to acquire a great American classic, a truly formidable rarity, at a price that is substantially less than one that has been bestowed with an aura of fame. In time, the numismatic hobby recognizes its classics, and often pieces overlooked in one era are recognized in another. Someday the 1826 quarter eagle will receive its due.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-60).

From our sale of the Arnold and Romisa Collections, September 1974, Lot 84.

Delightful 1829 Quarter Eagle

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

270 1829 Breen-6132, B-1. Rarity-4. MS-64 (PCGS). A wonderful Capped Head quarter eagle with frosty, brilliant greenish yellow gold lustre. Sharply struck and with considerable aesthetic appeal. This is only the second MS-64 grade coin we have offered, the other example appearing in our January 1997 Rarities Sale.

This issue represents the first of William Kneass' modified design, very similar to previous issues but with improvements. In his *Complete Encyclopedia,* Walter Breen noted: "Kneass' modified designs were notable for smaller stars and letters (from punches by Christian Gobrecht), redrawn heads and eagles (with a more professionally finished look than Scot's frequently crude conceptions), but most of all for beaded borders surrounded by high, plain raised rims produced by a 'close collar.' This new invention consisted of a heavy block of steel containing a hole the same diameter as the finished coin, grooved to impart the reeded edge; this resisted edgewise expansion of planchets at the moment of striking, furnishing 'a mathematical equality to their diameters,' according to Mint Director Samuel Moore."

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (MS-65).

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1455.

Prooflike 1830 Quarter Eagle

A Desirable Example

(2X photo)

271 **1830 Breen-6133, B-1. Rarity-4. MS-62 (PCGS).** Sharply struck in light greenish yellow gold with reflective prooflike fields and moderate cameo contrast. This is a lovely example which should generate considerable interest. This is only the sixth Mint State example of this issue we have handled over a long span of years, the only finer coin being the gem specimen from the Garrett Collection that we sold for The Johns Hopkins University.

A new reverse die was introduced this year—differing in minute technical details from earlier dies—and remained in service through the 1834 With Motto issue. An identifying feature is broad recutting of U in UNITED.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 597.

Mint State 1831 Quarter Eagle

Amazing Gem

(2X photo)

272 **1831 Breen-6134, B-1. Rarity-4. MS-65 (PCGS).** This fabulous example has prooflike bright yellow gold lustre with very few scattered contact marks. Superb aesthetic appeal. Although we have handled a number of choice and gem Mint State examples of this issue over the years, very few if any exceed this with regard to attractiveness.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-66).

Perfect dies.

The quarter eagles of Kneass' modified design, 1829-1834, represent one of the very rare type coins among all American coin motifs. From 1829 to 1834, just over 25,000 coins were struck. Many if not most were melted, some in the very year of issue, as their bullion value was higher than their face value. It is a little known fact that gold coins were available only at a premium beginning after the War of 1812 (effectively 1815) and continuing until implementation of the Act of June 28, 1834.

Of the modified design production of 25,000 coins, we estimate that under 3% of this mintage, or fewer than 750 coins, survive today, this quantity distributed among six different issues. Prior to the current sale, we have offered coins of this design just 100 times in our public auctions. This probably represents less than 60 or 70 different coins. It is interesting to note that just 25 of the 100 appearances were coins grading less than AU-50, illustrating the relatively high quality of survivors of this design type.

It would seem that from the viewpoint of *foundational value*, quarter eagles of this design are similar to the proverbial "acres of diamonds" just waiting to be identified and picked up—treasures at your fingertips, but not widely recognized as such.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, September 14, 1967.

Amazing Gem 1833 Quarter Eagle

PCGS MS-65

Only Three Finer of Design Type

273 **1833 Breen-6136, B-1. Rarity-4. MS-65 (PCGS).** This wonderful gem is sharply struck with just a trace of weakness at the center of obverse and reverse. Brilliant, frosty yellow gold lustre is highlighted by just a slight trace of orange toning. Aesthetic appeal is virtually unlimited. Just the slightest impairment to the surface is noted, and only with magnification. This is clearly the finest business strike 1833 quarter eagle we have ever offered for sale, the Garrett Collection MS-60 being next in line. When offered as part of our Fairfield Collection in 1977, we offered this as "Choice Brilliant Uncirculated, prooflike. With some Proof characteristics within the shield stripes, indicating that this coin may have been issued as a *presentation piece.* A splendid coin." In addition, we offered a gem Proof as part of our offering of the Eliasberg Collection in 1982.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-66 finest).

A third example of this design type has also been graded MS-66. We have no clue as to how other pieces compare to the present, but it would be difficult to envision *any* 1833 business strike quarter eagle with a better combination of high technical number plus the all important (in our opinion) aesthetic appeal.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1460. May have been a presentation piece.

ustrous and Beautiful 1834 Quarter Eagle

Classic Head

4 **1834 Breen-6138. No Motto, Small Head Style. MS-64 (PCGS).** Both obverse and reverse have lustrous, frosty surfaces overall. The fields of the various quarter eagle varieties of this year are on a flat plane (there is virtually no basining), giving the specimens a cameo-like appearance. An important coin to illustrate the new Classic Head type, popularly attributed to Kneass, combined with the without-motto reverse (lacking the previous E PLURIBUS UNUM).

Obverse with barely perceptible crack from star 10, extending right toward border. Upon very close inspection there are some incipient die cracks between the final S (STATES) and the adjacent O (OF).

In cataloguing the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection of Classic Head quarter eagles, we have relied on die variety notes provided us by Dr. John McCloskey, a student of this series and half eagles of the same design, a gentleman of rare talent who is best known numismatically for his long-time editorship of *The Gobrecht Journal.*

Walter Breen described two different reverse dies with this Small Head obverse. Dr. McCloskey notes the existence of only one variety with this obverse. Apparently Breen, who drew heavily on the work of earlier scholars including Edgar Adams, John Clapp, and Waldo Newcomer, described his Breen-6139 variety from Newcomer's work. We do not believe such a variety exists today.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1462.

Lustrous 1834 Quarter Eagle

Classic Head

5 **1834 Breen-6138. No Motto, Small Head style. MS-63 (PCGS).** Prooflike surfaces on obverse and reverse, save for the outer area of the field between the stars (or on the reverse the letters) and the dentils. The Small Head variety is instantly recognized, even at a distance, by the straight vertical line of hair curls at back of head. The Large Head type offered in the next few lots, has two distinct buns of hair at back of the head.

Apparently an early strike, as there are no die cracks, clash marks, or evidence of lapping.

Purchased from Se Ro Coins, March 10, 1969.

Splendid 1834 Classic Head $2.50

76 **1834 Breen-6140. No Motto, Large or Booby Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** Breen's Large or Booby Head style, characterized by "large 4 very close to curl; deep indentation to curls at 2:30; thick lips, jutting jaw, eye more deeply set."

The present piece is a showstopper in quality, exhibiting many prooflike characteristics in the field, giving way to lustre toward the dentils. As an example of the first year of issue of the Classic Head design it is of additional importance. As a die variety this is very rare. All three varieties are from the same specific obverse die.

On the obverse die the stars were entered by hand. Significant recutting can be seen at stars 2, 3, and 11, less so at 12. The date 1834 is in thin "open" numerals. The diagonal at the upper left of the 4 is bowed slightly outward. The border dentils are more prominent on the die from about 8:00, clockwise to 5:00, than in the remaining section.

On the reverse the first S (STATES) is repunched at the center. The dentils are irregularly placed and are irregular in form, sometimes prominent and sometimes not. The field is quite planed, but rises toward the rim at which point the surface is somewhat satiny and granular. Tiny cracks are seen from the tips of both wings to nearby dentils, these being stress points on the die.

Noted by Harry Bass as dies 3/E; B. III-6. Reverse with AME close, perfect M.

Perfect dies.

The reverse dies of three Large Head varieties are identified as follows:

A: In AMERICA, letters A and M are widely separated with A high and leaning left.

B: AME are close with letter M complete. The eagle does not have a tongue.

C: AME are close with M broken, missing its right diagonal. The eagle has a tongue. The variety offered here.

From Lester Merkin's sale of February 1972, Lot 358.

Prooflike 1834 Quarter Eagle

Classic Head

277 **1834 Breen-6140. No Motto, Large or Booby Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The surfaces are a mixture of prooflike character with lustre, to which a generous amount of eye appeal can be added, creating a very beautiful coin that will serve equally well the interests of the specialist and the type collector. This is the most available of three die varieties, Variety A.

From New Netherlands Coin Company's 61st sale, June 1970, Lot 448.

Lovely 1834 Quarter Eagle

Classic Head

278 **1834 Breen-6140. No Motto, Large or Booby Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** Semi-prooflike surfaces, particularly on the obverse. A very attractive example in every respect.

Perfect dies.

Variety C with AME close, broken M. This is a rare die variety. Previous to this sale, we have only offered one example of this die variety, an AU-55 coin in our September 1986 sale.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, December 12, 1968.

279 **1834 Breen-6140. No Motto, Large or Booby Head. AU-58.** An attractive bright yellow gold example with considerable prooflike character in the obverse and reverse fields. Light contact marks are mostly visible in the fields. Another example of this very rare die variety.

Light clash marks are noted within the vertical stripes of the shield.
Variety C, the reverse has AME close, broken M.
From Harmer, Rooke's sale of December 1969, Lot 399a.

Superb 1835 Quarter Eagle

280 **1835 Breen-6141. Tall Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** A brilliant, lustrous, and frosty specimen of exquisite beauty. One of the nicest known of the issue. Three die varieties of 1835 quarter eagles share the same obverse die with so-called "Tall Head" motif. Two reverse dies were earlier used in 1834, the third used in 1835 and continuing in use into 1836. Among these three varieties, this is the most common.

PCGS Population: 2; 4 finer (MS-65 finest).
On the reverse the first T (STATES) is low, and the 6 is high and leans right. The first A (AMERICA) is distant from the M.
The three varieties are identified as follows:
1: AM in AMERICA widely spaced with A high, leaning left. First used for 1834 quarter eagles.
2: AME close and eagle has a tongue. Broken M. Olive branch has a berry. First used in 1834.
3: AME close and eagle does not have a tongue. Olive branch does not have a berry. First used in 1835.
From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1465.

Mint State 1835 Quarter Eagle

Prooflike Tendencies

281 **1835 Breen-6141. Tall Head. MS-60.** Lovely greenish gold with considerable reflective prooflike surface among the fields of obverse and reverse. The devices have light frosty lustre, resulting in an attractive cameo appearance. Light hairlines and other surface marks include a small imperfection below Liberty's chin. Somewhat weak at center of obverse and reverse. This is a very scarce die variety.

Harry Bass noted his opinion that this may be an impaired Proof. When Harry Bass writes, we all read—and certainly his notes are as meaningful as those of any student we have ever encountered, and quite possibly even more so. Certainly, Proof coins were struck from this die pair as it is the same variety as both Pittman and Eliasberg Proofs.
This reverse die is the same as one used in 1834 with AME close and broken M in AMERICA.
Purchased from Julian Leidman, April 23, 1973.

Another Mint State 1835 Quarter Eagle

282 **1835 Breen-6141. Tall Head. MS-60.** Light yellow gold with reflective lustre. Minor hairlines and other abrasions are noted. The only readily available variety among 1835 quarter eagles.

AM in AMERICA widely spaced.
The present offering presents an opportunity to begin or add to a specialized set of the Classic Head quarter eagles 1834-1839. As our notes reveal, and as other sources also indicate, many varieties are exceedingly rare. And yet market values for the most part are quite modest. Made from hand-prepared dies, the pieces offer many interesting idiosyncrasies and variations and are a delight to study under magnification.
From Lester Merkin's sale of June 1972, Lot 363.

283 **1835 Breen-6141. Tall Head. Net AU-50;** sharpness of MS-60 with small letters MEJ scratched in upper reverse field. Prooflike bright greenish gold with central weakness. Minor abrasions are present on both sides.

AM of AMERICA widely spaced.
From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1967, Lot 400.

284 **1835 Breen-6141. Tall Head. AU-50.** Light yellow gold with considerable lustre and lightly abraded surfaces. A small obverse rim nick is noted at 8:00. An attractive example of this very rare die variety, the first we have ever offered at auction. This reverse die was first used for 1835 quarter eagles and continued in use for 1836 coinage, mated with three different obverse dies. *These coins were actually struck in 1836,* based on die state evidence.

Reverse with AME close and no berry in the branch. Several light cracks are noted, along with a die chip partly filling the angle between diagonal and right upright of N.
Purchased from Bill Mertes, August 13, 1969.

285 1835 Breen-6141. Tall Head. EF-45. Bright yellow gold with moderately abraded surfaces including an imperfection above the first star and a reverse rim nick at 12:00.

AM in AMERICA widely spaced.
Purchased from Edwin Shapiro, August 11, 1967.

Large Selection of Quarter Eagles

286 **A diverse selection of quarter eagles, offering a nice variety of dates and mints:** ☆ 1835 Breen-6141. EF-40. Pale yellow gold ☆ 1836 Breen-6143. EF-40. Soft yellow gold ☆ 1843-O Small Date. EF-45. Pale gold ☆ 1845 EF-45, cleaned ☆ 1847-O EF-40, reverse scratches ☆ 1850 AU-50 ☆ 1851 AU-50 ☆ 1852 AU-55 ☆ 1853 AU-55 ☆ 1854 AU-50 ☆ 1854-O EF-45. Pale yellow gold ☆ 1855 MS-60 ☆ 1856 AU-58 ☆ 1857 AU-58 ☆ 1858 AU-50 ☆ 1861 AU-50 ☆ 1862 VF-20 ☆ 1869-S EF-40 ☆ 1878-S AU-58 ☆ 1900 MS-60. Many with nice original mint lustre. (Total: 20 pieces)

Mint State 1836 $2.50

Head of 1834

7 **1836 Breen-6142. Head of 1834. MS-63 (PCGS).** An extraordinarily sharp strike with detail seldom seen on dates of the Classic Head style. This is our variety B, per the note below, and is a scarcer die variety.

Close examination of the portraits of the various Classic Head issues shows minor differences in the treatment. Most probably, portraits used on 1834 and 1835 coinage were by Chief Engraver William Kneass, although there is always the possibility work might have been outsourced (for example, to Christian Gobrecht). In 1835, Kneass suffered an incapacitating stroke, after which Christian Gobrecht, employed as the *second* engraver (he did not want the term "assistant" to be used), did most if not all of the portrait design work, including the remarkable series of copper cents of the year 1839. To the cataloguer's eye, the general portraits throughout the Classic Head series seem to be of the same level of workmanship. Perhaps closer study would identify a "signature" whereby those done by Kneass and those done by Gobrecht could be differentiated.

Obverse with some raised ridges in the field above star 13.

The quarter eagles dated 1836 provide the largest number of varieties among any issue of the series. Six obverse and four reverse dies were combined to produce eight different die varieties. Among these are Breen's Heads of 1834, 1835, and 1837. Two distinct date styles occur, the Block 8 with thin horizontal center stroke, and Fancy 8 (sometimes called Script 8) with thick diagonal center stroke. One reverse die, introduced in 1835, does not have a berry in the olive branch, the other three have berries. Varieties are identified as follows:

A. Block 8. No berry in olive branch. Rare variety.

B. Block 8. With berry. Head of 1834, star 6 points to headband and is distant from hair curl. Scarce.

C. Block 8. With berry. Head of 1837, hair over coronet sweeps back to form first curl below star 7. Common.

D. Fancy 8. No berry. Head of 1835, star 6 points to curl over headband and is close to this curl. Common.

E. Fancy 8. No berry. Head of 1834. Rare.

F. Fancy 8. With berry. Head of 1834. Apparently unique.

G. Fancy 8. With berry. Head of 1835. AM in AMERICA widely spaced. Rare.

H. Fancy 8. With berry. Head of 1835. AM closely spaced. Scarce.

Purchased from Se Ro Coins, Inc., March 10, 1969.

Lovely Mint State 1836 $2.50

88 **1836 Breen-6142. Head of 1834. MS-61.** Sharply struck with frosty bright yellow gold lustre. A few minor abrasions are noted, as expected for the grade. A very pleasing example, ideal for the date or type collector. Another example of our variety B which is scarce.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 30, 1972.

Lustrous Quarter Eagle Grouping

89 **Selection of 14 different quarter eagles,** beginning with the 1836 Classic Head and continuing to include many early Liberty Head pieces. ☆ 1836 Breen-6142. EF-40 ☆ 1843-O Small Date. AU-50 ☆ 1845 AU-50 ☆ 1850 AU-50 ☆ 1851 AU-50 ☆ 1852 AU-55 ☆ 1853 AU-55 ☆ 1854 AU-50 ☆ 1854-O AU-50 ☆ 1855 MS-60 ☆ 1856 AU-58 ☆ 1857 MS-60 ☆ 1858 AU-50 ☆ 1861 AU-50. All with some degree of original mint lustre commensurate with the assigned grade. (Total: 14 pieces)

Breathtaking 1836 Quarter Eagle

Virtually as Struck

(2X photo)

290 **1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. MS-64 (PCGS).** Satiny lustre on obverse and reverse. A splendid example of the date, variety, and grade. This is our variety D, a common die variety. The reverse was also used with an 1835 obverse, however, this variety was struck first.

On the reverse a bisecting crack begins at the border, extends through the left side of star 6, the coronet, and exits to the right, extending between stars 12 and 13 to clearly touch a dentil on the right.

Reverse with die crack connecting base of ATES OF.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, May 30, 1972. Formerly from Hank Rogers.

Another Incredible 1836 Breen-6143 $2.50

(2X photo)

291 **1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. MS-64.** Satiny lustre is seen on the obverse, while the reverse is partially prooflike. Several areas of planchet lamination are seen at the reverse on the left. Our die variety D.

Obverse with diagonal finish lines oriented at about a 45° angle from the vertical, extending from upper left to lower right, the normal orientation seen (discussed in later notes as well). The dentils are bold, regular, and well executed. Bisecting crack begins at the border, extends through the left side of star 6, the coronet, and exits to the right, diminishing to virtual nothingness between stars 12 and 13.

On the reverse the aforementioned planchet lamination was probably caused by some air bubbles being trapped in the gold ingot from which the strip was rolled, and as the multi-step rolling process took place, the bubbles were distended. A delicate crack is seen connecting the bottom of ATES OF.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of the Beck Collection, Part III, February 1977, Lot 1392.

Memorable 1836 $2.50

292 **1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. MS-62 (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous. A significantly above-average strike. Our die variety D.

On the obverse a bisecting crack begins at the border, extends through the left side of star 6, the coronet, and exits to the right, fading to virtual disappearance between stars 12 and 13.

On the reverse, a delicate crack is seen connecting the bottoms of ATES (STATES).

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 30, 1971.

Desirable Mint State 1836 $2.50

293 **1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. MS-61.** Very lightly abraded yellow gold surfaces with satiny lustre. A desirable example of this variety. Our die variety D.

The obverse is cracked from the border through star 6 and across the bust to the upper hair ribbon, continuing faintly to the right border. The reverse has a very faint crack through bases of ATES and a faint crack from the left shield point toward the eagle's throat.

Fancy 8 in date, star 6 close to curl, reverse without berry in branch. A common variety.

Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, April 17, 1967. Earlier from an unspecified Paramount auction, Lot 584.

294 **1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. AU-55.** Light greenish yellow gold with satiny, slightly reflective lustre. Minor surface marks are noted, typical of coins at this grade level. A further example of our die variety D.

Fancy 8 in date, star 6 close to curl, reverse without berry in branch. A common variety.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1726.

295 1836 Breen-6143. Head of 1835. EF-45. A pleasing example with light hairlines from cleaning. A few abrasions are noted, including small rim nicks at bottom of reverse. Traces of lustre remain in the protected areas. This is our die variety H and is very scarce.

A die crack from the border passes through star 6 to the bust, eventually reaching the border at 4:00.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 2.

Grouping of Quarter Eagles

296 **Selection of quarter eagles, all different:** ☆ 1836 Breen-6143. VF-25. Pale gold surfaces ☆ 1851 MS-60 ☆ 1852 **MS-**61 ☆ 1853 AU-58. Deeply toned ☆ 1854 AU-58 ☆ 1854-O EF-45. Brilliant and lustrous unless otherwise noted. (Total: 6 pieces)

Stunning 1836 Quarter Eagle

Head of 1837

Superb Gem MS-66

(2X photo)

297 **1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. MS-66 (PCGS).** Called a *transitional head* by Breen, further noted as "very rare." Brillian and deeply lustrous. A magnificent example. This is our vari ety C. Despite Breen's notation, we consider this to be readily available variety (although primarily in lower grades among 1836 quarter eagles.

PCGS Population: 1, none finer.

Perfect dies.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lo 80. Earlier purchased by Harold Bareford from Ira S. Reed, 37 South 18th Street, Philadelphia, possibly as part of a sale or other event, se rially numbered in ink stamp "652."

298 **1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. AU-58.** Highly lustrous bright yellow gold with typical design definition, weak at cen tral areas. A very pleasing example with only minor contact marks. Our die variety C.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, October 18, 1966.

299 **1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. AU-58.** Brilliant deep yellow gold with weak central devices. Minor abrasions are noted in the reflective fields. This is an example of our variety A, very rare at all grade levels, particularly so in the quality offered here. The reverse die was also used with an 1835-dated obverse.

The obverse die has a crack from the border at 9:00 to the nose, continuing to the ear. Another crack from the border passes through the right side of 6 to bust. The reverse has a small die chip in the angle between diagonal and right upright of N. Cracked from the left shield tip to eagle's neck, also through bases of TATES and with faint crack through top of first T in STATES.

Purchased from Dean Oakes, April 19, 1969.

300 **1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. AU-50.** Light yellow gold with considerable lustre and minor abrasions. A light scratch crosses the left side of the obverse through Liberty's profile. Our variety C.

Purchased from Gene Henry, February 29, 1972.

301 **1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. AU-50.** Deep yellow gold with a small spot and orange toning between stars 1 and 2. Considerable lustre is present on both obverse and reverse. A few very minor scratches and other abrasions are noted. Our die variety C.

From Rarcoa's 1970 ANA Sale, August 1970, Lot 1433.

302 **1836 Breen-6144. Head of 1837. AU-50.** An attractive example of our variety C.

From Stack's sale of September 1968, Lot 310.

Varied Selection of Quarter Eagles

3 **Large selection of quarter eagles, including both Classic Head and Liberty types:** ☆ 1836 Breen-6144. VF-35. Pale yellow gold ☆ 1843-O Small Date. AU-53 ☆ 1850 AU-50 ☆ 1851 AU-53 ☆ 1852 AU-58 ☆ 1853 AU-55 ☆ **1854 AU-53. Reverse Cud.** A large cud die break appears on the reverse, extending from the rim to the tops of the letters NITE in one large plateau. A very intriguing variety, one the specialist will appreciate. An interesting rarity ☆ 1854-O AU-50 ☆ 1855 MS-61 ☆ 1856 AU-58 ☆ 1861 AU-50. All are brilliant and lustrous unless otherwise noted. (Total: 11 pieces)

Grouping of Quarter Eagles

4 **Attractive grouping of quarter eagles:** ☆ 1836 Breen-6144. VF-30, obverse scratch on truncation ☆ 1852 (4). MS-60 and AU-58 (3) ☆ 1853 AU-58 (2) ☆ 1854 (2) AU-58 and AU-53. All are brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 9 pieces)

Lovely Gem 1837 Quarter Eagle

Finest Certified

(2X photo)

5 **1837 Breen-6145. MS-65 (PCGS).** This lovely gem has brilliant, satiny orange-gold lustre with minimal surface marks. Very sharply struck with incredible aesthetic appeal. Seldom does a gem of this quality appear on the market. We are delighted to offer this coin. This coinage date is the first of three very scarce years, dividing the Classic Head design in half. This example is the most plentiful of all three die varieties of 1837.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Regarding population:

The following PCGS population data illustrates the scarcity of this issue. Total Mint State populations are listed for each date and mintmark: 1834 (136); 1835 (20); 1836 (122); 1837 (13); 1838 (18); 1838-C (3); 1839 (2); 1839-C (2); 1839-D (10); 1839-O (13).

Identification of 1837 die varieties is not complicated:

A: Two lines in each vertical shield stripe.

B: Three lines in each stripe. Final A and lower arrowhead are joined. The variety offered here.

C: Three lines in each stripe. Final A and lower arrowhead are separated.

From Harmer, Rooke's sale of December 1969, Lot 402.

Incredible Mint State 1838 Quarter Eagle

Superb Gem MS-67

Finest Certified for Date and Type

(2X photo)

306 **1838 Breen-6146. MS-67 (PCGS).** Very simply stated, this coin must be seen to be believed. Intense, frosty, and brilliant green-gold with very slightly reflective fields providing a visible cameo contrast. A few very tiny, microscopic marks are noted, and we can almost count these on one hand. Ever so slightly weak at the highest point of hair on the obverse. Vertical obverse and diagonal reverse striae are noted. This remarkable gem is the only 1838 quarter eagle ever assigned the MS-67 grade by PCGS. In fact, it is the only MS-67 Classic Head quarter eagle certified by PCGS for the entire design type, making it in essence, the finest known Classic Head quarter eagle. There is just one die variety for 1838 quarter eagle coinage.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Most obverse stars are sharply repunched. Minor die rust is visible on Liberty's cheek. Otherwise, the dies are perfect.

Purchased from John N. Rowe, III, October 7, 1966.

Another Lovely Mint State 1838 $2.50

307 **1838 Breen-6146. MS-60.** Highly lustrous light yellow gold with extremely sharp design details. A few very light hairlines and other minor imperfections are noted. This is a very pleasing example, overall. The opportunity to bid on two Mint State examples in one sale is certainly exceptional. Of course, this piece is not a rival to the superb MS-67 offered earlier but, still, even MS-60 quality is seldom encountered in the marketplace. The obverse of this issue has a very wide border, providing a medallic appearance.

Purchased from Se Ro Coins, Inc., March 10, 1969.

Lovely 1838-C Quarter Eagle

308 **1838-C Breen-6147. AU-58 (PCGS).** A wonderful example of the first Charlotte Mint quarter eagle. Lustrous light yellow gold with orange toning. Pleasing surfaces with a few very minor abrasions, none serious. This example is unusually sharply struck with full hair details and sharp wing detail at junction with right shield. Possibly one of the most pleasing survivors from the mintage of just 7,880 coins. Likely among the five or six finest known. There is just one variety of 1838-C quarter eagle.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

A historical sketch of the Charlotte Mint is found under our introduction to gold dollars. For the specialist in Charlotte Mint coins the 1838-C is quite important, representing as it does a piece produced during the first year of operation of that facility.

Two obverse dies and three reverse dies were shipped from the Philadelphia Mint to Charlotte, but it seems that only one pair of dies actually saw use. All of these dies were later destroyed (in 1843).

The date is somewhat irregular in the die, with the 3 high. The mintmark is double punched, with traces of an earlier impression below the final one; apparently the first-entered C in the die actually touched the top of the 3 in the date. Several stars show repunching, mostly notable 1, 9, and 13. This was in the twilight era of hand-finished dies, and within a decade such niceties (from a numismatic viewpoint) as double-punched stars would disappear, with the date logotype being just about the only point of difference.

Purchased from Se Ro Coins, Inc., March 10, 1969.

Beautiful 1839 $2.50

309 **1839 Breen-6148. "Overdate." MS-62 (PCGS).** Extremely sharply struck. Lustrous and with a hint of prooflike character. This is the only die variety of 1839 quarter eagle from Philadelphia. Quite rare in Mint State.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Perfect dies.

Regarding the "overdate" status of certain 1839/8 pieces, the *Guide Book of United States Coins* states that "these are made from defective punches." On the other hand, Walter Breen unequivocally designates his varieties 6148, 6149, and 6151 as overdates. Our view is that they are not overdates, but represent slight repunching. As noted elsewhere in the present catalogue, Walter Breen was a bit more liberal than we are in assigning "overdate" status to various gold issues.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 605.

High-Grade 1839-C $2.50

310 **1839-C Breen-6149. AU-55.** Light yellow gold, very faint granular, and with indications of a bump being smoothed the left rim. Probably the net value of an EF-40 coin. Sharp struck with a wealth of detail. A scarce issue of extraordinar importance as the first quarter eagle from the newly opene Charlotte Mint. Three die varieties are described below, th example being variety B.

Rather than being an overdate, this is better described as a repunche date, in our opinion. On the present piece a tiny line or crack connects th upper and lower parts of the right side of the C mintmark.

Identification of three die varieties:

A: Mintmark over left half of digit 3. Tip of branch stem over right uprigl of D. Usually cracked, neck to right wing.

B: Mintmark over left half of digit 3. Tip of branch stem over left edge D. Usually cracked through E of STATES.

C: Mintmark over space between 83. Usually cracked, left shield tip t beak.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 657.

311 **1839-C Breen-6149. Net VF-30;** sharpness of EF-40 but po ished with abraded surfaces. A few minor obverse and revers imperfections are noted, including small rim marks at 4:00 o the obverse and 2:30 on the reverse. A small gouge is presen in the upper right reverse field, just above the wing. Our di variety A for Charlotte Mint coinage of 1839.

Perfect dies.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lo 1807.

Mint State 1839-C Quarter Eagle

Finest Certified
Possibly Finest Known

(2X photo)

2 **1839-C Breen-6150. Repunched Date. MS-62 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with frosty, brilliant yellow gold lustre. A few very minor surface marks are noted. This variety has a sharply recut 39 in the date and is from the same reverse die as used for 1838-C coinage. Some confusion surrounds the varieties of 1839-C quarter eagle coinage. There are, in fact, only three varieties known, from two obverse and three reverse dies. The other obverse has the upper curve and lower knob of digit 9 connected, mated with two reverse dies both used only in 1839. This example is the finest certified by PCGS and is possibly the finest known of the entire 1839-C spectrum (as PCGS does not take into account die varieties), although to be completely objective, it may be exceeded in quality by the Bareford Collection coin sold by Stack's in December 1978. Douglas Winter described the Bareford coin as MS-63. This is our die variety C.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from Se Ro Coins, Inc., March 10, 1969.

Memorable 1839-C $2.50

Reverse of 1838

13 **1839-C Breen-6150. Repunched Date. AU-55 (PCGS).** Breen's *Repunched 39,* which seems to be correct. Indeed, the repunching is dramatic, particularly on the 3. Light yellow gold with much lustre in protected areas. Nicely struck. Our die variety C with reverse die the same as used for 1838-C quarter eagles.

The obverse has the aforementioned double punching, quite dramatic in its aspect. The die is on the verge of being shattered and exhibits a crack from a dentil through the 3, past the mintmark, to the center of the portrait. Another crack is seen from the border at the left through star 2 then to the center of the cheek, continuing through the hair, exiting through star 9 and, in effect, bisecting the coin. The reverse die is likewise shattered, or nearly so, and shows a major break from the rim through the side of the 2 in the denomination, along the left side of the shield, through the eagle's head, to the A (STATES), but not exiting to the border. Another crack is seen to the left extending more or less parallel above the wing.

From Rarcoa's ANA Sale, August 1970, Lot 1438.

Mint State 1839-D $2.50

Second Finest Known

(2X photo)

314 **1839-D Breen-6151. Recut Date. MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous bright greenish yellow gold with an average strike, slightly weak hair details over the ear and corresponding point of the reverse. The surfaces are very lightly abraded, unlike most known examples. This variety has slight doubling within 39 and has long been mis-attributed as an overdate. The reverse has a bold stem that ends left of D, our variety B. This is slightly scarcer than the other variety with weak stem ending over upright of D. Probably the second finest known 1839-D quarter eagle, exceeded only by the MS-64 example sold by Stack's in 1994 as part of the James Stack Collection.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-64).

The reverse is cracked through the upright of second T in STATES to the eagle's head, through the base of UNITED, and through the wing tip at left into the field below this D.

Two varieties are known:

A: Weak stem with tip over upright of D.

B: Bold stem with tip just left of D.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 658.

Choice Mint State 1839-O $2.50

High-Date Variety

(2X photo)

315 **1839-O Breen-6152. High Date, Wide Fraction. MS-63 (PCGS).** A wonderful example of the first quarter eagle struck in New Orleans. Light greenish gold with brilliant satin lustre and extremely sharp design details. All hair details and feather details are bold, quite unusual. The digit 3 is very slightly doubled. This is the more common of two varieties known, the Low Date, Close Fraction variety being considerably scarcer. Although a small number of Mint State coins survive from the mintage of 17,781, very few approach this coin for quality.

PCGS Population: 5; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

The reverse die has been excessively polished with many of the lower details weak or missing. The arrow shafts are weak, the lower one broken. The stem to the branch is almost entirely gone, leaving a branch tip isolated in the field above and left of D, also leaving three pair of leaves isolated in the field. The berry and stem are also entirely missing. A die crack from top of the large digit 2 crosses the upper leaf to base of I in UNITED.

Two varieties are known:

A: High Date, Wide Fraction. Common.

B: Low Date, Close Fraction. Scarce.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 659.

Beautiful 1839-O Quarter Eagle

316 **1839-O Breen-6152. High Date, Wide Fraction. MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous and frosty. A beautiful specimen of the first quarter eagle from the New Orleans Mint.

Obverse from perfect die, although with portions of the portrait either lightly impressed into the working die or slightly relapped. Some die finish lines are seen within the ear.

The reverse is designated by Breen as his "wide fraction, small arrows." On the present piece the die is much relapped, disconnecting the arrowheads, leaves, etc., and presenting a curious appearance when studied under magnification. A crack is seen from the border through the 2 of the denomination, along the stem, to I (UNITED), splitting with a branch going to the border, continuing along the bases, with another branch, continuing to connect the bases of ITED.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1967, Lot 403.

Choice Mint State 1839-O Quarter Eagle

Close Fraction Variety

Scarcer of Two Varieties

(2X photo)

317 **1839-O Breen-6153. Low Date, Close Fraction. MS-63 (PCGS).** A lovely example with brilliant, frosty yellow gold lustre and very choice surfaces. Quite sharply struck with very slight weakness at central obverse and reverse. This is far scarcer than the Wide Fraction variety, and may be among the finest known for this die marriage. Slight doubling is noted inside the upper curves of 3 and 9. The reverse is rotated showing medallic alignment rather than normal coin alignment.

PCGS Population: 5; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

The reverse has several cracks: from top edge of wing to left through top of eagle's head and wing at right to base of first A. A curved crack from border through R to arrowhead and shaft, crossing lower feathers, eventually angling downward through arrow shafts to left field, a branch down through left upright of N to border.

Purchased from Superior, March 28, 1978.

318 **1839-O Breen-6153. Low Date, Close Fraction. EF-45.** Light yellow gold with minor abrasions and hairlines, probably cleaned at some time in the past. Sharply struck with only very slight weakness at the central obverse.

Perfect dies.

From Lester Merkin's sale of February 1972, Lot 368.

319 1839-O Breen-6153. Low Date, Close Fraction. VF-35. Deep yellow gold with a trace of greenish tint. A few very minor surface marks are noted.

Obverse cracked from rim above star 4 to eye, continuing to hair curls at back of head. Reverse die shattered with numerous cracks. From border at 10:00 to wing tip, following top of wing and across field to eagle's beak, through head, across right field through wing, to first A and border. From border through left upright of N into field, turning at a right angle to lower feathers. From border through center of R into field, turning down to point of top arrow.

As we leave the Classic Head series behind we again suggest, in fact *implore* readers that this series, 1834-1839, is laden with many numismatic treasures, the vast majority of which are unrecognized except by specialists, but which upon inspection will reward the owner with many hours of enjoyable study. The preceding listing is, to our knowledge, the most extensive, comprehensive, auction offering in American numismatic history.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 608.

First-Year 1840 $2.50

Inauguration of the Liberty Head Type

(2X photo)

0 **1840 MS-64 (PCGS).** Brilliant and very lustrous. Some light striking at the centers, as is normal for authentic examples of this date (Breen: "Normally weak in centers"). A piece that is head and shoulders above the quality typically encountered. Indeed, in his *Encyclopedia* Breen said "Prohibitively rare above EF," indicating that even in AU grade an 1840 quarter eagle would be a landmark.

Not only is the present specimen rare from a grade viewpoint, but it is especially significant as the first year of issue of Christian Gobrecht's Liberty Head or Coronet design. Interestingly, there seem to have been few if any deliberately saved by the public. The same can be said of the Liberty Seated dollar, which also made its debut in this year.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Philadelphia Mint quarter eagles of the 1840-1858 era, and some of 1859, have the so-called Type I or early hub, with heavy arrowheads spaced closely together. Beginning in 1858, the hub was changed at the Philadelphia Mint, and from that time through 1861, both reverses were used interchangeably. At the San Francisco Mint the old style reverse was used through and including 1876-S, at which time the new reverse was employed (although Walter Breen mentions in passing that an 1862-S with the new type reverse may be known). These reverse styles have not been widely studied, but upon close inspection can provide interesting varieties that are quite collectible. No doubt the listing of these in Walter Breen's *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* could be modified by close study of many different pieces, particularly which dates and mintmarks of pieces 1859 through the 1870s exist with which reverses. In the present text, hub differences are not noted until 1859 as all before that date are Type I.

Obverse with four-digit date logotype well centered. Reverse with minute crack extending from the lowest feather tip through the divisor of the fraction to a dentil. Many die striae are in the fields, reflective of the die finishing process.

From our sale of the Garrett Collection, March 1980, Lot 757. Previously from William Hesslein, November 29,1919.

Lovely AU 1840 Quarter Eagle

321 **1840 AU-58 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold. Fairly sharply struck for the year, indeed above average in this regard. Held at an angle to the light, the coin exhibits some prooflike surface in protected areas.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer (MS-64 finest).

Date logotype higher on die than on the preceding lot. Perfect dies.

Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

Another High-Grade 1840 $2.50

322 **1840 AU-53 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold surfaces. Remarkably fine strike for the year, very similar to the preceding.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

Date logotype high. Perfect dies.

From Stack's sale of the Copeland Collection, March 1967, Lot 1573.

Yet Another 1840 $2.50

323 **1840 AU-53 (PCGS).** Typical strike for the era, somewhat lightly defined at the centers and stars.

Date logotype fairly well centered on the obverse. Tiny crack on the reverse from the lowest feather tip through the divisor of the fraction to a dentil.

How fortunate we are to have *multiple* high-grade examples of the 1840 quarter eagle in the present sale, recalling Breen's previously quoted comment that the issue is "prohibitively rare above EF." Harry Bass spent many years acquiring the beautiful quarter eagles offered in the present catalogue. And just to think, in several days of bidding opportunities you have a chance to benefit from his efforts.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, March 19, 1968.

324 **1840 EF-45.** Light yellow gold.

Date logotype is very high on the die, about twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils. Although logotype positions vary, from this year through the last year of the design, 1907, differences tend to be most noticeable during the first two decades of production.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1476, to the Goliad Corporation, to Harry Bass.

325 1840 VF-35. A very attractive and quite affordable example of this important date.

Date logotype slightly high; slightly different positioning from the preceding.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 128.

Incredible 1840-C $2.50

Choice Mint State

Previously Unpublished Die Curiosity

(2X photo)

326 1840-C MS-63 (PCGS). A highly important coin from several aspects:

First, the condition is outstanding. Indeed, this may be the *finest known* in Douglas Winter's book, *Charlotte Mint Gold Coins: 1838-1861.* It stands alone at the top of the list on page 44, the closest contender being in the MS-60 range. Similarly, *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* makes specific mention of only a single Mint State coin of this issue, the piece offered here. At this point we mention—as we do several times throughout the catalogue—that certification service numbers are one thing, but actual rarity can be another. During the past decade or so many scarce and rare coins have been resubmitted to various services and even to the same service, with the result that three or four or five listings in a population report might represent just a single coin! Further, there has been some grade inflation happening, thereby elevating the numbers. Still further, numbers do not take into consideration the aesthetic appeal of a coin. Nearly all of the Bass Collection coins represent pieces that are among the very finest known from an aesthetic viewpoint, within their grade category.

Further in importance, the 1840-C is the first year of the Liberty Head series, and thus for the type collector or the Charlotte specialist the 1840 has a special cachet.

Still further, not only is the 1840-C a rarity in Mint State, but the issue is generally scarce in *any* grade.

Last, but quite important, the obverse die is a major *curiosity* within the panorama of Liberty Head quarter eagle coinage. Details are described below.

This lovely 1840-C is, in a word, *incredible.* We expect all stops to be drawn out, all caution thrown to the winds when this piece crosses the block. Bid with the virtual certainty that you may not live long enough to ever see another piece that is its equal (if indeed such other piece exists).

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype very boldly impressed into the die, and positioned slightly high. Reverse with C mintmark high and with the upper right serif embedded in the arrow feather.

Under high magnification many *circular raised lathe lines* are seen in the portrait of Miss Liberty, these being particular evident among the words LIBERTY and on the neck. This phenomenon is very rare in American coinage, although in the course of cataloguing the Liberty Head pieces in the Bass sale we have come across two different dies with it. The reader is referred to the cataloguer's dissertation relating to circular lathe lines as given beginning on page 64 of *A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents,* where an 1864 Indian cent with circular lathe lines is illustrated. Thus far, relatively few coins in American numismatics have been identified with such features, although in today's era of research and enlightenment we would not be a bit surprised to see others found.

In the aforementioned book on Flying Eagle and Indian cents Craig B. Sholley, a modern leading light in matters involving Mint processes, contributed the following commentary:

"On the question of which elements were in the model and which were entered at the master hub or master die stage, I think that the enclosed coins [1840 Liberty Seated half dollar and 1864 bronze Indian cent] and photos will assist in a rather straightforward analysis.

"On the 1840 Liberty Seated half dollar, note that the lathe lines can be seen within the letters of LIBERTY. Therefore LIBERTY was in the model, since any punching of the letters after the reduction would have destroyed the machining lines. Likewise, note that some lines can be seen going up the sides of the crossbars and stripes in the shield. This demonstrates that these lines were also in the model. However, note that the reverse shield lines on all Liberty Seated halves prior to 1858 are hand cut. This effectively demonstrates the limitation of the lathe's high aspect ratio (height to width) elements cannot be reproduced. In 1858 a new reduction was made to produce the Type II half dollar hub. The shield lines were cut into the new master die and reproduced by hubbing from that point on.

"On the 1864 bronze Indian cent, note that the lathe lines can be seen within the upper loop of B and between the middle and upper crossbar of E in LIBERTY. I also believe that the lines can be seen crossing the right lower serif of I and the left upper serif of E. However, note that I've only looked at this on my home 'scope (20X); this should be checked at higher magnification. Regardless, this still shows that LIBERTY was in the model for the same reason as with the 1840 Liberty Seated half dollar.

"Regarding the peripheral lettering UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I believe that lettering was entered in the master dies. I have never seen lathe lines on this period coinage passing through the peripheral lettering. Also, Charles Hoskins and R.W. Julian have informed me that the lathe was not capable of reproducing the lettering unless the sides of the letters were raked 15° to allow the tool point to pass over. The first series to show lettering in the reduction is the Peace silver dollar series beginning years later in 1921 (note the beveled lettering on such silver dollars).

"As to the reverse of the Indian cent, I can only draw parallels from the Liberty Seated half dollar series. I have several pieces which show the lathe lines on the reverse passing over details in the feathers, arrows, claws, etc. From this and the obverse of both the 1840 Liberty Seated half dollar and the 1864 bronze Indian cent, I would conclude that the wreath and the entire shield, including lines, were in the model. The inscription ONE CENT was punched into the master die."

While the preceding discussion focuses upon the Indian cent series, it is relevant to the methodology by which the present 1840-C obverse die was created. The subsequent two specimens of the 1840-C in the present sale are from the identical obverse.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 85. Earlier from the Will W. Neil Collection.

Notable 1840-C Quarter Eagle

Prooflike AU-58

Curious Obverse Dies

27 **1840-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Suggestions of prooflike surface on both obverse and reverse. A truly notable specimen of an issue which when seen is apt to be well worn. Certainly, this is in the front rank of finest known pieces, close to the Mint State level but not quite.

Indeed, Douglas Winter's Condition Census includes just two pieces described as being higher grade than this: the aforementioned Bareford coin and a coin sold by Lester Merkin in his sale of April 1970. From that point the Condition Census drops down to AU-55. Thus, each of the AU-58 pieces in the present sale can be called Condition Census.

PCGS Population: 3; 5 finer (MS-63 finest).

Obverse die as preceding, with curious and fascinating circular die lathe lines. Date logotype deeply punched into the die and very slightly high. Reverse with upper right of C mintmark embedded in arrow feather.

Purchased from Stan Kesselman, January 16, 1970.

Another Memorable 1840-C $2.50

Curious Obverse Die

28 **1840-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Another highly important coin, actually an incredible example that in *any other* venue would be a prime highlight in the catalogue.

The present coin is rare as described, has a beautiful prooflike surface, and is a rich light gold. It will be a delight to its next owner.

Same obverse as preceding, last chance to acquire an example of this now-more-important-than-ever Charlotte Mint quarter eagle variety, a piece with circular obverse die lathe lines, a fine addition to any collection.

From Rarcoa's sale of August 1970, Lot 1463.

Condition Census 1840-D $2.50

The Fairfield Coin

(2X photo)

329 **1840-D Shattered Dies. AU-58 (PCGS).** Somewhat prooflike on both sides. *Struck from dramatically shattered dies,* and interesting as such.

The 1840-D was minted to the extent of only 3,523 pieces. Its importance is parallel to that of the earlier-offered 1840-C issue, except that the 1840-D is typically found in even lower grades and, as if that were not enough, is usually poorly struck.

The present specimen is quite well struck for the issue and is about a match for the Winter plate coin.

Douglas Winter in his *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint 1838-1861* gives the following commentary, which serves to highlight *by contrast* the desirability of the Bass Collection coin, for it is fairly well struck:

"The 1840-D is among the most poorly struck Dahlonega quarter eagles. The obverse always shows better details than the reverse. A few are known with nearly full detail on the hair of Liberty [such as the Bass coin], but much show some weakness. On all examples the stars are flat. The obverse milling is clear and sharp while the date, although small, is sharp as well. The reverse is weaker with the shield and the right leg of the eagle nearly always blurry (but less blurry than usual on the Bass coin).

"The 1840-D quarter eagle is characterized by below-average surfaces [with the Bass coin being a happy exception]. Many pieces are rough and show heavy marks in the fields and on the devices [again, the Bass Collection piece is an exception].

"Most are worn to the point of having no remaining lustre [not relevant to the Bass coin]. Higher grade pieces show poor quality lustre with a dull grainy texture [not relevant to the Bass coin]. A few semi-prooflike pieces exist and are very rare [relevant to the Bass coin!]"

Douglas Winter goes on to state that just one die pair is known. Most show cracks in varying degrees.

It is readily seen that the present coin is a numismatic treasure in the grade and quality here presented.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-60).

Date logotype deeply punched into die and slightly high; one obverse being used for all known coins. Bisecting crack extends from border at upper left, between stars 4 and 5, through the head of Miss Liberty, exiting between stars 12 and 13.

On the reverse the D mintmark is deeply embedded in the bottom of the arrow feather; this is the only die known for 1840-C coinage. The horizontal shield lines are pierced by multiple extensions of the vertical stripes, an interesting but not necessarily unusual phenomenon of the era. Evidences of *circular lathe lines* are seen at the left and right open shield spaces, a characteristic which ties in nicely with the obverse die used to strike the earlier-offered lots 326-328. The same process was used at the Mint. However, unlike the obverse where the lathe lines are prominent, we notice them on the reverse only in this small area—and, unlike the obverse of the 1840-C, the reverse of this 1840-D is not spectacular in its aspect.

The present die is *bisected twice* by die breaks, and is about as shattered a die as we have ever seen in the quarter eagle series. One crack extends from the left border through the left side of N (UNITED), through the leaves, eagle, and into the central motif. Related to this crack, but not necessarily

an extension of it, is another crack from the upper right of the shield extending through the juncture of AM (AMERICA) to the border.

Still another break, this one probably bisecting to begin with, begins at the top border, extends through the second T (STATES), the eagle's head, body, down through the eagle, the left side of the mintmark, to the border. Still another crack is seen from the border to the eagle's wing at the upper left, and still another crack is seen from the border through C (AMERICA) to the lowest arrowhead.

It would be interesting to study the die crack progression, as no doubt if a dozen or two pieces could be arranged side by side, this could be determined. Once the die was first bisected, subsequent cracks would not be continuous but would be interrupted by the first bisecting line.

The combination of rarity, high quality, fascinating die characteristics, the first year of issue, the Bass pedigree, and other attributes all come together to create a truly *memorable* coin!

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1479 to the Goliad Corporation, to Harry Bass.

Condition Census 1840-D Quarter Eagle

Lovely AU

(2X photo)

330 1840-D Shattered Dies. AU-50 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold. Another specimen, a close match to the preceding and, curiously, from virtually the same die state.

This piece is one of the very finest known examples of the 1840-D quarter eagle and will no doubt attract wide attention. Perhaps the bidder who was not able to buy the preceding lot will wish to sharpen his or her pencil and be very sure of acquiring the present coin!

PCGS Population: 8; 4 finer (MS-60 finest).

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

Incredible 1840-O Quarter Eagle

The Eliasberg Specimen

331 **1840-O MS-64 (PCGS).** Some light striking at the centers, as definitive on authentic pieces.

This is the Eliasberg coin, there described as Choice Brilliant Uncirculated, and "A superb piece, possibly the *finest known example* of its kind." Notably since that time, in 1988 *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* listed this particular specimen as its *only citation* in the Mint State category.

The mintage of 1840-O quarter eagles, some 10,780 coins in all, quickly and quietly passed into the channels of commerce, where most pieces became worn down to the grade typically encountered today—Very Fine or, occasionally, EF. There was no numismatic interest in mintmarks at the time, and not even the Mint Cabinet (recently formed in June 1838) desired to have branch mint coins. The survival of the present piece was due to a rare chance—the circumstances of which are unknown.

For the quarter eagle specialist this represents another landmark opportunity, what is believed to be the finest known specimen of the first Liberty Head New Orleans quarter eagle.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype deeply impressed into the die and quite high, about three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils.

Reverse with small O mintmark, as usually seen, the mintmark being embedded in the tip of the tail feather.

From our sale of the Eliasberg Collection, October 1982, Lot 115.

Lovely AU 1840-O $2.50

332 **1840-O AU-50.** Warm yellow surfaces with some golden orange patination. Quite scarce at this high grade level.

Reverse with small O mintmark, but a different die from the preceding, with part of the arrow feather showing within the mintmark. Some prominent diagonal die finish lines are seen from the border above ST.

Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

333 **1840-O EF-45.** An attractive specimen with light yellow gold surfaces and some rose toning. Not easy to find at the EF level.

Obverse with date high. Reverse with O mintmark by tip of arrow feather, part of which shows the mintmark, but in a slightly different position from the die in the preceding lot.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, April 11, 1972.

334 **1840-O EF-40.** A final specimen of this issue. Some mint lustre is still seen in protected areas.

Date logotype high as usual. Reverse with what Harry Bass called a *large* mintmark, the same die as described earlier, with traces of the eagle feather at the upper left interior of the mintmark and diagonal die lines extending from the border above ST.

While the mintmarks of this date can be variously described as "small" (per Breen), medium or large, in fact they are all quite small, although there may be some minor differences among them.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1480, to the Goliad Corporation, to Harry Bass.

The Famous 1841 "Little Princess" $2.50

The Classic Rarity in the Series

Fewer Than 20 Known

335 **1841 Proof-60 (PCGS).** Extremely sharply struck. Brilliant rich gold coloration. Mirrorlike fields have evidence of friction as defined by the Proof-60 grade.

The fame of the 1841 quarter eagle is far reaching and long enduring. Indeed, this is the best known rarity in the entire series (not the most elusive in absolute terms; that honor goes to 1854-S, and certainly 1863 is in the running).

For many years the 1841 quarter eagle has been affectionately called the *Little Princess* by numismatists. And, indeed, among quarter eagles it is indeed a princess—court is paid to it whenever an example comes on the market.

The exact number known cannot be determined with certainty, as certain listings may represent duplicate appearances of the same coin. In 1977 when we offered the Fairfield Collection specimen (recently graded as Proof-40 by PCGS), we noted that at the time Walter Breen believed there were eight different specimens in existence, one of which was of questionable authenticity and two of which were in museums—leaving just five available genuine pieces. In our 1977 offering we noted that David Akers had traced 13 different auction appearances, including duplicate offerings of certain specimens. We concluded by stating that it was our estimate at the time that about seven to nine coins were known in collectors' hands or estates.

In 1988 in *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* the most ambitious roster ever attempted was presented on page 494 and listed 12 other specimens, some of which may have overlapped, and at least one of which was "not verified." In addition, Breen noted that "others reported, mostly VF to EF."

In more recent times, our senior numismatist, Mark Borckardt, catalogued the Fairfield coin, Proof-40, for presentation as part of our Columbia Collection offering in November 1998. A fair amount of effort was expended, resulting in what was the most comprehensive study to reach print as of that time.

Now for the occasion of the Bass Collection coin we update the Borckardt study, adding the present coin as well as another piece in the Bass Collection, both of which were not recorded by Mark Borckardt at the time. This piece and the other Bass coin appear in the following listing as No. 2 and No. 3, with other listings adjusted by number accordingly.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (Proof-64 finest).

The 1841 "Little Princess" Quarter Eagle

A History, Appreciation, and Registry

(Latest Revision)

By Mark Borckardt

Although the existence of the 1841 quarter eagle was known almost immediately after it was struck, and a Proof was placed in the Mint Cabinet, very little was discussed in numismatic circles until these coins were a century old. The first substantive essay appeared in 1941 in B. Max Mehl's sale of the W.F. Dunham Collection. Mehl, the well-known Fort Worth, TX, dealer conducted business from 1903 to 1957; Dunham was a Chicago pharmacist who was especially active on the numismatic scene in the early 20**th** century; his 1941 sale remains an American auction catalogue masterpiece, the high point of Mehl's career. Prior to this sale, only three auction appearances have been located by the writer, the first in W.H. Strobridge's catalogue of the George Seavey Collection in 1873. The collection of George Seavey was described in detail by W.H. Strobridge for a sale which was to be held in 1873. Prior to the sale, collector Lorin G. Parmelee purchased the entire Seavey Collection en masse and the sale never took place. Parmelee, a Boston baker of beans, had the most important cabinet of federal coins in the 1870s and 1880s, with Baltimore collector T. Harrison Garrett having the second finest holding. Parmelee's coins were later dispersed widely, most notably in an auction in 1890, but on other occasions and in other venues as well.

The 1841 quarter eagle, which may have been struck only in Proof format, was not recorded in the *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint,* or in other Mint records, at the time of issue. This would seem to indicate that business strikes intended for circulation were not made, and that production was limited to Proofs for cabinet purposes. There is probably no other explanation, as certainly no secrecy was involved, nor were the pieces restruck.

A year later in 1842, Jacob Reese Eckfeldt and William E. Dubois recorded the existence of an example in the Mint Cabinet in their book, *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations, Struck Within the Past Century.* The 1841 was illustrated on Plate I from an engraving taken from a medal-ruling machine, somewhat of an innovation at the time. This device, which may have been invented by Christian Gobrecht, but was credited to others, made it possible for a stylus to trace over the surface of a three-dimensional medal and render a two-dimensional engraving of it. The Eckfeldt-Dubois volume was not primarily intended as a numismatic reference, but seems to have been sold mainly to bullion dealers and banks. Thus, no information was given concerning the rarity of the 1841 quarter eagle (if, indeed, it was considered rare at the time), nor was the rarity of other coins highlighted. This same volume represented the first appearance in print of the 1804-dated silver dollar; previously, collectors were not aware of the existence of a dollar dated this year.

In 1860, James Ross Snowden's *A Description of Ancient and Modern Coins in the Cabinet Collection at the Mint of the United States,* referred to the issue as a "pattern" coinage. Between pages 128 and 129 is a fold-out "Statement, Exhibiting the Number of Pieces Coined at the Mint of the United States." This statement described the 1841 quarter eagles as "patterns" and notes "only a few specimens were struck, one of which is now in the Mint Cabinet." Snowden, who became director of the Mint in 1853 and who had a strong interest in numismatics, probably consulted Dubois, who at the time was the Mint historian, on the subject of the 1841 quarter eagle. Sometimes the term "pattern" was used interchangeably with "Proof," and referred to limited-production pieces made for cabinet purposes, not necessarily to experimental designs (the definitions are different from what we use today). Snowden left the Mint in 1861 at the end of James Buchanan's presidency. His interest in numismatics continued, and he remained a member of the Philadelphia Numismatic Society and retained his contacts with collectors. Until the situation went "underground" in early summer 1859, Snowden openly announced that the Mint would obligingly make restrikes of rarities for collectors, especially if such were exchanged with Washington tokens and medals needed by the Mint Cabinet, Washington pieces being the primary focus at the time.

The next auction appearance of an 1841 quarter eagle located by the author is an example appearing in the 1890 New York Coin and Stamp Co. catalogue of the Lorin G. Parmelee Collection. Lot 1122 was simply described "[1841] Quarter Eagle; very good." There was no plate in the sale, however, this may be the same as a few later offerings at the same grade level. Of course, an 1890s "Very Good" may have been much different from the specific grade that "Very Good" identifies today in 1999; back in 1890 it could have referred to a coin that was simply a "very nice" example.

Another 29 years passed with little mention of this issue until Edgar Adams issued his *Official Premium List of United States, Private and Territorial Gold Coins* in 1909. He noted the existence of two examples: the specimen in the Mint Cabinet and an example owned by Joseph C. Mitchelson of Connecticut (although Mitchelson was not mentioned by name). Two years later, in 1911, Mitchelson passed away and his collection went to the State of Connecticut through terms of his will. Mitchelson's collection is now housed in a special room and vault at the Connecticut State Library in Hartford. Adams wrote: "Only two of these coins are known to be in existence. One is owned by a private collector in Connecticut, and the other specimen is in the United States Mint Collection at Philadelphia. The mint records, however, do not mention the issue of a quarter eagle in this year at the parent mint." It was popular years ago for numismatists to refer to the Philadelphia Mint as either the "parent mint" or the "mother mint." Such terminology is not often seen today.

Virtually nothing new was mentioned about the 1841 quarter eagle until B. Max Mehl's aforementioned offering of an example in the Dunham Collection, in June 1941, 100 years after they were struck. Today in 1999, B. Max Mehl is viewed with mixed emotions. Some consider him to be a numismatic showman with little serious knowledge, while others credit him as being the most important rare coin dealer of the early 20th century. The truth is actually a combination of both. While Mehl is not particularly remembered for his technical numismatic knowledge, he certainly handled his share of rarities, and today his catalogues are highly esteemed for the collections they showcased. And, among his descriptions are some that are of excellent value to researchers today, including the Dunham description of an 1841 quarter eagle:

"1841 quarter eagle or $2.50 gold of the Philadelphia Mint. Finely milled edge, typical of the Philadelphia Mint gold coinage of these years, and not the coarse milling of the Charlotte Mint. This rarity was originally struck as a Proof and still maintains quite a bit of Proof lustre around the stars and legend, but has seen some circulation. It can easily be classed as Extremely Fine and only a shade from Uncirculated. I doubt if more than six specimens are known to exist. As noted, there is no record of the 1841 Philadelphia Mint quarter eagle coinage in government documents. This ties in nicely with the policy that *Proofs* were not recorded in the mintage figures, although business strikes usually were.

"To the best of my knowledge the only other specimen ever to have been offered at auction in this country was the one

sold in my sale March 26th of last year [1940]. The coin was fine, and it sold for $605.00. As mentioned in my catalog of that sale, Mr. Adams, in his 'Official List,' published in 1909, stated that only two specimens of this coin were then known to exist, one in the Mitchelson Collection, now owned by the State of Connecticut, and the other in the United States Mint Collection, both specimens of which, of course, are out of the market for all time. Four or five specimens have been discovered since Mr. Adams' work appeared in 1909. The first of these specimens, discovered about 11 years ago, was sold at private sale for over $3,000.00. Since then other specimens have sold for less, but above $1,000.00. The last specimen offered, as mentioned above, brought $605.00. I consider it probably the rarest quarter eagle and one of our very rarest gold coins."

This issue has been nicknamed the "Little Princess" for many years. The first located use of this term seems to have appeared in the catalogue of the Davis-Graves Collection, written by Norman Stack and sold by Stack's in 1954. The text noted:

"This 1841 quarter eagle is the only one available today and we like to call it the 'Little Princess' in the coin rarities." Perhaps this comment derived from or was inspired by the earlier comparison made in 1946 by Abe Kosoff in the Numismatic Gallery sale of the World's Greatest Collection (F.C.C. Boyd). In that sale, Kosoff compared this rarity to the 1822 half eagle: "While it is not quite as rare as the 'King of American Gold,' namely the 1822 half eagle, it is just as beautiful and this specimen in Proof condition is just as difficult to obtain."

All examples of the 1841 quarter eagle were struck from a single pair of dies. However, it is not known whether after the Proofs were made, it was the intention of the Mint to produce business strikes, or whether any business strikes were actually made. In his *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins,* Walter Breen noted that these were only struck in Proof. Earlier, in his auction survey of gold coins, David W. Akers was not convinced that all were struck as Proofs.

Especially significant to the discussion, an offering of an 1841 quarter eagle in the Mid-American sale of May 1985 has a comment originating from John Dannreuther indicating that the 1841 and 1846 Proof quarter eagles in the Eliasberg Collection sale were struck from the same reverse die. This provides additional evidence for those who believe all examples of the Little Princess were intended as Proofs.

In his *Analysis of Auction Records,* David Akers discussed this coin in detail:

"The 1841 is generally considered to be the most desirable of all Liberty Head quarter eagles. There is no official record of this date having been struck, but obviously a small number were minted. Most numismatists and cataloguers feel that this is a Proof-only date and that all known specimens were originally struck in Proof for inclusion in presentation sets. This seems unlikely to me and I am not convinced that the 1841 is a Proof-only date.

"First of all, there are far too many specimens known when compared to other Proof quarter eagles (or Proof gold of any other denomination) of the same period. Less than five Proofs are known of every other quarter eagle from 1840 to 1848, and yet I would estimate that at least 12 and possibly as many as 15 1841s are known. Only a few of them are clearly and unequivocally Proofs, such as the coin in the Smithsonian Institution, the piece in Louis Eliasberg's collection, the Davis/Graves coin, and perhaps one or two others. Most of the others are well circulated and, in fact, grade from VG to EF. More importantly, the supposedly "impaired Proofs" just don't look like impaired Proofs. Consider for example the Wolfson specimen, which was subsequently in the Shuford Sale and then in the 1974 NASC Sale conducted by the American Auction Association. Although barely circulated, it has almost no trace of a Proof surface and few of the other characteristics of a genuine Proof (such as a square edge), although it does appear to have been struck from the same dies as the Proofs.

"If indeed the 1841 is a Proof-only date, it would be an interesting research project for someone to determine why such a large number (relatively speaking, of course) were struck. Certainly it was not for presentation sets since such sets would have included a half eagle and eagle as well. Or would they? Could there have been presentation sets that contained the minor coins and just the quarter eagle without the other two gold coins? Was there something special about the year 1841 that justified altering the normal pattern of making gold Proofs? On the other hand, if the 1841 quarter eagle is not a Proof-only date, as I believe, then why were so few struck and why was there no record of the mintage?

"As you can see, this coin poses many interesting questions and, for that reason, it is for me one of the most intriguing and enigmatic of all United States gold coins.

"All known specimens of the 1841 were apparently struck from the same dies. Since some pieces are obviously Proofs, this would normally indicate that they were all struck as Proofs since I know of no other non-Proof gold coins of any denomination or date that were struck from the same dies as the Proofs of the same year."

Today, in 1999, some questions have been answered, but others remain. It is now known that there are multiple instances in which dies used to strike Proof gold (and other) coins were, indeed, used to make business strikes. However, we still do not know whether this took place with the 1841 quarter eagle dies.

No record of the coinage of this issue has been found in contemporary government documents, as noted in the introduction to this article. However, it was not customary to keep records of Proofs struck, although business strikes were usually accounted for. Per contra, there are a number of authentic United States coins known which, obviously, were made as business strikes, but were not recorded in government records, notably the 1870-S half dime (presently unique) and the 1870-S Liberty Seated silver dollar (about 10 known); both of these issues have no indication of ever having been struck from Proof dies, but are strictly business strikes.

If all were struck in Proof format, perhaps the output was partially for collectors and partially for presentation or some other purpose, perhaps for some long-forgotten ceremony. In 1841 the quarter eagle was the smallest gold coin produced by the United States (the gold dollar did not make its debut until 1849). Thus, a civic, political, commercial, or other ceremony requiring gold coins as an honorarium or gift would find the quarter eagle to be convenient. If business strikes were made for general circulation, they were made from dies that had a full Proof finish.

To summarize the preceding, all known 1841 quarter eagles are from the same Proof dies. A number of pieces show signs of circulation and were "spent," which seems logical if some were used for presentation purposes in ceremonies and not sold directly to numismatists. If any coins were made for general circulation, they appeared as Proofs when first issued.

Relating to the numismatic aspects of the 1841 quarter eagle, as with any rarity, the authentication of any "new" specimen is mandatory. In the chronicles of numismatics there have been a few instances of "1841" quarter eagles being offered that were created by removing a C or D mintmark from an 1841-dated Charlotte or Dahlonega coin. Numismatists are more sophisticated now, and a piece that might have fooled an earlier generation would not likely pass muster today, especially if a simple test is made concerning the vertical edge reeding. The Little Princess has a very fine, closely spaced reeding in comparison

to its Charlotte and Dahlonega counterparts. In Stack's offering of the Samuel Wolfson Collection of United States gold coins, October 1962, under Lot 114 are excellent photographs of the edge reeding on coins from all three mints. The branch mint coins have edge reeding with rather wide spaces between each reed, described by Breen as coarse reeding. The Philadelphia Mint coin, however, has very narrow spaces between each reed, Breen's fine reeding. B. Max Mehl noticed this difference in his 1941 catalogue of the Dunham Collection.

Registry of 1841 Quarter Eagles

Today in 1999, the 1841 Little Princess quarter eagle is recognized as a highlight of any cabinet fortunate enough to possess an example of this classic rarity. The following listing, revised from our earlier November 1998 listing, includes the Harry W. Bass, Jr. specimens and represents the pieces known to the writer:

This list is based on the roster in *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, 1988, to which certain corrections have been made and pieces added. The author is also deeply indebted to Philip Scott Rubin for providing much information regarding auction citations and for verifying certain information below. Rubin keeps an auction appearance record of many rarities covering the entire spectrum of United States coinage. Without his research, pedigree tracking would be much less complete. It is believed that no more than 16 to 18 *different* examples survive today, some of which are in institutional collections as noted.

1. Smithsonian Collection. Proof. National Numismatic Collection; Smithsonian Institution. This example was undoubtedly placed in the Mint Cabinet (which had been formed in June 1838) at the time of striking, 1841. • This specimen was illustrated in the Eckfeldt-Dubois Manual published in 1842, the first time the existence of this date reached print, as it was not included in the *Annual Report of the Director of the Mint.*

2. Eliasberg Collection. Proof-63 (now in the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, this piece to be offered next year in Part III of our auction presentation). Earlier pedigree: A.H. Baldwin; B.G. Johnson; Wayte Raymond; Waldo Newcomer; Col. E.H.R. Green; F.C.C. Boyd; Numismatic Gallery, World's Greatest Collection (name given to the Boyd Collection), January 1946, Lot 108, $6,000; "J.F. Bell" (pseudonym of Jake Shapiro, Chicago financier); Numismatic Gallery, Memorable Collection (Bell Collection), March 1948, Lot 101, $5,750; Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.; Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, United States Gold Coin Collection, October 1982, Lot 117, $82,500. "Some scattered marks, but overall quite beautiful." This was the last regular-issue gold coin to be acquired by Mr. Eliasberg on his journey to a complete set of United States coinage. • The story of this prominent Baltimore numismatist was told by Q. David Bowers in the 1996 book, *Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.: King of Coins.* Relative to other owners, Baldwin was and is a leading London numismatic firm; B.G. Johnson was a leading dealer in St. Louis for several decades and was an appraiser of the Virgil Brand Collection; Wayte Raymond was for many years a distinguished New York rare coin dealer, numismatic researcher, publicist of the hobby, and rare coin dealer; Newcomer hailed from Baltimore and put together a marvelous cabinet of American coins that was later consigned to B. Max Mehl for private sale; Green was a well-known eccentric millionaire, who collected everything from railroads, to all 100 of the 1918 24¢ inverted airmail stamps, to all five 1913 Liberty Head nickels; Boyd was a prominent executive, coin dealer, and numismatic connoisseur; Numismatic Gallery was the partnership of Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg.

3. Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The coin presently offered. Proof-60 (PCGS). From World Wide Coins, February 1974. One of several important American rarities (others being the 1913 Liberty Head nickel and 1804 silver dollar) acquired by World Wide during that era. Harry Bass often liked to get nice things in pairs—perhaps proving the old-time adage that particularly fine things are found that way!

4. Mitchelson Collection. Impaired Proof. Joseph C. Mitchelson; Connecticut State Library. • Mitchelson was in the tobacco business in Tariffeville, Connecticut. In connection with his trade he traveled widely, coast to coast, in an era in which most people tended to stay in their home region. Not only did Mitchelson acquire pieces for his own cabinet, he also scouted for other collectors and handled many rarities.

5. Menjou Collection. Proof-60. Numismatic Gallery, Adolphe Menjou Sale, June 1950, Lot 1189, $5,100; R.F. Schermerhorn; Robert Friedberg; H.P. Graves; Stack's, Davis-Graves Sale, May 1954, Lot 691, $6,000; Grant Pierce (not in the 1965 sale of his collection); Stack's, August 1976, ANA, Lot 2787, $41,000; Superior Galleries, February 1991, Lot 2664, $66,000. "Full Proof surfaces and delicate contrast between devices and fields. Light signs of handling fail to detract from the coin's overall appeal." • Menjou was well known as a movie actor in secondary parts; Schermerhorn was a Dallas numismatist, who, among other things, attended the King Farouk sale in Cairo in 1954; Friedberg formed the Capitol Coin Company and at one time had several dozen leased coin departments in various retail stores including Gimbel's; the Davis-Graves sale contained many rarities including a notable 1804 silver dollar; Pierce was a midwestern numismatist.

6. Norweb Collection. AU-55. R. Henry Norweb; Bowers and Merena, March 1988, Lot 1970, $30,800; Superior Galleries, July 1989, Auction '89, Lot 844, $30,800. • The story of Emery May Holden Norweb, and other family members and their fabulous collection was told by Michael Hodder and Q. David Bowers in *The Norweb Collection: An American Legacy*, published in 1987.

7. Wolfson Collection. AU-50. Samuel Wolfson, Stack's, October 1962, Lot 114, $15,000; Alex Shuford; A. Kosoff, May 1968, Lot 1731, $18,000; Stanislaw Herstal Collection; American Auction Association, February 1974, Lot 739A, $26,000. • Wolfson, an industrialist, lived in Florida, and began his numismatic interest when he looked over his son's shoulder while the youth was collecting Lincoln cents; Shuford manufactured various products including adhesive tape and lived in North Carolina, many of his coins were cleaned or processed, while others, fortunately, were not "improved"; Herstal was a well-known Polish exile who lived in South America, whose collection was auctioned in a catalogue bearing his name, although the 1841 quarter eagle was consigned from another source.

8. Peters auction. Impaired Proof. Jess Peters, August 1973, ANA, Lot 821, $26,000. • Jess Peters, an Illinois professional numismatist, was prominent on the American collecting scene for many years and conducted several notable auctions containing not only American rarities, but more important to his specialty, coins of Central and South America and other countries.

9. Mid-American auction. EF-45. Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions (Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth, photography by Tom Mulvaney), May 1985, Lot 1223, $21,000; Superior Galleries, Heifetz Collection, October 1989, Lot 3995, $25,300; David W. Akers, August 1990, Auction '90, Lot 1841, $23,000. Spot

inside dentils over final S. • The Heifetz Collection was formed by violinist Jascha Heifetz. Akers was earlier general manager of Paramount International Coin Corporation, later to form David W. Akers, Inc., and in 1997-1998 to auction the John J. Pittman Collection.

10. Superior auction. EF-45. Superior Galleries, July 1986, Auction '86, Lot 1345, $18,700.

11. Stack Collection. EF-40. James A. Stack, Sr.; Stack's, October 1994, Lot 865, $66,000. Bright yellow gold with some mirror surface on the obverse around the stars. • James A. Stack, no relation to the coin firm of the same name, lived in Plandome, New York, and over a long period of years formed a very impressive cabinet.

12. Fairfield Collection. EF-40. Stephen Baer; Q. David Bowers; Arthur Lamborn; Bowers and Ruddy, Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1481, $19,000; Abner Kreisberg, Windsor Collection, November 1981, Lot 254, $19,500; Stack's and Superior Galleries, Kramer Collection, November 1988, Lot 115, $25,300; Superior Galleries, May 1989, Lot 1751, $25,300; Superior Galleries, Heifetz Collection, October 1989, Lot 3996, $20,350; Bowers and Merena Galleries; Columbia Collection; Bowers and Merena, November 1998. Rim nicks at upper obverse and on reverse. Breen *Encyclopedia* plate coin. • The Fairfield Collection was an illustrious gathering primarily of rarities, by a New England collector who enjoyed quality and rarity and liked it even better if two, three, or four pieces could be had rather than a single coin. Auctioned by Bowers and Ruddy in 1977, the multi-million dollar sale achieved the highest price to that date ever recorded for a single coin auction event.

13. Dunham Collection. EF-40. William F. Dunham; B. Max Mehl, June 1941, Lot 1932, $525; "J.F. Bell"; Rarcoa, April 1963, Lot 108, $13,500; Rare Coin Company of America; stolen in December 1964 at the GENA Convention in New York. See *Coin World*, 12/30/1964, p. 76 for notice and illustration. The various photos of this coin are not sufficiently clear for further identification, however, this does not appear to be any of the others listed here. Walter Breen noted that this coin has field marks left of eighth star, before lower lip, and between the wing and base of D. • Dunham was a Chicago pharmacist. The era of his greatest activity seems to have been circa 1905-1920, during which time he published an easy finding list for Hard Times tokens, gave a prize for the person attracting the most members to the American Numismatic Association, exhibited widely, and did many other things. His collection was purchased outright by Mehl in the late 1930s, and certain pieces were privately sold from it, although this information was not generally realized until published by Q. David Bowers in *The History of United States Coinage as Illustrated by the Garrett Collection,* 1979. Certain items that were sold by Mehl earlier were allowed to remain in the Dunham catalogue, and appeared later in the "prices realized" list, although the coins had long since departed Mehl's office by the time that the Dunham sale was held.

14. Herdman Collection. EF-40. Herdman Collection; Bowers and Ruddy, December 1977, Lot 6406, $17,500. Walter Breen, in his *Complete Encyclopedia*, noted that this is the same as the Empire Coin, however, the illustrations do not match. Donald Herdman, an avocado rancher, collected coins for many decades and was a participant in the Atwater, Menjou, and other "name" sales of the 1940s, having begun his interest when he acquired as a birthday gift a gold quarter eagle.

15. Empire inventory. VF-30. New York non-collector; Empire Coins (Q. David Bowers and James F. Ruddy); *Empire Review*, number 14, August-September 1961, p. 31; private collection; Arthur Lamborn (duplicate); Paramount, July 1985, Auction '85, Lot 1419, $12,650. Note tiny nick at 9:00 on O in OF. Short diagonal field scrape below M in AMERICA. • Dave Bowers related to the writer that this piece literally "walked in" to Empire Coin Company and was owned by a lady in whose family it had descended. She had no collection or, for that matter, any other old coins at all. How fortunate it was that this single piece was one of the most famous of all American rarities!

16. Robison Collection. VF-30. Lester Merkin February 1972, Lot 368A, $11,000; Terrell Collection; American Auction Association, May 1973, Lot 1009, $10,050; Robison Collection; Stack's, February 1979, Lot 115, $13,000. Small nick just left of star 7. Rim nicks above first S and A of STATES, above right wing tip, and below stop after final A. • Ellis Robison managed a large wholesale medicine and drug firm in Troy, New York, for many years, and built his collection primarily through the office of Charles and Arline French in the same city. Terrell was a pseudonym for a southern California collector, friend, and one-time business associate of Dave Bowers.

17. Hydeman Collection. VG-8. B. Max Mehl, March 1940, Lot 1324, $605; A. Kosoff, Hydeman Collection, March 1961, Lot 548, $600; Rarcoa, Saslow Collection, January 1969, Lot 399, $3,100; Abner Kreisberg, June 1970, Lot 1497. • Edwin Hydeman was a York (PA) department store owner who formed a fine collection, primarily through Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg.

The following appearances have not been identified among coins listed above and most likely represent duplication.

Spellman. Proof. Waldo Newcomer; Col. E.H.R. Green; Charles M. Williams; "J.F. Bell"; Clifford T. Weihman; Cardinal Spellman; Archdiocese of New York. This coin is described in various literature, including the catalogue of the Eliasberg Collection and Walter Breen's *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins.* The author has not seen a photo and would be interested in learning more about this coin. *Could this be a candidate for the Bass Collection coin presently offered?*

Seavey. W.H. Strobridge, Seavey Collection, 1873, Lot 612. This is probably the same as the Parmelee coin described as Very Good. The catalogue does not include a plate of this coin. This catalogue used a simple numerical grading system with the coin assigned a number equivalent to Uncirculated, possibly through typographical error. It seems unlikely that Parmelee, who bought the entire collection before the sale took place, would sell a high-grade coin and keep a lower grade duplicate. In the late 1800s, this issue was not recognized as a rarity, as indicated by the price realized at the Parmelee auction, just 40 cents over face value!

Parmelee. Very Good. New York Coin and Stamp Co., Lorin G. Parmelee Collection, June 1890, Lot 1122, $2.90. Possibly the Hydeman coin, however, not illustrated in the Parmelee catalogue.

Christie's. EF-40. Christie's, April 1985, Lot 937. According to the catalogue, this coin was "hidden for many years in a safety deposit box." No previous pedigree has been established. Possibly the same as the Superior specimen, above.

Splendid and Rare 1841-C $2.50

336 **1841-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Well struck and very attractive. Lustrous yellow gold. A quality coin as one has come to expect from the Bass Collection, with the contemplation that no doubt Harry Bass considered multiple examples of the 1841-C before centering upon the present coin.

PCGS Population: 9; 1 finer (AU-58).

Small C mintmark. Coarse reeding. Obverse with four-digit logotype slightly high. Reverse with crack from tip of eagle's wing at upper left, through dentil, continuing on the flat rim to the edge.

Only 10,281 examples were struck.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 21, 1968.

Condition Census 1841-D $2.50

(2X photo)

337 **1841-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike in protected areas. Sharply and exquisitely struck. Lint mark and slight irregularity below right side of neck truncation and nearby edge, no doubt taken into consideration by PCGS.

If this piece, apparently unknown to Douglas Winter, were to be added to the Condition Census of 1841-D quarter eagles published in his 1997 version of *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint 1838-1861,* it would be tied with numbers 3 and 4, both of which are classified as AU-58.

Of the 1841-D quarter eagle, only 4,164 pieces were made, apparently on a single day, April 30 of that year. Although Walter Breen noted that only one die variety was known, by 1997, Douglas Winter was able to describe three, all with a common obverse, but with three different reverses. Today the 1841-D is elusive in all grades.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).

Although the quantities struck of Dahlonega Mint quarter eagles would rise later in the decade of the 1840s, the early Coronet Head issues were made in only small quantities. Thus, virtually any and every issue in the early reach of the series can be considered to be scarce or rare today. The typical grade encountered for such pieces is VF to EF, and at the AU level each issue is, indeed, a rarity personnified.

Date logotype impressed into die at medium depth, and well centered. Horizontal crack from field opposite star 3 to Miss Liberty's nose and high cheek, to hair, and *interior* break that does not seem to extend to hair, continuing through the back of the hair, and seemingly disappearing just before reaching star 11. This seems to be an *interior* break beginning and ending on the surface of the die, without yet reaching either border, a rather interesting situation among die breaks (which typically begin at a border and progress inward).

From Stack's Metropolitan Sale, May 1968, Lot 685.

Exceptional 1841-D $2.50 Rarity

338 **1841-D EF-45 (PCGS).** Fairly well struck. Light yellow gold. coin with a pleasing aspect overall. When encountered, th typical piece is apt to be VF, showing extensive wear. Th present coin is exceptional.

From Pine Tree Rare Coin Auctions' sale of September 1993, L 423.

339 **1841-D VF-35.** Bright yellow gold. About what one might e pect for an 1841-D quarter eagle—about median in the grad lineup. Interestingly, the present piece has the reverse die r tated to an alignment of 270° clockwise of vertical, instead the normal 180°.

Obverse die as preceding, but with just a tiny trace of the crack among th hair beads; most probably, the wear on the coin has removed other trac that might otherwise be evident. Reverse die as preceding.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 21, 1968.

Notable 1842 Quarter Eagle

Prooflike AU

) **1842 AU-55 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold. Slight evidence of prooflike surface. An elusive variety in all grades, the 1842 has been highly desired for a long time. Today in the grade offered here it is an extreme rarity, although, per the following quotation, some very low-grade pieces came to light earlier in the present century. Breen writes *(Encyclopedia,* 1988):

"Long believed of extreme rarity, but after World War I several low grade survivors turned up. Still prohibitively rare AU, unknown Uncirculated..."

The original mintage was only 2,823 pieces. If one assumes a survival rate of 4% or 5%, this suggests that perhaps 120 to 140 are known today, a very small quantity in relation to the popularity of the series.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 14, 1967.

High-Grade 1842-C $2.50

Condition Census

1 **1842-C AU-55 (PCGS).** A splendid specimen, above average in striking (although with some weakness at lower left of reverse). Bright yellow gold. A highly important piece that rates as a Condition Census example. Another prize for the connoisseur and specialist.

Of this issue, Douglas Winter has written: "This is one of the most underrated dates in the entire series and, as well, one of the rarest Charlotte quarter eagles. Like its immediate predecessor, this date is found weakly struck... any specimen grading Very Fine is quite rare; any piece which grades Extremely Fine or better is very rare..."

In our offering of the Columbia Collection last year we paid quite a bit of attention to a rather marvelous 1842-C in AU-50 (PCGS) grade, not knowing that the present coin would come to hand. One of the pleasures of professional numismatics is the continuing element of surprise. Sometimes a rarity will reappear within a year or two or three. Other times a long-expected coin will never turn up again.

PCGS Population: 2; 5 finer (MS-65 finest).

On December 22, 1841, a single obverse die for the 1842-C quarter eagle was shipped to Charlotte from Philadelphia, followed by another obverse on March 11, 1842.

Date logotype very deeply impressed into die, and slightly high. Reverse with upper right of mintmark embedded in arrow feather. Tiny crack from left border to eagle's wing tip. Some light clash marks are seen near the eagle's head.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 118.

Important 1842-D Quarter Eagle

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

342 **1842-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous light yellow gold. Excellently struck—notably so—including with far above average (but not needle sharp) definition on the eagle's leg to the left. A highly important variety. Douglas Winter writes that no true Mint State pieces are known, and that six to eight are known at the AU level, seemingly clustered around the AU-53 category.

Interestingly, the latest edition of the *Guide Book of United States Coins* nonchalantly and naively lists and prices "MS-60" coins at $25,000. In fact, one can read this reference and conclude that every variety of Charlotte and Dahlonega quarter eagle is obtainable in this grade! Reality differs (see note).

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype high and more deeply impressed at the top of the date than at the bottom, indicating that the logotype punch was not driven in a true vertical alignment. Very minor traces of repunching under first date digit; this seems to be a slightly late die state after relapping. Reverse with D mintmark overlapping feather, with part of the feather visible at the center of the letter and a tiny part of the feather extending from the left of the upright.

Again we are confronted with a very small production figure, in the present case only 4,643 coins from a single pair of dies, all of which have the repunched date as noted above. Nearly all have disappeared, with the result that the population today is very low, possibly existing only to the extent of several dozen specimens. David Akers makes the eye-opening comment that the "1842-D is generally appreciated for its real rarity; it is every bit as rare as the 1854-D, 1855-D, and 1856-D, and certainly more rare than the latter two in grades better than EF." Walter Breen echoes a similar sentiment stating "usually in low grades; prohibitively rare above EF." Above we mentioned that the *Guide Book of United States Coins* nonchalantly lists MS-60 prices for all of the Dahlonega Mint quarter eagles, almost as if one could simply go out and pick them off a shelf. However, in actuality there are some issues that may not even exist in this grade, and which in AU grade are so rare that many years can elapse between offerings. It is readily seen by analyzing the commentary in our catalogue that casual price listings of Dahlonega Mint coins may be one thing, and the availability of such pieces may be something else entirely. Stated another way, never in the history of numismatics has anyone ever put together an Uncirculated set of Dahlonega Mint quarter eagles or even one in which a significant number of Uncirculated pieces were included.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

Mint State 1842-O $2.50

Condition Census

"Unknown Grade"

(2X photo)

343 **1842-O MS-61 (PCGS).** A gorgeous Mint State example, somewhat prooflike, and of exceeding importance. "Unknown in Uncirculated," Walter Breen wrote in 1988, adding, "Prohibitively rare above EF." Opportunities in numismatics are where you find them, and here, indeed, is one of the most significant opportunities the quarter eagle specialist will ever find!

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

Considering that Walter Breen and certain other students never heard of an Uncirculated piece, the numerical population reports must be taken with a large grain of salt—could they represent pieces earlier called AU, or was the same piece resubmitted? We do not know.

Date logotype deeply punched into the die and well centered. Under extremely high magnification some incipient die cracks can be seen near stars 7 and 8. At the same time, some die finish lines are evident. Perhaps the cracks were from stress during the annealing process in die making, not from actual use. The discovery of an earlier die state would disprove this comment.

On the reverse the O mintmark is high with its upper right embedded in the arrow feather. A barely noticeable die break begins at the dot to the left of U (UNITED) and lightly continues to connect the bottom letters in the word, then extending to barely touch the eagle's wing. Other breaks come from the border to the T and the D. A crack extends from the border to the second T (STATES), while another crack joins the bottom of TATES and the adjacent OF, and still another crack joins the bases of AMERICA, continuing to the ornamental dot past the final A, and then lightly to the D of the value.

All of the die breaks mentioned on this coin—obverse and reverse—are of such a delicate nature that a coin with medium wear would not reveal them. Thus, there probably will never be any such thing as a detailed study of die progression as not enough high-grade pieces exist.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, June 25, 1968.

344 **1842-O AU-50 (PCGS).** A beautiful specimen in pleasing light yellow gold, similar to the vast majority of hand-selected quality pieces in the Bass Collection. Well struck and with a cameo-like appearance on the obverse, heightened by a prominent flat rim. Fairly scarce in all grades, especially so in the present form.

All known specimens are from a single pair of dies shipped from Philadelphia on December 23, 1841, to New Orleans. Obverse with date logotype very well centered (as determined by the spacing of the first digit in relation to the bust above and the dentils below). Obverse die perfect. The reverse with traces of a crack through ES OF and, separately, through much of the base of AMERICA.

Marvelous Mint State 1843 $2.50

Bass: "Best seen"

345 **1843 Large Date. MS-64 (PCGS).** A marvelous specimen, a veritable showpiece! The obverse and reverse are fully fros and lustrous and cannot appear much different than when th coin was struck over a century and a half ago. Some truly m nor handling marks are seen in the field, no doubt from no mal contact during the mintage and storage process. The ove all strike is quite good, the exception being some slight wea ness on the eagle's leg to the left. Few equivalent coins hav ever come to market.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Harry Bass was fond of keeping notes for certain varieties that intereste him. Over a period of many years he examined multiple specimens of near all gold coin varieties. Significantly, for the piece offered here he made th notation "Best seen."

Date logotype rather curious inasmuch as the first two digits are qui small, and the last two much larger! This is true of all quarter eagles of th year and mint. Interestingly, this same logotype was used to create the Larg Date quarter eagles of 1843-C and 1843-O, and, even more interesting, *dim* of 1843 and 1843-O. The overly large size of the last two date digits is so si nificant that it really should be mentioned in the standard texts, if only as footnote.

When viewed under magnification, a hairline die break is seen extendi from the neck truncation point, downward to the right to a dentil. On th reverse many parallel die striae are seen from the finishing process. Interes ingly, on this die as well as on many other dies of the 1840s and 1850s, th striae are at about a 30° variation to the left of the vertical, extending fro the upper left to the lower right. There must have some process at th Mint—a description of which we have not encountered—which dictated th finishing of dies in a certain orientation.

Further concerning the Large Date, the 1 and 8 are slightly small, and th 4 and 3 are larger, the 3 particularly oversized. The last digit also tilts slight to the left, and an extension of its top would result in a line intersecting wit the adjacent 4 below its peak. Although little has reached print concernin the process as employed at the Philadelphia Mint (where all dies wer made), the four-digit logotypes seem to have been produced by taking ind vidual date punches and stamping them into a matrix of flat steel. If a punc was impressed deeply into the matrix, an effect would be created such as th digit 1 here described. The matrix was then hardened, and one or mor four-digit logotypes were produced by impacting a small rectangular piec of soft steel into the openings created by the punching of the four digit The process invites further study and analysis, with the recent dissertatio by Mark Borckardt in our *Rare Coin Review* No. 130 providing a jumping-o spot (see reprint of this article under our listing of the so-called "1846/5-C $10 coinage).

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lo 2034.

346 1843 Large Date. AU-58. A high-grade example of this popula early date.

The writer believes that the Large Date logotype was the first made, th by December 1842 in advance of the year. No doubt the anomaly was n ticed, resulting in the later production of the stylistically correct Small Dat

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 80.

Remarkable 1843-C Quarter Eagle

Small Date, Crosslet 4

Condition Census

1843-C Small Date, Crosslet 4. AU-58 (PCGS). A splendid specimen of one of the rarest and also most distinctive quarter eagles in the series, the "distinctive" part caused by the die bulge at the point of the bust of Miss Liberty—as struck and as always seen. No doubt this bulge was responsible for the retirement of this die at an early point, seemingly after only 2,988 were struck.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer (MS-61 finest).

Date in smaller numerals, all in the same size font. Logotype quite high on die, about three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. The aforementioned bulge is very distinctive, and probably was caused during the die preparation process. If not, then a "perfect die" would exist, but we have never heard of such a piece or even a rumor thereof. Further, the die has cracked from the border to the bust tip, probably from weakness caused by the bulge. At the borders from stars 11 through 13 are some raised die file marks, and some die preparation striae are seen elsewhere. On the reverse the mintmark is high, with the upper right part embedded in the arrow feather. An almost invisible crack extends from the border to the top of the first S (STATES).

Walter Breen writes that the 1843-C Small Date, Crosslet 4 quarter eagles were delivered on April 28, 1843, struck from a pair of dies shipped from Philadelphia on December 23, 1842. The small date numerals are consistent with those used 1840-1842.

The same writer notes that the 1843-C Large Date, Plain 4 quarter eagles were delivered in five groups between June 30 and December 30, 1843. Using reasoning that Walter Breen employed in many different areas, he apparently made two assumptions: The pair of dies shipped on December 23, 1842 were the Small Date as these were sent earlier and, in general, Small Dates were made earlier (1840-1842). By default, according to his reasoning, the later coins would have been Large Date.

There are a couple of flaws in this. First, it could have been the case that the Small Date die was sent later or was simply on hand from an earlier date. The Mint did not carefully watch date sizes, and subtleties that are important to numismatists today were not generally recognized back then. Alternatively, the 2,988 pieces delivered on April 28 might have been the Small Date variety, but the die might still have been on hand and used again at a later date. Thus, the 23,076 pieces attributed by Breen as the Large Date might have included some Small Date varieties as well.

If Walter Breen's figures are correct, 2,988 Small Date and 23,076 Large Date, then, all things being equal, Small Date pieces should be about eight times rarer today. However, such does not seem to be the case. Douglas Winter gives an estimate of 45 to 50 pieces known totally for the Small Date and 75 to 80 known totally for the Large Date; in other words, the Large Date is not even twice as rare, let alone eight times as rare. In his 1975 study of quarter eagles appearing at auction, David Akers noted that 17 pieces were described as being the Small Date and 55 as being the Large Date. Relative to the Large Date, Akers seems to be closer to the mark than Breen would be later (in 1988): "I would estimate that two thirds or more of the total mintage of 26,064 pieces [of all 1843-C quarter eagles] were of this variety."

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 772.

Beautiful 1843-C Quarter Eagle

348 **1843-C Large Date, Plain 4. AU-55 (PCGS).** Pleasing yellow gold surfaces. Much original mint lustre remains in protected areas, particularly around the rim of the obverse and reverse and among the letters and ornaments. Some lightness of striking at the center as always. "Usually seen VF," writes Walter Breen, a reflection of the rarity of the present coin in the grade here offered.

Under magnification the obverse logotype is too large for the space allotted on the die, with the result that the digits are squeezed between the neck and the dentils. Same Large Date logotype as used on the earlier-described Philadelphia Mint variety. It is seen that the first two digits are notably repunched, the last two less so. Further, the die is clashed during their use, evidences of letters from the reverse, including the letter A, can be seen (interestingly, when the clash mark occurred, the dies were in a different alignment than on the present coin). No doubt the specialist can spend some enjoyable time studying and contemplating this coin closely.

On the reverse the mintmark C shows doubling to the left. A break extends from the eagle's wingtip at upper left, through a dentil and the flat border, curiously similar in position to that described earlier on the 1841-C, but entering the dentil at a different point and not from the same die. This particular position must have been a stress point in the quarter eagle design, the type of situation that press operators and die inspectors monitor (but in the present instance no design alteration was made).

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 21, 1968.

Splendid 1843-D Quarter Eagle

The Eliasberg Specimen

Small Date

349 **1843-D Small Date, Large D Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).** From our sale of the Eliasberg Collection, 1982, there described as "a beautiful AU example."

Small Date type, as always seen on Dahlonega Mint issues. Obverse with a barely visible die crack from the bust tip to the rightmost ray of star 1. Reverse with deeply impressed D mintmark, positioned differently from the preceding.

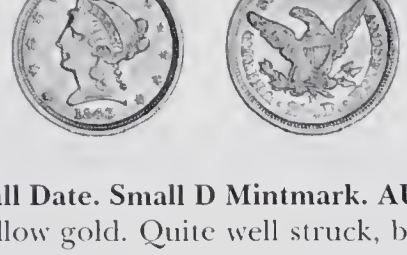
The Philadelphia Mint shipped two obverses and five reverses to Dahlonega in December 1842 and January 1843, seemingly indicating that the supply of stock reverses (which, of course, bear no dates) had become depleted. The production proved to be quite generous by Dahlonega Mint standards, and several die varieties were made, including variations in mintmark size, large and small.

With the 1843-D we encounter the first Liberty Head Dahlonega quarter eagle that can reasonably be called readily available on the present market, although a comparison of mintage figures will show that it is far more elusive than its Philadelphia or New Orleans counterparts. We would estimate that somewhere between 500 and 1,000 specimens survive of the 1843-D quarter eagle, including a few in higher grades. However, it is appropriate to note that Douglas Winter's estimate of population is considerably lower, suggesting 220 to 250. In contemplating this discrepancy, the Bowers and Merena estimates are probably more generous as we feel that over the years the *majority* of pieces of this issue have *not* changed hands in the auction venue. Without specifically referring to the Winter numbers, but as a comment in general, we are often somewhat conservative on matters of rarity. The discussion is perhaps moot, for no one will ever know for sure how many exist.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 127. Previously from B. Max Mehl's sale of the G.F.E. Wilharm Collection, February 1921.

High-Grade 1843-D $2.50

Small Date



350 **1843-D Small Date. Small D Mintmark. AU-53 (PCGS).** Pleasing light yellow gold. Quite well struck, better than typically seen for Dahlonega coins of this era—although some trivial weakness can be seen on the eagle's leg to the left.

Two obverse dies and five reverse dies were shipped from the Philadelphia Mint beginning on December 22, 1842, anticipating the following year's coinage. Mintage was intermittent from the spring through the early autumn.

The date logotype is small and thus comfortably fits in the allotted space between the neck and dentils. On the reverse a barely visible crack seems to be beginning at the upper right of the first S (STATES). A raised die line extends from a dentil downward to the right through TA.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 17, 1968.

Key 1843-D Quarter Eagle

Small Date

351 **1843-D Small Date. Small D Mintmark. AU-50.** Bright yellow gold. Much mint lustre still remains. A very attractive example of this somewhat elusive issue.

Logotype deeply punched into die and well centered.

Reverse with D mintmark overlapping tip of feather, but with only the barest evidence of the feather within the interior of the D. Large and heavy crack from border through first S (STATES) to wing, quite possibly the same break that is continued from the eagle's claws on the right, through the tip of the stem, to the right side of D, to the border, just past the denomination.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. sale, October 1968, Lot 739.

352 **1843-D Small Date. Small D Mintmark. EF-45.** Light yellow gold. Another specimen of this interesting and somewhat scarce issue.

Date logotype positioned as preceding. Some die file marks at right border at stars 11-12. Reverse with a different die, mintmark high, with part of feather seen at upper left interior of D.

Purchased from Stan Kesselman, February 1, 1972.

Marvelous Prooflike 1843-O $2.50

(2X photo)

353 **1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. MS-64 (PCGS).** Obverse an reverse surfaces nearly completely prooflike, imparting a sp cial quality to the piece. Indeed, this is one of the finest branc mint quarter eagles we have ever seen of any date and issue i the series. The specialist will recognize this to be perhaps th most elegant, most beautiful surviving 1843-O quarter eagl The connoisseur with an interest in early pieces, but not esp cially quarter eagles, will also wish to consider this as a ra prize. Truly, it is a piece for all time.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Obverse with Small Date logotype fitting comfortably between the ne and the dentils, and about centered. A tiny crack links the bottom of t date digits. On the right, a series of delicate, discreet cracks commences star 5 and continues through star 13. These were probably caused by i proper die annealing, rather than breakage from use, a technical point. T stars on the obverse are "tiny," this being described by Breen as his N 6172, with the explanation: "Stars thin, attenuated; either the hub w weakly impressed or the obverse die was reground." The seeming questio can be answered easily: the obverse die was relapped (reground) and in t process given a prooflike finish, and reducing the relief of the stars. Pro erly, this is a die *state*, not a die *variety*.

The reverse is also prooflike, as noted, but less so than the obverse. T mintmark is deeply punched. Some diagonal die striae are seen, oriented an angle slightly to the left of the vertical. In contrast to the obverse die, seems that this represents a very early use of the reverse die, with the proo like surface not from relapping or regrinding, but as made at the Philade phia Mint. The die state is virtually perfect (not even the slightest trace of crack).

From Stack's sale of the Winter Collection, January 1974, Lot 50

354 **1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. MS-60.** A highly lustrous e ample of the die variety typically seen for this year and mint. very pleasing coin, far above the usual grade level.

Date logotype well centered. Crack connects bases of numerals. Cra connects star 7 with border; another crack connects star 8 with border; a other crack is seen at star 9; a further crack connects stars 10-11 and conti ues to border, possibly connecting with a crack seen at stars 12 and 13. All these cracks are very tiny in appearance and would not be noticeable on well worn specimen. Thus, again a die progression study will probably nev take place.

On the reverse the O mintmark is deeply impressed into the die. It ov laps the feather, with a portion of the feather being seen on the right side the interior. Some minor clash marks are seen at the eagle.

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, January 17, 1968.

1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. MS-60. Another specimen of this popular variety. Some planchet adjustment marks are hidden in the hair. Bright yellow gold.

Purchased from N.K.S., July 23, 1971.

1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. MS-60. Lustrous and frosty. Another specimen of this early New Orleans issue.

Date logotype high, nearly twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils. Reverse with O mintmark partly overlapping feather, with traces of feather seen at the right side of the interior. Massive die cracks on the reverse extend from the eagle's wing through AMERICA to the denomination, to the border to the left of number 2. Another crack links letters of UNITED. At the lower right of the D in the denomination several pieces seem to have fallen out of the die, certainly an unusual situation.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, April 11, 1972.

Final 1843-O Small Date $2.50

7 **1843-O Small Date, Crosslet 4. AU-55.** Pleasing and with much lustre remaining. A final example of the 1843-O Small Date. Typically, even a high-grade specialized collection of quarter eagles is not apt to have an 1843-O in better than VF or EF grade. This present lot concludes a breathtaking offering of *several Mint State* coins plus the present AU! If you have ever considered collecting quarter eagles, the chances offered in the present catalogue are not likely to be repeated in your lifetime, if ever.

Date logotype high and nearly twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils. Reverse with O mintmark overlapping feather, and part of feather visible at the right side of the interior. Early die state, no lapping, no cracks.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 660.

Memorable 1843-O Quarter Eagle

Large Date

Condition Census

8 **1843-O Large Date, Plain 4. MS-62 (PCGS).** Brilliant and highly lustrous. An outstanding example of the scarcer of the two date varieties employed at New Orleans this year. In fact, *by far* the scarcer. One of the nicest we have ever seen. Another major opportunity for the specialist.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype (from same four-digit logotype described earlier under the Philadelphia Mint Large Date issue) very deeply punched into the die, resulting in the first digit, the 1, being large and "bulky," giving the very distinctive appearance. The date is far to left and low, touching the dentils, and almost extending to the bust point. One might speculate that an amateur was at work preparing date logotypes and punching dies in the Engraving Department of the Philadelphia Mint this year. Die anomalies have been popularly ascribed (especially by Walter Breen) to James B. Longacre, who came to the Mint in 1844, and who was considered to be incompetent by Breen. However, the curious Large Date logotype of 1843 reflects work about as incompetent as could be found. At the time, Christian Gobrecht was chief engraver, but the work of die preparation was left to others. The identity of the person or persons responsible for the 1843 Small Date may never be known.

Reverse with heavy O mintmark high and into the arrow feather, with the barest trace of the arrow feather visible within the inner area. Mintmark lightly repunched at its base.

From Jimmy Hayes to the Goliad Corporation, to Harry Bass, October 30, 1972.

High-Grade 1843-O Quarter Eagle

Large Date

359 **1843-O Large Date, Plain 4. AU-55 (PCGS).** Well struck and very attractive. An excellent example of the date, mint, and grade. An attractive example in light yellow gold.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (MS-62 finest).

On the Large Date variety, the first digit is much farther to the left than typical seen, and is fairly close to the bust point. The bust tip above is slightly flattened in order to accommodate the digit, otherwise it might touch or overlap. The 1 is more bold and more deeply impressed than the other figures.

On the reverse, the mintmark O is slightly doubled at the bottom, the doubling being in the form of a small raised arc. The present specimen displays a large cud break on the rim, outside of the dentils, beginning above the F (OF) and continuing to the right above the tip of the eagle's wing.

With some raised die roughness to the right of the D after the fraction.

Another Choice 1843-O $2.50

Large Date

360 **1843-O Large Date, Plain 4. AU-55 (PCGS).** Frosty orange-gold with considerable mint brilliance in the recessed areas.

Reverse with slightly doubled O mintmark. No cud visible on rim.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1849.

Lustrous 1843-O $2.50

Large Date

361 **1843-O Large Date, Plain 4. AU-55 (PCGS).** Another lustrous example of this popular issue, this with olive highlights on the somewhat reflective fields.

Reverse with slightly doubled mintmark as earlier described. Also with subliminal traces of the rim cud earlier described. Now with a crack extending from near the left part of the lowest arrowhead, past the final A (AMERICA) to a dentil.

From Paramount's sale of November 1971, Lot 993.

362 **1843-O Large Date, Plain 4. AU-53 (PCGS).** Attractive light yellow gold, this being par for the course among the hand-selected Bass Collection quarter eagles.

Reverse with mintmark with slight doubling at the bottom, as described earlier. Cud at upper right reverse rim, also as described earlier. With some raised die roughness to the right of the D after the fraction.

From Stack's sale of the Rosen Collection, September 1968, Lot 316.

363 1843-O Large Date, Plain 4. EF-45. Light yellow gold. Much lustre remains. With exceptionally flat, wide rim on obverse and reverse. (The rim characteristics of the MS-62 1843-O Large Date offered cannot be easily studied as it is encapsulated, but the rims seem to be wide as well.)

The 1843-O Large Date does not come on the market very often. As such, the present piece represents an ideal opportunity to acquire this rarity at the EF-45 grade level.

Die pair as preceding.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. Sale, October 1968, Lot 741.

High-Grade 1844 Quarter Eagle

364 **1844 AU-55 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Well struck and very attractive. Elusive in any and all higher grades, with Walter Breen's comment being as relevant as any: "Usually in low grades, prohibitively rare AU." Moreover, the mintage for this year is remarkably low for the era, just 6,784 pieces. A prize coin by any accounting.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-60).

Only one die pair has been recognized for this issue. The date logotype is large, and somewhat distorted, with the tops of the digits being smaller and more delicate than the bases, with the final four in particular being bottom heavy. To accommodate the logotype, the dentils were modified, with the curious result that they are indented under the first and last digits. The die also shows some unusual finish lines between the first digit and first star, extending clockwise to past star 2. On the reverse the left-most raised line in the two-part stripes, and also the right-most line extend upward through the horizontal shield stripes.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 777.

Mint State 1844-C $2.50

Possibly Finest Known

(2X photo)

365 **1844-C MS-62 (PCGS).** Warm yellow gold surfaces. Fairly lus trous, intermingled with original die striae (indicating that thi is an early striking from the die pair). A high quality seldor seen among quarter eagles of this date and mint. High Cond tion Census, possibly the *finest known.*

In his work on the subject, Douglas Winter lists *just on known Mint State specimen,* noting that it is the piece that was i our Fairfield Collection, Lot 1497, high AU, but "other viewer felt it is a full MS-60." Thus, it would seem that the Fairfiel coin is not a close contender to the present Bass coin and therefore, the Bass coin has a clear possibility of being the fir est survivor.

The Charlotte specialist will wish to consider this opportu nity carefully and bid strongly. A related opportunity may no recur.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

To reiterate an earlier-stated philosophy, population numbers should b taken with a large dose of salt as such numbers may not actually represen *different* specimens.

Date logotype very deeply punched into the die, and too far left. The to of the 1 touches the base of the neck truncation, while the lower left serif o the 1 touches a dentil. Prominent die striae are seen in the fields, indicatin that this is a very early striking from the die.

On the reverse the mintmark is large and high, embedded in the arrow feather, with a small part of the feather visible within the upper curve. Di striae are prominent and again indicate that this is an early impression However, upon very close examination there are two lightly parallel clash marks at the upper right hand corner of the shield, indicating the di clashed at least twice, although lightly, before this piece was struck.

Apparently an extensive mintage was contemplated, as in December 184 three obverse and five reverse dies were sent from Philadelphia. However, i seems that but a single pair was used. The mintmark on the reverse is large this being the norm for this year and through the end of the series.

On July 27, 1844, the Charlotte Mint was burgled, and the miscreant re sponsible for the act also set the mint afire, preventing coinage in 1845 and in a small way creating his own footnote to numismatic history.

The Charlotte Mint was subsequently rebuilt, and at a later time was *moved.* Today in 1999 the facility, located in a city park, houses the Min Museum, which emphasizes art.

From Stack's Metropolitan Sale, May 1968, Lot 696.

Attractive 1844-D Quarter Eagle

6 **1844-D MS-62 (PCGS).** Slightly weakly struck at the center, as always. A splendid coin of truly remarkable quality, exhibiting prooflike characteristics on obverse and reverse. One of the nicest in existence at this grade level, a find for the connoisseur.

PCGS Population: 6; 1 finer (MS-63).

On the obverse the date logotype is too far to the left, causing the first digit to touch the bust. Although the logotype seems to be the same as used on the 1844 Philadelphia issue, in the present instance it was more evenly impressed into the working die; thus, the numerals are not bottom heavy.

On the reverse the mintmark overlaps an arrow feather, as usual, and is tilted to the left.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 1, 1972.

Splendid 1844-D Quarter Eagle

Mint State

Condition Census

67 **1844-D MS-61 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold, very lustrous and frosty. *Superbly struck*, including minute details on the eagle's feathers—very notable in this respect, especially as Douglas Winter writes, "Most are very weakly struck at the center of the obverse... The reverse is often weakly struck in the lower part of the eagle's neck, the shield, and the right leg and the claws;" however, the same writer notes that perhaps 15% to 20% of the known coins are well struck.

Not quite as important (this being our opinion) is the grade—which, of course, at the Mint State level is fantastic. Bring the high numerical grade and the sharpness of striking together and the coin is of incredible importance. We note for the record that our offering of the Columbia Collection last year, one of the very finest assemblies of Charlotte and Dahlonega Mint coins ever put together, checked in with a specimen at the AU-53 level. Douglas Winter estimates that eight to nine Mint State specimens exist. As noted, he suggests that 15% to 20% of all pieces are sharply struck. Taking the higher percentage, 20%, and applying it to the higher range of his estimate, one comes up with 1.8 coins, or, realistically, two coins that statistically might be both sharply struck and in Mint State.

PCGS Population: 4; 7 finer (MS-63 finest).

Once again the population reports—which may represent duplicate offerings of the same pieces—indicates a higher number of Mint State survivors than has been identified by specialists in the gold series.

Date logotype far to the left, but not quite so far as on the 1844-C earlier described. Left side of top of 1 touches neck truncation. Lower left of 1 is barely clear of dentil. Clash marks are seen before and after Miss Liberty's neck.

On the reverse the D mintmark is large and high and overlaps the arrow feather. Much of the top half of the interior of the mintmark is occupied by part of the feather, in a V shape more or less. Extensive and very *deep* clash marks are seen at the upper right of the shield, about as deep as we can ever recall seeing on a quarter eagle die. Other clash marks are seen around the motif. Apparently the dies really *slammed* together! A highly interesting coin from a technical viewpoint, just the sort of piece that Harry Bass enjoyed owning.

Purchased from Joseph Flynn, February 28, 1973, apparently earlier from Superior.

Another Nice 1844-D $2.50

Beautiful AU-50

368 **1844-D AU-50.** Bright yellow gold. A very attractive example of this scarce issue, an ideal specimen at this grade level.

Obverse die with date as preceding, high and with left side of 1 touching the neck truncation. No clash marks evident.

Reverse with D overlapping the feather and with a tiny amount of the feather showing in the space; left side of D touches 1 of numerator. Extremely heavy clash marks at upper right of shield, but from a different die than earlier described. The die contact must have been intense.

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, January 17, 1968.

Beautiful Mint State 1845 $2.50

369 **1845 MS-64 (PCGS).** Lustrous and frosty. A splendid example of this popular early date, one of the relatively few quarter eagles of the era for which a Mint State coin is not an extreme rarity.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

On the obverse the date logotype is too high and touches the tip of the bust. The same logotype was rather carelessly made, with the base of the 45 lower than that of 18, and with the 5 leaning right.

The reverse is bisected by a break beginning at the border, going through a dentil and brushing the left side of the 2 in the fraction, extending upward through the eagle, out through the eagle's neck behind the eye, and barely to the left of O (OF) to a dentil.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1498, purchased at the sale by Michael G. Brownlee, and subsequently traded to Harry Bass.

Attractive Mint State 1845 $2.50

370 **1845 MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with much brilliance in the recessed areas. A second pleasing choice Mint State example of the date.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (MS-64).

Date position and logotype as preceding. A tiny crack is seen connecting stars 3-5.

The reverse die has raised finish marks extending at about a 45° angle oriented to the left of vertical, the approximate orientation seen on the striae of most other dies of the era. Additionally, many of the vertical lines in the reverse shield extend well above their normal terminus, several of them extending completely across the horizontal lines above to the top border of the shield. Several lines also extend below the shield, terminating in the eagle's feathers.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 12, 1969.

Sharp and Lustrous 1845 $2.50

371 **1845 MS-62 (PCGS).** A very pleasing specimen, one with a great deal of eye appeal.

Obverse from the logotype as preceding, placed high. A crack connects stars 3 through 7.

On the reverse a crack begins at a dentil, extends through the 2 of the fraction to the eagle's center claw above; another crack begins at the right, goes through the ornamental dot following A (AMERICA) to the branch stem. Still another crack, barely visible, connects the eagle's wing tip to a dentil at the left, this being a stress point in the dies of this general reverse motif, as earlier observed.

372 **1845 MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with rose highlights. Sharply struck and aesthetically appealing for the grade.

Obverse with logotype high. Crack connects stars 3 through 6. Reverse with extensive cracks including from dentil through 2 of fraction to eagle's center claw above; from dentil through the ornamental dot to the right of A (AMERICA) to the stem branch; from the eagle's wing tip to dentil at upper left; and additional cracks from the border through the right of N (UNITED) to the branch, and from near the end of the branch to the E (UNITED). A further crack extends from the border to the top of the E (AMERICA). The die is virtually shattered, and could not have been employed long after this piece was struck.

Purchased from Rarcoa, September 4, 1968.

373 **1845 MS-61.** A very beautiful specimen with full prooflike surface on the obverse and reverse. A very early striking from lightly polished dies. Quite scarce in Mint State, although readily available in lower grades.

Obverse with date logotype very deeply impressed into the die and far too high, with the 1 touching the neck truncation for about a third of the distance along the top of the numeral. Regarding the date logotype, the 5 is at an angle, but does not seem to have been meant as a slanting or italic 5. Rather, the logotype was probably made carelessly. The identical punch was used to create dies for quarter eagles and dimes of the various mints.

Also relating to the obverse die, there are many minute parallel die striations, indicating a fairly early use. *However,* there is also a very delicate die crack extending from star 3 to close to star 6, indicating the die must have broken very early in its application. All in all the obverse is very interesting to study under magnification, and the longer one lingers, the more one could write.

The reverse die also has many minute striations, indicating an early impression. A tiny crack is seen extending from the branch, through the tip of the eagle's claw, down close to the 2 in the denomination, indicating it cracked early in its application or else that this was a stress crack made when the master die was used to create the working die.

Purchased from Douglas Weaver, August 29, 1973.

374 **1845 MS-60.** Bright yellow gold. An attractive example, although not in the league of the foregoing.

Date logotype as preceding, with one high. Crack from star 3 through close to star 5.

The reverse is from a different die and shows a crack extending from the eagle's claw down to the top of the 2 in the denominator, leading us to think that this was probably a stress crack made during die manufacture (especially as a somewhat similar, but differently positioned crack has been described from another die).

Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, April 17, 1967.

375 1845 AU-58. Bright yellow gold.

Obverse from die earlier described, with logotype far too high, and wit crack from star 3 extending to barely reach star 6.

On the reverse this is an advanced state of the die earlier described with tiny crack coming down to the top of the 2 in the denominator. Now th crack is bold and extends to the border. If this crack was caused by stres during die manufacture, it created a weak spot that subsequently yielded Two additional cracks extend from the left side of the branch, one through the right side of N (UNITED) to the border and the other to the E, connecting to the nearby D. Still another crack is seen from the border to the eagle' wing at upper left, yet and at the right, a comparable crack is from the bor der to the other wing of the eagle. Another crack from the border extend to the E (AMERICA), while yet another crack extends from the border t the ornamental dot after the final A (AMERICA) to the end of the stem Further, evidences of clashing are seen around the eagle.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 82.

Condition Census 1845-D $2.50

Choice Mint State

Bass: "Finest Known?"

(2X photo)

376 **1845-D MS-63 (PCGS).** A prize specimen, which Harry Bass marked "finest known?" in his notes. Clearly, this piece overshadows the finest known to Douglas Winter, which was a solitary Mint State coin called "Graded MS-61 by NGC."

The Bass Collection specimen is a far above average strike, and is of bright yellow gold. The possibly unequalled grade, plus the sharpness of strike, plus the general rarity of the issue combines to make this a landmark opportunity for the Dahlonega Mint specialist.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Obverse with date logotype extremely close to and possibly barely touching neck truncation, notably separated from dentil below, but still close. Logotype punched more deeply into the die at the first part of the date than toward the end. Reflective of hand processes in die making of the era. Reverse with D mintmark into arrow feather, but no traces of feather within the opening. Lower left serif of D touches 1 in denominator. Curious deep die lines above and below the eagle's wing at the upper left, continuing through the bottom of ST (STATES). Heavy clash marks are observed around the eagle, particularly at the upper right of the shield.

From Superior's ANA Sale, August 1975, Lot 1361. Ex American Auction Association's Sale, Lot 999.

Popular 1845-D $2.50

7 **1845-D AU-55 (PCGS).** Unusually high grade for this issue, and rare so fine. The typical example is more likely to be VF or EF, as such pieces were used extensively in commerce.

Obverse from same logotype described earlier, on the present coin punched into the working die so that the left side of the logotype is deeper than the right, resulting in the digit 1 being very prominent. On the reverse the die clashed, but lightly, with some evidences of this seen above the wing opposite the upper right corner of the shield.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 618.

Beautiful and Rare 1845-O $2.50

Mysteriously Missing from *Mint Report*

78 **1845-O AU-55 (PCGS).** Pleasing light yellow gold, in keeping with the vast majority of pieces in the Bass Collection. Lustrous and with much eye appeal. A truly notable example of one of the most famous of early quarter eagles.

PCGS Population: 2; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).

The fame of the 1845-O dates from the 1890s, when the numismatic world was somewhat surprised to find that such a variety existed. *The Numismatist*, December 1894, included this note: "Quarter eagle pieces of 1845, New Orleans Mint, have lately been found, although no coinage that year appears in the *Mint Report.*" Today it is believed that the coinage was 4,000, a small number by any reckoning.

The obverse is from the same logotype described earlier, but on the present coin too far left (as usual), but centered between the bust and the dentils, with the latter being cut away under the first digit to accommodate it. The base of the 1 shows slight doubling. At the left border between the first digit and star 1 are some prominent diagonal die finish lines.

On the reverse the O mintmark overlaps the feather and also is impaled by the top of the denominator. In the shield, some vertical lines are seen extending through the horizontal stripes.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1500.

Notable 1845-O Quarter Eagle

379 **1845-O AU-55 (PCGS).** Another pleasing example of this scarce and historical issue. Bright yellow gold with much lustre remaining. The specialist will enjoy having this as part of his or her collection.

From the die pair earlier described, apparently the only pair used to make 1845-O quarter eagles.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 21, 1968.

Rare Mint State 1846 $2.50

380 **1846 MS-62 (PCGS).** Somewhat prooflike on obverse and reverse. A splendid coin displaying a high degree of eye appeal combined with notable rarity at this grade level. Walter Breen observes, "Usually in low grade; prohibitively rare Uncirculated." He also notes that the date is from a logotype used on dimes.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

The date logotype is distinguished by having the 6 heavier than the other three digits, and leaning slightly to the right. The cross bar of the 4 is oriented slightly upward to the right. Some diagonal die striae are seen on the obverse and the reverse, in both instances oriented at about a 45° angle left of vertical.

In this year it was amateur night in the date logotype preparation department, and punches are several across the different denominations, sometimes short and squat with irregular numerals, other times being tall with thin numerals. There seem to be no rhyme, reason, or consistency.

From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 309.

Marvelous 1846-C Quarter Eagle

The Eliasberg Coin

Finest Known

381 **1846-C MS-64 (PCGS).** Brilliant yellow gold. Lustrous fields. A delicacy from the U.S. Gold Coin Collection sale, more properly described as the Eliasberg Collection sale, 1982, where the present cataloguer described it as follows:

"1846-C Obverse Select Brilliant Uncirculated, MS-63. Reverse Choice Brilliant Uncirculated, MS-65. Possibly the finest known example of this issue. Far exceeding in quality any other observed by the writer.

"The coin is desirable also from the mintage viewpoint, just 4,808 were struck, the second lowest mintage among Charlotte Mint issues of this denomination. A truly fantastic quarter eagle which will undoubtedly bring a runaway price."

The preceding said, we can all fasten our numismatic seat belts and watch for another take off! Here, indeed, is a coin for numismatic posterity.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

The dies of this issue, never perfect, provide an opportunity for study and commentary. The date logotype is small and is about centered. The upright of the 4 leans to the right, and the 6 does also. During the year 1846 there was a big "problem" at the Mint regarding dates, and a number of varieties were created. The present logotype must have been made by an amateur.

The surface of the die shows extensive rust marks, particularly in the lower section around the date, with a large lump in the field. Several lumps are seen in the field, the largest above star 13.

On the reverse, the C is very high and about half embedded in the branch and arrow feather. Extensive, deep, multiple clash marks are seen at the eagle, most intensely above the upper right corner of the shield. Rust is seen below the first T (STATE) and below the eagle's wing on the left side of the coin. Die striae are evident and probably in this instance are from relapping in the shop at the Charlotte Mint, not from original die preparation.

All Charlotte and Dahlonega coins from this era are highly idiosyncratic, and multiple paragraphs could be easily written about each.

Apparently, demand for quarter eagles was fairly low at this point, as none had been struck in Charlotte in 1845, and the mintage in 1846 was quite low. Two pairs of dies were sent from Philadelphia, but it seems that just one pair was used, apparently over a period of time during the year.

During this era the denomination of choice for those depositing gold bullion at the Charlotte Mint was the half eagle, as it would continue to be through the following decade. A given amount of gold dust and nuggets could be converted to gold form more efficiently by using the $5 denomination, as only about half the work was required as compared to striking two quarter eagles for the same purpose. We reiterate that during this time there was absolutely no numismatic interest in branch mint coins, and all Charlotte gold coins passed into circulation without any notice. Many years later in the 1930s, when collecting gold coins by mintmark varieties became popular on a widespread scale, virtually all Charlotte pieces had disappeared. Not even overseas bank hoards were apt to have much in the way of Charlotte Mint gold dollars or quarter eagles; what few pieces they had were apt to be half eagles.

From our sale of the Eliasberg Collection, 1982, Lot 137. Earlier from the Clapp Collection, still earlier from the David Wilson Sale, 1907. S. H. Chapman, March 1907.

Rare 1846-C Quarter Eagle

382 **1846-C AU-50.** Struck from rusted dies, as cited in the literature (*e.g.*, Douglas Winter, *Charlotte Mint Gold Coins*, p. 58). Another truly *memorable* 1846-C. A survey of specialized collections of Charlotte Mint coins will reveal that the typically encountered grade is VF and EF. In virtually every instance, Bass Collection coins are exceptions on the high side.

On the obverse the rust is particularly prominent in the area from star 1 across the date to star 13. On the reverse the rust is lighter, and is seen in the denomination as well as below the eagle's wing to the left.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1814.

High-Grade 1846-D Quarter Eagle

383 **1846-D Breen-6183. Doubled D. AU-58 (PCGS).** A lustrous and very attractive example, among the finest seen with regard to high technical grade and excellent eye appeal. A high-grade example of an issue that is scarce in all grades, and which is almost impossible to find in Mint State. Moreover, "among *other examples* many have been cleaned and show hairlines" (Winter).

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Logotype slightly low, closer to the dentils than to the bust. Obverse and reverse with extensive clash marks, the obverse being distinguished in this regard by curved arcs in front of the neck, transferred from the eagle's head outline on the reverse. On the reverse, the clash from the obverse is virtually complete with the entire outline of the head of Miss Liberty being visible. Cracks are seen among the letters at the border. This reverse has the *Doubled D*, an anomaly first discovered by Harry Bass and so noted on page 496 of *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins.*

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 26, 1971.

High-Grade 1846-D $2.50

Doubled D Variety

384 **1846-D Breen-6183. Doubled D. AU-55 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold. Nearly all Mint lustre still remains.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (AU-58).

Obverse with date logotype deeply punched into the die, and very low, at least three or four times closer to the dentil than to the neck truncation. Last two figures lean right, as on all dies this year from this logotype.

Reverse is of the doubled style, with traces of the base of the first D visible far to the left, above the 1 in the numerator. Douglas Winter calls this the "D near D reverse." The die is not particularly scarce, but certainly is interesting. The final mintmark is to the right and leans about 20° left, itself an interesting feature. A crack extends from the border to the eagle's wing at upper left. Another crack goes from the D (UNITED) to the lower part of the same wing. A further crack connects TES with the adjacent O. This reverse die is known only to have been used in 1846 (not saved until later years), indicating that it probably failed, and that more advanced die states exist.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 91.

Splendid AU 1846-D Quarter Eagle

Doubled D Variety

385 **1846-D Breen-6183. Doubled D. AU-55 (PCGS).** Attractive light yellow gold. Much lustre remains.

Reverse with *Doubled D.* Obverse and reverse showing clash marks, including arcs in front of the neck of Miss Liberty. Some cracks link letters on the reverse.

Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, February 23, 1967.

Satiny 1846-D $2.50

386 **1846-D Breen-6183. Doubled D. AU-53 (PCGS).** Finely granular "seawater Uncirculated" surfaces, quite possibly a coin that never saw actual circulation.

This is the *Doubled D* reverse, but on the present piece only the lower tip of the D is visible; perhaps the die was relapped. Breen mentions under the "Perfect D" variety, "a few 'seawater Uncirculateds' reported." The pedigree of such pieces is very elusive, no doubt as the finders of the treasure sought to realize the full extent of their gains, rather than use up any profits on litigation and contested claims.

Obverse from perfect die distinguished by a tiny raised die line from a dentil extending diagonally toward star 6. The reverse is from a nearly shattered die: Multiple cracks link D STATES OF A. Crack from border to D of denomination through D mintmark above. Crack from border to right through E (AMERICA) to feathers. Crack at the stress point connecting eagle's wing to dentil at upper left. Close to being shattered, this die could not have lasted far beyond the production of this piece.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 30, 1967.

Another Nice 1846-D $2.50

387 **1846-D Breen-6183. Doubled D. AU-53 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Attractive overall.

Obverse with clash marks including arcs before the neck. Mark on rim at upper left, not affecting dentils, possibly due to another coin being impressed on it.

Reverse with *Doubled D* prominently shown. Die cracks through certain of the border letters and from the eagle's wing tip to dentil at upper left. A close examination of the clash marks show that the dies impacted each other at least twice.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 84.

Another Notable 1846-D $2.50

388 **1846-D Breen-6184. Normal D. AU-53 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Some lustre remains in protected areas.

Obverse from perfect die. Reverse with regular (not doubled) D. Multiple cracks link D STATES OF A. Crack from border to D of denomination through D mintmark above. Crack from border to right through E (AMERICA) to feathers. Crack at the "popular" stress point connecting eagle's wing to dentil at upper left. Close to being shattered, this die could not have lasted far beyond the production of this piece.

Purchased from Steve Kosoff, September 4, 1968.

Remarkable 1846-O Quarter Eagle

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

389 **1846-O MS-64 (PCGS).** A typical strike, or perhaps a bit above average, for the issue, with some weakness at the centers. Deep and beautiful rich mint lustre highlights obverse and reverse. The specialist familiar with New Orleans gold of this era knows that VF and EF are standard grades, and that even MS-60 would be unusual. The present coin is a landmark, shading even the beautiful MS-60 Eliasberg Collection coin (which was the finest known to Douglas Winter when he studied the series). Here, indeed, is a treasure.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype as preceding, with last two digits tilted. Deeply punched logotype, with repunching within the last digit, seemingly Breen's "overdate," Breen-6186, described as "Repunched 4, microscopic traces of 4 within 6." Regarding this characteristic, Douglas Winter in *New Orleans Mint Gold Coins: 1839-1909,* comments: "It has long been claimed that an 1846/44-O overdate exists. In my opinion, such pieces are not overdates..." It probably is not necessary to state at this point that we agree, for we have not catalogued it as an overdate. What, then, *is* the stub under the final 6? Upon examination of this piece and also others from this logotype punch, it seems that the logotype was shifted, and a repunching occurred. There is a small line in the top of the 6 that might lead someone to think it is a diagonal from a 4, but within the base of the 6 the repunchings are all curved or circular in appearance, indicating a repunching of a 6, certainly not a 4. Related repunchings, differing in some detail, occur among other dies (but not for the just-offered 1846-D).

Further concerning the obverse, raised die lines are seen from the border beginning below star 1 and extending toward star 2.

Reverse with O mintmark high. Some die lines evident, particularly between F (OF) and eagle's wingtip to right.

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, December 16, 1971.

390 **1846-O AU-58 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Much lustre still remaining.

PCGS Population: 6; 5 finer (MS-64 finest).

Obverse and reverse with neither cracks nor notable die-finish features.

From Stack's sale of the Winter Collection, January 1974, Lot 508.

391 **1846-O AU-58 (PCGS).** Attractive light yellow gold. Much lustre is seen on both sides.

The obverse displays the logotype punched very deeply into the die, exaggerating the strength of the last two digits. Interesting die finish lines can be seen at the border near star 13. On the reverse some curious die finish roughness can be seen from F (OF) extending clockwise to above AM. Obverse and reverse perfect (no cracks).

From Stack's sale of December 1971, Lot 795.

392 **1846-O AU-55.** Attractive light yellow gold.

Obverse die with logotype positioned about as preceding, but with heavy repunching around the bases of the 4, a more prominent pseudo "overdate" feature, and lacking the die finish lines near stars 1-2.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2045.

393 **1846-O AU-50.** Deep orange-gold lustre on medium gold surfaces.

Obverse and reverse dies identical to the MS-64 specimen offered earlier

Purchased from Betz, June 22, 1967.

394 **1846-O AU-50.** Light yellow gold.

Obverse from same logotype as preceding, date about centered. Very heavily punched toward the last two digits, making them appear larger and heavier. Pseudo "overdate" features quite distinct. Much extra material is at the base of the 4. For further study the specialist may wish to see if the logotype punch was altered or changed, as the repunching seems to extend across several dies and be in the same position, but it is not seen on all dies.

Reverse with mintmark very high, and part of the arrow feather visible within the interior of the mintmark.

Purchased from D. Jensen, June 22, 1967.

Mint State 1847 $2.50

Condition Census

395 **1847 MS-62 (PCGS).** Much prooflike surface on obverse and reverse, struck from highly polished dies. Some lightness of striking at eagle's leg to left on reverse, this being usual. Noticeable die striations, possibly indicating an early impression or, alternatively, relapping, although no details seem to have been diminished. All in all an exceptional example of an issue which is plentiful in lower grades but which is almost never seen in Mint State. Another *find* for the connoisseur and specialist.

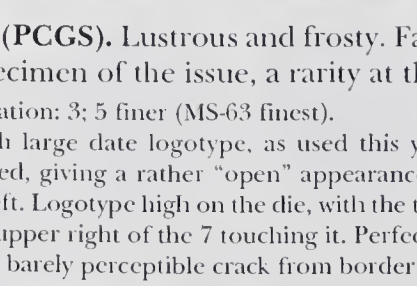
PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-63).

Obverse with overly large logotype, with top of first digit embedded in the bust of Miss Liberty and, double punched at the bottom, also touching a dentil. At the upper right the 7 grazes the lower part of the truncation. The logotype was casually made, and the 8 and 4 lean slightly right—the type of workmanship that Walter Breen was fond of attributing to James B. Longacre, but was probably done by some assistant. At the right border from stars 11-13 are some interesting die file marks.

On the reverse a crack bisects the die, extending from the dentils through the I of the fraction numerator, through the eagle, out through the wingtip at upper right to the dentils. This crack, shown at an earlier state in the AU-50 piece offered subsequently, began at the upper right border.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 137.

Remarkable Quality 1847 $2.50



396 **1847 MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous and frosty. Fairly sharp strike. A splendid specimen of the issue, a rarity at this grade level.

PCGS Population: 3; 5 finer (MS-63 finest).

Obverse with large date logotype, as used this year. Figures thin and widely separated, giving a rather "open" appearance and configuration. 8 leans slightly left. Logotype high on the die, with the tip of the 1 piercing the neck, and the upper right of the 7 touching it. Perfect die (no cracks).

Reverse with barely perceptible crack from border to O (OF).

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 33.

1847 AU-58 (PCGS). Rich gold surfaces. Somewhat prooflike on both sides. Rare at this grade level.

Obverse with first digit doubled at the bottom; top of 1 embedded in bust. Tip of 7 barely touches bust. Some die finish lines are seen at the dentils from star 11 through 13.

Reverse die perfect. Some parallel die striae seen in the usual orientation, about a 45° angle to the left of vertical.

From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 311.

1847 AU-55. An attractive prooflike specimen. High grade for the issue.

Obverse as preceding, with logotype high and with numeral 1 double punched. Die finish lines still visible.

The reverse is from a different die, also with die finish lines (perhaps indicating an early impression). A crack is in the interior and extends from the highest leaf at the left upward to the right to the eagle's feather, a rather unusual position.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 17, 1968.

1847 AU-55. Another specimen of this Philadelphia Mint issue. Not easy to find at the AU level.

Obverse with date very high, with 1 piercing the neck truncation, but with the base not punched and just barely clear of the dentils. At the upper right the 7 touches the neck truncation.

The reverse is from yet another die, not hitherto described, with prominent file marks at the upper left border to the left side of the O (OF).

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 85.

1847 AU-53. Light yellow gold. Partially prooflike surfaces.

Obverse from die earlier described, with first digit sharply double punched, and touching the bust above and the dentils below. Reverse from die earlier described, with interior crack from highest leaf on left to eagle's wing.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 26, 1972.

1847 AU-50. A final specimen of the issue.

Obverse and reverse the same as the MS-62 specimen offered earlier. The reverse is an earlier die state, and the bisecting crack is not as prominent within the eagle and at the lower left does not yet extend to the border, stopping in the present instance at the 1 in the fraction numerator.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA Sale, August 1968, Lot 799.

Marvelous 1847-C Quarter Eagle

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

402 **1847-C MS-63 (PCGS).** A lovely example which may well be the second or third finest known of this date and mint.

The surfaces are bright yellow gold and on obverse and reverse have many die finishing marks, indicating this is a very early impression. Well struck, which is not unheard of for the 1847-C, but which in the general context of Charlotte quarter eagles is unusual indeed. A lovely specimen that will occupy an honored position in the cabinet of its next owner.

PCGS Population: 6; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

Obverse from standard four-digit date logotype used on the quarter eagle, with central figures leaning right. Placed high on the die, with both the 1 and the 7 piercing the outline of the neck truncation, and both figures being free of the dentils.

Reverse die aligned about 170° from the vertical, instead of the normal 180°. C mintmark high, embedded in the branch and arrow feathers. Crack from border to eagle's wing at left; similar crack from border to eagle's wing at right. Prominent clash marks outline the head of Miss Liberty. Raised "islands" below 1 of numerator and to the left of two of the denomination of the fraction.

Three different die pairs were shipped from Philadelphia to Charlotte for this year's coinage, but the literature is silent as to the number of varieties actually produced. The Columbia Collection coin seems to be from the same die pair as the presently offered example, and the same can be said for the Winter illustration.

From Stack's sale of April 1978, Lot 799.

Exceptional 1847-C Quarter Eagle

403 **1847-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Much lustre is seen. Some field marks are consistent with the grade.

Obverse with date logotype high and touching portrait, as usual for the date. Reverse with mintmark placed high, impacting the branch stem. Tiny cracks extend from both wingtips to the border. Small clash mark at top of eagle's wing to right. Some barely noticeable traces of clashing at OF. Dies from a fairly early unrusted state.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1624.

Attractive 1847-C Quarter Eagle

404 **1847-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. A pleasing example of the issue, far finer than usually seen.

Obverse with logotype high as usual, same die as preceding. Reverse with light evidences of rust at fraction and elsewhere; some minor traces of clashing. Small crack from eagle's wing to dentil at upper left.

Purchased from N.K.S. on April 28, 1967, then to Abner Kreisberg, acquired by Harry Bass via swap on March 30, 1973.

Stunning 1847-D Quarter Eagle

Tied for Finest Known

(2X photo)

405 **1847-D MS-64 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike at the centers. *Exceedingly sharply struck.* A stunning specimen, tied for the finest known, quite possibly *the* finest known (a comparison of the two contenders side by side would be needed to confirm this). Douglas Winter makes note of another MS-64 piece graded by PCGS, his plate coin.

From the original mintage of 15,784 pieces, several hundred examples are believed to exist, nearly all of which are centered in and about the VF category, some reaching to EF and others to AU, but only rarely to even MS-60.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Obverse with date logotype high, with 1 and 7 piercing the neck truncations and both free from the dentils. Many raised die finish lines are evident, one particularly prominent line connecting stars 2-3 and approaching star 4. Faint traces of clash marks are seen before and after the neck.

On the reverse the D is very high, with the interior 50% filled with evidence of the arrow feathers. Many prominent raised finish lines, especially at the upper left. Very slight clash marks are visible at the eagle's wing at the upper right corner of the shield. Seemingly a fairly early striking.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman; earlier from Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, Lot 139.

Rare 1847-D Quarter Eagle

406 **1847-D AU-53.** Lustrous light yellow gold. A very pleasing example.

Obverse and reverse dies as preceding.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, date not stated.

Highly Important 1847-O

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

(2X photo)

407 **1847-O MS-63 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous honey gold surfaces. A rarity in Mint State despite its sizeable mintage of 124,000 pieces. Winter called this date Mid-Rarity-6 in Uncirculated; the preponderance of Mint State specimens of this date are in lower grades than the choice Mint State coin offered here. A copper spot is noted at the 2 in the denomination. Some ce tral striking weakness is seen, typical for this date. The fin New Orleans issue in the denomination until 1850. A cond tion rarity that will elicit strong bids.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype too far left, with top of 1 touching neck truncation and low left serif of 1 (which is repunched at top) deeply into a dentil. This is Breer 6194. That writer noted that the first piece was described in the New Neth lands sale of the Gaskill Collection, Sale 48, Lot 249. At the upper right, the touches the neck truncation, while the bottom of the 7 does not touch a de til, simply because the dentils have been shortened at this point. On all qua ter eagle dies of this year, the date logotype was simply too large for use on t quarter eagle. Prominent die lines are seen in several places, including at t border immediately to the left of the date, and between star 13 and the nec On the reverse the O mintmark is fairly high and distant from the 1 in t fraction numerator, with the bottom point of the arrow feather extendi downward into the inner space. Some very light clash marks are evident, pa ticularly on the eagle's wing far above the top arrow. Barest trace of a d crack is seen from the borders through star 7 to the head.

Purchased from John N. Rowe, III, August 24, 1966.

408 **1847-O AU-55.** Light yellow gold. Much mint lustre still re mains. A high-grade example of this scarce issue.

Date logotype high, with first and last digits piercing the neck truncati and with their bases slightly clear of the dentils. Prominent crack from bo der through star 11 to hair bun.

Reverse with mintmark into arrow feather, and with just a wisp of t feather showing at the upper right of the interior. The O is close to but cle of the 1 in the numerator. Subliminal traces of die crack, possibly fro stress, to right of D in denomination extending to ornamental dot.

From Superior's sale of the Davenport Collection, February 197 Lot 697; earlier from the Charles Ruby III Sale, Lot 1013.

409 **1847-O AU-50.** Light yellow gold. Much lustre is still seen, pa ticularly on the reverse.

Obverse with date high, piercing the neck truncation; lower left of barely touches a dentil. A different die from those thus far described. Subt traces of a clash mark from the eagle's wing are seen in the field close to th head of Miss Liberty opposite star 12.

On the reverse the O mintmark is clear at its center, save for the most tin nuance at the upper right; at the lower left the outside of the mintmar touches the numerator. Heavy diagonal die lines are seen through th branch and UNI (UNITED).

Purchased from Dean Oakes, A & A Coins, September 4, 1968.

410 **1847-O AU-50.** Another example of this New Orleans issue one that is fairly scarce in higher grades.

Die described earlier, Breen's Doubled Date, No. 6194. Somewhat late die state, now with crack from border through star 7 more prominent.

Reverse die oriented about 340° from the obverse, or close to being paralle

Mintmark high, close to but not touching 1 of numerator; center of min mark clear save for the barest nuance of a feather at the upper right interio

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 140.

411 1847-O EF-45. A highly affordable and somewhat more regu larly encountered grade.

Date high and piercing neck truncation, barely clear of dentils. The date lightly repunched, with traces of the earlier figures visible at the base Prominent crack at right border through star 11 to head. Reverse with min mark high, close to but not touching 1 of numerator, barest wisp of arro feather at interior upper right.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 789

412 1847-O EF-45. A final example of this date. Obviously, Harr liked to hoard 1847-O quarter eagles. No doubt he hoped some day to make many notations concerning minute die differences

Obverse is Breen's Doubled Die as earlier described. Barest trace of crac from border through star 7 to head. Reverse with O distant from numera tor, and with triangular section of arrow feather protruding from uppe right of interior, the same die pair as the MS-63 specimen earlier offered.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, March 15, 1973.

Extraordinary 1848 $2.50

Condition Census Quality

(2X photo)

413 **1848 MS-63 (PCGS).** Obverse highly prooflike, an early striking with die striae visible. Reverse is somewhat prooflike with die striae in about a 45° angle from upper left to lower right. Probably a very early striking from this pair.

With a mintage of 7,497, the 1848 quarter eagle has long been recognized as scarce. Walter Breen described the elusive quality of the issue as follows: "Touted as a rarity since about 1958, when J.F. Bell circulated want lists including this date; dealers found none in stock, and the hunt was on. Survivors were usually VF to EF, extremely rare AU."

"Touted" or otherwise, the 1848 is, indeed rare and, as is true of so many quarter eagles of this era, its elusive quality is mainly known to dealers and specialists. The 1848 CAL. counterstamp (not offered in the present sale) has swiped nearly all of the limelight for this date, and whenever an example crosses the block it creates a lot of attention. However, *it is true* that in MS-63 grade, the 1848 *without* the counterstamp is rarer!

All of this said, the present piece will no doubt attract enthusiastic bidding when it comes up on the auction block.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype better made this year, with figures well spaced and not leaning. On the present coin the logotype is too far left, with the tip of the 1 embedded in the neck truncation; final figure clear of the truncation and all figures clear of the dentils.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of March 1972, Lot 1165.

Wonderful 1848-C $2.50

High Condition Census

Almost Unbelievable Die State

(2X photo)

414 **1848-C MS-61 (PCGS).** *From severely buckled obverse die,* almost rendering it unusual—a very fascinating, indeed almost *unbelievable* die state which the quarter eagle specialist should view for educational purposes, even if he or she is not a serious bidder.

PCGS Population: 3, none finer.

This was a particularly highly prized piece in Harry Bass' collection, it being a combination of high quality and, per his notes, which were underlined, 1ST SEEN.

Struck in light yellow gold. A landmark because of its die state, but to a wider audience, important because of its high grade. In his reference on the series Douglas Winter listed only two pieces that he considered to be Mint State, with the notation that both listings might have referred to the same coin!

The mintage of 1848-C, which amounted to 16,788, might indicate that a handful of Mint State pieces are in numismatic hands—or at least should be. However, they are not. A little mystery.

Obverse with date high and to the left, the 1 embedded in the neck truncation; 8 clear of neck truncation and no figures touching the dentils. *Die dramatically and almost impossibly buckled,* so much so that we have never seen an equivalent in the quarter eagle series.

On the reverse the C mintmark is high and embedded in the arrow feather and branch. A crack extends from the border to the eagle's wing at upper left.

Purchased from Julian Leidman; earlier from Kagin's sale of November 1973, Lot 1551.

Pleasing and Rare 1848-C $2.50

415 **1848-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold consistent with the appearance of most issues of the Charlotte Mint. Very well struck. An exceptional specimen, especially in view of Douglas Winter's comments, "Many pieces are particularly soft at the center, the stars, the hair above Miss Liberty's forehead." Moreover, according to the same writer, "The typical 1848-C is characterized by an uneven strike." None of these comments apply to the remarkable coin offered here.

PCGS Population: 2; 4 finer (MS-61 finest).

Obverse with date logotype high (too far left) with top of 1 piercing the outline of the bust. Some die finish lines are seen at the dentils near star 13.

The reverse die is perfect except for a tiny crack located—where else?—at the wing tip connecting to a dentil at the upper left.

Purchased from N.K.S., September 20, 1970, apparently in a trade transaction.

High-Grade 1848-D $2.50

416 **1848-D AU-58 (PCGS),** or possibly even finer (in the cataloguer's view). Well struck and bold in all aspects. Bright yellow gold. A very pleasing specimen of an issue which when seen is usually in lower grades.

Date logotype far left with 1 piercing the neck truncation, base of 1 close to but not touching dentil. Reverse with D mintmark high, and about 50% of the interior covered by the arrow feather which extends diagonally into it.

The obverse and reverse dies both seem to be highly dished (basined).

Purchased from Julian Leidman, December 6, 1971.

Important 1848-D Quarter Eagle

417 **1848-D AU-55 (PCGS).** Rich deep yellow gold. Well struck overall, not highly unusual as such, but certainly nice to contemplate (most later Dahlonega issues are softly struck). Lustre is still seen in protected areas.

Date logotype high as usual. Obverse and reverse dies perfect.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 794.

High-Grade 1848-D $2.50

418 **1848-D AU-55 (PCGS).** Medium yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike, especially on the obverse. Another specimen of this popular and elusive Dahlonega issue.

Date logotype high as usual. Obverse die shows clash marks under chin and at neck. Reverse die perfect.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of November 1970, Lot 1556.

Exceptional 1849 Quarter Eagle

Elegant Mint State

419 **1849 MS-62 (PCGS).** A splendid coin, elegant, and quite rare at this grade level. The obverse is an exquisite strike, while the reverse has some lightness at the eagle's leg on the left.

Date logotype small this year, permitting easy placement between the bust and the dentils, in the present instance too low, however. Some minor repunching.

On the obverse there are die preparation lines at the dentils below the date. Obverse and reverse dies are perfect (no cracks).

420 **1849 AU-58.** Bright yellow gold. Small dig to left of first date digit. An exceptionally high-grade example of an issue which is usually seen in much lower grades.

Date logotype small this year, neatly fitting into the die. Positioned low, about three times closer to a dentil than to the neck truncation above. 8, 4, and 9 repunched, with the loop of the 9 closed, causing some to call this die the "1849/8," although even Walter Breen (who is usually very liberal on such matters) states: " 'The 1849/8' has not been confirmed; openings within 49 are almost never completely clear."

On the reverse a centering punch dot is seen at the top of the third vertical open "white" strip.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 5, 1968.

421 **1849 AU-55.** Bright yellow gold, somewhat prooflike.

Dies as preceding.

Purchased from Rarcoa, June 25, 1968.

World-Class 1849-C $2.50

Finest Graded by PCGS

An Underappreciated Rarity

(2X photo)

422 **1849-C MS-62 (PCGS).** Bright iridescent yellow gold with a touch of olive toning. Decidedly prooflike in the fields, with frosty cameo contrast provided by the devices. Choice for the grade. A superb specimen, far finer than usually seen. David Akers called this date "One of the rarest C-Mint quarter eagles, particularly in high grade." Walter Breen wrote, "Usually VF to EF, prohibitively rare AU." Douglas Winter called the date "Unknown" in Mint State. Accordingly, perhaps a beautiful Mint State specimen is impossibly rare, or perhaps even unique.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Of this issue, 10,220 were minted, and it seems that just about all went into circulation, seeing considerable use and becoming extensively worn in the process. The exact story of the present piece is not known, but its very special quality indicates that it was preserved with care, unlike the vast majority of its brethren.

From Stack's sale of May 1968, Lot 712.

Remarkable 1849-D Quarter Eagle

Tied for Finest Known

(2X photo)

423 **1849-D MS-61 (PCGS).** Warm medium gold surfaces. Highly lustrous. Very well struck on obverse and reverse, notable as such. A superb piece which at this level is an extreme rarity. Douglas Winter, in his excellent *Gold Coins of the Dahlonega Mint 1838-1861,* seems to have forgotten the Fairfield coin in his enumeration, as he states that just a single Mint State piece is known to him, but not this example. (The Fairfield Collection was noted elsewhere by Winter; however, this is not surprising, as overlooking things is easy enough to do—we have done it many times ourselves.) In any event, the specialist in quarter eagles, particularly examples from the Dahlonega Mint, may have to look for many years to find a rival to the present piece. It is worth noting that the remarkable coin offered as part of our Columbia Collection last year checked in at AU-50.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Following several years of relatively high (in the context of the Dahlonega Mint) production, the quantities for the 1849-D quarter eagle were more modest. Three die pairs were on hand in Dahlonega, but how many die varieties exist has not been researched. As a class, 1849-D $2.50 pieces are elusive in all grades. The total population is probably somewhere on the order of a few hundred pieces, with VF and EF being about the median grade, AU pieces being quite scarce (population figures do not reflect this, as fewer lower grade pieces are certified, thus making AU pieces appear more plentiful than they are), and regarding Mint State, we reiterate that it seems that but two pieces have been certified.

Date logotype left and high, about twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils. Repunching at the first date digit is more noticeable under high magnification. The star points are exceedingly close to the dentils, a subject not addressed widely in numismatic literature and perhaps a fruitful avenue of search for Craig Sholley, Dr. John McCloskey, and others interested in the minute technical differences among dies of this period.

Reverse mintmark high, with interior about half filled with a diagonal portion of the arrow feather.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1518, to the Goliad Corporation, to Harry Bass.

Exceptional 1849-D Quarter Eagle

High-Level AU

1849-D AU-58 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold. Sharply struck and very beautiful. A truly outstanding specimen the equal of which is seldom seen. Another marvelous opportunity for the connoisseur and specialist.

PCGS Population: 8; 2 finer (MS-61 finest).

Dies as preceding.

Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

Mint State 1850 Quarter Eagle

5 **1850 MS-64 (PCGS).** A splendid specimen with very plane fields (virtually no basining). Were it not for a mark below the fourth star, the grade would be a notch or two higher. Sharply struck on obverse and reverse save for the eagle's leg to the left.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype in *thin numerals* (Breen's nomenclature), due to the logotype being impressed fairly lightly into the working die. Digit 1 closer to dentils than to neck. The obverse die was highly polished, removing many striae or finish marks. Thus, the obverse has the aspect of a presentation piece.

The reverse was not polished, and displays extensive striae in the expected orientation, about 45° angle to the vertical, extending from upper left to lower right. No doubt this is a very early impression from the dies, as the devices are particularly bold.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

Pleasing Mint State 1850 $2.50

426 1850 MS-64 (PCGS). A splendid coin with lustrous, satiny frost. Extremely well struck on obverse and reverse, unusually so. A notable coin that will be highly appreciated by the connoisseur.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Four-digit date logotype fairly deeply impressed into the die. Numeral 1 ever so closer to the neck than to a dentil.

Obverse and reverse from perfect dies.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, September 19, 1973.

427 1850 MS-61. Light yellow gold, probably from California metal. An unusually high-grade example.

Obverse with date logotype lightly impressed into the die, Breen's "thin numerals" variety, No. 6205. Logotype about twice as close to neck truncation as to dentils. The fourth digit, 0, is distant from the neck and very close to a dentil.

Reverse die possibly relapped (per Breen), in any event with prooflike surface within the shield stripes, and lowest arrow not touching the second A (AMERICA).

Using *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* as a foundation, and building upon the excellent work done by Douglas Winter and others who have studied gold die varieties, it might be interesting to create a specialized catalogue for enthusiasts in the series. It would seem to us that varieties should be sorted or delineated in order of numismatic importance (an aspect which, admittedly, can differ from one person to another). A basic date and mintmark would be the first listing, this a given. Overdates would constitute special listings as well. Beyond that, minor, but still interesting varieties would consist of such things as repunched and misplaced dates, repunched mintmarks, dates far out of position, mintmarks leaning crazily to the left or right, etc. Our own preference is that such distinctions as "thin numerals" and "thick numerals," which are typically the result of impression of a logotype into the working die or, sometimes relapping, as not as important as basic differences produced when the dies were first created. Similarly, clash marks and die cracks, while of importance in tracing die pairings and progressions, are of only subsidiary importance (however, sometimes in the American series they become very prominent in listings, such as the famous 1800 AMERICAI silver dollar, which is but a die flaw or break, not an intended variety; several other similar situations could be mentioned). *The Gobrecht Journal*, organ of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, has a title which could well include Liberty *Head* coins as well as *Liberty Seated* coins, that we suppose the club would have to change its name!

From Stack's Metropolitan Sale, May 1968, Lot 714.

428 1850 AU-58. Light yellow gold.

Die pair as preceding.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 19, 1968.

429 1850 AU-55. Yellow gold.

Obverse from a different die, date far left, with 1 about equidistant from dentils and neck.

Reverse from a different die showing a centering dot at the top of the third "white" vertical stripe.

From Michael G. Brownlee, April 18, 1967, earlier from Leo A. Young.

Marvelous 1850-C Quarter Eagle

430 **1850-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold surfaces show much prooflike reflectivity. Some lightness of strike is noted near the centers, as typical for this date. From a small mintage of 9,148 pieces, with the bulk of today's known specimens typically VF or so. "Generally underrated as a rarity," wrote David Akers. A marvelous specimen, a far higher grade than usually seen. Another splendid piece which represents the finest that Harry Bass was able to acquire. Walter Breen notes "Extremely rare in AU or above." Another grand opportunity for the Charlotte specialist.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).

Date logotype well centered between the bust and dentils, given the small amount of clearance available. A tiny blob at lower left bottom of 5. Several prominent diagonal die lines from border at star 12.

The reverse die, also employed in 1849, features the C mintmark high, with the top blended in with the details of the design. Upon very close inspection some die finish lines are seen in a near vertical orientation (an unusual alignment).

Purchased from Mal Varner, February 28, 1972.

High-Grade 1850-C $2.50 Rarity

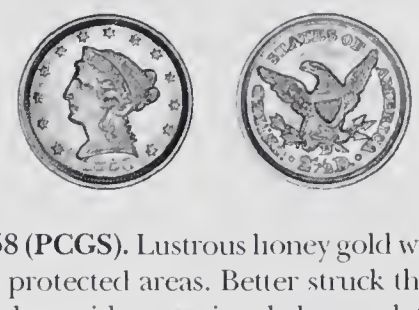
431 **1850-C AU-55 (PCGS).** A splendid specimen in medium yellow gold with some delicate splashes of toning. Quite well struck for the issue, although, as always, there is some lightness of detail on the eagle's leg to the left.

From the same dies as the proceeding lot.

Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

Superb 1850-D Quarter Eagle

Seldom-Seen Quality



432 **1850-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with considerable brilliance in the protected areas. Better struck than typically encountered for the date, with exceptional obverse details and fairly strong reverse details as well. Struck from lightly clashed dies. A superb specimen, the finest that Harry Bass was able to locate in three decades of searching—which says much. Just 12,148 examples of the date were struck, and the typical specimen extant today is EF or lower in grade. "Extremely rare in AU," notes Walter Breen, a comment that would also include lower range AU pieces (such as AU-50, AU-53, and even the next following lot, which is an AU-55).

PCGS Population: 7; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).

Although three pairs of dies were shipped to Dahlonega, only one die pair has been identified. Obverse with date far too high and left, piercing the neck of Miss Liberty and distant from the dentils. On the reverse the center of the D mintmark is about 50% occupied by a diagonal part of the arrow feather. Some raised die marks are seen at the tip of the lowest arrow.

Purchased from Arizona Stamp & Coin, November 14, 1969.

Beautiful 1850-D $2.50 Rarity

The Eliasberg Coin

433 **1850-D AU-55 (PCGS).** Fairly well struck overall save for the seemingly definitive lightness on the eagle's leg to the left. Warm medium yellow gold. Tiny nick or cut on reverse rim above I (UNITED).

Obverse with date logotype high and with peak of 1 piercing the neck truncation. Dentils somewhat lightly impressed below the date, as sometimes seen; interesting "pinch" on the flat rim, outside the dentils and opposite the space between stars 3 and 4. Perfect dies (no cracks).

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 153. Formerly from the Clapp Collection. Still earlier from B. Max Mehl's sale of the James Ten Eyck Collection, May 1922.

434 **1850-D EF-45.** Light yellow gold. Much mint lustre still remains. An attractive example of this elusive Dahlonega variety.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1838.

Important 1850-O Quarter Eagle

The Eliasberg Specimen

(2X photo)

435 **1850-O MS-63.** Lustrous orange-gold with a decided olive blush. Some lightness of strike on the reverse, typical for the date. A few faint hairlines and an obverse edge bruise at 10:00 are noted for accuracy. The mintage of the 1850-O quarter eagle totaled 84,000 pieces, but none were saved for numismatic considerations, and today even a nice AU coin can be considered a rarity. Note the comments from Douglas Winter reprinted under Lot 438 below. The present piece represents an opportunity that will be recalled for a long time. From the cabinet of Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., to that of Harry W. Bass, Jr., and then to yours; one strong bid, and your name is added to the illustrious pedigree chain of this important coin.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 155.

Another Notable 1850-O $2.50

5 **1850-O MS-61 (PCGS).** Medium yellow gold surfaces. Much prooflike character, especially on the obverse, but also on the reverse, especially near the border. Nearly fully struck in all areas, including the center, an exception to Walter Breen's "Always weak in centers" rule. A delightful New Orleans rarity that combines high grade and excellent eye appeal.

PCGS Population: 2; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).
Date logotype fairly well centered.
Reverse with tiny crack from rim through 2 of denomination.
From Paramount's sale of November 1971, Lot 1009.

A Further Great 1850-O $2.50

7 **1850-O AU-58 (PCGS).** An attractive specimen retaining much original lustre. An above-average strike, but showing some usual lightness, especially on the eagle's leg to the left.

Date logotype well centered. Perfect dies.
From Stack's Metropolitan Sale, May 1968, Lot 717.

8 **1850-O AU-50.** Pleasing yellow gold. A nice example of the date, mint, and grade. "It is probably the most underrated New Orleans quarter eagle in AU and higher grades," noted Douglas Winter in his study. Enough said.

Obverse with date logotype significantly to the right, with the first digit about evenly spaced. While such date differences are not of commanding importance to most specialists (who are content to acquire but a single example of a given date and mintmark variety), they are interesting to study, and in this era often are dramatically different in their location. On the reverse the O mintmark is high and has just a whisper of feather detail at the upper right of the interior.
From Stack's Metropolitan Sale, May 1971, Lot 1235.

Sparkling Cameo 1851 $2.50

39 **1851 MS-64.** Lustrous and frosty. A little cameo, a visual treat!

With regard to varieties, Breen notes that 10 obverses and nine reverses were made available for use this year. Thus, they probably never will all be identified or catalogued. Even so, we continue pointing out certain salient features.

Date logotype very well prepared this year—the assistants were becoming more expert! On the present coin, the logotype is far to the left, with the 1 piercing the neck truncation and the base coming within a gnat's eyebrow of a dentil. The very left side of the serif is about even with the bust point. Under high magnification it is seen that the lower left serif of the final 1 has a tiny dash or line extending from it.
From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. Sale, October 1968, Lot 757.

440 **1851 MS-63.** Bright and exceptionally yellow gold, no doubt representing California metal (which contains silver as an *impurity* giving a light hue). Not often seen in this high grade.

Obverse with date logotype somewhat left and high, piercing the neck truncation. A heavy crack is seen from the border to star 3, continuing irregularly to star 2.
Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

441 **1851 MS-63.** Brilliant and lustrous. A very attractive specimen.

The obverse die has the date positioned far to the left, about equal with the edge of the bust tip. The 1 is embedded in the truncation, with its base touching a dentil. At the lower right the serif of the final 1 comes very close to a dentil. *On the neck is a raised triangle or island,* possibly a misplaced date? *Something* was impressed into the die. On the neck, near the lower curl, some raised diagonal die lines can be seen.

On the reverse a light clash mark is seen extending upward from the branch toward the eagle's wing.
From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 352.

442 1851 MS-62. Bright yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike. Attractive and pleasing in every respect.

Obverse with date far left and embedded into neck truncation and dentil; same die as described earlier.
From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 1823.

443 1851 MS-62. Brilliant, lustrous, and attractive.

Date logotype just far enough left that the top of the 1 is slightly spaced away from the neck truncation, while the lower left serif barely touches a dentil. The lower part of the date is repunched, very obvious under even low magnification. On Miss Liberty's neck on the area directly above the 8 in the date a raised curved line is seen, probably from lint adhering to the master die, and impressed into the working die.

On the reverse a tiny crack at F (OF) and the nearby wingtip, and another crack extends from the border and joins the tops of MERI, while still another crack extends from the border and joins the tops of CA.
From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 90.

444 1851 MS-62. Brilliant and lustrous. Another nice example of this popular date.

Obverse logotype somewhat left, 1 piercing the neck truncation; base clear of a dentil.

Reverse with delicate cracks through the tops of STATES. Large crack from border to U (UNITED) extending to the right to connect the tops of the other letters. Crack links bottom of fraction and adjacent D.
Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

Marvelous 1851-C Quarter Eagle

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

445 **1851-C MS-62 (PCGS).** Highly prooflike obverse. One of the very finest known, one of two superb 1851-C quarter eagles obtained by Harry W. Bass, Jr. The particular piece offered here was the finest known to Douglas Winter in 1987 when he compiled his *Charlotte Mint Gold Coins: 1838-1861* and, in fact, was the only Mint State piece listed.

In the intervening years, certification services have become popular, grades have been inflated, and today in 1999 it is very difficult to obtain reliable data. The Bass Collection contains another beautiful Mint State piece, to be offered in Part III, but it is highly unlikely that more than one or two true Mint State coins can be accounted for. Not making matters easier is the go-around whereby the same coins are often sent again and again to the grading services, with the result that a single specimen can "expand" and occupy a half dozen different listings! Further, often what was AU a decade ago can now be certified as a higher grade AU today or even Mint State.

We view all of this with somewhat of a detachment, but yet with the realization that grading is serious business, and valuations depend upon it. Thus, the most conservative stance is to say regarding the present coin that, for sure, it was the finest specimen known to Douglas Winter when he did his excellent study and, similarly, for sure it is among the very finest known pieces.

In the overall panorama of Charlotte and Dahlonega Mint coins, par for the course is apt to be VF or the occasional EF. When truly great collections are formed, such as the Columbia Collection which we described for auction last year, then AU pieces come into play, plus the very occasional Mint State. With the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection all bets are off, all conventional wisdom is gone, and pieces representing several decades of connoisseurship are brought to the market—yielding opportunities which likely will not be repeated in your lifetime once the series of Bass sales has been completed.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Walter Breen reports that of three pairs of dies made available for the coinage this year, just one pair is known to have been used.

Date logotype lightly impressed into die. Centered quite far left, with tip of 1 embedded into neck truncation. Base of 1 distant from dentil, but seemingly connected to it with a very light die line.

Reverse with C mintmark high and into the claw. Feather vein touches lower right of C, below the opening, indicating a particularly high position.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 665.

Memorable 1851-D $2.50 Rarity

446 **1851-D AU-55.** A splendid specimen with warm yellow-orang gold. The striking is above average, with just a trace of centra weakness. A truly lovely example that combines high technica grade with a very generous quotient of eye appeal. Thus, th Dahlonega specialist will find this piece to be a delight.

PCGS Population: 5; 5 finer (MS-63 finest).

For this issue 11,264 pieces were minted. The circulation was extensive with the result that the typical specimen encountered today is apt to be V or EF, only very occasionally higher. Douglas Winter comments poignantly "In my opinion the 1851-D is one of the more undervalued Dahlonega quarter eagles. It usually trades in the same price range as the 1849-D and th 1850-D, but it is scarcer, especially in high grades such as AU or better."

The date logotype is deeply impressed into the die, giving the numerals bold aspect. Orientation is slightly low and too far to the left, with the resul that the peak of the first 1 is embedded in the bust, and the lower left serif o the same digit touches a dentil. Myriad die finish lines are seen, especiall around the border from about star 10 clockwise past the date and are occ sionally cited in the literature (cf. Winter). To the uninitiated these ma seem to be defects, but all authentic coins have them and thus they are im portant hallmarks. On the reverse the barest sign of clashing is seen in th junction between the eagle's neck and wing at the upper right corner of th shield. No cracks in either die.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 47.

Lovely Mint State 1851-O Quarter Eagle

(2X photo)

447 **1851-O MS-63 (PCGS).** A highly lustrous specimen. Som lightness of striking as usual, particularly on the reverse. A very handsome piece.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Obverse die slightly relapped, showing traces of an earlier digit below th final 1. Minor traces of clash marks on the reverse. No cracks on either side

Purchased from I. Kleimann, October 7, 1972.

Lustrous Mint State 1851-O $2.50

1851-O MS-62 (PCGS). A truly wonderful coin with frosty mint lustre on all surfaces, a wonderful sight for a New Orleans quarter eagle of this era. The striking is about average, somewhat light at the centers, particularly on the reverse.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

Obverse die lightly relapped, showing traces of repunching of the final 1 (earlier states show repunching at the 5 as well). The logotype was first entered at an angle, the impression mostly effaced, and the orientation corrected. In its present form the date is fairly well centered. The reverse is lightly struck on the eagle as usual.

Reverse with minor traces of clashing. No cracks in either die.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 19.

Sharp 1851-O Quarter Eagle

1851-O MS-61 (PCGS). A fairly sharply struck specimen, the only weakness of note being on the eagle's leg to the left. Lustre characterizes both surfaces. A very pleasing specimen of an issue which when seen is apt to be in significantly lower grades.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

Obverse with remnants of die logotype orientation seen below 5 and 1. An early impression of the dies; no clash marks or cracks on either side.

From Paramount's sale of November 1971, Lot 1013.

0 **1851-O AU-55 (PCGS).** Much original mint lustre still remains. The striking is far above average for the issue.

Very early obverse die state showing traces of an earlier logotype on *all four digits*, including a trace to the left of the first 1, a cusp at the lower left of the 8, an arc to the lower left of the 5, and prominent evidence of the stand of the final digit under that digit.

The reverse die shows some very minor evidence of clashing.

One can envision that Harry Bass simply purchased as many nice high-grade 1851 quarter eagles as came under his preview, and enjoyed studying them under high-powered stereo magnification, discerning the nuances of date repunching, clashing, eventual relapping, etc. At the same time, the multiple specimens serve as an excellent store of financial value and, as events would prove, a wonderful investment.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 173.

51 **1851-O AU-53.** Bright yellow gold, probably from California metal. Some friction evident under magnification.

Walter Breen's *Doubled Date*, with date first punched leaning far down to right, subsequently repunched in the proper position. One of the more dramatic examples of repunching of the era. In its final form, the date logotype is about centered between the bust and dentil (measured using the first digit) and close to both.

On the reverse the O mintmark is somewhat high and has a triangular section of the arrow feather extending into the opening at the upper right.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, ex Gozau Collection, June 23, 1967.

452 **1851-O AU-50.** Warm yellow gold surfaces. Some minute marks are visible under magnification. Possibly a "seawater" coin, but this is not certain. Fairly sharp in all respects.

Date logotype high, with 1 touching neck truncation, base of digit clear of dentil. Some slight bulging at two innermost tips of stars 12 and 13.

The mintmark on the reverse is almost exactly like the preceding, but with enough differences that they can be made out under high magnification—which, if anything, indicates that if anyone ever publishes a text on minute die varieties of coinage, enlarged photographs will be necessary—words alone will not do.

From Rarcoa's sale of February 1972, Lot 771.

Gorgeous 1852-C Quarter Eagle

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

453 **1852-C MS-63 (PCGS).** Brilliant warm gold surfaces with a tinge of rose. A splendid specimen, none finer seen by Harry Bass. Douglas Winter's reference on Charlotte gold coins lists just a single piece at the Mint State level, this being in lesser grade than the present piece (which was not surveyed) and called "MS-60 to MS-63."

Once again, we have at our fingertips a coin which combines rarity, romance, and exceedingly high grade, the type of coin that only appears on the market once a generation, if indeed that often.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype small, assuring a comfortable fit on the die if properly placed. In the present instance the date is somewhat left, and slightly closer to the neck truncation than to a dentil. The first two digits are repunched at the bottom, the third digit less so. Striation marks indicate that this may have been a very early striking from the dies.

On the reverse the mintmark is fairly high, with the triangular projection from the arrow feather extending into the open space within the C. Heavy clash marks are seen at the eagle's wing at the upper right of the shield, indicating at least three distinct clash occasions, possibly more.

It is recorded that three pairs of dies were sent from Philadelphia to Charlotte, but apparently only one die pair actually saw use. Travel to Charlotte had its complications, and it was easier to send multiple dies for possible use, even if some would remain unused, than it was to send just one pair of dies, and then have the Mint stop coining a denomination while other dies were requested if needed.

From Stack's Metropolitan Sale, May 1968, Lot 723.

Outstanding 1852-D Quarter Eagle

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

454 **1852-D MS-61 (PCGS).** A marvelous and highly important specimen of this major rarity, one of the very finest known. Apparently (who knows?) not quite the equal of a coin that was graded once as MS-62 by NGC, another time as MS-62 by PCGS, and still another time as MS-63 by PCGS, and used by Winter as his plate coin. In any event, the same author is aware of only two specimens in Mint State.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

Not only is the Bass Collection piece important for its grade, but in contrast it seems to stand far above the crowd concerning overall quality. Douglas Winter notes: "Most examples have very heavily abraded surfaces...there are usually conspicuous marks in the field."

Again, here is a treasure for the connoisseur and specialist.

Date very high and about three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. Raised die line from border through star 3.

On the reverse the D mintmark is high. About half of the interior is covered by a diagonal section of the arrow feather. Some minor clash marks in field to upper right of shield.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 158.

Lustrous 1852-O Quarter Eagle

455 **1852-O AU-58.** Light yellow gold. Much mint lustre still remains in protected surfaces, particularly on the reverse. A very attractive coin, and one which is decidedly elusive in grades above VF and EF.

Date very high and three or four times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. Reverse with O mintmark fairly high, and with a small "spike" from the arrow feather extending from into the opening to the upper right.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 159.

Prooflike 1852-O Quarter Eagle

456 **1852-O AU-55 (PCGS).** Somewhat prooflike, a characteristi observed as the coin is held at an angle to the light. A very at tractive example. The striking is about par for the issue an has some slight weakness, especially on the reverse.

Four-digit date logotype is small, thus it could be easily positioned in th space allowed. However, on the present die the logotype is very close to th neck and distant from the dentils. Perfect dies. Seemingly an early impres sion from the pair.

Purchased from I. Kleinman, October 7, 1972.

Attractive 1852-O Quarter Eagle

457 **1852-O "Extra Heavy O." AU-55.** Bright yellow gold, charac teristic of New Orleans issues of this era. A handsome an pleasing coin.

Obverse with date logotype deeply punched high into field, three or fou times closer to neck truncation than to dentils. Reverse with "extra heav O," which led Walter Breen in his *Encyclopedia* to comment, "Except for size this recalls the 1854-O 'Huge O' quarter dollar. Mintmarked at New Or leans?" The O mintmark is very deep, heavy, and somewhat lopsided. A cur osity and attraction among quarter eagles of the era.

From Stack's sale of the Stewart Collection, May 1972, Lot 1642.

Another Curious 1852-O $2.50

458 **1852-O "Extra Heavy O." AU-53.** Another specimen of thi very interesting coin. Much mint lustre is still seen.

Same dies as preceding.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lo 1855.

459 **1853 Breen-6222. Repunched 18. MS-63.** Brilliant honey gol with strong cartwheel lustre. A pleasing example of a scarc variety.

On this particular variety, the bases of the 1 and 8 in the date are unmis takably repunched at the bottoms of those numerals, particularly so at th base of the 1. Breen calls this variety "very rare" in his *Encyclopedia.*

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 459.

1853 MS-62. Lovely and lustrous, bright and beautiful. An outstanding specimen of the date, variety, and grade. Satiny surfaces enhance the beauty.

Date logotype strongly repunched at left, particularly noticeable at the lower left of the serif of the 1 and the upper interior and the base of the 8. Logotype closer to neck truncation than to dentils, with the neck truncation having a little "scoop" removed so as not to have the digit touched. Many parallel die striae are seen, particularly in front of the neck and along the right border. From all indications this is an extremely early striking from the die.

Reverse with the master die impressed rather lightly into the working die, giving good definition of detail, but resulting in a significant separation of the lower arrow from the final A (AMERICA). As a general rule of thumb and by casual observation, it seems that branch mint coins of this era often have the arrow and letter much more closely spaced, from deeper impressions of the master die. There are exceptions, of course.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 93.

Incredible 1853-D Quarter Eagle

(2X photo)

1853-D MS-60 (PCGS). Highly prooflike surfaces, the obverse almost representing a presentation piece. Deep dished and basined dies, which seem to be about par for Dahlonega coins—due to the master die being driven very deeply into the working die. Why this was, we do not know. Perhaps it was intended that dies last longer in Dahlonega, and thus have the features in bolder relief. Or, perhaps there is some other explanation. However, when a large number of quarter eagles of this era are surveyed, the difference becomes quite evident.

The 1853-D is elusive in all grades, and even an AU-50 coin would be an attraction in a sophisticated advanced collection. The MS-60 grade ranks this piece among the finest known, high Condition Census. Here, indeed, is another rare prize.

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer (MS-61 finest).

Date far left, embedded in the neck truncation, and just a hair's breadth from a dentil. Prooflike surface in all areas, as noted. Some die striations are seen. Some lumps are seen between stars 3 and 4; a very prominent ridge extends from the border past the left side of star 8 to Miss Liberty's hair. A very irregular series of lumps is seen to the left of star 9 near the border.

On the reverse the mintmark is high. About the top 40% or so of the interior is occupied by part of the arrow feather.

With the 1853-D, mintage quantities changed dramatically. Production fell to just over 3,000 pieces, beginning a series of low mintages which would last to the end of the Dahlonega quarter eagle series. All known authentic pieces are lightly struck in areas. Most examples are VF to EF. Douglas Winter estimates the total population at 55 to 60 coins.

From Stack's Metropolitan Sale, May 1968, Lot 727.

Especially High-Grade 1854 $2.50

462 **1854 MS-66 (PCGS).** A splendid specimen with deep, full mint lustre. On the obverse some parallel planchet striations are seen on the cheek, perhaps having the financial effect of reducing the value of the coin by a grade point or two. The striking is above average. Overall this is one of the nicest 1854 quarter eagles in existence, one that Harry Bass had noted as "finest seen" of this particular die combination and state.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

The date logotype is deeply and evenly punched into the die, although high and with the first digit piercing the neck truncation. The reverse displays some die finish lines in a near vertical orientation. A very early impression from the die pair.

Purchased from Numismatics, Ltd., June 9, 1973.

463 **1854 MS-63.** Light yellow gold. Highly lustrous and frosty. A very pleasing coin.

Date logotype as usual for this year, but lightly impressed into the die, resulting in a significant separation between the 5 and the adjacent 4. On most other dies of this year the date is deep, and the 5 and 4 seem to connect. The logotype is well made but is slightly larger than it should be for use on a quarter eagle. On the present coin the position is left, with the 1 virtually touching the neck (which has been scooped out to prevent this contact) and also grazing a dentil. The right serif of the last digit is very close to a dentil. Clash marks are seen around the portrait of Miss Liberty.

Reverse with extensive clash marks reflecting an outline of the portrait figure—clearly seen under magnification, as the satiny fields and the relative absence of marks highlight the outline.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2069.

464 **1854 MS-62.** Lustrous and frosty. Another attractive example.

Date logotype driven deeply into the working die, thus connecting the last two digits. Placed very high, piercing the outline of the neck truncation and distant from the dentils. A delicate crack connects stars 1-3. Another crack irregularly connects stars 4-7, fading, resuming at 8 and continuing irregularly through star 13.

On the reverse light cracks are seen at NITED and again at STATES. Another crack connects OF with the wing tip.

From Stack's sale of May 1968, Lot 728.

465 **1854 MS-62.** Lustrous and attractive, a nice mate to the other Mint State pieces offered here.

Date logotype deep into die, particularly so toward the last two digits of the date, rendering them very bold and very strongly connected. Date logotype high, with 1 into neck and distant from dentils. Reverse with barely noticeable and irregular cracks through part of STATES OF. Arrow point touches base of A, indicating that for the reverse the master die was driven deep into the working die.

From Stack's sale of the Winter Collection, February 1974, Lot 519.

Beautiful 1854-C $2.50 Rarity

466 **1854-C AU-58 (PCGS).** A stunning, gorgeous bright yellow gold example. A decent strike, with some reverse weakness as usual, but overall quite bold. This particular variety is usually seen in a much less satisfactory condition; witness Douglas Winter, here excerpted: "Weak strikes are the rule for this date. The obverse is often blurry on the hair around Liberty's ear. The reverse is always weaker than the obverse; the center and eagle's claws are invariably very weak... The quality of planchets used for this issue was quite poor; some survivors show extensive areas of mint-made porosity at the date and stars from 10:00 to 1:00. For some reason the lustre of this date is very poor..." This cited, it is realized that the present coin, while it has some of the *invariable* weak features, is far above average.

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer (MS-61 finest).

All known 1854-C quarter eagles are from a single die pair, and were struck to the extent of 7,295 examples. The date logotype is high, with the peak of the 1 piercing the neck truncation. Some slight evidence of clashing is seen in front of Miss Liberty's nose and neck.

On the reverse a barely perceptible crack extends from the border to the tip of the fraction bar.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1540.

Notable 1854-D Quarter Eagle

467 **1854-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Somewhat prooflike, particularly on the obverse. Rich warm yellow gold. A delightful specimen that surely ranks as one of the very finest known. In fact, this probably could be called MS-60 without fear of contradiction. Douglas Winter notes that only two Mint State coins are known to him.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (MS-62 finest).

Date extremely deeply impressed into working die. Positioned high and into the truncation. Many raised die lines are seen around the border, and lumps and irregularities are observed between stars 8 and 9, near star 10, and between stars 11 and 12. Such attributes, variations of which exist on other dies, make Dahlonega coins fascinating to collect.

On the reverse the upper part of the mintmark is occupied by part of the tailfeather. This same die was employed in 1852 and 1853.

Purchased from Tom E. Werner, November 23, 1966.

Gorgeous 1854-O Quarter Eagle

468 **1854-O MS-64 (PCGS).** Brilliant, lustrous and frosty. Quit well struck on obverse and reverse, the only exception being a the lower part of the eagle. One of the nicest examples we hav ever seen of this date and mint.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

On the obverse the date logotype was boldly entered into the working di a bit too far left, thus causing it to be very close to both the dentils and th neck truncation. This particular logotype has lower relief through the ce ters of the letters than at the top or bottom, perhaps due to "rocking" th logotype punch as it was entered into the die. The present impression is late state of the die. Clash marks are seen before and after Miss Liberty neck. Die roughness characterizes most of the border past the stars. A crac is seen from the border to star 5.

The reverse die also seems to be a late state with some roughness betwee the inscriptions and the dentils, making it a candidate for relapping. A tin trace of clashing is seen at the eagle's wing above the right corner of th shield. No cracks in evidence.

From Paramount's sale of February 1977, Lot 588.

469 **1854-O AU-58.** Bright yellow gold, probably from California Highly lustrous. A very attractive example.

Date logotype "rocked" vertically into the die, giving extra depth to th top and bottom of the date, lighter through the center line. Logotype close to bust than to dentils, with the bust scooped out slightly to prevent contac 5 and 4 distinctly separated from each other. Crack from border betwee stars 1 and 2 extends to near chin. Some interesting die irregularities ar also seen near stars 1 and 2 as well. Reverse with mintmark high, and wit just the barest hint of an arrow feather at the inside right.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 18, 1972.

470 **1854-O AU-55.** Bright and lustrous. Another attractive Ne Orleans quarter eagle.

Obverse with date fairly deep into the die, seemingly more deep on th left than on the right. Numerals 54 close but not touching. 1 low and touc ing dentil, distant from neck truncation. Reverse with mintmark high an with upper left third occupied by part of the arrow feather. Prooflike withi the shield stripes.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lo 1856.

471 **1854-O AU-55.** Another pleasing specimen.

Date logotype as described earlier, with top and bottom figures heavie than the center line. Crack from border between stars 1 and 2 extends t cheek. Die irregularities in the same area. Another crack extends from th bust tip through star 1, to the crack earlier mentioned, then from anothe point in the crack, through stars 2 onward, continuing to star 5, at whic point a branch crack is taken up. Near this point, and above the head of Mis Liberty, the die is severely bulged, giving a blister effect that is quite unusua and has few counterparts elsewhere in the quarter eagle series. Additiona cracks are seen through the other stars. A very interesting and curious di from a technical viewpoint. On the reverse the mintmark is slightly high with just the barest whisper of a feather element at the right interior. Som roughness opposite the dentils.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 16, 1968.

Finest Known 1854-S Quarter Eagle

Rarest Coin in the Series

An American Numismatic Treasure

72 **1854-S AU-50 (PCGS).** Light wear evident, but not as much as on all other known specimens. A few light scratches are seen here and there on the reverse but in the context of 1854-S quarter eagles are not particularly unusual. The coin speaks for itself—none finer is known. *The highest graded specimen of this landmark rarity, a coin earlier called EF. You can take your pick of whatever grade you choose, but by any account, this is the finest known.*

This particular piece is mentioned in David Akers' study of the quarter eagle series, which commented in part:

"The 1854-S is one of the rarest of all U.S. gold coins. Its low mintage of just 246 pieces is the third lowest of any regularly-issued gold coin. All known specimens are very low grade, and I have not seen one that would grade fully Extremely Fine, although according to Stanley Kesselman, the one purchased by Harry Bass from Stack's comes very close." The same writer, drawing upon auction appearances, suggested that "No more than 10 to 15 specimens are known." However, auction appearances seem to have included duplicate examples.

Seventeen years ago when we catalogued the Eliasberg Collection coin, described as VG-8 obverse and G-4 reverse, we gave a brief history of the issue, which we paraphrase below:

> The 1854-S has the lowest recorded mintage (only 246 were struck) of all quarter eagles issued as business strikes for circulation from 1796 to 1929. Only about a dozen examples survive today, and all of these are in worn grades.
>
> The San Francisco Mint began producing gold coins in 1854. Due to the difficulty of obtaining acids to part silver, which existed as an impurity in the native gold, Mint officials produced very few quarter eagles and half eagles that year. At least, this is the traditional explanation given. (On the other hand, many gold dollars, eagles, and double eagles were struck, so perhaps the explanation lies elsewhere; or perhaps it was desired to mint quarter eagles and half eagles at the time the acid supply problem occurred, and when there was no shortage of acid, minting attention turned elsewhere and quarter eagles and half eagles were overlooked.)
>
> According to David Akers' auction survey, the 1854-S is the

most difficult quarter eagle to obtain in high grade. All known specimens show signs of wear. In addition, the 1854-S is the second rarest quarter eagle in terms of the number of auction appearances over the years, and is tied with the exceedingly rare 1806/5 overdate and the 1841. Only the 1804 with 13-star reverse appears less frequently, but perhaps the 1804 with 13 stars is more plentiful than is thought, for not all cataloguers noted the reverse star count when describing coins.

In Edgar H. Adams' *Official Premium List of United States, Private, and Territorial Gold Coins*, published in 1909, he found "no record of public sale" for the 1854-S. In fact, the first sale at public auction that Dr. Richard A. Bagg, research associate to Q. David Bowers for the Eliasberg catalogue, could find was by B. Max Mehl in the Belden Roach Collection sale of February 1944. Mehl noted at the time:

"Until 1910 not a single specimen of this coin was known to exist in any collection. I discovered one specimen through my extensive advertising. It was sold to Mr. John Clapp of Washington at over $500."

Mehl has been known to exaggerate on occasion and sometimes confuse facts, not a surprising situation in view of the literally millions of transactions he conducted over the years. Examination of the May 1911 issue of *The Numismatist* disclosed the following citation by Edgar H. Adams:

"...for the benefit of especially the quarter eagle collectors the long-sought-for 1854 $2.50 gold piece from the San Francisco Mint has come to light and is now in the collection of Mr. H.O. Granberg of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This rare mintmark recently came to Mr. Granberg's notice, and of course was carefully examined by him. It was found to be authentic beyond a doubt. Mr. [Samuel] Hudson Chapman has also examined the coin and has stated that it was the only specimen of the variety that had ever been located."

More than likely, Mehl sold the coin to Granberg, who may have disposed of it later. It was not part of the 1913 Granberg Collection sold at auction by Mehl, but Granberg is known to have sold pieces on other occasions as well.

The Clapp notebooks revealed that an 1854-S quarter eagle was purchased from Elmer S. Sears for $395 in August 1915. This coin subsequently went to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., in 1942, and was sold by us in 1982 as part of the Eliasberg Collection.

Fast forward to 1988 and *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. In that publication he offered the following commentary and registry, that described as No. 3 being the Bass Collection piece offered in the present 1999 sale:

"1. Davis-Graves:825, Harry Bass? VF+, horizontal abrasion above eagle.

2. Atwater, Grant Pierce, Miles, 1973 ANA:826, $9,000, 1974 MANA:1547, $24,000, Arthur Lamborn, "Fairfield":1544, $10,000 (1977), Scott-Kinnear:13, $9,900. VF, nick above 13th star, rough on upper l. obv., lower l. rev. Enl. Photos.

3. F.C.C. Boyd, WGC, "Bell," "Memorable," Clinton Hester or C.M. Williams, Menjou:1326, NN 51:837, pvt. colls., "Rio Rancho":89, $31,000. VF+, scratch from arrow to M.

4. Waldo Newcomer, Col. E.H.R. Green, "Bell," Farouk:278, Gilhousen:184, "Rio Rancho":90, $13,000, Dr. Altany, Windsor:307, $24,000. F to VF.

5. Roach, Wolfson, S. Hallock to duPont:85, 1983 Grand Central:2762, $10,000. F, scratch above eagle's head, another (parallel upper wing) to rim close to F.

6. Kreisberg/Schulman 2/60:2592, 1979 ANA:82, $8,750. Auction 81:1405. VG-F, $9,200.

7. "Western bank," B. Max Mehl, 1910, H.O. Granberg, Mehl, Elmer Sears, John H. Clapp, Eliasberg:170, $7,150. VG/G.

8. Tex. pvt. coll. Loop removed, traces of solder.

9. Tex. pvt. coll. Obv. VF, scratched; rev. shank removed, affecting NITE and MERI.

There are probably at least two others around."

This coin, No. 3 in the above list (but not identified by Breen as such), was catalogued by Walter Breen and finessed by John J. Ford, Jr.—the procedure in effect at New Netherlands coin company at the time— as follows in their 51st catalogue of June 19-20, 1958, as Lot 837:

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

1854-S. In date, 1 embedded in bust; upper right corner of mintmark joins tip of arrow shaft, but the S is elsewhere clear. Strictly Very Fine; bold, the obverse more so than the reverse (as on all others known). Although this piece has minor handling marks, the most obvious of which is a faint reverse scratch from the top arrow to M, it still retains traces of original lustre on the reverse, confirming our contention that the flatness on the eagle's head and upper parts of wings is a result of the way the coin was struck. Beyond doubt, this is **one of the two finest of only five so far traced** (a sixth is reported, but still unverified). **Other than two half eagles, the 1841-O and 1875, this coin has the lowest mintage of any gold piece struck for circulation and so used.** Also, likewise an unappreciated fact, the 1854-S quarter eagle is an initial type coin, being the first San Francisco Mint issue of that denomination.

Of the 246 pieces made 104 years ago, this coin was the second specimen to be discovered and the first choice one. It was Lot 242 of the 1946 "World's Greatest Collection;" Lot 222 of the 1948 Memorable Sale; Lot 1326 of the 1950 Menjou offering. The other four examples known to us are as follows: (1) Davis-Graves, 1954, Lot 825, VF plus; (2) Bell, 1944, Lot 240, Farouk, 1954, part of Lot 278, VF; (3) Atwater, 1946, Lot 2072, Fine, obverse field dig; (4) Eliasberg coll., discovered circa 1910 in a western bank, sold by B.M. Mehl to J.H. Clapp for a reported $850, to Eliasberg with the Clapp coll., 1942. VG.

Clearly, one of the most underrated United States coins in any metal manufactured to be used as a circulating medium, and completely free of the stigma of Mint experimentation or chicanery. In comparison with commoner, but more touted coins such as the 1815 half eagle (and many others we could name), this mintmark has a tremendous potential, perhaps in the $4,000 to $5,000 class. A true American classic!

The "New Netherlands style" was quite advanced for its era, and had its genesis in 1952 when John J. Ford, Jr. compiled a section of the ANA convention catalogue. The philosophy at the time, which to a degree has inspired some of the work we have done here at Bowers and Merena and earlier, was to say as much as possible about the coin—the specimen itself as well as its history, background, and, if merited, other known pieces.

Today in 1999, what with certified grading, changing standards, and so forth, the New Netherlands grades are probably as obsolete as the 78 rpm record. However, in a relative sense it is seen that the Bass specimen is of extraordinary quality and, as noted, it is believed to the finest known example.

In recent times the history of the San Francisco Mint has been in the spotlight, and the comments concerning our detailed coverage in our recent book, *The Treasure Ship S.S. Brother Jonathan*, have been extensive. At least one individual plans to use this as a jumping-off spot for more research and study. No doubt the sale of the treasure coins from the *S.S. Central America*, when they come to market, will cause the limelight to focus even more sharply and intensely. Of all the coining facilities operated by the American government, none has a more romantic, more curious history than the San Francisco Mint.

Within the quarter eagle series, no other San Francisco Mint rarity comes even close as a competitor. Thus, the connoisseur in the field will find that at once the Bass Collection 1854-S is the rarest of all quarter eagle date and mintmark varieties, the highest grade example of the rarest, the rarest San Francisco quarter eagle (by definition), and, indeed, one of the rarest and most desirable of all coins in the United States gold series. If the term "once in a lifetime opportunity" is appropriate, here is a good place to use it.

Acquired by Harry Bass in October 1974. Earlier in the Rio Rancho Collection (Superior), and before that New Netherlands' Sale 51, (quoted above), the Adolphe Menjou Collection, the Memorable Sale, the Bell Collection, and F.C.C. Boyd's "World's Greatest Collection" (Numismatic Gallery).

Exquisite 1855 Quarter Eagle

1855 MS-64 (PCGS). An exquisite specimen, extremely sharply struck and *virtually definitive* in this regard—even including the lower features of the eagle. For the type collector wanting a very *special* specimen, the search ends here. Rich golden surfaces with attractive lustre complete the picture of a truly splendid coin.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (MS-65 finest).

Slightly smaller date logotype this year than in 1854, providing it with the potential of fitting comfortably in the space allotted, but in the present instance placed slightly too high. Die striae are seen in the fields oriented at about 45° from the vertical, from upper left to lower right, indicating that the present piece is a very early strike (as such die preparation lines quickly wore away).

The reverse has similarly oriented die striations. No doubt the present piece was made in the first few hours of employment of the combination, as noted earlier.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, July 28, 1972.

Beautiful 1855 Quarter Eagle

474 **1855 MS-63.** A beautiful specimen with rich, deep mint lustre. A lovely example of a date that is not rare in lower grades but which in full Mint State is seldom seen. It is quite interesting to contemplate how some issues can be plentiful and others elusive—the mintages play a part, but only a part, and there are often other factors, mostly unknown, that are involved.

Date logotype well made this year, with italic 5s (as on certain varieties of cents). Lightly punched into the die. Very high and very close to the neck truncation, distant from a dentil. The logotype is more deeply punched into the die at the right of the date than the left. Clash marks are seen around the portrait of Miss Liberty.

On the reverse clash marks are seen around the eagle, particularly around the head, but also elsewhere. A delicate crack is seen through the eagle's wing through the top of STATES, and another crack is seen at OF and extending to the border. As is the case with other high-mintage quarter eagles, there are so many different die varieties that it will never be possible to keep track of them all, especially if the topological differences are not all that great. However, it is interesting to make note of certain characteristics.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1745.

475 **1855 MS-62.** Frosty and lustrous. Well-struck from clashed dies. Another very attractive example of a Philadelphia date which is common enough in worn grades, but which is decidedly rare at the MS-62 level.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 765.

"Impossible" 1855-C Quarter Eagle

High Condition Census

Possibly Finest Known

476 1855-C MS-64 (PCGS). A fantastic specimen, of virtually impossible quality, seriously challenged in Douglas Winter's study only by our Fairfield Collection coin, Lot 1547.

Charlotte gold coins of any date are virtually unheard of in a *true* MS-64 grade. Further, of high-level specimens—AU upward—very few coins with any numerical designation have the "life," the brilliance, the beauty of this specimen. Here is another treasure for the connoisseur and specialist.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype slightly closer to neck truncation than to dentils, with an indentation in the neck truncation preventing contact.

Mintmark fairly high. Part of feather extends as a spike into the opening of the C. Curious parallel die striae are in field opposite the upper left of the shield. Some clash marks are seen.

Source unknown, but acquired by Harry Bass on August 31, 1977, possibly by trade.

Rare 1855-C Quarter Eagle

7 **1855-C AU-55.** Rich deep yellow gold with hints of orange. Fairly well struck *for the issue,* but with some weakness at the lower part of the eagle. On the obverse some marks are seen on Miss Liberty's jaw and near her ear.

PCGS Population: 10; 5 finer (MS-64 finest).

The date logotype is deeply impressed into the die, giving the numerals a bold characteristic.

The reverse die, also used in 1854, shows a tiny crack from a dentil to the fraction denominator. In addition there are evidences of clashing and slight bulging. The Charlotte Mint used its dies extensively!

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 17, 1968.

Exceptional 1855-D Quarter Eagle

Condition Census

(2X photo)

78 **1855-D AU-55 (PCGS).** A high Condition Census specimen of a variety of which not a single Mint State coin is known to exist (per Douglas Winter).

Before further discussing the grade of the presently offered specimen and its technical aspects we quote Douglas Winter further:

"The 1855-D quarter eagle is *the rarest coin struck at the Dahlonega Mint.* In most advanced collections it is the final piece to be purchased due to the extreme difficulty of locating a nice example."

What a remarkable statement! Considering all coins from the Dahlonega Mint, from gold dollars through half eagles, the 1854-D $2.50 stands tall and proud. The Bass Collection coin is exceedingly important from several aspects:

First, the rarity is unquestioned. The low mintage of 1,125 pieces created an elusive piece at the very time of production. However, in 1855 there was absolutely no interest in collecting gold coins by mint varieties, and all went into circulation to meet varying fates. Not even the Mint Cabinet kept an example. Today the number known of 1855-D quarter eagles of all grades combined is very small, just a few dozen totally.

Secondly, the AU level represents the finest known grade, thus making the Bass Collection important for its quality. Third, not only does this coin hit a home run from a numerical or technical viewpoint, but it is an aesthetic work of art—with rich golden surfaces, somewhat prooflike, and of exquisite beauty. To see this coin is to love it, and we readily imagine that the Dahlonega specialist will consider this to be one of the foremost highlights in his or her collection.

PCGS Population: 10; 2 finer (MS-60 finest).

Date logotype very deeply impressed into die. Very slightly doubled at lower left of final digit. Logotype very close to dentils, about twice as close as to the neck truncation above. Raised die lines are seen around much of the rim, particularly on the right side of the coin.

On the reverse the D mintmark is high. The center is about half filled diagonally with part of the arrow feather. As is true of many if not most Dahlonega coins, the master die was driven deeply into the working die, creating a very bold relief and resulting in the lowest arrow touching the bottom of the final A (AMERICA).

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 169.

Eye-Catching 1856 $2.50

479 **1856 MS-66 (PCGS).** A splendid eye-appealing coin with rich, smooth, satiny lustre on obverse and reverse, the latter side challenging perfection.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-67).

Obverse with small date numerals, as always seen, although a Large Date variety was reported years ago and never confirmed (and may not have been reported correctly in the first place). The digit 5 is italic as on all. Perfect obverse and reverse dies (no cracks).

Purchased from Julian Leidman, July 28, 1972.

Beautiful 1856 Quarter Eagle

480 **1856 MS-63.** A beautiful, satiny, lustrous specimen, one of the finest known. Both obverse and reverse are bright yellow gold. A tiny silvery fleck is seen at the lower right of the neck truncation, possibly a piece of stray metal in the alloy.

Very small date logotype this year, setting a trend that would be continued for several years thereafter. In the dime series, both large and small date logotypes were used in 1856, but not here. However, the present logotype is that used on the Small Date dime. Fifteen pairs of dies were produced for the 1856 quarter eagle coinage, and probably the use of all of them will never be recorded, as differences in placement may be small.

In the present specimen, the logotype is more deeply punched toward the end of the date, making the 6 much bolder than the other figures. On the right border some interesting ridges, almost representing a plowed field as seen from a high altitude, can be observed—very curious. A minor clash mark is seen behind the neck.

On the reverse some very interesting ridges are seen at the dentils above STA (STATES) and in the field above the final S and the nearby OF. This pair of dies probably rusted lightly, and was given the wire brush treatment (on the obverse), accounting for the "plowed field" analogy. One can imagine that the dies were left exposed in a humid Philadelphia summer, rusted lightly, then dressed prior to use. At a casual glance—without the use of magnification—the features just observed would not be noticed, nor would a certification service mention them. However, upon close inspection they make the piece all the more fascinating.

Purchased from Douglas Weaver, November 27, 1973.

1856-C $2.50 Rarity

Exceptional Quality

481 **1856-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Somewhat irregular surfaces, as characteristic and as made. Nick or cut on reverse rim above E (AMERICA). Decently struck for the issue.

In the context of 1856-C quarter eagles the present piece is remarkably fine. Douglas Winter's book, *Charlotte Mint Gold Coins,* reinforces by implication our sentiment: "The 1856-C has the dubious honor being among the most poorly struck of all Charlotte quarter eagles. The obverse is especially weak and, sometimes, the ERT in LIBERTY is almost illegible. Most specimens have mint-made depressions (caused by die rust) before the first and between the second and third stars. Another depression, above the eagle's head, is also commonly seen. Others are found struck on granular planchets. The 1856-C is, in high grades, rarer than the more celebrated 1855-C, despite popular belief to the contrary."

For the connoisseur the present piece is quite exceptional. The word LIBERTY is fully and completely defined, and other aspects are equally desirable. We expect much bidding competition when this crosses the block.

Date logotype slightly low and to the left, but comfortably situated due to the small height of the numerals. Some die rust (per Winter) or irregularities, as always, on reverse, but no cracks in evidence.

From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 331.

482 **1856-C Net EF-45;** or possibly slightly better. Scratches in field behind neck prompt us to assign the EF-45 category, five to 10 points less than we would have given otherwise.

Still, the coin is above average in quality. The planchet, which Walter Breen states is "usually defective," in the present instance is *not.* In-person examination of the coin is recommended.

Obverse with small date as always, deeply punched into the die, and slightly closer to a dentil than to the neck truncation. Reverse with upper right of C mintmark embedded in arrow feather.

From Rarcoa's sale of February 1972, Lot 775.

Famous 1856-D Rarity

Lowest Mintage Dahlonega Coin

Condition Census

(2X photo)

483 **1856-D AU-50 (PCGS).** Warm golden surfaces. A lovely coi combining Condition Census quality with a very pleasing aes thetic appeal—all in all a truly memorable specimen. Th 1856-D is just slightly more available than the exceedingl rare 1855-D, and has an even lower mintage. In fact, the pro duction of only 874 quarter eagles for 1856-D places it as th rarest Dahlonega quarter eagle and the only coin in the en tire Dahlonega Mint series—dollars to half eagles—with th figure below the 1,000 mark.

The present specimen will attract a wide circle of bidders Again, as is so often true with the Bass Collection coins, th opportunity is remarkable.

Apparently an extensive mintage was contemplated for 1856-D, as thre pairs of dies were shipped from Philadelphia to Dahlonega. However, onl one die pair was used.

From Superior, February 1973, Lot 190.

High-Grade 1856-O Quarter Eagle

484 **1856-O AU-55 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Much lustre is see on both sides. A superb strike with excellent detail through out, including the all important and usually flat area on th eagle's leg to the left (eagle's right leg, but seen on the left sid of the coin). A truly memorable example of the issue, one tha is deserving of strong bidding competition. The Breen tex notes: "Much scarcer than the mintage figure [21,000] sug gests. Very rare in EF."

Date logotype punched deeply into the die, more so toward the end of th date than in the beginning. Fairly well centered, but closer to the neck tha to the dentils. Obverse with some graininess near the dentils, particularl from stars 3 through 10, perhaps rust, or, more likely, evidence of pro tracted die use. On the reverse *rust* is indeed seen in several places, espe cially at ITE (UNITED), no doubt from the miasma that pervades that low

From Rarcoa's sale of February 1972, Lot 977.

485 **1856-O AU-50.** Somewhat satiny surfaces. Brushed at one time On the reverse there is full prooflike character within the shield stripes. One of the nicer specimens we have seen of the 1856-O

Date logotype somewhat closer to the neck truncation than at the dentils but with a generous amount of space above and below in each instance Deeply and somewhat evenly impressed into the working die.

On the reverse the O mintmark is high, with the arrow feather overlap ping it and extending into the upper left of the opening.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 173.

Gem 1856-S Quarter Eagle

Extraordinary Quality

(2X photo)

6 **1856-S MS-65 (PCGS).** Deep rich lustre, almost three dimensional. Creamy, satiny, and smooth. Fairly well struck. An extraordinary example of an issue which when seen is usually in much lower grade.

The 1856-S, with a mintage of 71,120 pieces, is the earliest collectible San Francisco Mint coin of this denomination, the 1854-S being *for all practical purposes* unobtainable (the Bass coin being an unusual exception). Most examples show extensive wear, and today the typical grade on the market is apt to be VF to EF.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype slightly high, but nicely positioned with ample space above and below. Much more deeply impressed into the die at the right side of the date, making the 6 quite large in comparison to the other figures.

On the reverse the S mintmark is far to the right of where the C and D mintmarks were placed this year, and is in the field, not touching any devices, to the lower right of the arrow feather.

Purchased from Paramount, February 1977, from the Altany Sale, Lot 592.

7 **1856-S AU-55 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold surfaces. Excellent strike. A very pleasing example of an issue that Walter Breen says is much scarcer than the mintage figure of 71,120 suggests.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 766.

8 **1856-S AU-55.** Light yellow gold. Lustre is still seen in protected areas.

Date logotype positioned about as preceding, but more evenly applied, the 6 being less prominent. There is a ding or mark on the last digit (caused by handling).

On the reverse the mintmark is in the same general position as the preceding, but slightly farther left, touching the arrow feather.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1859.

Frosty 1857 Quarter Eagle

489 **1857 MS-67 (PCGS).** A frosty, lustrous specimen of exquisite beauty. Far above average strike. Medium yellow gold with some splashes and freckles of orange-brown. A little cameo, indeed one of the finest we have ever seen of this date.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

The four-digit date logotype is just about the correct size for the quarter eagle denomination and fits comfortably in the space allotted. In the present die the last digits are more deeply impressed than the first, indicating that the punch was not driven into the die straight (not a particularly unusual circumstance). The lower outside right of the 8 has a small "chip" out of it, indicating that the logotype must have been nicked. This is seen on certain other (but not all) 1857 quarter eagle dies as well and probably indicates those made later in the year. At star 8 there is a tiny line or incipient crack parallel to the border.

On the reverse a minute trace of clashing is seen on the eagle's wing above the right corner of the shield. Some die striae are present on obverse and reverse, indicating that the present piece is an early impression from the die pair.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, July 28, 1972.

Rare 1857-D Quarter Eagle

490 **1857-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Medium gold with splashes of orange on obverse and reverse. An exquisite strike, with excellent detail overall including the all-important eagle's leg to the left. The high rims on the obverse and reverse serve to "frame" the devices and give the piece a cameo-like appearance. Only 2,364 examples were struck, all from the single die pair. Today this is recognized as one of the prime rarities among Dahlonega issues, a piece seldom encountered save when important collections come to market.

Obverse with logotype well positioned. Tiny nick out of lower right of 8, from the logotype punch. Raised die lines extend upward from 1 and 8 in date.

The reverse die was also used to coin the rare 1856-D quarter eagle.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 2, 1973.

Remarkable 1857-O Quarter Eagle

Condition Census

491 **1857-O MS-62.** A specimen of remarkable quality, solidly Condition Census from a numerical viewpoint and, beyond that, a gorgeous little cameo. The obverse is highly prooflike, almost resembling a presentation piece, and the reverse is likewise. The coloration is a warm yellow gold. Here is a piece that has everything.

Although 34,000 1857-O quarter eagles were minted, there was no numismatic interest in them at the time, and virtually all circulated extensively. The appearance of pieces in high grade today is due to remote chance. Often a period of *years* will elapse between our offerings of a similar piece.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (MS-63).

Date logotype this year somewhat unevenly spaced, with 18 closer together than other figures, with 5 being somewhat distant from the 8 and 7. The 5 in the logotype was shallower in relief than the 18 and the 7, with the result that on all dies made from this logotype the 5 appears to be somewhat lighter—an interesting situation. When the matrix was created for the logotype punch, the figure 5 simply was punched in less deeply than the others.

In this particular die the logotype is nicely centered vertically (measured by the first digit) and also is exceptionally well centered from left and right.

On the reverse a crack extends from the border through the D (past the denomination) to the branch.

From Stack's Spring Sale, April 1978, Lot 803.

High-Grade 1857-O $2.50

492 **1857-O MS-60.** Bright yellow gold surfaces, somewhat prooflike. No doubt struck from metal brought by sea from California. A very pleasing example of an issue that is usually seen in VF and EF grades, rarely higher.

Obverse with date logotype deeply punched into die; lower right of 8 showing nick, or chip, earlier described.

On the reverse the top of the O mintmark is high and is overlapped at the upper left by the arrow feather which extends somewhat into the central space.

Purchased from Mal Varner, August 14, 1972, through the Goliad Corporation.

493 **1857-O AU-58 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold. Much lustre remains.

Obverse die with deeply impressed logotype, chip out of lower right of 8; reverse with O mintmark tucked under arrow feather.

From Stack's Winter Sale, February 1974, Lot 525.

494 **1857-O AU-50 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Much lustre still remains.

Obverse and reverse dies similar to or same as preceding.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA Sale, August 1968, Lot 816.

495 **1857-O AU-50.** Bright yellow gold. A pleasing example.

Dies similar to preceding.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971.

Beautiful 1857-S Quarter Eagle

496 **1857-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Sharply and exquisitely struck with d tail present in all areas including the eagle's leg at lower le Lustrous, satiny surfaces.

PCGS Population: 4; 3 finer (MS-65 finest).

Date logotype well-centered and deeply punched; tiny chip missing fro lower right of 8. Some slight roughness here or there, particularly betwe stars 7 and 8 and past star 13.

Reverse with tiny clash mark above eagle's wing past upper right of shie S mintmark visible in its entirety, the top overlapping the arrow feath mintmark slightly double punched at lower right.

Purchased from Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 196. "Fro a northern California find, a very rare date in high grade. Almo unheard of in Mint State, probably the finest known."

497 **1857-S AU-55.** Lustrous and attractive. A very nice example.

Date logotype well centered vertically and horizontally, but slightly clos to the dentils than to the neck truncation. Reverse with upper right of mintmark embedded in the base of the arrow feather and tilted slightly le

From Paramount's sale of November 1971, Lot 1025.

498 **1857-S AU-50.** Bright yellow gold. Some lustre remaining. A other example of this popular issue.

Obverse as preceding. Reverse from a different die, S mintmark farther the left and touching the eagle's claw, but barely clear of arrow. Mo "open" than on the preceding coin, quite possibly because the mintma was not as deeply impressed into the die.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, August 4, 1967.

Splendid 1858 Quarter Eagle

499 **1858 MS-64 (PCGS).** Lustrous, satiny surfaces. Light yello gold, no doubt from California. Quite well struck, not need sharp, but not far from it, either. One of the nicest busine strike quarter eagles we have ever seen of this date.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (MS-65).

Obverse with date well positioned. Some die striae extend from upper le to lower right at perhaps a 30° angle from the vertical.

The reverse die shows evidences of clashing and may have been relappe but with remaining evidence above both wings of the eagle and elsewher Striae of nearly vertical orientation are seen, probably from the relappi (not original die preparation) process. At the center, above and to the rig of the second pair of stripes, a positioning dot seems to have taken aw some of the lowest horizontal shield stripe.

Purchased from William Youngerman, March 14, 1978.

Splendid Mint State 1858 $2.50

500 **1858 MS-62.** Light yellow gold. An early striking from dies with prominent striae, exceptionally so. One of the finest business strikes we have seen. Walter Breen comments, "Much scarcer than mintage figures suggest; rare Uncirculated." A find for the specialist.

Date logotype more evenly spaced than for preceding year, quite well done, except that the vertical axes of the 8s are not parallel, the last 8 seems to lean ever so slightly right. On the present coin the logotype is well spaced vertically and is slightly to the left.

On the reverse a center dot is seen at the top of the third "white" vertical shield stripe.

From Stack's sale of the Myers Collection, November 1972, Lot 563.

Remarkable 1858-C Quarter Eagle

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

501 **1858-C MS-62 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike on both sides. A high Condition Census specimen, far finer than the nicest piece known to Douglas Winter in his study. The latter author was aware of just a single Mint State coin, graded MS-60.

Today in 1999, with grade escalation and also resubmissions of coins to certification services, it is not as clear as it was years ago as to the relative importance of a coin in a certain grade. As time goes on, more and more higher grade pieces—those in the AU and Mint State level—will be submitted, resubmitted, and submitted again, with the eventuality that at some future date it will seem that such pieces are plentiful! The truth is, of course, that 10 listings could well represent just one single coin!

As years go on, more and more high-grade coins will be added to the population reports, making the pieces appear more plentiful. The truth is, however, as years go on such high-grade coins become less plentiful, as certain pieces meet varying fates through loss, handling, etc. Thus, 10 years from now high-grade 1858-C quarter eagles—to continue the present example—will be rarer than they are today, although the population figures will make it appear to the uninitiated that more are around!

All of this noted, on an absolute basis the 1858-C at this level is a significant rarity, a numismatic treasure, another *find* for the specialist.

PCGS Population: 7; none finer.

Date logotype very deeply punched into the die, slightly closer to the dentils than to the neck truncation, and somewhat to the left.

Reverse with upper right of C mintmark embedded in arrow feather. Some die striations on the reverse indicate that this was probably an early impression, a thought amplified by a lack of clash marks (which tend to be common on branch mint coins of this era).

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2083.

502 **1858-C EF-40.** Light yellow gold. Nick on right hand edge and some other marks including some light obverse scratches.

Dies and states as preceding.

From Paramount's sale of February 1971, Lot 1027.

Splendid 1859 Proof Rarity

Condition Census

(2X photo)

503 **1859 Proof-62 (PCGS).** Rich yellow gold surfaces. Some marks account for the numerical grade. A splendid coin, one of only a few Proofs surviving. Walter Breen was able to account for just seven different Proof examples, probably including overlapping appearances of the same specimen.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (Proof-66 finest).

In this year the reverse hub was changed. The hub used on the present piece is that of 1840-1858, with the lowest arrow head very close to the final A (AMERICA), *the top two arrow heads touching*, etc. The Type II hub was also introduced this year, and has distinguishing differences, including the top two arrow heads separated.

Regarding this Proof 1859, the date logotype is in small figures widely spaced. On this particular specimen it is placed slightly closer to the dentils than the neck truncation above.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 5, 1971.

Mint State 1859 $2.50

504 **1859 MS-62 (PCGS).** Extremely sharply struck, indeed *definitive* in this regard. Light yellow gold surfaces with satiny lustre. A prize example of an issue which is plentiful enough in lower grades, but which is a major rarity in the grade offered here.

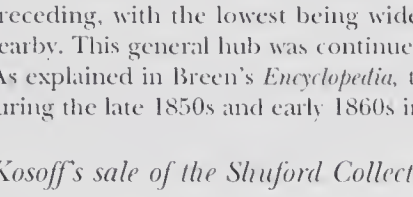
The date logotype is small and widely spaced, just right for the quarter eagle denomination. Many fine die striae are seen at a slight angle from the vertical, indicating this is an early impression.

The reverse is the new hub with arrow heads spaced more widely apart than on the preceding, with the lowest being widely separated from CA (AMERICA) nearby. This general hub was continued and used for the rest of the series. As explained in Breen's *Encyclopedia*, there were some transitional issues during the late 1850s and early 1860s involving the use of left-over reverses.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1962, Lot 1749.

Lustrous 1859 $2.50

Among Finest Seen



505 **1859 MS-62.** Breen-1023. Light yellow gold. Very lustrous on obverse and reverse. A pleasing example of the date and grade.

Obverse with date ever so slightly closer to the dentils than to neck truncation. Some striae near the borders, particularly at stars 1-2 and stars 9-11. No doubt this was an early impression.

The reverse of the present piece is from the Type I hub and seems to be an early die state.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 181.

506 **1859 MS-60.** Lustrous and attractive. Another high-grade business strike.

Dies similar to or identical to preceding.

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 360.

507 1859 AU-50. Much mint lustre still remains in protected areas. Light yellow gold.

Dies as preceding.

From Paramount's sale of February 1971, Lot 997.

Notable 1859-D Quarter Eagle

Condition Census

(2X photo)

508 **1859-D AU-58 (PCGS).** An exceptional specimen, a Condition Census piece with many fine attributes. First of all, the grade is elegant, AU-58, which ranks it in the top echelon, as only three or four pieces are believed to exist. Further, and perhaps equally important, the coin has a far above average strike. Harry Bass made special note that the dentils were separated and distinguishable, this being different than the typical coin.

In addition, the piece has a beautiful overall aesthetic appeal—a splendid specimen.

Only, 2,244 were struck, and of this number probably no more than 100 to 200 survive.

Obverse die notably basined. Logotype quite low. Tiny crack or die mar from lower right of digit to corner. Stray punch mark to lower left of 9. Perhaps this is a "misplaced date" and the logotype punch was earlier touched to the border.

On the reverse the D mintmark is deeply impressed into the die and high with the feather details occupying the upper left 50% of the center. The master die is boldly impressed into the working die, giving the letters and other features special prominence.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 200.

Rare 1859-D Quarter Eagle

509 **1859-D AU-50.** Rich yellow gold characteristic of Dahlonega Mint issues of the period (save those made from California metal). On the obverse there are some nicks and marks, and on the reverse there are intersecting scratches, a numismatic shame, for otherwise this piece would be truly memorable and to value and grade. A high-grade example from a numerical grading viewpoint.

Obverse with date logotype positioned too low. Reverse of the early (1840–1858) hub with lowest arrow head virtually touching the final A (AMERICA).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1844.

Lustrous 1859-S Quarter Eagle

0 **1859-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Very sharply struck and quite lustrous. An exceptional specimen of an issue, which, when seen, is usually quite worn. A *find* for the specialist and connoisseur.

Obverse with date logotype low. A tiny thorn from the border past star 11 will hallmark the die for the interested specialist.

On the reverse the mintmark is immediately distinguishable by having its entire lower portion solidly filled, certainly an unusual situation. The hub is of the early 1840-1848 style.

Purchased from N.K.S., May 1, 1968.

Pleasing 1859-S Quarter Eagle

1 **1859-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold surfaces. Lustrous and frosty. Fairly well struck, although with some typical lightness at the eagle's wing on the left.

Obverse date low. Tiny thorn on rim past star 11.

Reverse with small mintmark, entirely filled so as to create a *blob*. Old-style hub.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1566.

Another Desirable 1859-S $2.50

12 **1859-S AU-50 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Another high-grade example of this popular issue.

Obverse with date low, thorn at rim past star 11. Reverse with clear, open mintmark.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 770.

13 **1859-S EF-45.** Much mint lustre is still seen on the obverse, particularly in protected areas. The reverse is somewhat prooflike, again in protected areas. An attractive example of the issue.

Date logotype low. Reverse with old-style hub.

Purchased From N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

Lustrous 1860 $2.50

514 **1860 MS-62 (PCGS).** Sharply and *wonderfully* struck, a joy to behold. However, quarter eagles of the second hub (as this one is) do not seem to have the striking problems seen on the earlier issues. Thus, we will withold extensive commentary on subsequent new-hub issues unless there is a situation to the negative (weakly struck). All in all a delightful specimen of this issue.

Date logotype punched lightly into the die. First digit repunched at bottom. The logotype this year illustrates the 8 leaning very slightly to the left, and the base of the 6 considerably higher than the base of the adjacent 0. Die striae are seen from upper left to lower right. No doubt this was an early impression.

The reverse is of the new hub style. Evidences of clashing are seen above both wings of the eagle and occasionally elsewhere. Some roughness, perhaps rust, is seen in the dentils above AM (AMERICA) and elsewhere.

From Rarcoa's sale of January 1973, Lot 179.

515 **1860 AU-58.** Highly lustrous. A very attractive specimen. Exceptionally well struck in all areas including the eagle's leg to the left.

Date logotype quite low, about three times closer to the dentils than to the neck truncation.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. Sale, October 1968, Lot 771.

516 **1860 AU-55.** Most lustre still remains. Sharply struck and very attractive, the sharp striking being unusual for an early-hub reverse.

Date low, about three times closer to the dentils than to the bust. Reverse with some die finish lines at upper right, possibly indicating an early impression from the die.

From Stack's ANA Sale, August 1971, Lot 2004.

Attractive and Rare 1860-C $2.50

Final Charlotte Issue

517 **1860-C EF-45.** Bright yellow gold as is typical of Charlotte Mint coins. Fairly well struck for the issue, in contradistinction to the typically seen piece. Reverse with what are typically called "planchet defects" but which really were caused by the die (see notes). This is usual for the issue and is mentioned by Douglas Winter. Highly important as the last Charlotte year of the quarter eagle denomination.

An examination of this and the following lot show that the "planchet defects," as they are commonly called, are, in fact, evidence of debris adhering to the die. Date deeply impressed into die and centered.

518 **1860-C VF-35.** Bright yellow gold. A very nice example. Some irregularities from die debris are seen on the reverse but not extensive.

Marvelous 1860-S Quarter Eagle

519 **1860-S MS-63 (PCGS).** Reverse from the early hub, a decent strike, but lacking some minute detail—above average however. Lustrous and attractive overall, a truly memorable example of an issue which is a great rarity at this level. Walter Breen says succinctly: "Usually weak VF. Extremely rare above, only two reported Uncirculated." Today in 1999 the true number of Uncirculated pieces cannot be determined, due to the economic attraction of continually resubmitting expensive and unusual coins to the grading services by which practice a single coin can be listed multiple times. However, Walter Breen was as familiar as anyone with gold coins when he wrote his *Encyclopedia* in the 1980s (published in 1988), and we must of necessity adopt his comments as indicative of the great rarity of the issue. Moreover, the 1860-S was too late to be included in the *S.S. Central America* find (that ship having slipped beneath the waves on September 12, 1857), and no examples have been recovered from the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* (which, in any event, seems to have carried primarily high-denomination coins, with Mint State pieces being concentrated 1863-1865).

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Obverse with date logotype very deeply impressed into the die. A dramatic contrast to the lightly impressed Philadelphia die offered earlier.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, March 15, 1972.

520 **1860-S EF-45.** A nice example which displays mint lustre in recessed areas. A particularly desirable example of an issue that is usually seen well worn.

Date logotype low and deeply punched into die. Reverse is of the old hub as used on other San Francisco Mint quarter eagles of the decade.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

521 **1860-S EF-40.** Medium gold with some deeper highlights in the recessed areas.

Date low and deeply punched into die.

From Paramount's sale of November 1971, Lot 1031.

522 **1861 MS-64.** Light yellow gold, probably from California metal. A beautiful specimen with lustrous, satiny surfaces, a piece with a great deal of eye appeal.

Date logotype well centered; deeply punched into the die at the left and right figures (perhaps the logotype was rocked to the left and right when impressed), lighter in the centers.

Reverse is from the new hub, as usually seen.

From Stack's sale of February 1972, Lot 640.

523 **1861 MS-64.** Brilliant and frosty. A very attractive coin.

Date logotype deeply punched and well centered. Obverse field surface somewhat satiny as per the original die. The reverse is of the usually see new hub.

From Superior's sale of October 1972, Lot 1893.

524 **1861 MS-63 (PCGS).** An early striking from the die pairs, wit both dies showing extensive striations (die preparation marks) The reverse is of the Type I or old hub, and thus is *extremel rare* (see comments in Breen's *Encyclopedia* under 6256). Th same writer notes: "Business strikes only. Discovered by Dou glas Winter and published in *Coin World,* October 19, 199 page 46."

As the reverse die has many preparation lines and shows no evidence o relapping, nor are clash marks present, it may be that 1861 represents i first use to strike coins. If so, then the die had been on hand in a vault sinc at least 1858.

Purchased from N.K.S., June 6, 1972.

525 **1861 MS-63.** Brilliant and lustrous as often for this date an mint.

Date logotype high and very distinctly repunched, particularly at the fir two digits, less so on the fourth. Apparently the third digit, the 6, was th pivot point. Reverse is of the new hub as usually seen. Traces of a tiny crac at OF.

Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

526 **1861 MS-62.** Lustrous and brilliant. Another nice example o this popular Philadelphia issue.

Date centered and deeply punched. Reverse is of the new hub. Prominer clash marks around the eagle outline the head of Miss Liberty.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, July 28, 1972.

High-Quality 1861-S $2.50

527 **1861-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold characteristic of Cal fornia metal. Type I hub, and quite well struck for same.

Obverse with date logotype deep into the die and slightly closer to th neck truncation than to the dentils. Reverse with large "open" S-mintmark

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. Sale, October 1968, Lot 775.

528 **1861-S EF-45.** A high-grade example of this San Francisco is sue, one which is typically seen at levels such as VF and below

Date centered. Reverse is of the old hub as always for San Francisco Mi quarter eagles of the decade. Fairly decently struck, with just slight lightne on the eagle's leg to the left.

From Stack's Metropolitan Sale, May 1968, Lot 750.

Scarce 1862/1 $2.50

1862/1 Overdate. AU-55 (PCGS). Light yellow gold. Mark on reverse above eagle's neck. A very attractive, high-grade example of this popular and very important piece. Writing in 1988, Walter Breen commented, "Possibly 12 known, none Uncirculated."

PCGS Population: 5; 4 finer (MS-61 finest).

This variety was unknown to numismatists until it was discovered by Aubrey E. Bebee, the Omaha numismatist, and published in the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, January 1963. As is often the case when a remarkable find is announced, the news coverage prompted just about any reader who had an 1862 quarter eagle to take a closer look to see if it was a prized overdate. At least several thousand 1862 quarter eagles exist—not at all a rare or even scarce date. The fact that by 1988 Walter Breen only knew of a dozen pieces tells much about the true rarity of the variety today.

From our sale of February 1975, Lot 580.

Lustrous 1862 Quarter Eagle

1862 MS-64 (PCGS). Lustrous frosty surfaces and, as might be expected from the Type II hub, quite well struck overall. An excellent coin for variety or type.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

This represents the last year that Philadelphia Mint quarter eagles were struck for general circulation, until the late 1870s. There was a flurry of activity among the populace with regard to hoarding "hard" money, and although the Treasury Department did not pay out gold coins after late December 1861, it seems that many of the 1862 gold dollars and quarter eagles were distributed, no doubt to those caring to pay a small premium for them. In any event, high-grade business strikes of 1862 are seen with some frequency today.

The date logotype is excellently made, well spaced and the numeral size looks very attractive on the quarter eagle denomination. On the present die the positioning is well spaced. The obverse is lightly clashed, with some marks extending from both sides of Miss Liberty's neck, reflective of the wing outlines on the reverse.

On the reverse a related clash is seen, outlining virtually the entire head of Miss Liberty.

Purchased from N.K.S. December 12, 1970.

High-Grade 1862 Quarter Eagle

1862 MS-63 (PCGS). Prooflike. Light yellow gold. An attractive example of the variety and grade.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Obverse with date well positioned. Evidences of clash marks before and after the head of Miss Liberty, including evidences transferred from the wing on the reverse.

Reverse with clash marks outlining Miss Liberty, which seems to have been clashed at least twice, possibly more.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, September 19, 1973.

532 **1862 AU-55.** Bright yellow gold. Highly lustrous.

Date very lightly entered in the die, giving it a delicate appearance. Placement slightly high. The reverse is of a new hub, as always for this date and for subsequent Philadelphia Mint issues. Some clash marks can be seen around the central motifs.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 19, 1968.

533 **1862 AU-55.** Brilliant and lustrous. Another attractive example.

Date deeply punched into die. Centered. Reverse marked in Harry Bass' notes as "relapped," but this feature is not immediately evident (perhaps Harry Bass saw an earlier die state of this reverse elsewhere).

Purchased from N.K.S., August 21, 1968.

534 1862 AU-50. A further nice example.

Date slightly low. Reverse with some die finish lines at the border above and to the left of AM (AMERICA).

Purchased from John N. Rowe III, October 18, 1966.

Memorable 1862-S Quarter Eagle

Elusive Mint State

Bass: "Finest Known"

(2X photo)

535 **1862-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Warm rich yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike on both surfaces. An absolutely gorgeous coin, a memorable piece that will long linger in the mind of anyone who views it.

San Francisco Mint quarter eagles of this era are rare enough in such grades as AU or even MS-60, but at the MS-62 level they are so elusive that a span of *years* may elapse between our offerings of them. Such pieces were not used in large bullion shipments, as $20 pieces were easier to count. Rather, these saw extensive service in everyday commerce.

In Harry's notes he commented all in capital letters: FINEST KNOWN. Harry was of a conservative turn of mind, and this notation certainly is exceptional.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

The date on the obverse is very deeply punched and well centered. On the reverse, the S is barely clear of the arrow feather. The high prooflike character of both obverse and reverse, together with some original die finish marks, suggests that this must have been an early impression from the pair. It would be interesting to surmise that this was purchased as a gift by someone who visited the San Francisco Mint, as the annals of mint history reveal that this was the most popular of all denominations for a holiday gift giving (such commentaries relate to the Philadelphia Mint early in the 20th century, but no doubt appropriate to other mints and times).

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1989, Lot 77.

Scarce 1862-S Quarter Eagle

536 **1862-S EF-45 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold characteristic of California metal (containing a significant amount of silver as an *impurity.)* Type I hub from earlier days.

In 1862, while the Treasury Department was no longer paying out Philadelphia Mint quarter eagles at par, on the West Coast, in San Francisco, freshly minted coins were placed directly into commerce. As explained in some detail in the book, *The Treasure Ship S.S. Brother Jonathan,* the West Coast operated on an entirely different monetary system during the Civil War—with scarcely a Legal Tender note in circulation in San Francisco, but many gold coins in evidence. On the East Coast just the opposite was true: paper money abounded, and silver and gold coins were nowhere to be seen.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 21, 1968.

537 **1862-S EF-40.** A sharp and pleasing specimen from the same die pair as the earlier "finest known" landmark. Much mint lustre still remains in protected areas.

Purchased from John Smies, June 22, 1967.

"Special" 1863-S Quarter Eagle

538 **1863-S AU-55 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Much lustre still remains in protected areas. Type I hub as normal for the issue. When seen, the 1863-S is typically well worn. In fact, Walter Breen knew of *only two Mint State coins,* an appropriate comment with regard to the value of Mint State coins. Even AU pieces are quite elusive.

For the advanced collector this is, indeed, a very "special" 1863-S. Few equivalent pieces have ever passed through our hands.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Obverse with date logotype deeply impressed and well positioned. Reverse from the Type I hub as usual.

Purchased from N.K.S., September 16, 1970.

539 1863-S VF-30, or slightly finer. Bright yellow gold. Some mint lustre is still seen.

Date low and deeply punched. A tiny crack extends from the right tip of the neck truncation to the border and is scarcely visible. On the reverse the S mintmark is tilted at a rakish angle to the right. A curiosity in itself.

From Stack's sale of the Davis Collection, February 1968, Lot 235.

Highly Important 1864 $2.50

Business Strike Rarity

540 **1864 Net EF-40;** sharpness and appearance of AU-50 or fine but with traces of tooling in the obverse and reverse fields. Lustrous honey gold with prooflike reflectivity in the fields. A very attractive piece despite its shortcomings. Only 2,82 business strikes were produced of the date, of which nearl all have disappeared, yielding perhaps a population of fewe than 100 in collectors' hands today. Only at widely spaced in tervals do pieces come on the market. The present piece rep resents an excellent opportunity for the budget-conscious buyer who wishes to acquire an American classic, a highl important rarity.

Date logotype on a horizontal plane in a centered position below Liberty bust. Proofs of this date have the date slanting down to the right.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 79.

Important 1865 $2.50 Rarity

(2X photo)

541 **1865 AU-53 (PCGS).** A lovely high-grade *business strike,* and rarity as such. Only 1,520 pieces were made for circulation, o which very few exist. Walter Breen poignantly observes: "Rare than Proofs, unknown Uncirculated." As only a dozen or s Proofs are believed to exist, the rarity of the present busines strike is equaled by relatively few other dates in the entire serie

Not only is the piece a rarity in an absolute sense, the coin of great visual beauty, possessing rich gold surfaces with som hint of prooflike character.

Date logotype deeply punched into working die and quite high. Seeming the only obverse die used for business strikes this year.

From Rarcoa's ANA Sale, August 1970, Lot 1445.

Memorable 1865-S Quarter Eagle

1865-S MS-62 (PCGS). Slightly above-average strike (recall that this is a Type I hub). Lustrous and frosty. A very elegant, indeed memorable specimen of the 1865-S, a variety that typically is found well worn, when it is found at all.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-63).

Obverse with date logotype deep into the die, well centered, but positioned to the left, as is typical for virtually all quarter eagle dies of the era. A few very delicate cracks are seen among the stars beginning with star 1 and continuing clockwise, irregularly through star 9. Whether these cracks are from *die use* or are artifacts of the hardening and annealing process can only be determined by studying multiple specimens and noting the progression.

The reverse is the expected Type I hub. The mintmark is tilted sharply to the right at about a 30° angle from the vertical, an interesting but not necessarily value-adding aspect.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, October 28, 1971

1865-S AU-55. Lustrous golden orange with some brilliance in the recessed areas. Obverse very faintly brushed long ago.

Purchased from Fred Sweeney, September 18, 1972.

1865-S EF-40. Honey gold with some lustre in the protected areas.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1865.

mpressive Mint State 1866 Quarter Eagle

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

(2X photo)

5 **1866 MS-62 (PCGS).** A very attractive example with light yellow gold surfaces. Somewhat prooflike. Nicely struck. A spectacular coin in every respect—rarity, quality, eye appeal. Few equivalent pieces exist in all of numismatics. Just 3,780 business strikes were made, and few, if any, were deliberately saved for numismatic purposes (the few collectors who desired such pieces typically acquired Proofs). Today not more than a couple hundred examples of this date are estimated to survive, the majority of those in VF. The quality of this specimen is virtually unimproveable for the grade.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Minor repunching on the 1 in the date. Date logotype deeply punched into the die, slightly more heavily on the right, making the final digit appear slightly larger than the third digit.

Purchased from N.K.S., July 19, 1973.

1866 $2.50 Rarity

546 **1866 AU-55 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. A very pleasing specimen of a major rarity of the era. Interestingly, the dies of this piece are aligned in the same direction, medal-wise, in contrast to the normal 180° apart.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (MS-62 finest).

Date logotype deeply punched into the die, slightly more heavily on the right, making the final digit appear slightly larger than the third digit. Wire rim around much of the reverse.

Purchased from Rarcoa, August 19, 1968.

High-Grade 1866-S $2.50

547 **1866-S MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous and frosty. A decent strike as well, somewhat unusual considering the Type I reverse hub. One of the nicest examples we have seen of the 1866 issue.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Although the mintage was a generous 38,960 pieces, the coins were made for strictly utilitarian purposes and were distributed in a combination of domestic commerce and the export trade. As a result, the 1866-S, quoting Breen, is "usually VF; prohibitively rare in AU."

Obverse with date logotype punched more deeply on the left, giving the first digit unusual boldness and rendering the last two digits with the same size appearance. Reverse with large S mintmark. Some trivial evidence of die clashing is seen above the eagle's wing opposite the upper right corner of the shield, this being the first place that specialists look for evidence of such things.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 19, 1968.

548 **1866-S EF-45.** Honey gold with plenty of lustre in the recessed areas.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 776.

549 **1866-S EF-45.** A pleasing specimen, definitely above the average grade typically seen. On the reverse some original mint lustre is still visible. Obverse with planchet lamination or, possibly, foreign material adhering to the die—opposite bust point.

Date logotype deeply impressed and centered.

From Stack's ANA Sale, August 1971, Lot 2011.

550 **1866-S EF-40.** Light yellow gold.

Date logotype high, twice as close to truncation as to dentils. Reverse with medium S mintmark barely clear of arrow feather. Walter Breen in his *Encyclopedia* notes that the arrow heads are usually light on this issue; however, this is not true of the specimen offered here.

From Stack's sale of May 1968, Lot 756.

551 **1866-S EF-40.** Another nice example of this scarce San Francisco issue. Much if not most mint lustre still remains.

Date slightly low. Crack from border through space between stars 2 and 3 to chin, a rather unusual position for a crack on this denomination. Minor evidences of clashing behind Miss Liberty's head. Reverse with S high and into arrow feather. Old style hub, as on other San Francisco quarter eagles of the decade.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of January 1975, Lot 145.

552 1866-S VF-35. A final example of the issue. The present coin is about average, or slightly finer, relative to grades normally seen on the market.

Date slightly low. Reverse with S mintmark high and into arrow feather.

Purchased from Don Apte, September 21, 1972, to the Goliad Corporation, to Harry Bass.

Rare 1867 Business Strike $2.50

553 **1867 MS-63 (PCGS).** Prooflike. A splendid coin, virtually as struck, save for some minor handling marks that may have been acquired within the Mint or in storage thereafter.

In business strike form only 3,200 quarter eagles were made. Exactly what happened to them is difficult to learn at this date, although it is known that the Treasury Department did not pay them out at par (but did sell gold coins at a significant profit in terms of paper money; an accounting of the procedure, and a register of total profits, is given in the book, *The Treasure Ship S.S. Brother Jonathan*). Alternative to being paid out at a premium, the coins could have been retained by the Treasury Department until 1879, at which time they again circulated at par. In any event, nearly all saw hand-to-hand use, prompting Walter Breen to note, "Usually EF; prohibitively rare AU or above."

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-65).

Date logotype high on coin, and deeply impressed, situated to the left, with the first digit clear of the neck of Miss Liberty, but the upper right of the 7 nearly touching. Some light clash marks are seen behind Miss Liberty's head, and diagonal die striae, can be seen under magnification. On the reverse die striae, mostly vertically oriented, can likewise be seen. The die seems to have been given a high degree of polish at the Mint.

From Paramount's sale of February 1973, Lot 991.

Prooflike 1867 Quarter Eagle

Rare Business Strike

554 **1867 AU-55 PL.** A splendid specimen of this notable rarity. "Prohibitively rare" in this grade Walter Breen notes, and we would not dare disagree. Often a very long span will elapse between the presentation of similar pieces in the auction forum. A true *find* for the advanced specialist and connoisseur.

Date logotype too far right, with corner of 7 touching neck truncation. Many die finish lines in various directions, indicating an early impression from the dies (which is almost by definition, as not many pieces were struck totally). Reverse from highly polished dies, also with die finish lines.

From Stack's Metropolitan Sale, May 1968, Lot 757.

Astounding 1867-S Quarter Eagle

555 **1867-S MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous and frosty. An outstanding dazzling, breathtaking specimen of a variety which is usuall encountered only in worn grades, and for which even an Al or an MS-60 would be a notable rarity! The pedigree, a noted below, traces the coin to the cabinet of Ambassado and Mrs. R. Henry Norweb, connoisseurs *par excellence*. Ou offering in three parts of the Norweb Collection still echoe in the halls of the numismatic hobby. Off the market for ove a decade, this piece now appears to delight a new circle o friends and specialists.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Obverse with date logotype high, but with both digits clear of the nec truncation and each about the same distance from it. Some light clash mark can be seen before and after the visage of Miss Liberty.

The reverse is of the Type I die, as expected, these being produced yea earlier. There is some lightness of strike at the eagle's leg to the left. Th mintmark is of medium size and is placed upright, compactly situated so a not to overlap any other design elements. Some minor traces of clashing ca be seen, particularly above the eagle's wing to the upper right of the shiel

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, March 1988, Lot 2062.

Lustrous 1867-S Quarter Eagle

Seldom Seen So Fine

556 **1867-S AU-55.** Highly lustrous. A very beautiful example of quarter eagle that when seen is apt to be in grades such as V or EF, very seldom AU. For the specialist and connoisseur th represents yet another *find* in the Bass Collection. Breen note significantly: "Extremely rare above EF."

Date very high with first and last digits very close to but not quite touchi neck truncation. Logotype deep into die. Reverse with S mintmark bare touching arrow feather. Some evidences of clash marks around the eagle.

Purchased from N.K.S., December 21, 1971.

557 **1867-S AU-50.** Some surface marks consistent with the grad Light yellow gold. Some mint lustre remains.

Date very high with first and last digits very close to but not quite touchi neck truncation. Logotype deep into die. Reverse with S mintmark bare touching arrow feather.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 199.

558 1867-S EF-40. Another example of an issue which is not ofte seen in high grades. As is mentioned here and there throug out the present catalogue, the word O-P-P-O-R-T-U-N-I-T comes to the fore in the Bass Collection sale, perhaps mo than in any other gold coin auction ever held.

Date very high with first and last digits very close to but not quite touchi neck truncation. Logotype deep into die. Reverse with S mintmark bare touching arrow feather.

Purchased from D.W. Jensen, June 22, 1967.

Marvelous Mint State 1868 $2.50

Prooflike MS-64

Business Strike Landmark

1868 MS-64 (PCGS). Prooflike on obverse and reverse. A marvelous specimen with rich warm gold surfaces. Well struck, beautiful, and exceedingly rare. Only a handful of examples exist in the entire numismatic world, these having survived by chance from a low business strike production of just 3,200 pieces. Needless to say, an important opportunity.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Relating to these pieces, Walter Breen notes that business strikes were delivered on January 20, 1868, early in the year. Apparently there was no subsequent call for such pieces. All authentic business strikes have raised rust marks on the neck (as Breen observes). Production was from a single pair of dies. The date logotype is deeply punched in the die, positioned left, and very close to but not touching the truncation.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, presumably 1977; ex our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1589.

1868 AU-50 PL. Bright and beautiful. Another specimen of this elusive issue. How curious it is that this coin has a market value (per conventional wisdom) of only slightly more than $500. In truth, the coin can be correctly described as a *great rarity* at the present level.

Die pair as preceding, including definitive rust marks on neck.

From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 345.

Marvelous 1868-S Quarter Eagle

1 **1868-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous and frosty. Typical reverse strike for the Type II hub. One of the very finest known specimens of a variety that is normally seen at the VF level (but for which a few Mint State pieces exist and come on the market now and then). Another *find* for the specialist.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-64).

Date logotype deeply impressed and well centered.

The reverse has some evidence of light clashing, particularly in the field above the right corner of the shield.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1591.

2 1868-S EF-45. Bright yellow gold. Much lustre is seen in protected areas. Lightly cleaned long ago, otherwise we would have graded it as AU-55.

Date logotype very deeply impressed into the die, well centered (as viewed by the position of the first digit). On the reverse the S mintmark barely touches the arrow feather.

Purchased from John Smies, June 10, 1967.

563 **1869 AU-55 PL.** Bright yellow gold. Highly mirrorlike surfaces on obverse and reverse, closely resembling a Proof strike. A rarity by any accounting, as only 4,320 business strikes were produced.

Date very high, about three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils, this being true of all business strikes—which, seemingly, were made from a single die pair. (In contrast, Proofs have the date logotype positioned low on the die.)

Reverse with some interesting die finish lines among the letters from D (UNITED) clockwise through STATE and again past the F.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

564 **1869 AU-50 PL.** Another lovely specimen of this rare business strike issue. The market value is below $1,000, certainly an excellent value for the price paid—if indeed it actually sells in the range of its current listings. The true rarity and potential of many issues in this era are not recognized.

Die pair as preceding, including the interesting finish lines on the reverse.

From Lester Merkin's sale of June 1972, Lot 388.

Breathtaking 1869-S Quarter Eagle

Choice Mint State

(2X photo)

565 **1869-S MS-64 (PCGS).** Deeply lustrous and frosty. Rich yellow-orange-gold surfaces. Somewhat typical strike for a San Francisco Mint issue of the era, with lightness at the center—this being true of all authentic pieces (cf. Breen).

When seen, the 1869-S is usually well worn, with VF being the norm, EF being unusual and, per Breen, "extremely rare in AU." Regarding Mint State pieces, the only ones specifically cited by Breen is the piece purchased by Harry Bass and now offered for sale! By any evaluation, the present coin is an American numismatic landmark, a coin for numismatic posterity, a piece that will be forever remembered in the annals of the denomination. In advance we congratulate the next owner.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-66 finest).

Date very high and almost touching neck truncation. Logotype deeply impressed into the die. Reverse with S barely touching arrow feather. Tiny crack from border to E (AMERICA). Some machine doubling is seen at STA (STATES), and resembles a doubled die.

From Paramount's sale of August 1980, Lot 896.

566 **1869-S AU-55.** Brilliant and highly lustrous. Another splendid specimen of an issue which is seldom seen in high grades.

Date very high and almost touching neck truncation. Logotype deeply impressed into the die. Reverse with S barely touching arrow feather. Tiny crack from border to E (AMERICA). No evidence of machine doubling.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 852.

567 **1869-S AU-50.** Frosty and lustrous. A very attractive example in every respect.

Date very high and almost touching neck truncation. Logotype deeply impressed into the die. Earlier state of the reverse die than preceding, with some die finish lines visible at the border. No crack.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1978, Lot 203.

Fantastic Gem 1870 $2.50

MS-65

(2X photo)

568 **1870 MS-65 (PCGS).** A fantastic gem, brilliant and bright with prooflike surfaces, a coin which cannot be much different from the *day* in which it was struck.

While the present piece will stand high and proud because of its grade and appearance, it is also a notable rarity. Only 4,520 business strikes were produced. Again quoting Breen, "Most survivors are EF, higher grade coins are extremely rare." Another memorable opportunity. Whatever the price paid the coin will be owned by the purchaser, while all others competing may have to wait a long time before getting one—possibly never reaching this goal.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date very high and close to the neck truncation, but not quite touching. The first and last digits are about equidistant from the dentils, conflicting with Walter Breen's comment, "Business strikes, delivered January 17, have dates slanting down to the right." Actually, the date position tends to fool the eye, and if the neck truncation of Miss Liberty is used as the only focal point, the date does *seem* to slant down to the right—even if it does not. The portrait of Miss Liberty bears some interesting raised finish lines at the neck, before and after the curls, some of which are in an arc, sufficient enough that these can be called *circular lathe marks*—as discussed in modern times in certain places (the present writer's *A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents*). Across many different denominations, coins with circular lathe marks are very unusual in the federal series. Thus, while the presence of these will not add to the price, at least not measurably, we want the purchaser to know that here, indeed, is a numismatic curiosity and rarity.

On the reverse there are some minor clash marks and also raised die finish lines, indicating that light clashing must have occurred early in the life of the die.

From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 349.

Marvelous 1870-S Quarter Eagle

Breen: "Prohibitively Rare"

Mint State

569 **1870-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous and beautiful. Well struck. A landmark among quarter eagles of this date and mint, a gorgeous piece that will be long remembered.

Date logotype twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils. Deeply punched into die. Reverse with S mintmark high and surrounded by much of the motif above. Arrows and other features especially prominent, from the old hub as usual, but in this instance very deeply impressed into the working die.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 205.

570 **1871 AU-55.** Somewhat prooflike. Light yellow gold. A ve scarce coin, one of only 5,300 business strikes produced in a era which saw limited production at the Philadelphia Mint.

Date logotype about centered. Right serif of final 1 is unusually long a bold. Deeply impressed into die. Minute traces of crack at tip of the eagl wing at upper right of die.

Purchased from John Smies, June 10, 1967.

571 **1871 AU-55.** Some reddish toning around the rims. Partial prooflike. Another rare business strike example.

Obverse date and logotype as preceding. Traces of crack at tip of t eagle's wing at upper right of die.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 1448.

Highly Important 1871-S $2.50

(2X photo)

572 **1871-S MS-65 (PCGS).** Brilliant and frosty with satiny lustre o both sides. About an average strike for a Type II hub. A da zling coin from a visual viewpoint, as the 1861-S is usually see only in lower grades. This particular specimen is cited Breen's *Encyclopedia* under his entry number 6281.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-66).

Date logotype large and deeply impressed, somewhat far left and th close to the neck of Liberty, more so than to the dentils.

On the reverse the mintmark is high and overlaps part of the feather. Pe fect obverse and reverse dies (no cracks).

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 160

573 **1871-S AU-58.** Light yellow gold. Highly lustrous surfaces. splendid specimen that ranks among the finest we have see To be sure, there is a nick on the neck truncation, otherwi we would be tempted to call it MS-61 or MS-62 (as, indeed, certification service might do). A splendid coin by any evalu tion.

Date left and closely spaced both top and bottom, but equally in each i stance. Reverse with S mintmark high and partly into the motif. Some m chine doubling at UNITED.

Purchased from Douglas Weaver, August 18, 1972, via the Golie Corporation.

574 **1871-S AU-55.** Much lustre remains. About average strike.

Date left and closely spaced both top and bottom, but equally in each i stance. Reverse with S mintmark high and partly into the motif.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, April 17, 1967.

575 1871-S AU-50. Highly prooflike on obverse and reverse. A pa ticularly nice example.

Date left and closely spaced both top and bottom, but equally in each i stance. Walter Breen notes that this reverse was also used to strike 1856 quarter eagles.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. sale, October 1968, Lot 1449.

Wonderful Business Strike 1872 $2.50

Choice Mint State
Finest Certified by PCGS

(2X photo)

1872 MS-64 (PCGS). Prooflike surfaces. A wonderful specimen which is just about as nice as it must have been back in 1872, some 127 years ago! In this grade, the 1872 is significantly rarer than an equivalent Proof—and Proofs are rare. Another notable coin, an opportunity for the connoisseur.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

In the date logotype 2 slightly low and to the left. Very deeply impressed into the die—one of the deepest impressions we have seen on any die of this denomination. Under examination some light die finish lines can be seen connecting stars 4-5 and, separately, 5-6, and elsewhere, evidence that this was an early striking.

Reverse with die finish lines, indicating its early use. Business strikes, delivered on January 22, 1872, were made to the extent of only 3,000 pieces. At the time there was little practical call for such coins. The Treasury was not paying pieces out at par; in order to obtain them one had to pay a sharp premium in terms of paper money. When this was done, usually reserves of the higher denominations were tapped, for use in the export trade. Quarter eagles were virtually ignored. It might have been the case—no records survive—that such pieces were made, (along with gold dollars) in modest quantities, to have souvenirs available for those who cared to purchase them at a premium to use as gifts.

From Stack's Metropolitan Sale, May 1968, Lot 767.

7 **1872-S AU-55.** Light yellow gold. Much mint lustre still remains.

Date logotype high. Reverse with upper right of mintmark embedded in arrow feather.

From Glendining's sale of October 1970, Lot 895, through Rowe & Brownlee.

8 **1872-S AU-53.** Light yellow gold. Nearly all mint lustre is still present.

The final digit 2 is low on the logotype this year (this being true on all dies, as only one logotype was used for the various dies and mints for this denomination). Obverse with date deeply impressed into die, slightly high. Reverse with small S mintmark overlapping end of arrow. Some die finish lines indicate that this was an early striking.

Purchased from N.K.S., June 6, 1971.

Memorable 1873 Quarter Eagle

Closed 3, Choice Mint State

579 **1873 Closed 3. MS-64 (PCGS).** Lustrous and frosty, a coin with a great deal of "life." The reverse is partially prooflike and similarly attractive. A memorable example of an issue which is by no means a great rarity, but certainly is not easy to find in this combination of high technical grade and aesthetic appeal.

Date slightly low. The date logotype for the 1873 Closed 3 is quite curious, as it is shallow across the center and deep at the top and bottom, this being true of all quarter eagle dies at the two mints (Philadelphia and San Francisco). This is caused by "rocking" the numerals to the *matrix* that produced the four-digit logotype punch.

From Rarcoa's sale of April 1972, Lot 625.

580 **1873 Closed 3. MS-63.** Highly lustrous and, on the obverse, somewhat prooflike. A nice example of one of the early strikings from this year.

Date slightly low. Reverse with light crack through tops of OF to wing on right.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of September 1973, Lot 1067.

581 **1873 Closed 3. MS-62.** Brilliant and lustrous.

Date slightly low. Reverse with light crack through top of OF to wing at right, additional tiny crack from same wing tip to border.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 1, 1967.

Lovely 1873 Open 3 $2.50

582 **1873 Open 3. MS-64.** Much prooflike surface on the obverse. A very attractive coin from all aspects.

Date slightly high. Deeply impressed into die.

Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

583 **1873-S Closed 3. AU-50.** A splendid specimen of the date, variety, and grade.

Date very low and about three times closer to the dentils than to the neck truncation above. Reverse with S high and into the motif.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 24, 1968.

584 1873-S Closed 3. AU-50. Light yellow gold. Obverse somewhat prooflike.

Date low. On the reverse the upper right of the S mintmark is embedded in the arrow feather.

Purchased by Harry Bass from the Goliad Corporation. Earlier from our sale of the Fairfield Collection, 1977, Lot 1609.

585 1873-S Closed 3. EF-45. A very attractive example of the variety and grade.

Date very low, about three times closer to the dentil than to the truncation above. Reverse with mintmark very high and into the motif.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1874.

Impressive Mint State 1874 $2.50

Extreme Rarity

(2X photo)

586 **1874 MS-64 (PCGS).** Nearly fully prooflike. A very impressive coin, a glittering cameo that closely resembles a Proof, but was made for circulation. Very few equivalent pieces exist in all of numismatics. The present piece is one of the great prizes in this section of the present sale.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-65).

Date logotype slightly low and deeply punched into die. Some evidence of rust pits at earlobe, as is true of all authentic business strikes (cf. Breen *Encyclopedia* No. 6287).

The survival of a business strike in this grade is a matter of remote chance, as such pieces were not deliberately saved by numismatists. Those few collectors who were assembling quarter eagles by date sequence were apt to order Proofs. It does not strain credulity to suggest that this piece may have been struck as a *Proof*, although the dies do not conform. On the reverse there is a small lint mark, characteristic of certain Proofs of the era, but only infrequently seen on business strikes. Further, in the absence of knowledge concerning technical die information, probably more than just a few experts would call this a Proof 1874 quarter eagle.

From Stack's sale of the Stewart Collection, May 1972, Lot 1671.

Famous 1875 $2.50 Rarity

A Key to the Series

(2X photo)

587 **1875 MS-62 (PCGS).** A beautiful specimen with warm rich gold, a lovely cameo. Were it not for the knowledge of technical die information, this would be called a Proof by many.

As it is, business strikes at this level may be even rarer than Proofs—and Proofs themselves are famous rarities. Here is a numismatic landmark, one that will create a great deal of attention.

The mintage of the 1875 quarter eagle amounted to just 420 coins totally—the same mintage as for gold dollars this year—divided into 400 business strikes and 20 Proofs. Business strikes were not saved deliberately by numismatists, while Proofs were. In his study of the quarter eagle series in 1975, David Akers was able to find 24 appearances of business strikes over a long period of years—no doubt this included duplicate appearances of the same specimens. *Just two of these we described as Uncirculated.* One of those coins is the identic piece offered here. As the die differences between Proofs ar business strikes are quite dramatic, the connoisseur may we wish to have two varieties for the 1875 year. It seems quite o vious that while Proofs are wonderful rarities and are seldo seen, Mint State business strikes are rarer yet!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

On business strikes, such as this, the date is high and far to the left. At t upper right, the 5 is distant from the neck truncation. In contrast—and t Akers book gives a nice illustration—on Proofs the date is farther to t right, and the upper right of the 5 nearly touches the truncation. Both o verse and reverse have some minute die finish lines, as by definition this ar other business strikes are among the first few hundred pieces made.

As noted under our description of the prooflike 1874 quarter eagle, th piece so closely resembles a Proof that if one did not have knowledge of t date position, it could be easily be called such. Could it have actually be struck as a Proof? Suffice it to say that the possibility is not as remote as might seem. John Dannreuther has been studying the *gold dollar* series ve carefully, and is making changes and additions to certain conventional w dom regarding Proofs vs. prooflike business strikes. It could be that if t same expert, or someone with his equivalent knowledge (admittedly a ra talent), were to study quarter eagles, new conclusions could be drawn.

588 **1875-S AU-58.** A lustrous, attractive example of this scarce an quite popular San Francisco issue. When seen, pieces are a to be VF. At the AU level the coin is a definite *rarity*.

Date logotype shallowly impressed into the die, and high and to the le Reverse with upper right of S mintmark embedded in arrow feather.

The 1875-S is scarce in its own right, but as Philadelphia Mint quart eagles of this date are virtually uncollectible, there is even a further dema for 1875-S pieces by those who collect simply by *date*.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 99.

Outstanding 1876 Quarter Eagle

Choice Business Strike

589 **1876 MS-64 (PCGS).** Brilliant and satiny, somewhat prooflik surfaces. Some staining at the back of Miss Liberty's hair an nearby star. Overall an outstanding specimen of a great rari in business strike form. Even an MS-60 would be elusive. A other *find* for the specialist.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype extremely deeply impressed into the die, so much that t surrounding field has been slightly distorted (very interesting to view und magnification). Date fairly well centered. Miss Liberty has a raised area "bar" on her jaw, *diagnostic* for authentic business strikes. Interestingly, t same bar appears on San Francisco issues of the same year, indicating that was on the *master die*, not the *working die*.

From our sale of the Garrett Collection, Part II, March 1980, L 770.

Attractive AU 1876 $2.50

1876 AU-55. An attractive specimen in light yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike.

Date very deeply impressed into the die, slightly high and fairly well centered left to right. Same die as preceding, with "bar," on portrait.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 1, 1972.

Landmark 1876-S Quarter Eagle

Choice Mint State

1876-S MS-63 (PCGS). A landmark specimen, one of the finest known. Deep, rich lustre. Some darker areas at right and also on reverse. Very sharply struck. An outstanding coin that will attract and enchant the specialist.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Date logotype very high and to the left. Shallowly impressed into the die. Bar on portrait, as with all business strike dies this year, regardless of mint. Reverse with mintmark high and into motif.

Purchased from Kevin Lipton, December 1978, this being very early in the career of a dealer who was later to become quite well known (and retains this status today).

1876-S AU-50. Light yellow gold. Much mint lustre is still evident.

Date logotype high. Impressed into the die at medium depth. Bar on the neck, as is true of all authentic quarter eagles of this year, regardless of mint. On the reverse the S mintmark is high and into the motif. This represents the last use in the San Francisco series of the old-style or "Type I" reverse. Hence forth, Type II reverses were used at the San Francisco Mint, but not for long, as quarter eagle mintage did not extend later than 1879.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. Sale, November 1968, Lot 789.

Important Mint State 1877 $2.50

A Rarity in This Format

3 **1877 MS-63 (PCGS).** Nearly fully prooflike surfaces of such a quality that many would mistake it for a Proof. Rich golden surfaces. A lovely cameo coin.

The 1877 represents yet another rarity in the quarter eagle series. Only 1,632 business strikes were produced in an era in which little numismatic attention was paid to them. The present coin will be a treasure to its next owner.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-64).

Date well centered (with regard to the first digit), but far right, with the 7 being quite close to the neck tip. A tiny die line is seen from the border through star 3 and another near star 5, interesting "markers" to note from a technical viewpoint, but not visible except under magnification.

Purchased from Kevin Lipton, March 13, 1978.

594 **1877 AU-55 (PCGS).** A Proof striking that has seen sufficient handling to exhibit friction in the fields, although mirror surfaces still remain in some protected areas. One of just 20 Proofs struck, of which perhaps 10 to 12 can be traced today. In addition, the 1877 is a famous rarity in business strike form, with a paltry mintage of only 1,632 examples.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 235.

595 **1877-S MS-62.** Light yellow gold. Satiny surfaces. A beautiful specimen.

Date high (as measured by the 1), but quite well centered under truncation. Logotype somewhat shallowly impressed into working die. On the reverse the small S mintmark is clear in the field and does not touch any part of the motif.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, July 28, 1972.

Wonderful 1878 Quarter Eagle

Superb Lustrous Gem

596 **1878 MS-66.** A wonderful specimen with lustrous, satiny surfaces on obverse and reverse—virtually a definition of a memorable Mint State coin! Competition should be strong for this piece, justifiably so.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-67).

Date logotype very deeply impressed into die. Nicely centered.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, July 28, 1972.

597 1878 MS-62. Light yellow gold. Highly lustrous.

Date centered. Deeply impressed into working die.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. Sale, November 1968, Lot 789.

Beautiful 1878-S $2.50

598 **1878-S MS-63.** Highly lustrous. Beautiful golden orange surfaces. A lovely example of this late San Francisco issue.

PCGS Population: 10; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Date logotype deep into die. Well centered. Reverse with small mintmark clear of motif. Under *very high* magnification (we almost missed) a hairline crack is seen from the tip of the center arrow to the nearby I.

From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 983.

Sparkling 1879 Quarter Eagle

599 **1879 MS-64 PL.** Bright yellow gold. Copper toning area at lower reverse. A very lovely example of this issue.

Date logotype fairly deep into die. Positioned high and to the left.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA sale, August 1968, Lot 843/3.

600 **1879 MS-63 (PCGS).** A blazing prooflike gem business strike specimen of seldom equaled beauty—all one could ask for, and possibly even more!

From Stack's Metropolitan Sale, May 1968, Lot 780.

Amazing 1879-S Quarter Eagle

601 **1879-S MS-63 (PCGS).** Prooflike. A memorable striking of the last San Francisco quarter eagle in the Liberty Head series, the end of a long string of illustrious coins. Although the 1879-S is not a great rarity in circulated grades, and although Mint State pieces come on the market from time to time, very few can hold a candle to the coin offered here. The specialist and connoisseur will wish to bid very liberally.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-64).

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1983, Lot 2122.

602 1879-S AU-53. Light yellow gold. Last San Francisco Mint quarter eagle.

Date low and deeply punched into die, the logotype being deeper at the bottom of the figures than at the top, indicating that the punch was not held vertically when the working die was finessed. Reverse with small mintmark clear of motif.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 107.

603 1879-S AU-50. Light yellow gold. San Francisco swan son specimen.

Date low and deeply punched into die, the logotype being deeper at th bottom of the figures than at the top, indicating that the punch was not he vertically when the working die was finessed. Reverse with small wide mintmark, distinctly different from that on the preceding lot; close to barely grazing feather tip.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. Sale, November 1968, Lot 789.

Cameo Gem 1880 Quarter Eagle

(2X photo)

604 **1880 MS-65 PL.** A little cameo of rare beauty and, for th matter, rare everything else as well—as this is a very low-min age issue. A prize coin for the connoisseur and specialist. On 2,960 business strikes were made.

Date logotype deeply impressed, seemingly more so to the left than to t right side. Well centered. A virtual paradigm of excellent die preparation

Purchased by Harry Bass from the Goliad Corporation. Earli from our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1629.

Important Proof 1881 $2.50

Key Date in the Series

605 **1881 Proof-64 (PCGS)**, possibly a candidate for Proof-65—ce tainly as nice as some we have seen attributed to that latt number. A splendid specimen with bright golden color, cam surfaces against deep mirror fields, and all the other requisit that one expects in a particularly high-quality Proof of this e

The mintage of the Proof 1881 quarter eagle was 51 piec which on its own makes it rare enough; perhaps two dozen so can be accounted for today. However, only 640 related bu ness strikes were produced, with these being rarities as we Thus, when both business strikes and Proofs are combined, is seen that perhaps no more than 50 or 60 coins exist in all numismatics. Another rare and beautiful prize.

PCGS Population: 9; 5 finer (MS-66 finest).

Date logotype deeply punched into die, and about centered. Some lig *die* polish areas at BER and near and below ear, as Breen notes are mark to authentic Proofs.

Purchased from N.K.S., May 19, 1972.

Dazzling 1882 Quarter Eagle

1882 MS-63 (PCGS). Prooflike. A dazzling specimen of this popular low-mintage date. One of just 4,000 business strikes produced.

The logotype of this issue features the last digit, 2, too low and leaning to the right.

An interesting pursuit would be the building of a date sequence of Liberty quarter eagles from 1880 through the last year of issue, 1907, a continuous span punctuated by many low-mintage dates, featuring varieties produced only at Philadelphia—with no branch mint pieces. The present sale offers many interesting opportunities in this regard.

From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 363.

1883 AU-58. Warm orange-gold surfaces. A very nice example of this elusive date. Just 1,920 business strikes were produced.

Date logotype fairly high with 1 closer to the truncation than to the dentils. *Not* from the low date Proof obverse, as mentioned by Breen, and also as illustrated in David Aker's text. Apparently the Breen text is not complete, for the following lot also is from this die.

Purchased from N.K.S., February 21, 1971.

1883 AU-50. Bright yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike. Another example of this low-mintage date, an opportunity (see note).

Date logotype as preceding, high on the die, and not from the same die from which Proofs were struck.

Attention is drawn to many dates and varieties in the present sale that are from greatly restricted original mintages, in the present instance the business strike production being a mere 1,920 pieces. While in recent decades certain overseas hoards of gold coins have come on the market, nearly always these have involved double eagles and high denominations, never to our knowledge a significant group of gold dollars, quarter eagles, or $3 pieces. Thus, it is reasonable to say that an 1883 $2.50 such as offered here is as rare in numismatic circles today in 1999 as it was 10 years ago, or 20 years ago, or 50 years ago. Probably no more than a few hundred pieces exist, a small number indeed when compared to hundreds or thousands or even millions of people interested in the rare coin field. The market value for the present piece, generally given as a bit less than $1,000, would seem to us to represent an excellent basic value.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. Sale, November 1968, Lot 795.

Glittering Gem Proof 1884 $2.50

(2X photo)

9 **1884 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A glittering gem specimen from an original coinage of just 73 Proofs (and an enticingly low related business strike mintage of 1,750 pieces). Probably no more than 50 or so Proofs exist today, of which this is certainly one of the finer examples.

From Harmer, Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3104.

Gorgeous Business Strike 1884 $2.50

Low-mintage Rarity

610 **1884 MS-64 (PCGS).** Prooflike. A dazzling and very impressive business strike example of this low-mintage date. Only 1,950 pieces were struck for circulation.

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer (MS-65 finest).

Date position about the same as on the Proofs of this year, but from a different die.

Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

Gem Mint State 1885 $2.50

Mintage: Just 800

(2X photo)

611 **1885 MS-65 (PCGS).** A prooflike cameo gem of amazing quality and elegant beauty. Add to this the incredibly low mintage of only 800 business strikes, and a first class numismatic object of desire confronts prospective bidders. A very appealing coin, one that should attract a lot of attention.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date high and close to but not touching neck truncation; also somewhat close, but less so, to the dentils—the logotype being large, deeply punched, and fit into a relatively small space provided for it. Whether this same die was used to strike Proofs is not known; there are slight differences between this and the Proof die pair described by Breen. Breen mentions that business strikes have a "raised center dot within the circle and ear," but the present piece does not; on the other hand, it does have a raised stripe or bar occupying most of the right side of that center dot.

On the reverse there are no die finish lines near the stripes in the shield (such finish lines said by Breen to be characteristic of Proofs). Such technicalities are perhaps moot with regard to the market value of the coin, but are interesting to observe.

Purchased by Harry Bass from Rowe & Brownlee on November 19, 1970. Earlier from Glendining's sale of October 1970, Lot 900.

Lustrous Gem 1886 Quarter Eagle

612 **1886 MS-65 (PCGS).** Frosty, lustrous, and beautiful. Another splendid business strike from this low-mintage era. In the present instance just 4,000 circulation pieces were made.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-67).

On this die the numerals in the logotype were entered more deeply at their bases than at their tops, giving the bases an unusual aspect.

From Stack's sale of the Bartel Collection, October 1984, Lot 1106.

Another Splendid Gem 1886 $2.50

613 **1886 MS-65 (PCGS).** Another lovely business strike from the same dies as preceding. Lustrous and frosty. Small toning spot in right obverse field. An object of rare beauty and desirability.

From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 367.

Beautiful Business Strike 1887 $2.50

614 **1887 MS-63 (PCGS).** Satiny lustre. Light gold surfaces. Another lovely coin in this date lineup of generally low-mintage pieces. In the present instance just 6,160 business strikes were made.

PCGS Population: 8; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

Date logotype large and boldly impressed, perhaps better suited for a larger denomination.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1773.

Gem 1888 Quarter Eagle

615 **1888 MS-65 (PCGS).** Lustrous and frosty, virtually as nice as the day it was struck. The mintage for this year was a fairly generous (for the time) 16,006 pieces, the odd six pieces being reserved for the Assay Commission.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Date logotype slightly smaller than on the 1887 and thus better positioned. On the present die the numerals were deeply punched in.

The reverse shows signs of die clashing.

Purchased from N.K.S., April 30, 1967

616 **1888 MS-62 PL.** Bright yellow gold. Mirror surfaces on most of the obverse and reverse, except for the area within the shield stripes. A definite business strike, not a Proof, but certainly a kissing cousin to a Proof. The date 1888 is fairly scarce.

Date very deeply punched into die and centered.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. Sale, October 1968, Lot 800.

Lustrous 1889 Quarter Eagle

617 **1889 MS-64.** Frosty and lustrous. A very attractive coin.

Fairly scarce at this grade level as the relatively low mintage of 17,60 pieces suggests.

Date logotype more than twice as close to dentil as to neck truncation.

From New Netherlands Coin Company's sale of June 1967, Lo 546.

Gem 1890 Quarter Eagle

Low-Mintage Issue

618 **1890 MS-65.** Brilliant and lustrous with some satiny and some what prooflike characteristics. A very nice business strike example from an original low mintage of 8,720 pieces.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Date deeply punched and centered.

At the upper right of the field area within the shield there is a raised *d scratch* which looks like an after-the-fact scratch except that it is characteristi of all specimens seen (including the following lot). Interesting!

From Lester Merkin's sale of June 1978, Lot 438.

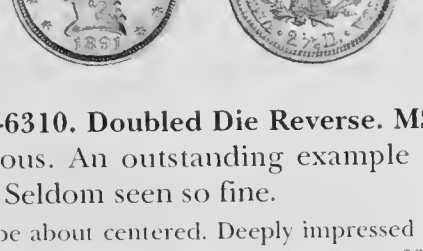
Another Notable 1890 $2.50

1890 MS-63 PL. Bright yellow gold. Another attractive example of this variety.

Die pair as preceding.

Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, April 17, 1967.

Lustrous 1891 Quarter Eagle



1891 Breen-6310. Doubled Die Reverse. MS-64. Brilliant and highly lustrous. An outstanding example of this somewhat scarce date. Seldom seen so fine.

Date logotype about centered. Deeply impressed into the working die. Reverse die *sharply doubled at right.* Listed as Breen-6310.

Purchased from Bob Hughes, March 13, 1978.

Blazing Gem 1892 $2.50

(2X photo)

1892 MS-65 (PCGS). Lustrous and frosty, as the French say, *fleur de coin.* This year only 2,400 were struck. All business strikes are somewhat scarce, and in the present grade the term *rare* is appropriate.

PCGS Population: 3; 5 finer (MS-66 finest).

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 120.

1893 MS-64. Lustrous and frosty. A few rim marks at upper right of the reverse keep this from the MS-65 category.

Date deeply punched and very high, not quite touching the neck truncation.

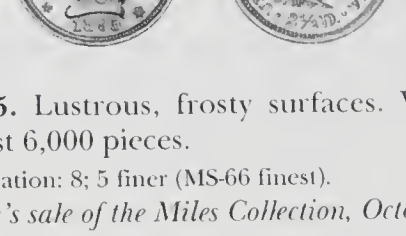
From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 883.

623 **1894 MS-63.** A lustrous, sparkling coin, all one could hope for at this grade level. Some marks are evident, to be sure, but that's what grading numbers are all about. Only 4,000 business strikes were minted, a very low production which, as events would prove, would be smaller than any succeeding issues in the quarter eagle denomination from this point onward.

Date logotype widely spaced this year. Deeply punched into die. About centered at the left, but a tight fit.

Purchased from John N. Rowe, III, October 21, 1966.

Lustrous Gem 1895 $2.50



624 **1895 MS-65.** Lustrous, frosty surfaces. Virtual perfection. Mintage: just 6,000 pieces.

PCGS Population: 8; 5 finer (MS-66 finest).

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 275.

625 **1896 MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous and frosty. Warm medium gold surfaces. A lovely example of the quarter eagle of this year.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. Sale, October 1968, Lot 808.

Beautiful 1897 Quarter Eagle

626 **1897 MS-65 (PCGS).** Satiny, lustrous surfaces of rare beauty. A remarkably fine example of the issue.

Purchased from N.K.S., October 21, 1971. Formerly from Stack's sale of December 1966, Lot 1563.

627 **1898 MS-64.** Bright, lustrous, and frosty. A delightful quarter eagle!

Date logotype widely spaced this year. Well centered on die. Under magnification some curious artifacts of striking, seemingly a form of machine doubling, are seen at the date numerals.

From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 381.

Gem Proof 1900 $2.50

(2X photo)

628 **1900 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A glittering gem specimen. Frosted devices are set against a deep mirror background creating an elegant cameo. As pretty as the proverbial picture. Quality such as this is seldom seen.

The Proof mintage of this year amounted to 205 pieces, of which perhaps a third survive today. Certainly this is one of the finest of those.

Date logotype deeply entered into the die and well centered. Some microscopic doubling at the first two date digits is mentioned by Breen and is scarcely noticeable. Raised die line from base of T (LIBERTY) in headband.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, Lot 2160, earlier from the Dines sale, Lot 808, later from Stanley Kesselman via trade on November 1, 1973.

Gem Mint State 1901 $2.50

629 **1901 MS-66 (PCGS).** Lustrous with satiny frost. Some light areas of toning.

On the reverse a crack is seen from the border to the A (STATES), such cracks being unusual on 20th-century quarter eagles.

Purchased from a Mr. Houser, September 26, 1966.

630 **1901 MS-64.** Lustrous and frosty. A splendid specimen.

Date logotype very low. Last digit slightly repunched at bottom.

Purchased from James Cohen, August 24, 1966.

Gem Mint State 1902 $2.50

631 **1902 MS-66 (PCGS).** Lustrous, satiny surfaces in keeping with the general aspect of gem specimens of this era. Lovely to behold, even nicer to own!

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, August 8, 1972.

Gem Proof 1903 Quarter Eagle

(2X photo)

632 **1903 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A splendid gem specimen of thi scarce and very *interesting* Proof issue. Of the 197 Proof struck, probably no more than a third exist today.

In this year the person finishing the Proof dies at the Philadelphia Min decided to lightly polish the portraits on the dies, a practice not engaged i earlier in the gold Proof series (but rather standard on Proofs of years later particularly 1936 onward). Thus, Proof gold coins of all denominations hav a slightly different appearance in 1903 than do Proofs of earlier dates.

The date logotype is boldly entered into the die and low, almost touchin a dentil to the left. On the quarter eagle logotype punch the 0 leans ever s slightly to the right, this being true of all dies–Proofs as well as busines strikes–from this punch.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of November 1973, Lo 1115.

Gem Mint State 1903 Quarter Eagle

633 **1903 MS-66 (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous. Particularly flash (rather than satiny). A lovely coin.

Purchased from James Cohen, August 24, 1966.

634 **1903 MS-64.** A lustrous, frosty business strike. An ideal coi for a type set or date collection.

In contrast to the position on the Proof of this year, the date logotype o the business strike is well centered with ample room above and below th first 1.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 28, 1972.

Gem Mint State 1904 Quarter Eagle

635 **1904 MS-66 (PCGS).** Lustrous surfaces with some splashes o copper toning. One of the more popular (and more available dates of the era.

From Paramount's sale of May 1966, Lot 523.

1904 MS-64. A splendid specimen with full lustre and frost. Not at all rare, but certainly beautiful. An ideal possibility for a high-quality type set.

Date logotype slightly low and punched into the die in medium depth.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, April 17, 1967.

Gem Mint State 1905 Quarter Eagle

1905 MS-67 (PCGS). Brilliant, lustrous, and beautiful. It would be difficult to envision, even in theory, what a nicer piece would look like!

Purchased from Steve Tebo, August 24, 1966.

Gem Mint State 1906 Quarter Eagle

1906 MS-65 (PCGS). Lustrous with a few hints of copper toning. Somewhat satiny surfaces on both sides.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1792.

Gem Mint State 1907 Quarter Eagle

1907 MS-64 (PCGS). Lustrous warm gold surfaces. Last year of the design.

Reverse with several light cracks including from border to E (UNITED) through STATES OF, and from border through MER (AMERICA).

This represents the last year of the long-lived Liberty Head, or Coronet, motif first instituted in the quarter eagle series in 1840. The general design was continued uninterrupted, with no *major* changes—the longest reach of any unmodified coin design in American numismatic history.

Quality 1907 $2.50

640 **1907 MS-64.** Lustrous and frosty. A lovely specimen of the last year of issue.

Date logotype low. Punched into the working die more deeply at the bottom of the date than at the top.

From Paramount's sale of May 19, 1966, Lot 525.

Frosty 1907 Quarter Eagle

641 **1907 MS-64.** Lustrous and frosty. Another beautiful example.

Date logotype quite low. Deeply punched into the die, the bottom of the date more so than the top. Obvious repunching at the base of the 7.

Purchased from "G", November 3, 1971.

Another 1907 $2.50

642 **1907 MS-64.** Brilliant and lustrous. Another nice example.

Date extremely low and almost touching a dentil. Lower part of the date entered more deeply into the dies, seemingly a process used across several dies of this denomination and year.

Purchased from Abe Kosoff, September 28, 1973.

Landmark 1911-D Quarter Eagle

Gem Mint State

The Norweb Coin

643 **1911-D MS-65 (PCGS).** It seems like only yesterday, but it was in 1987 that we catalogued this identical coin as part of the fabulous collection formed by Ambassador and Mrs. R. Henry Norweb, which crossed the auction block in several notable events, the presently offered coin on March 25, 1988. At the time we commented as follows:

"A glittering gem specimen of the most highly prized branch mint Indian quarter eagle. Not only is this coin in outstanding condition, it is also sharply struck, with the D mintmark being particularly well defined, more so than usual.

"In this outstanding condition, here is a great rarity, a coin which should attract a great deal of attention and which will probably result in a new record being set. We have never seen a finer specimen."

At the time we graded it MS-64, which was quite conservative in terms of grading evaluations. Now it has been certified by PCGS as MS-65, and we agree with this—grading has been evolving, and all dealers, collectors, and everyone else have to march in step with such evolution. However, it is fair to say, and quite important, that today on the market there are a number of *other* pieces described as "MS-65." We have seen some of these, and we unhesitatingly state that few can hold a candle to the Norweb-Bass coin. Accordingly, numbers aside—you are welcome to pick your own grading number if you wish—this coin ranks very high in terms of *combined desirability* —high grading number plus sharpness of strike plus excellent aesthetic appeal.

Further, the 1911-D stands alone as *the* scarce issue among Indian Head quarter eagles of the 1908-1929 era. Thus, whenever a high quality piece comes on the market it deservedly attracts much attention.

PCGS Population: 9; 2 finer (MS-66 finest).

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, March 1988, Lot 2122.

644 **1925-D MS-64.** Lustrous and beautiful. A very attractive example of the last Denver Mint quarter eagle issue.

Purchased from Robert Medlar, November 5, 1971.

645 **1926 MS-63.** Lustrous and frosty. A very nice example of this plentiful date.

Purchased from Don Apte, September 21, 1972, to the Goliad Corporation, to Harry Bass.

END OF SECTION ONE

SECTION TWO

Sunday Morning, October 3, 10:00 AM Sharp

United States Gold Coins: Lots 646-1968

GOLD COINS 1854-1889

The Bass Collection $3 Gold Dollars
A Beautiful Selection

nong denominations of the mid-19th century the $3 series a prime favorite of Harry W. Bass, Jr. During his lifetime ollecting he formed a complete set, virtually defined by the ue 1870-S, but also including such elusive dates as 1873, 5 (in particular), and 1876. These have been retained by Harry W. Bass, Jr., Research Foundation. This collection e detailed in the sylloge we are preparing to illustrate and ribe $3 coins and other specialties.

e present sale brings to the auction forum a wide range dditional $3 pieces acquired by Harry Bass. It was his phi- phy that if he purchased one choice coin, and another e along, he would buy the second one as well, and some- s he bought a third or a fourth. The present catalogue wcases the business strike $3 pieces that are being sold, ring the finest of each. Additional pieces will be sold in III, but, generally, the present sale contains the finest es. At a later date Part III will also offer Proofs.

nusual among numismatic buyers, Harry Bass realized the rarity of many of the business strike $3 issues. As is the case ther gold denominations, the Bass coins include pieces of a lity seldom seen elsewhere. Included are notable specimens he elusive issues of the low-mintage, seldom seen varieties of 1860s and 1870s, followed by truly exceptional coins from low-mintage and ever-popular decade of the 1880s.

History of the Three-Dollar Gold Coins

he $3 gold piece was authorized by the Act of February 21, 3, a very important piece of legislation from a numismatic wpoint, an act which also affected the silver coinage, namely reduction in weight of the half dime, dime, quarter, and f dollar, and the addition of arrows alongside the date to in- ate the new standard. Whether or not the $3 denomination s actually necessary or worthwhile has been a matter of de- e among numismatists for well over a century. At the time its introduction, 1854, the $3 had as a close companion—the g established $2.50 quarter eagle.

It has been suggested that the $3 had utility in the purchase of 100-subject sheets of three-cent stamps, or the acquisition of silver three-cent pieces in quantities of 100. In any event, the $3 proved to be less than convenient, and after the first year of coinage, production dropped sharply. In a way the same general pattern was followed by certain other series of the time, including the silver and nickel three-cent pieces and the two-cent piece. All were launched to high hopes, but the first several years proved to be the times of glory, followed by a decline.

The new $3 denomination was designed by James B. Longacre, who became chief engraver at the Mint in 1844, after the death of Christian Gobrecht. The obverse features the head of an Indian princess, facing left, wearing a feathered headdress upon which is a band inscribed LIBERTY. The inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA surrounds. The same motif was later used on the Type III gold dollar 1856-1889.

The reverse displays an "agricultural wreath" enclosing 3 DOLLARS and the date. The reverse wreath was later used on the Flying Eagle cents of 1856-1858. As is demonstrated, Longacre liked to copy his own work.

The $3 design was continued without major change from beginning to the end, except that issues of the year 1854 alone have the word DOLLARS in smaller letters than do the pieces from 1855 to 1889.

Mint records reveal that on April 28, 1854, in advance of the regular coinage, 15 Proof coins were sent by James Ross Snowden to the secretary of the Treasury. Regular coinage was accomplished continuously from 1854 to 1889 at Philadelphia.

Expectations were high in 1854, and 138,618 $3 coins were struck at the Philadelphia Mint, accompanied by 1,120 at Dahlonega and 24,000 at New Orleans. Obviously, it was anticipated that the $3 would become an integral part of the American coinage system. However, reality proved otherwise. This beginning was also the end for Dahlonega and New Orleans, and no other $3 pieces were ever struck at either facility.

The next year, 1855, saw a drastically reduced production of just 50,555 $3 coins at Philadelphia. For the first time, San Francisco struck the denomination, in a quantity of 6,600. From that point onward the trend was downward, touching a

low of 2,133 in 1858. The San Francisco Mint produced $3 pieces of the varieties 1855-S, 1856-S, 1857-S, and 1860-S, after which only the 1870-S $3 was made, the latter coin considered to be unique today.

Among later Philadelphia Mint coins, mintages were very low, save for 41,800 struck in 1874 and 82,304 in 1878. Regarding these two higher-mintage dates, it is likely that thoughts of the resumption of payments of gold coins at par, which had not been done since December 28, 1861, would create a demand for $3 pieces. However, the experts at the Treasury Department were wrong, and no widespread interest ever developed.

Coinage reached an especially low point in 1873, when only a few hundred pieces seem to have been struck. Mint records are silent on circulating coinage of this year, and the best we can do is guess. A few years later, even fewer coins were made, with just 20 being struck in 1875 and only 45 in 1876, these being Proofs for collectors.

Beginning in 1879 and continuing to the end of the series in 1889, there was a modest investment and speculative interest by the public in $3 gold coins, and more Mint State pieces were saved than would have been the case otherwise. However, none are really common, as the low mintages indicate. The year 1881 saw a business strike production of only 500 pieces. Of these, perhaps 100 survive, most of which show signs of wear or impairment, possibly providing a window to study conditions affecting the survival of all $3 coins of the era. It seems likely that once members of the public acquired such pieces, they tired of them, and eventually most coins became rubbed, nicked, or otherwise were reduced to less than pristine condition.

During the entire range of the $3 series the total business strike mintage amounted to only 538,074 coins. Proofs are estimated to have been struck in a quantity slightly over the 2,000 mark.

Collecting Considerations

All $3 coins are scarce on the numismatic market today, and most are rare, some being extremely so. Despite this observable reality, the vast majority of $3 date and mintmark issu are quite inexpensive. Of the 43 dates and mintmark varieti listed in the latest (53rd) edition of *A Guide Book of U.S. Coin* only eight catalogue for over $1,000 in VF grade (these beir 1854-D, 1865, 1870-S, 1873, 1875, 1876, 1877, and 1881). O those select years, only three catalogue for more than $10,00 (the 1870-S, 1875, and 1876). It can be seen that 35 differe dates and mints of $3 gold coins catalogue for less than $1,00 and some of these are listed from $475 to $700. The series more affordable than generally realized.

The student of the $3 series will soon realize that variou date and mintmark issues can be quite inexpensive and readi available in such grades as VF and EF, but in Mint State a extreme rarities. In general, the dates that are typically encou tered in Mint State are but three: 1854, 1874 (the rarest of th trio), and 1878. Beyond that, Mint State coins of the low-min age 1879-1889 dates come to market with some frequency.

All other dates and mintmarks range from rare to very ra to extremely rare in Mint State. For purposes of comparison a Mint State 1865 $3 gold coin (business strike mintage: 1,14 is at least 10 to 20 times rarer than an 1884 (business strik mintage 1,000).

Mintmarked $3 issues were not widely sought until after th publication in 1893 of Augustus G. Heaton's *Mint Mar* monograph, and even then not many numismatists paid atte tion to them. An early aficionado of the denomination w William H. Woodin, famous industrialist who in 1933 becam President Franklin D. Roosevelt's first secretary of the Tre sury. Woodin loved $3 coins and cherished his collection. H was one of several who have owned the unique 1870-S $3 ov the years, this being the coin now held by the Harry W. Bas Jr. Research Foundation.

Proofs were made of all dates of $3 coins from 1854 to 188 All are rare, with some being extremely so.

For the numismatist, $3 gold coins offer a remarkable com bination of high rarity with relatively low cost for many issue Upon close inspection, just about every variety has somethin of interest to relate. Salient points are discussed in the not provided with most of the coin descriptions.

Incredible 1854 $3 Gold

Superb Gem MS-66

(2X photo)

1854 MS-66 (PCGS). Sharply struck, deeply lustrous and frosty, and absolutely *gorgeous* in every aspect. A winning-quality business strike example of the first year of issue.

While the 1854 is not elusive in lower grades, it becomes quite hard to find in MS-65 and exceedingly difficult in MS-66. Numbers aside, beyond the MS-66 grade the coin has wonderful aesthetic appeal. All of this said, we expect to see a great deal of attention as this crosses the block.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer (MS-68 finest).

For $3 pieces, 1854-1889, little has appeared in print concerning die varieties. All are of the same basic type, save for the issues of 1854 which have the DOLLARS in smaller letters than in 1855-1889. On the working dies, mintmarks (as applicable) and four-digit date logotype punches were entered, resulting in some variations in placement. For reference points in determining date location, the highest part of the right-side ribbon is often employed, this determining how far a date is placed to the left or right in relation to it. Vertical placement can be described by the distance from the date to that point, and also the distance from the date to the word DOLLARS above.

Date in "normal" position for this year, comfortable in the field, but closer to the highest ribbon point than to the word DOLLARS.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 740.

Lustrous 1854 $3

1854 MS-64 (PCGS). A sharply struck and very beautiful specimen displaying an extraordinarily large amount of frosty mint lustre, a very "live" coin. No doubt if a half dozen PCGS-certified MS-64 1854 $3 pieces could be found and arranged side by side, the piece offered here would be the finest of the group. While the collector by dates will find this piece quite desirable, the greatest demand for it will probably come from the type set enthusiast, representing as it does the first year of issue of the denomination and the only year with the word DOLLARS in small letters.

Purchased from Steve Tebo, October 30, 1972.

Prooflike 1854 $3 Gold

648 **1854 MS-63 (PCGS).** Obverse and reverse highly prooflike and highly unusual as such—for most business strike $3 pieces are well endowed with frost. For this reason alone this is a very *special* coin and should bring a premium price. Both sides are of rich golden color with a slight area of copper toning at the upper right of the obverse. A splendid piece which should see intense bidding activity.

From Rarcoa's section of Auction '86, August 1986, Lot 913.

Lustrous 1854 $3 Gold

649 **1854 AU-58.** Highly lustrous and very attractive. Fully as nice as some pieces we have seen designated as Mint State, even at levels higher than MS-60. A visual treat.

The obverse and reverse dies are notably clashed, and very interestingly so. Around the head of Miss Liberty is seen the outline of the interior of the reverse wreath, while on the reverse just the opposite is true—Miss Liberty's profile can be seen. This is some of the most remarkable clashing we have ever seen on *any* $3 date, and no doubt it was acquired by Harry Bass because of this curiosity.

From Lester Merkin's sale of June 1970, Lot 439.

650 **1854 AU-50.** Much mint lustre still remains, particularly on the reverse. An attractive example of the date and grade, ideal for a type set.

In his notes Harry Bass stated that this was a very early die state.

From Quality Sales Corp.'s sale of September 1993, Lot 1140.

Highly Important 1854-D $3

Sole Dahlonega Issue

Mintage: 1,120

651 **1854-D AU-55 (PCGS).** An especially high-grade example, sharp and well struck, save for the dentils which on all authentic specimens are lightly defined in certain areas (cf. *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* No 6347).

The date logotype is especially deeply punched into the die, connecting the 5 and 4. As noted under our description for the $2.50 series, it seems to have been a situation in many instances that dies for Charlotte and Dahlonega were made with deeper detail than those used in Philadelphia. The reason for this is unknown. Further, the date logotype is placed slightly lower on this than on the previously offered Philadelphia issues.

The D mintmark, the same as used on the 1854-D $5 gold, tilts slightly to the right.

Although the course of events is not known with clarity today in 1999, in 1854 great things were expected of the $3 denomination. Apparently, no one took the time to realize that the $3 piece was very close to the already popular $2.50 denomination, and thus did not have much of a market niche to fill, although such pieces might have been useful to anyone who wanted to buy silver three-cent pieces in groups or 100-subject sheets of three-cent postage stamps. In any event, after the first issue it was realized that the denomination was redundant, and although 138,618 had been struck at Philadelphia, a few in Dahlonega and 24,000 in New Orleans, never again did the mintage at Philadelphia even approach the quantity of the first year. Related information is included in the general introduction to the $3 series above.

Regarding the 1854-D, the 1,120 pieces struck were placed into circulation. So far as is known, not a single numismatist collected $3 pieces by mintmark varieties in or even near the 1854 year. Decades later, when interest did develop, examples were already rare. Today probably fewer than 100 pieces survive totally, with most of these being VF, occasionally EF, rarely higher.

As a low-mintage $3 piece, as the only Dahlonega variety in the series, and as the first year of issue, the 1854-D has always commanded a position of importance and respect. To these considerations can be added the grade of the presently offered piece, one of the finer examples known, even edging out our memorable Columbia Collection piece auctioned last year, thus rounding out the description and desirability of a specimen that will attract great attention when it crosses the block.

Purchased from Herbert Tobias, February 1972.

Popular 1854-O $3 Gold

1854-O AU-58 (PCGS). Brilliant with much lustre remaining, particularly in the protected areas. A lovely specimen of this popular issue, desirable and remarkable as the only New Orleans coin of this denomination.

This coin is from the stronger-impressed of two die pairs recorded. On the obverse and reverse the letters are bold, including the mintmark. Breen calls this his No 6348.

Purchased from the Coin Gallery (Abner Kreisberg and Jerry Cohen), May 19, 1972.

Important 1854-O $3

1854-O AU-55 (PCGS). Rich yellow gold surfaces. Much lustre still remains. Important as the only New Orleans Mint $3 gold coin.

From the lighter-impressed of the two major die varieties of this year, the present piece has the letters on the obverse (particularly at STATES OF) and the reverse (particularly the mintmark) lightly defined. At this point the die has been relapped, with obverse losing the lower 40% of the initials J.B.L. on the neck truncation, and reverse losing low-relief details (including in its entirety the thin leaf normally seen to the left of the date).

On the present specimen there is a skein of die breaks on the lower part of the reverse, including at the mintmark and the top ribbon end to the right. The specialist will find this to be a particularly *interesting* specimen.

Purchased from N.K.S., June 19, 1967.

Exceptional Quality 1855 $3

1855 MS-64 (PCGS). Lustrous and frosty. A coin of truly exceptional quality. Unlike the 1854, which comes to market in Mint State with some frequency, high-grade pieces dated 1855 are few and far between. We venture to say that in the present grade, the 1855 is at least three or four dozen times rarer than an equivalent 1854! However, the market value does not represent any such differential. Here, again in our opinion, is an excellent value possibility.

PCGS Population: 7; 6 finer (MS-66 finest).

The obverse displays diagonal striae or finish at an approximate 45° angle from the vertical, from upper left to lower right, indicating that the present piece is probably an early impression from this die.

From Quality Sales Corp.'s sale of the Beck Collection, February 1976, Lot 204.

Another High-Grade 1855 $3

655 1855 MS-63 (PCGS). Brilliant and lustrous. Somewhat prooflike on the obverse. Another example of a date which in Mint State is very difficult to locate. Another *find* for the specialist.

Both obverse and reverse dies display diagonal die striae indicating that this piece must have been one of the earliest impressions from the die pair.

From Stack's sale of August 1971, Lot 2058.

Scarce 1855-S $3

656 1855-S AU-58 (PCGS). Struck in bright yellow gold. Obverse and reverse somewhat prooflike, especially evident when the coin is held at an angle to the light.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).

The 1855-S represents the first San Francisco coin of this denomination. Six thousand business strikes were produced, virtually all of which were placed into the channels of commerce, where most became extensively worn. Today, a typical grade for an 1855-S is VF, or, occasionally, EF.

Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

Lustrous 1856 $3

657 1856 MS-63 (PCGS). A delightful Mint State coin with deep, rich lustre almost three dimensional in character. Similar to the 1855, the 1856 is seldom seen in Mint State, although it is readily available in lower grades. The present coin is quite special.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 18, 1972.

Splendid 1856-S $3

658 1856-S Medium S. MS-64 (PCGS). Brilliant and frosty. A lustrous specimen that ranks as one of the finest we have ever seen. A highly important coin.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Late state of the reverse die with some bulging evident at the center, particularly above the denomination, crack or flaw at base of second L (DOLLAR); leaf to left of date partly disconnected. Small curve above S mintmark is probably a clash mark, not a repunching.

Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

Sharp 1856-S $3

1856-S Medium S. AU-58 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold as is par for California coinage of the decade. The obverse is mostly prooflike. A very nice example of the date and mint.

The production of the 1856-S $3 pieces was much more generous than the output of the preceding year, and some 34,500 were struck. Varieties exist with different sizes of mintmarks, the present being "medium" and having a vestige of repunching at its top (over smaller letter?). The reverse die seems to have been lightly relapped, diminishing certain low-relief details (such as the leaf to the left of the end of the date) and also what seems to be a die break below the second L (DOLLARS). The relapping seems to have been done by holding the die by hand against a grinding wheel, rather than mounting it in a jig for this purpose. Accordingly, the relapping is not completely plane. All of this is quite interesting to study under high magnification and no doubt provided a degree of fascination to Harry Bass.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 30, 1972.

1856-S Medium S. EF-45. Light medium gold surfaces. An attractive example of the variety and grade.

Late die state, somewhat similar to the previous offering, but lacking the bulge above the 3, crack or flaw still visible at base of second L (DOLLAR). Prooflike surface within protected areas. No clash marks at mintmark.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of January 1975, part of Lot 236.

1856-S Medium S. EF-40. Bright yellow gold. Another attractive example from the same source as the preceding.

Early die state. Prooflike surface within protected areas. No clash marks at mintmark.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of January 1975, part of Lot 236.

Memorable Quality 1857 $3

2 **1857 MS-63 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous and frosty, almost three-dimensional in this aspect. Exceedingly sharply struck. A splendid specimen of a $3 date that is rarely seen at this level.

PCGS Population: 10; 1 finer (MS-65).

Obverse with traces of wreath ribbon clash around Miss Liberty. Some die lines are still visible at the right border. Apparently a fairly early impression.

Reverse with date logotype in large numerals this year, on the present die somewhat lightly impressed. Clash marks from Miss Liberty's head are seen in several areas.

Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

53 **1857 AU-50.** Light yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike.

Obverse with broken upper left serif in Fs (Breen 6358, "rare"). Fairly early die state of obverse and reverse with many parallel die striae. Reverse with tiny raised rust area to right of final date digit. Date logotype slightly higher on the die than for the preceding 1857.

Purchased from Bonanza Coins, March 5, 1973.

AU 1857-S $3

664 **1857-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous. The reverse, if graded separately, could be assigned a number one or two notches higher.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-63).

The mintage of this year was 14,000 pieces apparently all from a die which Breen calls "Large S."

Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

Once-Famous 1858 $3

A Classic of Yesteryear

(2X photo)

665 **1858 MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous and beautiful, an outstanding, indeed thrilling example of one of the great rarities in the $3 series, although not widely recognized as such today. Just 2,133 were struck, all for commerce. The few collectors who desired an example of this date obtained Proofs. The entire production took place from a single pair of dies on August 26, 1858. Subsequently, the pieces were released into circulation, where they became widely scattered.

Today, probably 100 to 200 business strikes exist. Regarding these, Walter Breen comments "usually VF to EF, very rare above AU." Mint State coins are so rare that often *years* elapses between our handling an example by private treaty or at auction.

Today in 1999, the 1858 is not singled out for the fame it is due, as a reading of mintage figures alone does not tell the entire story. One can compare the 1858 with certain low production figures of the 1880s and conclude that the 1858 is a "lesser" coin. However, to do this is to overlook the fact that issues of the 1880s were saved numismatically *in significant quantities* while pieces dated 1858 were not. The difference is all important.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-65).

The present piece is from a fairly early state of the die pair. Later, two fine cracks develop on the obverse at about the 2:00 position (in his notes, Harry Bass noted that fellow Texas collector John Murrell had one of this later die state).

From Lester Merkin's sale of June 1972, Lot 414.

Highly Lustrous 1859 $3

(2X photo)

666 **1859 Breen-6361. Repunched 1 and 9 in Date. MS-65.** Some light burnishing and friction visible in a small area near the left border on the reverse, an area which seems to have some light planchet irregularity. Possibly a spot was removed. *Except for this,* the piece is just about as nice as we have ever seen for a business strike. In-person examination is suggested, for overall the coin is beautiful.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Reverse with repunched 1 and 9, the 9 being particularly so. Breen notes; "usually VF to EF, very rare in AU or better." Most probably he had never seen a specimen of the quality offered here.

From Stack's sale of the Groves Collection, November 1974, Lot 537.

Prooflike 1859 $3

667 **1859 Breen-6361. Repunched 1 and 9 in Date. MS-60 PL.** A splendid specimen from an early state of the dies, with some striae and a generous measure of die polish. When seen, $3 pieces of this date are apt to be in much lower grade.

The first and last digits of the date are repunched, the 1 slightly so, the 9 measurable so. A highly important coin for the specialist.

Described by Harry Bass as "repunched 1 and 9" which would be equal to Breen-6361, but the repunching eludes the cataloguer. Instead, the upper right of the 9 is noticeably repunched, while the first three digits are not. Seemingly, this die was recorded by Breen.

The date logotype is deep into the working die. Breen describes the numerals as "oddly shaped" and attributes them to Anthony C. Paquet, who at the time was a Mint employee. Upon inspection, the upper left serif of the 1 has an unusual curved shape, the 5 is unusually thick at the right and with a small ball to the left, and the 9 is quite squat, with the lower part being much smaller than the upper section. All $3 pieces of 1859 are from this logotype punch.

Splendid Mint State 1859 $3

668 **1859 Breen-6362. Repunched 1 and 8 in Date. MS-62 (PCGS** Deeply lustrous and frosty. A very pleasing example of th date. The mintage was 62,247 pieces, of which perhaps 300 t 500 exist today, nearly all are lower grade. Writing in his *Enc clopedia* in 1988, Walter Breen noted, "No Mint State exampl seen in many years." Again we mention that the *true rarity* c certain coins is becoming masked indeed *obliterated*, by certif cation figures from the grading services—as it is popular pra tice to send the same high-grade or rare coins to multiple se vices and even sometimes to the same service. Thus, one sing coin can appear as *several coins* in terms of grading servic numbers! As time goes on, such numbers will increase and no decrease, with perhaps the eventual situation that certain tru rarities will appear to be quite plentiful--until you actually t to find one.

In his notes Harry Bass observed that this particular die pair was earli used to strike Proofs of this date. In the present use there are light clas marks evident on obverse and reverse, and no hint of Proof surface.

Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

669 **1859 Breen-6362. Repunched 1 and 8 in Date. AU-50.** Ligh yellow gold surfaces. A very attractive example of the variety.

First two date numerals repunched as noted.

From Paramount's sale of April 17, 1967, Lot 666. In his not Harry Bass observes: "my first auction!" Thus, the pedigree is partic larly significant.

670 **1859 Breen-6362. Repunched 1 and 8 in Date. EF-45.** Brigh yellow gold surfaces, somewhat prooflike.

Purchased from N.K.S., December 21, 1971.

Superb Gem 1860 $3

(2X photo)

1860 MS-66 (PCGS). A splendid specimen which is one of the very finest known—an elegant combination of exceedingly high numerical grade plus truly wonderful surfaces—sharply struck, satiny and lustrous. Medium gold with a few brown flecks on the reverse. No doubt this was an early impression from the dies and was saved for some special purpose, not recorded.

This identical specimen is the only Uncirculated pieces specifically mentioned by Walter Breen in his *Encyclopedia*. He further noted that at any Mint State level the issue is "very rare."

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-67 finest).

Date logotype deeply impressed into die. The upright of 1 appears larger at the base than at the top.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 129.

Elusive 1860-S $3

(2X photo)

1860-S MS-62 (PCGS). Brilliant and lustrous, a high-grade example with virtually full mint frost. A prize example of this elusive variety. Such pieces are not seen often.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

The mintage of the 1860-S $3, all with a small S mintmark on the reverse, amounted to 7,000 pieces. Some 2,592 were considered to be light in weight and were stored at the Mint until 1869, when they were melted into bullion. Thus, the net circulation mintage is only 4,408.

The 1860-S represents the latest-dated *collectible* San Francisco Mint $3. The only later issue is the famous 1870-S, showcased in the Eliasberg Collection in 1982, and now retained by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1922, later acquired by John N. Rowe, III, and Michael Brownlee, subsequently sold to Harry Bass.

Lustrous 1861 $3

673 **1861 MS-64 (PCGS).** A beautiful specimen. The surfaces are a mixture of slight prooflike character and satiny lustre, overall giving a beautiful appearance and creating a cameo effect for the portrait. A truly lovely 1861, business strike that will be appreciated by the advanced collector and connoisseur. A *rarity* so fine!

PCGS Population: 7; 1 finer (MS-65).

The mintage amounted to 5,959 pieces, all coined in March 1861 from a single pair of dies. The obverse shows diagonal striae (at a 45° orientation), seemingly a characteristic of all pieces struck (Walter Breen notes "with thin letters and field striations on the obverse"). The date logotype was rather lightly impressed into the die, giving the figures a delicate appearance.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 692.

674 **1861 EF-40.** Bright yellow gold. Much mint lustre is still visible. Only 5,959 $3 pieces were minted this year. Most or all went into circulation, with the result that the typical grade seen today is VF or EF.

Date logotype very lightly impressed into the die. The present reverse die is also relapped, making the light impression seem even more so.

From Stack's sale of February 1972, Lot 688.

Gem 1862 $3

Mint State Rarity

(2X photo)

675 **1862 Breen-6367. Without Distinct Neckline. MS-65 (PCGS).** An outstanding gem specimen with satiny lustre, a coin with a tremendous amount of eye appeal and, in this condition, a notable rarity. For further interest Breen noted: "Very rare. Forward edge of neck blurred into field (die repolishing)."

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Under magnification the die resurfacing seems to have been done with a rotating wire brush, which left many striae on the die. Earlier, the die had clashed, and even after resurfacing a number of evidences are seen of the reverse wreath to left and right of Miss Liberty's portrait.

The reverse die also resurfaced, probably at the same time, as the resurfacing style seems identical. Similarly, some contact marks still remain. A highly interesting $3 to view under magnification, and an important item for the advanced specialist.

Purchased from Fred Sweeney, September 18, 1972.

Scarce 1862 $3

676 **1862 Breen-6367. Without Distinct Neckline. AU-55.** Another specimen of this variety, with bright yellow gold surfaces.

With wire brush die effects as earlier described.

A truly interesting, exciting specimen for the specialist. Perhaps the notes in the present catalogue, combined with those to come in the sylloge plus notations recorded elsewhere (specifically by Breen) will engender a new era of study of die peculiarities and characteristics of the 1854-1889 $3 series.

Breathtaking 1863 $3

Incredible Gem

Classic Rarity

(2X photo)

677 **1863 MS-65 (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous. A coin of incredible rarity and incredible beauty. One of the most important $3 pieces in the present sale.

Only 5,000 business strikes were made in 1863, a low enough number in its own right. However, more pieces than usual seem to have disappeared, with the result that today we believe that no more than 200 to 250 survive, nearly all of which show extensive circulation. The present coin is a marvelous exception.

Harry Bass in his notes observed that this is struck from the same dies used to make Proofs this year, although the present specimen has no indication of Proof surfaces.

The obverse shows prominent clash marks from the reverse, while the reverse shows two sets of outlines from Miss Liberty, slightly overlapping. Under magnification the coin is absolutely fascinating!

The date logotype was somewhat irregularly made this year with the 18 closely spaced and the 6 with wider separations on both sides. The 3 is somewhat irregular, with the knobs (such as they are) at the top and the bottom being of odd shape, the top being truncated.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, July 30, 1968.

Marvelous 1864 $3

Prooflike Business Strike

Prime Rarity

(2X photo)

678 **1864 MS-65 (PCGS).** Semi-prooflike obverse and reverse. A marvelous specimen, well struck, with excellent detail and beautiful appearance—anything and everything that could be asked for in a circulation strike.

Only 2,630 pieces were made this year, of which we estimate that fewer than 150 survive today. Most of these, quoting Breen, "are usually VF to EF, very rare above, extremely rare Uncirculated." Another fantastic coin, a prime target for the connoisseur and specialist.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-66).

Obverse and reverse with light die finish marks, no doubt indicating an early strike (although with limited mintages, there is no such thing as a true *late* strike). Date logotype first lightly repunched into die, slanting down to the left, then corrected, with the result that the first two digits show repunching. The digit 4 on this and certain other logotypes for the denomination is somewhat ungainly, presenting an overly large interior area.

Purchased from Fred Sweeney, September 18, 1972.

Highly Important 1865 $3

Prooflike Business Strike

(2X photo)

1865 MS-64 (PCGS). Prooflike. An outstanding specimen, one of the finest seen, of this elusive and rare issue. The business strike mintage of the 1865 amounted to an incredibly low 1,140 pieces. The number known today is believed to be fewer than 100 coins altogether, with VF and EF being typically encountered grades. Breen notes: "Very rare. Business strikes, made on February 27, are usually in low grades, Extremely rare in AU, prohibitively rare Uncirculated."

As a general observation, business strike $3 issues of the 1860s are very difficult to find, this being particularly true of the 1863 and onward. Mint State pieces, while not unheard of, appear on the market only at widely spaced intervals. It seems to have been the case that the few collectors desiring the denomination at the time of issue simply purchased Proofs. Business strikes were completely ignored. Thus, the survival of a splendid piece such as the 1865 offered here is a matter of rare chance.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-66 finest).

Date logotype deep into die with slight repunching at the last two figures. Oriented low and level, called an "original" by Breen, although no restrikes were made of circulating issues.

Purchased from John N. Rowe, III, September 24, 1966.

Rare 1866 $3

0 **1866 AU-55.** Bright yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike. A splendid specimen of this prime rarity. Only 4,000 business strikes were produced, of which only a few survive today.

The date logotype this year was made by punching the final 6 deeper into the die than the first 6, giving the final 6 a somewhat larger appearance, although the same punch was used when the logotype was made. On the present die, the digit 1 is especially prominent, probably indicating that the punch was not evenly applied into the working die. Other technicalities could be studied.

Purchased from Fred Sweeney, September 18, 1972.

31 **1866 AU-50.** Another attractive example of this elusive $3 date.

Die pair as preceding.

Purchased from Bonanza Coins, March 3, 1973.

Marvelous 1867 $3

Superb Gem MS-66

Key Date

(2X photo)

682 **1867 MS-66 (PCGS).** Highly prooflike, closely resembling a Proof striking. A marvelous, virtually incredible quality piece without an equal anywhere in numismatics.

The mintage of the 1867 was a very low 2,600 pieces with most survivors grading EF to VF, punctuated by an actual AU, but seldom by a Mint State. Another extraordinary opportunity for the connoisseur and specialist.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-67).

Business strikes were delivered on January 24, 1867. Apparently there was no further call for the denomination.

The date logotype is deeply punched into the die, yielding a bold appearance. A crack is seen from the border to the second lowest leaf on the right.

Both obverse and reverse dies were given a high degree of polish, and under magnification parallel polish lines can still be seen. Perhaps before the mintage ended on this particular January day in 1867, the lines were worn away.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 767.

Important Business Strike 1868 $3

Choice Mint State

Low-Mintage Date

683 **1868 MS-63 (PCGS).** Highly prooflike. Rich golden surfaces with splashes of magenta on the obverse and reverse borders. An extremely appealing coin, one of the finest business strikes ever to pass under our view. An incredible opportunity for the connoisseur and specialist.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 694.

Fantastic Gem 1869 $3

Prooflike MS-65

Classic Rarity

(2X photo)

684 **1869 MS-65 (PCGS).** Beautiful prooflike surfaces. Sharply struck. An incredible specimen of this rare date, one of only 2,500 business strikes produced. Another highly important, actually *incredible* opportunity for the connoisseur and specialist. While Part III of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection will include a number of high-grade $3 pieces, the "first cut" of quality business strikes appears in the present sale.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Reverse die oriented about 160° in relation to the obverse, instead of the normal 180° Last digit of date logotype lightly repunched.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 136.

Beautiful and Rare 1870 $3

(2X photo)

685 **1870 MS-64 (PCGS).** A beautiful specimen with so much Proof surface in the field that many cataloguers, particularly decades ago, would have called this a Proof striking, and, indeed, perhaps it was a presentation piece of some kind. Reflective of this, Breen has written, "some Uncirculated pieces are deceptively prooflike."

The low business strike mintage for this year—only 3,500—plus the beautiful appearance of the present specimen combine to yield a coin that will deservedly attract quite a bit of attention when it crosses the auction block.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

In his notes Harry Bass observed that the same obverse die was used to strike $3 pieces the year before, 1869.

On the reverse, the date logotype is placed higher on business strikes than on Proofs, providing handy distinguishing characteristics, as the reverse die itself quite resembles a Proof, as noted earlier. The prooflike character may have been caused by relapping, as certain low-relief details are weak, this being particularly true of the thin leaf to the left of the date. Under magnification some raised die finish lines can be seen. In today's era, few collectors endeavor to acquire $3 pieces by *die varieties*, and even if they did, the opportunities available to Harry Bass are not available now. However, it is interesting to make notes of such varieties when they are observed.

Purchased from Fred Sweeney, September 18, 1972.

Another Important 1870 $3

686 **1870 MS-63 (PCGS).** Highly prooflike. A stunningly beautifu specimen, a coin which will quickly catch the eye of the con noisseur. With a mintage of only 3,500 business strikes, th 1870 has long been recognized as a key issue. High-grade ex amples are especially rare, with prooflike pieces occasionall offered as full Proofs in the past (before the days of certifica tion and the publication of technical information).

The present piece is a landmark for the specialist. Fe equivalent pieces exist.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

On the obverse some light clash marks can be seen around the portra around Miss Liberty.

On the reverse the date is more heavily punched into the die toward th right. As Breen mentions, the leaf to the left of the date is isolated, typicall evidence of relapping, but possibly the original state of the die (if so, thi would indicate that the master die was lightly impressed into the workin die). The present specimen shows occasional clash marks and die line around the wreath, particularly on the right. At the wreath apex the die i noticeably bulged.

From Abe Kosoff, August 1973, through a trade transaction.

A Final 1870 $3

687 **1870 AU-58 PL.** Another truly beautiful example of this ver elusive $3 date.

Dies as preceding, but an earlier state, without bulge. The isolated leaf i present, as it may be on all impressions.

Purchased from Superior Galleries, February, 1973, Lot 304.

World Class 1871 $3

Superb Gem MS-66

(2X photo)

1871 MS-66 (PCGS). Highly prooflike. An incredible, almost unbelievable specimen—ranking as one of the very finest in existence of *any* business strike $3 of this era.

In the present instance, the 1871 is of remarkably low mintage, as only 1,300 were struck. Of that number, probably fewer than 100 survive today most of which are in EF to AU. There was no numismatic interest in preserving business strikes, as collectors purchased Proofs.

We suggest that all caution be discarded when bidding on this piece, as it may be a long time, if ever, before another opportunity is offered.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date deeply punched and low on the die.

Purchased from Colonial Coins, August 8, 1972.

Key 1872 $3 Gold

1872 AU-55. A splendid example with a warm golden coloration. The 1872, with a mintage of only 2,000, is one of the key rarities of its era. Relatively few survive. Of those, most cannot match the combination of grade and aesthetic quality offered here. A tiny planchet lamination is seen on the jaw of Miss Liberty.

Date logotype high on the die, closer to the word DOLLARS than usual. Some finish lines may be seen.

From our sale of the Austin Collection, June 1974, Lot 1022.

Highly Important 1873 $3!

Closed 3 Business Strike

A Key to the Series

690 1873 Closed 3. MS-62 (PCGS). Highly prooflike, closely resembling a Proof, and no doubt apt to be called a Proof by some—without serious argument. The finer of two beautiful pieces of this date offered in the present sale.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Dies normal (not deeply dished). From the same dies as the following lot. The mintage figure is not known, but is probably only a handful of pieces. Walter Breen comments; "most survivors are VF to EF none seen Uncirculated. Proofs are very rare."

According to the same writer, in late autumn 1872 dies with the closed 3 were prepared. Unfortunately, few records were kept concerning the actual production of 1873 $3 pieces, which today exist in several varieties, open and closed 3, and with field variations within those varieties. Concerning the presently offered variety, Breen says: "Paradoxically, closed 3's are known, rarely in Proof state, usually in F to EF grades; there is no Mint record of their coinage, and as some of these pieces have obverse dies identified as dating from 1879, they have been characterized as restrikes. However, preservation of other closed 3's does not permit positive identification of their obverse dies with coins of any other date, and the suggestion has lately been advanced that these latter may represent a delivery of a few hundred original 1873's probably in January, mostly for circulation, omitted from Mint records in error. On the other hand, some Proof restrikes of 1873 are rarer than originals, most notably the 'dished' coins, which have the appearance of convex obverse and concave reverse."

The entire matter suggests that further study is needed. As it may be a possible interest, we give below our commentary relating to 1873 $3 pieces as printed in our catalogue of the Eliasberg Collection, October 1982 under Lot 299. Today, in 1999, the state of the art has not changed measurably, and further study is still suggested.

Meanwhile, the 1873 continues to stand tall and proud as one of the great rarities in the $3 series, as a *date* being third in line after the 1875 (just 20 struck) and 1876 (45). Accordingly, the present coin, very attractive and very rare, should engender substantial notice as it crosses the block. Below we reprint some comments from our Eliasberg Collection catalogue of 1982, which are still relevant today.

Among various $3 pieces, the 1873 is the third rarest Philadelphia Mint date, on the heels of the 1875 and 1876. The appearance of this specimen at auction is always an important occasion, and the offering of two pieces in the present sale is all the more remarkable.

Excerpted from our Eliasberg Catalogue

In general, Walter Breen, building on research conducted by Harry X Boosel, believes that 1873 issues with Open 3 are "original" coins and those with Closed 3 are "restrikes." However, the distinction is not clear, for apparently certain of the Open 3 issues were restruck at a later date.

David Akers takes an opposing view and, to condense his detailed comments, notes in conclusion that "it is indeed possible, and in fact it is my opinion, that all 1873 $3 gold pieces were minted in 1873."

The situation is complex. The Mint lists a production figure of 25 examples struck of the 1873 $3 issue, all Proofs. No pieces were reported for circulation. Taken alone, such a production figure would place the 1873 $3 as one of the greatest of all American coin rarities. However, from surveys of existing collections, auction offerings, and other appearances in the numismatic marketplace, it is apparent that more than 25 pieces exist today. David Akers traces the auction appearances of 75 pieces. Allowing for duplicate offerings of the same coin, this still would indicate an original mintage of more than 25, especially if one considers that pieces impounded in museums, coins which have not traded hands in the past half century, are not included in his survey. Walter Breen estimates the total population of 1873 $3 issues at slightly over 70 pieces.

David Akers further cites the opinion of Harry Bass, the well-known Texas gold specialist, concerning the 1873 Closed 3 $3 piece with the "dished" appearance—the precise variety offered for sale now:

"One variety of the 1873 Closed 3 $3 gold piece is markedly 'dished,' that is, it has a convex obverse and a concave reverse. This variety is the so-called

'dished restrike.' However, Harry Bass claims that the dished pieces are in fact, the true 'originals.' I [David Akers] feel that these dished pieces are merely the Proofs with the Closed 3, whereas the other Closed 3 pieces are business strikes. Therefore, since both were, in my opinion, minted in 1873, both can lay legitimate claim to being 'originals.' The two Proofs listed below [in David Akers' enumeration of auction appearances] were both the dished variety which, by the way, is the rarest of the 1873 $3 gold piece varieties."

Using the information printed by David Akers, the coin offered here gains the status of not only being an original but, further, being the rarest and consequently the most desirable variety among the originals!

What probably happened is this: 1873 was a time of interesting productions at the Mint. Special pieces were often made up for private and unofficial sale to collectors. Indeed, from about 1858 until the mid-1880s there were many "fancy pieces" produced. In 1873 25 Proof $3 pieces were produced for sale to collectors. Sometime in the same year it developed that there was no government request for business strikes. Officials at the Mint realized that a Proof rarity had been created, a coin which would stand out in the series as a "Proof only" issue. Accordingly, additional pieces were made. Whether these were made during the calendar year 1873 or shortly thereafter is not know. In the present writer's opinion they were not made significantly later. If they were made in 1874, rather than in 1873, this is not a "big deal" numismatically. It is to be remembered that nearly all of the 1879-dated Flowing Hair $4 Stella issues were in fact produced during the following year, 1880. This was done openly, and was not considered to be an abnormal practice. It is entirely possible that later in 1873, or sometime in 1874, an additional quantity, perhaps 100 or 200 hundred pieces, of 1873 $3 pieces left the dies. Complicating the equation is the fact that numerous specimens known today show extensive signs of circulation. In fact, far more worn coins have appeared in sales over the years than have Proofs! The "Uncirculated" or "frosty" surface. Rather, even slightly worn ones seem to have been struck as Proofs. Still there is the possibility that 1873 $3 pieces were indeed produced for circulation. David Akers believes that of all of the Closed 3 issues he describes as having appeared in auctions, 45 in all, just two were Proofs, and these were of the dished variety. The others were described as "Uncirculated," "AU," or lesser grades. If indeed the "Uncirculated" and "AU" coins possess mint frost—and the present writer has not examined them—then it seems logical that pieces were indeed made for purposes of commerce.

Going further with the information given by David Akers, he lists the auction appearances of two Proofs with Closed 3 from dished dies, seven Proofs of the Open 3 variety, and 10 Proofs which the auction cataloguers did not identify. Presumably most of these 10 were of the Open 3 type. This is a total of 19 auction appearances. Including duplicate appearances of the same coin, this might net to say, 10 or 12 different Proof 1873 $3 pieces. If this is indeed the case, then the original Proof mintage of 25 pieces might be correct. Under this reasoning, it would be logical to believe that the true situation was that 25 Proofs were made and that business strikes of an unknown quantity were also produced. It could be assumed that perhaps a couple hundred or so business strikes were issued. Why weren't they listed in the Mint report? They may have been omitted due to an error or oversight. There are numerous other instances of this happening. For example, neither the 1827 quarter nor the 1841 quarter eagle, two well-known rarities in other series, are listed in the Mint report. And, who's to say that any Mint report from the 19th century is precisely accurate? Compounding the mystery is the absence of coins with lustrous or frosty surfaces characteristic of business strikes...

From Stack's Auction '85 sale, July 1985, Lot 1899.

Famous 1873 $3 Rarity

Closed 3

691 **1873 Closed 3. AU-58 (PCGS).** Attractive light yellow gold Prooflike surface still remains in protected areas, perhaps struck from Proof dies. Fields normal (not deeply dished, the dished varieties being called *restrikes* by some).

Another opportunity to compete for the third rarest Philadelphia Mint coin in the $3 series, coming on the heels of the 1875 and 1876. Taken on its own, an AU-58 1873 Closed 3 is an impressive rarity and a very desirable piece, certainly one of the finest we have ever seen.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (Proof-65 finest).

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 106

Frosty 1874 $3

692 **1874 MS-64 (PCGS).** A frosty specimen, the inauguration of several pleasing 1874 business strikes in the present sale. As was noted in the introduction to the $3 series, there are only three dates that are relatively readily available in Mint State, these being the 1854, 1874, and 1878. Of these, the most elusive is the 1874.

Date logotype large this year. On the present die the logotype is more deeply impressed at the right side than at the left side of the date.

Purchased from Superior Galleries, February 1973.

Another Splendid 1874 $3

693 **1874 MS-64 (PCGS).** A splendid specimen with coruscating frosty lustre on obverse and reverse, ideal for the date and grade. As the 1874 is one of the few issues later in the series that can be found in Mint State, the present piece is a candidate for a high-grade type set. However, the date specialist will not want to overlook it either for it is fine for this purpose as well.

From Paramount's sale of February 1975, Lot 530.

Prooflike 1874 $3

1874 MS-62 (PCGS). Virtually fully prooflike. A splendid coin which at a quick glance appears to be a Proof. However, upon study it is more likely a business strike and, in fact, was classified by Harry Bass as such. The obverse and reverse are of attractive yellow gold. A very attractive coin which will merit enthusiastic competition as it crosses the block.

This may have been what could be called an *inadvertent Proof.* Upon close examination the dies clashed, in fact, virtually the entire outline of Miss Liberty's face can be seen within the wreath on the reverse to the left. Perhaps after this occurred, the pair of dies was removed from the coining press, lightly relapped and polished to remove nearly all the marks, and then used for coinage, (such procedure having precedents). Moreover, on pieces recognized as Proofs, the date logotype is positioned very slightly to the left of where it is on the present coin.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2225.

Famous 1876 $3 Rarity

Splendid Proof

A Key to the Series

(2X photo)

1876 Proof-64 (PCGS). Rich yellow gold surfaces. A very nice example of this famous rarity.

Mint records state that 45 Proof specimens were struck of the 1876 $3, without any related business strikes, thus isolating 1876 as a "Proof-only" issue, with only the 1875 having similar status. For many years the 1876, along with the 1875 and to a lesser extent the 1873, have been considered the key Philadelphia Mint issues of the series.

Walter Breen estimated that 25 or 30 exist today, while David Akers in his study cited sale records for 45 pieces (a figure which includes duplicates listings of the same coin). It is our view that perhaps two dozen or so *different specimens* exist today.

Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins 1722-1989 gives the following information:

"The earlier issue, 20 specimens struck on February 19, perfect dies; the 25 made on June 13 have slight traces of die rust in the feathers. Only the one variety seen (Harry Bass says there is another): obverse with two short parallel lines slanting down into lower part of left upright of I in LIBERTY, and a small curved line on neck paralleling second or lowest protruding curl (counting that below ear as first). Reverse: Date heavy and about centered, large knob logotype as on cents. Some 25 to 30 survive, but at least 7 or 8 are impaired."

Virtually no differential has been made in auction offerings in print concerning die states, and thus it is not possible to know how many surviving pieces are from the unrusted dies and how many are from the rusted. Indeed, considering the extreme rarity of the 1876 date, probably no one other than Harry Bass would even dream of collecting them by die states!

The present coin offers an ideal combination of rarity and outstanding eye appeal.

Obverse die rusted in the headdress, called a "restrike" by Harry Bass in his notes. He further observed that this was the first example he had seen of this die. No parallel lines are seen near the I of LIBERTY, but they may have existed on an earlier state. Interestingly, *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins,* (published later than his Proof *Encyclopedia*), Breen mentions nothing about unrusted or rusted dies, or anything else. On the other hand, those dated 1875 are divided into originals and restrikes. As is the case with the earlier-discussed 1873, much evidence yet remains to be gathered concerning the rare, 1873, 1875, and 1876 $3 pieces, how they were issued, when, and in what sequence.

Regarding the rusted *obverse* on the present piece, this would seem to be irrelevant with regard to any issue of restrike versus original, as the obverse is undated and it would seem to have been an easy matter to have taken an unrusted die had restrikes been made. In other words, there is no reason why a particular obverse would have been saved from 1875 and used years later to make restrikes, when years later another obverse could have been used. This element remains somewhat of a mystery.

The reverse shows no significant sign of rust. Whether there are additional die states of the reverse the writer does not know.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 109.

Landmark 1877 $3

Prooflike Cameo

(2X photo)

696 **1877 MS-64 (PCGS).** A prooflike cameo, a glittering beauty. Only 1,468 pieces were struck making this one of the lowest mintage issues in the entire series. The present coin, combining high grade and excellent aesthetic aspects, will attract wide attention when it crosses the auction block.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Breen notes that business strikes are from two obverse dies and a single reverse die, but does not describe the obverse die differences.

Purchased from Stan Kesselman, July 1974.

Frosty 1878 $3

Type Set Candidate

697 **1878 MS-64 (PCGS).** Lustrous and frosty, as this date is usually seen. Among later issues this has the highest mintage, some 82,304 business strikes. Thus, the present piece is an ideal candidate for a high-quality type set.

On the reverse the date is ever so slightly repunched, with extra material seen *under high magnification* within the upper loops of both 8s. Water Breen says that there were three business strikes with "normal" date made this year and one "overdate," specific details not delineated.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello sale, May 1970, lot 778.

Memorable 1879 $3

Prooflike Gem

(2X photo)

698 **1879 MS-65 (PCGS).** Lustrous, somewhat prooflike surfaces. Sharply struck and very beautiful. A "showpiece" quality example of this popular date.

The business strike mintage of the 1879 $3 amounted to just 3,000, making it one of the lower figures in the series. However, beginning in this year there was some speculative attention paid to the $3 denominations (more particularly to the $1 denomination, however) and more specimens were saved than would have otherwise been the case. By way of comparison, the 1863 $3, with 5,000 business strikes made, is much rarer in gem preservation than the 1879 with just 3,000. Some discussion of the method of distribution and rarity is given in the introduction to the present denomination.

Over the years the 1879 has been very popular, the low-mintage figure attracting many buyers. While gems such as this are not absolute rarities, the demand for gold coins is so widespread that whenever a new one comes on the market there is a great demand for it.

From Superior's sale of December 1972, Lot 1917.

Superb Gem 1880 $3

Mintage: Just 1,000 Pieces

(2X photo)

699 **1880 MS-66 (PCGS).** A superb gem specimen, lustrous an frosty with some prooflike aspects—one of the finest spec mens we have ever seen of this popular low-mintage date.

The demand for the 1880 is perennial, and with the quali just described, this coin will no doubt engender a gre amount of interest.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 703.

Key 1881 $3 Gold

Mintage: Only 500 Pieces!

700 **1881 MS-63 (PCGS).** Somewhat prooflike.

Business strikes, delivered on June 4, exist "mostly in lo grades" (per Breen) for reasons not clearly known. Howeve one might suspect that members of the public who enjoye buying $3 coins during the mini-speculation in this series soo tired of their holdings, and the coins were mishandled. Th net result is that we have in the 1883 $3 a date that not only h an incredible, almost believable low business strike produ tion, but a very small population of extant Mint State piece Thus, the Bass Collection specimen is exceedingly importan We expect much interest when this piece crosses the auctio block.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (MS-66 finest).

Date logotype heavily impressed into the die, somewhat more deeply the top than at the bottom.

From Paramount's sale of February 1971, Lot 1028.

Prooflike 1882 $3

1882 MS-64 (PCGS). Prooflike surfaces, closely resembling a full Proof. A very attractive example, one of the finest seen. Indeed, this piece could easily be assigned a higher grade, in our opinion.

Date logotype lightly repunched, with vestige of earlier, higher 2 above the final digit. Years ago, before studying the subject carefully, we felt that the 1882 $3 was made by using a three-digit logotype, 188, and then adding the 2 (or other digit on other dates) as appropriate. However, it is our current belief that a four-digit logotype was used, that one end of the logotype punch touched the die and was impressed, creating the artifact just mentioned. As observed elsewhere in the present catalogue, the field of careful technical research relating to 19th-century die making, logotype preparation, and minting procedures is still an area offering many research and study possibilities. Already, more has appeared in print in the past 25 years in various journals and books than in the preceding 100 years.

Purchased from N.K.S., October 9, 1970.

Prooflike 1883 $3

Mintage: 900 Pieces

1883 MS-64 (PCGS). Highly prooflike. A splendid specimen which many may attribute as a full Proof. The mintage of 900 pieces adds to the appeal of this gorgeous coin.

Harry Bass notes that the obverse of this piece was also used to strike *Proofs* of the 1881 $3.

Purchased from Bonanza Coins, March 5, 1973.

Proof 1884 $3

Key Date

703 **1884 Proof-62 (PCGS).** Considered by Harry Bass to be a *business strike,* and marked by him "rarest business strike in the 1880s." Lovely light golden surfaces. Some scattered marks on mirrorlike fields, particularly on the obverse, account for the 62 designation.

As has been noted elsewhere in this catalogue, delineation as to what is a Proof gold coin as opposed to prooflike business strike is not clear, and in some instances conventional wisdom needs to be modified. John Dannreuther is currently studying the $1 gold series in this regard, and no doubt some of his findings will have counterparts in the $3 series. Harry Bass identified this as a business strike by the tiniest of tiny markers, a little "spine" or "spur" hidden in the dentil spaces high above AT (STATES).

On the reverse the date is deeply punched into the dies. The 8 and 4 touch.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 319.

Gem 1885 $3 Rarity

Mintage: Just 800

(2X photo)

704 **1885 MS-65 (PCGS).** Somewhat lustrous, but more notably with a prooflike surface. A splendid example of this low-mintage date. Again, here is a numismatic attraction, a landmark.

PCGS Population: 9; 5 finer (MS-66 finest).

Date logotype impressed into working die at medium depth. Business strikes were produced in March of the year.

Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

Important Proof 1886 $3

(2X photo)

705 **1886 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Considered to be a prooflike business strike by Harry W. Bass, Jr. You can "pay your money and take your pick"—the jury is out on exactly what constitutes a Proof and what does not from $1 and $3 coins of this era, as noted.

In the present instance, PCGS considers this to be a Proof, and as such it is one of only 142 pieces struck. On the other hand, if you agree with Harry Bass and consider this to be a business strike, it is one of 1,000 pieces struck.

Either way, the 1886 is a highly important, much sought after date. This and all other $3 pieces of the era are greatly prized, and justifiable so.

Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonials Coins refers readers to his Proof work for the "stigmata" (seems to be a misadaptation of a religious term) describing Proofs, of which Breen considers there to be two varieties. These are as follows:

B-1: Upright of 1 below the right curves of O (DOLLARS).

B-2: Upright of 1 between OL. Date seems to slant down slightly. The dies of the 1,000 business strikes (including, alas, some deceptive first strikes) plus a minority of Proofs.

Again, there is no clear delineation. The point is perhaps moot—no doubt it will stay snug in its PCGS holder and will by virtue of this *become a Proof.*

From Pine Tree Rare Coin Auctions' sale of September 1973, Lot 470.

Gorgeous Proof 1887 $3

Misaligned Dies

(2X photo)

706 **1887 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A splendid Proof, not at all equivoca Obverse and reverse dies aligned in the same direction. Ric golden Proof surfaces. A truly splendid specimen, one th combines rarity with a generous measure of eye appeal.

Although 160 Proofs were struck, it is our opinion that th majority of these went to speculators, with the result that on the novelty of ownership passed, such pieces became dar aged. Today the Proof population is probably no more than 7 pieces. Breen suggests over 30 with just a few of these bein with the erroneous die alignment.

Purchased from Superior, March 8, 1978.

Another Splendid Proof 1887 $3

Correctly Aligned Dies

(2X photo)

707 **1887 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Another specimen, rich gold similar t the preceding. Dies aligned normally.

Purchased from Stack's, November 1, 1985.

Remarkable 1887 $3

MS-65 Business Strike

(2X photo)

1887 MS-65 (PCGS). A business strike of remarkable quality, brilliant with much mint lustre, and no prooflike surface. A splendid example of a quality seldom seen.

The business strike production this year amounted to 6,000, many of which went to investors and speculators. However, most of these became lost, and today we estimate the population to be in the range of 1,000 to 1,500 pieces, or perhaps, a quarter of the mintage figure.

The present coin, of exquisite beauty, will satisfy the date specialist as well as the type collector.

This is Breen's Double Die Obverse, No 6401. Some doubling is seen on the obverse letters, particularly to the right.

Purchased from Superior, March 1978.

Superb Gem 1888 $3

(2X photo)

709 **1888 MS-66 (PCGS).** Lustrous and frosty with satiny surfaces, no prooflike character. An absolutely wonderful business strike, one that will be exciting even to the specialist who has seen just about everything.

Only 5,000 business strikes were made this year, and of that number just a handful compare in quality to the piece offered here.

From Quality Sales' auction of the Beck Collection, February 1976, Lot 330.

Beautiful 1889 $3

Final Issue

710 **1889 MS-64 (PCGS).** Deeply frosty and lustrous, a truly superb specimen of the last year of the denomination. The high grade plus stunning visual appeal of this coin combine to yield yet another numismatic prize.

In his notes Harry Bass observed that on this die the second 8 of the date is to the left of center over the right bow loop.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 953.

HALF EAGLES 1795 ONWARD

The Bass Collection $5 Gold Half Eagles
A Memorable Offering

The present catalogue includes many $5 gold half eagles from the first date of issue, 1795, through the next several decades, although one of each die variety in the 1795-1834 range has been retained by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation. In his time of collecting, Harry often acquired multiples, a situation which has many benefits to bidders today.

Among Classic Head and Liberty Head half eagles 1834 onward, the present sale offers the crème de la crème of business strikes, among which will be found many Condition Census and finest known examples gathered in the three decades of Harry Bass' connoisseurship. In many instances it is unlikely that comparable specimens will be offered at auction anytime in the near future, and for some, quite possibly not in your lifetime. Although our Part III sale will emphasize $5 Proofs, many pieces of extraordinary rarity and importance are offered here. Harry Bass' interest in the series ended with the last year of the Liberty Head coins in 1908. The 1908-1929 Indian Head coins, which offered no variations in date logotype locations, were acquired only casually.

All told, the combination of depth and breadth of $5 gold coins, especially among issues of the 1834-1908 period, in this and our next sale, is unprecedented in numismatics.

The offering of early half eagles in the Bass Collection, beginning in 1795 and extending for the next several decades, is one of the most important and extensive ever to be showcased at auction.

Numismatic Notes

Gold half eagles were made in nine major design types, or even more if star positions are noted among the earlier issues. The standard type divisions, as widely collected today, are given below, along with commentaries.

Type I

1795-1798 Capped Bust to Right, Small Eagle

Although the Mint Act of April 2, 1792, provided for a gold half eagle of 135 grains weight, along with other denominations, coinage of gold did not commence until 1795, for the chief coiner and assayer were required to post personal bonds in the amount of $10,000 each before handling precious metals. When the Mint first produced coins for circulation in 1793 (copper cents and half cents), these requirements had not been met. By 1795 the bonds had been reduced in amount considerably, the chief coiner and assayer had fulfilled them, and gold coinage commenced.

Around May of the same year, David Rittenhouse, director of the Mint, assigned engraver Robert Scot to produce half eagle dies. Rittenhouse left the Mint at the end of June and was replaced by Henry William DeSaussure, who ordered that gold coin production should begin. On July 31st, 744 half eagles were delivered, followed by subsequent amounts through Se tember, totaling 8,707 pieces for the year.

Believed to have been designed by Robert Scot, the 17 half eagle is of the design designated by collectors today as t Capped Bust to Right obverse with Small Eagle reverse. Coi measure 25mm in diameter, a standard width employed f the denomination until 1829.

The obverse depicts Miss Liberty, wearing a cloth cap, faci right, with LIBERTY to the right above and the date belo The star count arrangement is typically 10 to the left and fi to the right, but one variety of 1797 has 16 stars arranged, to the left and five to the right.

The Small Eagle reverse motif apparently was taken from first century BC Roman onyx cameo depicting an eag perched on a palm branch, his wings outstretched, holdi aloft a circular wreath in his beak. The inscription UNITE STATES OF AMERICA surrounds. There is no mark or in cation of value on the piece. At the time, gold coins were v ued in the channels of commerce by their weight and metal content.

The coinage of 8,707 half eagles with the 1795 date was a complished by using numerous dies, including at least nine verses with the small eagle motif alone. Throughout the ne several decades, interesting die varieties were produced, i cluding overdates, recut letters, and differences in date si and position. Harry Bass found die varieties of early $5 coi to be especially interesting. The forthcoming sylloge or m seum-style catalogue being prepared for the Harry W. Bass, Research Foundation will include much historical, technic and numismatic information relating to these issues.

Examples of the Capped Bust to Right obverse, Small Eag reverse design type were produced from 1795 through 179 with the last year being a major rarity in the series—a coin which fewer than a dozen are known to exist. The span of th design yielded a business strike mintage estimated by Walt Breen as 18,512 coins.

Today, several hundred examples survive from this mode coinage, no doubt a population somewhere in the range of se eral hundred coins spread over four dates. Most bear the da 1795. In absolute terms, all coins of this design are rare.

The typically encountered grade range for a half eagle of th era is VF to EF, with AU pieces coming on the market occ sionally. AU and Uncirculated coins, especially those of 179 often possess prooflike surfaces.

Type II

1795-1807 Capped Bust to Right, Heraldic Eagle

About 1798 the new Heraldic Eagle reverse was first e ployed for the $5 denomination. An eagle at the center, with shield on its breast, holds arrows and an olive branch in its t ons and a ribbon lettered E PLURIBUS UNUM in its bea Above is a galaxy of stars and an arc of clouds. The inscripti UNITED STATES OF AMERICA surrounds. There is no ma or indication of value.

lapted from the Great Seal of the United States, the He- c Eagle design was first used on the gold $2.50 of 1796, extending to (in denomination order) the half dime 0), dime (1798), quarter dollar (1804), half dollar (1801), r dollar (1798), and $10 (1797). The motif is traditionally buted to Robert Scot. Few records exist concerning which ravers produced various dies, and today's attributions are n educated guesses.

om 1798 through 1807, coinage of the Heraldic Eagle re- e style was continued. Many different die varieties were luced, including several overdates. At the time it was the t's practice to keep earlier-dated dies on hand until they e no longer fit for service. It is believed that in 1798 the t combined the new Heraldic Eagle reverse with obverse dated 1795 and 1797, thus producing earlier-dated es.

ne business strike mintage total for the type is 316,867. nough there are some rarities in the 1795-1807 span of type, enough examples survive of most issues from 8 through 1807 that the numismatist will have no dif- lty acquiring a representative "type" specimen in Very e to AU preservation. Uncirculated coins come on the ket occasionally and typically have frosty (rather than oflike) surfaces.

Type III

1807-1812 Capped Draped Bust Left

1807, following the coinage of some of the old-style es, John Reich redesigned the half eagle. The new style is forerunner of that adopted a year later for the quarter le. The obverse depicts Miss Liberty facing left, wearing a h cap inscribed LIBERTY, with seven stars to the left and to the right.

he reverse shows an eagle perched on a palm branch, hold- three arrows, with the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM on a bon or band above. The legend UNITED STATES OF IERICA, 5 D. surrounds.

his new format was continued through 1812. The brief n of this design yielded a coinage estimated at 399,013 ces.

lthough there are some scarce die varieties within the 1807- 12 years, there are no rare dates. The type set collector can ose from virtually any date desired. Specimens are available all grades, with Very Fine to AU coins appearing on the mar- with some frequency, (relatively speaking, of course). Mint te examples are offered now and then and, if choice in ap- arance, are highly prized. These typically have frosty rather n prooflike surfaces.

Type IV

1813-1829 Capped Head Left, Large Diameter

In 1813 John Reich modified his design. The portrait was anged to eliminate the bosom and drapery, the stars were arranged to completely encircle the head, save for the date position, and other obverse and reverse details were altered.

From 1813 to 1829 half eagles were minted with a diameter of 25mm. In 1829 the diameter was reduced to 22.5mm and certain other modifications occurred, under the direction of William Kneass. Technically speaking, the 1829-1834 reduced-diameter format can be considered a separate type, but as half eagles of this era are exceedingly rare, most numismatists have been content to consider the span 1813-1834 as a single design. For the entire date span 1813-1834 of these two types, business strike mintage is estimated as 1,385,612 coins. From time to time, Proofs were struck for special purposes, but mintage records of such pieces were not kept. Only a few dozen exist today.

Of the half eagles minted from 1813 to 1829, probably no more than a thousand or two coins exist today, this being but a tiny fraction of the original mintage. Of the half eagles minted from 1829 to 1834 (discussed below under Type V), probably only a few hundred exist.

While many issues were minted in generous quantities during this era, today most varieties are exceedingly rare. The most famous issue, the 1822, of which just three specimens are known to exist, was minted to the extent of 17,796 pieces, a figure greater than the 14,485 recorded for 1823, of which dozens of examples are known!

The reason for the rarity of half eagles of this style lies not with any mintage figure, but, rather, with what happened to the coins after they were struck and the relationship of gold and silver prices in the world market. At the time, freshly minted gold coins, if melted, were worth more in bullion value than face value. It is an interesting and perhaps numismatically unpublished fact that after the War of 1812 ended (December 24, 1814; 1814 was the date of the peace treaty, but it effectively ended early in 1815), the Philadelphia Mint itself was paying a premium to buy its earlier-dated $5 gold coins! Somewhat similar to the situation that would occur years later (1793-1878) with trade dollars, gold coins were produced only upon request from bullion depositors. Later issues never circulated at par. Many if not most were simply used as "trade" coins, later melted, or shipped overseas. To rectify this untenable situation and to permit gold coins to circulate at par in America, Congress lowered the authorized weight of gold coins through the Act of June 28, 1834, but not before virtually the entire production of half eagles of the early years passed into the hands of speculators and bullion dealers.

Although mintages were fairly generous for many half eagles from 1813 through 1829, nearly all of the issues in this span are great rarities today, this being especially true of the dates in the 1820s.

The type set collector will have the best luck and the best use of his money if an issue such as 1813, 1814/3, 1818, or 1820 is selected, none of which will be inexpensive, but other issues are apt to be much more costly. The half eagle of the 1813-1829 design type is one of the highlights of a type set of early American gold coins.

Type V

1829-1834 Capped Head Left, Small Diameter

In 1829 the portrait on the half eagle was modified slightly by Chief Engraver William Kneass, and the diameter was reduced to 22.5mm. From that point forward half eagles were struck with beaded borders and with a closed collar. The format was continued from 1829 through the summer of 1834. As is the case with half eagles of the decade earlier, the issues minted from 1829 through 1834 are exceedingly rare. Probably no more than a few hundred exist today.

A general discussion of Type V is given above under Type IV.

Type VI

1834-1838 Classic Head

In summer 1834 the $5 denomination was redesigned by William Kneass, who created what is now known today as the Classic Head style.

The new 1834 issue is similar in design to the quarter eagle of the same date. The obverse depicts the head of Miss Liberty facing left, her hair secured by a band inscribed LIBERTY, with stars circling her head, and with the date below.

The reverse shows an eagle with a shield on its breast, perched on an olive branch and holding three arrows. The inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 5 D. surrounds. The motto E PLURIBUS UNUM, used earlier, was discontinued.

The authorized format was reduced from 135 grains to 129 grains via the Act of June 28, 1834. This was put into effect on August 2, 1834, and coins struck on and after that date were of the new light weight. The strategy proved successful; it was no longer profitable to melt or export coins for bullion, and gold coins circulated at par for the first time since the War of 1812.

From 1834 through 1838 large quantities were produced, with bullion supplied from gold production in North Carolina and Georgia and by gold shipments received from France as an indemnity for spoliation against American commerce during the Napoleonic Wars. Most of the mintage was accomplished at Philadelphia. In 1838, the branch mints at Charlotte and Dahlonega produced coins for the first time. Such mintmarked pieces are rare today.

The total business strike mintage of the Classic Head type totaled 2,113,612 coins. In addition, a few dozen Proofs were made for presentation and display.

The type set collector can readily obtain examples of Philadelphia issues in this span in grades from Very Fine to Extremely Fine. AU coins are scarce, Uncirculated pieces are elusive, and superb Uncirculated coins are very rare. Most examples are not sharply struck on the higher parts of the obverse.

For the die variety collector, forming a specialized cabinet of Classic Head half eagles (this comment extends to quarter eagles as well) can be a fascinating challenge. Very few coins on the market are attributed by minute die varieties, but are sold by date and, for 1838, mintmark as appropriate. Under m nification there are many interesting variations including punched dates and stars, differences in the positioning of c tain elements, and die cracks, the latter providing the opp tunity to trace the life of the die.

Type VII

1839-1866 Coronet Head, No Motto

In 1839 the half eagle was redesigned by Christian Gobrec who had been associated with the Mint for a long time, a who in September 1835 had been hired full-time as second e graver, essentially taking over the work of Chief Engrav William Kneass, who had been incapacitated by a stroke.

The new style, variously called the Braided Hair, Coronet, Liberty Head motif, featured a small head of Miss Liberty w her hair styled compactly, tied at the back with a string beads. She wears a coronet inscribed LIBERTY. Stars s round the border, and the date is below. The Liberty He motif by Gobrecht underwent several transitions, and a stu of the various forms as used on cents of 1839 (in particul and $10 gold coins of 1838-9 can be quite fascinating.

The new reverse by Gobrecht shows an eagle with a shie on its breast, perched on an olive branch and holding three rows. The inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FI D. surrounds.

Issues of 1839 and some of 1840 measure 22.5mm and a sometimes referred to as "broad mill" pieces, whereas later sues measure 21.6mm.

Coinage was accomplished at the Philadelphia Mint on continuous basis during the span of the Liberty Head desig Additional pieces were made from time to time at Charlot Dahlonega, New Orleans, and San Francisco. Business stri mintage totaled 9,114,049 coins, to which were added som what over 400 Proofs.

In general, Charlotte and Dahlonega pieces are scarce in a grade, rare at the AU level, and are seldom seen in Mint Sta

The prime rarity within the design is the 1854-S, struck du ing the first year of operation of the San Francisco Mint, a co of which just 268 were made and of which only three a known to exist today. Other San Francisco issues are genera scarce if in higher grades, and are extremely rare at the Mi State level.

New Orleans half eagles range from readily available quite rare, with nearly all being in VF or EF grade, punct ated by an occasional AU. Mint State coins are great raritie

The Liberty Head half eagle coinage (considering th present Type VII and the following Type VIII, the latter wi motto IN GOD WE TRUST added) has a unique distinctio not accorded any other United States coin type or denomin tion. Specimens were struck from time to time in each of th seven different United States mints: Philadelphia, Carso City, Charlotte, Dahlonega, Denver, New Orleans, and Sa Francisco.

The type set collector will have no problem acquiring one

more plentiful Philadelphia Mint dates in any desired e from Very Fine through AU, with a typical grade entered being Very Fine to Extremely Fine. Uncirculated es are scarce, and superb Uncirculated coins are very rare. ofs were made in limited quantities and are rarities.

he specialist collector will delight in the Bass Collection of- ig, as it showcases many branch mint coins and other rari- in high grades, creating opportunities that in some in- ces will not be repeated for a long time, if ever.

Type VIII

1866-1908 Coronet Head, With Motto

1866 the Coronet style was modified by adding the motto GOD WE TRUST on a ribbon above the eagle on the re- e. Apart from this, the motif with Liberty Head on the ob- e and perched eagle on the reverse is the same used in ear- years. Mintage of the with-motto style was continuous at Philadelphia Mint during the span indicated. Additional s were made at San Francisco, Carson City, New Orleans, , in 1906 and 1907, at the new Denver Mint.

the East and Midwest, gold coins did not circulate at par terms of paper money) from December 28, 1861, to De- ber 14, 1878. Thus, mintages at Philadelphia tended to be ll, very much so in certain years. San Francisco and Carson half eagles circulated at face value during these years, as American West was operating on a different monetary is (with no federal paper money in general use until the 0s).

usiness strike mintages for the 1866-1908 half eagle type led 51,503,654, and Proofs were made to the amount of 38 specimens. The latter had a very low survival rate, with haps no more than a third of the Proofs remaining today.

The type set collector has a wide choice of issues in this span. ns in grades from Very Fine to AU are readily encountered. certain dates Uncirculated pieces are plentiful as well, es- cially for years of the early 20th century, thanks mainly to pments of large denomination American gold coins over- s beginning in a notable way circa 1880. Years later, many these pieces returned to the United States, to the delight of mismatists.

Superb Uncirculated coins are very elusive, as even coins red in hoards were apt to be jostled about in bags. Proofs re minted at Philadelphia and in each instance are rare.

Type IX

1908-1929 Indian Head

In late 1908 numismatists, accustomed to the Liberty Head sign and unaware a change was in progress, were startled to arn of a radical new concept for the half eagle (and quarter gle) coinage. At the suggestion of Dr. William Sturgis gelow, a Boston friend of President Theodore Roosevelt, ulptor Bela Lyon Pratt, also of Boston, redesigned the mo- to picture an Indian head on the obverse and, on the re- rse, the side view of a perched eagle. The format of the $2.50 and $5 coins, unique in American coinage, featured the lettering incised or incuse, rather than raised, on the coin. The opposite of regular issues, the highest part of the new design was the field and the lowest was the design itself.

The new concept met with criticism, with Samuel Hudson Chapman, the well-known Philadelphia coin dealer, writing to Theodore Roosevelt to express a list of faults, including the possibility for trapping dirt in the design recesses, problems with stacking, and irregularity of thickness. However, the protests of Chapman and others went unheeded, and the Indian Head style with incuse features was never changed. Production continued on a yearly basis through 1916, then a gap ensued, and the final production of the design, and of the half eagle denomination as well, occurred in 1929.

Mintage was accomplished at Philadelphia from 1908 through 1915 and again in 1929. Denver struck half eagles of this type from 1909 through 1911 and again in 1914. San Francisco half eagles were made from 1908 through 1916. At New Orleans the Indian quarter eagle was struck in one year only, 1909, the last year of operation of that minting facility.

Business strike mintage of Indian Head half eagles totaled 14,078,066, while Proofs (of the Matte and Roman Finish styles) totaled 1,077.

The availability of Indian Head half eagles to the type set collector is similar to that of related quarter eagles. Examples in grades from Very Fine to AU are easily obtained. Uncirculated pieces are scarce, and superb Uncirculated coins are seldom seen. The rarity of upper echelon grades is explained by a characteristic of the coin's surface. The field, being the highest part, quickly acquired marks and abrasions, even while stored in mint bags before being released into circulation.

Collecting Considerations

For many decades, half eagles were neglected by numismatists. At the turn of the 20th century, gold dollars were fairly popular with collectors, and $2.50 and $3 coins were acquired by perhaps a few dozen collectors. However, the larger denominations of $5, $10, and $20 were almost entirely ignored, save for pre-1834 issues of the $5 and $10.

In 1893 in his treatise, *Mint Marks*, Augustus G. Heaton stated that he did not know of a single collector anywhere who was interested in acquiring Charlotte, Dahlonega, Carson City, or other branch mint coins in the Liberty Head series! Thus, if a half eagle happened to have a mintmark on it, that was fine, but few numismatists cared. In 1909, Edgar H. Adams, one of the most highly regarded numismatic writers and scholars of his era, published *Adams Official Premium List of United States Private and Territorial Gold Coins*. Virtually no attention was paid to Liberty Head $5, $10, and $20 coins, simply because virtually no one collected them!

In the 1930s a great interest developed in the acquisition of gold coins, and a number of important cabinets were formed. Such numismatists as Frederick C.C. Boyd, Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., and Wayte Raymond—to give just a short list—aspired to acquire all denominations from $1 to $20 by date and mintmark.

It was quickly discovered that many of the higher denominations were virtually impossible to find in high grades, this being especially true of dates prior to 1880. As a result, no one has ever assembled a full date and mintmark set of Mint State Liberty Head half eagles 1839-1908, and no one ever will, as certain varieties do not exist in this preservation.

The formation of a circulated date and mint set of half eagles becomes a practical reality beginning with the Classic Head ty 1834-1838, continuing through the Liberty Head 1839-1908 a Indian Head 1908-1929 designs. While the 1854-S is *impossi* and a handful of other varieties are very elusive, the majority dates and mints are eminently collectible. The interesting va tions among the dies are worthy of study and contemplatio

Choice Mint State 1795 $5

Exceptional Quality

1795 Breen-6412, Breen-2C. Rarity-5. Small Eagle. MS-63 (PCGS). A wonderful example in brilliant yellow gold, the obverse reflective with frosty lustre on reverse. Sharply struck and well centered with all design detail fully defined. This is an exceptional 1795 half eagle, a coin for the connoisseur.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-65 finest).

The obverse has extensive die rust and minor cracks. The reverse has a small patch of die rust at right top of F.

These 1795 Small Eagle coins were the first half eagles struck by the Mint in Philadelphia. For many years, the half eagle would become the "workhorse" gold denomination with mintages far outdistancing quarter eagles and issues continuing long after the eagle was discontinued in 1804. From the period between 1795 and 1834 (through the With Motto series), over 600,000 ounces of gold were coined into half eagles, just under 76,000 ounces into eagles, and under 10,000 ounces into quarter eagles! The half eagles were, in fact, our nation's first gold coins, struck prior to mintage of the eagles. As Breen noted: "[Mint Director Henry William] DeSaussure publicized the Mint's readiness to coin deposits of gold, and on July 31 he proudly signed his first delivery warrant, authorizing the Coiner to transfer to the Treasurer of the Mint a batch of 744 half eagles." This variety was classified by Breen as a "Wide Date" which he believed was one of the first to be coined.

From our sale of February 1974, Lot 760.

Attractive 1795 Half Eagle

Small Eagle Reverse

(2X photo)

712 1795 Breen-6412, B-1B. Rarity-4. Small Eagle. AU-53 (PCGS). Light greenish yellow gold with very slightly reflective fields and considerable retained lustre. Very lightly abraded surfaces with a few other minor marks. A long, thin planchet lamination diagonally bisects the reverse from 2:30 to 6:30. An important type collector's coin, also ideal for date or variety collectors. This is the most readily available among all varieties of 1795 half eagles and probably one of the very first struck by our young Mint.

While half eagle specialists will enjoy the present selection and will compete strongly, the ownership of a 1795 $5 piece can certainly appeal to just about anyone—representing as it does the first American gold coin issue, a piece laden with history and romance.

The obverse has a short die crack from the border to star 12.

The 1795 Small Eagle coinage consisted of 12 different die varieties, a rather remarkable array considering the small reported mintage of just 8,707 coins. With another 6,196 coins reported for 1796, it seems probable that many or most of these were dated 1795. Even if both mintages were dated 1795, the total averages just 1,242 coins per die marriage

From Pine Tree Rare Coin Auctions, March 1974, Lot 136.

Lovely 1795 Small Eagle $5

S over D in STATES

(2X photo)

713 1795 Breen-6414, B-4D. Rarity-5. Small Eagle. STATES ov STATED. AU-55 (PCGS). Very light greenish yellow gold wit whisper of dark orange toning. Very sharply struck. A few lig hairlines are noted, however, the surfaces are quite choice. small planchet imperfection, no doubt as struck, is just right Liberty's chin. A highly attractive example of this desirable blu dered die variety. The engraver punched a D instead of an S the final letter in STATES, then realizing his mistake, made t appropriate correction. Perhaps he thought he was working UNITED. Although certainly not a rare variety, the blunder reverse certainly adds intrigue and places this as one of the mo popular early half eagle varieties.

Several obverse and reverse border segments are elongated, especially t just left of the first A in AMERICA, which continues to a point between base of F and A. A short crack from the obverse border joins left top of Another from border to left top of I returns to the border over right upri of the same letter. Reverse is cracked from border to leaf left of U with other crack crossing the first and extending to the tops of UNI. Another fa crack from the border to left top of adjacent T continues to top of E.

From the 1970 ANA Sale, Rare Coin Company of America, Aug 1970, Lot 1509.

Pleasing 1795 Small Eagle $5

(2X photo)

1795 Breen-6415, B-6E. Rarity-5+. Small Eagle. AU-55 (PCGS). Reflective bright yellow gold lustre about the periphery with orange and lilac toning in the fields and light olive on the highest points of devices. A very attractive example. Light adjustment marks at center of obverse are masked by the toning. Surprisingly choice surfaces. In his 1960s pamphlet covering early half eagles, Walter Breen noted this to be the single most common variety of 1795 half eagle. Quite frankly, our experience is different. While we will not classify this variety as a rarity, it is certainly scarce. Since 1972, this is only the eighth time we have offered this variety for public auction sale.

Very light obverse and reverse clash marks.

From Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions, August 1991, Lot 392.

Prooflike 1795 Small Eagle $5

(2X photo)

715 **1795 Breen-6416, B-6G. Rarity-5. Small Eagle. MS-61 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with all design definition bold. Reflective deep yellow gold lustre with a hint of very light green. Slight cameo contrast is noted. This is a lovely prooflike Mint State example of our first half eagle coinage. A few light hairlines are noted as well as minor contact marks and lint marks, the latter as struck. This is only the fourth appearance of this variety in any of our auctions, the other three all grading AU-50. A rare variety, probably at the high end of Rarity-5.

Perfect dies without clash marks or cracks.

From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1110.

Outstanding 1795 Heraldic Eagle $5

From the Bareford Collection

A Classic Rarity

(2X photo)

716 1795 Breen-6423, B-7X. Rarity-5+. Heraldic Eagle. AU-58 (PCGS). An exceptional example of this rarity with light greenish gold lustre, reflective in nature, and accented by pale orange toning. Delightful surfaces with only a few minor hairlines. Weak central obverse and reverse, otherwise, all details are boldly defined. A lilac toning spot behind the cap and below star 10 serves as a pedigree marker. The fifth appearance of this variety in any of our public auctions since 1972, the only finer example being the MS-61 coin we offered last August in our Rarities Sale. This is the least rare variety of 1795 Heraldic Eagle $5.00 with possibly as many as 40 examples known. In the 1960s, Breen rated this as High Rarity-6, very nearly Rarity-7. More have been found in collections since then.

It is not known just when these 1795-dated Heraldic Eagle coins were actually struck, however, most certainly either in 1797 or 1798. The most likely scenario suggests that all 1795 through 1798 Small Eagle coins were struck first, then the 1795 and 1797 Heraldic Eagle coins were next, followed by 1798 Heraldic Eagle issues. Further study of die states will help establish an emission sequence indicating the order that all varieties were struck. Perhaps a study of edge reeding will yield clues such as with the early eagles studied by Anthony Taraszka and discussed in his reference mentioned in the appropriate section of the present catalogue.

For many years the 1795 Heraldic Eagle reverse half eagle has been a classic rarity, one of the most desired coins in the entire series. It stands proudly on its own as an elusive issue, but even more than that it represents the personification of a Mint technique in which earlier-dated dies were kept on hand and used later, if they were still serviceable. For reasons such as this it is not at all possible to directly relate published mintage figures (such as in the *Guide Book*) to the actual number of pieces struck bearing a given date.

It seems that Mint practices regarding overdating dies were not consistent. Perhaps if a die had been made and annealed or hardened, it was not overdated. That would account for the present 1795 die not being overdated. On the other hand, if a die had been prepared with a date, but had not been hardened, it would have been an easy matter to have overpunched another date, than to have hardened the die for use.

Extensive obverse and reverse die cracks. Obverse cracked from border at 3:30 through star 13 to Liberty's lower lip. Another crack from the border at 10:30 just misses star 10 and continues through the cap into hair curls, eventually reaching the neck. The lower reverse die is shattered with several cracks through ICA, the branch, tail, arrows, and UN. A rim break joins tops of TE in UNITED.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 151. Earlier from the Sotheby's sale of the King Farouk Collection. February 1954, Lot 226, via Abe Kosoff as agent.

Wonderful 1796/5 Small Eagle $5

(2X photo)

1796/5 Breen-6418, B-9I. Rarity-4. Overdate. AU-53 (PCGS). Deep green-gold with almost imperceptible traces of orange toning. A few very minor hairlines and other surface marks are noted. A sharply struck and well-centered impression. This is the only half eagle variety to carry the 1796 date. As such, it is in strong demand both by date collectors as well as variety specialists. Although rated just Rarity-4, the demand is sufficient to absorb the small supply. Robert Hilt suggested that these 1796-dated coins were actually struck early in 1797, a logical theory considering the large number of varieties and relatively small mintage for coins dated 1795.

From Rarcoa's 1970 ANA Sale, August 1970, Lot 1511.

Important 1797/5 Half Eagle

Heraldic Eagle Reverse

(2X photo)

718 1797/5 Breen-6425, B-13Y. Rarity-7. Heraldic Eagle. Overdate. AU-53 (PCGS). Light yellow gold with delicate green and orange. The surfaces are surprisingly choice for the grade. Minor central weakness is noted. This is a pleasing example of a rare variety, the first example we have ever offered for sale. Attributed as Breen-13Y, however, see our notes below. Whatever the specific die variety, this is an important rarity. Extremely rare according to Walter Breen.

The obverse has very light die rust. A crack from the reverse border at 3:00 passes through the right side of M to the wing, and curves up through the feathers, stars, clouds and border between S and O.

Is this Breen's obverse 13 or 14? There seems to be some confusion due to Breen's very short comments.

Breen states star 10 touches the cap on obverse 13 and is free of cap on obverse 14. Two prongs of star 1 touch curl on obverse 13, just one prong on obverse 14. Star 15 touches second fold of drapery on obverse 13, between the first and second fold on obverse 14. In each case, this obverse seems to match the description for obverse 14 and not 13. Never the less, Breen described this as variety 13-Y in his *Encyclopedia*. Further confusion was added when Robert Miller, Sr. listed this identical coin as his variety 23, equivalent to Breen 14-Z yet describes the reverse die crack appearing here for his variety 22, equivalent to Breen 14-Y. Essentially, we have two different obverse dies and two different reverse dies described in various literature for this single coin! No wonder these early coins are sometimes misattributed.

As is obvious, the 1797/5 represents an unused 1795 die that *was* overdated, ditto for Lot 717, the 1796 /5. See our notes under Lot 716.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 332. From the Clapp Collection 1942; earlier from the Earle Collection (Henry Chapman, June 1912)

Rare 1797 Small Eagle $5

15-Stars Obverse

From the Norweb Collection

(2X photo)

719 1797 Breen-6419, B-10J. Rarity-7. Small Eagle. 15 Stars. AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous deep orange-gold with minor hairlines and abrasions. Very sharply struck with considerable aesthetic appeal. Seldom does an attractive example such as this appear on the market. Collecting early gold coins requires considerable patience as examples such as this are brought to market quite infrequently. In this case, we have only offered this variety six previous times, this being tied for the finest grade of all. Three different 1797 Small Eagle half eagles are offered in the present sale, each a different die variety. Such an opportunity is extremely unusual. The specialist should consider all of these very carefully.

For about three decades Harry Bass served as a one-person repository for scarce, rare, and interesting early gold coins. Although the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation has retained one example from each early die variety in the gold series 1795-1834, enough other pieces were acquired that the present offering is indeed monumental and will be forever remembered. It is highly unlikely that there will be any similar offering in the future.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

The obverse die appears to be lapped with polished areas in place of certain details, especially among the lower hair curls. Both dies are cracked, the obverse from border at 11:00 vertically through cap and into hair. The reverse from the border at 8:00 through the upright of I to junction of the wing and body. This, or another crack, is visible in the lower right reverse field from the fifth feather (counting from left to right) touching tip of ninth feather to the 10th.

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, October 1987, Lot 741. Earlier from Sotheby's sale of the King Farouk Collection, February 1954, Lot 228, via Abe Kosoff as agent.

Another 1797 Small Eagle $5 Rarity

15-Stars Obverse

(2X photo)

720 1797 Breen-6419, B-11J. Rarity-6+. Small Eagle. 15 Stars. A 53 (PCGS). Light yellow gold with a hint of green around th periphery. Very minor surface marks, however, still quite attra tive. Probably cleaned long ago with light hairlines still evider A faint trace of orange toning is noted. This is the first examp of this variety we have ever offered. Among all 1797 Herald Eagle varieties, with 15 or 16 obverse stars, probably only 35 40 examples survive.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (AU-55).

The reverse is cracked from the border at 8:00 through the upright of I junction of the wing and body. This, or another crack, is visible in the low right reverse field from the fifth feather (counting from left to right) touchi tip of ninth feather to the 10th.

From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 197 Lot 328.

Desirable 1797 Small Eagle $5

16 Obverse Stars

(2X photo)

1797 Breen-6420, B-12K. Rarity-5+. Small Eagle. 16 Stars. AU-55 (PCGS). Light greenish yellow gold with considerable proof-like surfaces especially around the stars and legends. Slight central weakness, otherwise very sharply struck. Minor surface marks are noted, quite common to the early gold coins. We have previously offered this die marriage seven times in our auctions, three of those seven being graded equally to this example.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (AU-58).

Perfect obverse. The reverse has a network of fine die cracks, primarily located in the lower areas of the design: from center of M to the wing, crossing several feathers, and through lower right field to top of the tail; another from a point just below this to final A and border; from the border at 6:30, a crack crosses two leaves to the leg and tail, crossing the tail to second crack; and from border between IT and across the wing to eagle's body.

From Stanley Kesselman, July 16, 1973.

Attractive 1798 Half Eagle

Large 8, 13 Stars

From the Garrett Collection

(2X photo)

722 **1798 Breen-6426, Breen-1B. Rarity-5+. Large 8, 13 Stars Reverse. MS-62 (PCGS).** A lovely coin with brilliant satiny yellow gold lustre. Well centered and sharply struck although the central reverse is slightly weak. This is the finest example of this variety we have been privileged to sell.

PCGS Population: 8; 2 finer (MS-63).

Shattered obverse and reverse. A bold guide line below the bust and through base of the date follows the border to the left, almost reaching 12:00. This is common to all examples of this variety. The obverse has several die cracks including a prominent crack from the rim left of L vertically into the cap. Several fine cracks are located between the lower hair curls and star 1, and faintly to the date. The reverse has several heavy cracks from the border radically to the center. These cracks extend from the border at 12:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, and 9:30.

From our sale of the Garrett Collection, November 1979, Lot 440.

1798 Large 8 Half Eagle

13 Reverse Stars

723 **1798 Breen-6426, Breen-1B. Rarity-5+. Large 8, 13 Stars Reverse. AU-50 (PCGS).** Light greenish gold with faint orange on the highest points. Minor hairlines. Very attractive with traces of lustre remaining.

Light die cracks on obverse and reverse. The obverse has a very faint crack from the border at 11:30 left of L into the cap. A heavier crack through star 1 joins the middle wave of hair. The reverse has a horizontal bisecting crack through both wings and just above the scroll.

Purchased from Numismatics, Ltd., July 5, 1973.

Very Rare 1798 14 Stars Reverse

Finest PCGS Certified

(2X photo)

724 **1798 Breen-6427, B-2C. Rarity-6. Large 8, 14 Stars Reverse. AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous bright yellow gold with a few scattered contact marks. Light adjustment marks and minor scratches are blended on the upper reverse with a few other very light scratches on both surfaces. Quite sharply struck and attractive, despite the obligatory statement about surface quality. Examples in this and the next lot represent the ninth and 10th offerings of this variety in any of our sales since 1957 (our first auction being the Penn-New York Sale of that year). Previously, the finest example was the Norweb AU-50 grade coin.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

The reverse has a curved die crack from the border through F, clouds, sta scroll, shield, and branch to the border just right of final A. Other cracks fro the border extend through the first A in AMERICA and through E of t same word continuing to the first crack. A further crack from the bord through arrow feathers continues through the shield and other design mot to left side of O. Other fine die cracks are also present.

From Paramount's sale of May 1976, Lot 1071.

Another 1798 14 Stars Half Eagle

725 **1798 Breen-6427, B-2C. Rarity-6. Large 8, 14 Stars Revers AU-53 (PCGS).** Bright greenish gold with light surface abr sions. The reverse has considerable reflective prooflike surfac Quite attractive with very choice surfaces for the grade. The o portunity to bid on two examples of this rare 14-Star Rever variety is quite unusual. As noted above, prior to this sale w have only offered eight examples of this variety in 42 years public auction and mail bid sales.

PCGS Population: 1; 7 finer (AU-55 finest, and offered above).

The reverse has a crack from the border through upright of F, star 6, scr shield, branch stem, and right foot of final A to border. Considerable rever design detail is missing due to extensive die lapping or polishing.

From Superior's sale of the Ruby Collection, February 1974, L 1787.

Mint State 1798 Half Eagle

726 **1798 Breen-6428, B-2D. Rarity-4. Large 8, 13 Stars Revers MS-61 (PCGS).** This die variety is instantly recognized by hea reverse rim breaks as described below. Lustrous light greeni gold with slightly reflective fields. A moderate number of abr sions are present on both obverse and reverse. Central wea ness is noted on both sides. This is one of the less scarce 17 die varieties.

The obverse has been lapped and has a die crack through tops of RTY. T reverse has also been lapped and displays several lumpy rim breaks and oth die breaks at base of TE in UNITED and over ATES O. These various rever breaks provide instant identification of this variety.

From Superior's sale of the Ruby Collection, February 1974, L 1789.

1798 Large 8 Half Eagle

13 Stars Reverse

1798 Breen-6429, B-3E. Rarity-5+. Large 8, 13 Stars Reverse. AU-53 (PCGS). Light greenish gold with pale orange toning around the obverse and reverse borders, through stars and letters. A very pleasing example with a few minor surface marks as expected. Very slightly reflective. Examples of this variety are very infrequently offered, and an actual rarity rating in the range of Rarity-6 is not out of the question.

The obverse has a heavy die crack diagonally through star 7 to the hair curls, drapery, and digit 8 to the border. The reverse is extensively lapped with considerable design detail missing.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, December 16, 1971.

Very Rare 1798 Small 8 Half Eagle

Important in Any Grade

1798 Breen-6431, B-6H. Rarity-5+. Small 8. AU-53 (PCGS). Light greenish gold with a few minor marks, most notably shallow depressions within the shield. Slightly weak at the center of the reverse, otherwise sharply defined. The reverse border is heaviest at 12:00.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (AU-58).

Light obverse and reverse clash marks including a full date beneath the letters ATE. The obverse has several heavy cracks around the date. The reverse has a crack between S and O through a cloud, to stars 4 and 8, and to the eagle's head.

Purchased from Benjamin Levin, July 30, 1979.

Extremely Rare 1799 Breen-2C Half Eagle

Small Reverse Stars

729 **1799 Breen-6432, B-2C. Rarity-8. Small Reverse Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold surfaces with a hint of green. An attractive example of the design with sharp definition and complete, although narrow borders. Minor surface marks are noted, none serious. Light obverse hairlines. The reverse has a slightly reflective nature. The edge reeding is complete but quite weak suggesting this coin may have been in some type of mounting in the past. Only the second example of this die marriage we have handled, the other coin appearing in the Eliasberg Collection.

A thin crack from the border between LI to the cap; faint cracks connect the bases of ERTY. A crack from the reverse border to the wing between the second and third feathers continues across the eagle's breast to top of the shield.

Purchased from Charles Byers, September 13, 1973.

1799 Small Stars Half Eagle

730 **1799 Breen-6433, B-1A. Rarity-6. Small Reverse Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).** Bright greenish gold with reflective, nearly prooflike surfaces. A few very minor scratches are noted along with a few very small rim bruises, most notably a rim bruise at 3:00 on the obverse. The reverse die of this variety was earlier used for 1798 Breen 6-H (an example which was offered earlier), as evidenced by the die state described below. Half eagles of 1799 are a bit scarcer than often recognized.

The obverse die is perfect without cracks or clash marks. The reverse is in a slightly later die state than the 1798 Breen 6-H half eagle offered above. A die crack between S and O continues to the eagle's head and passes through the left field and upright of T in UNITED to the border. Reverse clash marks include a full date from the 1798 obverse. The complete 1798 date is visible beneath ATE.

The following tabulation indicates how many of each 18th-century half eagle have appeared in our various public auctions from 1957 through August 1999. 1795 Small Eagle (97); 1795 Heraldic Eagle (7); 1796 (13); 1797 Small Eagle (13); 1797 Heraldic Eagle (5); 1798 Small Eagle (2); 1798 Heraldic Eagle (62); 1799 (39); 1800 (74).

From Stack's 1971 ANA Sale, Lot 2110.

Desirable 1799 Half Eagle

Small Reverse Stars

731 **1799 Breen-6435, B-3D. Rarity-7. Small Reverse Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).** Bright greenish gold with very slight reflectivity. Lightly abraded surfaces with slight porosity along the obverse border at 11:00. A small edge bruise is visible on the reverse over the second T in STATES. Only the fourth auction appearance of this variety in any of our sales.

Perfect obverse and reverse. No cracks or clash marks are noted.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, October 26, 1972.

Important 1799 Half Eagle

Large Reverse Stars

732 **1799 Breen-6436, B-3F. Rarity-6. Large Reverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).** Very light greenish yellow gold with lovely surfaces for the grade. A delightful example of this scarce variety.

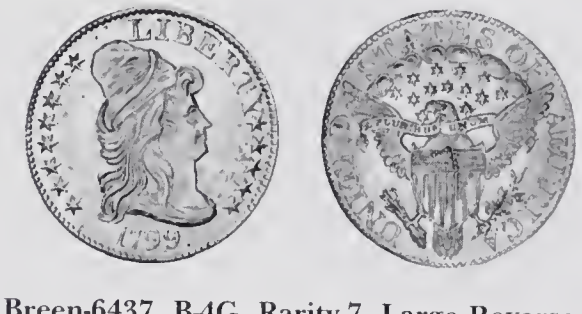
PCGS Population 2; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

Light reverse clash marks.

Purchased from Ronald Gillio, August 27, 1973.

Attractive 1799 Half Eagle

Large Reverse Stars



733 **1799 Breen-6437, B-4G. Rarity-7. Large Reverse Stars. MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous green-gold with a few minor surface marks and considerable surface roughness on the obverse. All in all an attractive early half eagle. The present sale has two examples of this die variety, doubling the number of times we have handled this die marriage in our auctions. Previously we sold an AU-55 example in our January 1999 Rarities Sale and an AU-50 grade coin in our June 1996 auction.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-63).

Perfect obverse. The reverse die was shattered with at least 10 distinctly different die cracks as illustrated.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, December 13, 1985. Earlier from Mike Follett Rare Coins.

Third 1799 Large Reverse Stars $5

734 **1799 Breen-6437, B-4H. Rarity-6+. Large Reverse Stars. AU-5 (PCGS).** Reflective light yellow gold with a few minor surfa marks. Minor scratches are visible in the left obverse field as a light adjustment marks. Sharply struck from slightly mis-aligne dies, the right obverse border deeper and the left reverse bo der wider. A few minor rim bruises are noted, especially on th reverse. These include light file marks above ME.

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of the John A. Beck Colle tion, Part I, January 1975, Lot 337.

Final 1799 Half Eagle

With Large Reverse Stars

735 **1799 Breen-6437, B-4G. Rarity-7. Large Reverse Stars. VF-3** Light yellow gold with scattered abrasions, as expected for th grade. A very rare die variety. Both die marriages, Breen-4G an 4H, that comprise the *Encyclopedia* listing of Breen-6437 a quite rare with probably less than 30 examples known.

Perfect obverse. The reverse has extensive die cracks as noted in the pre ous lot, however, this is an earlier die state with these cracks much lighter.

Purchased from Joe Flynn, Sr. Coin Co., October 30, 1970.

Choice Mint State 1800 Half Eagle

736 **1800 Breen-6438, B-1D. Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS).** Bright yello gold with sharp design details and frosty lustre. A few very m nor surface marks, mostly on the obverse. The reverse is ge quality. The issues dated 1800 represent the first of sever slightly higher mintage dates that are generally easier to locat than the 18th-century issues offered above. The present sale o fers five different examples of this date, all AU-55 or finer.

Both dies have light clash marks and minor die cracks. The reverse has heavier crack from the claw left of the shield, crossing the lower stripes an other claw, continuing into the branch.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of September 1971, Lot 1015.

Mint State 1800 Half Eagle

1800 Breen-6438, B-1B. Rarity-4. Normal Dies. MS-62 (PCGS). A wonderful example with nearly full prooflike surfaces. Sharply struck in greenish gold with a few very minor imperfections noted, including a small patch of hairlines in the right obverse field. The reverse die has star 6 tripled with each individual star point composed of three distinct but closely spaced elements.

Minor obverse and reverse clash marks. The obverse has a short crack from the upper right upright of I to the lower left upright of B. The reverse has a crack between S and O from the border to a cloud. A few other minor reverse cracks are present.

Purchased from Coins of Chevy Chase, August 23, 1973.

Desirable 1800 Half Eagle

Normal Reverse

1800 Breen-6438, B-1D. Rarity-4. Normal M. MS-62 (PCGS). Reflective light greenish yellow gold with very pleasing surfaces showing only minor hairlines and abrasions. The reverse has very short, light adjustment marks at upper right.

Perfect obverse and reverse.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of the John A. Beck Collection, Part I, January 1975, Lot 338.

A Further Mint State 1800 $5

Blundered Reverse

739 **1800 Breen-6439, B-1C. Rarity-4+. Blundered M. MS-63 (PCGS).** Satiny light yellow gold lustre with very few minor abrasions. A very pleasing example of this popular variety with M in AMERICA widely doubled. Slight weakness at the central reverse.

Perfect obverse and reverse.

Purchased from A-Mark Coin Co., March 16, 1978.

Another Pleasing 1800 Half Eagle

With Blundered M Reverse

740 **1800 Breen-6439, B-1C. Rarity-4+. Blundered M. AU-55 (PCGS).** Another attractive example of this popular variety. Light greenish yellow gold with a few minor hairlines and other abrasions. Light adjustment marks are present at the central obverse, across Liberty's hair and cap.

Light obverse and reverse clash marks.

Purchased from John J. Smies, October 22, 1966.

Choice Mint State 1802/1 Half Eagle

High Overdate

(2X photo)

741 1802/1 Breen-6440, B-2I. Rarity-4. High Overdate. MS-64 (PCGS). A lovely example, highly lustrous bright yellow gold, frosty in nature. A few very minor hairlines are visible, only when tilted at certain angles to the light. Surprisingly choice surfaces for any early gold coin. Although not a rare die variety, this is certainly one of the finest known. For all varieties of this date, PCGS has only graded one finer coin. The overdate coinage of 1802 provides the first of several challenges to the numismatist who wishes to determine exactly how many varieties are known. See our notes below for more information.

Obverse has minor clash marks behind the low curls and over the ear. The reverse is cracked through center of UN to base of IT with another crack through top of this I.

Just two obverse dies were used for the 1802/1 half eagles. First is the low overdate (Breen obverse 1) with top of 2 separated from bust and underdigit centered. Second is the high overdate with top of 2 lightly touching the bust and underdigit left of center. In his *Complete Encyclopedia*, Breen noted the low overdate is known with seven reverse dies and the high overdate with four reverse dies, for a total of 11 die marriages. This data was taken from his earlier monographs of the 1960s. Robert W. Miller, Sr., in *United States Half Eagle Gold Coins*, 1795 to 1834, recognized the same two obverse dies married with six and three reverse dies respectively. Of these, he suggested that one was not listed by Breen, however, did not illustrate the variety and stated the sole known example is in the collection of a well-known collector who remained unidentified. Altogether, Harry Bass was able to acquire 21 different 1802/1 half eagles of six die marriages, three reverses with each obverse. Today, we believe that the low overdate is known with five different reverse dies and the high overdate is known with four reverses, however, more study is needed. It is anticipated that the sylloge we are preparing of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation coins will bring together notes from the present catalogue as well as information from elsewhere, including outside consultants. The result should be a text that will be of great interest and importance to anyone who enjoys these early coins.

Purchased from A-Mark Coin Co., March 16, 1978.

Pleasing 1802/1 Half Eagle

High Overdate

742 1802/1 Breen-6440, B-2F. Rarity-5. High Overdate. MS-6 (PCGS). Lustrous light greenish gold with very choice surface A minor rim imperfection is visible over TA in STATES, poss bly from light filing to remove a rim bruise.

Light clash marks are visible in the form of horizontal lines over the ea Very small die cracks extend from the outer tips of stars 3 and 5 to dentil The reverse has a very light crack through the center of TED.

Purchased from A-Mark Coin Co., March 16, 1978.

Desirable 1802/1 Half Eagle

High Overdate

743 1802/1 Breen-6440, B-2I. Rarity-4. High Overdate. MS-6 (PCGS). A lovely example with superb prooflike greenish gol lustre and very pleasing surfaces. Very minor adjustment mark are noted along the upper obverse edge.

Light obverse and reverse clash marks. The obverse cracks from dentils t stars 3 and 5, described for Breen-2F, seem to be slightly less advanced on th example, *ie.*, this is an earlier die state.

From Stack's sale of the Gaston DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lo 802.

Mint State 1802/1 Half Eagle

Low Overdate

744 1802/1 Breen-6440, B-1D. Rarity-4+. Low Overdate. MS-60 Lustrous light greenish gold with minor surface marks and shallow vertical scrape in the left obverse field. Minor reverse abrasions.

Light obverse and reverse clash marks. The obverse has a short die crac from the lower left curve of 8 extending through the base of 1.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of the John A. Beck Collection, Part II February 1976, Lot 351.

Lustrous 1802/1 Half Eagle

Low Overdate

1802/1 Breen-6440, B-1C. Rarity-5. Low Overdate. AU-58 (PCGS). Reflective bright greenish yellow gold lustre with minor surface abrasions as expected. Sharply struck and very well centered. A small point of weakness is noted on the reverse rim at 10:00. There is no evidence of any damage at this point, however.

Perfect obverse and reverse dies.

Several varieties of 1802/1 half eagle are known, with all struck from two obverse dies. This Low Overdate has top of the digit 2 separated from the bust with the underdigit 1 about centered beneath. The other obverse, the High Overdate, has the top of the digit 2 lightly joined to the bust with the underdigit 1 left of center.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, May 3, 1973.

Another 1802/1 Half Eagle

High Overdate

1802/1 Breen-6440, B-2F. Rarity-5. High Overdate. AU-53 (PCGS). Very pleasing light greenish gold surfaces with nearly full lustre. Very minor hairlines and other surface marks are noted. A small point of weakness along the obverse rim is noted over TY.

Light clash marks are visible in the form of horizontal lines over the ear. Very small die cracks extend from the outer tips of stars 3 and 5 to dentils, that to star 5 continuing a short distance into the field. The reverse has a very light crack through the center of TED and another from the junction of shield and left wing to the arrow shafts below.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 18, 1970.

Scarce 1802/1 $5 Variety

Low Overdate

1802/1 Breen-6440, B-1C. Rarity-5. Low Overdate. EF-45. Light greenish gold surfaces with considerable remaining lustre. The surfaces are surprisingly choice for the assigned grade. A small area of weakness is noted on the obverse rim at 8:00, possibly having been lightly filed to remove a rim bruise. Most details of the obverse design are tripled, the result of multiple striking.

Perfect obverse and reverse dies.

Purchased from Kent Oram, October 18, 1966.

Prooflike 1803/2 Half Eagle

First Obverse

748 **1803/2 Breen-6441, B-1D. Rarity-4. Overdate. MS-63 (PCGS).** Although higher technical grade coins exist, we cannot imagine any with a higher degree of aesthetic desirability. Both obverse and reverse have fully prooflike fields, the reverse extremely deep. The devices are lustrous, providing a pleasing cameo appearance. Bright yellow gold lustre with minor hairlines.

A faint die crack joins stars 1 through 6. Reverse perfect.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of the John A. Beck Collection, Part I, January 1975, Lot 348.

Choice Mint State 1803/2 Overdate

First Obverse

749 **1803/2 Breen-6441, B-1B. Rarity-5. Overdate. MS-63 (PCGS).** Brilliant, frosty greenish gold lustre with wonderful surfaces. Sharply struck and very well centered. A few very minor hairlines are visible. This is the scarcest of four 1803/2 varieties. This piece is approximately equal to an example we offered 20 years ago in April 1979.

Very nearly perfect obverse with only a very short crack from the southwest point of star 7 to the field over star 6 and another through stars 10 to 13. The reverse has a bisecting diagonal crack from the border over E in STATES to the outer right serif of U in UNITED, crossing clouds, stars, the eagle's beak, left edge of the shield, and the arrows.

Purchased from A-Mark Coin Co., March 16, 1978.

Attractive 1803/2 Overdate

First Obverse

750 **1803/2 Breen-6441, B-1C. Rarity-4. Overdate. AU-58 (PCGS).** Reflective light yellow gold lustre with very pleasing surfaces, only minor hairlines are present. The reverse is the same as 1802 Breen 2-F.

Perfect obverse. The reverse has a crack through TED and another from the left edge of the shield to the arrow shafts continuing to the border at 6:30.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of the John A. Beck Collection, Part I, January 1975, Lot 350.

Lustrous 1803/2 Overdate

First Obverse

751 **1803/2 Breen-6441, B-1D. Rarity-4. Overdate. AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous brilliant greenish gold with very choice surfaces. A small weak area along the obverse border at 6:30 is the only imperfection. Minor adjustment marks are noted on the reverse.

The obverse has minor cracks from star 7 to the field over star 6 and through stars 10 to 13. Perfect reverse.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 30, 1971.

Attractive 1803/2 Overdate

Second Obverse

752 **1803/2 Breen-6441, B-2D. Rarity-4. Overdate. AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous green-gold with delightful, nearly pristine surfaces. A few minuscule obverse abrasions and light reverse adjustment marks are noted.

Light obverse and moderate reverse clash marks. The obverse has a heavy die crack through base of the date extending left almost to star 1 and right almost to star 13. The reverse has a crack through E of AMERICA to the shield, continuing through the wing to left and to the border at 10:00.

We have discussed the two obverse dies of 1803/2 half eagles in recent past auction sales. This second obverse die was only recently discovered, not being treated by Walter Breen in either of his circa 1960s monographs describing early half eagle varieties. Nor was this mentioned in his *Complete Encyclopedia.* As this obverse always seems to have a die crack through base of the date, it has often been mis-catalogued as a late die state of Breen-1D. More recently, Robert Miller publicized this variety as Rarity-7. Our survey of past auctions tells a different story and indicates that we have offered the following quantities of each variety (Breen-1A does not exist). Breen-1B (9); Breen-1C (24); Breen-1D (14); Breen-2D (22). By a narrow margin, this is the second most common 1803/2 half eagle variety.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, February 23, 1971.

Further 1803/2 Overdate

First Obverse

753 **1803/2 Breen-6441, B-1C. Rarity-4. Overdate. EF-45.** Light greenish gold with a faint trace of orange toning. Slight weakness along the obverse border is noted at 11:30. A few light abrasions are present as well. Minor rim imperfections are noted on the reverse at 7:00. A very attractive example despite the impairments mentioned. As is typical of many Draped Bust half eag in the present offering, the reverse is considerably nicer th the obverse, at least five points higher quality.

Very faint obverse crack through stars 10 to 13. The reverse is a later state the previous lot with the crack from shield to arrows continuing upward the scroll, stars, clouds, and E in STATES.

From Abe Kosoff's 1968 ANA Sale, Lot 937.

Pleasing 1804 Half Eagle

Blundered Date

(2X photo)

754 **1804 Breen-6442, B-1A. Rarity-4+. Small over Large Date. M 63 (PCGS).** Satiny orange-gold lustre with pristine surface Faint adjustment marks are noted on the obverse with a few ti abrasions. A wonderful, sharply struck example of this popul blundered date variety.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Light obverse clash marks. The reverse die is shattered with numerous crac including a heavy die chip on the left side of the cloud between S and O.

From Stack's sale of the Gaston DiBello Collection, May 1970, L 808.

Another 1804 Half Eagle

Blundered Date

1804 Breen-6442, B-1B. Rarity-5+. Small over Large Date. AU-58 (PCGS). Reflective and lustrous bright orange-gold with a faint trace of green. An attractive example with only a few very minor obverse contact marks. The reverse has an unfortunate vertical scratch through the E in STATES and the eagle's head to the shield.

The reverse has two bisecting vertical die cracks, from the border through A in STATES, clouds, stars, shield, arrows, and U in UNITED, to the border below, and from the border through O, clouds, stars, shield, branch, and final A, to the border below. At first glance, the scratch above looks like a third vertical die crack.

From Stack's sale of the Gaston DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 807.

1804 Blundered Date $5

From the Bareford Collection

1804 Breen-6442, B-1E. Rarity-7. Small over Large Date. AU-58 (PCGS). Lustrous and highly attractive with prooflike greenish gold surfaces. A few very minor hairlines and other surface abrasions are noted.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-63).

Perfect obverse. Heavy reverse clash marks are noted. Reverse cracked from the border through E in AMERICA, through the shield and wing to the left, reaching the border at 10:00.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 155. Earlier from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Geiss Collection, February 1947, Lot 1658.

Choice 1804 Half Eagle

Small Date

7 **1804 Breen-6443, B-2C. Rarity-5. Small Date. MS-63 (PCGS).** Frosty bright yellow gold lustre with very slight hairlines and other abrasions. An extremely attractive half eagle with sharp design details.

Obverse has a vertical die crack bisecting digit 0 and continuing through drapery into hair. Reverse has a crack through tops of UNIT with a rim break on top of this T. A long die scratch from the left corner of shield extends through the scroll and star 12 to eagle's beak.

From Ravcoa's sale of June 1973, Lot 171.

Another 1804 Small Date $5

758 **1804 Breen-6443, B-2E. Rarity-5. Small Date. AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous greenish yellow gold with lightly abraded surfaces.

Obverse bisected vertically by a crack from the border at 12:00 through the right side of L, bust, and digit 0 to the border at 6:00. The reverse has a bisecting crack through E of AMERICA, the eagle and shield, to the border at 6:00.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 180.

Lovely 1804 Small Date $5

759 **1804 Breen-6443, B-3E. Rarity-5. Small Date. AU-58 (PCGS).** Brilliant prooflike greenish gold lustre with minor surface abrasions. An attractive, highly desirable example of this variety. Very sharply struck and well-centered impression.

Perfect obverse. Reverse bisecting crack from 3:00 to 10:00 as previously described for this reverse die.

From Stack's sale of the Winner Delp Collection, November 1972, Lot 795.

Attractive 1804 Small Date $5

760 **1804 Breen-6443, B-3E. Rarity-5. Small Date. AU-55 (PCGS).** Light greenish yellow gold with faint orange toning over reflective surfaces. Very lightly abraded surfaces. An attractive example, nevertheless.

Obverse die is shattered with a crack from the border through star 10 to Liberty's mouth, curving down through her face and hair to the digit 8 and the border. A branch extends up through her hair and cap to L. Another joins the border and hair left of the date and still another from the border to drapery right of the date. Heavy reverse clash marks with the bisecting crack as previously described.

From Paramount's sale of May 1976, Lot 1073.

Scarce 1804 Small Date Half Eagle

761 **1804 Breen-6443, B-2E. Rarity-5. Small Date. Net EF-40;** sharpness of AU-50, cleaned with right half of obverse burnished. Greenish yellow gold with considerable lustre remaining on the reverse.

Obverse and reverse bisecting crack as in the lot above. The obverse also has a horizontal crack through the eye and Y of LIBERTY to the border, and another crack through the tops of TY forming a retained cud.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of the John A. Beck Collection, Part III, February 1977, Lot 293.

Delightful 1805 Half Eagle

Unusual Crossing Die Cracks

From the Eliasberg Collection

762 **1805 Breen-6444, B-1B. Rarity-7. AU-58 (PCGS).** A wonderful coin with highly reflective lustre accenting the light greenish gold surfaces. Very minor planchet imperfections and hairlines are visible. A wonderful coin, important to specialists in early gold, not only for the die state described below, but also for the rarity of this die marriage. This is the only example of this die combination we have ever offered, pedigreed to its earlier appearance in our sale of the Eliasberg Collection.

The obverse die is shattered with horizontal and vertical breaks separating the die in four quadrants. A heavy vertical die crack from the border at 12:30 passes through B of LIBERTY, cap, hair curls, and drapery, severing the extreme right tip of digit 5, to the border just right of this digit. A thin die crack through base of the date bisects the vertical crack, and offsets the vertical crack. Further die cracks from the left border between stars 7 and 8 and from the right border between Y and star 9 both meet the vertical crack in curls just right of the ear. This die was in such an advanced state that we can almost imagine it falling out of the coining press in four distinct pieces. The reverse die, however, has light clash marks but no visible cracks. An interesting comparison of obverse and reverse die states.

When he compiled his monographs covering early half eagles in the 1960s, Walter Breen recognized six die varieties produced from four obverse dies and five reverse dies. Later, in his *Complete Encyclopedia*, Breen dropped one of these, listing two varieties for his Wide Date and three for his Close Date. Unfortunately, he did not state which of the Close Date varieties was delisted. Robert Miller listed seven varieties including Breen-1A and 2B, along with five he noted were not listed by Breen. Today, we believe that only Breen obverse 1, 2, 3, and 4 exist along with reverses B and D. Thus, the list of varieties is, in Breen's notation: 1B, 2B, 3B, 4B, and 3D. Certainly, more research is needed. All five of these varieties are offered in the present sale.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 351. From the Clapp Collection 1942; earlier from Elmer S. Sears 1924.

Important 1805 Half Eagle

Breen 4-B Rarity

763 **1805 Breen-6444, B-4B. Rarity-8. Wide Date. AU-58 (PCGS**
The obverse has reflective light yellow gold lustre with thin pa allel scratches through the left field, these no doubt preventin PCGS from assigning a higher grade. The reverse is fros lightly yellow. Most attractive. This is an extremely rare variet in fact this is the first example of this variety we have public offered for sale.

A die crack from 18 connects all stars to the left and continues through t tops of LIB. The reverse has very light clash marks.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of the John A. Beck Colle tion, Part I, January 1975, Lot 355.

Important 1805 Wide Date $5

764 **1805 Breen-6444, B-2B. Rarity-5+. Wide Date. AU-58 (PCGS**
Attractive light greenish yellow gold with slightly reflective su faces. Light adjustment marks cross the bust of Liberty.

Very light obverse die cracks connect the base of 18, stars 1 through 7, an TY to stars 9 through 13. The reverse has very light clash marks. Several de tils at 12:30 are merged.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 824.

Choice Mint State 1805 Half Eagle

Close Date

(2X photo)

1805 Breen-6445, B-3B. Rarity-4+. Close Date. MS-64 (PCGS). A wonderful early half eagle with brilliant, frosty yellow gold lustre. Very choice surfaces with only occasional scattered contact marks. Light adjustment marks are noted on the reverse from 9:00 to 10:00, crossing TED and the wing tip, a few others faintly visible on and near the shield. Obverse weakness at stars 3, 4, and 5 is opposite the reverse adjustment marks.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

An obverse die crack from the border bisects digit 0, crossing drapery and hair, continuing faintly to left bottom of B. A patch of die rust is present at LI and a die line from star 8 extends over the cap.

Purchased from A-Mark Coin Co., March 16, 1978.

Choice Mint State 1805 Half Eagle

Close Date

1805 Breen-6445, B-3B. Rarity-4+. Close Date. MS-63 (PCGS). Brilliant, frosty deep yellow gold with tiny splashes of coppery orange toning. A few very minor surface marks are noted. Very sharply struck with wide borders. Minor adjustment marks follow part of the reverse border. This is only the fourth Mint State example of this variety we have handled.

Minor obverse and reverse clash marks. The obverse is cracked from B in LIBERTY through the bust of Liberty to the digit 0 and border below. A branch from this crack crosses Liberty's neck to star 13. A long die scratch from star 8 extends through the field above Liberty's cap. Considerable obverse die rust around LI and scattered about. The reverse has no cracks.

From Stack's sale of the Gaston DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 810.

Further 1805 Half Eagle

Close Date

767 1805 Breen-6445, B-3B. Rarity-4+. Close Date. MS-63 (PCGS). Lustrous light greenish yellow gold with superb surfaces for the grade. A delightful example. A long, thin planchet lamination on the obverse appears as a streak of dark toning. Adjustment marks are located at the upper left reverse border.

Die state as preceding.

From Superior's sale of the Charles Ruby Collection, Part I, February 1974, Lot 1792.

Pleasing 1805 Half Eagle

Close Date

768 1805 Breen-6445, B-3D. Rarity-4. Close Date. MS-62 (PCGS). Rich orange-gold lustre with a trace of green on the obverse. The reverse has very light adjustment marks at 12:00.

Perfect obverse and reverse dies.

From Stack's sale of the James A. Stack, Sr. Collection, October 1994, Lot 1046.

Brilliant 1805 Half Eagle

Close Date

769 1805 Breen-6445, B-3D. Rarity-4. Close Date. AU-58 (PCGS). Frosty, brilliant light yellow gold with sharp design details and full borders. Light obverse adjustment marks are present. The surfaces have a few minor hairlines, otherwise the piece is superb.

Early die state: The obverse die line over the cap is not present. There is no indication of clash marks or die rust. A very light die crack bisects the obverse. The reverse is perfect.

From Stack's 1971 ANA Sale, Lot 2117.

Lustrous 1806 Half Eagle

770 1806 Breen-6446, B-1A. Rarity-4+. Pointed 6. AU-58 (PCGS). Lustrous greenish gold with very lightly abraded surfaces. Adjustment marks at the central reverse are very light. This is the same reverse die used for 1805 Breen 4-B, offered above.

A light crack joins most stars on the left and continues faintly through LIBER. Another crack joins stars on the right. The reverse has several dentils merged above and right of the final S and has a faint crack from the stars through eagle's beak and scroll to the shield.

Half eagle coinage of the year 1806 requires further research. Breen described six varieties of Pointed 6 and one variety with Round Top 6 in his first monograph, adding an additional Pointed 6 variety in his *New Varieties* monograph. Breen mentioned these same varieties in his *Complete Encyclopedia*. Miller described nine Pointed 6 varieties with six of these "not in Breen." One of Miller's varieties is not illustrated and two others use "Composite Photos" which are not of actual coins. The present sale includes four different varieties with Pointed 6 and one with Round Top 6. We can be certain only that there is currently just one known variety with Round Top 6 and this is the most common variety among all Draped Bust half eagles.

In our opinion, popular nomenclature should be changed regarding the 1806 Pointed 6 and Round Top 6 half eagles, as there is an even more dramatic difference: the Pointed 6 variety is better described as the 1806 variety with 8 stars to the left and 5 to the right (8x5), while the Round Top variety has an entirely different arrangement, 7x6. To our way of thinking, star arrangements are much more important than the shape of the top of a particular date digit!

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 182.

Mint State 1806 Half Eagle

Rare Breen-3D Variety

771 1806 Breen-6447, B-3D. Rarity-6+. Pointed 6. MS-62 (PCGS). Reflective light yellow gold obverse with traces of orange toning, deeper reflective orange-gold reverse. Usual contact marks are visible on the obverse and reverse surfaces, none of these are serious, however.

The obverse has a thin vertical die crack confined to the cap and hair. A die line from the reverse border extends through the outer feather tip between D and S. Another extends up from right corner of shield, a third from second outer leaf tip, through berry to third outer leaf tip.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 156; ex Stack's May 1951

Rare Mint State 1806 Variety

Breen-3D

772 1806 Breen-6447, B-3D. Rarity-6+. Pointed 6. MS-62 (PCGS
Frosty dark yellow gold lustre with traces of orange toning. Ve pleasing surfaces provide an attractive example for the specia ist. The only earlier auction appearance of this variety in any our sales was an EF-40 example offered in March of this yea And now we are offering three others in one sale! Perhaps this as good an indication of any of the depth, breadth, and impo tance of the present Bass Collection offering.

The obverse has a thin vertical die crack confined to the cap and hair. A tained cud has formed on top of T in UNITED.

From Spink's sale of the Byron Reed Collection on behalf of the Ci of Omaha, October 1996, Lot 106.

Rare 1806 Half Eagle

Unidentified by Breen

773 1806 Breen-6447, Breen obverse 1. Rarity-7. Pointed 6. AU-5 (PCGS). Very similar to Breen variety 1-B, however, the revers is slightly different. This die combination has occasionally bee offered as an unlisted variety, which technically is true as Bree did not list it in his monograph. Under no circumstances can w call it an unknown variety, however. Lustrous greenish yello gold with light orange peripheral toning. A few very minc marks are noted. We have only previously handled one exampl of this variety, an AU-50 grade coin in our January 1990 auctio

Very heavy die crack through stars on the left, other lighter cracks are al present. The reverse is faintly cracked through some letters of the legend.

From Rarcoa's session of Auction '86, Lot 933.

1806 Breen-4E Half Eagle

Rarity-7

1806 Breen-6447, B-4E. Rarity-7. Pointed 6. AU-58 (PCGS). Lustrous light yellow gold with minor surface marks. Softly struck at center of obverse and reverse. A few light scratches and adjustment marks are present on the obverse. A minor area of roughness is visible outside stars 6 through 8. This is a very rare variety, and this example is the only one we have ever offered for sale.

Perfect obverse and reverse.

Offering of varieties such as this brings to mind the disparity in the popularity of collecting certain varieties by die states. So much attention has been paid to early copper cents that coin for coin, variety for variety, rare Sheldon varieties of cents are apt to sell for multiples of the price of even rarer *gold half eagles* by variety! As the pieces were made in the same era by the same engraver's and struck from the same presses at the same Mint, it would seem that anyone interested in pursuing a fascinating numismatic challenge, and at the same time received *outstanding potential value* for the price paid, would do well to explore the many die varieties offered here.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 20, 1970.

Further Rare 1806 Breen-3D $5

1806 Breen-6447, B-3D. Rarity-6+. Pointed 6. AU-55 (PCGS). Light yellow gold with moderately abraded surfaces. Light adjustment marks cross Miss Liberty's hair below the cap.

Obverse cracked through cap and hair. The reverse has a large rim break over T of UNITED.

From Abe Kosoff's 1968 ANA Sale, Lot 939.

Choice Mint State 1806 Half Eagle

Round Top 6

(2X photo)

776 **1806 Breen-6448, B-5E. Rarity-3-. Round Top 6. MS-64 (PCGS).** A wonderful choice Mint State example with sharp design details and lovely deep yellow gold lustre, frosty in appearance. A few very light hairlines and other minute abrasions hardly require discussion.

Only minor reverse clash marks are noted.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of September 1973, Lot 1159.

Another Mint State 1806 Half Eagle

Round Top 6

777 **1806 Breen-6448, B-5E. Rarity-3-. Round Top 6. MS-62 (PCGS).** Brilliant deep yellow gold with orange toning over frosty lustre. A few very minor surface marks keep this from a much higher grade. This variety is clearly more common than those with Pointed 6 in date. Over the years we have handled four of these for each Pointed 6 example we have sold.

Perfect obverse. A thin crack through the left upright of N crosses the arrows.

From Stack's sale of the Gaston DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 812.

Third 1806 Round Top 6 $5

778 **1806 Breen-6448, B-5E. Rarity-3-. Round Top 6. AU-58.** Frosty greenish yellow gold lustre with minor surface marks. A few light hairlines are noted.

A crack through the upright of N and across the arrows is very faint.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of the John A. Beck Collection, Part I, January 1975, Lot 362.

Attractive Mint State 1807 $5

Draped Bust Obverse

(2X photo)

779 **1807 Breen-6449, B-1A. Rarity-5. Draped Bust. Small Date and Stars. MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous light yellow gold with some light hairline scratches on the obverse. The reverse, considered separately, could be assigned a gem MS-65 grade. Sharply struck.

Almost as incredible as it seems, the present sale offers bidders 65 different Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle half eagles, an amazing array. If you have not acquired one for your type set, the opportunity is quickly slipping away. Raise your bids, raise your hands, and get one for your cabinet!

A nearly imperceptible die crack connects points of stars 6 and 7 on the obverse. A similar crack connects S and T near tops of these letters.

Purchased from A-Mark Coin Co., March 16, 1978.

Mint State 1807 Half Eagle

Draped Bust Design

(2X photo)

780 **1807 Breen-6450, B-1B. Rarity-6. Draped Bust. MS-63 (PCGS**
A lovely example with fully reflective prooflike surfaces, deep on the reverse. Both obverse and reverse are lightly abrade Attractive light greenish gold and very sharply struck.

Perfect dies.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of the John A. Beck Coll tion, Part I, January 1975, Lot 365.

Lovely 1807 Draped Bust $5

(2X photo)

1807 Breen-6450, B-2C. Rarity-5+. Draped Bust. MS-63 (PCGS). Light greenish gold with brilliant, frosty lustre and faint orange toning. A visual delight. A few minor surface marks with a line of tiny abrasions across Miss Liberty. Highly lustrous and quite pleasing.

Perfect dies.

From Stack's sale of February 1977, Lot 801.

Rare 1807 Draped Bust $5

Breen-1B, Rarity-6

1807 Breen-6450, B-1B. Rarity-6. Draped Bust. EF-40. Very light greenish yellow gold, the obverse brushed to present an appearance of lustre. The reverse retains considerable "real" lustre and is quite attractive. A small edge bruise on the reverse at 3:00. This is an important example due to the die state described below.

The obverse has a large rim break over E of LIBERTY. Light die rust among the reverse stars.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 124.

Mint State 1807 Half Eagle

Draped Bust Design

(2X photo)

783 **1807 Breen-6451, B-3C. Rarity-7. Draped Bust. MS-63 (PCGS).** A wonderful example of bright yellow gold with frosty lustre. A few very minor surface marks are mixed with heavier adjustment marks. Softly struck with weak definition on the reverse, left of the shield. The only previous example of this variety offered by us was a coin that graded F-12 with pin scratches, offered in our May 1997 sale.

The obverse die has several heavy cracks. A crack through the upright of B extends through Miss Liberty almost to her drapery. A branch of this crack extends right to star 12. Another crack from the border passes into the cap. The reverse die is perfect.

Purchased from A-Mark Coin Co., March 16, 1978.

Lovely 1807 Draped Bust $5

784 **1807 Breen-6452, B-4C. Rarity-4+. Draped Bust. AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous light greenish yellow gold, the obverse reflective and the reverse frosty. A few very minor scratches and scattered contact marks are mixed with faint adjustment marks. The date, especially the digits 1 and 0, is repunched.

A short die crack connects the left shield point with the scroll above.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 1544.

Choice Mint State 1807 Half Eagle

John Reich's Capped Bust

(2X photo)

785 1807 Breen-6453, B-5D. Rarity-3. Capped Bust. MS-64 (PCGS). This is a lovely example of the first year of Capped Bust coinage, designed by John Reich. His hallmarked scalloped star is visible just right of the date, with the scalloped point toward the border. Extremely sharp strike with frosty deep yellow gold lustre. Very nearly gem quality and would qualify as such except for a few very minor contact marks, mostly on the obverse. Although there are rare varieties, this series of Capped Bust half eagle coinage provides a reasonable goal for date collectors. All years from 1807 to 1812 are relatively easy to obtain.

A microscopic die crack joins the inner points of stars 2 and 3. Minor clash marks are present on the obverse.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, April 28, 1972.

Mint State 1807 Capped Bust $5

(2X photo)

786 1807 Breen-6453, B-5D. Rarity-3. Capped Bust. MS-63 (PCGS
A lovely example representing the new design with larg Capped Bust obverse, the bust facing left. Highly lustrous brigh yellow gold with lovely surfaces. Very light hairlines and surfac marks. Two reverse dies were used in connection with the min age of this issue, the presently offered reverse being the mor available of the two.

Light obverse clash marks, perfect reverse.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of the John A. Beck Colle tion, Part I, January 1975, Lot 370.

Mint State 1807 Capped Bust $5

Rare Reverse Variation

787 1807 Breen-6453, B-5E. Rarity-6+. Capped Bust. MS-6 (PCGS). Sharply struck and fully prooflike, the reverse mor deeply mirrored than the obverse. A few light marks are note The reverse border from 7:00 to 10:00 due to light adjustmer marks. Two reverse dies were used for this issue, this second r verse being quite rare. Over the years since 1972, we have o fered 61 examples of the Breen-5D variety and just two of th Breen-5E variety, those examples being an AU-55 grade coin i our June 1989 sale and an EF-40 in our May 1998 auction. Thi may be the finest known of the variety.

Perfect obverse and reverse.

From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1969, Lot 428. Ex Lambert 2 (Chapman 1910).

Scarce 1808/7 Half Eagle

1808/7 Breen-6455, B-2A. Rarity-5. Overdate. EF-40. Light greenish yellow gold with traces of lustre in the protected areas. A large planchet imperfection covers star 4 as illustrated.

The obverse has a diagonal bisecting crack from the border at 1:00 through the cap and head of Miss Liberty to star 2. Another crack from the border through star 11 almost reaches the hair.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of the John A. Beck Collection, Part I, January 1975, Lot 373.

Mint State 1808 Half Eagle

Normal Date

1808 Breen-6456, B-4A. Rarity-4. Normal Date. MS-63 (PCGS). Deep greenish yellow gold with very frosty lustre. A delightful example with only a few very minor surface imperfections.

Perfect obverse and reverse dies.

From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1112.

Another 1808 $5

1808 Breen-6457, B-4B. Rarity-4. Normal Date. AU-58. Sharply struck and well centered with lustrous pale yellow gold. Very pleasing surfaces.

Very light obverse clash marks.

Purchased from New England Rare Coin Galleries, July 10, 1975.

Choice Mint State 1809/8 Half Eagle

(2X photo)

791 **1809/8 Breen-6458, B-1A. Rarity-3. Overdate. MS-64 (PCGS).** An outstanding example, sharply struck in deep greenish orange-gold with soft frosty mint lustre. Certainly one of the highlights among coins in the present collection when aesthetic aspects are considered. This specimen is one of the nicest quality coins for the grade that we have handled in a long time.

Minor die rust is visible on the obverse with faint clash marks on the reverse. A faint die crack joins the outer points of stars 1 through 6 and another the inner points of stars 11, 12, and 13.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Alex Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 1944.

Popular 1810 Half Eagle

Large Date, Large 5

792 **1810 Breen-6459, B-1A. Rarity-3. Large Date, Large 5. MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous greenish yellow gold with a few scattered surface marks. Very sharply struck. A few light adjustment marks are noted in the upper reverse field.

Perfect dies.

From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1966, Lot 332.

Another 1810 Large Date $5

Large 5

793 **1810 Breen-6459, B-1A. Rarity-3. Large Date, Large 5. EF-45.** Deep orange-gold with a tint of green. Sharply struck with a few minor hairlines. An attractive example.

Perfect dies.

From Paramount's session of Auction '80, Lot 923. This was a four-coin lot including each of the major varieties of 1810 half eagles. This Large Date, Large 5 variety and the Large Date, Small 5 example are each in the present sale. The Small Date, Tall 5 coin is scheduled for the next sale while the Small Date, Small 5 coin is being retained by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation.

Rare 1810 Half Eagle Variety

Large Date, Small 5

(2X photo)

794 **1810 Breen-6460, B-1B. Rarity-7. Large Date, Small 5. EF-40.** Bright greenish yellow gold, the surface brushed in a manner to simulate mint lustre. Still quite an attractive example of this very scarce variety, the first we have handled in 22 years. This is only the third auction appearance of this variety in our many auction sales, the others both similarly graded coins, appearing in our sales of October 1977 and May 1976.

Perfect obverse and reverse dies.

From Paramount's session of Auction '80, Lot 923.

Extremely Rare 1810 Half Eagle

Small Date, Small 5

(2X photo)

795 **1810 Breen-6461, B-2B. Rarity-7. Small Date, Small 5. EF-4 (PCGS).** In his *Complete Encyclopedia,* Walter Breen suggeste that fewer than eight examples of this major variety are know none Mint State. A very pleasing example with natural greenis gold surfaces, displaying typical lightly abraded surfaces, as e pected for the grade. The reverse rim is slightly weak abov STAT. A small dark spot just left of the forecurl is an importa pedigree characteristic. This is the first example of this variet we have ever offered, another testimonial to the depth an breadth of the present Bass Collection presentation.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (AU-55).

The obverse die is shattered, no doubt accounting for this variety's rarit The reverse die has light cracks through lower portions of the design. On th obverse, a heavy crack from the border through first digit 1, continue through the drapery and clasp, hair curls, and cap, to the border above star A crack from star 3 to the nose passes through the curl in front of Liberty ear to the first crack just below Y. A crack from the border through star 9 join the first crack in the hair below Y. A crack from the border through two lowe points of star 12 reaches the hair curls. A crack from the drapery through top of the date joins stars 13 and 12. Another crack joins stars 8 through 11. Ce tainly one of the very last coins struck from this obverse die.

Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, August 2, 1994.

Mint State 1810 Small Date $5

(2X photo)

1810 Breen-6462, B-2D. Rarity-4. Small Date, Tall 5. MS-63 (PCGS). Rich yellow gold lustre with very sharp design details. A lovely example with only a few very minor abrasions.

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer (MS-64).

The obverse has a light crack through the date and another through stars 3 to 6. The reverse has minor rust pits and a crack from the first A in AMERICA across the wing to top of the scroll.

From Stack's sale of November 1974, Lot 552.

Another Mint State 1810 Small Date $5

1810 Breen-6462, B-2D. Rarity-4. Small Date, Tall 5. MS-63 (PCGS). Frosty bright yellow gold lustre with attractive orange toning. Minor hairlines and other imperfections have been incorporated into the grade designation (if the piece were perfect it would, of course, be called MS-70!)

Die cracks as previously are slightly more advanced.

From Stack's sale of December 1971, Lot 835.

Mint State 1811 Half Eagle

798 **1811 Breen-6463, B-1A. Rarity-4. Tall 5. MS-63 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with reflective light green-gold lustre. Minor surface marks are visible. A few light adjustment marks are confined to the left obverse border. This is the scarcer of two die varieties for 1811, both offered in the present sale. Both were struck from a single obverse die mated with two different reverse dies.

Light obverse and reverse clash marks. No die cracks.

From Rarcoa's sale of the Kaufman Collection, August 1978, Lot 801.

Another Mint State 1811 $5

799 **1811 Breen-6463, B-1A. Rarity-4. Tall 5. MS-60 (PCGS).** Brilliant and frosty deep orange-gold lustre with lightly abraded surfaces as expected for the grade.

A small crack joins the outer points of stars 9 and 10. No clash marks.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of the John A. Beck Collection, Part I, January 1975, Lot 387.

Third Mint State 1811 $5

800 **1811 Breen-6464, B-1B. Rarity-3+. Small 5. MS-62 (PCGS).** Frosty greenish gold lustre with scattered abrasions. Sharply struck and pleasing.

Very light obverse and reverse clash marks. A small crack joins the outer points of stars 9 and 10.

From Paramount's sale of February 1973, Lot 1052.

Mint State 1812 $5

801 **1812 Breen-6466, B-1B. Rarity-3+. Wide 5D. MS-62 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with very attractive light orange-gold lustre. Minor surface marks do not distract from the aesthetic appeal.

Heavy obverse and reverse clash marks. No die cracks are noted.

Purchased from A-Mark Coin Co., March 16, 1978.

Pleasing 1812 Half Eagle

802 **1812 Breen-6466, B-1B. Rarity-3+. Wide 5D. MS-61 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous bright yellow gold with a few very minor surface marks. A lovely, sharply struck example. This is the more available of two die varieties for 1812.

A short die crack from the wing passes just left of the first A in AMERICA to the border.

From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1969, Lot 433.

Mint State 1813 Half Eagle

803 **1813 Breen-6467, B-1A. Rarity-3. MS-63.** Highly lustrous, fro greenish gold with a few very minor abrasions and hairlin Minute rim bruises are visible at 10:00 on the obverse and 11: on the reverse. This is the first year of the new Capped He design type, an important opportunity for the type collect This design type continued, with slight modifications, throu 1834, prior to introduction of the Classic Head design witho reverse motto. This die variety is slightly more common th the other variety of this year, from a different reverse die.

Perfect dies.

From our sale of June 1974, Lot 1043.

Mint State 1814/3 Half Eagle

804 **1814/3 Breen-6468, B-1A. Rarity-4. Overdate. MS-62.** Sharp struck in light yellow gold with a few minor hairlines and oth typical surface marks. A small rim bruise at star 12 has been minished through very minor filing. This prevented certifi tion, however, is truly a very minor impairment. Still a high attractive coin that is sure to please. Although we have handl a number of 1814/3 half eagles, only the example in our Jan ary 1986 sale, graded MS-63, is finer than this.

Moderate clash marks are visible on both sides.

In the American series there are many overdates, but the 1814/3 is certain in the top 10% with regard to the prominence of the overdate feature. subtlety here!

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, November 1, 1966.

Outstanding 1815 Half Eagle

A Classic Rarity

From Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

1815 Breen-6469, B-1A. Rarity-7-. AU-58 (PCGS). This lovely 1815 half eagle, an example of quality and rarity, displays nearly full lustre with sharp design definition. A few very light hairlines and other imperfections are noted, including minor scratches between Liberty's eye and ear, carefully evaluated and considered by the experts at PCGS when they assigned the AU-58 grade.

We are currently aware of just 12 surviving examples of the rarity, these from an original mintage reported to be 635 coins. The number of survivors, just 2% of the mintage, seems realistic. With the low mintage and small number of survivors, this is one of the numismatic classics among the early half eagle coinage. The entire mintage was struck in November (Breen states November 3, 1815) from small gold deposits by Thomas Parker, Charles Kalkman, and the Bank of Pennsylvania. In his monograph, *Early United States Half Eagles 1795-1838*, Walter Breen related the following history of this issue, as compiled from material in "Bullion Journal C" in the National Archives:

"June 24, 1815. Thomas Parker deposited standard gold valued at $337.44. July 3. Charles Kalkman deposited gold valued at $1,054. October 30. The Bank of Pennsylvania deposited gold valued at $328.03. The same day, the Treasurer of the Mint sent to the Melter and Refiner the above collection of gold coins and bullion, debiting him with $1,719.47 in gold. This lot—together with some 1814 deposited gold then in the Mint—went through the normal processes. November 3. The Coiner struck and delivered 635 half eagles plus three extra for assay (these were tested by the Assay Commission on February 12, 1816, together with $2.00 in half dollars and quarter dollars). Sundry Accounts were paid, including the three above-named depositors, plus $16.71 compensation being retained by the Mint for expenses of refining sub-standard gold which had to be brought up to 916.66 fine. December 31. $3,661.33 fit for coining remained in Coiner's hands

uncoined. January 11, 1816. A fire in the rear building of the Mint damaged rolling and cutting apparatus sufficiently to make any further coinage of gold or silver impossible until extensive repairs could be made."

Today, we are aware of just 12 surviving specimens from the original mintage. These are enumerated below, adapted from notes by Saul Teichman, a long-time friend of our company who shared his notes.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

A thin die crack from border to forelock just misses two upper points of star 5. Another crack connects stars 12 and 13. The reverse has clash marks visible within the vertical shield stripes. A thin die crack through the base of D in the denomination connects this letter with the period. This reverse die was earlier used in 1813. One can't help but wonder if the clash marks are from the 1815 obverse die or the 1813 obverse die.

Significantly, this issue was once so rare that Dr. Montroville W. Dickeson in his 1859 book, *The American Numismatical Manual*, this being the first substantial work printed in America on the subject, wrote: "The Mint Report gives a coinage of 635 pieces for this year. We have never met with one of them..." Quite a statement, this!

Registry of Known 1815 Half Eagles

1. Smithsonian Institution, this being the present repository of the Mint Cabinet. Walter Breen noted this was acquired for the Mint Cabinet from a private collection on December 4, 1885. The same piece was earlier owned by George Seavey, and also appeared in the Bispham Collection conducted by S.H. and H. Chapman, February 1880. The fact that the curator of the Mint Cabinet had to acquire a piece on the open market is reflective of the overall rarity of the 1815, for beginning in the 1830s, and continuing intensely afterward, the numismatically inclined individuals at the Philadelphia Mint (most notably Jacob Reese Eckfeldt and William E. Dubois in the early years), scanned incoming deposits of gold coins, selecting pieces of interest.

2. Connecticut State Library, the collection of J.C. Mitchelson, entrepreneur from Tariffeville in the same state. Mitchelson was also a vest-pocket coin dealer of sorts, and enjoyed acquiring, buying, selling, and trading pieces that he picked up on his far-flung travels, including trips to the West Coast.

3. Swedish Mint Museum, Stockholm. When Joseph J. Mickley went on an extended trip to Europe, he kept in contact with William E. Dubois, who recorded certain of Mickley's experiences in the *American Journal of Numismatics*. Not as well known is a brief interview conducted with Philadelphia dealer Ebenezer Locke Mason', Jr., published in his house organ in the 1870s. Mickley told Mason that he examined the Royal Cabinet of coins, but was able to find only a single United States specimen of any denomination, this being—remarkably and fantastically—the 1815 $5 rarity.

4. Smithsonian Institution. From the Josiah K. Lilly, Jr. Collection, acquired by gift from the Lilly estate in the late 1960s. Earlier, this specimen was featured in the Farish-Baldenhofer sale conducted by Stack's in 1955. Much earlier, this coin was in the Matthew Stickney Collection and Ten Eyck Collection. Intermediate pedigree uncertain.

5. Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation. From the Norweb Collection. This is the plate coin for the Flanagan, Bell, and H.R. Lee sales, all by Stack's. Retained by the Bass Foundation and not the coin offered here.

6. The presently offered specimen from the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. Earlier from the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, previously from George Seavey, Lorin Parmelee, H.P. Smith, and John H. Clapp. Much could be written about each of the previous owners, as, indeed, is true of most of the pedigree names in this list.

7. From our sale of the Garrett Collection for the Johns Hopkins University, November 1979, Lot 460. T. Harrison Garrett obtained this specimen from Harold Newlin, an attorney who enjoyed "horse trading" in coins, and whose correspondence is excerpted in the book by Q. David Bowers, *The History of United States Coinage as Illustrated by the Garrett Collection*, 1979. Earlier, the piece is said to have been owned by W. Elliot Woodward, William S. Appleton and, before that, Joseph J. Mickley. In our own generation this specimen was sold in the Garrett Collection, as noted, and later appeared in Auction '84.

8. Private Collection. From the Davis-Graves sale by Stack's in 1954, Stack's 1976 ANA Sale, and Paramount's fixed price list of the R.E. Naftzger, Jr. Collection.

9. Amon Carter, Jr. Collection sold by Stack's in 1984. Earlier from the Waldo C. Newcomer and William Cutler Atwater collections.

10. Michael Keston Collection sold by Superior in 1996. Earlier from the Charles Kramer Collection sold by Stack's and Superior in 1988. Prior pedigree uncertain.

11. James A. Stack, Sr. Collection sold by Stack's in 1995. In that offering they stated this was from the Flanagan Collection, although the coin does not match the plate in the Flanagan catalogue (also see comments under No. 5 above, the piece that *does* match the Flanagan plate). Although we have no information concerning whether this was practiced with the Flanagan offering, it was quite popular for certain auctioneers in numismatic firms, B. Max Mehl and Numismatic Gallery prominent among them, to use "stock" illustrations when offering coins for sale. Thus, in many instances the pieces described in the catalogue were *not* the coins illustrated. This makes pedigree-matching by the use of plates a futile effort in such instances.

12. An example offered by Superior in 1993. The coin plated appears different than any other example listed earlier.

Several other auction appearances have not been specifically matched to any of the above. Tracking pedigrees through plate matching can be a difficult process complicated by poor photographic quality and the unfortunate use of stock photos in early catalogues, whereby photographs were used even though they were not of the coin being offered. Carl W.A. Carlson wrote an excellent article on pedigree tracking, this appearing as part of the *American Numismatic Association Centennial Anthology*. One of Carlson's favorite pastimes—usually conducted in his spare time—was to endeavor to link consecutive offerings of the same specimen. Carl's contributions to numismatics were interesting and significant, and thus it was with a degree of pride that we offered for sale his reference collection in one of our past auctions. At one time he envisioned the idea of forming a "counsel" of people interested in research which, if memory serves, was intended to consist of seven prime counselors, each of whom would be in correspondence with several other counselors who would report to him or her. Thus, the efforts of a couple dozen or more researchers could be coordinated.

Recently we received an inquiry from a leading researcher in the American series who asked if our *Rare Coin Review* could serve as a common meeting point to list research, with intended publication, as being conducted by various scholars in such fields as coins, tokens, medals, and paper money. We suggested that the *American Journal of Numismatics*, published by the American Numismatic Society, but nearly entirely devoted to *foreign* numismatics (the most recent issue had not even a single article on the American series) might be a better forum, and one that had no commercial connection. However, perhaps as an interim or stopgap measure, our the pages of our *Review* could be opened for this purpose. We invite interested researchers to communicate with the editor, Dave Bowers.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 370. From the Clapp Collection 1942; earlier in the Harlan P. Smith Collection (Chapman Brothers, May 1906).

Important Mint State 1818 Half Eagle

STATESOF Reverse

(2X photo)

1818 Breen-6470, B-2B. Rarity-4. STATESOF. MS-64 (PCGS). Sharply struck with frosty deep orange-gold lustre and very minor surface marks. The reverse die was rotated clockwise about 45°. Very minor adjustment marks are noted at center of reverse.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-66).

A thin die crack bisects the final 8, continuing through the hair curls and earlobe reaching star 6 and the border. The reverse die is perfect.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of the John A. Beck Collection, Part I, January 1975, Lot 400.

Another 1818 STATESOF $5

807 1818 Breen-6470, B-2B. Rarity-4. STATESOF. AU-53 (PCGS). A very pleasing example in light yellow gold with considerable remaining lustre.

PCGS Population: 1; 8 finer (MS-66 finest).

The obverse has a crack from the lower border bisecting the final 8 and through the bust to Liberty's ear.

Purchased from Robert Johnson, February 29, 1972.

1818 Half Eagle

Normal Reverse

808 1818 Breen-6471, B-1A. Rarity-5. Normal Reverse. AU-55 (PCGS). Very pleasing light yellow gold surfaces with light orange toning. Slightly soft at the central obverse and reverse. Considerable lustre remains in the protected areas.

Perfect obverse. A die crack connects the bases of AMERICA and D.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 973.

Another 1818 Normal Reverse $5

809 1818 Breen-6471, B-1A. Rarity-5. Normal Reverse. EF-40. Light greenish gold with very slightly sweated surfaces.

A crack joins bases of AMERICA and D while another crack passes just right of the lowest leaf on its journey from claw to border.

"Sweating" is an early numismatic term which refers to coins that were placed in bags or small pouches and repeatedly shaken, thus causing small flakes of gold to fall off the "sweated" coins. Over the course of time, merchants or others could garner a bit of free gold from the coins they handled in this manner.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 353.

Choice Mint State 1818 Half Eagle

Blundered Reverse

5D Over 50

(2X photo)

810 1818 Breen-6472, B-3C. Rarity-6. 5D Over 50. MS-63 (PCGS). Frosty light greenish gold lustre with a few widely scattered contact marks, most notably under E of UNITED. Very sharply struck.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-65).

Perfect dies.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1764.

Second 1818 5D Over 50 $5

811 1818 Breen-6472, B-3C. Rarity-6. 5D Over 50. AU-58 (PCGS
Sharply struck in attractive greenish gold with considerable lu
tre, nearly complete. A few very minor hairlines and other ti
abrasions are noted.

PCGS Population: 1; 7 finer (MS-65 finest).

Later die state than the previous lot. Both dies have minor clash marks. T
reverse has a faint crack through tops of ATES.

Purchased from Coin Galleries of San Francisco, August 20, 196

Extremely Rare 1819 Half Eagle

A Classic in the Series

Possibly Fewer than 20 Known

(2X photo)

1819 Breen-6473, B-1A. Rarity-6. 5D over 50. MS-63 (PCGS). Frosty yellow gold lustre with attractive peripheral orange toning. A few very minor hairlines and other abrasions are present, however, this is a specimen of high quality. The reverse of this variety represents a reuse of the 5D over 50 blundered die earlier used for 1818 coinage.

This issue is a major rarity among early half eagles. The reported mintage of 51,723 coins for 1819 does not tell the story. Most certainly, almost all of these were dated 1818. Coins dated 1818 are much more common while coins dated 1819 are far rarer to believe the mintage figures. In his *Complete Encyclopedia*, Walter Breen suggested that less than 20 examples are known of three different die varieties. Pedigrees of known examples have not been compiled by us at this time. Saul Teichman enumerated 17 different coins of all three varieties, however, he stated that his information is very incomplete.

The presently offered coin is the Wolfson Collection specimen, earlier pedigreed by Walter Breen to David S. Wilson (sold by Chapman in 1907), William H. Woodin (plated in the 1914 ANS catalogue), F.C.C. Boyd (sold by Numismatic Gallery in 1946), and the "Memorable" Collection (sold by Numismatic Gallery in 1948).

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Clash marks within the vertical shield stripes only. Light die rust lumps are over D in the denomination, not present on either 1818 just offered, although from the same reverse die.

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, February 14, 1972. Earlier from Stack's sale of the Wolfson Collection. Still earlier from the David S. Wilson (1907), the cabinet of William H. Woodin, the F.C.C. Boyd Collection (1946), and the "Memorable" Collection (1948), as noted above.

Extremely Rare 1820 Half Eagle Variety

Assigned Designation "Breen-7F"

Not Known to Breen or Miller

813 1820 Breen-6476, B-7F. Rarity-7. Square Base 2. VF-35. (Designation recently assigned; Breen did not know of the variety). Deep yellow gold with moderately abraded surfaces resulting from improper cleaning. Still very attractive and extremely rare. This variety was not known to Walter Breen when he compiled his manuscripts on early gold varieties. The variety was also unknown to Robert W. Miller, Sr. when he published his monograph on the early gold varieties in 1997. This is one of only two examples we have currently traced, the other being retained by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation. It is probably that a small number of additional examples exist, perhaps two or three others.

Light clash marks with a small bulge over the date.

In our descriptions of certain earlier half eagles, we have alluded to difficult challenges facing us when attempting to sort out the various varieties. The presently offered date, 1820, is possibly one of our greatest challenges. We have to determine which obverse and reverse dies actually exist, and how these were combined to create an accurate list of actual varieties. Past literature has described seven different obverse dies and six reverse dies in various combinations. Three major groups exist: Square-based 2; Curve-based 2, Large Letters; and Curve-based 2, Small Letters. Using Breen's obverse and reverse die notations, we believe the following nine varieties exist. Square-based 2: Breen-1A, 1C, 2B, and 7F. Curve-based 2, Large Letters: Breen-3C and 6C. Curve-based 2, Small Letters: Breen-3D, 4E, and 6D. Harry Bass was able to acquire all nine of these varieties with three different among four coins in the present sale.

The half eagles of 1820 were of particular interest to Harry Bass, and among his notes are draft articles and commentaries. We plan to incorporate these in the sylloge now being prepared for the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation. We invite contributions from interested scholars and collectors who may have information not already incorporated in published reference works. Credit will be given to all who help.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, April 13, 1972.

Gem 1820 Half Eagle

Curved Base 2, Large Letters

814 1820 Breen-6477, B-6C. Rarity-6. Curved Base 2, Large Letters. MS-65 (PCGS). Sharply struck and extremely lustrous and frosty bright yellow gold. A lovely gem with only a few very minor toning spots. Certainly a highlight in the present sale. This is the third example of this die marriage we have handled, the others being a Proof example acquired by Harry Bass from the Norweb Collection and being retained by the foundation, and a choice MS-63 coin offered in our sale of June 1986. Interestingly, six different business strike examples of this variety that we have traced are all choice or gem Mint State. Thus, there must have been a very special circumstance regarding the original distribution from this die pair—perhaps for presentation?

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.
Perfect dies.
Purchased from Wayne Pratali, August 13, 1969.

Amazing Gem 1820 Half Eagle

Curved Base 2, Large Letters

From the Bareford Collection

1820 Breen-6477, B-3C. Rarity-5+. Curved Base 2, Large Letters. MS-65 (PCGS). A lovely gem with satiny bright yellow gold lustre and superb design definition. A few virtually imperceptible hairlines and other abrasions require magnification to see. When was the last time anyone offered two Gem 1820 half eagles? This is probably the finest known business strike example of this die variety in existence. We have notes on a dozen examples of this variety, with only two of these being less than MS-60.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Light obverse clash marks. Perfect reverse.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 159.

Choice Mint State 1820 Half Eagle

Curved Base 2, Large Letters

(2X photo)

816 **1820 Breen-6477, B-3C. Rarity-5+. Curved Base 2, Large Letters. MS-63 (PCGS).** Very sharply struck with finely detailed hair curls, possibly representing a new hub. Lustrous bright yellow gold with minor hairlines and other abrasions. This redefined obverse is reminiscent of large cents from this same date, also with much finer hair detail than in previous years. Perhaps new hubs were introduced this year for both denominations.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer (MS-65 finest).
Perfect dies.
From Rarcoa's session of Auction '85, Lot 433.

Prooflike Mint State 1823 Half Eagle

(2X photo)

817 **1823 Breen-6481, B-1A. Rarity-4. MS-63 (PCGS).** A cameo bright yellow gold with reflective prooflike fields and lustro devices. Usual minor surface marks are present. Very sharp struck and extremely attractive. This is the only known die va ety of 1823-dated half eagles. This design type was minted fro 1813 through 1829. Of all the different issues, only 181 1814/3, 1818, 1820, and 1823 are available at reasonable pri levels. Of course, any choice Mint State example, such as th offered here, is a rarity and deserves significant bidding. On a absolute basis, very few 1823 half eagles exist, and no doubt survey of leading dealers would reveal that many if not mo have never handled even a single specimen in any grade.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).
From Rowe & Brownlee, May 7, 1969. Earlier from Rarcoa's sale April 1968, Lot 204.

Classic 1827 Half Eagle Rarity

Possibly 30 Exist

(2X photo)

1827 Breen-6486, B-1A. Rarity-5. AU-58 (PCGS). A pleasing example in deep orange-gold with a few minor hairlines, the most noticeable in the left obverse field. Very sharply struck with nearly complete details. The lustre is only broken on the very highest points of design. This is the only die variety of the year. Probably at the high end of Rarity-5 and possibly even Rarity-6. In his *Complete Encyclopedia,* Walter Breen stated that just 12 to 15 exist. We believe the survival is actually in the range of 30 coins. Saul Teichman has compiled notes on 11 examples and notes that "this is an extremely difficult year to pedigree."

PCGS Population: 2; 9 finer (MS-65 finest).

From Stack's sale of February 1977, Lot 815. Earlier from Paramount's sale of February 1975.

A Classic Rarity

Mint State 1828 Half Eagle

From the Garrett Collection

(2X photo)

819 **1828 Breen-6488, B-2B. Rarity-6+. Normal Date. MS-62 (PCGS).** Lovely deep orange-gold with frosty lustre, very slightly reflective in the obverse fields. A few very minor hairlines and other imperfections are noted. The coinage of 1828 includes two overdate varieties with possibly five or six known and two normal date varieties, such as offered here, with fewer than 20 specimens known. Notes by Saul Teichman include details on five examples of two overdate varieties and 12 examples of two normal date varieties.

For years the 1828 half eagle has been recognized as one of the foremost classics in the series. Often a span of *years* will elapse between our offering a piece at auction, and the same could be said for other leading auction firms. In a way, the 1828 may be "too rare," for relatively little notice has been given to it. The present offering is one of the most important in this sale.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Perfect obverse. A minute die crack connects the base of 5 and D in the denomination.

From our sale of the Garrett Collection, November 1979, Lot 470. Earlier from William Hesslein, November 25, 1919. This coin came to us accompanied by a lot envelope from the Norweb Collection, that coin being retained by the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation. Apparently, at some time in the past, the two coins were placed in improper coin envelopes. The coin presently offered, however, does match the illustration in our Garrett Collection catalogue (which followed our policy, years ago and also today, of using illustrations of the actual coins being sold, rather than "stock" pictures).

Gem 1829 Large Planchet Half Eagle

Only Seven Known

820 **1829 Breen-6489, B-1A. Rarity-7. Large Planchet. MS-65 (PCGS).** This superb half eagle has deep greenish gold lustre with a trace of orange. The surface blends frosty lustre around the borders and on the devices with more reflective satiny lustre among the interior fields. A few very minor surface marks are present, however, the superb aesthetic qualities more than overcome the minor imperfections.

Just seven examples of this variety are known, according to both Walter Breen and Saul Teichman. Of these, two were owned by Harry Bass with the finer(!) Virgil Brand coin being retained by the Foundation. Another example is permanently housed in the Smithsonian Institution.

Although we tend to state our own feelings, and not to emphasize rarity at the expense of accuracy (see our comments under Lot 818, for which we could simply have stated that 12 to 15 exist), in the present instance we have no reason to doubt that seven or eight known 1829 $5 pieces of this variety is correct or very nearly so.

On the other hand, Saul Teichman suggests nine examples are known. Further, Walter Breen's roster in his *Complete Encyclopedia* creates some confusion as he has a single auction listing included for two different coins. As with many aspects of early half eagle coinage, much more research is needed (and is in progress).

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Perfect obverse. The reverse has minor clash marks and a minor crack through bases of 5D and left to border.

Further concerning pedigree listings and rarity evaluations:

The determination of the true rarity of certain early United States coins is a very difficult procedure. As noted earlier, it was the practice of some firms to use "stock" illustrations while offering rarities for sale. Thus, such catalogues are useless in determining pedigrees, unless the identity of the buyer is learned, and the coin can be tracked down at a later date. Among early catalogues, particularly those circa 1859-1890, many rare United States coins were described but not illustrated. The grades used in the descriptions are of no value today, as often the quality indications were "stretched" for scarce and rare pieces. A coin that might be called "Very Fine" if of a common variety, might become "nearly Mint State" if it was a rarity. Still further, grading interpretations at all levels have changed dramatically since then.

In today's era we have population reports of coins that have passed under the evaluation of the different grading services. However, a single coin can be resubmitted to a given grading service, as well as to other grading services, with the result that in some instances several different listings represent only one *different* specimen. We cannot help but recall an instance in which a well-known dealer resubmitted a particularly nice 1916-D Mercury dime over two dozen times to his favorite grading service, until he *finally* received the grading number he wanted!

To insure absolute accuracy, it would be necessary to conduct a modern-day evaluation of different rarities, examining them and making note of particular "fingerprints" that would forever identify them—such as the location of specific nicks and marks.

From Stack's 1976 ANA Sale, August 1976, Lot 2945. Earlier from Stack's sale of the Dr. Clifford Smith Collection in 1955, Lot 1691. Earlier from the King Farouk Collection and still earlier from Col. E.H.R. Green.

Extremely Rare 1829 Half Eagle

Small Planchet

About Eight Known

1829 Breen-6490, B-2B. Rarity-7. Small Planchet. MS-61 PL. Sharply struck in deep yellow gold with fully prooflike fields and lightly frosted devices. An attractive cameo. A few light scratches and hairlines are seen in the left obverse field and in the reverse field, these preventing PCGS from issuing a certification. Thus, the grade designation is our own, which we believe is fair.

This rarity is one of about eight known examples. Walter Breen pays this the tribute as being "one of the most famous of all half eagle rarities." The same writer delineates eight specimens known to him, which may include duplication, but which in any event includes a piece permanently in the Mint Cabinet at the Smithsonian Institution.

As a famous rarity plus its status as the first of the new design type, the presently offered 1829 half eagle is of incredible importance. For the specialist it represents an opportunity that may not be repeated for a very long time.

Perfect dies.

Purchased from Julian Leidman in August 1978. Earlier from Kagin's sale of November 1974, Lot 1618.

Mint State 1830 Half Eagle

Classic Rarity

822 **1830 Breen-6492, B-2. Rarity-5. Small 5D. MS-62 (PCGS).** Deep yellow gold lustre, frosty in nature with light surface abrasions. This variety with Small 5D is slightly more available than the Large 5D variety. We have handled six and two examples of each variety, respectively, prior to this sale. Of the six appearances, the Eliasberg coin was described as Proof and the Garrett specimen as MS-63. The other four were classified in lower grades.

As mentioned in the introduction to the present half eagle denomination, coins of the 1829-1834 era are of special rarity, their elusive nature being equaled by few other date runs in the American series. This and related pieces are among the foremost treasures in the Bass Collection being brought to the market. As is so often applicable, *opportunity* is the key word.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (MS-64 finest).
Perfect dies.
From Lester Merkin's sale of February 1972, Lot 421.

Attractive 1833 Half Eagle

Famous Rarity

823 **1833 Breen-6498, B-II. Rarity-5. AU-50.** Lightly reflective greenish yellow gold with a few insignificant hairlines and other imperfections. A very attractive example of this scarce coinage issue. This is Breen's Large Wide Date and is clearly the most common variety of 1833 half eagle, although still rated as Rarity-5 with probably fewer than 50 examples known.

With this coin we conclude the offering of *early* half eagles from the Bass Collection.

A die crack from the border curves through the digit 1, bust tip, and star 1 back to the border. The reverse has moderate die rust.
From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 1977, Lot 1768.

Mint State 1834 No Motto $5

Classic Head, Plain 4

824 **1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-6 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with attractive, satiny green gold lustr Very pleasing with only a few scattered surface marks. A tru delightful example of the first year of the Classic Head styl Beginning with the Classic Head, the motto E PLURIBU UNUM, a fixture of the half eagle coinage ever since the fir employment of the Heraldic Eagle reverse, was eliminated.

McCloskey-1A. Fancy 8, Plain 4, top of 4 close to hair curl. No berry branch, with tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Common variety. Th obverse has a series of curved die cracks through stars 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Die varieties of Classic Head half eagles were described by John McClosk in "A Study of Classic Half Eagles, 1834-1838" published by American Num matic Society in *America's Gold Coinage* edited by William E. Metcalf as part the Coinage of the America's Conference series, 1989. Harry W. Bass, played a major role in this event with a display of many early gold coins. Th present selection of Classic Head half eagles include notes about Joh McCloskey's attributions.

The Classic Head design was created by William Kneass and was an adapt tion of John Reich's design that appeared on large cents of 1808 to 1814 an half cents of 1809 to 1836. These dies were created by Kneass after passage the Mint Act of June 28, 1834, lowering the weight of gold coinage. The r verse design was virtually identical to previous half eagles except the motto PLURIBUS UNUM was eliminated. The design was very slightly modified b Christian Gobrecht in 1836.

New legislation, which was actually implemented on August 2, 1834, mad it possible for gold quarter eagles and half eagles to circulate once agai something that had not happened since 1815. Now, for the first time in near two decades, these pieces were seen in everyday channels of commerce in th United States, most often in large cities (in rural areas trade continued to b largely conducted by the barter system, credits, bank drafts, and notes). Cla sic Head half eagles, minted through and including 1838, were employed i tensely, with the result that today the typically seen grade is apt to be VF o EF, rarely AU, and even more rarely, Mint State. The Bass Collection is lade with exceptions, rather than coins of the general rule, and it is indeed remarl able that *plural* Mint State coins are now offered for sale.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, April 2, 1970.

Mint State 1834 Classic Head $5

No Motto, Plain 4

1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-63 (PCGS). Highly lustrous brilliant yellow gold. The devices are frosty while the fields are satiny. An attractive combination yielding a light cameo appearance. A shallow patch of planchet roughness, possibly from a minor lamination, is below TE of STATES. Clearly the finest example of this die variety we have ever handled and certainly one of the very finest in existence. The only finer example we are aware of was a gem in Stack's sale of May 1989.

McCloskey-3A. Fancy 8, Plain 4, top of 4 distant from hair curl. No berry in branch, with tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Scarce variety. The obverse has a crack from Liberty's eyelid to her chin, passing through her eye and across her cheek. Another crack from the border at 5:00 extends into the hair curls.

From Stack's 1976 ANA Sale, Lot 2948.

Another Choice 1834 Half Eagle

No Motto, Plain 4

1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-63 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold with sharp design details and slightly reflective fields. An attractive cameo with very minor marks.

McCloskey-3B. Thin die crack from eye to chin. Reverse with cracks from border to wing tips.

From Stack's session of Auction '85, Lot 1916.

Lovely Prooflike 1834 Half Eagle

No Motto, Plain 4

1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-62 (PCGS). A highly attractive example with deep yellow prooflike lustre. Numerous minor abrasions are reflected in the fields, appearing worse than they actually are. Very sharply struck with slight weakness at center of obverse. First year of the Classic Head design prepared by William Kneass. This example is equal in quality to the Garrett Collection coin and is one of the very finest business strikes of this die variety we have handled. A small number of choice and gem Mint State coins are known.

Three date styles were used for the 1834 Classic Head half eagles: Plain 4 with Block 8, Plain 4 with Fancy 8, and Crosslet 4 with Fancy 8.

Another lovely Mint State example from the same dies.

McCloskey-3B. Fancy 8, Plain 4, top of 4 distant from hair curl. No berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. This variety is relatively available, but not often in Mint State. Here is another chance to compete for the ownership of a very attractive piece.

From Paramount's sale of February 1973, Lot 1055.

Lovely 1834 Classic Head $5

828 **1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-58.** Brilliant frosty deep yellow gold with a few minor surface marks. Traces of reflective prooflike surface are visible. Very slightly weak on the high points of the curls below the headband. A very pleasing example.

McCloskey-3B. Fancy 8, Plain 4, top of 4 distant from hair curl. No berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Common variety.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 23, 1970.

Lustrous 1834 Classic Head $5

829 **1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-58.** Lustrous greenish gold with very slightly reflective surfaces. Very sharply struck and with only minor imperfections. A highly desirable example for the date or type collector.

McCloskey-3B. Fancy 8, Plain 4, top of 4 distant from hair curl. No berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Common variety.

From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1114.

830 **1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-50.** Light yellow gold with moderately abraded surfaces. The surfaces have been lightly brushed or otherwise treated to simulate a high degree of lustre.

McCloskey-1A. Fancy 8, Plain 4, top of 4 close to hair curl. No berry in branch, with tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Common variety. The obverse has a series of curved die cracks through stars 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Purchased from Edwin Shapero, December 28, 1971.

831 **1834 Breen-6501. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-50.** Light greenish gold with traces of lustre in the protected areas. A few minor surface marks although still very attractive.

McCloskey-1A. Fancy 8, Plain 4, top of 4 close to hair curl. No berry in branch, with tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Common variety.

From Rarcoa's 1970 ANA Sale, Lot 1522.

Choice Mint State 1834 Half Eagle

No Motto, Triple-Cut Plain 4

832 **1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-64 (PCGS).** A lovely example, sharply struck with brilliant, frosty light yellow gold lustre. A few very minor surface marks are noted. Slightly weak at center of obverse and reverse. This is one of the very finest known from the die marriage. Finer than the coin in our November 1989 sale, one of just three Mint State coins we have previously offered. A few other Mint State examples have been identified.

McCloskey-2A. Block 8, plain 4, top of triple cut 4 distant from hair curl. No berry in branch, with tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Perfect dies. Common variety.

From Paramount's 1969 ANA Sale, Lot 1872.

Lovely Mint State 1834 Half Eagle

No Motto, Triple-Cut Plain 4

833 **1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-64 (PCGS).** Deep yellow gold lustre with a hint of orange. Frosty peripheral lustre with slightly reflective fields around devices. The devices are lustrous and provide attractive cameo contrast. Minor contact marks primarily on the reverse. Generally sharp although very slight central weakness is noted. Another wonderful example from this distinctive obverse. The digit 4 is tripled and this feature is clearly visible at top right. Three different reverse dies were combined with this obverse and all three varieties are offered in the present sale.

McCloskey-2B. Block 8, plain 4, top of triple cut 4 distant from hair curl. No berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Tiny cracks from borders to wing tips. Scarce variety.

Purchased from Stack's, November 3, 1970.

Mint State 1834 Half Eagle

No Motto, Triple-Cut Plain 4

834 **1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. MS-61.** Highly lustrous light orange-gold with minor surface marks and hairlines. Slightly weak at central obverse and reverse. Probably one of the very finest existing specimens from this scarce die marriage, although we must mention a remarkable MS-64 specimen in our January 1996 Rarities Sale. This present example is probably the second or third finest known of this variety.

McCloskey-2C. Block 8, Plain 4, top of triple cut 4 distant from hair curl. Small detached berry in branch, with tongue, arrow feather over right edge of 5. Scarce variety.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, May 3, 1973.

Lustrous 1834 McCloskey-4C $5

No Motto, Plain 4

835 **1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-55.** Lustrous bright yellow gold with a few very minor surface marks. Sharply struck and quite pleasing. This is only the third example of this die variety we have ever handled.

McCloskey-4C. Block 8, Plain 4, top of 4 almost touches hair curl. Very small detached berry in branch, with tongue, arrow feather over right edge of 5. A scarce variety. A die crack from the border at 11:30 passes between stars 6 and 7 to the upper hair curls and BE of LIBERTY.

From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1969, Lot 435.

836 **1834 Breen-6502. Classic Head. No Motto, Plain 4. AU-5** attractive example with lustrous bright greenish gold surf Very lightly abraded with a small scrape in the right ob field.

McCloskey-2A. Block 8, Plain 4, top of triple cut 4 distant from hair cu berry in branch, with tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Commo ety.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, January 19, 1970.

1834 Crosslet 4 Half Eagle

837 **1834 Breen-6503. Classic Head. No Motto, Crosslet 4. A (PCGS).** A pleasing example with considerable bright ye gold lustre. Minor abrasions, scratches, and hairlines are n and have been factored into the grade by the experts at PC Very light scratches on Liberty's cheek.

McCloskey-5D. Fancy 8, Crosslet 4, top of 4 distant from hair curl. No in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over left edge of 5. Scarce variety.

Purchased from Se Ro Coins, Inc., March 10, 1969.

1834 Crosslet 4 Half Eagle

838 **1834 Breen-6503. Classic Head. No Motto, Crosslet 4. AU** This is a lovely example of the popular Crosslet 4 variety, q scarce and hard to locate in nice quality. Light greenish g with considerable frosty lustre. A few very minor abrasions light hairlines are in evidence. Seldom do examples appea the market in grades similar to this. Since 1972 we have handled one finer example, a Mint State coin in our sale of Fairfield Collection, October 1977.

McCloskey-5D. Fancy 8, Crosslet 4, top of 4 distant from hair curl. No in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over left edge of 5. Scarce variety.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 725.

Mint State 1835 Half Eagle

839 **1835 Breen-6504. MS-62 (PCGS).** Light orange-gold with a t of green. Frosty lustre. This is a very attractive specimen faint hairlines and a few scattered contact marks. This var and the McCloskey-3D marriage are the only two reasona common varieties among 1835 half eagles.

McCloskey-1A. Block 8. No berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather left edge of 5. Common variety. Clashed at center of obverse and reverse

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 726.

Lovely Mint State 1835 Half Eagle

Rare Die Variety

1835 Breen-6504. MS-62 (PCGS). Only the fourth time we have handled this variety at auction, this example being the finest. Deep greenish gold with reflective, prooflike surfaces. Lightly lustrous devices; an attractive cameo. Sharply struck. This is a very rare variety and quite possibly the finest known example. Certainly finer than the example in our January 1980 sale, the only other Mint State coin we recall offering.

McCloskey-1D. Block 8. No berry in branch, with tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Rare variety. Central obverse clash marks.

Purchased from Steinmetz Coins & Currency, Inc., August 24, 1978.

Lustrous 1835 Half Eagle

1835 Breen-6504. AU-58. Bright greenish gold with nearly complete frosty lustre. Lightly cleaned with minor abrasions.

McCloskey-1A. Block 8. No berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over left edge of 5. Common variety. Perfect dies without clash marks.

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, April 23, 1973.

1835 Breen-6504. AU-55. Lustrous bright yellow gold with very minor hairlines. A very pleasing Classic Head half eagle.

McCloskey-1A. Block 8. No berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over left edge of 5. Common variety. Obverse and reverse central clash marks.

Purchased from Michael Kirzner, August 11, 1971.

1835 Breen-6504. AU-55. Lustrous light greenish gold with scattered minor surface marks. A small scrape is just inside the obverse border at 9:00.

McCloskey-1C. Block 8. No berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over left half of 5. Scarce variety.

From Rarcoa's sale of February 1972, Lot 875.

$5 Issues 1835 to 1852

One dozen half eagles beginning with 1835 and continuing intermittently to 1852, including Classic Head and Liberty Head types: ☆ 1835 Breen-6504. AU-50 ☆ 1836 Breen-6509. EF-45 ☆ 1840 Breen-6523. EF-45 ☆ 1843 Large letters. AU-58. A small scratch is noted on the reverse ☆ 1844 AU-58 ☆ 1844-O EF-45 ☆ 1846 Large date. AU-50 ☆ 1847 Repunched 7 in date. AU-58 ☆ 1848 AU-55 ☆ 1849 Doubled 49. AU-50 ☆ 1849 AU-50 ☆ 1852 AU-58. Mostly brilliant with some lustre remaining. (Total: 12 pieces)

1835 Breen-6505. AU-58 (PCGS). Light greenish gold with reflective satiny lustre and traces of orange toning around the reverse border. A few light hairlines and surface abrasions are visible.

McCloskey-3D. Fancy 8. No berry in branch, with tongue, arrow feather over right half of 5. Common variety.

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, September 12, 1973.

Interesting Half Eagle Grouping

846 **Offering of 12 half eagles, each a different date and mint:** ☆ 1835 Breen-6505. EF-45 ☆ 1836 Breen-6509. EF-40 ☆ 1843 AU-55 ☆ 1844 AU-55 ☆ 1844-O EF-45 ☆ 1846 Large date ☆ 1847 Doubled 7 in date. AU-58 ☆ 1849 Repunched date. AU-50 ☆ 1852 AU-50 ☆ 1853 AU-58 ☆ 1855 AU-50 ☆ 1861 AU-58. Mostly brilliant, all with some pleasing lustre remaining. (Total: 12 pieces)

Selection of Half Eagles

847 **Selection of 13 half eagles, mostly predating the Civil War:** ☆ 1835 Breen-6506. AU-50, light obverse scratches ☆ 1836 Breen-6509. EF-40 ☆ 1843 Large letters. AU-55 ☆ 1844 AU-58 ☆ 1844-O EF-45, rim nicks and saltwater surfaces ☆ 1846 Small date. AU-50 ☆ 1847 AU-58 ☆ 1849 Repunched date. AU-50, toned ☆ 1852 AU-50 ☆ 1853 AU-58 ☆ 1855 AU-50 ☆ 1857 AU-58 ☆ 1861 AU-58. Mostly lustrous and pleasing. (Total: 13 pieces)

Choice Mint State 1836 Half Eagle

848 **1836 Breen-6508. MS-64 (PCGS).** A wonderful example with fully brilliant, frosty yellow gold lustre. The obverse is virtually gem quality with a few minor marks on the reverse. We have handled a small number of coins from this die pair, but the only nicer example, and marginally at that, is the coin we sold in the Fairfield Collection sale of October 1977. This coin is probably one of the two or three very finest known of this variety.

PCGS Population: 9; 1 finer (MS-65).

McCloskey-5D. Block 8, double forehead curl. With berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over left edge of 5. Scarce variety. Perfect dies.

Purchased from Stack's, November 3, 1970.

Another Mint State 1836 Half Eagle

849 **1836 Breen-6509. MS-63 (PCGS).** Fully brilliant yellow gold with very faint orange toning. A delightful example with choice surfaces and only very minor surface marks. Although a common variety, this example is the finest we have ever offered, eclipsing the MS-62 example in our March 1991 sale. Although no accurate Condition Census of Classic Head half eagles exists, to the best of our knowledge, we believe this is among the very finest known examples of this variety.

McCloskey-4D. Block 8, double forehead curl. With berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over left edge of 5. Common variety. Perfect dies.

From Stack's sale of February 1977, Lot 598.

Mint State 1836 Half Eagle

850 **1836 Breen-6509. MS-62 (PCGS).** Brilliant, frosty orange-gold with lovely surfaces. A small patch of planchet roughness is below the eagle's head.

McCloskey-6E. Block 8, double forehead curl. With berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather left of 5. Common variety. Perfect dies.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, August 4, 1967.

Mint State 1836 Half Eagle

851 **1836 Breen-6509. MS-61 (PCGS).** Sharply struck with lustrous bright yellow gold. A few minor hairlines and other abrasions are noted, however, none are serious.

McCloskey-4D. Block 8, double forehead curl. With berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over left edge of 5. Common variety.

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 369.

Lustrous 1836 Half Eagle

852 **1836 Breen-6509. AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous bright yellow gold with minor surface impairments as expected. A minor rim bruise is noted at 8:00 on the obverse.

McCloskey-4D. Block 8, double forehead curl. With berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over left edge of 5. Common variety. Perfect dies.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, May 11, 1970.

Another Frosty 1836 Half Eagle

853 **1836 Breen-6509. AU-58.** Lustrous yellow gold with a few very minor abrasions. An attractive specimen with much mint frost.

McCloskey-4D. Block 8, double forehead curl. With berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over left edge of 5. Common variety. Perfect dies.

Purchased from Abe Kosoff, November 14, 1967.

854 **1836 Breen-6509. AU-55.** Light yellow gold with nearly complete lustre. Minor surface marks as expected for the grade.

McCloskey-4C. Block 8, double forehead curl. No berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Scarce variety. Perfect dies.

Purchased from Dan Messer, August 14, 1971.

855 **1836 Breen-6509. AU-53.** Light yellow gold lustre with a trace orange toning. A light vertical scratch on the neck accompar other very minor impairments. Quite desirable.

McCloskey-2B. Block 8, double forehead curl. No berry in branch, tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Rare variety. A crack bisects the verse through star 8, Liberty's hair and headband, and the digit 6 to the der. A branch from the top of the 6 curves over 3 to top of 8.

The pedigree listed below prompts us to note that Harry Bass purcha coins from dozens of different sources. A compilation of these sources appear as part of the sylloge we are now preparing for the Harry W. Bass Research Foundation. We expect to include brief biographical notes, wh known, concerning each.

Purchased from Cadillac Coins, November 21, 1969.

Diverse Selection of $5 Gold

856 **Offering of one dozen half eagles, all different and includi some Mint State pieces:** ☆ 1836 Breen-6509. ☆ 1843 Small, th stars. AU-50 ☆ 1846 Large date. EF-45 ☆ 1847 AU-58 ☆ 18 AU-58 ☆ 1861 AU-58 ☆ 1873 Closed 3. AU-58 ☆ 1877-S EF-40 1879 MS-60 ☆ 1880 MS-60 ☆ 1880-S MS-62 ☆ 1881 MS-6 Mostly brilliant with nice lustre. (Total: 12 pieces)

857 **1836 Breen-6510. AU-55.** Attractive light yellow gold with co siderable, nearly complete lustre. Highly desirable despite a fe very minor rim nicks and other abrasions.

McCloskey-3C. Block 8, single forehead curl. No berry in branch, tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Scarce variety.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 1, 1970.

Desirable 1837 Half Eagle

Scarce Classic Head Date

858 **1837 Large Date. Breen-6511. AU-58.** Sharply struck with fros bright yellow gold lustre. A desirable example with very choi surfaces for the grade. This 1837 half eagle is scarcer than a other date of the 1834-1838 Classic Head design.

McCloskey-1A. Block 8, double forehead curl. With berry in branch, tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Scarce variety. Perfect dies.

From Lester Merkin's sale of February 1972, Lot 426.

859 **1837 Large Date. Breen-6511. AU-55.** Deep yellow gold lust with very pleasing surfaces.

McCloskey-1A. Block 8, double forehead curl. With berry in branch, tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Scarce variety. Perfect dies.

From Rarcoa's 1970 ANA Sale, Lot 1526.

Amazing Gem 1837 Half Eagle

Perhaps the Finest Known

1837 Breen-6512. MS-66 (PCGS). An incredible coin with bright yellow gold lustre and extremely sharp design details. The surfaces are virtually flawless. A wonderful match for the similar high-quality 1837 quarter eagle also offered in this sale. *This is almost certainly the finest known business strike 1837 half eagle in existence, regardless of variety.* The only rivals we are aware of are a coin catalogued by Steve Ivy as MS-65 and offered in his May 1983 sale, and a coin offered as Gem BU by Stack's in January 1986. Both of those were examples of the McCloskey-1A die combination.

This coin also far outdistances any other example we have handled, the previous highlight among coins sold by our firm being an MS-60 example in our 1978 ANA sale and a similar MS-60 in our sale of February 1976. Truly a coin for the connoisseur. Regarding this issue, John McCloskey noted: "This date is the rarest of the five Philadelphia issues, and has proven to be more difficult to obtain than the mintage figure would indicate."

PCGS Population: 2, none finer.

McCloskey-2B. Block 8, single forehead curl. With berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Common variety. Perfect dies. Plainly repunched 5 (5D) at top.

From Rarcoa's session of Auction '85, Lot 438.

Further Mint State 1837 $5

861 **1837 Large Date. Breen-6512. MS-62 (PCGS).** A wonderful example with brilliant yellow gold lustre and very minor surface marks, most notable on Liberty's cheek.

McCloskey-2B. Block 8, single forehead curl. With berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Common variety. Of course, the term "common" is equal to *rare* if related to 20th-century American coinage. And, in Mint State no 1837 half eagle is common.

Purchased from Se Ro Coins, Inc., March 10, 1969.

862 **1837 Small Date. Breen-6513. AU-53.** A pleasing example with moderately abraded surfaces. Considerable light yellow gold lustre with minor orange toning.

McCloskey-3C. Fancy 8, single forehead curl. No berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather right of 5. Scarce variety. Very faint die crack through the tops of AMER.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1967, Lot 457.

Wonderful Gem 1838 Half Eagle

From the Garrett Collection

(2X photo)

863 **1838 Breen-6514. Large Arrows, Small 5. MS-65 (PCGS).** A s
perb gem in bright yellow gold with frosty mint lustre and shar
design details. An incredible gem example, one of two such i
the present offering. Just two die varieties are known for th
286,538 coins struck. Each of these varieties is represented by
gem MS-65 example in the present sale. An extremely impo
tant opportunity for the specialist. We believe this example t
be the finest known of the variety, or at the very least, one of tw
or three top-notch examples.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-66).

McCloskey-1A. Perfect dies. Fancy 8, double forehead curl. With berry i
branch, no tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Small 5, large arrowhead
Common variety.

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 371.

Another Mint State 1838 Half Eagle

1838 Breen-6514. Large Arrows, Small 5. MS-61 (PCGS). A wonderful example for the grade, sharply struck with minor hairlines and abrasions, these considerations being carefully evaluated by PCGS when they assigned the MS-61 grade. A highly important offering for the specialist, as 1838 half eagles are only seldom seen at any level of Mint State.

McCloskey-1A. Fancy 8, double forehead curl. With berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Small 5, large arrowheads. Common variety. Minor clash marks.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, November 3, 1968.

Amazing Gem Prooflike 1838 Half Eagle

Akers and Breen "Proof"

(2X photo)

865 **1838 Breen-6515. Small Arrows, Large 5. MS-65 (PCGS).** A wonderful gem example with sharp design details and reflective deep yellow gold fields. Amazing prooflike cameo quality. This amazing coin is among the very finest known 1838 half eagles in existence. The only finer examples we are aware of include the MS-66 coin graded by PCGS and a nearly flawless MS-67 example in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. When offered by Spink America in 1996, the cataloguer noted: "Both David Akers and Walter Breen believed this coin to be the sole Proof of the date. Certainly the coin has many of the properties of a Proof but the somewhat rounded rims of this piece have led to our description of the coin as a prooflike specimen. In any case, this superb piece is clearly one of the first struck from the newly polished dies, quite possibly for presentation purposes." At the time of their offering of this coin, it was encapsulated by NGC as "Specimen MS-65."

What is a Proof and what is not among early American coinage is not rigidly defined, and often one expert will designate a piece a Proof, while another will suggest that a prooflike business strike is more accurate. We are the first to admit that experts can and do differ in their opinions, not only on this matter but others as well, and we invite prospective bidders to make their own determination. Should a future owner decide to call it "Proof," we have absolutely no quarrel with such an attribution.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-66 finest).

McCloskey-2B. Fancy 8, double forehead curl. With berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over right side of 5. Large 5, small arrowheads. Perfect dies.

From Spink America's sale of the Byron Reed Collection, October 1996, Lot 126.

Choice Mint State 1838-C Half Eagle

First Charlotte Issue

A Great Rarity So Fine

866 **1838-C Breen-6516. Repunched 5. MS-63 (PCGS).** A wonderful example, sharply struck, with reflective deep orange-gold lustre. A lovely cameo with prooflike qualities and only very minor surface abrasions. This is the first Charlotte Mint half eagle and the only Classic Head issue of this mint, one of 17,179 coins struck. Douglas Winter noted that 10,959 of these were actually struck in 1838 and another 6,220 in 1839. This is possibly the finest known example, at least tied with the Stack's April 1978 coin, which Winter noted as number 1 in his Condition Census. Only one other coin, from the Gaylord Collection, was listed in his Census as Mint State. This is also the rarer of two die varieties known for 1838-C half eagles. Prior to the current sale, we have handled 17 examples of the McCloskey-1A variety and just three of this 1B variety, the finest being an AU-50 coin in our November 1998 sale of the Columbia Collection.

By any evaluation, this 1840-C $5 is an American numismatic landmark, a memorable piece that will be forever treasured by its next owner. Once sold, virtually no sum will obtain a duplicate, at least not easily.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

McCloskey-1B. Lapped obverse and reverse. Light reverse die rust is noted. Repunched 5 in denomination. Leaf nearly touches left curve of U.

Purchased from the Gotiad Corporation, August 15, 1991.

Another Desirable 1838-C $5

1838-C Breen-6516. EF-40 (PCGS). Light greenish gold with moderately abraded surfaces. Considerable lustre remains in the protected areas. A pleasing example of the first Charlotte Mint half eagle, the only Classic Head issue of this design. The 1838-C in EF grade is a coin not to be sneezed at.

McCloskey-1B. Repunched 5 in denomination. Leaf nearly touches left curve of U. A heavy die crack bisects the reverse diagonally from the border at 1:30 to the border at 7:00, crossing the shield and leaves.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 1, 1973.

Lustrous 1838-C Half Eagle

Different Die Variety from Preceding

(2X photo)

1838-C Breen-6517. Normal 5. AU-55 (PCGS). Very light yellow gold with minor obverse and reverse abrasions as expected. A sharply struck impression. This is the more common of two varieties and a lovely example at that. Probably one of five or six finest existing 1838-C half eagles.

Douglas Winter listed two Mint State coins, one AU-55, and two AU-50 coins in his Condition Census. In addition, he suggested that two or three additional AU-50 grade examples are known. To this must be added MS-63, AU-55, and AU-53 grade coins in the present offering, none included in his Census. Prior to this sale, the finest 1838-C half eagle we have offered in any of our auctions was graded just AU-50.

The present 1838-C stands tall and proud as the finest specimen Harry Bass was able to find of this date, mint, and die variety. Again, here is a numismatic treasure.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

McCloskey-1A. Normal 5 in denomination. Two leaves below U. Lapped obverse and reverse. Comments regarding Walter Breen's *Complete Encyclopedia:* For both varieties of 1838-C half eagle, listed as Breen-6516 and Breen-6517, he listed very similar die cracks. His variety 6516 describes a die crack "from rim through leaves, leg, shield, wingtip, right rim." For variety 6517, he describes a die crack from "rim through U, feathers, shield, right rim near wingtip." Breen-6516 is the McCloskey-1B variety which is known with or without the die crack described. Breen-6517, the McCloskey-1A die combination, is not known with the described die crack, to the best of our knowledge. Harry Bass mentioned these differences in his notes, as well.

From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 368.

A Final 1838-C Half Eagle

869 **1838-C Breen-6517. Normal 5. AU-53 (PCGS).** Sharply struck in light yellow gold with moderately abraded surfaces. Another example of this very popular first year of issue Charlotte Mint half eagle. In any other sale, this would be a major highlight. Although not to diminish this coin, in the current sale this is the third finest 1838-C half eagle! An opportunity of major importance exists for the specialist, or for the date collector, to bid on multiple examples of this single rarity. As the third finest in the current sale, this is still nicer than any 1838-C half eagles we have previously offered, in any sale back to 1957! You can lose your sense of numismatic reality in the present Bass Collection catalogue, and it is important to stop and take notice now and then. Just as collectors today often wish they had participated in certain of our earlier classic collection offerings, such as the Garrett Collection, Eliasberg Collection, Brand Collection, Norweb Collection—among others—a generation from now many aficionados will rue that they were not active in the hobby in 1999. Today, these opportunities are at your fingertips.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

McCloskey-1A. Normal 5 in denomination. Two leaves below U. Lapped obverse and reverse.

Purchased from Se Ro Coins, Inc., March 10, 1969.

Incredible Mint State 1838-D $5

First and Only Dahlonega Classic Head Issue

(2X photo)

870 **1838-D Breen-6518. MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous bright yellow gold with extraordinarily sharp design details and only a few very minor surface marks. A wonderful example of this important variety, the first and only Dahlonega Mint.

The entire production of 20,583 coins was produced from a single die pair, thus just one variety is known. In the far-flung numismatic community it is believed that only five or six survivors can be characterized as Mint State, this according to the research of Douglas Winter. The presently offered coin is tied for the finest certified by PCGS and handily eclipses any that we have ever offered in the past.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer. We reiterate that population numbers *may* include multiple submissions of the same coins.

McCloskey-1A. Fancy 8, single forehead curl. No berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Common variety. Minor clash marks. The reverse is cracked through tops of MERICA.

From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1966, Lot 333.

Another Pleasing 1838-D Half Eagle

871 **1838-D Breen-6518. EF-45 (PCGS).** Sharply struck in bright yellow gold with a trace of orange toning. Minor surface marks are visible, consistent with the grade assigned. A second example of this very popular issue. The opportunity to bid on more than one specimen in a single sale is quite unusual. Specialists and date collectors alike must be sure to take full advantage of this remarkable event.

McCloskey-1A. Fancy 8, single forehead curl. No berry in branch, no tongue, arrow feather over center of 5. Common variety. Perfect dies.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, September 24, 1970. Previously from Rarcoa's 1970 ANA Sale, Lot 1530.

Mint State 1839-C Half Eagle

Obverse Mintmark

First Year of Liberty Head Type

(2X photo)

872 **1839-C MS-61 (PCGS).** A glittering yellow gold specimen wit strong lustre and a hint of olive toning. From the first year Christian Gobrecht's Liberty or Coronet design type, and th only year of Liberty half eagle coinage with the mintmark on th obverse.

The present Mint State specimen is a fantastic rarity at th level. Although 17,205 were struck, VF to EF is the norm, and is believed that only a handful of specimens are known—as quick check of the writings of Walter Breen, David Akers, an Douglas Winter will reveal.

PCGS Population: 2; 4 finer (MS-64 finest). Again we state that populatio reports are *interesting* but may include multiple submissions of the same coi

A single pair of dies was shipped from Philadelphia on May 3, 1839, repr senting the new design. Production commenced on June 17. By this tim thousands of half eagles had already been struck during the year, but thes obviously, had to have been from 1838-C dies.

The Liberty Head or Coronet design by Christian Gobrecht was first use on the 1838 $10, then in 1839 on the copper cent and the half eagle. In 184 it appeared on the half cent and quarter eagle. Across various denomination the reverse lettering was smaller, more delicate on the earlier years, thus gi ing the pieces a very attractive aspect.

In the next year of the denomination, 1840, the obverse portrait of Libert was slightly refined, and the mintmark location was changed to the reverse where it remained until the demise of the series in 1908.

Purchased from N.K.S., November 1, 1967.

Impressive 1839-D Half Eagle

Obverse Mintmark

Seldom-Seen Quality

1839-D Breen-6521. Mintmark above 39 in date. AU-58 (PCGS). Highly lustrous yellow gold with olive highlights. Remarkably prooflike in most areas. Nicely struck in all areas as well. Only 18,939 pieces were coined. Today, the typically encountered specimen is apt to grade VF or, occasionally, EF, with AU or finer specimens being of extremely high rarity. The present coin is important on several counts. First, it represents the initial appearance of the Liberty Head design and, simultaneously, the first use of a Dahlonega mintmark on the design.

Second, the mintmark is on the obverse, a characteristic of only this year.

Third, it is in extraordinarily high grade, AU-58 being remarkable.

Fourth, the 1839-D is rare in any and all grades.

PCGS population: 4; 3 finer (MS-62 finest).

Two reverse die cracks are noted. The first of these extends from the rim, passing between the O and F in OF, then terminating in the field near the eagle's neck. The second crack extends from the rim, across the U in UNITED, to the olive leaf below that letter.

Two die varieties have been identified for this year, the present piece having the mintmark over the last two date digits (the other having the mintmark over the 3).

Two die pairs were shipped from the Philadelphia Mint to Dahlonega on March 22, 1839, received in Georgia on April 25, and put into service almost immediately.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2275.

Another Remarkable 1839-D $5

4 **1839-D Breen-6521. Mintmark above 39 in date. AU-53 (PCGS).** Lustrous olive-gold. Nicely struck in all areas. A few light planchet marks, as struck, can be seen on the reverse. A definite rarity when found so fine.

On this variety the D mintmark is in a different position from the preceding, and is over the three in the date.

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, April 1972.

Lustrous 1840 Half Eagle

875 **1840 Breen-6522. Broad Mill. AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous to a high degree, and somewhat prooflike as well. Nicely struck in all areas. A nice example of early Liberty half eagle coinage.

The Broad Mill variety of the date, as offered here, has fine edge reeding, while the Narrow Mill variety displays coarse, rather broad edge reeding. Additionally, the Broad Mill variety is slightly wider in diameter than its Narrow Mill counterpart (as noted in our introduction to the half eagle series).

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 1967.

876 1840 Breen-6522. Broad Mill. EF-40. Warm rose and orange toning highlights on the design high points.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA sale, August 1968, Lot 948.

Brilliant 1840 Half Eagle

877 **1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-58 (PCGS).** Pleasing surfaces for the grade with strong lustre present, particularly in the recessed areas. A rarity that is typically seen in EF or lower, and seldom found above AU. A few scattered marks are present, as might be expected for the grade, but the overall appeal is substantial.

On the specimen offered here, a thin die crack runs from the reverse rim at 11:00 through the A of STATES, and from there across the field to the eagle's beak, and then to the corner of the shield below the eagle's head.

From Stack's sale of the Delp Collection, November 1972, Lot 805.

878 **1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-55.** Lustrous orange-gold with rose highlights. Free of major marks and choice for the grade.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 730.

879 **1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-55.** Lustrous surfaces with warm gold highlights at the rims.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of December 1970, Lot 1695.

880 **1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-55.** Highly lustrous with attractive olive highlights. Perhaps lightly brushed on the reverse.

From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1115.

881 **1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-50.** Lustrous orange-gold with a whisper of pale rose toning. A few faint marks are noted, none of which are extreme for the grade. Some faint brush marks are present on both sides.

882 **1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-50.** Rich golden orange toning.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1969, Lot 208.

883 **1840 Breen-6523. Narrow Mill. AU-50.** Yet another attractive and lustrous specimen of this popular date and variety.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, October 1972.

Underrated 1840-C $5 Rarity

884 **1840-C AU-53 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold with a touch of olive iridescence. Scarcer in all grades than its modest mintage of 18,956 pieces indicates. Rare and underrated above EF; indeed, Douglas Winter considers this date to be High Rarity-7 in AU. This attractive specimen should cause great attention among connoisseurs and specialists.

PCGS Population: 5; 4 finer (MS-62 finest). If we were an attorney we might say something like this: "The following statement is considered to be applied to all PCGS Population listings: Multiple submissions sometime result in a situation where several or even a half dozen or more coins appear in listings, but only one or two *different* pieces may be involved." Rather than repeat this commentary in each and every listing, we give it only occasionally.

Two pairs of dies were shipped from Philadelphia to Charlotte on January 24.

What may be the tops of an errant 1 and 8 can be seen in the dentils below those numerals on this specimen as well as those in the next two lots. Popular nomenclature for this error is "misplaced date." The 1840-C half eagles in the following two lots also show this detail.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2278.

Another Nice 1840-C $5

885 **1840-C AU-50 (PCGS).** A lustrous specimen with much proof-like reflectivity in the fields. Some central weakness is seen on the reverse, typical for the date. Difficult to locate above the quality offered here.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2027.

Lustrous 1840-C Half Eagle

886 **1840-C AU-50 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold. Free of major marks and quite attractive for the grade. Scarce and desirable in all grades.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 1968.

High-Grade 1840-D $5

887 **1840-D Breen-6527. Narrow Mill, Mintmark above VE of FIV AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous golden orange. A few stray marks present, but the overall appeal is substantial. Typically found VF to EF, with AU examples of the date quite rare.

On this variety, the mintmark is placed over the V and E of FIVE. Anot variety is known with the mintmark positioned solely above the V in FIVE

Three pairs of dies were used to coin 1840-D half eagles, two shipped January 24 (and received February 3) and a final pair sent on October 20 ceived October 30). Production occurred on several occasions beginning late February. Most specimens known today are the so-called "Narrow M about 21.7mm, as compared to the "Broad Mill" of 22.5mm. Walter Bre theorizes that two deliveries were made of the "Broad Mill" coins, amount to 2,528 and 1,909 pieces respectively, with the balance of 18,459 pieces be of the "Narrow Mill" style. The size differences were caused by collar dia eters.

Dahlonega Mint half eagles were workhorse coins, intended for circulatio This was the denomination of choice for rapidly converting large amounts gold bullion into coin form. As is true of other Dahlonega issues, no thoug was given to saving specimens for numismatic cabinets, and all were plac into the channels of commerce.

Purchased from Paramount, March 30, 1967.

Desirable 1840-D $5

888 **1840-D Breen-6527. Narrow Mill, Mintmark above VE of FIVE AU-53 (PCGS).** A lustrous yellow gold specimen with great ove all appeal. Nicely struck for the date. A great opportunity for th attentive collector.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 1968.

Another Attractive 1840-D $5

889 **1840-D Breen-6527. Narrow Mill, Mintmark above VE of FIVE AU-50.** Lustrous yellow gold with a touch of olive. Nicely struck Lightly brushed at the left of the obverse, but still an attractive example of a scarce date.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 375.

1840-D Breen-6527. Narrow Mill, Mintmark above V of FIVE. Repunched 18. EF-40. Warm honey gold surfaces. Slightly granular, what today's collectors call seawater surfaces. Repunched 18 in date, a fact not noted in Breen's *Encyclopedia*, and important as such.

On the reverse, a die crack extends upward from the rim at 6:00, through the mintmark, arrow feathers, and stem above, and from there to the shield edge just to the viewer's left of the shield's point.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 210.

Lustrous 1840-O Half Eagle

First New Orleans Mint $5

1840-O Breen-6529. Narrow Mill, Small O Mintmark. AU-53 (PCGS). A lustrous yellow gold specimen of this underrated branch mint rarity. Some striking weakness is present, not an unusual occurrence for the date. Struck from rotated dies, with the reverse lined up at about 120°, as opposed to the usual 180° die alignment. Choice for the grade, and quite rare at the AU level.

From Superior's sale of February 1972, Lot 376.

Mint State 1840-O $5 Rarity

Finest Certified by PCGS

2 1840-O Breen-6530. Narrow Mill, Medium O Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS). A satiny, yellow gold beauty with strong lustre and a sharp strike. An unsung rarity among early Liberty half eagles, easily as rare in Mint State as the Charlotte and Dahlonega issues of the date despite its higher mintage of 40,120 pieces. The 1840-O is typically found in VF to EF grades, with AU coins being quite rare, and Mint State pieces being of incredible rarity. An outstanding representative example of the date, a coin with strong claims to finest known honors. Opportunity knocks!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

As a rule, the early gold issues of the New Orleans Mint are as rare in Mint State as their contemporary issues from the sister mints in Charlotte and Dahlonega, although they are not so well appreciated as those issues. Unlike Charlotte and Dahlonega, two facilities that issued only gold coins, New Orleans also struck silver coins, thus somewhat diminishing the mystique of its gold issues. There is, however, a small coterie of gold coin specialists who understand the elusive nature of the early New Orleans issues. These enthusiasts have been quietly placing high-grade New Orleans gold pieces in their collections for many years, although most such high-grade pieces apt to be AU, rarely Mint State. The Harry W. Bass, Jr. gold coin collection affords specialists, old-timers and newcomers alike, a special opportunity to bid for and possibly own some highly impressive rarities from our southernmost mint.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, June 1969.

893 1840-O Breen-6530. Narrow Mill, Medium O Mintmark. AU-50. Lustrous yellow gold. Nicely struck for the date. Devoid of all but the most trivial marks, and choice as such.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 842.

894 1840-O Breen-6530. Narrow Mill, Medium O Mintmark. AU-50. Lustrous yellow gold with strong eye appeal for the grade. Nicely struck for the variety. A final example of this elusive date and mint.

Purchased from Dan Messer, August 1971.

Choice Mint State 1841 Half Eagle

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

(2X photo)

895 1841 MS-64 (PCGS). Lustrous satiny honey gold with some prooflike reflectivity. Nicely struck and devoid of all but the most trivial marks. An underrated issue from the Philadelphia Mint, and much rarer than even the modest mintage of 15,833 pieces indicates. Walter Breen mentioned a "tiny hoard" of Uncirculated specimens of the date that turned up in 1953; undoubtedly those pieces went into collections as soon as they became available, but this may explain, at least in part, the population numbers cited below. This 1841 is as nice as we have ever seen. Indeed, none have been certified finer by PCGS.

Regarding hoards, information concerning many if not most such groups of coins tends to be very elusive, as the editor (QDB) found out during the research leading up to the publication of *American Coin Treasures and Hoards*, 1997. In one particularly memorable instance, a leading writer for a popular numismatic publication wrote in definite (not tentative) terms about a certain hoard that had surfaced earlier in the present century. Upon asking the details of this hoard, as we were seeking them, the writer stated that he found this information in one of our past catalogues. Seeking to learn more, and wondering what we had forgotten, we looked up the particular catalogue, which stated that a hoard was rumored to have been found. However, in the later translation by the other author, the rumor aspect had been dropped!

PCGS Population: 11; none finer.

Purchased from Mal Varner, February 28, 1973.

Another Rare Mint State 1841 $5

896 **1841 MS-62 (PCGS).** A satiny yellow gold specimen with intense lustre and some prooflike reflectivity, particularly on the reverse. An opportunity to compete for a Mint State specimen which, at least to our observation, has been very difficult to find over the years.

A faint reverse die crack runs from the rim at 11:00, through the right foot of the A in STATES, across the eagle's beak, shield, and tail feathers, then through the upper left serif of the V in FIVE, and from there to the rim at 6:00.

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 154; formerly from B. Max Mehl's sale of December 1930, Lot 389. From the Lusk and Leonard Sale.

Lustrous 1841 Half Eagle

897 **1841 AU-55.** Satiny yellow gold surfaces show a high degree of lustre. A few faint marks are noted under low magnification, but the unaided eye is treated to an altogether lovely specimen of the date.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 1968.

Mint State 1841-C $5 Rarity

(2X photo)

898 **1841-C MS-61 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous with pale orange-gold highlights on flashy yellow gold surfaces. A rare date in all grades; only 21,467 examples were minted. Typically seen in VF or EF, with perhaps just half a dozen or so Mint State specimens known. Winter gives the date a Rarity-7 rating in Uncircula probably still an accurate assessment of the rarity. Prospec bidders may find that the present opportunity, if missed, not be repeated for *years*.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-62).

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of November 1972, Lot 1164.

Another High-Grade 1841-C $5

899 **1841-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous medium gold surfaces exh much prooflike reflectivity. Nicely struck. Some faint marks evident under low magnification, but the overall appeal is quite strong. The 1841-C is a notable rarity at the AU level.

PCGS Population: 8; 4 finer (MS-62 finest).

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 732.

Uncirculated 1841-D Half Eagle

The Eliasberg Coin

900 **1841-D Breen-6534. Small D Mintmark, Repunched Date. M 61 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold with prooflike reflectivity the peripheral areas. Well worn VF or so is the typical grade f this rare date, although an AU or Mint State specimen is e countered occasionally. That fact aside, at AU or finer the da is still considered very rare, as any specialist can attest. Spirite bidding will be the order of the day for this desirable bran mint half eagle.

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer (MS-65 finest).

Light repunching noted at the date numerals.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 198 Lot 418. Possibly from the Clapp Collection 1942, Earlier form Elm S. Sears 1908.

Another Remarkable 1841-D $5

901 **1841-D Breen-6534. Small D Mintmark, Repunched Date. AU 58 (PCGS).** Lively yellow gold lustre tempered by a hint of o ange-gold toning. Nicely struck overall. A few light marks a present, but none are of major significance.

Light repunching noted at the date numerals.

From Stack's sale of February 1968, Lot 275.

A Further High-Grade 1841-D $5

1841-D Breen-6534. Small D Mintmark, Repunched Date. AU-58 (PCGS). Rich orange-gold surfaces with strong lustre and delightful eye appeal.

From a different obverse die than the two previous lots. On this specimen, the four date numerals are all repunched, with strong definition in that area. Additionally, the obverse die is cracked in two places, and on the verge of shattering. The most obvious crack runs diagonally from rim to rim, beginning at 12:00, then descends vertically across Liberty's portrait, between the 8 and 4 of the date, and finally to the rim at 6:00. Another less prominent (but no less obvious) crack runs from the rim at 10:00, across the upper two points of the fifth star, then across the field, Liberty's forehead and eyebrow, then her hair, where it joins the vertical crack at a point below the E in LIBERTY.

From Paramount's Auction '86 sale, July 1986, Lot 1916.

Attractive 1841-D Half Eagle

1841-D Breen-6534. Small D Mintmark, Repunched Date. AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous golden orange surfaces. Some faint hairlines are seen on the obverse, yet the surfaces are basically free of any other noticeable marks.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1969, Lot 215.

A Final Memorable 1841-D $5

1841-D Breen-6534. Small D Mintmark, Repunched Date. AU-55 (PCGS). Golden orange surfaces display plenty of lustre. A few faint marks are noted and have been considered by the gurus in the darkened room used for grading at PCGS headquarters in California. The present piece is a fifth high-grade example of an 1841-D, a variety for which even a single coin at this level would be highly prized as a rarity—and justifiably so. How fortunate we are that Harry Bass loved to acquire duplicates!

From Rarcoa's ANA sale, August 1970, Lot 1545.

Lustrous 1842 Half Eagle

Small Letters Reverse

905 **1842 Breen-6536. Small Letters. AU-55.** Lustrous yellow gold. A few scattered marks are present; in his *Encyclopedia*, Breen noted this date is "usually badly nicked." The surfaces are somewhat granular, undoubtedly a seawater coin. Nicely struck, and still quite attractive for the grade.

On the reverse, a die crack runs through ERICA, progressing from there through the denomination, and from there through UNIT.

From Stack's sale of the Davis Collection, February 1968, Lot 276.

Underrated 1842 Half Eagle

Large Letters Reverse

906 **1842 Breen-6537. Large Letters. AU-58 (PCGS).** Shimmering yellow gold surfaces present a somewhat prooflike appearance. Low magnification reveals a smattering of tiny marks; two small ticks on Liberty's cheek are all the unaided eye detects. Nicely struck in all areas. From a mintage of 27,578 examples of the date, with an unknown proportion of that mintage being the Small Letters variety of the date. Very rare above VF, extremely rare at AU or finer. Rarer than its Small Letters counterpart, itself considered a rarity.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

Minor repunching shows on the 8 and 4 in the date.

There is a distinct and unquestionable difference in letter size between the Small Letters and Large Letters varieties of the date. On the former, the letters are of a size reminiscent of that found on quarter dollars (or even dimes) of the era, while the letter size of the latter is perhaps twice as large, filling the appropriate spaces on the reverse in a much grander manner. Even without the benefit of side-by-side comparison, collectors should easily be able to distinguish between the two varieties; simply put, if the letters seem tiny, then it is the Small Letters variety. If they seem large, then it is the Large Letters variety.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 156.

Another 1842 Large Letters $5

Large Letters Reverse

907 **1842 Breen-6537. Large Letters. AU-58 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold on the obverse, deeper orange-gold and violet on the reverse. A pair of violet toning spots is noted on the obverse, one at Liberty's ear, the other in the lowest part of her hair bun. Nicely struck.

Minor repunching shows on the 8 and 4 in the date.

Elusive 1842 Half Eagle

Large Letters Reverse

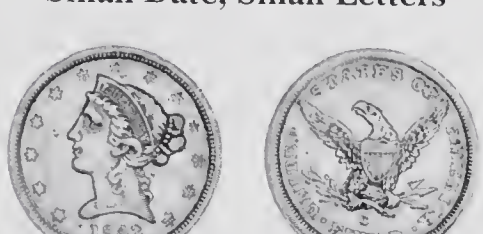
908 **1842 Breen-6537. Large Letters. AU-53 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold with a touch of olive. The fields are largely prooflike. Well struck in all areas.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

Purchased from George Gozan, February 1967.

1842-C Half Eagle Rarity

Small Date, Small Letters



909 **1842-C Breen-6538. Small Date, Small Letters. VF-35 (PCGS).** Medium golden orange with traces of lustre in the recessed areas. Considered to be the rarest of all Charlotte Mint half eagle issues. Indeed, save for the 1849-C Open Wreath gold dollar rarity, this may be the rarest Charlotte Mint issue of any denomination. Nearly always seen at VF or so, with pieces in higher grades quite difficult to obtain. A few stray marks are present, as might be expected for the grade, but none stand out in a singular manner. Pleasing for the grade, and certainly worthy of strong bidder attention.

The 1842-C is an important rarity in AU grade, incredibly so at the Mint State level, this being no more than a handful of such coins extant. Of all Charlotte Mint half eagles in the present sale, this is one of the most important.

Walter Breen attributes a mintage of 4,595 pieces to the 1842 Small Date variety and 23,589 to the Large Date variety, indicating that the ratio was approximately 1 to 4. This guesstimate apparently was off the mark, as data printed by Douglas Winter and David Akers, while indicating that the Small Date variety is scarcer, bring the differential closer together.

During this era date sizes were in flux at the Philadelphia Mint, and across certain denominations the years 1842-1846 are found with different-sized logotypes, not for all denominations and all years, but for enough of them that they make an interesting study.

Purchased from Dan Oakes, October 18, 1972.

Choice Uncirculated 1842-C $5

Finest Certified by PCGS

(2X photo)

910 **1842-C Breen-6539. Large Date. MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous m dium gold with strong olive overtones. A satiny beauty from t Charlotte Mint. Nicely struck in all places. An important rar in AU, much more so in Uncirculated. One of perhaps just fi to 10 Mint State examples of the date reported, and our es mate may be a trifle high. Douglas Winter gives this date a Hig Rarity-7 rating in Uncirculated. One of the finest Charlotte Mi offerings in this sale.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Walter Breen attributes a mintage of 23,589 to the Large Date variety, over four times that of the Small Date. On the other hand, Douglas Wint estimates that 35 to 40 are known of the Small Date and 65 to 70 of the Lar Date, obviously a different proportion. David Akers in his study of old-tir auction sales found 21 appearances of the 1842-C Small Date and 63 of t 1842-C Large Date. During this era date sizes were in flux at the Philadelph Mint, and across certain denominations the years 1842-1846 are found wi different-sized logotypes, not for all denominations and all years, but f enough of them that they make an interesting study.

Purchased from World Wide Coin Investments, February 17, 196

Lustrous 1842-C Half Eagle

Large Date

911 **1842-C Breen-6539. Large Date. AU-55.** Yellow gold surface display strong lustre, particularly in the recessed areas. A popu lar rarity from the Charlotte Mint; not so rare as its Small Dat counterpart, but still a prize for the alert collector. Sharpl struck in all areas. Some stray marks are noted, but the overa appearance is substantially pleasing.

From Stack's sale of the Davis Collection, February 1968, Lot 278.

Choice 1842-D $5

Small Date, Small Letters

1842-D Breen-6540. Small Date, Small Letters. AU-55 (PCGS). Orange-gold surfaces show generous amounts of lustre and reflectivity. Nicely struck. A rare date and variety in all grades, one that is typically seen in just VF or EF; in AU its rarity increases substantially.

In 1842 some 59,608 half eagles were struck at Dahlonega. Walter Breen theorizes that 37,917 were of the Small Date, Small Letters, and Small D Mintmark variety offered here, from a die pair shipped from Philadelphia on December 20, 1841, and received in Dahlonega 10 or so days later. The remaining pieces, with large letters and numerals, were minted to the extent of an estimated 21,691.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 384.

Another Lustrous 1842-D $5

Small Date, Small Letters

1842-D Breen-6540. Small Date, Small Letters. AU-50. Lustrous orange-gold surfaces. Nicely struck and quite appealing despite a scattering of tiny marks which only make their presence known under low magnification.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 846.

1842-D Breen-6540. Small Date, Small Letters. EF-45 (PCGS). Yellow gold with soft lustre and rose highlights on the high points. Some light scattered marks and tiny edge bumps are seen when viewed under low magnification. Still, a nice selection overall.

Purchased from George Gozan, February 1967.

Incredible 1842-O Half Eagle

Finest and Only PCGS Mint State

(2X photo)

915 **1842-O Small Date, Small Letters. MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold with a blush of olive. Lightly frosted motifs and mirror fields form a modest cameo contrast. Some reverse striking weakness is seen at the top and bottom of the eagle, typical for this date. Considerably rarer, in all grades, than even its modest mintage of 16,400 pieces indicates; VF or lower is the typical fare where this date is concerned. This is the only Uncirculated example of the date certified by PCGS! An unsung rarity from the New Orleans facility.

The 1842-O, with a mintage of 16,400 is typically seen in VF condition, quite occasionally EF, and very occasionally AU. The present coin, the finest Harry Bass could locate in three decades of collecting, stands high and proud as the only Uncirculated 1842-O certified at any Mint State level by PCGS. An incredible coin and an incredible opportunity.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, February 1968.

Rare 1842-O Half Eagle

Another Incredible Coin

916 **1842-O Small Date, Small Letters. AU-50 (PCGS).** Yellow gold with a touch of olive. A host of tiny surface ticks becomes apparent under low magnification, and some faint scratches are noted on the reverse between the eagle's wing and AMER. At the AU-50 level the 1842-O is incredibly important and is quite rare. Despite some minor shortcomings, this piece will be highly prized by the advanced specialist who no doubt will become its next owner.

PCGS Population: 4; 3 finer (MS-61 finest).

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 1967.

Uncirculated 1843 Half Eagle

917 **1843 Breen-6543. Normal Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).** Satiny golden surfaces display a high degree of lustre. Choice for the grade, and nicely struck as well.

Date to right, upper serif of 1 well to right of point of chin.

The reverse of this piece exhibits clash marks as well as a few interesting die cracks. The first of these begins at the rim at 12:00, descending through the second T of STATES, and from there into the field and across the eagle's beak and neck, stopping at the horizontal shield lines. The next crack begins at the rim and passes between the I and C of AMERICA, across the field and two upper arrow heads, and from there to a central point on the shield. Another crack ascends from the rim at 6:00, through the V of FIVE, and from there to the bottom of the shield; other tiny cracks can be seen as well.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 1972.

918 **1843 Breen-6543. Normal Stars. MS-60.** A frosty and satiny coin with strong lustre and a hint of olive toning. Sharply struck and choice for the grade.

Date to left, upper serif of 1 nearly even with point of Liberty's bust.

Purchased from J.E. Ryan, August 1973.

Liberty Half Eagle Quintette

919 **Quintette of half eagles of the 1840s:** ☆ 1843 Small, thin stars. AU-50 ☆ 1843 Large Letters. AU-50, lightly whizzed ☆ 1847 AU-55 (3). Mostly brilliant with pleasing mint lustre. (Total: 5 pieces)

Choice Mint State 1843-C $5

Among Finest Certified

The Norweb Specimen

(2X photo)

920 **1843-C Broad Mill. MS-63 (PCGS).** Glowing orange-gold su faces show strong lustre and a minimum of marks of any cons quence. Nicely struck in most areas. Rarer than its mintage 44,201 pieces indicates, and typically found VF or EF. In his e cellent study of the Charlotte Mint series published in 198 Douglas Winter stated the 1840-C was "unknown in Mint State Today we are confronted with certification numbers that ind cate that not only is the variety unknown, but that a handful e ist in MS-63 and finer grade. Rather than believe that all of sudden a flurry of Mint State 1843-C $5 pieces have myster ously appeared on the market in recent times, we suggest th certification numbers are padded by resubmissions of identic coins. In absolute terms, this MS-63 1843-C half eagle is an i credible rarity.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-64).

Under 1843-C in his *Encyclopedia*, Breen noted "Occasional specimens a on broader flans (resurrected 1840 die?)." Our Norweb Collection catalogu offers the following information under Lot 810 regarding the Broad Mill cla sification of this specimen: "It becomes immediately obvious that, the co ments by Walter Breen notwithstanding, the 'Broad Mill' was *not* disconti ued in 1841 but at the Charlotte Mint was continued through 1843, being r placed by the Narrow Mill in 1844. Thus, previously undescribed 1841-C 1842-C, and 1843-C Broad Mill coins exist." Moreover, the suggestion b Walter Breen that broader flans (planchets) made broader coins is not re evant, as the diameter of Liberty Head half eagles was determined by the *co lar,* not by the *planchet.* A planchet that was too broad would not fit in the co lar at all. A planchet that was too narrow would simply expand to reach th limits of the collar.

One obverse die was shipped to Charlotte on December 23, 1842. This wa used in combination with two reverses on hand from earlier times. It woul seem reasonable that additional obverses might have been sent later, as it wa not policy at the time to take a chance that the only die on hand might breal thus halting coinage of the most popular denomination. However, Walte Breen, the source for the die information given here, mentions only the ship ment of a single die.

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, Part I, October 1987, Lo 810; ex New Netherlands Coin Company, July 5, 1956.

Another Incredible 1843-C $5

1843-C Broad Mill. MS-61 (PCGS). Lustrous orange-gold on satiny surfaces. A few stray marks are present, but the overall appearance is quite fine for the grade. As noted on the preceding lot, 1843-C half eagles in Mint State are of great rarity, and we suspect that the fairly generous population numbers represent only a few *different* specimens.

PCGS Population: 2; 5 finer (MS-64 finest).

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1967, Lot 464.

1843-C Broad Mill. EF-45. Lustrous yellow gold with some deeper toning on the high points. A few faint marks are present, but the coin holds up well under close scrutiny.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2032.

Choice Mint State 1843-D $5

Large D Mintmark

Finest Graded by PCGS

(2X photo)

923 **1843-D Large D Mintmark. MS-64 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold with frosty devices and prooflike fields. Sharply struck in all areas.

The present coin is a cameo of great beauty, a piece that could well have been used for presentation purposes. In a word, the coin is *amazing*. Even the most experienced specialist in Dahlonega Mint coinage will find this piece to be remarkable. We readily expect that its next owner will consider it the centerpiece of his or her collection.

When encountered, the 1843-D is usually seen in VF condition, occasionally EF, and not often AU. Perhaps a couple thousand 1843-D half eagles exist today, this possibly being a generous estimate. Whatever the figure, the presently offered specimen, the finest and only such piece graded by PCGS at this level, seems to rank as the very best.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

In his *Encyclopedia*, Walter Breen noted that the large mintmark variety of this date was struck in combination with a rusted obverse die, this being characteristic of all authentic specimens. On the specimen offered here, a group of raised lumps, caused by die rust, is seen between the first two obverse stars. Another raised lump is near the lowest point of the 12th star, and two more lumps are seen at the uppermost right corner of the 3 in the date. Additionally, some small, faint die cracks can be seen among the reverse peripheral legends. The actual mintmark is placed in a central position between the V and E in FIVE.

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 375.

Another Remarkable 1843-D $5

924 **1843-D Large D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).** A lustrous golden yellow specimen with strong overall eye appeal. A whisper of pale olive graces the lightly reflective surfaces. Nicely struck. Another remarkable example of this Dahlonega Mint variety.

From the same obverse die and state as the previous lot.

From Superior's sale of March 1973, Lot 389.

Lustrous 1843-D Half Eagle

Small D Mintmark

925 **1843-D Small D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).** A lustrous golden specimen of this variety, the Small D issue being considerably rarer than the Large D. The AU level seems to represent the highest category among known specimens. PCGS has not certified a single example in Mint State. The specialist will delight in this opportunity and no doubt will bid liberally.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (both AU-58).

The mintmark is centered above the V in FIVE on this variety, and is slightly smaller in size than its Large D mintmark counterpart.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of December 1970, Lot 1702.

Rare 1843-O Half Eagle

Small Letters

Condition Census

926 **1843-O Breen-6548. Large Date, Small Letters. AU-55 (PCG** Lustrous yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike in appearance. rare variety in all grades, especially if Extremely Fine or finer. the AU level the 1843-O Large Date, Small Letters is especi important. In fact, the present specimen is certainly one of t finest known.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (AU-58).

A spidery network of faint die cracks can be seen among the peripheral l ends on the reverse.

Purchased from Fred Sweeney, July 1967.

Another 1843-O Half Eagle

Small Letters

Another Condition Census Coin

927 **1843-O Breen-6548. Large Date, Small Letters. AU-5 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous with warm honey gold toning. Th slightly granular surfaces resemble the Matte Proof surfac found on Indian half eagles of the early 20th century, a though in this case, the matte-like appearance is probabl due to immersion in seawater. An attractive coin overal Condition Census in quality.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (AU-58 finest).

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 1968.

Important 1843-O Half Eagle

Large Letters

Tied for Finest Graded by NGC

(2X photo)

1843-O Breen-6549. Large Date, Large Letters. MS-64 (NGC). Warm golden orange toning on lustrous surfaces. Prooflike in appearance, with frosted motifs and mirror fields presenting a strong cameo contrast. A landmark rarity from the New Orleans Mint, at least where condition is concerned.

Regarding the rarity of the 1843-O at the present level, David Akers, who saw and studied many things, wrote: "Strictly Uncirculated examples may exist, but I have personally never seen one." This was prior to the appearance of the present coin on the market.

This may be the finest known specimen. At least we do not recall ever seeing a nicer one.

NGC Census: 2; none finer.

From Stack's sale of the Milas Collection, May 1995, Lot 452.

A Final 1843-O Half Eagle

929 **1843-O Breen-6549. Large Date, Large Letters. AU-50.** Pale orange-gold surfaces. Slightly granular with seawater surfaces.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 1967.

Choice Mint State 1844 $5

Condition Census

930 **1844 MS-63 (PCGS).** Satiny surfaces display a high degree of lustre and attractive olive toning. A rarity in Uncirculated despite a generous mintage of 340,330 pieces. Sharply struck and choice for the assigned grade.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (MS-64).

From Paramount's Auction '86 sale, July 1986, Lot 1918.

Memorable Prooflike 1844 $5

Among Finest Known

931 **1844 MS-62 (PCGS).** Satiny surfaces exhibit frosty devices and somewhat prooflike fields. A lustrous and lovely example of the date, and decidedly choice for the grade. This is one of the finest we have ever seen, one of the finest known.

In the reverse shield, virtually every vertical line extends well into the horizontal lines above; they are all extended into the eagle's tail feathers as well.

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1976, Lot 2960.

Choice Mint State 1844-C $5

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

932 **1844-C MS-63 (PCGS).** Frosty yellow gold with plenty of brilliance and lustre present. Well struck (from lightly clashed dies) for the date, essentially sharp in nearly all areas. An incredible rarity in Mint State, and easily one of the finest examples of the date extant. As David Akers noted regarding this date and mint: "Specimens in AU or Uncirculated are almost unobtainable." He continued by noting that the finest he had ever seen was the Bareford coin—which is the specimen now currently offered as part of the Bass Collection.

The present coin, off the market for over two decades, reappears to delight a new generation of enthusiasts and admirers.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

On the reverse, a small die crack runs from the rim at 10:00 to the tip of the eagle's wing. Another crack, this more prominent, begins at the rim over the first A in AMERICA, horizontally crossing the field and the eagle's wing, ending at a central point on the eagle's neck.

According to Breen's *Encyclopedia*, "a burglar burned down the mint" at Charlotte on July 27, 1844. Author Clair Birdsall gives a more in-depth accounting of the events of that July day in his book titled *The United States Branch Mint at Charlotte, North Carolina: Its History and Coinage*. An article appeared in the August 1, 1844 edition of the *Charlotte Journal*, describing the events of the day in some detail. It seems the fire was first discovered in the early morning hours of Saturday, July 27. Mint Superintendent Dr. Green W. Caldwell had not spent Friday, July 26, in his quarters at the mint (as was his custom), but had instead gone to the mountains of Lincoln County for health reasons. His stand-in for the day, unnamed in the article (later determined to be one Mr. Todd), had not stayed at the mint that day either. The fire was discovered early Saturday in the west wing of the mint, near the room housing the coinage presses. According to the article, it was a small fire when first discovered, perhaps just eight-feet square or so, and could easily have been squelched by use of water reservoirs that were in place on the roof of the mint. For some unknown reason, the fire was allowed to burn, with the building "left to the mercy of the flames," as the article noted. The building was nearly completely destroyed, along with most of the machinery and other equipment contained therein. The mint register, bullion, and coins were rescued, however, and spent some time at the Branch Bank of the State of North Carolina in Charlotte. Superintendent Caldwell reportedly lost all his private papers and a goodly sum of money in the blaze.

As for the actual cause of the fire, history is not so clear. There were rumors that a group of college students were seen smoking "segars" on the roof of the mint about 2:00 PM on Friday, July 26, and that a discarded cigar may have been the cause of the conflagration. This was later ruled out as a cause, as workmen sent up to the roof to investigate *before the blaze occurred* found no smoldering cigar butts. Superintendent Caldwell was convinced that the fire was set on purpose, and intimated that a servant of Burgess S. Gaither, former superintendent of the mint, was to blame for the fire. On August 10, 1844, Calvin, a man slave of Gaither, went to trial for arson. He had been overheard threatening to burn the mint to ashes after his master lost his job there, and so was a primary suspect. Fortunately for Calvin (or *unfortunately*, as he was a married man), it was proven that he was with his girlfriend at the time of the events at the mint, and he was found innocent of all charges. The judge in the case, Richard M. Pearson, did determine that a trapdoor on the roof of the mint had been left unlatched, and that a person or persons of unknown identity had set the fire in the mint. According to Birdsall: "Superintendent Caldwell accepted the verdict with skepticism and continued to maintain in his correspondence with Mint Director Patterson that his apartment in the xint had been robbed and the fire set to cover up the robbery."

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 166; ex Stack's Lee Collection, October 1947, Lot 1363.

Lustrous 1844-C Half Eagle

Rare So Fine

1844-C AU-50. Brilliant yellow gold surfaces exhibit a hint of olive on the prooflike fields and frosty motifs. A prized rarity in grades above EF, and seldom found thus. Nicely struck in many areas, although some flatness is found in places. Some faint hairlines and a few scattered marks are noted, but the overall appeal of the coin is far above average. An important opportunity for the half eagle specialist, as AU-50 represents a very elegant grade for the issue.

Three obverse dies and four reverse dies were sent to Charlotte from Philadelphia this year, but apparently not all were used.

Purchased from Paramount, October 1969.

A Final 1844-C $5

4 **1844-C EF-40 (PCGS).** Medium gold with some orange-gold lustre in the recessed areas. Nice design details present. Choice for the grade.

From Lester Merkin's sale of February 1972, Lot 429.

Mint State 1844-D Half Eagle

Condition Census

5 **1844-D MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with some olive highlights in the fields. Nicely struck for the date. One of the more readily available dates from this popular southern mint; 88,982 pieces were coined. The typically available grade, however, is just VF or EF, and Mint State examples can be considered quite rare.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer (MS-64 finest).

Purchased from N.K.S., October 5, 1967.

6 **1844-D EF-45.** Pale olive-gold surfaces. A final example of this popular and desirable Dahlonega Mint half eagle.

A reverse die crack runs from the rim above the T in UNITED to the top of that letter, and from there across the tops of TED, where it juts at an angle back to the rim.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 229.

Stunning Gem 1844-O Half Eagle

Finest Certified by PCGS

(2X photo)

937 **1844-O Breen-6553. Normal Stars. MS-65 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold with a touch of olive in the prooflike fields. Intensely lustrous and sharply struck in all areas. An incredible rarity in gem Mint State, despite its generous mintage of 364,600 pieces, the second highest mintage figure for any denomination gold issue from the New Orleans Mint. Douglas Winter called this date "Genuinely rare" in Mint State, further noting the issue is "Extremely rare in MS-63 and unknown finer."

The specimen offered here is almost certainly the finest known business strike of the date, and was apparently overlooked in Winter's Condition Census for the date.

Harry Bass purchased this coin from the Miles sale in 1968, 31 years ago. At the time the catalogue description, probably by Norman Stack, commented: "Surely the finest known. Boldly struck with some prooflike surface. These choice Uncirculated early half eagles are so rare that a bid at double *Guide Book* would be considered conservative."

In the annals of New Orleans coinage, the present 1844-O stands tall and proud as the finest known business strike, a coin combining beautiful appearance, incredible rarity, and seldom encountered opportunity. For those not wanting to wait another 31 years, the present offering is of paramount significance.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Struck from a faintly rusted obverse die, tell-tale traces of which can be seen on Liberty's portrait. On the reverse, faint die cracks unite the tops of UNITED, and the bottoms of STATES OF AMERICA. Another faint crack runs from the left upright of the U in UNITED to the F in FIVE, running through the pellet between those two letters. Another crack runs from the D in the denomination to the dentils below.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968. Lot 399.

Another Important 1844-O $5

938 **1844-O Breen-6553. Normal Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold with frosty devices and decidedly prooflike fields. Sharply struck in all areas of the design, a notable contrast to the typical issue. Although at the MS-61 level the rarity of the 1844-O cannot be described as incredible, still the piece is highly important.

Another 1844-O $5

939 **1844-O Breen-6553. Normal Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).** Frosty golden orange surfaces display strong lustre. Choice for the grade.

The reverse die used to strike this particular specimen was heavily polished in the area of the arrow feathers, the eagle's right leg, and the olive branch, with much of the design details in those areas weak and attenuated as a result.

Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, April 1967.

940 **1844-O Breen-6553. Normal Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold surfaces free of major contact marks. Nicely struck in most areas.

From Paramount's sale of March 1973, Lot 1074.

941 **1844-O Breen-6553. Normal Stars. AU-55.** Lustrous yellow gold surfaces. A pleasing specimen for the grade.

Purchased from Arizona Stamp & Coin, March 1969.

942 1844-O Breen-6554. Small Thin Stars. AU-50. A lustrous prooflike specimen. Perhaps lightly cleaned long ago, but still quite attractive for the grade.

Small, thin obverse stars, probably caused by excessive polishing of the die; the reverse die is cracked in several places, as described for this variety by Breen in his *Encyclopedia.*

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1969, Lot 230.

Outstanding 1845 Half Eagle

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

The Norweb Specimen

(2X photo)

943 **1845 Breen-6555. Heavy Numerals. MS-64 (PCGS).** Highly
trous and satiny medium gold surfaces display warm rose iri
cence. Somewhat prooflike with a modest cameo contr
Sharply struck. Surprisingly rare in Mint State despite a w
generous mintage for the date of 417,099 pieces. A truly pl
ing example of the date, high Condition Census, a coin of
credible importance, exceeded in quality by none other
which we are aware.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

There are some interesting and sizeable reverse die cracks present on
specimen. The first and most prominent of these winds its way from the
along the back of the D in the denomination, upward to the olive branch
arrow feathers, where it juts to the viewer's left, following the center of
eagle's wing to the rim at 10:00. The second descends vertically from the
at 12:00, passing through the E of STATES, and from there to the eag
neck. The third crack reaches from the rim at 5:00, passing through the C
AMERICA to the lowermost arrowhead.

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, October 1987, Lot 816;
New Netherlands Coin Company, October 5, 1956.

Another Mint State 1845 $5

1845 Breen-6555. Heavy Numerals. MS-60. Lustrous golden orange surfaces. Well struck. Rare so nice.

The reverse is cracked in several places. The most noticeable of the cracks descends vertically from the rim above OF, through that word and the field below, then through the eagle's wing to the lowest arrow head. Another prominent crack unites the rim to the tops of MER; it appears as if a chunk is about to drop out of the die in this area.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 852.

A Third Mint State 1845 $5

1845 Breen-6555. Heavy Numerals. MS-60. A bright and lustrous coin with the appeal of a finer grade. Nicely struck in all areas. A prize within the parameters of the assigned grade.

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 165.

946 1845 Breen-6556. Partly Repunched Date. AU-58 (PCGS). A whisper of rose iridescence on lustrous orange-gold surfaces. The obverse is slightly prooflike in appearance. This date is typically found VF to EF, and AU specimens are fairly rare.

Some repunching is noted in the date area, most noticeably at the numeral 8. Breen called this variety "rare."

From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1028.

A Final Mint State 1845 $5

947 **1845 Breen-6557. Thin Numerals. MS-60.** Decidedly prooflike, with strong lustre present on frosty motifs and reflective fields. Sharply struck. The overall appeal is choice despite a few stray marks.

Purchased from J.E. Ryan, August 1973.

Monumental 1845-D Half Eagle

Finest Graded by PCGS

The Norweb Coin

948 **1845-D MS-65 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous and satiny surfaces with lovely olive iridescence. Much prooflike surface is seen, particularly on the reverse. A truly outstanding, indeed monumental example of the date and mint. As we noted in our Norweb catalogue description of this specimen: "In general, Dahlonega Mint pieces are notorious for their unavailability in Mint State, the ultimate business strike classification."

The coin offered here, reappearing on the market after being in a bank vault for 12 years, defines ultimate for the date and mint. Here is one of the most important opportunities a Dahlonega Mint specialist and connoisseur will ever encounter.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

A fine reverse die crack runs horizontally across the bottoms of ERICA, then to the tops of FIVE D, then crossing the U in UNITED, terminating at the second upright of that letter.

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, October 1987, Lot 817; ex New Netherlands Coin Company, July 5, 1956.

Choice Mint State 1845-D $5

Condition Census

(2X photo)

1845-D MS-63 (PCGS). Satiny orange-gold with strong lustre and rich orange toning highlights on both sides. The present coin is of world class importance, Condition Census, and one of the very finest known. The bidder who does not obtain Lot 948 will wish to compete strongly for the present lot, realizing that it is not at all a consolation but, instead, stands proudly as one of the nicest ever to cross the auction block.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-65).

From the same reverse die as the previous lot, and cracked in the same manner.

Purchased from Joe Flynn, March 17, 1978.

Attractive 1845-D Half Eagle

1845-D AU-55 (PCGS). A highly lustrous specimen of a popular Dahlonega Mint issue. Typically found VF or EF, an AU example of the date is a notable prize in today's numismatic arena.

From Superior's sale of the Ruby Collection, February 1975, Lot 1178.

A Final 1845-D $5

1845-D AU-55 (PCGS). Strong lustre and a whisper of rose toning on orange-gold surfaces. An altogether suitable and excellent example of the date and grade.

From Stack's sale of the Davis Collection, February 1968, Lot 293.

Choice Uncirculated 1845-O $5 Rarity

Finest Certified by PCGS

(2X photo)

952 1845-O Breen-6560. Repunched 18. MS-63 (PCGS). Lustrous honey gold with a trace of olive iridescence. A splendid specimen that will be a highlight to even the most experienced specialist in the New Orleans gold series. David Akers paid homage to the piece, noting that this particular coin "is the only real gem I have ever seen." Again, the word *opportunity* comes to the fore. Once sold, a similar coin may not appear for a long time, if ever. Nicely struck with only a trace of weakness seen here or there. Choice for the assigned grade. A rarity in Mint State; indeed, the date is seldom seen above EF. Winter called this date High Rarity-7 to Rarity-8 in his treatise on this mint's gold coinage. As noted by Akers, "The superb Gilhousen specimen purchased by Harry Bass for $2,000 is the only real gem I have ever seen." A prize for the alert collector who fully appreciates the "unsung" rarities from our southernmost mint.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

The ticket containing Harry Bass's notes on this lot simply stated "FINEST?" Some 26 years later, we think Harry was right on the mark with his theory as to the status of this specimen.

From Superior's sale of the Gilhousen Collection, February 1973, Lot 397.

Another Incredible 1845-O $5

Second Finest Certified by PCGS

953 **1845-O Breen-6560. Repunched 18. MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with attractive lustre. Nicely struck in all areas. Second only to the coin in the previous lot for specimens listed on the PCGS grading roster. Another incredible specimen, another incredible opportunity.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-63).

Many of the vertical stripes on the reverse shield extend well into the horizontal lines above, with many also extending downward into the eagle's feathers.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of December 1970, Lot 1710.

Elusive 1845-O Half Eagle

Condition Census

954 **1845-O Breen-6560. Repunched 18. AU-55 (PCGS).** A satiny yellow gold specimen with some prooflike reflectivity in the fields. A few light marks are mentioned for accuracy. Repunched 18 in date, a rare variety according to Breen.

PCGS Population: 10; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of November 1968, Lot 853.

Choice Mint State 1846 $5 Rarity

Finest Certified by PCGS

955 **1846 Breen-6561. Large Date. MS-63 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous medium orange-gold with moderate prooflike reflectivity on both sides. Considerably more rare in Mint State than its generous mintage of 395,942 pieces would lead one to expect. Most known specimens are VF to EF, to which can be added a relatively modest scattering of AU pieces. The present coin, graded MS-63, stands alone in quality among pieces of which we are aware. This, the finest piece Harry Bass was able to locate in 30 years of aggressive buying, may represent a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the bidder.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

A vertical reverse die crack extends from the base of the second T in STATES, running across the field to a point behind the eagle's eye. A second crack runs from below the E of FIVE, then upward across that letter to a point on the arrow feather above.

Purchased from Mal Varner, June 13, 1973.

Uncirculated 1846 Half Eagle

Large Date Variety

956 **1846 Breen-6561. Large Date. MS-60.** A satiny and lustro specimen with rich orange toning highlights. Nicely struck. MS-60 the 1846 is very elusive. Thus, the present piece shou attract much attention.

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1971, Lot 2168.

A Final Uncirculated 1846 $5

957 **1846 Breen-6561. Large Date. MS-60.** A lustrous orange-go specimen. Nicely struck. Somewhat prooflike in the fiel which adds greatly to the overall appeal. How incredible it that the present sale offers three—count them, three—specime at the Mint State level, when the typical advanced collector half eagles would be fortunate indeed to display an AU coin.

The reverse die is cracked from the rim at 11:00, extending from there tween the A and second T of STATES, then across the eagle's head, neck, a shield, then to the arrow shafts and the lowest arrow head, and from there the final A of AMERICA.

Purchased from J.E. Ryan, August 1973.

958 **1846 Breen-6562. Small Date. AU-58.** Bright yellow gold wi some orange toning highlights. Sharp and lustrous, and very tractive for the grade. Scarcer than the Large Date variety of t year.

On the obverse, a small die chip is noted at the lower right foot of the 4 the date.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 1967.

959 1846 Breen-6562. Small Date. AU-55. Orange-gold surfaces d play much lustre, especially in the recessed areas.

Die chip at numeral 4 in date (as described in the previous lot). A rever crack drops from the rim above the first A of AMERICA, uniting the tops AMER before jutting back to the rim above the R.

960 1846 Breen-6562. Small Date. AU-55. Another lustrous examp of this fairly scarce variety.

Die chip at numeral 4 of date. The reverse die of this specimen is cracked an identical nature to the piece in the previous lot.

Mint State 1846-C Half Eagle

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

1846-C Repunched 1 in Date. MS-62 (PCGS). Strong cartwheel lustre on orange-gold surfaces. Well struck in all areas. A prized rarity in all grades; just 12,995 examples of the date were struck. Most surviving specimens are VF or so. David Akers noted that he had "never seen a strictly Uncirculated piece," while Douglas Winter called the date Rarity-8 (no more than two or three known) in Mint State. The present coin is one of the very finest in existence.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-63). How the present piece compares with the MS-63 coin is not known—but it is to be remembered that the Bass coins, as a general rule, combine not only high grades but *excellent aesthetic appeal*, while most other gold coins of this issue may have high numbers but are lacking in the latter attribute.

The bottom of the 1 in the date is boldly repunched; this later fades from the die.

The 1846 logotype is called a *Large Date* by Walter Breen, which probably is a misstatement, as the date is quite compact, although shorter logotypes exist. In this particular year the Mint tried several different date sizes across various denominations, the varieties being most notable in the copper cent and silver half dollar series.

Two obverse dies were sent from Philadelphia this year but no reverses, the mint relying upon those left from earlier times. Apparently, the devastating mint fire of 1845 did not damage stored dies.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 236.

Uncirculated 1846-D $5 Rarity

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

962 **1846-D Breen-6564. Normal D Mintmark. MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold with orange-gold highlights. Nicely struck for the date. Some light, scattered marks are present under low magnification; the surfaces are essentially blemish-free to the unaided eye. In lower grades the 1846-D is one of the more readily available dates from Dahlonega, as 80,294 were struck. However, at the Mint State level the issue is a great rarity, as the population numbers indicate.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Purchased from N.K.S., February 1, 1972.

Lustrous 1846-D Half Eagle

Normal Mintmark

963 **1846-D Breen-6564. Normal D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).** A lustrous yellow gold specimen of this popular Dahlonega Mint issue.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-61).

Purchased from Arnold Rosing, June 1967.

Rare Uncirculated 1846-D/D $5

964 **1846-D Breen-6565. Repunched D Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous yellow gold with some deeper orange highlights. The rare and popular variety with a boldly repunched mintmark on the reverse. Nicely struck; the reverse die shows light clash marks.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-65).

The mintmark on this interesting variety was first punched too high, overlapping the arrow feathers and olive branch above. The mintmark was then repunched in a more proper position without first effacing the erroneously punched mintmark, thereafter showing two complete mintmarks on the reverse of all pieces struck from this die.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 20, 1968.

Popular 1846-D/D $5 Variety

965 **1846-D Breen-6565. Repunched D Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous yellow gold with a touch of olive iridescence. Sharply struck and aesthetically appealing.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of November 1972, Lot 1164.

A Final 1846-D/D $5

966 **1846-D Breen-6565. Repunched D Mintmark. AU-50 (PCGS).** Generous amounts of lustre and rich orange highlights grace the surfaces of this attractive coin. A final opportunity to acquire this popular and somewhat elusive variety.

Elusive 1846-O Half Eagle

967 **1846-O AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold with a touch of olive in the moderately reflective fields. Nicely struck for the date, with nearly full details in all areas. Rare in all grades, with VF or so the norm for available specimens. "Underrated and undervalued in all grades," wrote David Akers. In AU, Winter called the date Low Rarity-7. A desirable date which seldom comes finer than that offered here.

The present piece is indeed incredible, and is one of the very finest known.

PCGS Population: 4; 5 finer (MS-62 finest).

Purchased from Joe Flynn, March 17, 1978.

Another 1846-O Half Eagle

968 **1846-O AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold with plenty of prooflike reflectivity in the fields. Another pleasing specimen of this underrated branch mint issue.

A reverse die crack unites the bottoms of TATES, then jumps to the central point of the O in OF. Another crack unites the tops of AMERIC. Additionally, heavy diagonal die file marks can be seen above AMERICA.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2081.

Underrated 1846-O $5

969 **1846-O AU-53 (PCGS).** A final specimen of the 1846-O, a rat underrated issue, despite several pieces being offered as par the Bass Collection. The present coin affords an excellent portunity to acquire quality, rarity, and value in a single piec

From Rarcoa's ANA sale, August 1970, Lot 1545.

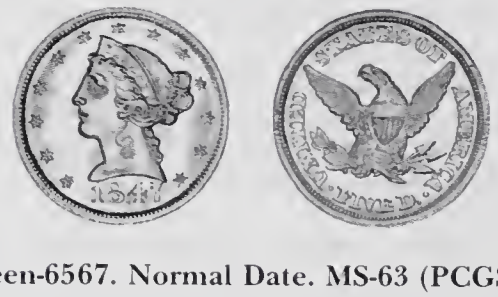
Satiny Uncirculated 1847 $5

970 **1847 Breen-6567. Normal Date. MS-63 (PCGS).** A highly l trous example of the date with lively olive iridescence on bo sides. Nicely struck and aesthetically appealing for the grad Just a few tiny marks from a higher grade designation.

Struck from a heavily cracked reverse die, the crack running from rim rim beginning above the final S of STATES, then running across the field a the eagle, then through the D of the denomination to the rim below. A seco crack extends from the rim below the F of FIVE, diagonally upward acr FIV, and from there to the eagle's claw, where it joins the first crack near t arrow heads.

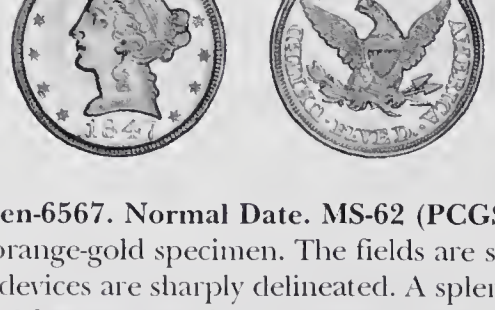
From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 872.

Lovely 1847 Half Eagle



971 **1847 Breen-6567. Normal Date. MS-63 (PCGS).** A highly lu trous orange-gold specimen. Definitely choice for the assigne grade, with some substantial claims to a higher grade. A scar variety, "High Date," with the 1 and 7 of the date touching th truncation of Liberty's neck above.

Mint State 1847 $5



972 **1847 Breen-6567. Normal Date. MS-62 (PCGS).** A frosty an lustrous orange-gold specimen. The fields are somewhat refle tive. The devices are sharply delineated. A splendid piece.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, November 1971.

973 **1847 Breen-6567. Normal Date. MS-60.** Lustrous honey gol surfaces. A pretty coin for the grade.

The reverse die is cracked vertically from the E of STATES directly acro the eagle to the E of FIVE, where it is joined by a horizontal crack that unit the tops of FIVE D, then juts downward to the period after D, then to the ri

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 735.

Choice Uncirculated 1847 $5

Extra 1 in Neck Variety

1847 Breen-6569. Extra 1 in Neck. MS-63 (PCGS). A highly lustrous specimen with moderately reflective fields and lightly frosted devices. A memorable quality example of an issue which when seen is usually in far lower grades. Added to the aspect of high condition is the interest afforded by the die variety described in our notes.

The rare variety with a numeral 1 embedded in Miss Liberty's neck and shoulder area, a spectacular die blunder first noticed decades ago by Bill Fivaz. In addition to the obvious on the obverse, there is a die crack that begins in the field just above the serif of the 4 in the date. From there, the crack runs vertically across Liberty's shoulder, tiara, and hair, just brushing the right side of the Y of LIBERTY, and then disappearing in the hair details above the crown.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 30, 1967.

1847 Breen-6569. Extra 1 in Neck. AU-55. A lustrous honey gold specimen with plenty of brilliance in the protected areas. Another example of this popular die blunder.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 28, 1967.

Desirable Uncirculated 1847/7 $5

Doubled 7 in Date

6 **1847 Breen-6570. Doubled 7 in Date. MS-61 (PCGS).** A highly lustrous example of a scarce and popular variety. Sometimes referred to as the Large 7 over Small 7 variety. Scarce in Mint State. Half eagles of this particular year are seen in a wide variety of date positions, repunchings, and other characteristics.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1969, Lot 239.

7 **1847 Breen-6570. Doubled 7 in Date. MS-60.** Brilliant and lustrous. A lovely example of the popular variety with a repunched 7 in the date.

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 178.

Popular 1847-C Half Eagle

Condition Census Quality

978 **1847-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous bright yellow surfaces with some deeper highlights in the protected areas. Nicely struck in most areas. Rare in AU or finer despite the fact that the mintage of the date, 84,151 pieces, is the most prolific half eagle production figure from the Charlotte Mint. An exceptional opportunity for the connoisseur and specialist.

PCGS Population: 6; 4 finer (MS-65 finest).

Purchased from N.K.S., July 31, 1967.

979 **1847-C EF-45.** Lustrous, slightly granular seawater surfaces. High date, 7 in date touches truncation above.

Three pairs of dies were shipped from Philadelphia to Charlotte, and at least two obverse variations are known, the present piece being the style with the 7 touching the bust truncation. This is a fairly rare circumstance, as in general the date logotype was shifted over to the left, and often on gold dies of this era the first digit of the date was crowded, while the last digit was free. Although there were some exceptions during the era (perhaps most notable being the 1846 half dollar with 6 over horizontal 6), it was common practice to use a four-digit logotype punch to insert numerals into working dies.

Purchased from Rarcoa, February 1972.

Mint State 1847-D Half Eagle

Condition Census

980 **1847-D MS-62 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous orange-gold surfaces present a somewhat prooflike appearance. While occasionally seen in Uncirculated (and very rare as such), this date is typically only VF or EF. Nearly as fine as can be found for the date, and important as such.

PCGS Population: 6; 1 finer (MS-63).

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1976, Lot 2966.

Lovely 1847-D Half Eagle

981 **1847-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold. Sharply struck in all areas. A pleasing example of a date and mintmark that is usually seen in VF grade, occasionally EF, and only rarely finer.

A reverse die crack extends directly downward from the F of STATES to the eagle's neck.

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 172.

Another 1847-D $5

982 **1847-D AU-50 (PCGS).** Warm golden orange with lustre in the recessed areas. Nicely struck. Just a few stray marks are present.

Lustrous 1847-D $5

983 **1847-D AU-50.** Lustrous medium gold surfaces show a hint of seawater surface. Some faint vertical scratches are noted in the field near the first two obverse stars. Nicely struck.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. sale of November 1968, Lot 859.

Unheralded 1847-O $5 Rarity

An Important Rarity

984 **1847-O AU-53 (PCGS).** Medium yellow gold with some lus and areas of prooflike reflectivity in the fields. The 1847-C exceedingly rare, even more than the mintage of 12,000 co would indicate. David Akers commented, "When one is offer it is invariably VF or EF at best," while Walter Breen chimed with "prohibitively rare above EF," while Douglas Winter least addressed the AU level, stating "About Uncirculated amples are excessively rare." "Excessively" or otherwise, jus few equivalent pieces exist, creating another tremendously i portant opportunity.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (AU-55).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, 2082.

Highly Elusive 1847-O $5

Winter: "Rarest New Orleans $5"

985 **1847-O Breen-6574. Weak O Mintmark. AU-50 (PCGS** Golden centers give way to warm orange-gold highlights at t rims. A touch of lustre remains in the recessed areas. A few n nor marks are present, but the overall appeal is equal to t grade in every respect. In addition to the comments in the p ceding lot, David Akers noted that the 1847-O was "one of t real sleepers in the half eagle series," while Douglas Winter pa this tribute, stating that the 1847-O is "The rarest New Orlea half eagle."

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (AU-55 finest).

From Stack's sale of the Davis Collection, February 1968, Lot 30

Important 1848 Half Eagle

Finest Graded by PCGS

Believed Finest Known of Date

(2X photo)

1848 Repunched 1 in Date. Not in Breen. MS-64 (PCGS). Highly lustrous honey gold with fairly frosted devices and mildly reflective fields. Some faint marks are evident under low magnification, but the overall quality and appeal are both outstanding to the unaided eye. A superb example of a date whose true rarity is greatly underappreciated. Here is a date that is practically unknown in Mint State despite its liberal mintage figure of 260,775 pieces. It could be many years before a comparable specimen crosses the auction block, or the present piece reappears. After all, it has been off the market for 32 years!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

The serif of a previously punched 1 sticks out from the upright of the existing 1 in the date, at a point about one-third up the upright of that numeral. In addition, some roughness in the die is noted as a raised plateau (in a minuscule sort of way, of course) in and around the other date numerals. What may be the remains of an 8 can be just seen in the loops of the first 8 in the date as well. If such is the case, then the raised plateau effect was probably the result of a depression around the date, caused when most of the remnants from the first date were polished from the die.

Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

Elusive 1848 Half Eagle

987 **1848 MS-60.** Lustrous yellow gold with some prooflike reflectivity in the fields. Rare in any and all levels of Mint State.

An obverse die crack begins at the rim near the 10th star, passing through the field to the upper portion of Liberty's bun. From there, the crack runs vertically through her tresses and the beads in her hair. The crack then runs across the field, the curls at the back of her neck, and then her shoulder, passing to the right of much of the second 8 in the date before turning and crossing the bottom of that numeral. The crack terminates in the dentils below the second 8.

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 173.

988 1848 Net AU-58; sharpness of MS-62 or so, but lightly brushed, and with possible faint graffiti in the reverse field above the eagle. A nice coin that should be seen before bidding judgement is passed.

This particular specimen was struck from a shattered obverse die. There is a network of fine die cracks among the obverse stars, particularly those above and behind Liberty's portrait, where small cracks connect some stars and also jut to her coronet and to the rim in places. Two prominent vertical cracks are also noted. The first of these begins at the dentils opposite the innermost point of the sixth star, crossing the field and touching the point of the star before dropping vertically across the field—faintly at first, then stronger as it crosses Liberty's nose, mouth, and chin. From there the crack runs to a point in the field opposite the point of Miss Liberty's bust. The second crack begins in the hair, near the coronet and just below the Y of LIBERTY. From there it moves across the field, across the curl at the back of Liberty's neck, then across the shoulder to the right side of the second 8 in the date, and from there to the dentils below. Also of note is a die crack that connects the bottoms of the date numerals.

Purchased from N.K.S., August 5, 1968.

989 1848 AU-58. Highly lustrous and sharply struck. Choice for the grade.

A prominent obverse die crack begins below the I in the date and runs below the first 8. From there it connects the bottoms of the 4 and the following 8, before running horizontally through the dentils to the rim. In addition, some faint cracks can be seen joining several obverse stars.

Amazing 1848-C $5 Rarity

Finest Certified by PCGS

990 **1848-C MS-64 (PCGS).** A brilliant specimen with mildly prooflike fields and frosty devices. Well struck for the date, with virtually all design details bold. A decidedly rare issue in AU, and incredibly rare in Mint State. Among Mint State coins, the present piece is above the crowd—one of its kind with regard to pieces evaluated by the highly respected PCGS group. Another find, another landmark for the Charlotte specialist.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Three pairs of dies were sent to Charlotte from Philadelphia this year, but we have not encountered any particular accounting as to minute variations known to exist today.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, March 13, 1972.

Scarce 1848-C Half Eagle

1 **1848-C AU-50.** Deep yellow gold with a decidedly olive overtone. A few scattered marks are seen, but none of major consequence. Only four to 12 coins are known at this grade level according to Douglas Winter. Another important opportunity.

From Stack's sale of February 1968, Lot 305.

Important 1848-D Half Eagle

The Finest of Eight Offered

2 **1848-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold with plenty of brightness in the recessed areas. Devoid of all but a few trivial marks, those chiefly visible under low magnification. Struck from clashed dies. A very rare date in AU or finer despite a mintage of 47,465 pieces. Typically found only Fine to VF or so (with EF coins fairly rare in their own right). Regarding this date, David Akers wrote: "Above EF it must be considered a major rarity."

PCGS Population: 2; 4 finer (MS-62 finest).

From Paramount's sale of March 1973, Lot 1077.

Lustrous 1848-D $5

3 **1848-D AU-55 (PCGS).** Brilliant yellow gold with orange-gold on the high points. Plenty of prooflike reflectivity in the recessed areas. A scattering of tiny marks can be seen under low magnification.

Purchased from Douglas Weaver, August 20, 1973.

Impressive 1848-D Half Eagle

A Condition Rarity

994 **1848-D AU-53 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold with some prooflike reflectivity in the fields. A few light marks are noted, and a faint reverse scratch connects the R of AMERICA to the eagle's wing area opposite that letter. Nicely struck. A nice opportunity for the Dahlonega Mint specialist.

On the reverse, a faint die crack unites TATES OF, then crosses the field and eagle's wing tip, then through the field again, finally uniting the bases of AMERICA.

From Superior's sale of March 1973, Lot 408.

Underrated 1848-D Half Eagle

Unusual Die State

995 **1848-D AU-50.** Bright yellow gold with a hint of olive toning. Lustrous for the grade. Struck from a clashed obverse die, with tantalizingly familiar yet somehow wrong clash marks behind and on Liberty's portrait (see note below).

Reverse die aligned about 225°.

Note from Frank Van Valen:

The obverse of this specimen shows strong clash marks in the field behind Miss Liberty's head, as well as in front of her throat, and in among the letters of LIBERTY on her tiara and at her eye. Careful examination reveals that what appears to be the clashed image of the eagle from the reverse die is actually something seemingly familiar, yet not exactly the image of the eagle from the reverse die. Perhaps a die from another denomination was accidentally dropped on the obverse die of this half eagle, before it was shipped from Philadelphia to Dahlonega. The heaviest of the clash marks appears behind Liberty's head, resembles the crook of an eagle's wing more than anything else; the marks do not, however, match perfectly with the reverse design elements. Here then is an intriguing numismatic puzzle that deserves more attention.

The reverse of this specimen shows some clash marks transferred from the obverse, and also displays some interesting die cracks. Among these, a faint crack unites the tops of UNITED, while another faint crack unites TATES OF, passing across the tip of the eagle's wing as it does so, then connecting AMERICA and the D of the denomination. Another crack runs from the underside of the eagle's wing to the M of AMERICA. Another descends from the rim between the E and R of that word, ending at the base of the E.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 19, 1968.

Another Nice 1848-D $5

996 **1848-D AU-50.** Lustrous with rich orange iridescence in the recessed areas. A scattering of tiny marks is seen on both sides, although no individual mark stands out on its own. Rare.

A fairly heavy reverse die crack runs across the eagle's left (viewer's right) wing, into the field where it nearly brushes the top arrowhead before turning horizontally and terminating between the E and R of AMERICA.

From Stack's sale of October 1970, Lot 175.

Duplicate 1848-D Half Eagle

Obverse Clash Marks

997 **1848-D AU-50.** Lustrous yellow gold with a definitive olive glow. A second example with severe obverse clash marks (see note at Lot 995). Rare so fine.

Purchased from J. Flickenger, August 1, 1972.

Yet Another 1848-D $5

998 **1848-D AU-50.** Bright yellow gold with plenty of lustre present. Struck from clashed obverse die (as noted under two other lots).

Not only does the obverse show the anomalous clash marks mentioned under Lot 995 above, but a small die crack connects the back tip of Liberty's bust to the rim. On the reverse, a diagonal crack runs from the rim through the A of STATES, across the field and the eagle's head, and then the wing and the tips of the two uppermost arrowheads. The crack then passes through the R in AMERICA to the rim. Another crack joins the bottoms of ICS in AMERICA, the dot that follows, and the IVE and D, as well as the period that follows the denomination.

From Stack's sale of February 1974, Lot 640.

999 **1848-D EF-45.** A touch of lustre on orange-gold surfaces.

Obverse with faint crack from back of bust to rim, reverse with diagonal crack from rim at 11:00 to 5:00; both of these die states are described at other lots containing 1848-D half eagles.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2061.

1000 **1848-D EF-45.** Warm gold with a touch of olive.

Many years ago our fine friend Otto Carlsen enjoyed buying up quantities, including duplicates, of rare types of piano rolls used on coin-operated instruments. When others called upon him and reviewed his large holdings with envy, he mischievously winked and said. "This keeps the hoarders from getting them." Otto was a generous person, and would always sell or trade a duplicate to someone who was interested—if this person passed the test of being truly interested.

In his time, Harry W. Bass, Jr., acquired duplicates, triplicates, and even larger numbers of coins not particularly as a hoarder, but because he felt that by doing this he could study them at leisure and observe their die characteristics, and, further, that such pieces represented an excellent store of value for his money. Ultimately, he was rewarded on both counts.

Purchased from N.K.S., December 18, 1970.

Lustrous Mint State 1849 $5

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

1001 **1849 MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous with orange-gold toning on satiny surfaces. Some reverse striking weakness is noted. A fairly rare date in Mint State despite a generous mintage of 133,070 piece. This date is typically seen VF or EF. The present coin is exceeded in quality by no other 1849 half eagle that we have ever seen.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.
Some faint obverse cracks unite the first three stars.

1002 **1849 Breen-6582. Repunched 49. AU-58.** Lustrous golden surfaces with orange iridescence in the protected areas. Attractive for the grade, and quite rare at the AU level.

The 4 and 9 in the date are broadly repunched to the north on this variety.
Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 15, 1971.

Unimprovable 1849-C $5 Rarity

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

(2X photo)

1003 **1849-C MS-64 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous, with warm orang gold toning on satiny surfaces. The fields are lightly prooflil and the overall appeal is substantial. Although 64,823 we minted, only a few have survived in Mint State, of which no seems to be finer than the Bass Collection specimen. The Cha lotte Mint enthusiast will bid liberally, knowing that this oppo tunity may not recur for a long time, if ever.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.
Three pairs of dies were sent to Charlotte from Philadelphia this year.
From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, L 171; ex B. Max Mehl's sale of the Atwater Collection, June 11, 194 Lot 1763.

Another Mint State 1849-C $5

Impressive Quality

(2X photo)

1004 1849-C MS-62 (PCGS). Highly lustrous yellow gold surfaces are somewhat prooflike. Seldom does even one Mint State specimen cross the block. The appearance of two pieces, this and the preceding lot, is of great importance and is likely to occur nowhere else except in the Bass Collection.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer (MS-64 finest).

A reverse die crack extends from the rim, just grazes the left serif of the U in UNITED, then reaches to the olive leaves below.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of December 1970, Lot 3179.

1005 1849-C Net EF-40; sharpness of AU-50 or finer, but obverse lightly brushed, and reverse polished to remove faint graffiti above the eagle. Lustrous golden orange.

From Paramount's sale of March 1973, Lot 1078.

Elusive 1849-D Half Eagle

1006 1849-D AU-55 (PCGS). Yellow gold with a hint of olive. Generous amounts of lustre play in the recessed areas. A rare date, particularly above EF, and typically found lower than that grade.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 880.

Another 1849-D Half Eagle

1007 1849-D AU-55 (PCGS). A bright and lustrous half eagle from Dahlonega. Another attractive specimen.

A faint reverse crack is noted at the tops of FIVE D.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of January 1975, Lot 446.

A Third 1849-D $5

The Eliasberg Specimen

1008 1849-D AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous golden orange surfaces. Another lovely coin, one of the three finest obtained by Harry W. Bass, Jr., over a long period of years.

A fairly heavy reverse die crack runs from the dentils just beyond OF, across the eagle's wing tip, then to the bases of AMERI, where it becomes faint, progressing along the bottoms of CA and then the tops of E and D in the denomination.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 453.

A Final 1849-D Half Eagle

1009 1849-D AU-53 (PCGS). Bright golden lustre on orange-gold surfaces. A final 1849-D half eagle in a lineup of this date that must be seen to be believed. Normally, even a single specimen at the AU level would be a beacon if offered at auction.

On the reverse, a crack runs from the rim above I in AMERICA, then down that letter, where it splits into two cracks that cross the arrow heads, reforming as a single crack, then crossing the eagle's leg, the shield tip, and then the other leg. From there, the crack crosses the field and the olive branch, then runs between the I and T of UNITED to the rim. A finer crack unites the tops of E and D in the denomination with the bottom of the final A in AMERICA.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2062.

Uncirculated 1850 Half Eagle

Rare and Underrated

1010 1850 MS-61 (PCGS). A high degree of lustre and brilliance grace the prooflike surfaces and lightly frosted devices of this attractive rarity. Choice for the grade. Although 64,491 pieces were struck, and although the issue is generally regarded as a common date, David Akers suggests that the status is "grossly misleading." A review of the literature will dramatically demonstrate that in grades such as AU and Mint State the 1851 is a formidable rarity.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).

Purchased from J.E. Ryan, August 29, 1973.

1011 1850 AU-55. Lustrous yellow gold with a hint of olive. A few light obverse rim marks are noted for accuracy.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 412.

1012 1850 AU-50. Highly lustrous with rich orange toning on satiny golden surfaces.

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 1919.

Mint State 1850-C Half Eagle

Among Finest Certified

(2X photo)

1013 1850-C Strong C Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS). A lustrous medium gold specimen with prooflike fields and strong overall appeal for the assigned grade. Nicely struck, with splashes of attractive orange toning in the recessed areas.

The 1850-C has been regarded as a major rarity in Mint State, this despite its fairly generous mintage of 63,591 pieces. Most extant examples grade VF or EF, occasionally AU, but only rarely Mint State. The present coin is exceedingly impressive and comes with a nice pedigree.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-63).

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 172. Previously from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Atwater Collection June 11, 1946, Lot 1764.

Mint State 1850-C Half Eagle

Amazing Duplicate MS-62!

(2X photo)

1014 1850-C Strong C Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS). A lustrous gold orange specimen with modest prooflike reflectivity in the fiel Nicely struck from lightly clashed dies. Choice for the grade. amazing duplicate—having even a single MS-62 1850-C in a s would be a remarkable event, and here we have the second ample.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 250.

Lovely 1850-C $5 Rarity

1015 1850-C Strong C Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS). Bright and lustrou yellow gold with a decided olive sheen on both sides. A ve choice example at a high grade level seldom seen in numisma ics.

PCGS Population: 8; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

Interestingly enough, the reverse of this specimen is cracked in the identi manner as that described at Lot 1004, the MS-62 (PCGS) 1849-C half eag Evidently, this reverse saw use in at least two years.

Purchased from Dan Brown, October 19, 1967.

Another Pleasing 1850-C $5

1016 1850-C Strong C Mintmark. AU-53 (PCGS). Lustrous yello gold. Some minuscule porosity suggests seawater surfaces. St attractive overall. Another remarkably high grade example of a issue which is normally seen in VF or EF.

Reverse die crack present as on the earlier described lots 1004 and 1015.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. sale, October 1968, Lot 863.

Lovely 1850-D Half Eagle

Condition Census

17 **1850-D Strong D Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).** A high degree of lustre radiates on lustrous honey gold surfaces. Rich orange highlights reside in the recessed areas. Nicely struck in most areas, but with some lightness on the eagle as characteristic of authentic specimens.

The 1850-D registered a production of 43,950 pieces. Of those that remain, nearly all are in VF or EF grade. Anything higher is extremely rare. A major opportunity for the connoisseur and specialist.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-61 finest).

Purchased from N.K.S., July 26, 1967.

Lustrous 1850-D Half Eagle

18 **1850-D Breen-6588. Weak D Mintmark. AU-55.** Highly lustrous yellow gold. A very pleasing specimen of the second popularly collected variety of the 1850-D.

A curved reverse die break unites the bottoms of the letters of the denomination with the tops of UNITED and STATES.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. sale, October 1968, Lot 864.

19 1850-D Net VF-35; sharpness of EF or finer, but several edge marks are seen; perhaps mounted at one time. A touch of lustre on medium gold surfaces.

Purchased from N.K.S., October 6, 1967.

Mint State 1851 $5

20 **1851 MS-60.** Satiny golden surfaces show rich rose iridescence. Nicely struck in most areas. First 1 in date connected to Liberty's bust by a die chip. Much scarcer in Mint State than its mintage of 377,505 pieces indicates. Choice for the assigned grade.

The first 1 of the date is joined to the bust of Liberty above by a sizeable die chip. Further, a series of faint die cracks connects many of the obverse stars, with additional cracks that connect some stars to the rim.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1983.

1021 **1851 AU-58 (PCGS).** A frosty, satiny specimen with warm olive and orange-gold iridescence on both sides. An appealing coin with plenty of lustre and eye appeal for the grade. Nicely struck.

A small oval die lump is found in a centered position near the edge of Miss Liberty's truncation.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 12, 1969.

1022 **1851 AU-58 (PCGS).** A lustrous golden example of the date. Nicely struck and quite appealing overall.

This specimen also shows a die lump at the edge of Miss Liberty's truncation. A die chip has fallen from the area above the first 1 of the date as well, uniting Liberty's bust with that numeral. A faint die crack juts horizontally from the rim near the first 1 of the date, then connects the bases of the 1, 8, and 5 of the date; another faint crack reaches from the first star toward the first 1. Additionally, a spidery network of faint die cracks unites the first six obverse stars, with other cracks that connect some stars to the rim.

Purchased from J.E. Ryan, August 29, 1973.

Pleasing 1851-C $5

1023 **1851-C Normal Earlobe. AU-55 (PCGS).** A golden orange specimen with much lustre in protected areas. Nicely struck on the obverse, but with some weakness at the center of the reverse, this being standard for authentic specimens.

The 1850-C is usually encountered in Fine to Very Fine grade, occasionally Extremely Fine, but only rarely AU. Lending interest to the specialist is the status of this as being the "Normal Earlobe" variety, without a hole or punch mark as is seen on most other 1851-C half eagles. Douglas Winter noted: "A few coins are known without the punchmark; these are quite rare." All characteristics combined, the present 1851-C is of great importance.

Three new obverse dies were sent to and received at Charlotte this year. The supply of reverse dies was adequate from previous shipments, and no new dies were shipped.

The obverse of this rare variety has no hole or punchmark in Liberty's ear. Additionally, the first 1 of the date touches the truncation above, while the second 1 grazes the truncation.

The C mintmark is low to the left and directly over the first upright of the V in FIVE, a position that differs drastically from that of the typically seen hole-in-ear variety.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA sale, August 1968, Lot 967.

Elusive 1851-C Half Eagle

1024 **1851-C AU-53 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold with plenty of lustre in the recessed areas. Nicely struck for the date; this one typically comes much weaker on the reverse.

A curious hole in Miss Liberty's ear lobe, the usual die used for this date and mintmark.

This date is nearly always found with a small hole (or punchmark) in Liberty's earlobe. The specimen offered here has the first 1 of the date nearly touching the truncation above, while the second 1 of the date is a millimeter or more from the truncation. The C mintmark is high and above the F of FIVE.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 19, 1968.

Delightful 1851-D Half Eagle

Condition Census

1025 1851-D Breen-6593. Mintmark Far to Right. AU-58 (PCGS). Bright orange-gold with prooflike surfaces. Some striking weakness on both sides, not unusual for the date. A few light marks are noted as well, but the overall appeal is still quite strong. Fine to EF is typical of this issue, with choice AU or finer specimens being quite rare.

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).

On the obverse, the first 1 in the date is nearly entirely left of the point of Liberty's bust. The photo in the Akers reference shows an example of the date with that numeral nearly entirely under the point of Liberty's bust.

On the reverse, the mintmark is placed far to the right, above the E of FIVE and the space before the D; the mintmark touches the olive stem. Also, a small crack extends from the point of the stem, running through the field, where it grazes the side of the pellet after AMERICA before joining the rim.

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1976, Lot 2972.

Lustrous 1851-D Half Eagle

Repunched 1 in Date

1026 1851-D Breen-6595. First 1 in Date Repunched. AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous yellow gold. Finer than the typically seen specimen, and rare and desirable as such.

The variety with the first 1 in the date repunched (and embedded in the dentils below, a fact not noted in Breen's *Encyclopedia*).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2064.

Attractive 1851-D $5

1027 1851-D Breen-6595. First 1 in Date Repunched. AU-50. Lustrous yellow gold with some olive iridescence on somewhat reflective fields. Nicely struck on both sides. A second example of the variety with repunched and embedded 1 in date.

Purchased from Paramount, March 30, 1967.

Another 1851-D $5

1028 1851-D Weak Mintmark. EF-45. Lustrous medium gold w some deeper orange highlights in the recessed areas. Nic struck for the date. The mintmark is placed high in the crotch the branch and arrow, and barely evident save for a faint vest of the top of the D, creating a very curious variety that speciall have long sought—occasionally having the luck to acquire one a *Philadelphia Mint* coin if the vestige is particularly elus where the seller is not knowledgeable!

On the obverse, the first 1 is repunched and embedded in the dentils bel On the reverse, a heavy circular crack runs through FIVE D and UNIT STATES.

From Superior's sale of December 1972, Lot 1951.

Prized 1851-O Half Eagle Rarity

A Mint State Treasure

"Rare and Very Underrated"

1029 1851-O First 1 in Date Repunched. MS-62 (PCGS). Sati golden surfaces show strong lustre and great overall appe Nicely struck for the date, above average, but in keeping wi authentic pieces, not fully sharp.

The 1851-O is the first half eagle coinage from the New O leans Mint since 1847. Standing alone, it became the last iss until 1854. In his text Douglas Winter called this issue: "Ra and very underrated in all grades."

The presently offered Mint State specimen is a true treasure

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-63).

The top of an erroneously punched 1 can be seen in the field directly ov the first 1 of the date; only the crown of the first numeral remains, with t other details no doubt effaced from the die before use. Although this vari is not noted in Breen's landmark *Encyclopedia*, Harry W. Bass' notes state "Another 1 under bust." The O mintmark is low and centered above the and E in FIVE.

Another Notable 1851-O $5

030 **1851-O First 1 in Date Repunched. Broadly Repunched Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with grand eye appeal. A pleasing AU specimen of this popular and rare New Orleans issue. A final example of this elusive variety.

PCGS Population: 5; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).

The first 1 in the date is repunched at the top. The O mintmark is broadly repunched and is located high and centered over the V in FIVE.

Purchased from Dan Brown, October 19, 1967.

031 **1851-O EF-45 (PCGS).** Pleasing for the grade, with warm orange-gold highlights on both sides.

First 1 in date repunched at top. Mintmark centered above V and E in FIVE.

Choice Mint State 1852 $5

Tied for Finest by PCGS

(2X photo)

032 **1852 Light Numerals, Open 5. MS-64 (PCGS).** A satiny and lustrous golden orange specimen with some rose iridescence present. Sharply struck. Very rare at the MS-64 level, as the PCGS numbers indicate. Not rare, but definitely scarce in choice Uncirculated.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

The obverse numerals were impressed lightly in the die, and the 5 of the date is open between the ball and cusp of the numeral. A die crack unites the first four stars.

From Rarcoa's ANA sale, August 1970, Lot 1545.

Uncirculated 1852 $5

A Second Specimen

1033 **1852 Heavy Numerals, Closed 5. MS-62 (PCGS).** Satiny golden orange surfaces display rich rose iridescence. Nicely struck in all areas.

The numerals on this die were punched into the die heavily, and the ball and cusp of the 5 in the date touch.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 424.

Lustrous Uncirculated 1852-C $5

1034 **1852-C Numeral 1 in Date Touches Bust. MS-60.** Bright yellow gold. A lovely coin for the grade. Moderately reflective fields and frosted devices make for a pleasing cameo contrast. Nicely struck for the date, with just some faint hairlines and a few light ticks the only detriments present. This would make an impressive addition to any cabinet of Charlotte Mint delicacies. The finest specimen obtained by Harry W. Bass, Jr. A powerful statement in itself.

Three pairs of dies were sent from Philadelphia to Charlotte this year.

From Paramount's sale of February 1973, Lot 1079.

Popular 1852-C Half Eagle

1035 **1852-C AU-50.** Bright yellow gold surfaces show plenty of lustre. Some vertical obverse scrapes show mainly under low magnification. One of the more readily available issues from Charlotte, but still far from plentiful. As such, this would make an excellent candidate in a general type set of half eagles.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, August 4, 1967.

Uncirculated 1852-D $5

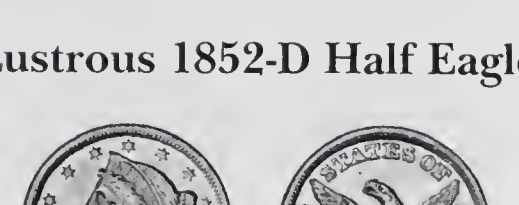
Condition Census

1036 1852-D MS-61 (PCGS). Lustrous deep gold surfaces with lighter brilliance on the high points. Modest prooflike reflectivity on both sides. A few tiny ticks are present. Although the 1852-D is one of the more readily available half eagles from Dahlonega, reflective of a mintage of 91,452 pieces, at this high grade the issue is very rare. Indeed, the present piece is Condition Census.

PCGS Population: 2; 5 finer (MS-63 finest).

From Stack's ANA sale of August 1976, Lot 2974.

Lustrous 1852-D Half Eagle



1037 1852-D AU-53 (PCGS). Lustrous yellow gold surfaces. Another specimen of this popular Dahlonega issue.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, November 1, 1968.

1038 1852-D EF-45. Deep iridescent orange on lustrous golden surfaces. An obverse rim mark is seen at 3:00, otherwise the surfaces are fairly free of any serious marks.

Uncirculated 1853 Half Eagle

1039 1853 Date Under Bust. MS-62 (PCGS). A lustrous golden specimen with a touch of rose iridescence. Nicely struck. Just a few tiny marks from a higher grade, and quite attractive overall. "Very rare in strictly Uncirculated condition," wrote David Akers regarding this date.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1985.

1040 1853 MS-60. Satiny golden surfaces show a high degree of lustre. Nicely struck. A few random marks present, but still a pleasing representative of the date and grade.

A dash is seen below the E of LIBERTY on Miss Liberty's coronet, and a small dash, perhaps the remnants of an errant 1, is noted in the field between the 1 and 8 in the date.

Purchased from Ed Messer, August 14, 1971.

Incredible 1853-C Half Eagle

Finest Graded by PCGS

(2X photo)

1041 1853-C MS-64 (PCGS). Frosty orange-gold devices contra nicely with moderately reflective fields. A touch of olive glo warmly on both sides. Although 65,571 examples were struc the issue is generally available only in VF to EF grades, with A pieces being rare and Mint State coins exceptionally so. Tl present piece, the finest Harry Bass was able to locate in years of collecting, and also the finest graded by PCGS, is Charlotte Mint landmark!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, L 173; previously from the Bell Collection, March 1948, Lot 438; st earlier from the Memorable Collection, March 1, 1948 Lot 438.

Elusive 1853-C Half Eagle

1042 1853-C AU-50. Medium yellow gold with a warm olive glo overall. A few trivial marks are present. Lightly struck at the r verse center, not an unusual occurrence for the date.

From Stack's sale of February 1968, Lot 321.

1043 1853-C EF-45. Medium golden surfaces lightly brushed lon ago. A natural planchet lamination, as struck, is noted at 11:0 on the obverse rim. Lightly struck at the reverse center, typic of authentic specimens of this variety.

A heavy reverse die crack underlining VE and D in the denomination quite unusual when examined under magnification. The crack is caused by chunk of the die that is about to fall completely away from the rest of the di It has already succeeded in falling partly away, leaving a second base to the above, and a second row of dentils a millimeter or so below the existing de tils. It would be extremely interesting to find an 1853-C half eagle that w struck from the terminal state of the die, after the chunk falls from the rest the die.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, L 2041.

Mint State 1853-D Half Eagle

Condition Census

44 1853-D MS-62 (PCGS). A lustrous specimen with satiny surfaces that offer a faint cameo contrast. Definitely above average for the grade. One of the few Dahlonega Mint half eagle issues that can be found in Mint State with any regularity, but nearly all pieces are in a grade below the present specimen. A very nice coin. Still a difficult issue to find Uncirculated.

PCGS Population: 9; 1 finer (MS-63).

Another 1853-D Half Eagle

45 1853-D AU-58 (PCGS). Lustrous honey gold surfaces with deeper orange-gold in the protected areas. An exceptionally pleasing coin for the grade.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA sale, August 1968, Lot 971.

Another Nice 1853-D $5

46 1853-D AU-55 (PCGS). Medium gold with strong lustre and a decent strike as well. Pale pink iridescence present in the recessed areas. A fine coin for the assigned grade.

A reverse die crack runs rim to rim beginning at 4:00, passing through the upright of the R in AMERICA, the uppermost arrow head, and the eagle's leg, slowly curving down from there to the arrow feather and the leg just above the eagle's right talons, then through the olive branch and the left upright of the U in UNITED, and from there to the rim at 7:00.

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, March 30, 1973.

Lustrous 1853-D $5

1047 1853-D AU-55. Strong lustre remains on yellow gold surfaces. A few stray marks are present but, all in all, another pleasing example of a popular date.

Purchased from Paramount, February 15, 1968.

A Final 1853-D Half Eagle

1048 1853-D AU-50. Lustrous yellow gold surfaces free of all but the most trivial marks.

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1971, Lot 2189.

Mint State 1854 Half Eagle

Condition Census

1049 1854 MS-62 (PCGS). Brilliant with intense cartwheel lustre on satiny honey gold surfaces. Nicely struck in almost all areas. Choice for the grade. Much rarer in AU or finer than its somewhat sizeable mintage of 160,675 pieces indicates. Such pieces were made strictly for utilitarian purposes, with no numismatic thoughts in mind, thus, within a few years nearly all examples were worn.

PCGS Population: 9; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 191.

1050 1854 AU-58. Lustrous honey gold surfaces.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 1003.

Impressive 1854-C $5 Rarity

High Condition Census

A Landmark Coin

(2X photo)

1051 1854-C Breen-6607. Weak C Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS). A lustrous orange-gold specimen with satiny devices and modestly reflective fields. Seldom available above VF, this outstanding specimen is a pleasing exception to that rule. Douglas Winter gave this date a Rarity-8 rating in all levels of Mint State, suggesting that just two or three are known. Winter knew of the Bass Collection specimen and called it: "The only unequivocally Uncirculated example of this date." This echoes a comment by David Akers who wrote, "The only one I have seen with legitimate claims to Mint State was the Robison specimen." Whether the "other" Mint State pieces in the numbers game represent more than one or two pieces is not known. In any event, the present coin is high Condition Census, and, who knows, perhaps it is the very finest. The specialist will delight in the opportunity.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-63).

In his *Charlotte Mint Gold Coins: 1838-1861*, author Douglas Winter notes two mintmark varieties for this date. The first, as offered here, has a faint mintmark (sometimes so faint that a given specimen may be mistaken for a Philadelphia Mint specimen) that is centered over the E of FIVE; this is the scarcer of the two varieties. The second (and slightly more available) variety has a fairly sharp C mintmark that is positioned above the IV of FIVE.

For comparison purposes, PCGS also certifies examples of this date as the Strong Mintmark variety. When the populations of both varieties are combined, the PCGS Population for this specimen then becomes: 3; 1 finer (MS-63). Even with both varieties considered, this lovely example is still one of the finest certified of the date.

From Stack's sale of the Robison Collection, February 1979, Lot 433.

Elusive 1854-C Half Eagle

1052 1854-C Breen-6607. Weak C Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS). Lu trous orange-gold with a hint of olive toning. Winter gives t date a Rarity-5 rating overall, with a Rarity-7 rating in strict A A splendid opportunity awaits.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-63).

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 431.

Another Pleasing 1854-C $5

1053 1854-C Strong C Mintmark. AU-53 (PCGS). Medium gold wi orange-gold iridescence in the protected areas.

Variety with strong C mintmark centered above the I and V of FIVE. A verse die crack runs from the rim through the C of AMERICA, and fro there to the lowest arrow head.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, L 2042.

Choice Mint State 1854-D $5

Condition Census

(2X photo)

1054 1854-D Breen-6608. Strong D Mintmark. MS-63 (PCGS). Lu trous and satiny medium gold surfaces. Sharply struck at th centers, less so at the rims. A readily available date in lowe grades, but a major rarity in Mint State. A thoroughly delightf coin, a thoroughly marvelous opportunity! Every once in a whi a reality check is needed in the present catalogue—to appreciat that a number of varieties offered here in duplicate and tripl cates are major rarities even as a single coin. No doubt th

present offering will serve as a foundation for several important specialized collections that will gain fame in the years to come. The specialist will appreciate that the catalogue offers coins of a quality seldom available, sometimes not available for a period of decades or more. Anyone with a general interest in American gold coins will enjoy the opportunity to make a serious beginning in the popular Charlotte Mint and Dahlonega Mint series, as well as acquire examples of just about any other desired date and mintmark within the denomination. In the coming millennium numismatists will be very proud of the pieces that bear the "From the Bass Collection" pedigree.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (MS-65).

Purchased from Joe Flynn, March 17, 1978.

Another 1854-D Half Eagle

055 **1854-D Breen-6608. Strong D Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold surfaces. Another very pleasing example of this issue.

From Paramount's sale of March 1973, Lot 1083.

Lustrous 1854-D Half Eagle

056 **1854-D Breen-6608. Strong D Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).** Warm honey gold with strong lustre, especially so in the protected design areas.

Strong mintmark variety, D centered over E of FIVE.

Attractive 1854-D $5

057 **1854-D Breen-6608. Strong D Mintmark. AU-50.** Deep golden surfaces with strong lustre present in the protected areas. A nice coin for the grade.

A fine obverse die break connects the final two stars to the 4 in the date.

Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, April 1967.

Delightful 1854-D Half Eagle

058 **1854-D Breen-6608. Strong D Mintmark. AU-50.** Medium orange-gold with delightful rose iridescence on both sides. A shallow reverse scratch runs from the eagle's wing to the two uppermost arrow heads, and from there to the R of AMERICA.

Forming a complete collection of Dahlonega Mint half eagles is a very realistic expectation. In grades such as VF and EF there are no "impossible" rarities, although each variety can be called scarce. At the AU level, such as offered here, most pieces are rare, and some are especially so.

Of all of the American mints active in the 19th century, fewer pieces were struck at Dahlonega than any other. Moreover, the dies often have interesting characteristics, evidences of wear, and other idiosyncrasies. Often the experienced numismatist can look at a $5 coin from the 1850s, studying the obverse only, and not being aware if there is a mintmark on the reverse, and determine that it is a Dahlonega coin simply because of its striking peculiarities.

As a holder of the present Bass Collection catalogue, if you are not a specialist in the Dahlonega series, you may wish to consult with *A Guide Book of United States Coins* and the Breen *Encyclopedia* to get a feeling for the overall series, mintages, and value levels, then use the present auction as a springboard to building a truly memorable cabinet.

Beyond the information offered in the present sale, we would be pleased to refer you to published references and other information concerning the Dahlonega Mint, as well as answer any questions you may have concerning technicalities.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 8, 1971.

Another Nice 1854-D $5

1059 **1854-D Breen-6610. Weak D Mintmark. AU-58 (PCGS).** Satiny honey gold surfaces display a high degree of lustre. Nicely struck for the date. Some light hairlines are seen in places.

The variety with a weak D mintmark centered above the I and V of FIVE.

From Paramount's sale of February 1973, Lot 1084.

Another Lustrous 1854-D $5

1060 **1854-D Breen-6610. Weak D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous. Deep honey gold with warm orange-gold at the rims. Faintly granular, reminiscent of seawater surfaces. An attractive specimen of the date and grade.

The variety with a weak D mintmark centered above the I and V of FIVE.

Amazing 1854-O Half Eagle

Finest Graded by PCGS

1061 **1854-O MS-63 (PCGS).** A lustrous, glistening beauty with olive highlights on satiny yellow gold surfaces. An incredible, almost unbelievable rarity in Mint State. Most likely, this coin, off the market for more than 30 years, is the finest known anywhere. Whatever the price paid, the next owner will have one of the greatest treasures in the numismatic corpus of existing New Orleans half eagles.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 1935.

Lustrous 1854-O Half Eagle

Condition Census

1062 1854-O AU-58 (PCGS). Warm honey gold with lively lustre present. A very choice example at the AU-58 level, and, as is seen, Condition Census thus.

PCGS Population: 5; 4 finer (MS-61 finest).

Another Nice 1854-O $5

1063 1854-O AU-55. Medium gold with generous amounts of lustre and deeper golden toning highlights. Some faint hairlines show on the reverse, but the overall appeal is still quite high. Another memorable 1854-O half eagle, one that is probably among the top two dozen known pieces from the standpoint of grade.

From Lester Merkin's sale of June 1972, Lot 445.

1064 1854-O AU-50. Pleasing orange lustre on honey gold surfaces. Free of appreciable marks, and choice for the grade as such. Another important opportunity.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, June 25, 1968.

1065 1854-O AU-50. Plenty of lustre remains on honey gold surfaces. A final opportunity to bid on an 1854-O half eagle at a general grade level seldom seen.

Mint State 1855 Half Eagle

An Underappreciated Date

Condition Census

1066 1855 Misplaced Date. MS-62 (PCGS). A satiny and lustrous coin with the immediate appeal of a finer grade. An underappreciated date, quite possibly because the mintage figure of 117,098 is large. However, virtually all of the coins saw extensive use in circulation, and today even at the MS-60 level the 1855 is a rarity. The present coin is Condition Census and is extraordinary.

PCGS Population: 5; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

On this scarce variety, the top of an errant 1 protrudes from the dentils below the 1 and 8 of the date. In modern nomenclature this is a misplaced date.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, December 13, 1967.

Uncirculated 1855 Half Eagle

Condition Census

1067 1855 MS-62 (PCGS). Highly lustrous with satiny golden surfac that display a whisper of olive iridescence. Believe it or not, he is another Condition Census specimen!

PCGS Population: 5; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1976, Lot 2979.

Impressive 1855-C Half Eagle

None Finer Certified by PCGS

The Garrett Collection Specimen

A Landmark in Charlotte Coinage

(2X photo)

1068 1855-C MS-63 (PCGS). A lustrous medium golden specime with satiny devices and moderately reflective fields. A landmar coin, a great rarity in any degree of Mint State, never mind th MS-63 quality here—which is far and away finer than just abou any other example in existence. The Population Report notes sole competitor, which, for all we know, may not have the ae thetic quality of the present piece. In any event, the Bass Colle tion coin is incredible.

Add to the foregoing the past citations of this piece in the li erature, including David Akers' comment, "I have seen just tw Uncirculated pieces, the finest being the Garrett coin that sol in March 1976." This particular coin—the piece in the preser lot—is the plate coin in the Akers book. Douglas Winter suggest that at all mint levels, MS-60 upward, the 1855-C is high Rarity- to Rarity-8, indicating that perhaps two to five coins are known

The present 1855-C is a numismatic study in rarity, quality pedigree, and desirability!

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Three pairs of dies were sent to Charlotte this year, but it may be that ju one pair, or at least possibly just one reverse was used.

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 379. Formerly from Max Mehl's sale of the Wilharm Collection, February 1921, Lot 307

Lustrous 1855-C $5

69 **1855-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold surfaces seem to have light seawater characteristics, possibly indicating that it was recovered from a long forgotten and not presently described shipwreck. How romantic it would be to learn the identity of the vessel and where she went down. Very few examples of the 1855-C exist at the AU-55 level, and thus the present coin, while not the match of the preceding lot, certainly is notable in its own right.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 30, 1972.

Another 1855-C Half Eagle

70 **1855-C AU-53 (PCGS).** Warm orange-gold with subdued lustre on both sides. Another high-quality 1855-C, a piece that will fit comfortably in the cabinet of the advanced specialist.

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 1937.

71 **1855-C EF-45.** Honey gold with rich orange toning and some delightful lustre in the protected areas. Some old contact marks are noted on the obverse near Liberty's chin.

From a late reverse die state; a chunk has fallen from the die at 3:00, leaving a large cud that encompasses the rim in that area, as well as the tops of ME in AMERICA. An impressive die state, indeed.

From N.E.R.C.A.'s sale of the Mocatta Collection, August 1979, Lot 545.

Choice 1855-D Half Eagle

Condition Census

1072 **1855-D AU-58 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous. The pale honey gold surfaces are partially reflective in the fields. A prized rarity above EF; the date is typically encountered in VF. At the AU level, the present 1855-D ranks as among the very finest certified pieces. How fortunate we are to have this coin, accompanied by its virtual twin in the following lot. Both are Condition Census.

PCGS Population: 7; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, January 26, 1973.

Another Memorable 1855-D $5

Condition Census

1073 **1855-D AU-58.** A lustrous honey gold specimen. Typical central striking weakness on both sides. Seawater surfaces display a few light marks, particularly among the obverse stars behind Liberty's hair bun.

An obverse die crack runs from the rim at 6:00 directly upward, brushing the side of the first 5 in the date, and then continuing upward on Liberty's portrait to a point in her hair.

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1976, Lot 2980.

A Final 1855-D $5

1074 **1855-D AU-53 (PCGS).** Generous amounts of lustre and pleasing rose iridescence grace the yellow gold surfaces. Another example of this highly prized variety one which when seen is apt to be in VF or EF grade, seldom AU.

From the same obverse die described at Lot 1073.

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1971, Lot 2191.

Impressive 1855-O Half Eagle

Finest Graded by PCGS

A Landmark Rarity

(2X photo)

1075 1855-O MS-61 (PCGS). Satiny and lustrous medium gold surfaces glow with warm olive highlights. A very nice specimen, memorable in many different characteristics. First, the striking is above average for a New Orleans piece. Second—or perhaps this should be rated first—this is the finest coin graded by PCGS, with not a competitor in sight anywhere. Third, only 11,100 pieces were struck, and surviving examples in *any* grade are rarities. When seen, the order of the day is typically Fine to Very Fine, punctuated by an occasional EF.

Douglas Winter wrote in his monograph on New Orleans coins: "At the present time, this issue is unique in Mint State." The coin being described was the Bass specimen as offered here, from the Miles Collection earlier.

The reappearance of this landmark New Orleans coin in the numismatic marketplace—after having been hidden in a bank vault for precisely 31 years—is one of the most important opportunities in this sale.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 437. This is the famous Wolfson specimen.

Another Important 1855-O $5

Low-Mintage Rarity

Condition Census

1076 1855-O AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous honey gold and olive hig lights on satiny surfaces. In AU-55 grade the present 1855-O i mini-landmark (compared to the preceding), a piece that clearly Condition Census, and which ranks as one of the ve finest known. In fact, at all AU levels Douglas Winter sugge that the total population is fewer than a dozen.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-61 finest).

There are two reverse varieties known for this date. The variety offered h (the scarcer of the two) has a small hollow area at the top of the second (from viewer's left) of vertical stripes in the reverse shield; the other vari has normal stripes. Close examination of this specimen shows that the holl may simply be the result of die polishing.

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 1939.

Impressive 1855-S $5

Unique High PCGS Grade

(2X photo)

1077 1855-S MS-62 (PCGS). Blazing lustre on satiny devices and flective fields. Sharply struck and quite attractive for the grad A notable rarity from the early years of operations at the S Francisco Mint, and considerably scarcer than its mintage 61,000 pieces indicates. As with most early Liberty half eagles the era, the typical grade for this date is VF or EF, with AU a higher coins being considered notable rarities.

In Mint State, the 1855-S has made exceedingly few appe ances in numismatics, as evidenced by the fact that PCGS h certified millions of coins since the service was founded in 19 and this piece is solo in terms of high grade.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, January 7, 1973.

Popular 1855-S Half Eagle

78 **1855-S AU-53 (PCGS).** Bright rose iridescence on lustrous orange-gold surfaces. A fairly scarce date in all grades, one that becomes a desirable rarity in AU or finer. A lovely specimen. Essentially mark-free to the unaided eye, and a pleasing specimen as such.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, November 19, 1970. Formerly in Glendining's sale of October 1970, Lot 962.

Lustrous 1855-S $5

79 **1855-S AU-50 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with a burst of rose at the centers. Another lovely example of an elusive date.

From Lester Merkin's sale of September 1967, Lot 434.

A Final 1855-S $5

80 **1855-S AU-50 (PCGS).** Medium gold with substantial rose iridescence and moderately strong lustre.

Purchased from the Old Coin Shop (Harlan White), April 17, 1969.

Outstanding 1856 Half Eagle

Among the Finest Known

(2X photo)

81 **1856 MS-64 (PCGS).** An intense degree of lustre dances on satiny golden surfaces. Iridescent olive toning increases the overall appeal substantially. A distinct rarity in Mint State, with only a very few of the 197,990 specimens of the date struck able to claim that grade today. Especially choice for the grade, combining a high numerical designation and a generous amount of aesthetic appeal. The connoisseur will wish to bid liberally.

Struck from a rotated reverse die; the alignment is about 150°, as opposed to the normal alignment of 180°.

A tiny raised lump, probably the result of die rust, is seen on Liberty's neck just below her earlobe.

From Paramount's Auction '86 sale, July 1986, Lot 1919.

Uncirculated 1856 $5

1082 **1856 MS-60.** Highly lustrous and choice for the assigned grade. Another specimen at the Mint State level, seldom seen so fine.

From Glendining's sale of October 1970, Lot 964.

Desirable 1856-C Half Eagle

Condition Census

1083 **1856-C AU-58 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous honey gold surfaces present a touch of olive iridescence in the recessed areas. Somewhat prooflike in the fields. A low-mintage rarity among Charlotte Mint half eagles; 28,457 examples of the date were coined. "VF or EF is just about all one can expect to find of this date," wrote David Akers, while Douglas Winter gives the date a Rarity-7 rating in AU.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (MS-61 finest).

Three pairs of dies were sent from Philadelphia to Charlotte, but no accounting has ever been given for more than a single die variety.

From Paramount's Auction '85 sale, July 1985, Lot 1432.

Underrated 1856-C Half Eagle

1084 **1856-C AU-50.** Lustrous orange-gold with rose iridescence; the overall sharpness and appearance are of a much finer grade, but the surfaces are of a seawater nature—what a story this coin could tell if it could only speak! The 1856-C is a rarity in all grades. The present coin, with very attractive surfaces that remind one of the Matte Proofs of a later generation, will represent a beautiful addition to an advanced cabinet.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 30, 1972.

Mint State 1856-D $5

Low-Mintage Rarity

1085 1856-D MS-61 (PCGS). Lustrous orange-gold with rose iridescence on both sides. A touch of weakness is seen at the centers, with a sharp strike present in all other areas. A faint obverse toning streak runs horizontally between the second and third stars. From a mintage for the date of 19,786 pieces, among the lowest Dahlonega half eagle production runs of the era. Typical examples of the date are usually VF or so. The date becomes a notable rarity in EF or finer, with Uncirculated examples offered infrequently at best. The connoisseur will appreciate the present piece and will be present and accounted for at the sale, in person or by another form of bidding (of which there are quite a few in the present era). The beginning collector may wish to take a giant step forward by acquiring a landmark specimen of this piece early in the game. Regardless, the owner will have a specimen with very few peers.

A reverse die crack runs from the rim at 9:00, through the D of UNITED, to a point at the upper right (viewer's left) corner of the shield. From there the crack darts upward diagonally, across the eagle's neck and the field, and from there through the F in OF to the rim above.

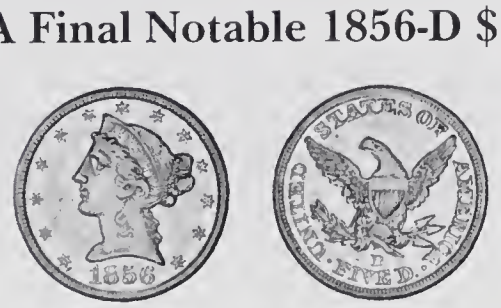
From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 903

Another Important 1856-D $5

1086 1856-D AU-55. Deep orange-gold seawater surfaces display warm areas of rose iridescence. Impressive despite the faintly granular nature of the surfaces. Another highly important coin, a variety that is usually seen one at a time, but of which our present sale offers three!

Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 30, 1972.

A Final Notable 1856-D $5



1087 1856-D AU-50 (PCGS). Lustrous yellow gold with a touch of rose in the recessed areas. A final specimen of this highly prized key issue.

Two reverse die cracks are present. The first runs horizontally from the rim at 9:00, across the D of UNITED, and then across the eagle's wing to the upper corner of the shield. The second crack runs diagonally from the rim at 1:00, across the F in OF, then into the field where it parallels the eagle's wing before joining the eagle's neck feathers. The two cracks may actually meet, but the striking weakness in the neck area (typical of all authentic pieces) precludes any satisfactory proof to that effect.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 15, 1968.

Outstanding 1856-O $5 Rarity

None Certified Finer by PCGS

1088 1856-O Repunched 1 in Date. AU-58 (PCGS). Lustrous yell gold with a decidedly olive blush on both sides. Nicely stru and aesthetically appealing for the grade. The fields are son what prooflike.

The 1856-O is a long-appreciated rarity, as only 10,000 piec were struck in an era in which there was no numismatic inter in mintmarks. At the AU level the issue is so rare that it is l lieved that fewer than a dozen coins are known. The prese grade, AU-58, represents the very highest level ever certified PCGS.

For the connoisseur this represents an exceedingly importa opportunity.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

The base of the 1 in the date is boldly repunched. Another obverse die known for the date, without repunching at the 1.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 906.

Another Rare 1856-O Half Eagle

Condition Census

1089 1856-O AU-50. Medium gold with deep orange-gold in the r cessed areas. Some faint scratches can be seen around the la two obverse stars, no doubt the result of an attempt to remo some patina in that area. From a numerical grade this piece quite possibly in the Condition Census, but in any event is o of the finer pieces to come on the market in recent years.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, L 2086.

1090 1856-S AU-55. Satiny orange-gold surfaces present a minut granular seawater appearance. Sharply struck. A very importa issue, one for which relatively few pieces at the AU level ha appeared in auctions over the years.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. sale, October 1968, Lot 877.

91 **1856-S AU-55.** Lustrous honey gold, nearly butterscotch in appearance. Nicely struck and attractive for the grade. Another scarce coin from the standpoint of auction citations.
Purchased from Fred Sweeney, August 25, 1973.

92 **1856-S Breen-6628. Repunched 185. AU-53 (PCGS).** Satiny honey gold surfaces display a touch of rose and olive.
The first three date numerals on this variety are repunched.
Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, June 25, 1968.

93 **1856-S AU-50.** Generous amounts of orange lustre on honey gold surfaces.
From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 443.

Choice Mint State 1857 $5

Condition Census

94 **1857 Repunched 185 in Date. MS-63 (PCGS).** A satiny honey gold specimen with attractive olive iridescence present. Nicely struck, and with an absolute minimum of contact marks for the grade. A Philadelphia Mint rarity in Uncirculated; indeed, the date is considerably rarer in AU or finer than its mintage of 98,188 business strikes indicates.
PCGS Population: 11; 1 finer (MS-64)
Repunching is noted on the 185 of the date on this specimen, a variety called "rare" by Breen in his *Encyclopedia.*
From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 908.

Uncirculated 1857 Half Eagle

1095 **1857 MS-62.** Plenty of lustre present on satiny golden surfaces. Struck from lightly clashed dies. A choice coin for the grade. Rare this nice.
From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 1989.

Important 1857-C Half Eagle

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

1096 **1857-C MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold with a whisper of olive iridescence. Sharply struck in the design areas, although some weakness is noted in the dentils, typical for genuine specimens of the date and mint.
The 1857-C is a notable rarity in all grades, and even an AU coin (see following lot) will make the advanced collector stand up and salute. Regarding Mint State, the present piece is a landmark rarity. None finer has ever been graded by the highly esteemed PCGS service. Specialists will want to bid liberally!
PCGS Population: 3; none finer.
Only a single die variety for this date has ever been noted in the literature.
Purchased from Mid American, August 30, 1991.

Lovely 1857-C $5 Rarity

Among Finest Seen

1097 **1857-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold surfaces. Nicely struck. This lovely specimen is among the finest 1857-C half eagles ever to come under our discerning observation. The specialist who misses or who cannot afford Lot 1096 will do very well to "place" with the present Lot 1097. By any evaluation it is among the finest of its kind.
From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 277.

Superb 1857-D Half Eagle

Solo Peak Grade PCGS Coin

Another Landmark!

(2X photo)

1098 1857-D MS-63 (PCGS). A satiny and lustrous beauty. Pale rose iridescence graces the orange-gold surfaces.

A superb Mint State survivor from a small mintage of only 17,046 pieces. When seen the 1857-D is usually VF, sometimes EF, but seldom even AU. At the present level we have the finest coin graded by PCGS, and the only coin graded at that level. Again, here is an opportunity that may not be repeated for a long time, if ever.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, April 20, 1970.

Important 1857-D Half Eagle

1099 1857-D AU-53 (PCGS). Lustrous orange-gold with some rose iridescence in the recessed areas. Nicely struck for the date. An important opportunity; a splendid 1857-D at a grade level which is seldom seen. A piece that will grace the cabinet of the connoisseur and specialist.

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 1948.

Seldom-Offered 1857-O $5

A Low-Mintage Rarity

Condition Census

1100 1857-O AU-53 (PCGS). Glittering yellow gold surfaces. Nic struck for the date. From a small mintage for the date of 13,0 pieces, with most surviving specimens of the date in VF or E Douglas Winter called the date mid to high Rarity-7 in AU, in cating that perhaps four to six pieces are known. The 1857-O further important as the last New Orleans Mint coin of this d nomination until many years later in 1892.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of September 1967, Lot 1752.

Mint State 1857-S Half Eagle

Finest Certified by PCGS

1101 1857-S Breen-6632. Large S Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS). Lu trous honey gold with warm orange-gold highlights. A whisp of olive iridescence graces the date area. Sharply struck. An e ticing beauty that gives the overall appearance of a finer grade; coin that stands up well to careful scrutiny.

This is the finest coin graded by PCGS, with no other in sigh We are aware of the treasure trove of 1857-S gold coins, most $20 pieces, but including a few other coins as well, recovere from the *S.S. Central America* sunk on September 12, 1857. W raise the possibility that additional choice half eagles may com to light, but no doubt anyone reading the present catalogue already aware of this—for much publicity has been given to th treasure in the decade since it was first brought to the surfac through the remarkable efforts of the Columbus-America Di covery Group.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 444. Obtained from th Northern California Estate many years ago.

1102 1857-S Breen-6632. Large S Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS). Lu trous golden orange surfaces with vivid rose iridescence in th protected areas. Sharply struck.

Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

1103 1857-S AU-55 (PCGS). A high degree of lustre graces the satin golden surfaces.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 912.

Choice Mint State 1858 Half Eagle

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

(2X photo)

04 **1858 MS-64 (PCGS).** A brilliant and lustrous beauty with just a hint of olive toning. Decidedly choice for the grade.

The 1858 inaugurates a long run of rarities from the Philadelphia Mint. Only 15,136 examples were struck. Typically encountered in VF or EF, the 1858 emerges as quite scarce in AU and a prime rarity in Mint State. Regarding MS-64, the coin can be called *incredible.*

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

From Paramount's Auction '79 sale, July 1979, Lot 310.

05 **1858 AU-58.** Dusky golden orange toning on satiny devices and slightly reflective fields. Traces of faint brushing seen on both sides. Still a notable rarity.

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 204.

Desirable Mint State 1858-C $5

High Condition Census

06 **1858-C MS-62 (PCGS).** Satiny honey gold surfaces display strong lustre and tremendous eye appeal. A whisper of olive iridescence adds greatly to the overall aesthetic quality. Sharply struck, a characteristic that is seldom applied to *any* Charlotte Mint half eagle. "I have personally seen only two or three that I would grade Uncirculated," wrote David Akers; Douglas Winter gave this date a Rarity-8 rating in Uncirculated. Choice for the assigned grade, a remarkable coin which has few equals in numismatics.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-63). We don't know, but it could be that the presently offered MS-62 is the aesthetic equal of the competing MS-63. Certainly, our "sharply struck" description is worth a point or two! Seriously!

This variety has the C mintmark centered above the viewer's right upright of the V in FIVE.

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. sale, October 1968, Lot 878.

Elusive 1858-C Half Eagle

1107 **1858-C AU-53 (PCGS).** Lustrous golden orange surfaces. A high-grade example of an issue which is typically seen at the VF or EF level.

This variety has the C mintmark centered above the space between the V and E in FIVE, but positioned chiefly over the upright of the E. This is the rarer of the two known mintmark placements for this date.

Some faint, spidery die cracks are seen among the reverse legend.

Purchased from N.K.S., May 21, 1969.

Incredible 1858-D Half Eagle

Sharply Struck

A Dahlonega Landmark

(2X photo)

1108 **1858-D Breen-6636. Large D Mintmark. MS-62 (PCGS).** Frosty orange-gold surfaces display a high degree of mint brilliance and strong yellow iridescence. Sharply struck in all areas, an extraordinary departure from the weakness of strike this date typically presents. From the scant mintage of 15,362 pieces, few specimens can be found today in any grade above EF. The present Mint State, with a high grade number plus the exceedingly important (shall we say it's worth two or three points?) aspect of sharp strike and aesthetic appeal combine to create a landmark.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 283.

Lustrous 1858-D Half Eagle

1109 **1858-D Breen-6636. Large D Mintmark. AU-50.** Lustrous yellow gold with rich orange toning highlights in the recessed areas. Some lightness of strike noted at the centers, par for just about every specimen of this date (Lot 1108 being an anomaly). A very beautiful specimen overall, one that will delight the connoisseur and specialist.

A reverse die crack extends from the lower half of the eagle's beak to the wing immediately below. A second crack unites the bottoms of the E and D of the denomination, extending to the period after the D.

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 206.

Impressive 1858-S Half Eagle

Finest Certified by PCGS

1110 **1858-S AU-58 (PCGS).** Satiny honey gold surfaces display attractive mint lustre. A rare date in all grades; only 18,600 pieces were produced, and very few of the surviving examples from that mintage can be found above EF. In fact, even the offer of an attractive EF specimen of the date would be cause for some celebration. The present candidate is certainly the finest known with regard to the PCGS certification and may be the absolute finest known in the entire universe of numismatics. It is important to realize that such pieces have never been connected with any treasure, and thus such recovered wrecks as the *S.S. Central America* (which sunk the year before, in 1857), and the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* (which sunk years later in 1864, and included no example of this issue) are not a factor. The survival of the present piece is a matter of rare chance. It could be that decades will pass before a comparable offering.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

David Akers spoke highly of this rarity in 1979, when he penned the following: "Beginning with 1858 and extending to 1876, the San Francisco Mint half eagles are, without exception, extremely rare better than EF, and some are actually unknown (to me at least) above that grade."

In further admiration of the rarity of this particular issue, 1858-S in high grades, David Akers further noted: "I have personally never seen better than EF and no more than a few even at that level." Although 20 years have elapsed since this comment appeared in print, and there have been many adjustments and new findings, the Akers narrative can stand as is—no modification needed.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, June 17, 1968.

Incredible Mint State 1859 $5

Only Specimen Certified by PCGS

1111 **1859 MS-62 (PCGS).** Strong cartwheel lustre and attractive ol highlights on satiny surfaces. This is the only specimen certifi at any Mint State level by PCGS—a coin that has no competiti at the MS-62 level or, for that matter, MS-61 or MS-60 eith Moreover, not only is it MS-62 from a numerical viewpoint, h it also has incredible aesthetic value—a coin of very high quali

The 1859 half eagle continues the line-up of rarities from t Philadelphia Mint. Only 16,814 business strikes were made, which just about every piece became well circulated. T present specimen last appeared on the market 31 years ago. P haps during the next 30 to 31 years another piece will come market, or perhaps one will not. In any event, the connoisse and specialist will want to bid as liberally as possible to acquir piece which may not be available again in his or her lifetime.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from Don Devore, August 21, 1968.

Popular 1859-C Half Eagle

1112 **1859-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous golden surfaces exhibit de rose iridescence in most areas. A few stray marks are prese The reverse strike is typically soft in most places for this da and high-grade specimens are mainly judged by the overall qu ity of the obverse. From a mintage for the date of 31,847 piec Most of the survivors from that mintage are VF or, at best, E Douglas Winter calls the date Rarity-7 in AU preservation, in cating that fewer than a dozen are known. The present coin w attract wide attention.

The reverse of virtually every known 1859-C half eagle is struck weak Many of the known impressions from the die also show evidence of die ru This same reverse die was used in Charlotte in the following year, 1860, wi the same comments regarding the reverse die being appropriate for h eagles of that date as well.

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 208.

Another Remarkable 1859-C $5

1113 **1859-C AU-50 (PCGS).** Medium golden surfaces with lustre the recessed areas. Another remarkable piece, a Charlotte Mi coin that is rarely seen at the AU level.

Purchased from N.K.S., July 26, 1967.

Mint State 1859-D Half Eagle

Condition Census Rarity

Low-Mintage Issue

1114 1859-D Small D Mintmark. MS-61 (PCGS). Intense lustre and brilliance grace satiny orange-gold surfaces. Nicely struck in all areas, not fully so, (nor are any contemporaries of this coin), but so close that the specialist will rejoice and realize that this piece is very *special.*

Only 10,366 half eagles of the date were produced in Dahlonega, reaching a low point exceeded only by the 1861-D. Few numismatists will ever have a chance to compete for a Mint State specimen of this rarity.

PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (MS-64 finest).

The small D mintmark is centered chiefly above the upright of the E in FIVE.

Another Notable 1859-D $5 Rarity

1115 1859-D Small D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous golden orange with deep rose iridescence present. Nicely struck, and notable as such. Quite rare, and at the AU level seldom seen. A very high quality piece.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

A Final 1859-D $5 Rarity

1116 1859-D Small D Mintmark. AU-50. Lustrous golden orange with deep rose iridescence in the protected areas. Devoid of significant marks and choice for the grade. Gaston DiBello was an early player in the gold coin game, and using profits he made in the heady market after World War II acquired many notable rarities, especially in the field of gold issues. No doubt the present 1859-D represents the very finest he was able to obtain in many years of searching.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 918.

Lovely 1859-D Half Eagle

The Eliasberg Specimen

1117 1859-D Large D Mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous yellow gold with a touch of rose. How incredible it is to have a virtual line-up of AU 1859-D half eagles, when even a single piece would be an unusual opportunity! The Eliasberg pedigree attached to this coin gives it an extra romance and desirability.

The large D mintmark is centered above the space between the V and E of FIVE.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 494. Earlier from the Clapp Collection, 1942, and still earlier from J.C. Mitchelson, 1905. Mitchelson, who was in the tobacco business in Connecticut, traveled widely and, as noted elsewhere in the present catalogue, was a vest pocket coin dealer. The planned sylloge of the Bass Collection will have biographies on Mitchelson and the dozens of other names involved in pedigrees of these and related coins.

Incredible 1859-S $5 Rarity

Solo PCGS Mint State Coin!

Far the Finest Known

(2X photo)

1118 1859-S MS-62 (PCGS). A superb specimen, within the context of the assigned grade, with intense cartwheel lustre on satiny medium gold surfaces. Far and away the finest graded by PCGS, with no other contender in sight. Intense cartwheel lustre on satiny medium gold surfaces gives this piece an important aesthetic value in addition to the already important number. Moreover, the piece is sharply struck.

Only 13,220 half eagles were struck of the 1859 issues, and virtually all became well worn. David Akers, who did much research on the series, never saw a coin better than *Extremely Fine*, and only two or three Extremely Fine pieces were seen (which is an important consideration for our offering of the *next* lot). The present coin will be a great treasure in the collection of its next owner.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Stack's sale of the Milas Collection, May 1995, Lot 517.

Incredible 1859-S $5

A Rarity in AU Grade

Condition Census

1119 1859-S AU-53 (PCGS). Lustrous medium gold with plenty of mint brilliance in the recessed areas. The David Akers comments quoted under Lot 1118 should be reread in the present context. Whether there are a handful of other AU-53 pieces known is a matter of conjecture, due to resubmission. By all evaluations, the rarity of the present issue is unquestioned.

PCGS Population: 2; 4 finer (MS-62 finest).

From Rarcoa's sale of May 1969, Lot 213.

Landmark 1860 Mint State $5

Finest and Only Certified by PCGS

Philadelphia Mint Rarity

(2X photo)

1120 1860 MS-64 (PCGS). A satiny and lustrous half eagle with superb eye appeal and grand physical presence. Sharply struck. The finest and only piece graded at the MS-64 level by PCGS. Another landmark, the desirability of which is enhanced by the low mintage of 19,763 pieces. Most survivors are VF or EF. What few numismatists who desired to collect $5 pieces by date in 1860 opted to acquire Proofs. So far as we know, not a single business strike was deliberately set aside.

The grading number, the aesthetic quality, and the rarity of this piece come together to create a landmark.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Glendining's sale of October 1970, Lot 968.

1121 1860 AU-58. A lustrous golden specimen of this rare Philadelphia issue. Pleasing for the grade. Very rare so fine, for reasons indicated under the preceding lot.

Glittering 1860-C Half Eagle

Condition Census

1122 1860-C Breen-6645. Doubled Date. AU-58 (PCGS). A glitteri honey gold specimen with strong lustre on both sides. A pop lar and desirable rarity from the waning years of Charlotte Mi coinage production. Just 14,813 half eagles of the date we struck, with high-grade survivors from that mintage offered or intermittently at best. VF or EF is typical for the date, with A and finer examples of the date considered very rare.

PCGS Population: 7; 5 finer (MS-61 finest).

The date on this rare variety was first punched slightly to the left of its fi position, then repunched. Both Breen and Winter mentioned the variety their respective books, both also mentioning the rarity of the variety.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 290.

Another Important 1860-C $5

Condition Census

1123 1860-C AU-58 (PCGS). A lustrous golden orange specimen wi somewhat reflective fields. Another lovely example of this lo mintage date, a coin which is seldom seen at this grade leve Condition Census.

PCGS Population: 7; 5 finer (MS-61 finest).

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, November 1, 1968.

A Final 1860-C $5 Rarity

1124 1860-C Net AU-50; sharpness of AU-58 or so, but brushed lor ago, most obviously on the obverse. Still highly important a one of the most sought after rarities among Charlotte Mint coi age.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 30, 1972.

Impressive 1860-D Half Eagle

Lustrous Mint State
The Norweb Specimen
Condition Census

(2X photo)

25 **1860-D MS-62 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous orange-gold surfaces. Well struck for the date, sharp in most places, and, as such, a pleasing departure from the norm for the date. From our sale of the Norweb Collection, one of the highlights in that marvelous cabinet.

The mintage of the 1860-D amounted to 14,635 pieces, of which relatively few survive in any grade. The present piece is one of a handful of coins that have been graded Mint State by PCGS. This particularly nice specimen has been housed in some of the most famous cabinets in numismatic history, including those of King Farouk of Egypt, the Norweb family, and Harry W. Bass, Jr.; what better pedigree could be attached to this rarity? Perhaps your name will soon be added to this illustrious list.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-64).

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, Part I, October 1987, Lot 864; ex King Farouk sale, 1954, Lot 254.

Outstanding 1860-D Half Eagle

1126 **1860-D AU-58 (PCGS).** A highly lustrous specimen with outstanding aesthetic appeal. Another truly notable specimen of this highly prized Dahlonega issue.

From Stack's sale of the Forrest Collection, September 1972, Lot 275.

Lustrous 1860-D Half Eagle

1127 **1860-D AU-55 (PCGS).** Strong lustre present on yellow gold surfaces. Yet another memorable 1860-D rarity.

Purchased from Paramount, February 15, 1968.

1128 **1860-D VF-35.** A well-worn but still reasonably attractive example of this scarce date. A faint obverse scratch connects the third star to Liberty's nose. A final specimen.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2073.

Incredible 1860-S $5 Rarity

Only Mint State PCGS Coin

A San Francisco Landmark

(2X photo)

1129 1860-S MS-62 (PCGS). A frosty orange-gold specimen. A fantastic coin, the only Mint State specimen at any level graded by PCGS.

The mintage of the 1860-S was just 21,200 pieces. These were effectively used in circulation, with the result that today the typical example is apt to be VF. Walter Breen noted that the 1860-S is "Extremely rare EF, unobtainable above," perhaps echoing David Akers' comment, "A very rare coin in any condition and, to the best of my knowledge, unknown in full Mint State."

To complete our description, we note that NGC has not laid eyes on a Mint State specimen at any level. Here, indeed, is an incredible opportunity—a legendary rarity that will be a highlight in the cabinet of its next owner. This is the only example of the date certified in any Mint State grade by PCGS; for the record, no Mint State examples of the date have been certified by NGC. Here, then, is one of the finest opportunities in the present offering of half eagles, an opportunity that has not been offered since 1982. Who knows, it could be another 27 years before the numismatic community has an opportunity to bid for this treasure once again.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 499. From the Clapp Collection 1942; earlier from a Chapman Sale, 1908.

Another Impressive 1860-S Half Eagle

Condition Census

1130 1860-S AU-50 (PCGS). Lustrous golden surfaces with hints rose and violet in the recessed areas. A marvelous 1860-S, one the finest known. While the preceding lot is indeed finer a one of a kind, the present coin stands high and proud as an i portant Condition Census piece.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 1961.

Another 1860-S Half Eagle

1131 1860-S AU-50 (PCGS). Strong lustre on honey gold surfac Very faint seawater porosity noted. Very rare at this grade lev as we mentioned under our description for Lot 1129.

From Paramount's sale of February 1971, Lot 1047.

Elusive 1860-S Half Eagle

1132 1860-S EF-45. A moderate amount of lustre graces honey go surfaces. Some faint marks are present, none of which a overly noticeable. A final specimen, also in a grade that is rar seen.

Purchased from N.K.S., May 21, 1968.

Choice Mint State 1861 Half Eagle

133 **1861 MS-64 (PCGS).** A highly lustrous and satiny specimen, easily a gem within the context of the assigned grade. Among Philadelphia Mint coins of this era, the 1861 is the only year that comes on the market with some degree of regularity. Thus, this is an ideal candidate for a high-grade type set to illustrate the 1839-1866 without-motto style.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, August 8, 1972.

Another Mint State 1861 $5

134 **1861 MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold surfaces.

Struck from a clashed obverse die, with traces of the reverse olive branch and leaves present around Miss Liberty's eye. In addition, there are some small raised lumps among the vertical stripes of the reverse shield, probably the result of die rust in that area.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 15, 1971.

135 1861 AU-58 (PCGS). Highly lustrous with strong overall appeal for the grade. Nicely struck.

A faint reverse die crack unites the bottoms of STATES OF.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, August 8, 1972.

Desirable 1861-C Half Eagle

Final Charlotte Mint Issue

Condition Census

136 **1861-C AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with deeper orange highlights. Nicely struck for the date, with nearly full details in all areas. A popular low-mintage rarity, one of only 6,879 examples of the date struck during the final year of Charlotte Mint operations, the closing of the mint being precipitated by the advent of the Civil War, and the seizure of the Charlotte facility by Confederate troops five days later, on April 20, 1861.

For the 1861-C VF to EF is typical, with AU or finer pieces being quite rare. The present coin represents a highly important opportunity. We recall a number of years ago—it must have been in the 1980s—*Coin World* was preparing a feature article on the Charlotte Mint and desired an illustration of the 1861-C. They looked high and low and could not find one in their archives. They consulted us, and we were able to help—but it was not an easy task.

PCGS Population: 8; 5 finer (MS-61 finest).

In his *Encyclopedia*, Breen gives a mintage figure of 5,992 examples of the date as the "Union issue," or those coins struck while the mint at Charlotte was still in the hands of U.S. Mint employees. He lists an additional 887 examples of the date as having been coined after the takeover of the mint by Confederate troops in April 1861. The specimen offered here exhibits heavy diagonal die file marks above RIC in AMERICA, as well as a fine die crack that descends from the rim above the M, and then connects the tops of MER; a small spur of that crack doubles back from the M and connects to the first A. This is not quite the die state called "CSA issue" by Breen. In that state, there is visible rust pitting around AMERI, as well as a more pronounced state of the previously mentioned die crack.

From Paramount's sale of February 1971, Lot 1557.

Uncirculated 1861-D Half Eagle

The Norweb Specimen

Condition Census Rarity

(2X photo)

1137 **1861-D MS-61 (PCGS).** A satiny and lustrous honey gold specimen. A coin with a high aesthetic appeal, one of the nicest we have ever seen. Above average in strike.

This is one of only 1,597 examples of the date struck under the auspices of the U.S. Mint at Dahlonega, with an unknown quantity—perhaps up to 1,000 pieces, or slightly more—believed to have been struck by the mint while in the hands of the Confederates. The 1861-D is a greatly prized rarity in all grades, a date that is numismatically and historically important, and always desirable as the capstone to a major collection. This specimen is certainly among the finest that present participants in the Bass Collection will ever see in the auction forum. The importance and desirability cannot be over emphasized.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

As noted in our sale of the Norweb Collection, "There is no way that the Confederate coins can be told from the Union ones, but the possibility is haunting, and thus all 1861-D half eagles have a connection proximate or actual with the Confederate States of America."

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, October 1987, Lot 868; ex King Farouk Palace Collection, 1954, Lot 254.

Choice AU 1861-S $5 Rarity

Tied for PCGS Finest Certified

1138 1861-S AU-53 (PCGS). Medium gold with a splash of lustre here and there. A greatly underrated rarity from our westernmost mint, one of just 12,000 examples of the date struck. David Akers noted: "Most known specimens (there aren't really very many) are only Fine or VF." He further wrote that the date is "Grossly underrated and underpriced for its rarity." These comments still ring true today; the finest examples of the date certified by PCGS are only graded AU-53! Here is your chance to capture one of the finest known specimens of this rare date, a coin that will set your half eagle collection apart from most others currently being formed.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 460.

Another Rare 1861-S Half Eagle

1139 1861-S EF-40. Generous amounts of lustre present on medium gold surfaces. Some faint obverse pitting and light brush marks are present. A notable specimen, very rare and desirable.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 464.

Impressive 1862 Half Eagle

A Low-Mintage Rarity

Stand-Alone PCGS Coin

(2X photo)

1140 1862 MS-61 (PCGS). Satiny honey gold surfaces with lively ca wheel lustre and attractive iridescent rose highlights. Sharp struck. A well-known rarity from the Philadelphia Mint; on 4,430 business strikes of the date were produced. Typically see in VF or EF, that statement being nearly a litany where Liber half eagles of the era are concerned. Even an AU specime would be a cause for numismatic celebration. The present Mi State coin is the only one certified at *any* Mint State level b PCGS. Thus, this present coin is much rarer than a Proof of th date.

Another opportunity of opportunities for the discriminatin buyer.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, June 6, 1969.

Incredible 1862-S Half Eagle

Finest Certified by PCGS

(2X photo)

41 **1862-S AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with some deeper orange gold in the recessed areas. Nicely struck in nearly all areas. This is the finest survivor we have seen from the small mintage of just 9,500 pieces.

In 1988, Walter Breen in his *Encyclopedia* stated, "Prohibitively rare above VF, unknown above EF" in regard to this date. David Akers called this date: "One of the really great rarities of the half eagle series," remarking that he had never seen an example of the date that was "full EF." Of course, the comments by Akers were made 20 years ago, but surprisingly little has actually changed since then regarding this date. It is still a great rarity in EF or higher, and the piece offered here perhaps being the finest known and unique at the AU-55 level. By any evaluation, unique or close to it, the coin is a landmark rarity.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Stack's sale of the Milas Collection, May 1995, Lot 527.

Important 1862-S Half Eagle

A Low-Mintage Rarity
Condition Census

142 **1862-S EF-45 (PCGS).** Deep orange and rose iridescence on lustrous surfaces. Another opportunity to compete for a nice example of the 1862-S, a coin which at this grade is Condition Census.

PCGS Population: 5; 6 finer (AU-55 finest).

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

Impressive 1863 $5 Rarity

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

1143 **1863 AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold with considerable prooflike quality on both sides. Sharply struck from lightly clashed dies. Another great rarity from the Philadelphia Mint. Only 2,442 were struck, creating an issue that is a landmark in any and all grades. Most of the few survivors are VF or EF.

The present coin, tied for the finest graded by PCGS, represents an extraordinary opportunity for the advanced specialist.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 1975; ex Pine Tree Rare Coin Auctions' sale of June 1975, Lot 459.

Lustrous Prooflike 1863 $5

Low-Mintage Rarity
Condition Census

1144 **1863 AU-55 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous with reflective orange-gold fields and lightly frosted devices. Deep rose iridescence glows in the protected areas. Another coin, Condition Census, and exceedingly desirable as such. It may be a long time until a comparable opportunity occurs.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (AU-58 finest).

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 217; earlier from the Lusk and Leonard Collection, Lot 408.

Impressive 1863-S $5 Rarity

High Condition Census

1145 **1863-S AU-55 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous medium gold surfaces with brilliant orange highlights. Even rarer than its mintage of 17,000 pieces suggests. Fine to VF is about all that can be reasonably expected when this date is acquired. However, the Bass Collection has many exceptions, and this is one. It may be a long time until a comparable specimen crosses the auction block.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-61).

From Paramount's sale of Auction '85, July 1985, Lot 1434.

Rare 1863-S Half Eagle

Condition Census

1146 1863-S AU-50 (PCGS). Glittering orange-gold surfaces display plenty of frosty lustre and eye appeal. Another notable specimen, Condition Census and highly important as such.

PCGS Population: 2; 4 finer (MS-61 finest).

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 464.

A Final 1863-S $5

Condition Census

1147 1863-S EF-45 (PCGS). Highly lustrous. A final example of the 1863-S rarity. This piece is also Condition Census, although some surface marks remove it from the elegant category of the three preceding listings.

PCGS Population: 7; 5 finer (MS-61 finest).

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 1968.

Marvelous 1864 Half Eagle Rarity

Solo Mint State PCGS Coin

1148 1864 MS-61 (PCGS). Lustrous golden surfaces with some pro like reflectivity in the fields. A hint of olive iridescence adds the overall appeal. The only coin graded at *any* Mint State le by PCGS, a remarkable statement considering that millions coins have passed under the watchful eyes of the graders the

In 1864, only 4,170 business strikes were made. It is likely t these were sold at a profit (in terms of greenback notes) for use the export trade, where they became melted or worn. An intere ing situation will be described in detail in Dave Bowers's for coming book, *Edmund Roberts and the Famous Silver Dollars Da 1804,* which reveals that in the 1860s when gold coins were n circulating at all in the Eastern and Midwestern United Stat they were a *glut* in commerce in the far-off remote island of Zan bar, off the east coast of Africa. This new book, which should on the "must have" list of every serious numismatist, brings print much hitherto unpublished numismatic and financial inf mation regarding silver and gold coins of the 19th century.

Today the 1864 half eagle is seldom seen in any grades. T present piece can be considered as the highest order of rari As such it is one of the most important opportunities in t present offering.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from Stack's, February 26, 1971.

Another Notable 1864 $5

1149 1864 AU-55. Medium honey gold with nice lustre and a dece strike. A few faint marks are seen, most prominent being a sh low scratch on Liberty's cheek. At the AU-55 level this is one the finest ever to be sold at auction.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA sale, August 1968, Lot 980.

Believed Unique Mint State 1864-S $5

Superb Gem Uncirculated

The Norweb Specimen

A Bass Collection Landmark!

Only Mint State PCGS Coin

50 **1864-S MS-65 (PCGS).** Warm orange-gold with attractive rose highlights. A satiny and lustrous gem, literally of the highest quality.

This is one of the most important, one of the most famous pieces in the Bass Collection. At our offering of the Norweb Collection over a decade ago, the piece caused a sensation and was widely discussed in the press and elsewhere. Never before had such a beautiful piece come to market. Today, in 1999, PCGS has not certified any other example of this date in a grade above AU-50!

We expect that when this coin is sold, all records will be broken, and that the new owner of this coin will be as proud of it as Harry Bass was during his lifetime. So far as we know, it has no counterpart anywhere in numismatics. It is easy to envision that this coin will be the highlight, the centerpiece of even the most advanced collection of 19th-century American gold coins!

Nicely struck, with just a touch of weakness here and there, typical for the date. From a scant mintage of 3,888 examples of the date, and seldom encountered in any grade. When found at all, Fine to VF is standard; higher than VF is chiefly a case of wishful thinking. Called "One of the real rarities of this series" by David Akers. This is the Melish specimen, mentioned by Akers as the only example of the date above EF to ever appear at auction. Price guides can be tossed to the wind when this coin crosses the auction block, as it is entirely conceivable that this half eagle rarity will have written its way into the auction record books when the bidding activity closes on this lot.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, Part I, October 1987, Lot 875; ex Abe Kosoff's sale of the Melish Collection, 1956, Lot 2122.

Rare 1864-S Half Eagle

Back to Reality

Condition Census

1151 1864-S EF-40 (PCGS). Warm orange-gold surfaces display generous amounts of lustre for the assigned grade. A second example of this rarity, a more realistic grade, but itself a highly important rarity at this level. Only one person in the entire world can own a gem 1864-S, the piece offered in the previous lot, and not more than a handful of specialists can ever aspire to own a piece in a high grade such as EF or AU. Thus, the present opportunity must be carefully considered.

PCGS Population: 4; 3 finer (MS-65 finest).

Purchased from Steve Ivy, April 24, 1974.

Low-Mintage 1865 $5 Rarity

Finest Certified by PCGS

1152 1865 AU-58 (PCGS). Highly lustrous with prooflike surfaces and frosty motifs. Bright orange iridescence glows in the devices, while the reflective fields emanate olive iridescence. Nicely struck. A great rarity in all grades; just 1,270 business strikes of this Civil War issue were produced, the sixth lowest production figure in the entire half eagle series. VF or EF is typical for the date, with some AU specimens also known. "At most," wrote David Akers, "one or two specimens are known in strictly Uncirculated condition." We suspect that the population in Mint State has not increased dramatically since that remark was written. For the record, PCGS has not certified a single example of this date in Mint State. This is certainly one of the finest known examples of this rarity, and bidding activity on this lot should prove to be substantial.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 925.

Another Memorable 1865 $5

High Condition Census

1153 1865 AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous golden orange. The eye appeal is substantial for the assigned grade. The only example of this rarity graded AU-55 by PCGS; the only specimen graded finer than this coin is the coin in the previous lot! Throughout the present catalogue there are many examples of the Bass Collection being *special*, of which the offering of 1865 Philadelphia Mint busine strike half eagles is just one instance.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (AU-58).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, I 1996.

Underrated 1865-S Half Eagle

An Unsung Rarity

1154 1865-S Breen-6661. Large S Mintmark. AU-53 (PCGS). Stron lustre and rich rose toning grace this attractive coin. Althoug some scattered marks are noted, none are of major importanc Although the date boasts a somewhat sizeable mintage 27,612 pieces, the typically encountered specimen is just Fine VF. Significantly in relation to the present offering, David Ake ranked the 1865-S as the second most important coin in the e tire half eagle series in importance by average grade, commen ing, "I do not know of a specimen that would grade better tha EF."

The present pieces is yet another testimony to the discernin eye and unyielding search for quality exemplified by Harry W Bass, Jr.

Another variety of this date has a Medium S mintmark and, similar to t above, is quite rare in all grades.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of January 1970, Lot 1671.

Amazing 1866-S No Motto $5

Finest Certified by PCGS

1155 1866-S No Motto. AU-58 (PCGS). A lustrous honey gold spec men of a notable rarity. Attractive pale rose iridescence is see in the protected areas. An important date and design type, wit a modest mintage of just 9,000 pieces. Walter Breen called th date: "Prohibitively rare above VF," while David Akers note "No specimen called AU or Uncirculated has ever been offere at public auction. I have seen one choice AU piece." Fine to V is typical for the date, with EF rarely encountered. How rare the date at AU-58? PCGS has certified one AU-58 coin, th specimen, with none finer. Here is one of the unsung rarities the Liberty half eagle series, a coin without peers, a marvelou item that will no doubt take a place of prominence in an a vanced cabinet of U.S. half eagles.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

While the mints at Philadelphia and San Francisco each struck 1866-date half eagles with the new IN GOD WE TRUST reverse design, the San Fra cisco Mint is the only source of 1866-dated half eagles without the motto. It believed, per Walter Breen's estimates (which have been adopted as *fact*) th the San Francisco Mint's production of 1866-S With Motto half eagles w nearly four times as large as the press run for the No Motto half eagles of th date.

Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, August 31, 1977.

nother 1866-S No-Motto Half Eagle Rarity

Condition Census

56 **1866-S No Motto. EF-45 (PCGS).** Lustrous medium gold with lively rose overtones. Another specimen of this rarity, a variety seldom seen in any grade. Condition Census, with only a few finer pieces registered by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 6; 3 finer (AU-53 finest).

From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. sale, October 1968, Lot 1580.

Lustrous 1866 Half Eagle

With Motto

Rare so Fine

57 **1866 With Motto. AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous medium gold with rose toning highlights. No marks of major importance are noted. A low-mintage rarity from the first year of the denomination to bear the motto IN GOD WE TRUST. Just 6,700 business strikes of the date were produced, and VF to EF is all that can typically be found for the date. An occasional AU example is seen for the date, but at that level or finer, the 1866 With Motto is exceedingly rare.

PCGS Population: 8; 7 finer (AU-58).

Purchased from N.K.S., July 26, 1967.

Popular 1866-S With Motto $5

58 **1866-S With Motto. Net EF-40;** sharpness of AU-50 or finer, but lightly brushed on both sides. Medium yellow gold. Typically found in VF or lower. All things considered, worthy of a glance from prospective bidders.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 475.

Incredible 1867 Half Eagle

Finest PCGS Certified

59 **1867 MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold with generous splashes of rose iridescence. Nicely struck. The fields are somewhat prooflike in appearance. A rarity in all grades; only 6,870 business strikes of the date were produced. Well-worn VF or EF specimens are typically all that are seen where this date is concerned. Not surprisingly, this is the only Mint State example of the date certified by PCGS. The appearance of this rarity at public auction for the first time in 31 years easily ranks as one of the most fortuitous opportunities of this sale. The specialist would want to bid liberally, secure in the knowledge that it may be a long time until an equivalent opportunity occurs.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 476.

Lustrous 1867 Half Eagle

Condition Census

1160 **1867 AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with delightful rose highlights. Another piece in high grade. Clearly Condition Census, and the previous lot notwithstanding, about the highest that one can reasonably expect for a business strike of this year.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-61).

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, December 28, 1968.

1867-S Half Eagle Rarity

Among Finest Known

1161 **1867-S AU-53 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold. Much rarer than its mintage of 29,000 pieces suggests. The 1867-S is seldom seen above VF, when seen at all. David Akers poignantly noted: "Only available in circulated grades and low grades at that." As might be expected, PCGS has never certified a Mint State 1867-S. Choice AU is the highest reasonable expectation for the 1867-S, this being the finest grade obtained by Harry Bass in over three decades of connoisseurship.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (AU-55).

Purchased from N.K.S., May 21, 1969.

Elusive 1868 Half Eagle

Low-Mintage Rarity

1162 **1868 AU-55 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with lightly prooflike fields and frosty devices. Rich orange iridescence glows in the protected areas. A prized rarity from the Philadelphia Mint. Only 5,700 business strikes of the date were produced. As often seen for half eagles of the era, VF or EF is about the finest grade that can be found on the market. Another grand opportunity for the half eagle specialist.

PCGS Population: 6; 1 finer (AU-58).

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 1017.

Low-Mintage 1868 Half Eagle

Notable Quality

1163 **1868 AU-50 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with some rose iridescence. Marks in the field keep this from a higher grade, but overall this is one of the finest 1868 business strike half eagles ever to be offered at auction.

PCGS Population: 9; 6 finer (AU-58 finest).

From Lester Merkin's sale of January 1968, Lot 478.

1868-S Half Eagle Rarity

Merkin "Mint State"

1164 **1868-S AU-58 (PCGS).** A lovely coin, a piece that was once described as Mint State by highly respected dealer Lester Merkin. Thus, we certainly invite prospective bidders to examine this piece closely and see if they agree.

By any evaluation, the present 1868-S is extraordinary. Lustrous rich gold surfaces incorporate much delicate iridescence. Although 52,000 pieces were struck, the 1862-S is scarce in all grades, and is seldom seen in EF. AU or finer coins are of extraordinary importance. Regarding this particular specimen and this particular date and mintmark, David Akers wrote: "Only the coin in Lester Merkin's 3/69 sale was ever described as Uncirculated." The specimen offered here is the Merkin specimen written of by Akers. Careful examination shows that a strong case could still be made for this specimen in favor of a Mint State designation. A grand coin.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-61).

A reverse die crack can be seen at the tops of UNITED STA, crossing the eagle's wing as it extends from word to word.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 309.

Scarce 1868-S Half Eagle

1165 **1868-S AU-50.** Plenty of lustre remains on deep golden surfaces. Attractive rose toning adds considerably to the appearance of the piece. A few marks are noted, most prominent of those a faint scratch that runs parallel to the front curve of Liberty's neck. A very high grade example of an 1868-S. Few equivalent pieces exist.

A reverse die crack begins in the field just after the D of UNITED, progressing from there across the tip of the eagle's wing, then uniting the tops of STA. A second faint crack unites the bottoms of TES OF.

Purchased from N.K.S., May 21, 1969.

Stand-Alone 1869 $5 Rarity

Mint State-64

"Unobtainable Uncirculated"

A Numismatic Classic

(2X photo)

1166 **1869 MS-64 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous orange-gold with pocke of intense mint brilliance. A truly lovely and fully prooflike e ample of this prized rarity. Only 1,760 business strikes were pr duced of the date, a low-mintage figure by anyone's reckonin Walter Breen called this date "Unknown Uncirculated," wh Akers noted that he had "Not seen a strictly Uncirculated 186 There are some AU specimens available to the patient collecto although they are typically offered few and far between. As f Uncirculated examples of the date, this is the only Mint Sta specimen certified by PCGS. Off the market for 28 years, th rarity will cause a definite stir as it makes its re-entry into ma stream numismatics.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from N.K.S., June 8, 1971.

1869-S Half Eagle Rarity

Condition Census

1167 **1869-S AU-53 (PCGS).** Lustrous deep gold with iridescent ro highlights. Free of major marks. From a mintage for the date 31,000 pieces. An "extraordinarily rare coin above VF," accor ing to Akers; Breen called the date "prohibitively rare abo VF." A condition rarity, with very few examples of the iss known in comparable or greater quality.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer (AU-58 finest).

Purchased from N.K.S., August 9, 1967.

Another 1869-S Half Eagle

Rare So Fine

68 **1869-S AU-53 (PCGS).** Satiny golden surfaces display strong lustre and lively rose iridescence. Another beautiful specimen, one of the very finest to be offered in this era or any other. How fortunate we are that Harry Bass enjoyed buying numismatic delicacies by the twos and threes!

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer (AU-58 finest).

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 21, 1969.

Mint State 1870 Half Eagle

Solo PCGS Mint State Coin

(2X photo)

69 **1870 MS-61 (PCGS).** Lustrous, brilliant, and decidedly prooflike. A rarity in all grades; just 4,000 business strikes of the date were produced. VF to EF specimens are about all the active collector can aspire to where this date is concerned. Incredibly rare in Uncirculated; in fact, this is probably the finest known example of the date. For the record, PCGS has certified no other 1870 half eagle at any Mint State level. A truly memorable rarity is about to cross the auction block.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2000.

Important 1870-CC Half Eagle

First Year of Mint Operations

Incredible Quality

A Carson City Classic

(2X photo)

1170 **1870-CC AU-58 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with some attractive orange-gold highlights. A notable rarity from the first year of Carson City Mint operations. Indeed, Douglas Winter and Lawrence Cutler called the 1870-CC "The rarest Carson City half eagle," assigning a High Rarity-7 to Rarity-8 rating at the AU level. Only 7,675 examples of the date were struck, the third lowest half eagle production figure from the facility.

When seen, which is not often, the 1870-CC is well worn, with Fine or Very Fine being typical, and EF being extraordinary. Regarding the present AU-58, this is a Carson City classic, high Condition Census, a landmark.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-61 finest). How these other pieces compare to the present coin we do not know, but the one offered here is not only high grade but has excellent aesthetic quality. Perhaps it has no equal when these two considerations are brought together.

The CC mintmark is placed high, with the first C nearly touching the arrow feather above. The distance between the two Cs is about the width of one C.

The opening of the Carson City Mint in 1870 represented a step forward for the U.S. Mint. Since the advent of the Civil War and the take-over of the three southern branch mints—Charlotte, Dahlonega, and New Orleans—by the Confederacy, Philadelphia and San Francisco had been the only source of federal coinage. Of those three southern mints, only New Orleans would ever re-open again, doing so in 1879, and only producing gold coins intermittently until it closed its doors in 1909.

Carson City struck silver and gold coins from 1870 to 1885, and again from 1889 to 1893, although not all denominations were made in all years. The source of the metal was local, primarily the Comstock Lode, located scarcely more than a dozen miles distant.

It is our belief, although this is not specifically reflected in numismatic literature outside of our own publications, that Carson City gold coins for the early years of operation were primarily circulated in the Carson City region. These saw long, hard, intense use in commerce, with the result that today a usual and satisfactory grade for a half eagle or a $5, $10, or $20 piece is apt to be Fine or VF, very occasionally EF, and only rarely higher. Later Carson City issues, beginning about 1873, seem to have been circulated more widely and to have been included in some export shipments. Thus, such grades as AU and the very occasional Mint State begin to appear in citations.

The Carson City specialist will want to drop all conservatism when this coin crosses the block, realizing that it was the finest grade that Harry Bass was able to locate in three decades of searching, and that very few other specialists have ever had a comparable coin.

From NERCA's sale of the Mocatta Collection, August 1979, Lot 182.

Rare 1870-S Half Eagle

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS

1171 1870-S AU-55 (PCGS). Highly lustrous with attractive rose iridescence on both sides. Just 17,000 examples of the date were produced in our westernmost mint. A desirable rarity in all grades, Fine to VF being the norm. Regarding the coin offered here, no finer specimen has been graded by PCGS. David Akers called this date "Generally available only in Fine or VF condition and, on rare occasions, EF." Our offering of this glittering AU-55 will rise to the occasion, and we anticipate that knowledgeable bidders will rise to the occasion accordingly.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Purchased from N.K.S., July 9, 1968.

Another Memorable 1870-S $5

Condition Census

1172 1870-S AU-53 (PCGS). Medium honey gold with subdued lustre. Another classic offering of a desirable rarity, a coin that stands on its own merits for grade and quality. Amazing!

PCGS Population: 3; 4 finer (AU-55).

From Paramount's Auction '86 sale, August 1986, Lot 1921.

1871 Half Eagle Rarity

A Circulated Proof
Mintage: Just 30 Pieces
Condition Census

1173 1871 Proof-53 (PCGS). Rich medium gold with honey gold highlights. One of just 30 Proofs of the date struck. Of that amount, Akers and Breen concur that perhaps as few as eight to 10 examples are still extant. The present coin shows light wear, as the grade indicates, but the date has one of the smallest mintages of the era. In fact, of Proof half eagles minted after 1859, David Akers considered this to be the second rarest Proof, following the 1861. Remarkably, although the present piece is called Proof-53, it is comfortably a *Condition Census* specimen!

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (Proof-64 finest).

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1971, Lot 2212.

Desirable 1871 Half Eagle

Mintage: 3,200 Business Strikes

1174 1871 AU-53 (PCGS). Lustrous orange-gold surfaces exhi some prooflike reflectivity. Choice for the grade. A low-minta rarity; just 3,200 business strikes of the date were produced. deed, David Akers knew of just two examples of the date in A stating also that the date was probably unknown in Mint Stat

PCGS Population: 4; 6 finer (MS-60 finest).

On this specimen, the first 1 in the date shows the remnants of a serif in field immediately below the serif of the existing numeral. In his *Encyclope* Breen notes: "Proofs have minute repunching on the first 1 (fades)." If rare Proofs of the date all show this characteristic, and the specimen offer here is an unquestioned business strike, then it stands to reason that the used to coin Proofs of the date was also used to strike circulating coin of realm.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA sale, August 1968, Lot 983.

Important 1871-CC $5

The Eliasberg Specimen
High Condition Census

1175 1871-CC AU-55 (PCGS). Medium honey gold with olive hig lights in the recessed areas. Considerably rarer than its mintag of 20,770 indicates; this date is usually found in well-worn Fi to VF. As noted in our earlier offering of the 1870-CC, coins this era seems to have circulated more extensively than others later dates. The 1871 is a formidable rarity at the AU level, a only a few connoisseurs have ever owned a specimen.

Regarding the present piece, it is the second finest graded PCGS, which service has not seen a coin in Mint State. How t other coin, graded AU-58, compares to the present piece is n known—perhaps when aesthetic factors are included, t present Bass Collection coin is its equal.

The Carson City Mint specialist will find this to be an incre ible opportunity, one that may not be repeated for many year

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (AU-58).

Mintmark position the same as that in Lot 1170.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 198 Lot 525.

Rare 1871-CC Half Eagle

Condition Census

76 1871-CC EF-45 (PCGS). Warm medium gold with strong lustre on both sides. Another marvelous coin, a great rarity at the Extremely Fine level. Condition Census quality all the way—a numismatic prize.

PCGS Population: 7; 5 finer (AU-58 finest).

The CC mintmark is placed high in the die, with the first C touching the arrow feather, and the second C touching the olive branch. The spacing of the two letters is essentially as in Lot 1170.

Purchased from the Old Coin Shop, April 17, 1969.

Mint State 1871-S $5

The Eliasberg Coin

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

77 1871-S Breen-6678. Repunched Date. MS-61 (PCGS). Satiny golden surfaces display strong lustre and attractive rose highlights. Choice overall for the assigned grade, despite a scattering of tiny marks. A notable rarity in Mint State despite a modestly high mintage of 25,000 pieces. This date is typically EF or lower when available, with Mint State pieces such as this of the highest rarity. David Akers noted: "There is a very rare variety with a boldly repunched date." This example represents a numismatic one-two punch, offering, as is does, a rare variety within the context of a rare date. What could be more enticing?

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

On this rare variety, the date numerals were first punched in a slightly lower position, partly effaced, then repunched in a marginally higher position.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 526.

Rare 1871-S Half Eagle

Repunched Date Variety

Condition Census

1178 1871-S Breen-6678. Repunched Date. AU-55 (PCGS). A glittering yellow gold specimen with strong lustre and plenty of eye appeal for the grade. Rare in all grades.

PCGS Population: 1; 4 finer (MS-61 finest).

All of the date numerals are repunched on this rare variety; the details are plainly evident under low magnification.

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1971, Lot 2213.

Another Notable 1871-S $5

Condition Census

1179 1871-S Breen-6678. Repunched Date. AU-50 (PCGS). Lustrous medium gold with warm honey and orange toning highlights.

PCGS Population: 8; 5 finer (MS-61 finest).

The market for scarce and rare gold coins has been very intense in recent times, this being accelerated by the lower price of gold *bullion* on world markets. This action has made common double eagles and other pieces more affordable than ever, attracting thousands of interested collectors to the field. Of course, rare date gold coins are as elusive as ever, even more so as each year passes. Thus, Condition Census quality 19th-century coins have been in particular intense demand.

Coming down the pike will be the offering of treasure coins recovered from the *S.S. Central America*, sunk on September 12, 1857. Many superb quality 1857-S gold coins, particularly $20 pieces, were recovered. No doubt these will meet with a very warm and enthusiastic reception once they are sold. *However*, just about any other San Francisco coin of the same era will be a prime rarity in comparison! Thus, it seems to us that a coin such as the present 1871-S, not represented in this or any other hoard, is on the price and demand launching pad right now in Autumn 1999.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 14, 1967.

Low-Mintage 1872 $5 Rarity

Choice Mint State
Mintage of Just 1660 Pieces
Condition Census

(2X photo)

1180 1872 MS-63 (PCGS). Highly lustrous medium gold with frosted devices and reflective fields. Sharply struck and fully prooflike in appearance. Despite its low mintage of just 1,660 pieces, one of the lowest in the entire half eagle series, occasional AU or Uncirculated specimens of the date have surfaced from time to time. However, few can equal the quality of the present piece.

Similar to many other pieces in the present sale, this coin has been off the market for over 30 years. Quality and aesthetic appeal come together and join rarity as a consideration, yielding yet another numismatic landmark.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-64).

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 1982.

Rare 1872-CC Half Eagle

High Condition Census

1181 1872-CC AU-53 (PCGS). Lustrous medium gold with warm olive highlights. The fields are somewhat reflective in the protected areas. Struck from lightly clashed dies. From a mintage for the date of 16,980 pieces. A rare date that is seldom found above EF. Indeed, Douglas Winter and Lawrence Cutler called this date, "An issue that is almost never seen in high grade," giving the date a High Rarity-7 rating in AU. David Akers noted: "I have never seen an 1872-CC that graded better than choice EF." Although 20 years have elapsed since that statement, some truth still rings in those words. Among the finest examples of the date currently known, and a numismatic prize as such. As noted in our description under 1870-CC, the early half eagles of the Carson City Mint were used extensively in regional circulatio with the result that all are rare today and that at the AU le they are formidable rarities.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (AU-58).

The placement of the CC mintmark is low in the field, about mid-way tween the denomination and the arrow feather above. The first C is center above the left upright of the V in the denomination, while the second C slightly higher than the first, and is nearly completely over the upright of th in FIVE. There is about one letter's width between the two letters.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 490.

Another 1872-CC Half Eagle

Marvelous Quality
Condition Census

1182 1872-CC AU-50 (PCGS). Medium orange-gold with some lust in the recessed areas. Another pleasing and marvelous examp of this great rarity, a coin that will attract wide attention.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (AU-58 finest).

Same mintmark placement as annotated below Lot 1181.

Interestingly enough, Harry Bass's notes regarding this particular specim simply say "Best Seen." Perhaps he made this notation while the preceding was stored in a bank vault, or perhaps he considered this piece nicer than t preceding coin. Either way, his comment is evidence of the extreme impo tance of the presently offered coin.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 487.

Scarce 1872-S Half Eagle

1183 1872-S AU-50 (PCGS). Much original mint lustre is still seen o the surfaces of the coin. Much scarcer than its mintage of 36,40 pieces indicates. VF or lower is the typical grade for this mode ately rare date. In AU, the rarity and desirability of the date i creases significantly.

PCGS Population: 8; 2 finer (AU-55).

Purchased from Dan Messer, August 14, 1971.

1184 1872-S AU-50. Lightly polished long ago.

From Lester Merkin's sale of February 1969, Lot 317.

Grouping of Liberty Half Eagles

1185 Large offering of 14 different half eagles, some Mint State: 1873 Closed 3. AU-58 ☆ 1879 MS-60 ☆ 1880 MS-60 ☆ 1880 MS-62 ☆ 1881 MS-62 ☆ 1881 Repunched date. AU-50 P brushed ☆ 1881-S MS-60 ☆ 1882-CC AU-50 ☆ 1882-S MS-62 1883 MS-62 ☆ 1885 MS-62 ☆ 1886 MS-62 ☆ 1887-S MS-62 1888 AU-58. Attractive and lustrous except where otherwis noted. (Total: 14 pieces)

Gem Mint State 1873 $5

Open 3 in Date

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

(2X photo)

1186 **1873 Open 3. Breen-6684. MS-65 (PCGS).** A highly lustrous specimen with rich rose iridescence on satiny surfaces. Nicely struck. A natural planchet flaw can be seen in the reverse field below IN GOD.

The 1873 with Open 3 is regarded as a common grade in worn grades, but at the AU or finer level it is a significant rarity. Indeed, only one other has been certified at this grade level by PCGS!

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 489.

Mint State 1873 $5

Open 3 in Date

1187 **1873 Open 3. MS-62.** Lustrous honey gold with much mint brilliance in the protected areas. While this specimen is not in the rarity category of the preceding lot, still the MS-62 grade is not to be discounted, and we expect that this piece will be thoroughly enjoyed by its next owner.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 491.

Mint State 1873-CC Half Eagle

Finest Graded by PCGS

Incredibly Important, Incredibly Rare

(2X photo)

1188 **1873-CC MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold with a decided olive glow. One of just 7,416 half eagles of the date coined in Carson City, the smallest half eagle production figure from that facility except for the 1876-CC.

Today the 1873-CC is recognized as a great rarity in all grades, and for all practical purposes unobtainable in Mint State. In fact, Douglas Winter and Lawrence Cutler noted in their book on Carson City coins, "No Mint State 1873-CC half eagles are currently known to exist."

When Harry Bass acquired coins, he kept them in bank vaults, occasionally removing them for study. The extent of his collection was not widely known to researchers, and during the past 30 years, when great advances have been made in grading and die study, the Bass coins have not been included in surveys. To an extent, old catalogue listings are useful, but there is no way that they can be read today and translated into today's grading system. Thus, the present piece, last seen on the market in 1976, has been unavailable for 23 years, and now emerges to be assigned a modern grading number and also to play to a new audience of interested enthusiasts and connoisseurs.

As noted in our description under the 1870-CC half eagle, Carson City gold coins of the early years were circulated extensively, and today, even AU examples are apt to be extreme rarities. Mint State pieces are, well, one might as well forget about them. The Carson City specialist will want to bid very liberally for this lovely coin, knowing that it may be a long time, if ever, until another MS-62 example of the date reaches the market.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

The mintmark placement is high in the field, but still some small distance from the feather above. First C above left upright of V, second C above space between V and E. Letters less than one letter's width apart.

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1976, Lot 2998.

Another Notable 1873-CC $5

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

1189 1873-CC AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous honey gold with a hint of rose in the protected areas. Another notable specimen of this prime rarity, a coin which is Condition Census and ranks as one of the nicest ever to come on the market.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).

Same mintmark placement as in Lot 1188.

A tale of two coins: On the small ticket that Harry Bass kept with this lot, the word "FINEST?" is written in tiny upper case letters, in blue ink. At some point after the 1976 ANA summer convention, Harry crossed out "FINEST?," in red ink, then wrote below it "ANA '76 .." in the same red ink. Why this cryptic notation in red ink? Evidently, Harry saw Lot 2998 in Stack's 1976 ANA sale, and deciding it was finer than the example offered in this lot (which he had owned since 1972), proceeded to bid on the lot in the ANA sale until it joined his collection. That coin, the *red ink* specimen, is the MS-62 (PCGS) specimen offered in Lot 1188 above. Once again, the highly trained and discriminating eye of Harry Bass had found the *finest known.*

From Rarcoa's sale of April 1972, Lot 647.

Elusive 1873-CC Half Eagle

Another Amazing Coin

Condition Census

1190 1873-CC EF-45 (PCGS). An amazing amount of lustre remai on the medium golden surfaces. Another amazing coin, a pie that in any other venue would be extraordinary. Actually, t *extraordinary* designation is still appropriate—and years fro now many numismatists will remark upon the opportuniti here presented. For the Carson City specialist this represen one of the very finest known examples of this famous rare da

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-61).

Same mintmark placement as in Lot 1188.

Purchased from N.K.S., April 4, 1968.

1191 1873-CC VG-10 (PCGS). Deep orange-gold toning in the r cessed areas. Now we are in the "normal" territory for the 187 CC, an example of this rarity in a grade typically encountered

Mintmark placement is high in the field, each nearly touching the arr feather and olive branch above, but still clear of those devices. Second C mo heavily impressed in the die, causing it to appear fatter.

Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

Rare 1873-S Half Eagle

Condition Census

1192 1873-S AU-53 (PCGS). Satiny surfaces exhibit a high degree mint lustre. Nicely struck. From a mintage of 31,000 piece Called "extremely rare in any condition" by David Akers, wi Fine to VF examples of the date the rule of acquisition. Amo the finest examples of this unsung rarity graded by PCGS. T finest piece obtained by Harry Bass, this coin will be a prize any specialized cabinet of half eagles or of San Francisco Mi coinage. As we noted earlier, when the *S.S. Central America* coi come to market, certain San Francisco issues of the mid-185 will be offered in large numbers, making all later issues very ra by comparison. Of course, the present 1873-S is already rare future comparisons not needed.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (AU-58 finest).

Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

Landmark Proof 1874 Half Eagle

Just 20 Struck

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

(2X photo)

1193 **1874 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Rich golden orange mirror fields contrast sharply with frosty devices. Hints of rose iridescence glow in the recessed areas. An amazing rarity, certainly one of the great highlights in the present sale. Only 20 Proofs were struck, with perhaps only half that number known today. Regarding Proof issues, David Akers noted that they are "extremely rare, seemingly more so than others with comparable mintages." Walter Breen called Proofs of this date "almost a forgotten rarity," noting also that two specimens are permanently impounded in museums, one at the Smithsonian Institution, and another at the American Numismatic Society.

For the record, PCGS has only certified three Proof 1874 $5 pieces, all at the Proof-64 level. The present coin, one of two Proofs acquired by Harry Bass (the second will be showcased in our Sale III), is of extreme importance.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Accompanied by a small cardboard ticket imprinted THIS COIN IS FROM THE/PALACE COLLECTION/OF FORMER/KING FAROUK/OF EGYPT in five lines. Below that are three dotted lines, with *$5 1874* written in light blue ink on the first line. The second line reads SOLD TO, with *HS Bareford* written in light blue script. The third line reads ATTESTED, followed by the signature of Abe Kosoff, again in light blue ink.

This particular obverse die has two "markers" which are described for the interest of specialists:

There are two tiny raised lumps, one on Miss Liberty's cheek and a slightly smaller one on her jaw line directly below the earlobe.

From Stack's sale of the Bareford Collection, December 1978, Lot 186; ex King Farouk of Egypt.

Incredible 1874 Half Eagle Rarity

Choice Mint State

Finest Graded by PCGS

(2X photo)

1194 **1874 MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous honey gold with a distinctly prooflike character to its appearance. The mirrored fields exhibit a nuance of olive, while the lightly frosted devices show bright yellow lustre. From a small business strike mintage for the date of 3,488 pieces, with survivors from that mintage typically seen in VF or EF, when seen at all. A prized rarity in Mint State, and, at the choice Uncirculated level, is even rarer than its Proof counterparts. Indeed, this is the finest specimen of the date certified by PCGS to date. A splendid opportunity for the advanced half eagle specialist. It may be a long time, if ever, until another piece is offered.

PCGS population: 1; none finer.

On the accompanying ticket for this particular coin, Harry Bass wrote "FINEST KNOWN," then emphatically underlined the words. Nearly three decades after his purchase of this specimen, "FINEST KNOWN" probably still seems to be as accurate as ever.

Purchased from N.K.S., September 27, 1971.

Rare 1874 Half Eagle

1195 **1874 AU-50 (PCGS).** Generous amounts of lustre and strong rose iridescence on medium gold surfaces. A splendid example of this rare business strike issue, one of the nicer pieces to appear in the auction venue.

Purchased from N.K.S., October 28, 1968.

Elusive 1874-CC $5 Rarity

Condition Census

1196 1874-CC AU-58 (PCGS). Strong cartwheel lustre plays on warm honey gold surfaces. Choice and problem-free for the grade, with only the tiniest of marks present when viewed under low magnification. Another notable rarity from the Carson City Mint, one of 21,198 examples of the date struck.

The norm for the 1874-CC is a well-circulated coin, VF or EF. Anything higher is especially rare. Regarding the AU grade, Douglas Winter and Lawrence Cutler, suggest that this is in the middle range of Rarity-7, with, perhaps, six to eight pieces known in all of the numismatic world. The present coin is the finest Harry Bass was able to locate, and will be a treasure in the cabinet of its next owner.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-62 finest).
Same mintmark placement as in Lot 1188.
From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 493.

Another Notable 1874-CC $5

Condition Census

1197 1874-CC AU-53 (PCGS). Bright orange-gold with plenty of lustre in the recessed areas. A second pleasing example of a rare and popular date. Another memorable specimen, easily Condition Census.

PCGS Population: 1; 6 finer (MS-62 finest).
Same mintmark placement as in Lot 1188. Struck from lightly clashed dies.
From Paramount's sale of May 1966, Lot 565.

A Final 1874-CC $5

1198 1874-CC EF-45 (PCGS). Generous amounts of lustre in the
cessed areas. A final specimen of this Carson City rarity, a co
which, if seen at all, is apt to be in a significantly lower grad

Same mintmark placement as in Lot 1188. Struck from clashed dies.
Purchased from Joe Flynn, September 3, 1971.

1874-S Half Eagle Rarity

High Condition Census

1199 1874-S AU-53 (PCGS). Lustrous golden orange. Rare in
grades, as is true of quite a few half eagles of this era.

At the San Francisco Mint, only 16,000 half eagles were struc
strictly for use in commerce. Today when an example is encou
tered it is apt to be Fine or Very Fine. Even a nice AU would
scarce, and at the AU-53 level we have a beautiful Conditi
Census cabinet piece.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (AU-58).
*From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, L
2111.*

Incredibly Rare 1875 Half Eagle

Just 200 Struck!

None Finer Certified by PCGS

1200 **1875 AU-53 (PCGS).** An incredible business strike, one of only 200 pieces struck. Apparently, not a single example was saved for numismatic purposes!

The Bass Collection specimen is prooflike and of great beauty. Frosty devices are set against mirror fields, giving the piece a rare aesthetic quality. As noted, only 200 business strikes were made, these accompanied by 20 Proofs. Over the years, more high-grade Proofs have come to market than have high-grade business strikes. Thus, it is correct to say that the present piece is one of the very rarest of all business strike American gold coins of any denomination or date. Today, it is believed that fewer than 10 business strike pieces are known at all levels. Indeed, generations of collectors have come and gone without ever having seen an example of the date, let alone having had the opportunity to own this incredibly rare date. Perhaps the premier object of attention in the half eagle section of this catalogue, a date that adds an entire new aura of quality and importance to any cabinet it graces.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Regarding the appearance of this date at public auction, David Akers noted that the date was only offered three times in a survey of some 337 auction catalogues. He noted: "At least two of these appearances (ANA 1974 and Wolfson) were of the same coin. I have seen only one other business strike, a coin that was discovered by Paul Wittlin in Europe in the 1960s and subsequently sold to Harry Bass."

From Paramount's sale of October 28, 1968. Earlier from Paul Wittlin, who for a number of years represented the interests of Paramount International Coin Corporation in Europe.

Rare 1875-CC Half Eagle

High Condition Census

1201 1875-CC Breen-6694. Doubled Die Reverse. AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous honey gold with warm rose iridescence. Nicely struck. Only 11,828 examples of this date were struck, the typically seen specimen is just VG to VF, these being quite rare. At the EF or finer level, the 1875-CC is of incredible importance. Indeed, Winter and Cutler called this issue Rarity-8 in AU, believing that just two or three exist!

The present piece combines a high grade with excellent aesthetic features, yielding a truly landmark opportunity. How it compares from an aesthetic viewpoint with the other PCGS pieces certified is not known to us, but it would be difficult to envision one that had a nicer overall appearance.

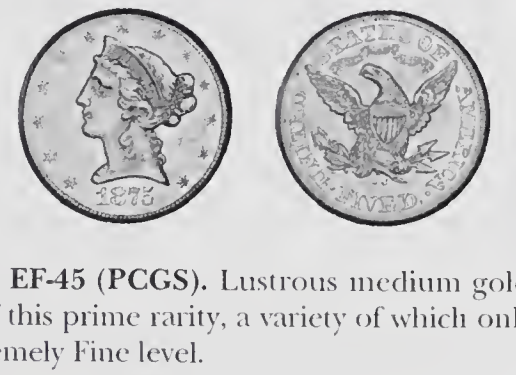
PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-61).

On the obverse, a small raised lump is noted on Miss Liberty at the juncture of her neck and shoulder. On the reverse, there is distinct doubling at FIVE D and certain other letters to either side of the denomination.

Mintmark placement is basically central in the field. The first C is directly below the point of the arrow feather, and at a small distance from it. The second C is considerably lower than the first C, and is above the upright of the E in the denomination.

From Paramount's Auction '86, Lot 1922.

Another 1875-CC $5 Rarity



1202 1875-CC EF-45 (PCGS). Lustrous medium gold. Another example of this prime rarity, a variety of which only a few exist at the Extremely Fine level.

This particular specimen was cited by David Akers in his listing of top-quality specimens of the date.

Mintmark placement high, with letters slightly away from feather and branch above. First C over right upright of V, second C over upright of E in denomination.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 498.

A Final Notable 1875-CC $5

1203 1875-CC EF-45 (PCGS). Rich rose iridescence on medium gold surfaces. A strong degree of lustre remains for the assigned grade level. A final example, a memorable coin, a prime rarity.

This particular specimen was also cited by David Akers in his listing of top-quality specimens of the date.

Same mintmark placement as in previous lot.

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 234.

Landmark 1875-S Half Eagle Rarity

Choice Mint State

Finest Graded by PCGS

Solo PCGS Mint State Coin

(2X photo)

1204 1875-S MS-63 (PCGS). Cameo prooflike surfaces glow with rich golden orange highlights. While a few stray marks and hairlines are present, none are intrusive enough to immediately attract the viewer's eye.

The 1875-S, with a mintage of only 9,000 pieces, is very scarce in all grades and is extremely rare at the EF and AU levels. The typically encountered grade ranges from VG to VF.

The present pieces stands high as the only Mint State coin certified at any level by PCGS. Of course, the MS-63 level, reflected by the adjective *choice*, is of particular desirability. This was a landmark among the pieces Harry Bass owned, and we are certain that the new owner will share the same appreciation.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Stack's sale of October 1994, Lot 1208. "This may be the Roach coin."

Rare 1875-S Half Eagle

1205 1875-S AU-53 (PCGS). Lustrous medium gold. Satiny surfaces show warm olive and rose iridescence. Sharply struck. A notable quality example of an issue which, when seen, is apt to be well worn. For many years, until Lot 1204 was acquired, this stood as the finest piece in the Bass Collection.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 882.

Low-Mintage 1876 $5 Rarity

Choice Mint State

Among Finest Known

(2X photo)

206 **1876 MS-64 (PCGS).** Decidedly prooflike. Frosted pale orange-gold motifs stand boldly out from deeper orange gold mirror fields. A rare date; only 1,432 business strikes of the date and denomination were produced during our nation's centennial year. Generally found in EF, a surprisingly high "average" grade for such a low-mintage issue. Perhaps even more surprising is the fact that a small handful of Mint State pieces also exists—of which this specimen is among the finest. Here is a golden opportunity to obtain a choice Mint State specimen of a desirable, low-mintage half eagle rarity.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-65 finest).

As a die marker, there is a small lump on Liberty's jawline almost directly above the 1 of the date. The date is low in the field, and the left edge of the bottom serif of the 1 is over the left edge of the dentil immediately below. Surprisingly enough, Breen gives these diagnostics for Proofs of the date, not business strikes. For business strikes, Breen notes a lump below the eye and opposite the earlobe of Liberty, with the edge of the 1 over the space between two dentils. It is entirely possible that the Proof dies, used to strike just 45 coins, were also used to produce business strikes of the date. Another alternative is that Breen simply confused the diagnostics of the two issues.

In his own notes, Harry Bass wrote, "Raised lint circle on neck is diagnostic." There are two lint marks on Liberty's neck, one in front of the curl, and the other behind the curl. Whether Mr. Bass meant "diagnostic" for Proofs or business strikes of this date is not mentioned. For a lintmark to appear *raised* the lint must have adhered to the *master die*, not to the working die.

From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 236.

Impressive 1876-CC Half Eagle

Lowest Mintage Carson City $5

1207 **1876-CC AU-58 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous orange-gold with strong pink overtones. Prooflike in the recessed areas. Free of marks of any consequence. Only 6,887 examples were struck of the 1876-CC, registering the lowest mintage of the denomination at Carson City.

These were produced in the era in which certain Carson City pieces were widely exported, including to European banks, but the half eagle denomination was generally excluded from this. It was far more easier to ship a given amount of gold in the largest denomination, the double eagle, than it would be to have a larger number of smaller denominations. In foreign depositories, assets were counted from time to time, and the $20 pieces facilitated this.

The 1876-CC coinage no doubt was circulated primarily in the region, Nevada and California. Nearly all specimens acquired wear, with the result that today Very Fine is about the norm. Even an Extremely Fine coin would be notable, and regarding AU, Douglas Winter and Lawrence Cutler called this High Rarity-7, suggesting that only four to six pieces were known in all of numismatics!

The present piece brings to market the finest example encountered by Harry Bass in his more than three decades of connoisseurship. We expect a great deal of attention to be paid to this coin.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-65).
Diagnostic raised lump at Liberty's jawline.
Same mintmark placement as in Lot 1188.
Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, August 4, 1970.

Another 1876-CC $5 Rarity

1208 **1876-CC EF-45 (PCGS).** Lustrous orange-gold with a decided hint of olive in the fields. At the EF-45 level the 1876-CC is a prime rarity, far finer than normally encountered for the date. The connoisseur will wish to bid liberally, in particular if the preceding lot was not obtained.

Diagnostic die lump on obverse.
Same mintmark placement as in Lot 1188.
Purchased from Coin-A-Rama City, February 16, 1968.

Low-Mintage 1876-S $5 Rarity

Condition Census

1209 1876-S AU-58 (PCGS). A frosty golden specimen with strong lustre present. A very "high end" AU-58 that some would designate as full Mint State. Inspect it in person and make your own decision. Either way, it is a high Condition Census coin of elegant quality. The 1876 is elusive in all grades, and when found is typically Very Fine or even lower. An EF piece would be a delicacy. Regarding the present AU coin, as noted there are few pieces in this category. Here is another major opportunity for the specialist.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-64).

Struck from lightly clashed dies.

From Paramount's sale of the Burnheimer Collection, May 1976, Lot 1113.

Another 1876-S $5 Rarity

1210 1876-S EF-40. Medium honey gold with some lustre remaining. Surfaces lightly brushed long ago. Another example of this seldom-seen variety.

From Stack's sale of the Davis Collection, February 1968, Lot 393.

Important Mint State 1877 Half Eagle

Finest Certified by PCGS

1211 1877 MS-62 (PCGS). Lustrous orange-gold. A fully prooflike specimen with frosty devices and mirror fields. A prized rarity in all grades, as might be expected from the mintage of 1,132 pieces, this in an era when no numismatic attention was paid to business strikes of this denomination. In fact, the figure is so low that only the 1875 is lower among Philadelphia Mint issues of this design.

The few pieces that survive tend to be in higher grades such as EF or AU, but these are few and far between. The present piece stands high as the finest Mint State coin graded by PCGS. The connoisseur will want to bid very liberally!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from Jack Klausen, June 19, 1968.

Mint State 1877-CC Half Eagle Rarity

Solo PCGS Mint State Coin

(2X photo)

1212 1877-CC MS-60 (PCGS). A satiny and lustrous specimen wi rich rose iridescence on both sides. Choice for the grade, wi an overall visual appeal that approaches a higher level. From mintage for the date of 8,680 pieces. Rare so fine; the 1870-C when found, is usually in VF or lower grades, as few if any we sent to foreign lands during the era of mintage.

The present coin is the only Mint State example certified PCGS and is specifically noted in the Winter-Cutler study on t series, which called this grade "Unique," and mentioned it pedigree.

When this comes to market the advanced collector of Carso City coins will wish to pull out all stops—from tierce to di phone—and bid whatever the competition dictates, with t knowledge that no other opportunity may occur in his or h lifetime.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

The mintmark placement is central in the field between the denominati and the details above. The first C is above the left upright of the V, while t second is centered above the V and E. The second C is marginally higher tha the first.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 7, 1972.

Important Mint State 1877-S $5

The Akers Plate Coin

13 **1877-S MS-63.** A frosty and satiny specimen with rich rose iridescence on intensely lustrous surfaces. A small reverse mark in the field below AM is the only blemish worthy of mention; save for that mark, this beauty is virtually pristine. A rarity in all grades, with VF or an occasional EF about all most collectors can hope for. Regarding the date, Akers wrote, "I have seen only a few AU pieces and just two Uncirculated specimens, one of them a gem (pictured above) that sold in Paramount's 5/76 sale." That "gem" he mentioned is the coin offered here; he thought so highly of this coin that it was the plate coin in his reference work.

This is a rare opportunity to acquire one of the finest 1877-S half eagles extant, a piece that has been called a beautiful gem in the past, and which is certainly a landmark in the series. It handily eclipses the finest specimen offered by PCGS (see Lot 1214).

From Paramount's sale of the Burnheimer Collection, May 1976, Lot 1114.

Lustrous 1877-S $5

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

14 **1877-S AU-55 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous with rose iridescence at play in the recessed areas. A lovely specimen, not the equal of the preceding by any means, but of exceeding importance as the highest grade assigned by PCGS to a coin of this date and mint.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

From Stack's ANA sale, August 1971, Lot 2220.

Choice Mint State 1878 $5

215 **1878 Breen-6703. Repunched 8 in Date. MS-63.** Satiny golden surfaces display creamy lustre and lively olive toning highlights. Fairly scarce in this grade.

The remnants of an erroneously punched 8 can be seen in the lower loop of the first 8 in the date.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 505.

Very Rare 1878-CC Half Eagle

An Important Opportunity

1216 **1878-CC AU-50 (PCGS).** Bright honey gold with substantial lustre in the protected areas. One of just 9,054 examples of the date struck at Carson City. An always desirable date in any grade. David Akers wrote: "Most available specimens (there aren't many) grade only Fine or VF."

In terms of absolute numbers surviving, the 1878-CC is considered to be the rarest date Liberty Head half eagle from the Carson City Mint, except for the 1870-CC rarity.

At the present AU level the coin is of incredible importance. The Carson City specialist will find this to be one of the most important opportunities in the present sale.

PCGS Population: 4; 3 finer (AU-55 finest).

Mintmark centered in field between denomination and feather, first C centered over V, second C over upright of E. Less than a letter's width between both Cs.

Purchased from Paramount, February 13, 1968.

1217 **1878-S MS-60.** Lustrous with some prooflike reflectivity in the fields.

Purchased from John Smies, June 9, 1967.

Attractive 1879-CC Half Eagle

Condition Census

1218 **1879-CC AU-55 (PCGS).** Lively lustre plays on frosty golden surfaces. Nicely struck and choice for the grade. Scarce in all grades; just 17,281 examples of the date were struck. Winter and Cutler note that concerning the 1879-CC perhaps only about 20 pieces exist at the AU level. Certainly this number is exceedingly small in terms of the popularity of Carson City coinage.

PCGS Population: 6; 5 finer (MS-61 finest).

Mintmark position as in Lot 1216.

A faint obverse crack connects the bases of the date numerals.

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 2001.

Another Lustrous 1879-CC $5

The Norweb Specimen

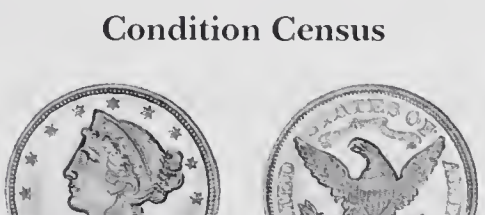
Condition Census

1219 1879-CC AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous honey gold. Abrasions and marks are at an absolute minimum on this choice specimen. A great coin with an equally great pedigree.

PCGS Population: 6; 5 finer (MS-61 finest).
Mintmark position as in Lot 1216.
A faint obverse crack connects the bases of the date numerals.
From our sale of the Norweb Collection, Part I, October 1987, Lot 902; from J.C. Morgenthau, October 11, 1935.

Luscious 1879-S Half Eagle

Condition Census



1220 1879-S Breen-6707. Repunched Date. MS-63 (PCGS). A satiny specimen with strong lustre and a generous quotient of eye appeal. A touch of rose iridescence adds to the enchanting quality. The term "gem" springs to mind when viewing this specimen. Fairly scarce in Mint State despite its lofty mintage figure of 426,200 pieces. Quite choice for the MS-63 grade. Indeed, some observers might call this piece full Mint State.

A survey of market appearances quickly reveals that above the EF level the 1880-CC is a rarity, this despite a fairly generous mintage of 51,017 pieces.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 15, 1972.

1221 1879-S MS-60. Lustrous with attractive rose highlights.
Purchased from Don Apte, June 6, 1969.

Lustrous 1880-CC $5 Rarity

1222 1880-CC AU-58 (PCGS). A highly lustrous specimen with olive highlights and plenty of eye appeal. A faint diagonal toning streak runs from the first A of AMERICA to the D in the denomination. Still choice for the grade; many might call this coin Uncirculated. A rare date above EF, despite a somewhat sizeable mintage of 51,017 pieces. A *Condition Rarity* example of a highly popular issue. Take a close look at this lovely coin, and then bid accordingly.

PCGS Population: 6; 3 finer (MS-62 finest).
Mintmark fairly high in field, slightly to left, one C over each leg of the V below.
From Superior's sale of the Ruby Collection, February 1975, Lot 1212.

1223 1880-CC AU-55 (PCGS). Bright and lustrous with rich rose descence in the recessed areas. Free of major marks. Anoth pleasing specimen.

Mintmark placement as in Lot 1222.
A raised die lump can be seen on Liberty's neck near her lowest hair cur
Purchased from Paramount, February 15, 1968.

1224 1880-CC AU-50. Lustrous honey gold with warm rose toning the protected areas.

Mintmark placement as in Lot 1222.
From Lester Merkin's sale of January 1967, Lot 420.

1225 1881/0 Breen-6715. Overdate. AU-50. A lustrous specimen this scarce overdate. Somewhat reflective in the fields. Overda details plainly evident.

On this overdate variety, the second 8 in the date is plainly repunched at t base, and the remnants of the 0 are seen around the final 1 in the date.
Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, December 1971.

Choice Proof 1881 Half Eagle Rarity

Mintage: 42 Pieces

1226 1881 Proof-63 (PCGS). Brilliant and reflective orange-gold su faces. The obverse offers a faint cameo contrast, while the r verse is more intense in that respect. A notable rarity. While 4 Proofs of the date were struck—in sets on February 19, 188 and two additional pieces later in the year—it is doubtful if mor than a dozen of those are extant today. It is not at all likely tha all sets found buyers; probably they didn't.

Of the extant specimens of the Proof 1881, a number are in paired. The present piece is one of two obtained by Harry Bas and is among the nicest to come on the market in recent year A Proof half eagle rarity that will no doubt elicit strong biddin response.

PCGS Population: 2; 5 finer (Proof-65 finest).
From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of September 1973, Lot 118

1227 1881 MS-64. Satiny lustrous surfaces exhibit lovely rose irides cence. Choice for the grade. The Norweb specimen. Now, *f nally* we can offer a really beautiful Mint State coin without sta ing that it is a superb rarity. The 1881 is eminently collectible i this grade, multiple pieces exist, but only this specimen carrie the Norweb pedigree—which certainly will be of interest to th next owner.

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, Part I, October 1987, Lo 907; ex New Netherlands Coin Company's sale of the Peake Collectio June 1955, Lot 389.

1228 1881 MS-63. Lustrous honey gold.

The remnants of two 8s can be seen in the loops of the dominant date nu merals.
Purchased from Joe Gallo, July 14, 1972.

Attractive Selection of Liberty $5 Gold

29 **Attractive selection of half eagles including some branch-mint pieces:** ☆ 1881 MS-62 ☆ 1881 Repunched date. AU-50 ☆ 1881-S AU-58 ☆ 1882-S MS-62. Nearly choice ☆ 1887-S AU-50 ☆ 1888 AU-50 ☆ 1890 AU-50 PL ☆ 1891-CC AU-58 ☆ 1892 MS-60 ☆ 1892-CC VF-35 ☆ 1892-S AU-58 ☆ 1893 MS-62 ☆ 1894 AU-58 ☆ 1894-S EF-40. Most with pleasing lustre and brilliance. (Total: 14 pieces)

Another Interesting Group of Half Eagles

30 **Selection of 16 different Liberty half eagles:** ☆ 1881 AU-50 ☆ 1887-S AU-50 ☆ 1888 EF-40, harshly cleaned ☆ 1892 AU-55 ☆ 1892-CC VF-20. A popular yet affordable Carson City issue ☆ 1894-S AU-50 ☆ 1895 AU-55 ☆ 1898-S MS-62 ☆ 1901-S AU-58 ☆ 1903 MS-62 ☆ 1904 AU-53 ☆ 1904-S AU-50 ☆ 1905-S AU-58 ☆ 1906-D MS-62. First year of the Denver Mint ☆ 1907 MS-62 ☆ 1907-D AU-58. Mostly brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 16 pieces)

Liberty Half Eagle Octet

31 **Offering of eight different Liberty half eagles:** 1881 AU-50 ☆ 1892 AU-55 ☆ 1894-S EF-40 ☆ 1895 AU-55 ☆ 1901-S AU-55 ☆ 1904 AU-53 ☆ 1906-D MS-60 ☆ 1907-D AU-58. Mostly brilliant with nice lustre remaining. This and related lots represent a wonderful way to begin a specialized collection of half eagles in highly affordable grades, but carrying the interesting and desirable Bass Collection pedigree. (Total: 8 pieces)

Seven Liberty Half Eagles

32 **Seven different Liberty half eagles:** ☆ 1881 AU-50 ☆ 1901-S Repunched mintmark. AU-55, lightly cleaned ☆ 1904 AU-53 ☆ 1904-S AU-50 ☆ 1905-S AU-58 ☆ 1907 MS-62 ☆ 1907-D AU-58. All with some original mint lustre remaining. (Total: 7 pieces)

Rare 1881-CC Half Eagle

33 **1881-CC AU-55 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous orange-gold surfaces. A rarity in all grades, the present coin is one of only 13,886 examples of the date struck. The 1881-CC is quite difficult to locate in grades above EF. David Akers viewed the piece as distinctly underappreciated, commenting: "Fully in the same rarity class as the dates from 1871 to 1877." Winter and Cutler suggested that at the AU level perhaps six to eight are known to exist today. By any evaluation, the experts agree that here indeed is a highly important Carson City half eagle. Not many specimens of this date are known in a finer grade, and bidders are urged to respond accordingly.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-65 finest).

Mintmark placement at center of field, both letters tilted left, first C over space between I and V, second C over right upright of V and slightly higher than first C, very small distance between letters.

Purchased from Paramount, February 13, 1968.

234 **1881-S MS-63.** A lustrous half eagle with attractive rose toning on satiny surfaces. A highly affordable specimen even in this high grade.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 22, 1968.

1235 **1882 MS-64.** Lustrous, satiny surfaces richly toned in rose and orange-gold. Very attractive.

A faint obverse die crack unites the bases of the final two date numerals with the back point of the bust, and from there to the 13th star, then to the rim near the star. A reverse crack unites the tops of FIVE D, then crosses the field to the bottom of the second A of AMERICA.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, March 20, 1974.

1236 **1882 MS-63.** Highly lustrous with attractive rose iridescence.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, April 10, 1973.

1237 **1882-CC AU-58.** A lustrous honey gold specimen of a popular Carson City issue. Scarce at the AU level.

Mintmark placement just below center of field, first C over left upright of V, second C slightly higher than first C, and over space between V and E.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 16, 1969.

1238 **1882-CC AU-58.** A pleasing example despite some faint hairlines in the fields. A final example of this issue.

Same mintmark placement as previous lot.

A faint die crack unites the bases of the final three date numerals.

From Rarcoa's ANA sale of August 1970, Lot 1545.

1239 **1882-S MS-64.** A lustrous, satiny specimen that readily approaches the gem category for overall quality and appeal. Attractive rose highlights.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 337.

1240 **1882-S MS-63.** Iridescent rose highlights on lustrous honey gold surfaces. A lovely coin for the grade.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, July 29, 1968.

Underrated 1883-CC Half Eagle

1241 1883-CC AU-55 (PCGS). Warm rose iridescence on lustrous orange-gold surfaces. Nicely struck. "Very rare and underrated in all grades," according to David Akers, that statement no doubt based on the small mintage for the date of just 12,958 coins. Typically seen in grades below EF, the rarity rating soars in AU.

Again we mention that while larger denomination Carson City coins, especially the $20, found their way into export quantities, half eagles tended to stay at home. The result is that very few coins survive at the AU level for the majority of the issues.

PCGS Population: 6; 5 finer (MS-61 finest).

Breen's "small, roundish" CC mintmark (Breen-6725), centrally placed in field.

From Stack's sale of February 1972, Lot 752.

Another 1883-CC Half Eagle

1242 1883-CC AU-53 (PCGS). Medium gold with rich orange gold highlights in the recessed areas. Another attractive coin.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of April 1968, Lot 2144.

Mint State 1883-S $5

1243 1883-S MS-62 (PCGS). Satiny honey gold surfaces display strong cartwheel lustre and attractive rose iridescence.

Purchased from John Smies, June 9, 1967.

1244 1883-S AU-58 (PCGS). Intense cartwheel lustre on bright and satiny surfaces. Lovely olive overtones. Decidedly choice for the grade.

Choice 1884 Quarter Eagle

1245 1884 Net MS-60; sharpness, lustre, and appeal of MS-63 or finer, but obverse field repairs can be seen near the first three stars.

Purchased from N.K.S., April 10, 1973.

Underrated 1884-CC $5 Rarity

1246 1884-CC AU-55 (PCGS). Satiny medium gold with strong lust and some prooflike reflectivity in the fields. Some light hairlin are present on both sides. Just 16,402 examples of the date we coined. David Akers commented: "Very rare and underrated all grades," a statement which is still true today. Moreover, Do glas Winter and Lawrence Cutler called this the second rarest the Carson City half eagles after 1878, subsidiary only the 188 CC. A very pleasing piece which will be appreciated by the sp cialist and connoisseur.

Mintmark centrally placed, large or "tall" CC, first C over V, second C ov upright of E.

A raised diagonal die line runs from a point near Liberty's eye, then acro her cheek to her earlobe.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 103

1247 1884-CC EF-45. Medium gold with much lustre in the recesse areas. Another example of this elusive Carson City variety.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, L 2145.

1248 1884-S MS-63. Bright and lustrous with strong eye appeal.

Purchased from Steve Ivy, April 24, 1974.

1249 1885-S MS-63. Highly lustrous with satiny surfaces and attractiv olive iridescence. Choice for the grade.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 22, 1968.

1250 1885-S MS-63. Satiny and lustrous with lovely rose toning.

From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1059

1251 1886-S MS-63. Lustrous, satiny surfaces.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 345.

1252 1886-S MS-63. Bright cartwheel lustre on satiny surfaces.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 18, 1972.

1253 1888-S MS-60. Warm golden orange surfaces show muted ros lustre. Fairly scarce in Mint State.

Purchased from Dan Brown, December 5, 1967.

Superb Gem 1889 Half Eagle

Finest Certified by PCGS

54 **1889 MS-67 (PCGS).** A satiny golden gem of impeccable quality and extraordinary appeal. Only 7,520 business strikes of the date were produced. These were routinely put into circulation, where nearly all acquired extensive wear. In fact, a dramatic indication of the present day elusive quality of this piece in Mint State is that the next finest grade certified by PCGS is *far lower,* only MS-63! In this particular year, the few collectors who desired an example of this date simply purchased Proofs. As a result, the present MS-67 piece is a formidable rarity, with not the slightest bit of competition in sight!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, November 3, 1971.

55 **1890-CC AU-58.** Lustrous golden orange surfaces. Fairly scarce in high grades, yet quite affordable. Only 53,800 examples of the date were struck.

Same CC mintmark as found in Lot 1246.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 21, 1967.

Prooflike 1891 Half Eagle

256 **1891 MS-64 (PCGS).** A satiny specimen with lovely rose highlights on warm honey gold surfaces. Moderately reflective fields and lightly frosted devices.

Purchased from Steve Ivy, December 19, 1975.

257 **1891-CC MS-62.** A lustrous and satiny specimen with the overall appeal of a higher grade. A popular date in a highly collectible grade. If you have wished to add a Carson City half eagle to your type set, the 1891-CC, one of the very few issues regularly seen at this level, affords the opportunity you have been seeking.

Same CC mintmark as found in Lot 1246.

Purchased from Charles Vice, September 1973.

258 **1892-CC AU-58.** From our sale of the Norweb Collection. Plenty of lustre remains on orange-gold surfaces.

Large CC mintmark, first C mainly over left upright of V, second C higher than first C, and chiefly over upright of E.

From our sale of the Norweb Collection, Part I, October 1987, Lot 931; ex New Netherlands Coin Company's sale of the Peake Collection, June 1955, Lot 403.

1259 **1892-O AU-55.** Bright yellow gold with strong lustre and grand eye appeal. A rarity from our southernmost mint, especially in AU. Only 10,000 examples of the date were coined, a mintage figure that is tied with that of 1856-O for the lowest production figure of any Liberty half eagle from the New Orleans facility. The first half eagle coinage from New Orleans since the 1857-O rarity, and desirable as such.

Purchased from Arnold Rosing, June 28, 1967.

1260 **1893 MS-64.** Satiny iridescent rose surfaces. A scratch is noted near the date, otherwise choice for the grade.

Purchased from N.K.S., November 7, 1968.

Mint State 1893-CC $5

Condition Census

1261 **1893-CC MS-64 (PCGS).** Lustrous, satiny, and definitely choice for the grade. Attractive olive iridescence graces the obverse; the reverse shows lively violet toning at the rim. Nicely struck. One of 60,000 examples of the date struck during the final year of coinage operations in Carson City. A prized rarity in Mint State. Several dozen 1893-CC half eagles are believed to exist in Mint State, but with relatively few exceptions these are clustered around the MS-60 and MS-61 categories, with some probably more properly being AU-58. The currently offered MS-62 coin is very important, as is evidenced by the fact that only four finer pieces have ever been certified by PCGS. Douglas Winter gives the date just a Rarity-4 rating in Mint State, although that rating increases considerably at the assigned grade and higher levels.

In 1893 Augustus G. Heaton commented in his *Mint Marks* treatise that alert collectors would be well advised to purchased *current* Carson City coins, such being readily available at face value. Apparently, few if any individuals heeded his advice. So far as we know, not more than two or three numismatists took notice of these coins during the year of issue.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Large CC mintmark tilted upward to right. First C close to talons, centered between I and V, second C equally close to feather, centered over right upright of V.

A network of faint obverse die cracks connects many of the stars and the date.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 12, 1969.

1262 **1893-CC AU-55.** A lustrous specimen from the final year of New Orleans Mint coinage operations.

Mintmark identical to Lot 1261.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 545.

Uncirculated 1893-O $5

1263 **1893-O MS-62.** Lustrous honey gold surfaces. A popular date.
From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 543.

1264 **1894-O AU-58.** Much mint lustre is seen. The final Liberty Head half eagle issue from the New Orleans Mint.
The next half eagle to be struck in New Orleans was the 1909-O Indian half eagle, a date that was the swan song for the facility, which struck no more coins of any denomination after that year.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 14, 1967.

1265 1894-O AU-53. Highly lustrous.
From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of November 1972, Lot 1190.

1266 **1895 MS-63.** Impressive rose iridescence graces satiny surfaces. A particularly choice specimen of a Mint State coin.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, October 5, 1971.

1267 **1895-S AU-58.** Light olive highlights on lustrous, satiny surfaces.
From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 550.

1268 **1896 MS-63.** Highly lustrous with lively rose iridescence on both sides. Much scarcer in choice Mint State than is generally realized.
From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 278.

1269 1896-S AU-58. Lustrous with olive highlights. Fairly scarce at the AU level or finer.
Purchased from Robert Johnson, August 8, 1967.

Choice Mint State 1897 $5

1270 **1897 MS-64.** Satiny surfaces display warm olive toning. A lustrous and attractive coin, a date that is actually quite scarce in choice Mint State.
From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2015.

Delightful 1897-S $5

The Norweb Specimen

1271 **1897-S MS-63 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous with rose highlights satiny surfaces. One of the nicest we have handled. Wh 1897-S exists readily enough in lower grades, at the MS-63 le it is particularly desirable. The addition of the Norweb Coll tion pedigree and that of King Farouk can be considered a l nus, the icing on the cake.
From our sale of the Norweb Collection, Part I, October 1987, 947; ex King Farouk of Egypt Collection, 1954, Lot 261.

1272 **1898 MS-63.** A bright and lustrous specimen. Frosty motifs a moderately reflective fields surrender a pleasing cameo contr on the obverse; the reverse is satiny.
Purchased from Julian Leidman, October 28, 1971.

1273 **1899 MS-63.** Intense cartwheel lustre on satiny surfaces.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 7, 1968.

Choice Mint State 1899-S $5

1274 **1899-S MS-64.** A satiny specimen with bold cartwheel lustre a exquisite eye appeal. Especially choice for the grade, and scar so fine.
From Stack's sale of the Heim Collection, June 1972, Lot 875.

1275 **1900 MS-63.** Highly lustrous with lovely rose toning highlight
Purchased from Julian Leidman, April 10, 1973.

1276 **1901 Proof-58 (PCGS).** Reflective golden fields show some ha lines and evidence of mishandling, but the overall appearance quite fine for the assigned grade.
From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 563.

1277 **1901-S MS-64.** Satiny yellow gold surfaces exhibit much ca wheel lustre. Scarce so fine.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, October 5, 1971.

278 **1902 MS-63.** Strong lustre on satiny surfaces.
From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 566.

279 **1902-S MS-64.** A bright orange-gold specimen with strong lustre and a generous quotient of eye appeal.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 30, 1971.

Gem Mint State 1903-S $5

280 **1903-S MS-65 (PCGS).** A highly lustrous specimen with warm olive overtones. Sharply struck.
A fine die crack runs from the first obverse star to the point of Liberty's bust.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, September 19, 1973.

281 **1903-S MS-64.** Another pleasing Mint State example of the date. Lustrous.
From Stack's sale of December 1970, Lot 289.

282 **1903-S MS-63.** Lustrous butterscotch surfaces. A lovely example of the date and grade.
Purchased from Julian Leidman, April 28, 1972.

283 **1904 MS-63.** Lustrous with intimations of warm olive iridescence.
From Stack's sale of the Heim Collection, June 1972, Lot 880.

Incredible 1904-S Half Eagle

20th-Century Gold Classic!

(2X photo)

1284 **1904-S MS-67 (PCGS).** Intense cartwheel lustre and rich rose iridescence glow upon the satiny gem surfaces of this impressive half eagle. The 1904-S is a major rarity at any Uncirculated level—even MS-60 or MS-61—despite 97,000 having been minted. With regard to the MS-67 level, this is a dream coin, almost in an illusion, but actually a reality. It is certainly far and away the finest example ever certified by PCGS and far and away the finest we have ever seen.
PCGS Population: 1; none finer.
In our February 1976 catalogue of the Montgomery Collection, Lot 2181, reads as follows: "The rarity of 1904-S was first pointed out by John Jay Ford, Jr., in New Netherlands Coin Co. catalogues in the 1950s. Since that time we've kept a weather eye out for top-grade 1904-S half eagles and have seen very, very few. We have not handled even a single piece which equals the present lot. The *Scott Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins* notes that the 1904-S is 'rare in Uncirculated grade,' which apparently, if anything, is an understatement." Funny how those comments still ring true after 23 years.
Today in 1999 the preceding statement is still true, except that in 1999 gold coins are more popular than any time in numismatic history.
From our sale of the Montgomery Collection, February 1976, Lot 2181.

Gem Uncirculated 1905 $5

1285 **1905 MS-65 (PCGS).** A satiny golden gem with lovely rose overtones. Sharply struck and aesthetically appealing. Always desirable when so finely preserved.
From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 573.

Superb Gem Mint State 1906 $5

1286 1906 MS-66 (PCGS). A highly lustrous specimen with satiny surfaces and rose toning highlights. Sharply struck.

From Stack's sale of the Heim Collection, June 1972, Lot 882.

1287 1906-D MS-64. A satiny and lustrous half eagle with somewhat prooflike fields. A splash of olive adds immeasurably to the overall beauty of the piece. Choice for the grade.

1906 was the first year the Denver Mint produced coins. The source of gold bullion included the Cripple Creek Gold District about 75 miles to the southwest of Denver, which at that time was in its glory years, the entire area having fairly close to 100,000 population. Years later, in the 1960s, the population had slumped to below 1,000. More recently, gambling has been legalized in Cripple Creek, and although we have not kept track of the population figures, we wouldn't be surprised if it was in the multiple thousands. Gold is again being-produced in Cripple Creek, not necessarily from mines, but from the pockets of tourists.

Purchased from Numismatics, Inc., February 5, 1974.

Gorgeous 1906-S $5

1288 1906-S MS-64. Lustrous honey gold with hints of deeper orange-gold and violet. A satiny beauty with aesthetic and physical qualities that approach the gem category. Scarce so fine. A lovely example of the "earthquake year."

From Paramount's Auction '85 sale, July 1985, Lot 1443.

1289 1907 MS-64. Highly lustrous honey gold surfaces. A nuance of olive iridescence graces both sides.

From New Netherlands Coin Co.'s sale, No. 61, June 1970, Lot 476.

1290 1907-D MS-63. Satiny honey gold surfaces show a high degree of lustre. The second and final Liberty half eagle issue from the Denver Mint.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 384.

Gem Uncirculated 1908 Liberty $5

Final Year of the Design Type

1291 1908 Liberty. MS-65 (PCGS). A glittering satiny gem w strong lustre and attractive rose highlights. A splendid specim of the final year of this issue.

The use of the Liberty Head design on the half eagle was anachronistic by this year the related motif was discontinued for the quarter eagle, ea and double eagle.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 24, 1971.

1292 1908 Indian. MS-63. A satiny yellow gold specimen with stro eye appeal. Scarce in choice Uncirculated.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 18, 1972.

Desirable Indian Half Eagle Selection

1293 Quality starter set of Indian half eagles, mostly differe dates: ☆ 1908-D AU-58 ☆ 1909-D MS-62 ☆ 1910 MS-62 ☆ 191 D MS-60 ☆ 1912 MS-62 ☆ 1914 AU-58 ☆ 1914-D MS-62 ☆ 191 S AU-55 ☆ 1915-S AU-55 ☆ 1916-S MS-60 ☆ 1916-S AU-50. Mo are brilliant and all have pleasing original mint lustre. Nice qu ity overall. (Total: 11 pieces)

Harry Bass was not a fan of Indian Head half eagles, as they did not inclu the variations in date punches that characterize the Liberty Head series. Th he collected them more or less casually—not too casually, for the subseque listings include some very impressive pieces. However, we cannot but wond what it would include had he considered these to have been a prime specia

The present lot gives a running start on this interesting series and is hig recommended.

Gem Uncirculated 1908-S Indian $5

Popular Low-Mintage Date

(2X photo)

4 **1908-S MS-65 (PCGS).** Satiny surfaces display a high degree of cartwheel lustre. A blazer, with all the attributes of a finer grade. A scarce and desirable San Francisco issue from the first year of the design type. While a handful of gem specimens of this date exist, the example offered here must certainly be among the finest known at the assigned grade.

The 1908-S is one of just three dates of the design type with a mintage figure that dips below 100,000 pieces, in this case 82,000 coins.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of September 1971, Lot 1086.

Important 1909-O Half Eagle

Final New Orleans Mint Issue

)5 **1909-O AU-58 (PCGS).** Satiny golden surfaces with a hint of rose iridescence. A nice coin, free of major marks and appealing to the eye. A desirable low-mintage date; only 34,200 examples of the date were struck, the lowest production figure of the design type. Popular in all grades due to its low mintage and its status as the final gold issue from New Orleans.

Purchased from Don Wallingford, September 23, 1972.

Choice Mint State 1909-S $5

1296 1909-S MS-64 (PCGS). Satiny and lustrous with traces of olive in the fields. A lovely coin that handily approaches gem quality. The 1909-S is typically found in VF or EF and is quite rare at any Mint State level, this despite a generous mintage of 297,700 pieces. A delightful specimen in all respects.

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, May 19, 1972.

1297 1911 MS-63. Satiny olive-gold surfaces.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 18, 1972.

Uncirculated 1911-D $5 Rarity

1298 1911-D MS-61 (PCGS). Lustrous golden surfaces with rich rose iridescence. From a mintage for the date of 72,500 pieces, the second lowest of the design type. A decidedly rare variety in Mint State.

Purchased from Don Wallingford, September 23, 1972.

Choice Mint State 1911-S $5

1299 1911-S MS-63 (PCGS). Satiny and lustrous with rich rose iridescence. Quite scarce in Mint State despite a generous mintage of more than 1.4 million pieces.

Purchased from Don Wallingford, September 23, 1972.

Uncirculated 1912-S Half Eagle

(2X photo)

1300 1912-S MS-64 (PCGS). A bright and lustrous specimen with some aesthetic claims to a finer grade. Lively rose iridescence graces both sides. A rare variety in choice Mint State, one that is seldom found finer than the grade assigned here.

PCGS Population: 15; 1 finer (MS-65).

Purchased from Don Wallingford, September 23, 1972.

Uncirculated 1913-S $5

1301 1913-S MS-62 (PCGS). Strong lustre on satiny surfaces. Pleasant rose highlights. Choice for the grade. Another popular San Francisco issue that is rare in Mint State.

Purchased from Don Wallingford, September 23, 1972.

Choice Mint State 1915 $5

Newly Discovered Variety
Doubled Die Reverse

1302 1915 Doubled Die Reverse. MS-63. Satiny yellow gold with blush of olive. Reverse doubling is noted in the peripheral le ends, strongest at RICA and FIVE DOLLARS. Incredib enough, this new variety was not discovered by Harry Bass, a though we're certain he would have noted it eventually, but H John Pack of our staff.

This new variety, first noticed by John Pack, is quite impressive when viewe under low magnification. As noted above, the peripheral reverse legends a doubled in nearly all areas, some places stronger than others. For instanc the P in PLURIBUS is boldly doubled, complete with notches at the serif while the L is only slightly doubled, and with no doubling at all on the oth letters of that word. Varying degrees of doubling also show at UNITE STATES OF AMERICA, with the doubling there most distinct at OF an ERICA. Additional doubling is seen at the final T in TRUST. The denomin tion, FIVE DOLLARS, is one of the areas where the doubling is particular prominent, leaving no doubt that this is a doubled die reverse, and not ju the result of die ejection doubling.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 18, 1972.

AGLES 1795 ONWARD

The Bass Collection $10 Gold Eagles
A Notable Offering

Our offering of gold $10 eagles includes important issues of early years, after which business strikes from 1838 onward Proofs from the 1860s onward are showcased, the Proofs presenting the finest Harry W. Bass, Jr., could locate in over ee decades of collecting. Although our Part III sale will owcase business strikes in the Liberty Head series, the sent offering brings to market some of the highest quality ns to cross the auction block in our generation. Harry Bass' mary interest in the series ended with the last year of the erty Head and first year of the Saint-Gaudens coins in 1907. e 1908 and later Indian Head coins, which offered no varia- ns in date logotype locations, were acquired only casually.

Numismatic Notes

Gold eagles were made in six major design types, or even re if star positions are noted among the earlier issues and portrait variations of 1838-9 are added. No coins of the nomination were struck from 1805 to 1837 inclusive. Thus, tain Capped Bust and Classic Head issues found in the 50 and $5 series have no counterparts among eagles. The ndard type divisions, as widely collected today, are given ow, along with commentaries.

Coinage was at the Philadelphia Mint for the early years, 95-1804. For Liberty Head issues 1839-1907 certain pieces re struck at the New Orleans, San Francisco, and Carson y mints. Beginning in 1906, the Denver Mint also produced ns. The Charlotte and Dahlonega mints, although their put was limited to gold issues, never coins pieces above the denomination.

Type I

1795-1797 Capped Bust to Right, Small Eagle

Eagles or $10 gold coins, the largest United States denomi- tion authorized under the Mint Act of April 2, 1792, were t struck until 1795. A delay was caused until the chief coiner d assayer were able to post the high bonds, now somewhat duced, required of them before striking precious metals.

The first gold coins struck were $5 half eagles, made in July 95. The $10 eagle coinage followed soon thereafter. The st $10 gold piece struck at the Philadelphia Mint was pre- nted by Director Henry William de Saussure to President eorge Washington, by whom he had been appointed to the fice as second director of the Mint (following Rittenhouse).

The design of the first eagle issue is similar to that of the con- mporary half eagle and is also by Robert Scot. On the obverse ss Liberty is shown wearing a cloth cap, facing right, with stars the left and right. The reverse, copied from the design of an cient cameo, depicts an eagle perched on a palm branch hold- g a wreath aloft in its beak. The inscription UNITED STATES F AMERICA surrounds. There is no indication of denomination or value on this or the subsequent eagle type. During this era, gold coins of many nations circulated in American commerce, and their value was determined by a combination of weight and fineness (purity), various conversion charts being published from time to time in newspapers and journals.

Eagles made their first appearance in circulation toward the end of 1795. As nearly all extant specimens show signs of wear, it is evident that such pieces saw extensive use in commerce.

With a total mintage of an estimated 13,344 pieces, eagles of this design type are rare today, and each and every variety is considered to be a numismatic prize. With some searching, attractive Very Fine to AU coins can be located. At infrequent intervals Uncirculated pieces appear on the market, usually when great collections are dispersed. Such coins are apt to have prooflike surfaces, a situation especially true of the first year of issue, 1795.

Type II

1798-1804 Capped Bust to Right, Heraldic Eagle

Beginning with coins dated 1797, the Heraldic Eagle reverse (first used in the gold series on the 1796 $2.50, although an anachronistic $5 of 1795 must be mentioned) was mated to the obverse style used earlier. In keeping with silver and other gold denominations of the 1800 period, the reverse, adapted from the Great Seal of the United States, depicts an eagle with a shield on its breast, holding in its talons a bundle of arrows and an olive branch and in its beak a ribbon inscribed E PLURIBUS UNUM. A galaxy of stars and an arc of clouds is above. The inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA surrounds. There is no mark of denomination or value.

The obverse remained the same as the 1795-1797 style, except that the star configuration varies on certain issues. For example, the 1798/7, an overdate, exists with nine stars left and four right and also with seven stars left and six right. No eagles were struck after 1804, as it was felt that because of rising bullion prices the pieces would be melted or exported as soon as they were produced. For all $10 gold coins with the Heraldic Eagle reverse, business strike mintage totaled an estimated 119,248 pieces. It seems that many if not most pieces either were melted by bullion speculators in the early 19th century, or were shipped overseas, primarily to Europe, where they met a similar fate. The Treasury Department realized that continuing coinage of $10 coins would be an exercise in futility, and for this reason coinage was halted in 1804.

The type set collector seeking a representative coin of the era will find that issues of 1799, 1800, 1801, or 1803 will be the most likely candidates. Examples are typically found in Very Fine to AU condition. Uncirculated pieces are rare. Mint State coins have frosty surfaces, unlike the prooflike surfaces of the $10 coins of the mid-1790s.

Type III

1839-1866 Coronet Head, No Motto

Christian Gobrecht's Coronet style, also called the Liberty Head or Braided Hair motif, was used on the eagle beginning

in 1838, two years earlier than on the quarter eagle and one year before the style was used on the half eagle. This followed a lapse of coinage of the denomination since 1804.

The obverse depicts a female head, nicknamed Miss Liberty by numismatists, facing left, her hair in a bun secured by a string of beads, wearing a coronet inscribed LIBERTY. Stars surround, and the date is below.

The reverse shows an eagle with a shield on its breast, perched on an olive branch, holding three arrows. The inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TEN D. surrounds. The Liberty head used in 1838 and early 1839 is slightly differently styled than that used later in 1839, continuing to the end of the series. The most prominent difference can be noted in the shape of the neck truncation and its relation to stars and the date.

Throughout the Liberty Head series 1838-1907, mintages were continuous at the Philadelphia Mint. A number of scarce Philadelphia issues occur in the span, 1858 in particular is considered to be rare, and most issues of the 1860s were produced in low numbers. In addition, pieces were produced at New Orleans and San Francisco.

Total business strike mintage of the 1838-1866 type is estimated at 5,292,499, while about 400 Proofs were minted for collectors.

For type set purposes the numismatist can readily obtain an example of one of the more plentiful dates in grades of Very Fine or Extremely Fine. AU pieces are scarcer, and Uncirculated pieces are quite scarce. Superb Uncirculated coins are seldom seen or encountered and are apt to come on the market only when great collections are marketed. Proofs were minted at Philadelphia and in all instances are rare.

Type IV

1866-1907 Coronet Head, With Motto

In 1866 the motto IN GOD WE TRUST was added to the reverse of the eagle. Imprinted on a scroll or ribbon, the motto was employed from that time through 1907. Otherwise the Liberty Head obverse and perched eagle reverse are the same as employed earlier.

Production was continuous at the Philadelphia Mint during this span and nearly continuous at San Francisco. Beginning in 1870, examples were struck at the Carson City Mint. New Orleans coins were produced from 1879 through 1883 and again in several later years. Coins were struck at Denver in 1906 and 1907.

Business strike mintage for the period totaled 37,391,767, while Proofs were made to the extent of 2,327 pieces.

In seeking a single coin from Very Fine to AU to illustrate the design the type set collector will have a wide choice of specimens. Examples are not rare. Uncirculated pieces are readily encountered of dates toward the end of the type, often from overseas bank hoards. Superb Uncirculated pieces are very elusive, this being especially true of any date prior to the 1890s. Proofs are occasionally available, but all are rare. As a denomination, Proof $10 coins seem to be harder to find th are $1, $2.50, $3, $5, or $20 Proof issues.

Type V

1907 Indian Head, No Motto

Following the limited coinage of two varieties of experim tal pieces, with periods before and after the legends on t reverse, business strikes of the 1907-1908 issue were produc for circulation. The designer was Augustus Saint-Gaude America's best known sculptor of the era. The same artist a created the new $20 coins of 1907.

The obverse depicts Miss Liberty wearing an Indian he dress inscribed LIBERTY on a band, 13 stars are in an a above, and the date is below.

The reverse depicts a perched eagle with UNITED STAT OF AMERICA above, the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM to t right, and the denomination expressed as TEN DOLLA below. As President Roosevelt personally objected to the u of the name of the Deity on coins, the Indian issues of 19 and certain issues of 1908 lack IN GOD WE TRUST. Coina of the type was effected at Philadelphia in 1907 and 1908 a also in Denver the latter year. Business strike mintage for t type totaled 483,448.

Specimens are readily available in grades from Extrem Fine to AU. Uncirculated pieces are seen with some regulari but superb Uncirculated coins are decidedly rare.

Type VI

1908-1933 Indian Head, With Motto

In 1908 Saint-Gaudens' Indian Head design was modifi on the reverse by the addition of IN GOD WE TRUST in t field at the center right. The motto, restored by a special a of Congress, remained in effect through the end of the seri in 1933. Otherwise the Indian Head obverse and perch eagle reverse motif remained unchanged. The edges of issu 1908-1911 have 46 raised stars, while those minted from 19 onward have 48 raised stars, reflecting an increased numb of states in the Union. Most collectors have ignored the st count difference, and consider all 1908-1933 coins to be the same basic design.

Mintage was intense and continuous from 1908 throug 1916, after which no examples were made until 1920-S, f lowed by a gap until the 1926 Philadelphia issue, with the ne being 1930-S, then 1932 and 1933. Business strike mintage f the type totaled 14,385,139, while 768 Proofs were made, t latter being of the Matte and Roman Finish formats.

The numismatist seeking an example of the 1908-1933 ty will have no difficulty locating one of the more plentiful dat in Extremely Fine to AU grade. Choice Uncirculated piec range from very scarce to extremely rare, with the exceptio of 1926 and in particular 1932. In general, much of the mi age from 1908 through 1916 was used extensively in bank bank transactions and overseas, with the result that most these seen today show signs of wear.

Collecting Considerations

Similar to the situation for $5 and $20 coins, $10 gold eagles re not widely collected by numismatists until the 1930s. In 03, in his *Mint Marks* monograph, Heaton stated that he was t aware of a single numismatist who collected these large de- minations by mintmark varieties. The situation did not nge appreciably by 1909, when Edgar H. Adams published *ams Official Premium List of United States Private and Territo- l Gold Coins*. For example, Carson City rarities, so much ap- eciated by a later generation of numismatists, had no pre- um value at the time.

Similarly, while it seems that perhaps a few collectors ac- ired Proofs from the Mint from the 1860s onward, these d very little after-market value. By the turn of the 20th cen- y, a collector with a run of Proofs from the 1880s and 1890s ght well find it more expedient to place them into circula- n, as the numismatic value was only slightly over face value.

When a surge of numismatic interest developed for large-de- mination gold coins in the 1930s, following the government all of gold from the public, the $10 denomination was not as enthusiastically collected as were the other denominations. In time, $10 pieces came to be appreciated—as they are today—but it was learned that many issues, once available, were now lost. It is the case that many if not most $10 coins of the 1840s through the 1870s are prime rarities in Mint State, although some are readily found in worn grades such as Very Fine. At the present time, the formation of a fine cabinet of Liberty Head $10 gold coins 1838-1907 is one of the greatest challenges in numismatics. The series also has the advantage that there are no "impossible" rarities. Each and every date and mintmark is highly collectible. The fascinating part is that some varieties in grades such as EF and AU are not particularly expensive, but it may require several years of waiting before one comes along. The present Bass Collection offering is remarkable for the opportunities it offers in this regard.

Upon close inspection, just about every variety has something of interest to relate with regard to the dies. Salient points are discussed in the notes provided with most of the coin descriptions.

Popular 1795 Eagle

Breen-2A, Taraszka-2

(2X photo)

1303 1795 Breen-6830, Breen-2A, Taraszka-2. Rarity-4. 13 Leaves. AU-55⁻(PCGS). Light greenish gold with reflective surfaces. Slightly weak at center of obverse and reverse, as typical, and also with minor adjustment marks across the eagle's body, this also being typical for the era. This piece is of impressive and very pleasing quality overall.

Five varieties of 1795 $10 are known, this being second in the emission order. The reverse die was earlier used for the Breen-1A die marriage and the obverse die was later used for the famous 1795 Nine Leaves eagle. The 1795 eagle has enduring popularity from its status as the first year of the denomination. As such, this pleasing coin will be a highly prized addition to either a type set or a specialized collection. This example is among the top half dozen we have ever offered for sale in any public auction. The Eliasberg coin and a specimen we offered in September 1995 are the only clearly finer coins. Reviewing our public auction sales of the period from 1972 to date, the cataloguer (Mark Borckardt) finds that we have offered 64 eagles of 1795 for sale, just 18 of which were this variety.

Note: For early gold coins PCGS figures are typically by year or major difference, not by technical die varieties. Thus, in virtually all instances the population reports are optimistic with regard to a particular die variety; examples of a given die variety are rarer.

A late die state with both obverse and reverse dies lapped.

United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles 1795-1834 by Anthony J. Taraszka has just been published by Anton's of Portage, Michigan. As it becomes distributed, this will take its place as an extremely important contribution to the literature of early gold coinage. Each of the 33 die varieties (including the 1804 Plain 4 Proof issue) is described, and most importantly, illustrated by enlarged photographs. The varieties are presented in the order they were actually issued, and die states are discussed along with updated rarity ratings. With publication of this reference, there can be no more question about attribution of these large, early coins. We were fortunate to have early access to a manuscript copy of this reference which provided considerable assistance in our presentation of these coins from the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation.

Thank you, Tony, for providing access to your most excellent study. For those interested in obtaining a copy, we will be happy to assist. But hurry, as only 300 copies were printed.

Purchased from Joe Flynn, Sr. Coin Co., September 2, 1971.

Spectacular 1797 Small Eagle $10

Rarest Date Among Small Eagle Issues

504 1797 Breen-6833, B-1A, T-7. Rarity-5. Small Eagle. AU-58 (PCGS). Brilliant, satiny yellow gold with considerable greenish tint. Slightly reflective surfaces with minor abrasions.

As we discuss in our notes, the 1797 year is seldom found in any offering of $10 pieces. Thus, the present coin, combining very high grade and notable rarity, will be appreciated by a wide audience. Among Small Eagle $10 gold, 1795 is most common with several hundred survivors, 1796 is next with over 100 survivors, and 1797 is rarest with less than 75 known, probably actually only 50 to 60 survivors. Interestingly, our survey of coins appearing in our own auctions since 1972 confirms these figures. We have offered the following quantity of early eagles for each date: 1795 - 64; 1796 - 21; 1797 - 12. This example is the finest we have ever offered, exceeding in quality the AU-55 coins we sold in September 1993 and March 1989. The reverse die of this variety is the same as was used in 1796 with all 1797 issues struck between early and late states of 1796-dated coinage.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-60).

A die crack from the border below star 16 extends diagonally up to the left, almost reaching Liberty's neck. A branch crack just inside the dentils extends to end of the drapery.

We have commented in the past about the relationship of star 1 touching the date, however, just as unusual is the actual layout of 16 obverse stars with 12 along the left border and just four right. A truly unique situation among early American coinage.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of the Beck Collection, January 1975, part of Lot 486. This lot was a complete 11-piece date set of early eagles, including this 1797 Small Eagle $10 and both varieties of 1798.

Attractive 1797 Heraldic Eagle $10

Another Important Opportunity

1305 **1797 Breen-6834, B-2B, T-8. Rarity-4. Heraldic Eagle. AU-53 (PCGS).** Very light greenish yellow gold with considerable reflective lustre. Slightly weak at central obverse, otherwise all details are bold. Well centered impression with full obverse and reverse borders.

The present piece will be highly appreciated by the die variety specialist as well as the type coin collector. Few equivalent pieces have ever been offered.

The obverse has a faint crack from the border vertically through the final 7. On the reverse, a light crack joins the border at 2:00 to wing tip and another from the border between S and O joins the cloud.

The emission sequence and relationship of various obverse and reverse dies for both 1797- and 1798-dated coinage is clearly delineated in Anthony Taraszka's new reference discussed at Lot 1303.

Three die varieties of 1797 Heraldic Eagle coinage are known, all of approximately equal rarity. All three varieties share the same obverse die, this variety being struck first. The other two varieties of 1797 Heraldic Eagle $10 gold coins were both struck after the 1798-dated issues, therefore, this is the only *true* 1797 eagle. Since both 1798 varieties use a reverse die also used for the second 1797 issue, and all known 1798 coins are in an earlier die state, we can be certain of the emission order.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of the Beck Collection, January 1975, Lot 495.

Rare 1799 $10 Variety

Breen-2A, Taraszka-14

1306 **1799 Breen-6838, B-2A, T-14. Rarity-6. Small Reverse Stars. MS-62 (PCGS).** Brilliant orange-gold with frosty lustre and minor surface marks. Quite sharply struck with nearly complete reverse design definition. This is an extremely attractive example, one of the very finest known of this rare die combination. A very rare variety listed as Rarity-6 in the new reference on early eagles, written by Anthony Taraszka. In a survey of our public auction sales from 1972 to date, we found only six appearances of this die variety, one AU-55, another AU-50, the balance EF-40 or EF-45. An important opportunity for the variety specialist, this example is probably one of the very finest known.

Cracked from rim through left serifs of L to the cap. A faint reverse crack crosses the eagle's tail.

Purchased from Rowe and Brownlee, October 18, 1966.

Important 1799 Eagle Rarity

Breen-2A, Taraszka-14

Duplicate Offering

1307 **1799 Breen-6838, B-2A, T-14. Rarity-6. Small Reverse Star AU-53 (PCGS).** Brilliant greenish gold with considerable lustr remaining. The surfaces are surprisingly choice for the grad A true example of quality. Sharply struck although not pe fectly centered, the obverse border is wider and deeper a 12:00. A duplicate offering of this very rare variety.

The obverse has a heavy die crack from the border through the left side L and into the cap. Two heavy die chips occur along this crack.

From Stack's sale of November 1974, Lot 567.

Lovely Mint State 1799 $10

Unusual Date Layout

1308 **1799 Breen-6840, B-4E, T-19. Rarity-3. Irregular Date. MS-6 (PCGS).** Attractive greenish yellow gold with frosty lustre an only a few minor abrasions. An important opportunity for th date or type collector.

This variety is one of the more available early eagles. Of 3 total varieties struck from 1795 to 1804, just four are rate more common than Rarity-4. One is dated 1795, this and an other are 1799, and the fourth is 1801. It is our opinion tha this is the third most plentiful variety in Mint State. Of course as we have often stated, the word "plentiful" as it is applied t these early gold coins is relative, as a similar number of Min State Morgan dollars, or Liberty double eagles, would be clas sified as a highly important rarity.

Early die state with tiny rim breaks over stars 1 and 2.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, April 13, 1972.

Mint State 1799 $10

309 **1799 Breen-6840, B-4E, T-19. Rarity-3. Irregular Date. MS-61 (PCGS).** Brilliant and satiny greenish gold lustre with a few marks here and there, taken care of, of course, by the numerical grade designation. A few other very minor surface marks are noted. A duplicate Mint State offering of this variety, representing another opportunity for the date or type collector. Certainly the specialist desiring an attractive Mint State example of this variety should also consider this lot very carefully. As a class, Mint State early eagles are very difficult to locate.

This is a late die state with rim breaks in the dentils over stars 1 and 2, and over stars 7 and 8. A short crack extends from the edge to star 8, another from edge to E and the forelock, and another through TY to stars 9 and 10. Cracked through most stars on left. The reverse has clash marks in the shield and a short crack from border to third feather on left.

Additional early eagles are scheduled to be offered in Part III of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. When making the division for these sales, we had two choices. We could offer all early coins of a given denomination in one or the other sales, or we could split these coins between both sales. Of course, there are pros and cons to either scenario. Our decision was to showcase nice coins from each of the denominations so that between the present Part II offering and our forthcoming Part III offering, collectors and specialists can recover or augment their bank accounts and bid again with enthusiasm for pieces within their chosen interest.

Purchased by Harry W. Bass, Jr., February 1, 1974. No further pedigree noted.

Desirable 1800 Eagle

Late Die State

310 **1800 Breen-6842, B-1A, T-23. Rarity-4. AU-55 (PCGS).** Brilliant greenish gold with nearly complete lustre. Very sharply struck with considerable aesthetic appeal. This is the only die variety of the date. The reverse die was reused in 1801 with this example, from a late die state, being struck after the 1801 issues. Although not as common as the 1799-dated issues just offered, this is a plentiful issue with a number of higher quality examples known. Of course, in an *absolute* sense all 1800-dated $10 pieces are rare. Indeed, in the past, this 1800-dated issue has been catalogued as a rare issue, perhaps because it is the only variety known for the year.

For this year the population is absolute, as there is only one die variety (see our PCGS notes under Lot 1303).

Star 7 on the obverse is sharply double punched.

Extensive obverse and reverse cracks. The obverse has a crack from the border left of L through the cap. Another crack from the border right of B branches left and right through the tops of LIBERTY and stars 9 and 10. Die crumbling on the obverse border at 3:00. Several light reverse cracks including a die crack from the border at 5:30 vertically right of the eagle's tail. This crack occurs only in late die states after the 1801 Breen-1A variety was produced.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, September 29, 1972.

Choice Mint State 1801 Eagle

Attractive Prooflike Cameo

A Landmark Coin!

(2X photo)

1311 **1801 Breen-6843, B-2B, T-25. Rarity-3. MS-64 (PCGS).** A wonderfully attractive example in bright yellow gold with deeply reflective obverse and reverse, with vertical striae present.

Although this is the most available early eagle variety, and although additional Mint State specimens are known, very few can match the Bass Collection specimen either for technical quality or aesthetic appeal. A truly wonderful example that was certainly minted with special care.

Perfect obverse and reverse dies.

From Rovcoa, February 3, 1975.

Rare 1801 Die Marriage

Breen-1A, Taraszka-24

1312 1801 Breen-6843, B-1A, T-24. Rarity-5. AU-58 (PCGS). Deep yellow gold lustre with a trace of attractive orange toning. Sharply struck. Minor surface marks are present on both sides. An important opportunity for the specialist.

The obverse has a curved crack through the right field and a branch upward through the hair, cap, and L. The reverse has minor cracks only, not as advanced as on the 1800 offered above.

Two varieties are known for the eagles of 1801. The Breen-2B marriage is the most common die variety of early gold eagles, regardless of date. This Breen-1A variety, however, is among the rarer combinations. In all of our public auctions since 1972, we have offered 105 eagles of this date. Among these, only six were from this die pair.

Purchased from Ed Janis, February 9, 1970.

Attractive 1803 Eagle

Breen-1B, Taraszka-29

1313 1803 Breen-6844, B-1B, T-29. Rarity-4. Small Reverse Stars. AU-55 (PCGS). Very attractive light greenish gold lustre with sharp central design details, slightly weak along the borders. Slight adjustment marks are located along the reverse border opposite the weakest point on the obverse. Minor surface marks as expected, although none of these are distracting. Of course, any other AU-55 coin in existence would by definition have surface marks, so mentioning them may be a waste of space. Lightly reflective surfaces. Although listed by Anthony Taraszka as Rarity-4, it is our experience that this variety is rarer than other early eagles with the same rating.

Slight die cracks are faintly visible.

Purchased from Western Numismatics, Ltd., January 9, 1974.

Lustrous 1838 $10 Gold

First Liberty Head Issue

Condition Census

1314 1838 AU-58 (PCGS). A wonderful example of the first Liber Head eagle, the rare sub-type used only in 1838 and early 1839.

The present specimen is highly lustrous with greenish go surfaces and light orange toning, certainly one of the nicest v have ever offered and, for that matter, one of the finest in e istence as the population figures show. Sharp striking of d tails adds to the desirability of what is a very important coi one that Walter Breen described as "prohibitively rare abo EF."

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 1631.

1839 Type I $10

"Head of 1838" Large Letters Reverse

1315 1839 Large Letters Reverse. EF-45. Somewhat prooflike i protected areas. What a spectacular coin this must have bee when first struck! Bright yellow gold. An outstanding exampl of this scarce year and type.

The obverse style is of the so-called "First Head" which fo 1838 and early 1839 was differently positioned than on late issues, with the portrait of Miss Liberty tilted forward, and th front of the neck truncation above the 18 of the date, and th right side of the truncation above and slightly to the right o star 13. Apparently this configuration was considered to b clumsy or less than artistic, and after being used for a sho time, it was changed in mid-1839.

The letters on the reverse, called *Large* in literature actuall are fairly small and delicate. However, they are larger tha those used on the second type.

Obverse with "script" style 8, with heavy crossbar from upper left to low right, covering curve in the other direction, from upper right to lower le Digit 3 low, and with top as a loop, without ball. 9 curiously repunched the right, perhaps over another figure; upper right interior of letter straight, not curved.

On the reverse a crack is seen from the border through OF to the eagle wing, to the field below M (AMERICA); another crack connects MERIC with the D of the denomination, while yet another crack is seen at the bo tom, from the border through first U (UNITED) to the arrow tip to th branch end.

In his *Encyclopedia*, Walter Breen notes that this early design was conti ued through most of June 1839, and is "highly prized as an ephemeral type

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, April 23, 1973.

Lustrous 1839 $10 Gold

Second Head

316 **1839 Small Letters Reverse. AU-58 (PCGS).** A lovely example in bright yellow gold. A few very minor marks are visible. Another issue that Breen described as "prohibitively rare AU." This example is very sharply struck except for obverse stars, and has traces of reflective prooflike surface blended with frosty lustre.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

Light obverse die cracks through most stars from star 2 to 9.

From Paramount's sale of September 1971, Lot 1555.

317 **1840 AU-50.** Pleasing yellow gold surfaces. A very nice example of the date and grade.

The portrait on the obverse is different from the head of 1838 and *also different from the modified head of 1839,* the present style having the coronet tip more distant from star 6 than on the modified styles (July-December 1839). The differences are small but quite noticeable when pieces are laid side by side. Date logotype in small letters, probably entered from a four digit punch. Spacing wide.

From the Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1144.

318 **1840 EF-45.** A very nice example of the date and grade.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA sale, July 1968, Lot 1004.

319 Pair of Liberty eagles: ☆ 1840 EF-40. A nice example of this early date ☆ 1841 EF-45. Some reddish areas at coronet. (Total: 2 pieces)

320 **1841 AU-53.** Somewhat prooflike on both sides, with the mirror surfaces being particularly evident in protected areas. Light yellow gold.

Date logotype small with numerals widely spaced.

Purchased from Stack's, September 28, 1967.

321 **1841 AU-50.** Another nice example of this issue, also somewhat prooflike in protected areas.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of February 1969, Lot 1386.

Pleasing 1841-O Eagle

322 **1841-O AU-53 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold. A very pleasing specimen of the first New Orleans coinage of the denomination. "Extremely rare EF, a prohibitively rare AU, unknown Uncirculated," noted Walter Breen in his *Encyclopedia.* Douglas Winter in *New Orleans Mint Gold Coins: 1839-1909,* echoed the sentiment: "The 1841-O has the third lowest mintage of any eagle struck at the New Orleans Mint. Is one of the true rarities from this mint; especially in higher grades." The vast majority of 1841-O eagles grade Very Fine or lower. This date is very rare in Extremely Fine and of the highest rarity in About Uncirculated. No Mint State specimens are known to exist. At this juncture we can not resist noting that the *Guide Book* blithely prices coins at the MS-60 grade!

Of the mintage of 2,500 pieces, we estimate that perhaps 10% or 250 exist, a small number in relation to the present day popularity of $10 pieces in particular and gold coins in general.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (AU-55 finest).

All 1841-O eagles were struck from a single pair of dies. The mintmark is fairly prominent and is close to but not touching the arrow feather.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of July 1967, Lot 340.

Another Elusive 1841-O $10

1323 **1841-O Net VF-35;** sharpness of EF-45, slightly granular surfaces, possibly seawater surfaces—although its history is not known. Bright yellow gold with considerable lustre remaining. A highly attractive example of this low-mintage issue.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2229.

Important 1842 Small Date $10

Mint State

1324 **1842 Small Date. MS-62 (PCGS).** A wonderful example of this rare variety. Sharply struck in bright yellow gold. Moderately reflective lustre in the fields is combined with frosty lustre on the devices, a lovely cameo. Very few minor abrasions and hairlines, with two minute rim nicks on the obverse at 1:00. The 1842 is scarce in any form, and it is worth noting that Breen commented that it is "prohibitively rare AU."

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Small date logotype, probably minted *after* the large date this year, but no die-sequence studies have been made (perhaps a progression could be made by studying common reverses). Date logotype well spaced.

On the reverse a prominent crack is seen at border at the left through the wing, extending across the bottom of the shield.

Purchased from Numismatic Enterprises (Steve Kosoff and Mike Kliman), November 1971, Lot 412.

1325 Pair of EF-45 Liberty eagles, both light yellow gold: ☆ 1842 Small Date ☆1842 Large Date. (Total: 2 pieces)

Diverse Liberty Head Eagle Grouping

1326 **Diverse offering of early Liberty Head eagles, all different dates and mints:** ☆ 1842 Small Date. EF-45, seawater surfaces ☆ 1842-O VF-20, seawater surfaces and numerous rim bumps ☆ 1843 Repunched Date. AU-50, seawater surfaces ☆ 1843-O EF-40 ☆ 1844-O EF-40 ☆ 1845-O EF-40, seawater surfaces ☆ 1847 AU-50, seawater surfaces ☆ 1847-O AU-50, seawater surfaces ☆ 1850 Large Date. EF-45 ☆ 1851 EF-40 ☆ 1851-O VF-20, strongly cleaned ☆ 1852 EF-45 ☆ 1853 EF-40 ☆ 1853-O EF-40 ☆ 1858-O VF-35, cleaned. Most with some problems, but an interesting lot offering some scarcer early dates and mints. (Total: 15 pieces)

Selection of Liberty Head Eagles

1327 **Selection of early Liberty Head eagles:** ☆ 1842 Small Date. EF-40 ☆ 1843 EF-40 ☆ 1843-O EF-40, cleaned ☆ 1847 AU-50, seawater etched ☆ 1847-O AU-50, saltwater surfaces ☆ 1850 EF-40 ☆ 1852 EF-45 ☆ 1853 EF-40 ☆ 1853-O EF-40 ☆ 1854 EF-40 ☆ 1854-S EF-40 ☆ 1855 EF-45 ☆ 1855-O Net F-15, heavy reverse scratches ☆ 1856 EF-45 ☆ 1856-S VF-35. A great assortment of 15 different dates and mintmarks from the early range of the Liberty Head series. What a nice way to start a collection! (Total: 15 pieces)

Another Interesting $10 Group

1328 **Offering of Liberty Head eagles:** ☆ 1842 Small Date. VF-35 ☆ 1843-O VF-35 ☆ 1847-O AU-50, saltwater surfaces ☆ 1850 EF-40 ☆ 1852 EF-45 ☆ 1853 EF-40 ☆ 1853-O VF-35 ☆ 1854-S VF-35 ☆ 1855 EF-45 ☆ 1856-S VF-20 ☆ 1861 EF-45 ☆ 1874 AU-55 ☆ 1877-S VF-20. An interesting and valuable group. (Total: 13 pieces)

Another Group of Liberty Head Eagles

1329 **Selection of Liberty Head eagles offering a nice variety of dates and mints:** ☆ 1842 Small Date. VF-20, seawater surfaces ☆ 1847 EF-40 ☆ 1850 VF-20, cleaned ☆ 1853 VF-35, light scratches ☆ 1874 AU-50 ☆ 1879 EF-45 ☆ 1879-S EF-40, cleaned ☆ 1880 AU-50 ☆ 1880-S EF-45 ☆ 1881-S AU-58 ☆ 1882 AU-58 ☆ 1882-S VF-30, cleaned ☆ 1883 AU-58 ☆ 1884 AU-58 ☆ 1884-S AU-53 ☆ 1885-S EF-45 ☆ 1886 EF-45 ☆ 1886-S MS-60 ☆ 1887-S AU-58 ☆ 1888 AU-50, lightly cleaned. Those without surface problems are generally brilliant with nice lustre. (Total: 20 pieces)

Large Variety of Liberty Head Eagles

1330 **Varied selection of early Liberty Head eagles:** ☆ 1842 Large Date. EF-40 ☆ 1843 EF-40 ☆ 1843-O EF-40 ☆ 1844-O EF-40, cleaned ☆ 1844-O VF-25 ☆ 1845-O VF-20 ☆ 1847 AU-50, seawater surfaces ☆ 1847-O AU-50, seawater surfaces ☆ 1850 Large Date. EF-45 ☆ 1851 EF-40 ☆ 1852 EF-45 ☆ 1853 EF-40 ☆ 1853-O EF-40. A nice run of early dates and mints with no duplication. (Total: 13 pieces)

Selection of $10 Gold Pieces

1331 **Large grouping of Liberty Head eagles of various dates a mints:** ☆ 1842 Large date. VF-35 ☆ 1847 EF-45 ☆ 1847-O E 45, seawater surfaces ☆ 1850 VF-30 ☆ 1852 VF-35, light verse scratches ☆ 1855 Fine-15, planchet laminations. Surfa lightly whizzed ☆ 1874 AU-55 PL ☆ 1878 AU-50 ☆ 1878-S V 30, lightly polished ☆ 1879 AU-50 ☆ 1879-S AU-50, ligh cleaned ☆ 1880 AU-55 ☆ 1880-S MS-60 ☆ 1881-O VF-25 1881-S MS-60 ☆ 1882 MS-60 ☆ 1882-S EF-45 ☆ 1883 AU-58 1883-CC VF-20. Some with problems, as noted, but still an teresting variety of dates and mints. (Total: 19 pieces)

Another Fascinating $10 Group

1332 **Grouping of Liberty Head eagles:** ☆ 1842 Large Date. VF- ☆ 1847 EF-45 ☆ 1847-O AU-50 ☆ 1850 EF-40 ☆ 1852 EF-40 1853-O VF-20 ☆ 1854-S Net VF-20, obverse has been pr cessed to conceal marks and abrasions ☆ 1855 EF-40 ☆ 1856 Net VF-20, polished ☆ 1861 VF-45 ☆ 1874 AU-55 ☆ 1878 A 50 ☆ 1879 AU-55 ☆ 1879-S AU-50 ☆ 1880 AU-58 ☆ 1880-S M 60. A nice selection of date and mintmark issues, some bei scarce. (Total: 16 pieces)

Another Worthwhile $10 Selection

1333 **Selection of Liberty Head eagles:** ☆ 1842 Large Date. Net V 25, heavy scratches at date ☆ 1847 EF-45 ☆ 1850 VF-20 ☆ 18 VF-20 ☆ 1874 AU-50 ☆ 1879 AU-50 ☆ 1879-S EF-40 ☆ 18 AU-53 ☆ 1880-S AU-55 ☆ 1881-S AU-58 ☆ 1882 AU-58 ☆ 188 S EF-45 ☆ 1883 AU-55 ☆ 1883-S EF-40 ☆ 1884 AU-50 ☆ 188 S AU-55 ☆ 1885 AU-58 ☆ 1885-S MS-60 ☆ 1886 AU-50. An i teresting selection of 19 different dates and mints. By purcha ing a group lot such as this the intending specialist can get running start on a date and mintmark set, each of the nucle coins having the incomparable Bass Collection pedigree. (T tal: 19 pieces)

1334 **1842-O Large Date. AU-53 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. A plea ing specimen of this elusive issue. Rarely seen in high grade Breen comments: "prohibitively rare AU," and in this instan we do not presume to second guess his opinion.

PCGS Population: 6; 4 finer (MS-63 finest).

Date numerals large, as seemingly always for 1842-O. Logotype as on pr ceding, with last two digits low. On the reverse a minute crack is seen fro the dentil to eagle's wing at upper left.

Purchased from Stack's, September 28, 1967.

1335 A pair of New Orleans eagles: ☆ 1842-O Large Date. EF-4 Light yellow gold ☆ 1843-O Large Date. EF-45. Light yello surfaces. (Total: 2 pieces)

1336 Pair of eagles grading EF-45: ☆ 1842-O Large Date ☆ 1843- Large Date. Both items display light yellow gold surfaces. (T tal: 2 pieces)

1337 Pair of eagles: ☆ 1842-O Large Date. EF-40 ☆ 1843-O EF-4 Both pieces are light yellow gold. (Total: 2 pieces)

Reverse with O mintmark leaning to the left.

Purchased from Arizona Stamp and Coin Company, April 1 1968.

1338 1843 EF-45. Pair of light yellow eagles grading EF-45: ☆ 184 ☆ 1844-O. (Total: 2 pieces)

Date logotype very slightly low.

From Paramount, March 30, 1967 to Michael G. Brownlee Harry Bass.

1339 **1843-O AU-50.** Light yellow gold. Lustre still remains in protected areas. Quite scarce in higher grades.

This is Breen's "very thin numerals" die, No 6862. The date logotype is punched lightly into the working die.

On the reverse a delicate crack is seen from the upper left to the eagle's wing tip.

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 2074.

1340 **1843-O AU-50.** Bright yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike, particularly on the reverse.

Obverse date numerals fairly deep into the die. Reverse die and state as preceding.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero sale, October 1971, Lot 1084.

1341 **1843-O AU-50.** Light yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike in protected areas.

Obverse with date logotype punched fairly lightly into the die. Reverse die as preceding, slightly advanced state, now with additional crack beginning at lower left of first A (AMERICA).

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 632.

Exceptional 1844 Eagle

1342 **1844 AU-53 (PCGS).** An exceptional specimen grade-wise of an issue which is scarce enough in EF, very rare at any higher level. Pleasing yellow gold surfaces. Harry Bass, who was accustomed to seeing many fine things, noted "rare grade" in his commentary.

Only 4,600 pieces were struck, of which only few hundred exist today, the typical grade being EF.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (AU-55).

Date logotype bold. Prominent and very curious die scratches at the left border from star one through three.

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 2065.

Another High-Grade 1844 $10

1343 **1844 AU-50 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold. Another high-grade specimen, full AU, of a date that Walter Breen calls "prohibitively rare EF." What a fortunate situation to have two notable pieces in the same sale!

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (AU-55 finest).

Obverse die as preceding.

From Parke-Bernet Galleries' sale of May 1969, Lot 134.

"Prohibitively Rare" 1844 $10

1344 **1844 EF-40.** Breen's "prohibitively rare" grade. Light yellow gold, lightly cleaned some time ago.

Obverse die as preceding.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

High-Quality 1844-O Eagle

1345 **1844-O AU-55.** Sharply struck although a few stars are weak. Bright and attractive yellow gold with considerable lustre and a few very minor marks. Faint brush marks are noted in the obverse field. The highest technical grade that Harry Bass was able to locate.

No source listed.

Another High-Grade 1844-O $10

1346 **1844-O AU-53.** Pleasing light yellow gold surfaces. Much mint lustre still remains. A high-quality example of this relatively plentiful New Orleans variety. A *condition rarity.*

Date logotype bold and slightly high. Reverse with mintmark tilted left.

Purchased from Roth, date not stated.

1347 Pair of 1844-O eagles grading EF-45: Both are lustrous yellow gold. (Total: 2 pieces)

1348 **1845 EF-40.** An attractive example of the date.

Date logotype very deeply impressed in the die, particularly at the left. Logotype somewhat crudely made and low, with 84 very close (touching on the present), and 45 distant.

Purchased from George Gozan apparently through Aaron Feldman, February 28, 1967.

1349 **1845 EF-40.** Another nice specimen of this date.

Dies similar or identical to preceding.

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, September 14, 1972.

1350 **1845-O Breen-6868. Normal Date. EF-45.** Light yellow gold surfaces with much lustre still remaining.

Perfect date, fairly well centered

Purchased from Arizona Stamp and Coin, March 1969.

1351 1845-O Breen-6869. Repunched 84. EF-45. Light yellow gold.

Breen 6869, "Repunched 84." Obvious traces of repunching at the lower left side of the 8 and 4.

Purchased from Douglas Weaver, September 25, 1973.

1352 1845-O Breen-6869. Repunched 84. EF-40. Attractive light yellow gold surfaces.

Obverse die as preceding.

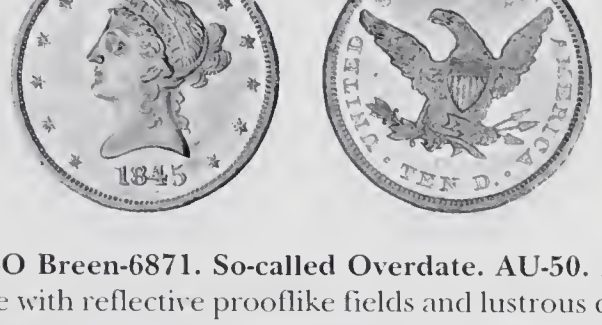
Purchased from Bob Roth, no date stated.

1353 1845-O Breen-6869. Repunched 84. EF-40. Another attractive example of this interesting variety.

Obverse die as preceding.

From Parke-Bernet Galleries' sale of May 1968, Lot 135.

Lovely AU 1845-O $10



1354 1845-O Breen-6871. So-called Overdate. AU-50. A lovely example with reflective prooflike fields and lustrous devices. The finest example Harry Bass was able to locate in many years of searching.

Breen's 1845/44-O. "Extremely rare. Date 1844 first cut well to the left of the final position of 1845. Upright of 4 within lower part of 5." Our description would be "1845 Repunched Date" as we are unable to identify the final lightly repunched digit as being a 4, although perhaps an earlier die state exists that shows this feature clearly. On this specimen, distinct remnants of the first 4 can be seen to the left of the dominant numeral, while a vertical patch of roughness, perhaps the upright of a 4, can be seen within the loop of the 5 in the date. The repunching is fairly dramatic, and the coin is interesting to view under magnification. Date logotype deep into the die and slightly high. Significantly, the *Guide Book* does not list this "overdate."

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, April 1970, Lot 1041.

1355 1845-O Breen-6871. So-called Overdate. EF-40. Light yellow gold.

Same comments as noted in the previous lot, except here a faint die crack connects the bottoms of the 4 and 5 in the date.

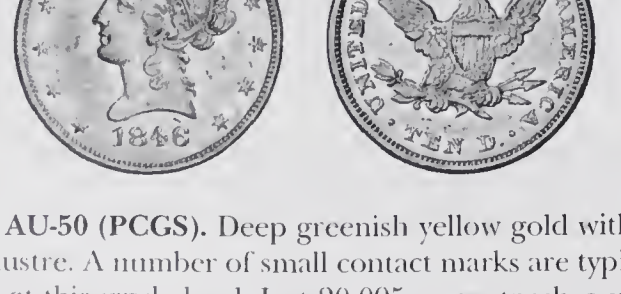
Purchased from Stack's, December 16, 1971.

1356 1845-O Breen-6871. So-called Overdate. VF-35. A final example of this variety.

Same comments as noted in the previous lot. No die crack at bases of 4 and 5.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, August 4, 1967.

High-Grade Business Strike 1846 $10



1357 1846 AU-50 (PCGS). Deep greenish yellow gold with considerable lustre. A number of small contact marks are typical of gold coins at this grade level. Just 20,095 were struck, a very rare issue in higher circulated grades, in fact, rare in almost any grade.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (AU-55 finest).

1358 1846 EF-40. Bright yellow gold. Some prooflike surface in p tected areas.

Date logotype small and somewhat irregular, as normal for the is highly positioned, twice as close to the neck truncation in relationship to dentils.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, ex Gozan Collection, June 1967.

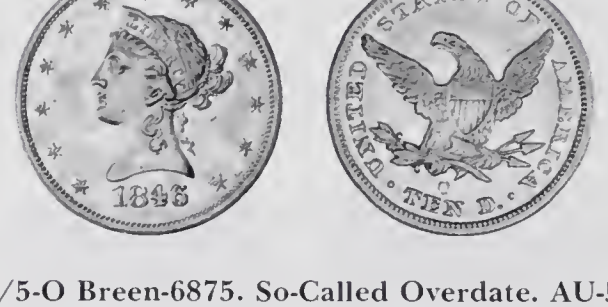
1359 1846 EF-40. Bright yellow gold. Some scattered marks in field are typical of the grade.

Date logotype position as foregoing.

From Parke-Bernet Galleries' sale of the McGraw Collection, 136.

Splendid "1846/5-O" $10

Traditional Overdate



1360 1846/5-O Breen-6875. So-Called Overdate. AU-55 (PCG The traditional *overdate*, but believed by us (see detailed discu sion below) to be an 1846-O from a curious logotype punc not an overdate. Attractive bright gold surfaces. Nicely stru An outstanding example of this issue.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Obverse with logotype very high, about three times closer to the trun tion than to the dentils. Reverse with sharply double punched O mintma

For many years this variety has been called the "1846/5-O overdate" by merous numismatists, including grading and authentication services. Ho ever, recent research by Mark Borckardt and Dave Bowers, given in our *R Coin Review*, No. 130 indicates that this is from a curious logotype punch, an overdate. The study, excerpted below, reveals that *the four-digit logotype u to produce this coin and also certain half dollars was in itself slightly doubled*, a co cept, which so far as we know, has not been introduced into numismatic lite ture. We expect that further study will reveal that there are other varieties American coinage in which the four-digits themselves show repunching other curious features. To verify these, the use of the identical logotype need to be found on different dies (those of different *denominations*, in t present case, are obvious, but within the same denomination different d can be determined by the general position of the logotype). Credit goes to t Harry W. Bass, Jr., Research Foundation for initiating this study, which beg in 1998 and which came to the fore when numismatist J.N., mentioned belo prompted us to study the half dollar die as well.

The "1846/5-O" $10

Excerpt from "Observations on 1846-O 'Overdate' Coinage," by Ma Borckardt, with QDB, from the *Rare Coin Review:*

Reader J.N. of Virginia sent two coins of two different denominations f our examination, both dated 1846-O. One of these is a 50¢ piece with M dium Date, the digit 6 of which shows some type of doubling. The other, 1846-O $10 eagle, also shows artifacts or stray punch marks within the di 6. He inquired about the status of these coins as overdates, 1846/5-O.

Upon close examination side-by-side, the pieces piqued our interest, a we set about seeing what we could learn from published literature as well the coins themselves.

Walter Breen, in his *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* ported the following varieties for both denominations:

1846-O 50¢: Several different date styles were listed under such headi as Small Normal Dates, with and without Drapery; Small Double-Punch Date, with and without Drapery; and Overdate, with and without Drape Also listed is the Tall Date variety.

1846-O $10: Varieties listed by Breen included Normal Date, Doub Punched 6, Overdate, and a variety with Small Thin Stars, from a weal hubbed or heavily lapped obverse.

Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert, in *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated H Dollars* reported six varieties of the 1846-O 50¢ and included excellent clo up photographs of the date for each.

The 1846-O half dollar variety described as WB-102 has slight repunching on the ball of the digit 6 at the upper right of this numeral, along with a die crack at the base. This was identified as an overdate by M.L. Beistle in 1929 in his pioneering work, *A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties and Sub-Varieties.* Certain other varieties of the 1846-O 50¢ have various repunching of the digits and have sometimes been identified as overdates.

The 1846-O half dollar submitted to us by J.N. is of the WB-105 variety, with the query as to whether it is an overdate. It displays repunching visible inside the lower loop of the digit 6 as illustrated. It is our opinion, in agreement with authors Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert, that this is not an overdate. Further, in disagreement with the Beistle and Breen texts, we do not believe any 1846-O half dollar variety truly qualifies as a 6 over 5 overdate (the Wiley-Bugert text lists WB-102 as an overdate).

Now comes the exciting part: The 1846-O $10 sent by J.N. provided an interesting study as did several similar specimens examined in connection with our offering of gold coins from the Harry W. Bass, Jr., Collection. The artifact within the loop of the digit 6 on the $10 coin exactly matches the photo of another variety (other than the variety that J.N. sent) of the 1846-O 50¢, namely WB-104 illustrated in the Wiley-Bugert reference! The date punches are the same size thus leading us to conclude that this is a damaged numeral punch used for both denominations.

In summary, the same date logotype punch was used to prepare the die for the 1846-O 50¢ known today as WB-104 and the $10 gold die sometimes called "1846/5-O." Neither the $10 nor the 50¢ of 1846-O is an overdate.

The logotype punch itself has evidences of repunching, a highly unusual situation. It must have been the case that—follow closely here—the logotype punch was made as follows:

The numerals 1, 8, 4, and 6 were punched individually into a soft steel block or matrix using four hardened steel punches. During this process, double punching was done on the 6, thus creating the "artifact" mentioned.

The matrix was tempered or hardened, after which it could be used to make four-digit logotype punches.

Individual logotype punches—one or more—were multiplied by pressing a soft steel logotype punch into the matrix, then hardening each one for use in die making. What these two coins of two denominations reveal is that a logotype punch can in itself have double-punched features. It is conventional wisdom that most date doubling is caused by impressing a perfect logotype punch into a die twice. In the present case, one impression of the curiously doubled punch did the trick.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2234.

Another "1846/5-O"

361 1846/5-O Breen-6875. So-called Overdate. AU-53 (PCGS). Another specimen of this variety, believed by us to be a repunched date, but traditionally called an *overdate* in the literature, and widely collected as such. Scarce so fine.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (AU-55 finest).

Purchased from N.K.S., April 5, 1971.

362 1846/5-O Breen-6875. So-called Overdate. EF-45. Another specimen from the same dies.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 12, 1970.

363 1846/5-O Breen-6875. So-called Overdate. EF-45. A further specimen of this variety.

From Paramount's sale of November 1971, Lot 1537.

364 1846/5-O Breen-6875. So-called Overdate. EF-40. Yet another example of this variety. Obviously, Harry Bass found this variety to be quite intriguing and set about acquiring quite a few examples!

From Abe Kosoff's sale of July 1967, Lot 351.

1365 1846/5-O Breen-6875. So-called Overdate. EF-40. Bright yellow gold. Yet another example of this earlier-discussed variety.

Reverse with prominent crack from border to TE (TEN), mintmark, branch and in arrows, I (AMERICA) and back to border.

Purchased from N.K.S., October 26, 1972.

1366 1846/5-O Breen-6875. So-called Overdate. VF-20. Light yellow gold. Some marks on rims.

Reverse with crack as preceding. Additional crack links top of TE (STATES).

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, April 7, 1969.

Memorable Mint State 1847 $10

1367 1847 MS-62 (PCGS). Deeply struck and very lustrous. An outstanding specimen from a visual viewpoint, one of the nicest we have ever seen. Some light obverse scratches near stars 1-4 must be mentioned, and no doubt prevented this coin from getting a higher grade designation such as MS-64. A prize coin with a prize pedigree.

PCGS Population: 4; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

Date logotype deeply impressed into die, and at least twice as close to the dentils as to the neck truncation. Die field contour is rather unusual and is sharply basined toward the borders, in the approximate area from the stars to the dentils. Some horizontal die lines are seen extending from below the truncation above 47.

On the reverse there are some prominent raised die lines at the upper right through the eagle's wing and AME.

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 382.

Another Memorable Mint State 1847 $10

1368 1847 MS-62 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold, somewhat prooflike. An attractive specimen, a very nice example of the grade level. Rare so fine.

Date logotype deeply impressed into the die at the first and last numeral, indicating it was "rocked" while being impressed. Numeral 1 quite well centered, date logotype farther left than usual. Surface of dies basined toward the borders, similar to the preceding.

Reverse with diagonal finish lines from upper left to lower right at about a 45° angle, indicating an early strike from the die.

From Rarcoa's sale of the Rockford Collection, 1978, Lot 792.

1369 1847 AU-58. Bright yellow gold. Much mint lustre still remains. An attractive example of the grade.

Date logotype higher than the preceding, closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. Fairly lightly impressed into the die.

Reverse with delicate crack through ST (STATES) and another through TES. Crack from border to dot past D, upward to branch end.

Purchased from N.K.S. through Rowe & Brownlee, June 15, 1967.

1370 **1847 AU-55.** Brilliant with some prooflike effect noted in the protected recesses.

Logotype bold and slightly low. Obviously, there were many different dies used for this high production year, and no complete catalogue will ever be made of them. The date positions vary considerably as described.

Purchased from N.K.S. through Rowe & Brownlee, June 15, 1967.

1371 **1847 AU-53.** Bright yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike.

Date logotype well centered. First and last digit deep into the die, center digits slightly light.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 629.

1372 1847 AU-50. Light yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike. A very pleasing specimen of the date and grade, a very nice coin despite some very delicate, scarcely noticeable brushing. We have seen coins grading five to eight points higher that did not have as much appeal.

Date logotype slightly high. First two digits somewhat light in the die, last two deep, especially the final digit.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 639.

1373 1847 AU-50. Light yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike in protected areas.

Date logotype slightly low, and bold in the die.

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, April 23, 1973.

1374 **Trio of rare variety Liberty eagles:** ☆ 1847 Extra Heavy 7. EF-45 ☆ 1849 Doubled Date. EF-40 ☆ 1881 Doubled Die Reverse. AU-50. A rare and valuable trio. (Total: 3 pieces)

Grouping of Liberty Head Eagles

1375 **Group of Liberty Head eagles from the 1840s through the early 1890s:** ☆ 1847 EF-40 ☆ 1850 Net VF-20, both obverse and reverse have been heavily abraded to conceal defects ☆ 1861 EF-45 ☆ 1874 EF-45 ☆ 1879 EF-45 ☆ 1879-S VF-30 ☆ 1880 EF-40 ☆ 1880-S EF-45 ☆ 1881-S AU-55 ☆ 1882 AU-55 ☆ 1883 AU-50 ☆ 1884-S AU-50 ☆ 1886-S MS-60 ☆ 1887-S AU-55 ☆ 1888-O AU-55 ☆ 1888-S AU-58 ☆ 1889-S MS-62 ☆ 1891 MS-60. A wide range of 18 different dates and mints. (Total: 18 pieces)

"Seawater" 1847-O $10

1376 **1847-O MS-60.** Light yellow surfaces with granularity, the type typically called "seawater Uncirculated," from finely etched surfaces on the obverse and reverse. Quite sharp, and with little if any actual wear.

A very curious specimen with several prominent raised pellets to the left along the border, between the first digit of the date and the area just past star 1—artifacts for which we have not seen the counterpart elsewhere. The date is boldly impressed into the die and is nearly twice as close to the dentils as to the border.

Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 4, 1967.

"Seawater AU" 1847 $10

1377 **1847-O AU-58.** Light yellow surfaces, finely etched, somewh similar to the preceding, but probably an AU coin to beg with. From some long lost, not recorded treasure ship reco ery, no doubt.

Breen-6881, first two digits are doubled, the first noticeably so. Date log type low, about twice as close to a dentil as to the neck truncation. Mediu depth into the die, somewhat lighter at the left than at the right.

The reverse is oriented in the same direction as the obverse, or 180° fro the usual position. Several cracks are seen including from a dentil to t wing at upper left and a similar crack at upper right; a crack through T OF; another from the border through I (AMERICA) to the arrows; anoth from the border through N (TEN) through the mintmark to the eagl claw.

Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 4, 1967.

1378 1847-O AU-50. Bright yellow gold. Lustrous and attractive. A especially appealing coin from a visual viewpoint.

Date logotype very deep into the die and quite low, about three tim closer to a dentil than to the truncation above. Placed farther to the left tha normal. Crack from border to first two date digits. Another crack is seen star 1, yet another at star 3, and a further crack at star 6, followed by add tional cracks at stars 10 and 12. It seems that the periphery of this die w considerably weakened.

On the reverse irregular cracks link virtually all of the inscriptions arou the border.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 408.

1379 1847-O AU-50. Light gold with some lustre remaining in th protected areas.

Date logotype more deeply impressed into the dies at the top and botto lighter across the center line, indicating the logotype was rocked on a ver cal axis, up and down, when it was entered. A particularly curious ite among the many date positions of this year. The logotype is low, closer the dentils than to the neck, and is fairly far left.

On the reverse a delicate crack is seen from the leaf down to TEN D. A other crack extends from the rightmost claw talon though the final (AMERICA). Another crack, very delicate, is seen at the upper left connec ing a dentil to the wing tip. Still another crack connects the bases of TATE intermittently continuing to OF.

From New Netherland's sale of June 1970, Lot 485.

1380 1847-O AU-50. Light yellow gold surfaces. Partially prooflike

Breen-6881, first two digits are doubled, the first noticeably so. Characte istics as earlier described. No cracks.

Purchased from N.K.S., December 18, 1970.

A Group of Early Eagles

1381 **Offering of Liberty Head eagles of the 1840s:** ☆ 1847-O (3 EF-45, EF-40 (2) ☆ 1848 (2). EF-45, EF-40 ☆ 1848-O VF-20 1849 (3). EF-45, VF-35, VF-30 ☆ 1849 Doubled 1 in date. E 45. Reverse edge nicks. An interesting group. (Total: 1 pieces)

Another Early Eagle Group

1382 **Selection of Liberty Head eagles of the 1840s:** ☆ 1847-O (3 EF-45, EF-40 (2) ☆ 1848 (2). EF-45, EF-40 ☆ 1848-O F-15 1849 (2). EF-40, VF-35 ☆ 1849 Doubled 1 in date. EF-40. A nic group. (Total: 9 pieces)

1383 **1848 AU-50.** Medium gold with some lustre remaining. fairly scarce date in AU of finer.

Especially Nice 1848-O Eagle

384 **1848-O AU-50.** Lustrous bright greenish gold with sharp design details, even including most stars. Very pleasing surfaces despite a few minor hairlines.

Another Notable 1848-O $10

385 **1848-O AU-50.** Bright greenish yellow gold with sharp central design details and very minor abrasions. Lightly reflective surfaces.

This reverse has a hollow ring at top of second vertical shield stripe, a characteristic generally noted for issues from the early 1850s.

386 **1848-O EF-40.** Bright yellow gold with some lustre remaining.

387 **1849/8 Overdate. AU-53.** Bright yellow gold. Highly prooflike on the obverse. A splendid specimen of the variety (see notes) and grade.

Breen's 1849/1848 described as follows: "Date 1848 first punched very high, slanting up the right, then repunched with 1849 logotype; at left of 9 is much of lower loop of 8." Breen notes that the first coin appeared in the Kreisberg-Schulman sale of February 1960, Lot 2779. Further: "Apparently unknown Uncirculated."

Is this an overdate or is it not? Under magnification it is seen that there is a lower date, but the primary question is whether the last digit was intended to be a 9, thereby making the present coin simply a repunched date, or whether it was the logotype 1848. We have no clear answer to this, as only the top of the last digit is visible. The same seems to be true of the Breen plate coin, although he does note that much of the lower loop of the 8 is visible on other pieces he has seen. Perhaps the present piece has been relapped, removing that feature. In Harry Bass's notes, he originally called it "1849/8," then amended his notes to "recut date." Perhaps the most accurate description is this: The present coin is Breen's 1849/1848, which may be an overdate, although the present cataloguers are not able to verify this.

As further markers for the present die, on the obverse light cracks are seen intermittently from stars 3 to 8, and again faintly at stars 11 and 12, close to star 13. As the Breen plate coin shows a prominent crack to the right side of the 4, the Breen plate coin must be a *later* die state than this. A puzzlement is created, as how can Breen's later die state show evidences of the bottom part of the 8 that are not visible on the present specimen? Perhaps that is why Harry Bass abandoned the idea of it being an overdate.

From Superior's sale of February 1972, Lot 644.

388 **1849 Breen-6885. AU-55.** Much lustre still remains. Another exceptional coin of this date.

Date logotype slighlty high and lightly impressed into die.

Reverse with multiple cracks beginning at M (AMERICA) and intermittently continuing clockwise through D (UNITED).

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1970, Lot 751.

1389 **1849 Breen-6885. AU-50.** Another example of this popular year.

Date logotype quite high. Extensive die striae on obverse and reverse indicate that this is a very early striking.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 19, 1973.

1390 **1849 Breen-6886. Double 1. AU-58.** Deeply lustrous surfaces. Sharply struck. Although enough handling marks are visible to have us call this AU-58 (although MS-60 would be another possibility), it is still one of the finest we have seen in a long time. Extraordinary condition for the date.

Breen-6886, doubled 1 in date, traces of first digit cross the upright of the 1. Date logotype slightly high. Cracks through 184 extending left to star 1. Another crack connects stars 2-4, is intermittent, then continues from star 5 clockwise to star 9.

Regarding 1849 $10 pieces in general, the large mintage of 63,618 no doubt employed many different dies. Breen mentions knowledge of at least eight varieties and delineates four of them.

Purchased from William K. Raymond, February 29, 1972.

1391 **1849 Breen-6886. Double 1. AU-50.** Light yellow gold surfaces.

Breen-6886, doubled 1 in date. Logotype slightly high.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1979, Lot 1090.

1392 **Pair of 1849 Liberty eagles,** both with strongly repunched dates, and both graded EF-45. Both are from a late obverse die state, with prominent obverse die crack. (Total: 2 pieces)

1393 **Pair of 1849 Liberty eagles:** ☆ EF-40 ☆ VF-20. Both have strongly repunched dates. Both are from an early obverse die state, without the prominent obverse die crack that later develops. (Total: 2 pieces)

Notable 1849-O Eagle

1394 **1849-O AU-55 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike in protected areas. A very nice specimen, among the finest seen, of what Douglas Winter calls the "second rarest New Orleans eagle to be struck during the 1840s," and more importantly from the same writer, "It is, in my opinion, the single most underrated eagle from this mint and is among the most difficult dates of this entire type to locate in higher grades." The present coin will attract wide attention as it crosses the block.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer (AU-58 finest).

Obverse die deeply basined (with fields curving toward border more than on certain other dates). Logotype deep into die and well centered. Some extra material is at the upper right of the opening of the 4.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2237.

Another Exceptional 1849-O $10

1395 1849-O EF-45. Some rubbing or friction on the obverse portrait and field. Not a match for the preceding, but still quite exceptional for the date and mint.

Obverse die basined as preceding. Logotype slightly low. Interior of 4 without extra material, but with some shading of the background.

Reverse with ring at the top of the second vertical shield stripe, a feature seen on various other $10 varieties of this era.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 646.

Yet Another Nice 1849-O $10

1396 1849-O Net EF-40; sharpness of AU-50. Bright yellow gold. Scratches behind the neck keep this out of a higher grade designation. Prooflike and (otherwise) attractive.

Date logotype well centered and with extra material at the upper interior of the 4; the die described earlier. Reverse with ring at top of second group of vertical shield stripes, also described earlier (but with a different obverse).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of July 1967, Lot 357.

A Final 1849-O $10

1397 1849-O EF-40. Another nice specimen of a variety usually seen in lower grades.

Date logotype well centered. Extra material at upper part of interior of 4. The die described earlier.

From Parke-Bernet Galleries' sale of the McGraw Collection, Lot 138.

Prooflike 1850 $10

Large Date

1398 1850 Large Date. MS-61 (PCGS). Highly prooflike, quite pos bly intended as a presentation coin—but who knows? This certainly among the nicest we have ever seen of the date a variety. Breen notes that one Proof was struck; could it ha been from this die pair? That solitary Proof is not presen known to exist.

As a date the 1850 is quite plentiful, as the mintage of 29,4 suggests. However, nearly all examples in numismatic han are worn, typically VF or EF. The present coin is quite exce tional.

Date in large numerals. Positioned slightly low (with reference to the fi digit), but overall seemingly quite low from beginning to end—this bei somewhat of an optical illusion caused by the basined fields (and the l position of the final digit). Logotype boldly punched into the die, with kn of 5 touching the upright. Some light raised die lines below ear lobe an small line extending from the lower right of I (LIBERTY) serve to ident this die in case the aforementioned Proof should come to light and be co pared.

On the reverse the lower horizontal shield stripe is irregular and broken the left, possibly evidence of a ring feature being removed from the die.

All told, the present 1850 $10 is a very interesting piece from a techni aspect.

From Steve Ivy's sale of August 29, 1980, Lot 325.

1399 1850 Large Date. AU-55 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold. Som what prooflike.

Date logotype somewhat lightly punched into the die, high and abo three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. The knob the digit 5 is distant from the upright, although the logotype is the sa used earlier. Extensive die cracks are seen from star 6 to the tip of the co net. Another crack connects star 7-9 and enlarges as it approaches the b der. A further crack extends from star 11 to very close to the border, with almost imperceptible branch toward star 10.

The reverse displays minute die striae oriented at about a 45° angle fro upper left to lower right, and seems to be an early impression.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 30, 1972.

1400 1850 Large Date. AU-50. Lustrous, frosty surfaces.

Date logotype very lightly punched into the die, quite far to the left, a closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. The 5 is open. In vario series, including the 1850 $10 (Breen-6890) Walter Breen discusses wheth or not the knob on a given 5 touches the upright above, perhaps not bei aware that this was strictly a function of how deep the date logotype w impressed into the working die. If the punch was deeply and heavily i pressed, the knob of the 5 typically touched. If it was lightly impressed, t knob of the 5 was close or even distant.

Further concerning the obverse, a delicate crack is seen from the bord to star 5, continuing slightly toward star 6.

On the reverse there are cracks from the border at the upper left of t wing tip, ditto at the upper right. Further, two cracks extend from the b der, one through A (STATES) and the other through the second T, meeti or coming close in the field below, extending to the back of the eagle's hea the neck, and to the wing at the right. Under close observation addition cracks can be seen within the wing at the right.

From Stack's sale of September 1968, Lot 382.

Lustrous 1850 Small Date $10

1401 1850 Small Date. AU-50. A very nice example of a variety that Walter Breen called "Very rare," further noting: "Date smaller than on cents or previous eagles since 1842, from logotype intended for half eagles."

The present coin, with warm yellow gold surfaces and much lustre, is very pleasing to the eye.

Date logotype small as described. Positioned slightly closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. A major crack extends from the border through star 5 to the front of the coronet, continuing through the top of the hair to star 9 to the border. Not many coins could have been struck later than this one. Star 1 has a very short outer ray (a phenomenon seen on certain other issues of the era).

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, December 13, 1971.

1402 1850 Small Date. EF-45. Light yellow gold. Another example of this scarce date style.

Early die state of the preceding obverse, with just a whisper of a crack—not noticeable unless you knew what to look for—at star 5.

Purchased from United States Coin Company, September 14, 1967.

1403 1850-O EF-45. Highly lustrous. Bright yellow gold A very attractive example.

Large Date logotype is quite high, about three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. Star 1 is shortened at the outermost ray. The distance between the rays and the dentils varies on certain working dies of this era, and no doubt a study could be made to show a pattern of use.

On the reverse the O mintmark is low and very lightly impressed into the die.

Purchased from William Donner, September 14, 1967.

1404 1850-O EF-40. Light yellow gold. Another pleasing example of this somewhat scarce issue.

Obverse die as preceding. Reverse with mintmark of normal depth.

Purchased from Paramount, March 18, 1967, through Rowe & Brownlee.

1405 1850-O EF-40. A final specimen of this variety.

Dies as preceding.

Purchased from Bob Roth, no date stated.

1406 1851 AU-55. Warm, lustrous surfaces. Well struck. An outstanding example of this Philadelphia Mint issue.

Date logotype very high on die, heavily punched, probably Breen's 6894 ("Heavy numerals"), but quite a few variations exist within this high mintage date (176,328 were struck). Logotype very high and three to possibly four times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1050.

1407 1851 EF-45. Light gold surfaces.

Date logotype well centered. Somewhat lightly impressed into the die—maybe Breen-6896, but probably not.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2177.

1408 1851-O AU-50. Light yellow gold, probably from California metal.

Obverse with date logotype slightly low, but generally well centered. Very deeply punched into the die.

Reverse with ring at top of second shield stripe, not particularly an unusual feature for $10 issues of this era—such varieties are scattered across various dates, but in the present instance specifically mentioned and discussed at length by Walter Breen and assigned his number 6898.

Purchased from N.K.S., September 5, 1967.

1409 1851-O AU-50. Light yellow gold. Some prooflike surface. A very pleasing example.

Date logotype quite high, about two or three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. Reverse as preceding.

Purchased from Arizona Stamp & Coin Company, April 14, 1969.

1410 1851-O AU-50. Light yellow gold. Another attractive example of this New Orleans variety.

Date logotype quite high, about two to three times closer to the truncation than to the dentils. Crack from bust through top of 851 (a rather unusual location for a crack on this denomination). Reverse as preceding, with ring at top of second shield stripe.

Purchased from J.E. Ryan, August 29, 1973.

1411 1851-O EF-45. Another nice example.

Date logotype deeply punched and well centered. Reverse as preceding, which, it seems, is the norm, not the exception for this variety!

Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 23, 1967.

1412 1851-O EF-45. Yet another specimen. Obviously, Harry Bass was intrigued with this date and mint! Lustrous, frosty surfaces.

Date logotype about three times closer to neck truncation than to dentils. Reverse with—as you might expect—hollow ring at top of second vertical shield stripe.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, September 26, 1967.

1413 1851-O EF-45. Light yellow gold. Another example. Planchet lamination above coronet.

Date logotype slightly low and deeply punched into the die. Reverse with circle atop second shield stripe.

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, April 7, 1969.

1414 1851-O EF-45. Light yellow gold.

Obverse logotype slightly low and deeply punched into die. Reverse with ring at top of second shield stripe.

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, April 7, 1969.

1415 1851-O EF-40. A final specimen of this popular (with Harry Bass) date and mint. Attractive light yellow gold.

Date logotype high and about three times closer to neck truncation than to dentils and deeply punched into die. Reverse with ring at top of second shield stripe.

Purchased from Bob Roth.

1416 1852 AU-50. More expansively described as "seawater Uncirculated," or close to Uncirculated, with minutely porous surfaces. No doubt recovered from an undersea treasure wreck. Provenance unknown. Sharply struck and lightly circulated if at all.

Date impressed into die at medium depth. Positioned low, about twice as close to the dentil as to the bust truncation.

Reverse with light crack connecting TE (TEN) with U to the left. Crack connecting S OF with wing tip, continuing to AM.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of July 9, 1967, Lot 362.

Memorable 1852-O $10

1417 1852-O AU-58 (PCGS). A lovely specimen with a generous quotient of prooflike surface. "Prohibitively rare AU," writes Walter Breen, who went on to say he had seen but one Mint State example. "Most 1852-O eagles grade very fine or lower," observed Douglas Winter in 1992. Winter went on to state: "This date is rare in full EF and is very rare in AU. No Mint State coins are known to exist."

From any aspect the present coin is an exceptional example. This is an extremely important offering, certainly among the very finest known. Highly lustrous greenish yellow gold with considerable reflective prooflike surface around the devices. A moderate quota of minute handling marks keep this out of the choice category for the grade. A short diagonal scratch above star 13 serves as a pedigree marker.

PCGS Population: 7; 1 finer (MS-60).

Date logotype about centered and deeply punched into die.

On the reverse there is a ring at the top of the second shield stripe, this being Breen-6902 and described as "Hollow ring atop second stripe, very rare." However, the Breen commentary seems to be superseded by Douglas Winter's observation, "It has generally been assumed that two varieties exist: one with a normal shield and one with a hollow ring on the reverse as on the 1851. I've never seen an 1852-O eagle which did not have the ring on the reverse, and I'm not certain that a normal reverse exists."

From Paramount's sale of November 1973, Lot 614.

Another High-Grade 1852-O $10

1418 1852-O AU-53 (PCGS). Lustrous and attractive. Another hi grade example of this New Orleans issue.

Obverse and reverse dies as preceding.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1979, Lot 105

1419 1852-O Net VF-35; lightly cleaned long ago.

Dies as preceding.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, 2240.

1420 1853/2 Breen-6905. Overdate. EF-40. Light yellow gold. attractive example. Breen suggests that "possibly eight to are known, none Uncirculated."

Date logotype very low, far from neck truncation and very close to der Two lines are within the bottom of the final digit, 3, and are said by Breer represent an underdigit 2. A comparison of the final digit on the *1852* ea logotype shows that the lower part of the two contains an element, ri above the base, that is somewhat similar to the artifact seen within the 3 the 1853/2, but the angle does not seem correct. The *Guidebook of Un States Coins* unequivocally lists the piece as an overdate, as does Breen noted. Thus, it may well be, although we do not view the situation as def tive.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, 2179.

1421 1853 AU-50. Lustrous and attractive. A pleasing example ir grade higher than that typically seen.

Date logotype of medium depth in the die, quite well centered.
Reverse with light die crack from final S (STATES) through OF.
From Paramount's sale of February 1974, Lot 686.

Mint State 1853-O $10

"Branch Mint Proof?"

422 1853-O MS-61 (PCGS). Prooflike obverse. A splendid coin that is quite *special* in overall appearance, a memorable example. "Prohibitively rare uncirculated," notes Walter Breen.

This particular specimen is discussed by Douglas Winter: "In Rarcoa's session of Auction '79 an extraordinary 1853-O appeared, and it was catalogued as a 'Branch Mint Proof.' While this coin possesses uncommonly broad rims and extremely reflective surfaces, it is the opinion of many gold coin experts (myself included) that the aforementioned piece—while obviously 'special'—does not qualify as a Proof."

At this juncture it may be relevant to state that the entire subject of branch mint Proofs is largely *terra incognita*. Years ago, Wayte Raymond in the *Standard Catalogue* listed a handful of coin varieties which are known from mint and other records to have been made in Proof finish at certain branch facilities such as San Francisco and New Orleans. However, it seems that more may exist, particularly if coins are evaluated on appearance alone, even if they have no surrounding documentation. Thus, by the present year, 1999, many different coins in series varying from Morgan dollars to Barber silver coins to gold have been designated by the grading services as branch mint Proofs.

Proof or non-Proof, take your pick. As stated, the coin, in any event, is a very special striking.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Logotype very deeply punched into die and very low, close to the dentil and distant from the neck truncation. Crack from border to the right, through star 13 to lower curls.

The reverse has a ring atop the second shield stripe (thus this is Breen-6909, or close to it, for that particular Breen number also says that the obverse has a repunched date—which this piece does not). Again, it is seen that opinions differ and that records are incomplete.

From Rarcoa's, Auction '79, Lot 1303. Formerly from Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 421.

1423 1853-O Net EF-45; would be graded higher save for a scrape on the E (STATES) on the reverse. A final specimen of this date and mint.

Date very low, seemingly the norm. Different die from any earlier described. Very prominent die finish marks are seen among the date numerals, including a burst of radiating "rays" extending to the left from the center of the 3.

Reverse with ring at top of second shield stripe.

Purchased from Paramount, August 16, 1971.

1424 1853-O EF-45. Some prooflike surfaces seen when the coin is held at an angle to the light.

Date very low, seemingly the norm for 1853 dies, but in the present instance with the first digit *double punched*. Unlisted by Breen, who certainly would have mentioned it had he known of one.

The reverse has a ring atop the second shield stripe. However, this is from a different die than the prooflike "special" piece earlier offered.

Purchased from Paramount, May 9, 1967.

1425 1853-O EF-45. Bright yellow gold. Some hints of prooflike surface are seen when the coin is held at an angle to the light. Another attractive example.

Date logotype quite low. Crack connects stars 12 and 13. Regular (no ring at top of second stripe) reverse.

Purchased from Bob Roth.

1426 1854 Breen-6911. Blundered Date. AU-50. Lustrous yellow gold surfaces.

Walter Breen's Blundered Date, probably better called *Misplaced Date* per modern nomenclature. Stray tip of 1 is seen at a dentil below the lower left of the 8 in the date. The main date logotype itself is low, about twice as close to the dentil as to the neck truncation.

From Parke-Bernet Galleries' sale of May 1968, Lot 143.

1427 1854 AU-50. Light yellow gold. Another specimen of this popular year.

Date logotype bold and low, about twice as close to the dentils as to the neck truncation. Under high magnification the tiny trace of a serif can be seen at the lower right of the 8, perhaps simply a stray mark, or perhaps evidence of another misplaced date.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 656.

Beautiful 1854-O Eagle

Small Date

1428 1854-O Small Date AU-58 (PCGS). Warm yellow gold surfaces. Highly lustrous. An extremely appealing specimen with a lot of "life." Worthy of a strong bid.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Date lightly punched into die, giving separation of the 5 and 4 digits (on varieties deeply punched into the die, these digits touch). Logotype very low and close to dentils, distant from neck truncation. A crack is seen from the border extending upward through the left side of the 8. As is true of many dies of this era, the outermost point of star 1 is very close to the dentils and is irregular.

From Pine Tree Auctions' sale of March 1974, Lot 228.

1429 1854-O Small Date EF-45. Some scratches on neck, otherwise AU. Light yellow gold. Slightly prooflike.

Date low and about four or five times closer to dentil than to neck truncation. Very lightly impressed into the die. Crack from border through left side of 8 to neck truncation; crack from border to star 11.

From the Gozan Collection through Lester Merkin, June 23, 1967,

1430 1854-O Small Date EF-40. Another specimen of this date format. Bright yellow gold.

Dies as the first offered 1854-O $10 (Lot 1428).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2242.

1431 1854-O Large Date. AU-50. Lustrous and frosty. An attractive example of this issue. Walter Breen notes that the Large Date is "rare," in distinction to the Small Date. However, Harry Bass has identified multiple die varieties of the Large Date, and it may be that it is not a rarity in comparison to the Small Date—more study is needed.

Date logotype very high with 1 piercing the edge of the neck truncation. Figures deeply impressed into the die.

Reverse with crack from border through right side of the first A (AMERICA) to wing.

Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, March 31, 1967.

1432 1854-O Large Date. AU-50. Another attractive specimen. Bright yellow gold. Some prooflike surfaces seen when the coin is held at an angle to the light.

Dies and die states as preceding.

Purchased from N.K.S., May 21, 1968.

1433 1854-O Large Date. AU-50. Another specimen at this grade level. Very attractive overall.

Date logotype quite high, very close to neck truncation, but separated from it.

What may be the remnants of an 8 and 5 appear at the curve of Liberty's truncation directly above the existing numerals.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of February 1969, Lot 1403.

1434 1854-O Large Date. AU-50. A final specimen in this grade. As can be seen, the 1854-O eagle was a favorite item for Harry Bass to acquire, and he had probably more than any other numismatist before him or after!

Date logotype different from the preceding, closer to dentil than to bust, deeply punched into the die at the base of the date logotype, lightly at the top. Quite distinctive.

From Abe Kosoff in trade, 1973.

1435 1854-O Large Date. EF-45. Light yellow gold. Much lustre seen.

Date about centered. Somewhat lightly punched into the die, but mo noticeable at the top of the logotype than the bottom.

Purchased from Stack's, November 11, 1970.

1436 1854-O Large Date. EF-45. Bright yellow gold. Lustrous ar beautiful

Date logotype high with 1 piercing the neck truncation, but a different d from the earlier high-date die described. The present piece has very slig repunching at the top of the first digit.

The reverse is oriented at about 60° from the obverse, instead of the no mal 180°.

Purchased from N.K.S., February 17, 1971.

1437 1854-O Large Date. EF-45. Yellow gold. Somewhat prooflik A final example of this very popular (with Harry Bass) date an mint.

Logotype well centered, lightly impressed into the die at the top, mo heavily at the base.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 657.

1438 1854-S AU-50. Brilliant and lustrous. A very handsome spec men of the first $10 issued from the newly opened San Fra cisco Mint. Ideal for date or type.

Date slightly high. Numerals impressed at about medium depth into th die. Possibly relapped or, alternatively, the master die was not deeply im pressed into the working die. Certain hair details are disconnected at th back of the head of Miss Liberty, including in the area of the bun. No doub the study of multiple specimens might resolve the question.

Reverse with S mintmark prominent below and slightly to the left of th crotch formed by the arrow feather and the branch. Irregular cracks lin nearly all of the peripheral inscriptions.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 424.

1439 1854-S EF-45. Another pleasing example of the first San Fra cisco Mint eagle. Pale gold surfaces.

Die pair as preceding, same obverse state (relapped?).

The reverse is of an earlier state and shows cracks at TES O and at MER

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lo 2473.

Lustrous and Beautiful 1855 $10

(2X photo)

1440 1855 MS-63 (PCGS). Well struck and with deep, satiny lustre. A splendid specimen which ranks among the finest we have ever seen.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Date boldly entered into working die. Slightly low and a bit farther left than usual.

From Paramount's sale of Auction '85, Lot 1453.

1441 1855 AU-58. Much original mint lustre. Just a hair's breadth from full Mint State, and some might legitimately call it that.

Date logotype as foregoing.

From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1070.

1442 1855-O EF-40. Light yellow gold. A piece of hand-selected quality—a statement that could be made for virtually every piece in the Bass Collection catalogue. A scarce variety in any grade. Only 18,000 were minted.

Date logotype entered somewhat lightly into the die at the left side of the date, more deeply for the last two figures. Position high, nearly twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils.

Purchased from Arnold Rosing, June 5, 1967.

High-Grade 1855-S $10

1443 1855-S Net EF-40; sharpness of AU-50. Light golden surfaces. Seemingly lightly cleaned long ago, but many would not notice. Fairly scarce in all grades. Only 9,000 were struck. A key issue.

Date logotype slightly low and positioned to the right. Mintmark tilted 30° to the left—perhaps worthy of notifying Bill Fivaz and J.T. Stanton so they can include it in their best-selling book relating to die oddities.

1444 1856 AU-55. Nearly full mint lustre. Frosty and attractive. A splendid specimen of a quality seldom seen.

Date logotype with upright 5, as always. About centered. Fairly deeply punched into the die. Very prominent raised die line—quite curious under magnification—extends through Y (LIBERTY) into the hair. This may have been a Harry Bass discovery, as we do not recall seeing notice of it elsewhere, and he specifically mentions it in his notes.

Purchased from N.K.S., June 14, 1967.

1445 1856 AU-50. Light yellow gold. Much mint lustre still remains.

Date logotype slightly high and significantly farther to the left than the preceding. Again we note that the outermost ray on star 1 is very close to the dentils, seen on numerous other dies of this era (but not specifically noted in the present catalogue).

From Paramount's sale of February 1971, Lot 1586.

1446 1856 AU-50. Light yellow surfaces. A final example of the issue.

Date logotype as preceding. Stray serif in field far below left side of 5, a vestige of a misplaced date.

Rare 1856-O $10

1447 1856-O EF-45. Somewhat prooflike in protected areas. A very scarce coin in any grade, indeed *rare*. Just 14,500 pieces were struck, and most have been lost or have worn to lower grades.

Date logotype fairly well centered vertically and located far left.

Reverse with bottom of feather pointing toward center right at mintmark.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 16, 1971.

1448 1856-O EF-40. Another attractive example of this scarce variety. Some light brushing.

Obverse die as preceding. Reverse with mintmark very low, significantly below the arrow tip and to the left.

From Abe Kosoff's CSNA sale, October 1968, Lot 1634.

1449 1856-O EF-40. Light yellow gold. A final specimen of this scarce New Orleans variety.

Obverse die as preceding. Reverse with mintmark similar in position to the first described 1856-O, but from a different die. Crack at upper right from border to wing.

Purchased from N.K.S., February 1, 1972.

1450 1856-S Medium Mintmark. AU-50. Partly prooflike. A lovely specimen of this early San Francisco variety.

The mintage of 1856-S amounted to 68,000 pieces, a production significantly larger than the preceding year, but not a match for 1854-S (123,826). Most examples became well circulated, although an unknown (to the present writer at the time of cataloguing) number of high-grade pieces were undoubtedly part of the *S.S. Central America* treasure.

Date very low and about four times closer to dentils than to neck truncation. More deeply punched at the right side. Medium S mintmark is positioned so that the outside of the lowest arrow points to its right center.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 651.

1451 1856-S Medium Mintmark. EF-45. Light yellow gold. Many surface marks keep this from a higher grade. A piece that undoubtedly saw extensive use in the "Wild West" of San Francisco.

Date logotype quite low, about four times closer to the dentil than to the neck truncation. Deeply punched into die. S mintmark leans slighlty left.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 7, 1972.

1452 1856-S Medium Mintmark. EF-40. Marks on jaw. Light yellow gold.

Date logotype about centered vertically, somewhat to the left of the usual position, and deeply punched in to the die. Reverse with medium mintmark with its upper right slightly to the left of the arrow feather tip.

From Superior's sale of March 15, 1973.

1453 1856-S Large Mintmark. EF-45.

Obverse from deeply dished, notably basined die, sufficiently so tha separate listing would be merited in a technical catalogue prepared for specialist (if same is ever done). Date logotype very high, and about th times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. Deeply punched i the die. Relapped, with certain hair features disconnected.

Reverse with large S leaning slightly right.

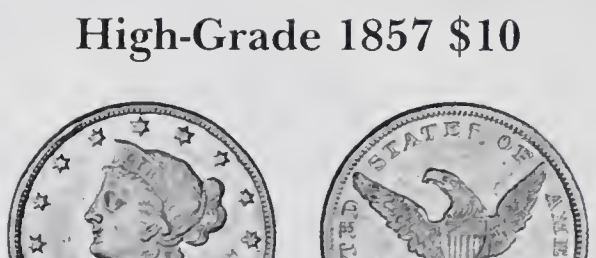
From Paramount's sale of February 1973, Lot 1107.

1454 1856-S Large Mintmark. EF-40. Lustrous and attractive.

Obverse with deeply basined die as described earlier, a curious featu that is deserving of a separate listing. Reverse with large S mintmark tilt about 20° to the right.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, Octob 1982, Lot 701. One of a number of "triple-headers" in the prese catalogue–from the great Eliasberg gold coin collection to the Ba Collection to you.

High-Grade 1857 $10



1455 1857 AU-50. Light yellow gold. A high-grade example of an i sue which is usually seen well worn. Relatively modest mintag of 16,606 pieces, no doubt from California gold which by th time was reaching the East Coast in large quantities.

Date logotype in large, thick figures as on all $10 pieces. Impressed in t die at medium depth. Slightly low in its position, and fairly well centered lo to right. We note that beginning about this year, Harry Bass die notes fe eagles became intermittent, with some dies not described at all. Perhaps I intended to spend time on them at a later date that never came, or perha he felt that by the late 1850s dies had become rather standard in their a pearance (although a number of notable features exist among later issues

From Stack's sale of February 1972, Lot 815.

1456 1857 EF-40. Highly lustrous.

Date logotype similar to preceding.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 3, 1968.

1457 1857 EF-40. Light yellow gold. Highly lustrous. Another spec men of this scarce Philadelphia Mint date.

Date logotype lightly impressed into the die, farther to the left than pr ceding and slightly low.

From Paramount's sale of November 1971, Lot 1539.

1458 1857 "Overdate." VF-20. Warm yellow gold. Lightly brushed.

Walter Breen's "overdate," with a stray line imaginatively described b that author as: "Curve of another digit between 57, touching curve of 5 an serif of 7; it is uncertain if this is part of another 5, another 7, or a 6. Disco ery coin, Lester Merkin, March 1969." Alternatively, it might simply be stray mark from the logotype punch touching the die lightly. No other ev dences are seen, even under extreme magnification. The date logotype slightly low and is deep into the die.

Purchased from William Donner, September 14, 1967.

High-Grade 1857-O $10

Prooflike and Rare

1459 1857-O AU-55 (PCGS). A very beautiful specimen with nearly full prooflike surfaces; an outstanding example the equal of which is seldom seen. Breen notes: "Prohibitively rare above EF." David Akers comments: "The generally available quality is not very high, VF and EF specimens are as good as one should reasonably expect..." Only 5,500 were minted. We estimate that perhaps 5% still survive today, or about 250, virtually all in lower grades as noted.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (AU-58).

Date logotype well centered and deeply impressed into die.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA sale, August 1958, Lot 1014.

1460 1857-S EF-45. Some scattered marks, particularly on the reverse rim. Somewhat prooflike in protected areas. A nice example at this grade level of this popular date.

Date logotype fairly well centered vertically and also left to right. More deeply impressed at the bottom of the logotype than at the top. Mintmark light and "open," possibly from being impressed only to medium depth into the working die; other S mintmarks offered here are heavier and bolder.

Purchased from N.K.S., February 1, 1972.

1461 1857-S Net EF-40; sharpness of a finer grade, but lightly brushed. Pale yellow surfaces. Quite attractive overall.

Date logotype very low and about four times closer to the dentil than to the neck truncation above. Deeply and evenly punched into the die. Reverse with upper part of mintmark barely touching extreme tip of arrow feather.

Purchased from N.K.S., July 30, 1968, earlier from Parke-Bernet Galleries.

1462 1857-S EF-40. A final example of this popular date.

Date logotype very low and about four times closer to the dentil than to the neck truncation above. Deeply and evenly punched into the die. Mintmark on reverse bold and fairly high.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2265.

Impressive 1858-O $10

1463 1858-O AU-55 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold, probably from California metal (which at the time was shipped in quantity to New Orleans via Panama). Reverse with some carbon flecks at right. Quite well struck. A rarity so fine.

Date fairly low, about twice as close to the dentils as to the neck truncation. Light impressed into the die at the left side of the 8, deeply at the right. The mint employee holding the logotype punch did not position it vertically.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, December 13, 1968.

1464 1858-O AU-50. Light yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike.

Dies as preceding.

Purchased from N.K.S., June 30, 1967.

1465 1858-O EF-40. Light yellow gold. Somewhat brushed but still attractive. Nick on reverse rim.

Dies as preceding.

Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, March 31, 1967.

1466 1858-O EF-40. Bright yellow gold. A very attractive example.

Dies as preceding.

Purchased from Douglas Weaver, September 26, 1973.

Lustrous 1858-S $10

Rare So Fine

1467 1858-S AU-55 (PCGS). Light, lustrous surfaces. Quite scarce in this high grade. The variety is typically seen at such levels as VF and EF. Rather modest mintage of 11,800, or less than half of that of 1857-S. Moreover, no examples have been known to have been found in hoards. A significant opportunity for the specialist.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date very high, about three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. Deeply punched into the die and well centered left and right.

Reverse with boldly impressed mintmark. Some cracks (or die flaws?) are seen at the tops of UNIT at the left. A delicate crack extends from the border upward through N (TEN) and slightly into the field above. Prominent raised parallel die lines are seen at the upper right of the die.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, October 5, 1967.

Prooflike Mint State 1859 $10

Possible Proof

(2X photo)

1468 1859 MS-61 (PCGS). Considered by Harry Bass to be a Proof, *which it probably is*, as, per Harry Bass's notes, the die markers are correct. Rich golden surfaces with some abrasions. A lovely specimen for the grade.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-62).

Date widely spaced and delicate in appearance. Low on the die, about twice as close to the dentils as to the neck truncation above. Full Proof surface on obverse and reverse, including within the shield stripes. Harry Bass' notes reveal that at first he questioned this being a Proof, calling it "doubtful," but later compared it to a Proof, and changed his mind. Prospective buyers may wish to come to their own conclusions.

Mention is made of a new reverse hub (see Breen-6391) introduced this year, but the differences are not notable, and few numismatists, even specialists, have paid attention to the variety.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 345.

1469 1859 EF-45. Bright yellow gold surfaces. Sharply struck and well detailed. A truly outstanding specimen that is deserving of close attention. High-grade business strikes are exceedingly difficult to locate.

Obverse date seemingly *from the same die* as preceding, which complicates the "Proof question" earlier raised. Some prooflike surface on obverse and reverse, including within the shield stripe, but also with die striae, particularly on reverse, indicative of a business strike, not a Proof. An interesting piece for the inquisitive specialist to investigate. Harry Bass simply noted that it was from the identical dies as the Proof, but now lapped on both sides. Perhaps the lapping caused the die striae.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of February 1969, Lot 1408.

1470 1859 EF-40. Bright yellow gold.

Die pair seemingly as preceding, but with enough wear that some of minute markers cannot be seen.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 23, 1967.

Highly Important 1859-O $10

1471 1859-O AU-53 (PCGS). Light yellow gold. Somewhat proofli around the letters. A very pleasing specimen of one of the n table rarities of the New Orleans Mint, one of just 2,300 strue Apparently no more than a few dozen survive, and the numb may even be below a dozen (see following commentary). Do glas Winter estimates the total population as only 30 to coins, noting that the finest known to him is AU-50.

David Akers checks in with this comment: "The 1859-O is t rarest O-Mint eagle, and is actually one of the rarest dates in th entire 224-coin series (of coins of $10 denomination)...The be I have ever personally examined was a single AU specimen, a the relatively few others I have seen are only VF or EF."

Walter Breen, whose comments on American gold coi must always be considered, in his *Encyclopedia*, states th "Fewer than 12 survive. Usually in low grades; prohibitive rare EF."

Our sale of the Eliasberg Collection, October 1982, pr sented a very nice EF-45 coin earlier from John H. Clapp, a still earlier from J.C. Mitchelson. Our Norweb Collection co (March 1988) was similarly graded, as have been a handful other pieces that have passed through our hands over th years. The Bass Collection coin is exceptionally notable, landmark within the series, and should attract especially wi attention.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (AU-55 finest).

Although three pairs of dies were on hand, apparently only one die p was employed for the 1859-O coinage—a logical situation considering t tiny mintage.

Date logotype deeply impressed into the die, and about twice as close the dentils as to the neck truncation above.

On the reverse the O mintmark is positioned so that the tip of the arr feather points to the upper right outside curve, and is separated from it.

Purchased from Stack's, November 5, 1970.

Elusive 1859-S $10

Akers: "Grossly Underrated"

1472 **1859-S AU-53 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Much lustre is still seen in protected areas, this being particularly true of the reverse. A handsome specimen of an issue which David Akers has stated as "grossly underrated in light of its true rarity," further stating: "The 1859-S is as rare as the famous 1858 and 1859-O and thus ranks near the top of the series in rarity according to frequency of appearance at auction and rarity according to average grade." Walter Breen comments: "Very rare," and notes that all examples have a large S mintmark.

It takes a dedicated numismatist and one with a fairly substantial checkbook to collect $10 pieces by date and mint, as little attention was paid to these years ago, and even issues that appear to be common (from the aspect of mintage quantities) prove to be rare when specimens are sought in higher grades such as EF or AU. Regarding Mint State coins, *forget it* is the usual rule for branch mint pieces of this era, never mind the nonchalant listing of Mint State coins in the *Guide Book*.

The present 1859-S represents as good an illustration as any to suggest that the careful student of the series would do well to bid liberally. The exact number of 1859-S $10 is not known, but it is only a few dozen at best, perhaps even far less. What this piece will bring will be seen when it crosses the auction block. The latest edition of the *Guide Book of United States Coins* suggests $12,000 for an AU specimen. Many comparisons could be made, but perhaps the 1876-CC silver twenty-cent piece would be a good target in this regard. Close to two dozen of the latter are known to exist, and a comparable AU specimen if offered at auction would slide across the $50,000 level in a wink. One can hardly say that twenty-cent pieces are in the mainstream of popularity, as the series is from the 19th century, and is fairly obscure. If a comparison is made to a more popular series, it could be stated that a silver dollar of comparable rarity would be worth into six figures.

In any event, the piece will bring what it brings, and our only purpose for the commentary is to point out that there are some great rarites "out there" that are not widely recognized, and the 1859-S is one of them.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (AU-55).

Date logotype deep into die and two to three times closer to dentils than to the neck truncation. A whisper of a die crack extends from the border to the lower left serif of the first digit. As is true of virtually all $10 pieces of this era—a function of the master die—the outermost ray on star 1 is very close to a dentil.

On the reverse the S is large, with the left side of the bottom left serif being about even with the right upright of N (TEN).

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 660.

Incredible Proof 1860 $10

1473 1860 Proof-64 (PCGS). A superb coin from any and every aspect. The surfaces are warm and brilliant, with frosty cameo devices set against deep mirror fields.

The rarity of this issue is exceeded by few other Proof gold coins after 1858. The mintage figure of 50 coins has been published, but it is exceedingly unlikely anywhere near this quantity ever reached buyers, Walter Breen's comments that 30 "sets" were sold notwithstanding. No matter, the same writer (Breen) forthrightly states: "Not over 10 traceable." Rarity-wise the coin is a fitting mate to the 1860 Proof $20 offered subsequently in the present sale.

Expanding upon Breen's comments (these from his *Encyclopedia* on Proof coins), he lists the specific knowledge of six pieces, and mentions "several impaired pieces" as well, but not by name. Of the coins he lists, one is in the Smithsonian Institution and the other is in the American Numismatic Society. With regard to *available* Proofs that are not impaired, what is the rarity? Certainly not more than a handful. The present coin, the finest Harry Bass was able to purchase, is a true numismatic landmark.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (Proof-65).

Obverse with date logotype deeply punched into the die, and very low, about three times closer to the dentils than to the neck truncation.

The reverse is of the earlier hub, which was continued at a later date (after 1859) on Proofs.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1068.

Marvelous Mint State 1860 $10

(2X photo)

1474 1860 MS-64 (PCGS). A lustrous specimen, separated from *superb gem* status only by a few carbon marks beneath OF. We have never laid our eyes upon a nicer coin!

The impression is fresh from the dies, with virtually all die striae (from the preparation process) still intact on the obverse and reverse, giving the coin a satiny appearance overall. A truly marvelous coin!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype in about the same position as the Proof, but from a different die. Deeply punched.

The reverse is of the new Type II hub, but the differences, as earlier noted, are not major, and few numismatists have taken note of them (Harry Bass being an exception).

From Superior's Auction '85, Lot 959.

1475 1860 Net EF-45; a candidate for AU status save for a partially removed scrape beneath the neck truncation. Light yellow gold overall. Quite scarce in high-grade business strike form.

Date logotype similar to preceding.

Purchased from N.K.S., November 15, 1968.

1476 1860 EF-45. Light yellow gold.

Date logotype position about as preceding.

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, March 31, 1969.

1477 1860 EF-40. Another business strike specimen of this date. Somewhat prooflike in protected areas, particularly within the shield stripes.

Logotype positioned about as preceding.

Purchased from Arizona Stamp and Coin Co., March 14, 1969.

Memorable 1860-O $10

1478 1860-O AU-50. Lustrous and attractive. A high-grade specimen of the last New Orleans $10 struck prior to the Civil War. Of the 11,000 minted, most are in lower grades, VF being typical. The present coin represents a significant opportunity.

Date very deep into the die, more so than the Philadelphia Mint pieces earlier described, but about in the same position, approximately three times closer to a dentil than to the neck truncation above.

Purchased from N.K.S., October 7, 1968.

1479 1860-O EF-40. Light yellow gold. Another nice example of this pre-Confederacy issue.

Date logotype impressed into the die at medium depth, very slightly higher in position—but still low overall—in comparison to the previous piece.

Purchased from N.K.S., March 30, 1968.

Seldom-Seen 1860-S $10

1480 1860-S Net VF-20; sharpness of EF-40 but cleaned. With a mintage of just 5,000 pieces, the 1860-S is elusive in any and all grades. The present coin, although it will win no condition awards, will serve to provide this elusive date for the specialist.

Date very low, even closer to the dentils than on the varieties earlier described, perhaps five times closer to the dentils than to the neck truncation.

Reverse with large S mintmark. Breen-6936, as are all.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2267.

Landmark Proof 1861 $10

Fewer Than a Dozen Known

(2X photo)

1481 1861 Proof-64 (PCGS). A simply gorgeous coin, a nice mate to the 1860 Proof offered earlier and of comparable rarity. Although 69 Proofs are reported to have been struck, most were probably unsold. Walter Breen states, "Probably fewer than 10 survive," of which some are impaired and others are institutionalized. Again, we are confronted with an issue, which at this grade level is one of only a handful of specimens in numismatic hands. The piece was a highlight of this section of Harry Bass' collection, and its new owner will feel equally appreciative.

PCGS Population: 10; none finer.

Date logotype low, about three times closer to the dentils than to the neck truncation. Rather lightly but evenly and satisfactorily impressed into the die.

From Stack's ANA Sale, August 1976, Lot 3088.

1482 1861 AU-58, or finer. Highly and nearly fully lustrous. A spl did specimen that ranks among the several finest we have e seen.

Harry Bass in his notes observes that there was a very minute adjustn made to the portrait of Miss Liberty this year, the business strike, as offe here, being slightly different from the Proof of the same year. The dif ences are not salient.

Date logotype well centered. Lightly but satisfactorily impressed.

Reverse with many die finish lines, indicating that this may have beer early impression.

From our sale of the Armand Champa Collection, May 1972, 352.

1483 1861 AU-50. Much mint lustre is still seen.

Date logotype low, nearly twice as close to the dentils as to the neck tr cation above, quite different from the preceding lot. The logotype is fa deeply impressed into the die, more so toward the end of the date thar the beginning.

On the reverse a few delicate cracks are seen from STATES, clockw through AME. Another crack, scarcely visible, connects the tops of NITI

Purchased from N.K.S., February 1, 1972.

Impressive 1861-S $10

1484 1861-S AU-58. Deep warm gold surfaces. Highly lustrous. Ve close to Mint State, as graded by PCGS, but we would have difficulty calling this MS-60. A slight toning streak is seen the reverse and is mentioned for accuracy. The strike is de and bold. Overall, the coin is extremely impressive.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype low on die, and about three times closer to the dentil th to the truncation above. Deeply punched.

Reverse with large S mintmark (as always) leaning slightly to the left.

From Heritage's sale of October 1995, Lot 6322.

Another 1861-S $10

1485 1861-S AU-50 (PCGS). Warm yellow gold. A highly pleasi coin.

PCGS Population: 8; 5 finer (AU-58 finest).

Obverse and reverse dies as preceding.

Purchased from Paramount via Rowe & Brownlee, March 1 1967.

Final 1861-S $10

486 **1861-S VF-35.** Warm yellow gold surfaces. A final example of this issue, a variety that is rare in any and all grades.

Dies as preceding.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 30, 1967.

Fantastic 1862 Proof $10

About a Dozen Known

(2X photo)

487 **1862 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A splendid specimen, indeed *fantastic!* The surfaces are of warm yellow gold, the devices frosted, and the fields especially deeply dished and mirrorlike. A few marks in front of Miss Liberty's face keep this out of a significantly higher grade—shall we say Proof-67? A splendid specimen.

The Proof mintage this year was only 35 pieces, but probably fewer than half that number actually found buyers. The best estimates today are that perhaps 10 to 15 pieces are known, most likely 10 to 12. Of these, some are impaired and at least two are comfortably ensconced in institutions (the Smithsonian and the American Numismatic Society). In terms of quality pieces held in numismatic hands, the Proof 1862 ranks in the same elite class as the earlier offered 1860 and 1861. The present specimen, the finest Harry Bass was able to acquire, will draw a wide circle of interest.

PCGS Population: 6; none finer.

Date logotype deeply punched and well centered.

From Stack's ANA Sale, September 1996, Lot 3089.

Rare Business Strike 1862 $10

Somewhat Prooflike

1488 **1862 AU-55 (PCGS).** Warm yellow gold surfaces, prooflike characteristics in protected areas. Quite elusive in high business strike grades. Typically, the condition encountered is VF or EF.

PCGS Population: 8; 3 finer (AU-58 finest).

Date logotype deeply punched and well centered. Very difficult to differentiate from the Proof die (could it have been from the same die?). However, the reverse is *not* from the Proof die, as there are some minute differences in detail within the shield.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, October 5, 1967.

High-Grade 1862-S $10

1489 **1862-S EF-45 (PCGS).** Warm yellow gold. A fairly high-grade example of an issue for which Very Fine is par. "A very rare coin in all grades," notes David Akers.

Only 12,500 were minted, for at the time at the San Francisco Mint the $20 was the denomination of choice for treasury shipments, bullion transactions, and exports (discussed at some length in the recent book, *The Treasure Ship S.S. Brother Jonathan*).

Date logotype deeply entered into the die and well centered.

Reverse with large S nicely centered in the niche created by the eagle feather and branch.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2269.

Exceedingly Rare Proof 1863 $10

Estimated 8-10 Surviving

1490 1863 Proof-64 (PCGS). A splendid specimen, virtual perfection save for a couple of toning flecks. Frosty, satiny devices are set against deep mirror fields, highly basined, giving a cameo-like effect to the coin. The 1863 Proof is of exquisite rarity and extreme desirability.

Regarding Proofs, only 30 were struck, with both Walter Breen and David Akers estimating that only eight to 10 survive today. From these we can subtract one each at the Smithsonian Institution and the American Numismatic Society, and also deduct examples that are impaired. We are left with an opportunity of opportunities within the Proof gold series. No matter what the price paid, the new owner will have secured an American numismatic treasure.

It has been our general experience that Proof $10 pieces of the 19th century are rarer than any other denominations of the same era. Thus, the present lineup of glittering Proofs from the Bass Collection will be forever remembered by connoisseurs and students of the series.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

Date logotype deeply punched into die and well centered. Small date digits give a nice feeling of balance. Under extreme magnification some curlicue raised die finish lines are seen on the portrait in front of the ear, somewhat reminiscent of the lines on the 1907 Indian coins by Saint-Gaudens, the rare varieties with periods on the reverse. Some scattered raised rust(?) dots are seen here and there on the image.

From Abner Kreisberg's sale of November 1970, Lot 1846.

Impressive Business Strike 1863 $10

From Proof Obverse Die

(2X photo)

1491 1863 AU-55 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold surfaces, somewhat prooflike. Definitely struck as a business strike, not a Proof, and with many areas of lustre still visible. Die striae are seen, particularly on the reverse, indicative of an early impression.

The business strike mintage amounted to only 1,218 pieces, creating a prime rarity. David Akers suggests that business strikes in any level of preservation are about as rare as Proofs. Walter Breen credits the *presently offered specimen*, which he calls "Uncirculated," as the finest known to him and "possibly the only Uncirculated." We are thus moved to suggest that while PCGS has graded this AU-55, others have considered it to be Mint State. Grading has been, is presently, and always will be, largely a matter of opinion and we invite anyone to assign their own Uncirculated grade to it, if they wish.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (AU-58).

Struck from the Proof obverse die as used for the preceding piece, as identified by certain markers on the portrait. This particular aspect does not seem to have been published previously, although Harry Bass was aware of it.

The reverse is from a business strike die, not a Proof die, and differs from that used on the Proofs.

The reason for the use of the Proof obverse die seems obvious: only a few were minted, and there seemed to be no need to make up a special die for this purpose. On the other hand, the Proof reverse die used for 1863 $10 pieces was not dated and could be used at any time. Thus, the Proof was not used to make business strikes.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 668.

Important 1863-S $10

1492 1863-S AU-53 (PCGS). Warm yellow gold. Highly lustrous, especially in protected areas. A very pleasing coin, and one that is quite rare in this high grade level. "Prohibitively rare EF," notes Walter Breen, while David Akers says essentially the same thing, further noting that almost all that have come to market have been only Fine or Very Fine. We note that the recovery of coins from the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* yielded not a single specimen of this issue. In an absolute sense a high-grade 1863-S $10 remains an extreme rarity.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-61 finest).

Date positioned farther to the left than on the Philadelphia Mint coins, but still centered between the neck truncation and the dentils. Thorn or prominent line extending from earlobe. The arrangement of stars on this die—a subject not delved into in depth in the present catalogue—is such that stars 1-5 are very close to the dentils, star 6 is distant, star 7 is close, and the remaining stars are distant. Should this aspect be studied at length, no doubt characteristics would vary from issue to issue, from year to year.

From Stack's sale of September 1968, Lot 396.

Another Rare 1863-S $10

1493 1863-S Net EF-40; sharpness of EF-45, but lightly cleaned. The coin is quite attractive overall, and will stand on its own alongside just about any other EF-40 coin of its era.

Obverse and reverse dies as preceding.

Purchased from N.K.S., February 23, 1968.

Important 1864 $10 Proof Rarity

1494 1864 Proof-64 (PCGS). A highly important specimen from the combined aspects of rarity and beauty. Concerning the latter, the devices are satiny and frosty and are set in deeply dished fields that are fully mirrorlike—creating an elegant cameo effect. Surfaces are virtually pristine and, in our estimation, could just as easily be called Proof-65. No matter what number you assign, *quality* comes to the fore. Here, indeed, is an unforgettable coin!

The mintage figure of 50 pieces represents specimens delivered on February 11, and no doubt produced in advance for possible sale. However, buyers did not materialize, and probably no more than 20 were ever sold. Today it is generally estimated that a dozen or so exist, Breen and Akers both suggesting 12 to 15. From this estimate must be deducted institutionalized pieces as well as impaired coins. Thus, similar to the rare Proofs of the 1860s offered earlier, the coin is one of just a handful of aesthetically pleasing pieces held in private hands.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer (Proof-65).

As has been mentioned elsewhere in the catalogue, ordering Proofs was not an easy matter during this era. The Philadelphia Mint would not accept federal greenback notes at par for its own coins, and thus gold could only be purchased at a steep premium (the government kept separate books on gold coins sold at premiums, and later published a list, recently excerpted in the book, *The Treasure Ship S.S. Brother Jonathan*), or else accepted payment in other gold coins, plus a proofing charge. To obtain other gold coins, a numismatist had to go to a bullion or exchange broker and at that location buy them at a sharp premium in greenbacks. The procedure was anything but simple.

Further, Proof large-denomination gold coins were not extensively popular with numismatists until the 1930s. One need but go to auction catalogues of the 1920s to find Liberty Head Proof coins selling for just a modest amount over *face value!* Faced with lack of marketability for these coins, many holders of Proofs simply spent them. Finally, when gold coins became popular in an extensive way in the 1930s (a passion growing in intensity in the 1940s and increasing ever since), it was found that Proof gold, never common to begin with, was simply not available—unless you were in the right spot at the right time with the right amount of money. In the modern era, often *years* will elapse between offerings of 1864 Proof $10 pieces.

Date very high, and nearly twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils. Deeply impressed into the die. With large "open" 4 as used on certain other denominations, providing a rather ungainly appearance, but one that is common to all pieces of this denomination. Unlike the Proof of the preceding year, the head of Miss Liberty on the present coin is very carefully finished, with scarcely a notable marker in sight. However, we do note that she has two raised stripes on her earlobe. Several stars at the left show pronounced doubling, but whether this is from the striking process or the die we cannot state without seeing a companion coin. The doubling begins in a significant way on star 3, and continues to star 7.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1075.

Rare 1864 $10

High-Grade Business Strike

495 **1864 AU-55 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold surfaces. A pleasing specimen. One of the nicest business strikes we have ever handled.

The rarity is accounted for by the low mintage of just 3,530 pieces, of which probably no more than a few dozen can be accounted for today—although no one has kept track. David Akers in his study found more Proofs than business strikes! It takes a truly dedicated numismatist to collect Proofs and business strikes combined in the high-denomination gold series, but this was what Harry Bass did. Anyone following in his footsteps would do well to bid liberally on the present coin.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-61 finest).

Date low, about one and a half times closer to the dentils than to the neck truncation.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1076.

Elusive 1864-S Eagle

Classic Rarity

496 **1864-S VF-35 (PCGS).** Medium yellow gold, somewhat pale. A pleasing example at this grade level of an issue which is recognized as a classic rarity in its field.

Only 2,500 examples were minted. Over the years very few coins have appeared on the market, and many if not most gold specialists lack an example. The *S.S. Brother Jonathan* provided no example at all. For the eagle specialist this is a highly significant opportunity.

From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1200.

1865 Proof $10 Rarity

The Eliasberg Coin

(2X photo)

1497 **1865 Proof-63 (PCGS).** Twenty-five Proofs were struck of this year, but only seven or eight can be accounted for today, including one permanently impounded in the Smithsonian Institution and another held by the American Numismatic Society. At least two others are damaged. Thus, it can be readily seen that the present specimen is one of the most important pieces in this dazzling, indeed unforgettable, lineup of Proof eagles. A generous bid is indicated and deserved.

PCGS Population: 2; 5 finer (Proof-65 finest).

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 722. Earlier from the John H. Clapp Collection; earlier from Wilcox, 1896. In the Eliasberg sale, we called this coin choice Proof, a sentiment which we agree with today. A splendid specimen, excelled by no other we have encountered.

Lustrous 1865 Eagle

1498 1865 AU-55 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike. A major rarity in business strike form, one of just 3,980 struck. David Akers suggests that the typically encountered piece is only VF-30! An important opportunity for the connoisseur and specialist.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer (MS-63 finest).

Date logotype deeply punched into the die and somewhat low, ever so slightly lower than on the preceding Proof.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 1106.

Rare 1865-S $10

1499 1865-S AU-50 (PCGS). Well struck, brilliant, and somewhat prooflike. A very attractive example of an issue which is not often seen in any grade, much less so at this level. "Prohibitively rare above VF," notes Walter Breen, but here we have an AU! Similarly, David Akers pays high tribute to this coin, noting that he has never seen a specimen crossing the EF grade line.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date very high and twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils. Deeply punched into die.

Reverse with large S mintmark. Walter Breen states that there is doubling, but such is minimal on the present coin and scarcely worthy of notice. Some clash marks from the head of Miss Liberty are seen below the eagle.

From our sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, October 1982, Lot 723, there called EF-40. Believed to be the specimen from the Belden Roach Collection (B. Max Mehl, February 1944).

Another Important 1865-S Eagle

1500 1865-S EF-45 (PCGS). Another specimen of this elusive issue. Bright yellow gold with much lustre remaining. A splendid coin, a rarity.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (AU-50 finest).

Dies and states similar to the preceding.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 13, 1967.

1865-S Over Inverted 186

1501 1865-S 865 over inverted 186. AU-50 (PCGS). Warm yello gold. A very nice example of this blundered date. The logotyp was first punched in an inverted position, the gaffe was reco nized, and it was repunched in the correct position. Howeve under magnification the inverted digits 186 can be seen.

The 1865-S over inverted date is scarce in all grades, but n quite as scarce as the perfect date variety. The nicest know was recovered from the wreck of the *S.S. Brother Jonathan,* choice Mint State coin, the buyer being Ronald Gillio, wh promptly placed it on exhibit at the museum of numismat rarities in the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas—where it h been quite a showpiece and attraction.

A few dozen specimens of this variety have been accounte for, of which this ranks among the finest we have seen. For th $10 specialist this blundered date is, of course, a "must have variety. And, indeed, its appeal extends far beyond that circl

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Date logotype deeply punched into die and very high, at least three tim closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. Punched over an earli *inverted* logotype entry, as mentioned.

Reverse with large S mintmark.

From Quality Sales Corporation's auction of November 1970, L 1846A.

1866-S Without Motto $10

Early Type of the Year

1502 1866-S No Motto. AU-53 (PCGS). Rich lustrous gold surface The early style of the issue, made before the motto wa adopted. Mintage estimated at only 8,500 pieces, this com pared to 11,500 for the later With-Motto style. A classic rarit in the $10 series, and one of the more interesting.

When seen, the 1866-S No Motto is apt to be in VF or, occa sionally, EF grade, very rarely AU. The present piece repre sents a great *find* for the connoisseur and specialist.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (AU-55).

Obverse date logotype high, nearly twice as close to the neck truncation a to the dentils. Positioned left of center. A tiny die line extending upwar from the border past 3 serves as a "marker" which reappears subsequentl to identify the same obverse die used with another reverse (With Motto).

The reverse is of the old style, without motto, somewhat anachronistic a San Francisco, as Philadelphia eagles this year were of the With-Motto styl Medium S mintmark. Raised rust spots in the first "white" vertical shiel stripe serve to hallmark this die for future reference.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1969, Lot 445.

Impressive Proof 1866 $10

First Year With Motto

503 1866 With Motto. Proof-64 (PCGS). Frosty devices are set against a deep mirror background. As is the case with virtually all Proofs of this era, the fields are deeply basined, adding to the cameo effect. While PCGS has suggested this is Proof-64, we would be comfortable with a Proof-65 grade and encourage bids accordingly. Whichever grade you choose, the piece stands tall and proud as one of the finest known of the Proofs still in existence. Only 30 were minted, and of that number it is believed that no more than 10 survive. From the population the institutionalized and impaired coins can be subtracted, yielding perhaps five coins that are in private hands and that have excellent aesthetic appeal.

Beyond the attributes of this piece as a beautiful Proof rarity is its status as the first year with the motto IN GOD WE TRUST. Thus, there is further demand from numismatists desiring to put together a set of the first year of the various designs.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype far left and slightly high of center, noticeably closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. Logotype punched deeply into the die.

On the reverse, the motto IN GOD WE TRUST appears for the first time. Upon close examination it is seen that the letters are irregularly distributed. The N (IN) should be tilted slightly to the right to conform with the ribbon, but is not. The U (TRUST) should also be to the right, and the second T is low. These features were in the hub and master die, and are common to all $10 issues of the era. Thus they have not attracted any particular notice—any more than the *quite irregularly spaced* letters in the word LIBERTY in the headdress on the 1854-1889 $3 has attracted notice or, for that matter, even a mention.

From Rarcoa's sale of the Kaufman Collection, August 1978, Lot 878.

Elusive Business Strike $10

With Motto

1504 1866 With Motto. Breen-6952. Doubled Date. AU-55. Lustrous and rich gold surfaces. A splendid specimen that will delight the advanced collector. Quite scarce.

Date doubled, apparently as on all business strikes, designated as Breen-6952. The four-digit date logotype was punched into the working die slightly to the right, then mostly effaced, then punched deeply into its present position. The result is very obvious when viewed under even low magnification. As it is believed that all business strikes have this characteristic, there is no particular premium attached to the curiosity. In the highest notch on star 5 there is a raised arc, possibly from some lint on the master die. This serves as a marker for further study.

Purchased from N.K.S., May 21, 1968.

Scarce 1866-S $10

With Motto

1505 1866-S With Motto. AU-50 (PCGS). Warm lustrous gold su faces. Elusive in all grades, "Prohibitively rare in EF," writ Walter Breen. A highly important piece that should attra wide bidding attention.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (AU-58).

Obverse die as used on the 1866-S Without Motto, identified by a tiny d line extending from the dentils past star 3, directed upward.

Reverse with motto IN GOD WE TRUST, this being its first appearan Very tiny S mintmark, the smallest seen in the series to date. Left side motto somewhat light in the die, with bottom ribbon incomplete.

Purchased from N.K.S., September 5, 1967.

1867 Proof $10 Rarity

Akers: "Only 7 or 8 Known"

506 **1867 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A splendid specimen. Medium yellow gold. Frosted surfaces give a cameo-like effect. Dies basined, but not as deeply as on preceding Proofs.

The Proof mintage is reported as 50 pieces, but something happened along the distribution line, and David Akers estimates that only seven or eight survive, with Walter Breen putting the number ever so slightly higher. Of these, if institutionalized and impaired pieces are deducted we may have a net of, say, just three or four attractive pieces in private hands! The word O-P-P-O-R-T-U-N-I-T-Y comes to the fore, as it does so often in the present sale. Whatever the price paid, the owner will obtain a coin which was the finest Harry Bass could locate and, further, which will forever be an American numismatic treasure.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date somewhat lightly punched into the die and fairly high. Tiny lump on hair just above ear.

At the American Numismatic Association Convention the well-known Internet service, Collector's Universe, had a "Stump the Experts" quiz. One of the questions asked was: "Which denomination of gold coins has the fewest gem Proof pieces surviving today?" The answer was the Liberty Head $10 series.

From Stack's sale of May 1974, Lot 491.

Rare Business Strike 1867 $10

1507 1867 AU-53 (PCGS). Light yellow gold. A pleasing specimen at this grade level. Only 3,090 business strikes were made, of which the vast majority have disappeared, yielding perhaps a total population in the 50 to 75 range, if indeed that. The present piece is one of the finest we have ever offered.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (AU-55).

Date logotype quite low, about twice as close to the dentils as to the neck truncation. Heavily punched into the die.

On the reverse the left ribbon end is slightly weak, which seems to be the *rule*, not the exception, for business strikes of this era (and thus is not mentioned here except in passing).

Purchased from William Donner, September 14, 1967.

Important 1867-S $10

1508 1867-S AU-50 (PCGS). Light yellow gold. A highly importa date and mint variety, one of relatively few known to exist the AU level. Indeed, in his survey of auction appearances ov a long period of years, the best David Akers was able to find *the literature* was EF, and he never saw one even at this leve "Fine and VF specimens are all this date has to offer, and have not seen one graded a full EF." To be perfectly fair ar objective, some inflation has occurred in the grading field, ar perhaps a few pieces called EF earlier might be called AU no In any event, the present AU is certainly very important.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (AU-55 finest).

Date logotype slightly high. Punched into the die at medium depth.

Reverse with tiny S mintmark leaning left, situated below and slightly l of the arrow feather tip.

From Parke-Bernet Galleries' sale of the McGraw Collection, Ma 1968, Lot 168.

Gem 1868 Proof Rarity

1509 **1868 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A gem specimen of rare beauty and great desirability. Light yellow gold. Frosted devices give a cameo-like effect. The fields are no longer deeply basined as in an earlier era; we mention this now but will discontinue further notations in this regard. Certainly, this is one of the very finest remaining pieces from a Proof population that may only be seven or eight specimens. In a situation similar to that of the 1867 Proof, if one deducts impaired and institutionalized coins, just a handful of aesthetically pleasing specimens exist in private hands. Again, the chance to buy this coin is no doubt more important than the price paid. Harry Bass learned over a long period of years that if he wanted something, he would do well to "reach" for it, never mind current price lists, etc. The day after a given auction, he had the coin in his possession, while all other bidders were still trying to find one—most never achieving success.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date left of the normal position and slightly high. Logotype punched into the die at medium depth.

From Stack's sale of May 1974, Lot 492.

1510 1868 EF-40. Light yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike.

Date logotype very high, about 2½ times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. Deeply punched into die.

Purchased from N.K.S., June 23, 1970.

1868-S $10 Rarity

1511 1868-S AU-53 (PCGS). Highly lustrous and frosty, of a quality that could no doubt be called AU-55 or AU-58—but, then, resubmissions to grading services help pay their bills and increase the bottom line. Seriously, the present coin is certainly at the very least a "high-end" AU-53 and will certainly delight the purchaser.

The mintage of 1868-S amounted to 13,500 pieces, strictly a utilitarian coinage, as all were placed into circulation, where they became worn quickly. Today, when an 1868-S is found it is usually in VF grade, only rarely EF, and ever so seldom AU.

PCGS Population: 7; 5 finer (AU-58 finest).

Date logotype very high, at least three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. Deeply punched into the die.

Reverse with tiny S mintmark.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, January 24, 1968.

Another Notable 1868-S $10

1512 1868-S AU-53. Another notable specimen, but not quite nice as the preceding one, in our opinion. If we were seated the darkened grading room at PCGS headquarters out in C fornia, we would have called the preceding coin at least AU- possibly AU-58, but would stick with the AU-53 grade for one offered here. However, in absolute terms—consulting literature—the AU-53 number is *very impressive.* Again, here an important opportunity.

Obverse die logotype position similar to or identical to preceding.

Reverse with tiny S mintmark slightly to the left in comparison to the ceding.

Purchased from Stack's, November 5, 1970.

A Final 1868-S $10

1513 1868-S EF-40. A final specimen of this somewhat scarce va ety. Pale yellow gold with some magenta toning in protect areas.

Obverse die similar to or identical to preceding.

Reverse with small S mintmark, similar to preceding regarding positi but die with slightly different markers here and there (most notably wit the shield).

From Superior's sale of January 1973, Lot 694.

Gem Proof 1869 $10

An Incredible Rarity

1514 **1869 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A lovely specimen with rich gold surfaces. Frosty devices give the piece a cameo-like effect, as do the significantly basined field, somewhat of an anachronism, a return to the earlier years of the decade.

The Proof mintage was a paltry 25 pieces, of which fewer than half are believed to exist today, again with the considerations that some are institutionalized and others are damaged. As to the number of splendid gems mounting a challenge to the Bass Collection coin, might there be three or four? In any event, the number is very small, it may be *years* until we offer another specimen at auction.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (Proof-66).

Date logotype lightly into the die, somewhat to the left, and ever so slightly high (with regard to the first digit). On the head of Miss Liberty some markers serve to identify the die, including a rust spot resembling a tiny earring beneath the lobe, and several scattered rust spots to the left of the lowest left curl.

On the reverse the "white" shield stripes are quite curious and irregular, the Proof surface being interrupted many times.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1078.

High-Grade 1869-S $10

1515 1869-S EF-45. Medium yellow gold. A high-grade example of this "Very rare" (Breen) issue, the same writer adding: "Prohibitively rare EF." Some lustre is still seen in protected areas.

Date logotype lightly impressed into the die and slightly high.

Reverse with tiny S mintmark boldly impressed into the die, left of and about even with the lowest feather tip. For a change, the left side of the ribbon is sharply defined.

Purchased from N.K.S., November 15, 1967.

Another Scarce 1869-S $10

1516 1869-S Net EF-40; sharpness of AU-50, some scratches on the face, which have mostly blended color-wise into the surface. Scarce, and one of the nicest seen.

Logotype deeply punched into the die and slightly low.

Reverse with small S mintmark, deep into the die, slightly low, with the upper right being beneath the feather tip. Left side of motto ribbon weak.

Impressive Proof 1870 $10

1517 1870 Proof-64 (PCGS). A splendid Proof from a mintage only 35 pieces. It is likely that no more than a dozen rema some of which are institutionalized and others of which a impaired. The present coin brings to market the finest Pro purchased by Harry Bass in three decades, a fantastic coin th will attract a lot of attention.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Lustrous 1870 Eagle

1518 1870 Breen-6961. Repunched 0. AU-50 (PCGS). A brig golden example with ample mint lustre in the protected are Quite attractive.

From Heritage's sale of October 1995, Lot 6352.

1519 1870 Breen-6961. Repunched 0. EF-40. Light gold with trac of lustre. A scratch is noted on Miss Liberty's cheek.

From Rarcoa's sale of January 1973, Lot 251.

Exceedingly Important 1870-CC Eagle

Carson City Rarity

Key to the Series

520 **1870-CC EF-40 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold with traces of lustre in the peripheries. A splendid example, one of the finer known pieces of this landmark Carson City issue. The only competitor rarity-wise to the 1870-CC is the 1879-CC, but the 1870-CC takes top honors.

Regarding this, David Akers noted: "The 1870-CC is one of the two rarest Carson City Mint eagles, comparable in overall rarity to the lower mintage 1879-CC. However, if one takes condition rarity into account as well as overall rarity, then the 1870-CC would have to be rated the rarest eagle from this mint. In fact, only the famous double eagle of the same date surpasses the 1870-CC eagle as the rarest of *all* Carson City gold coins. Basically, the only specimens available (and there are really not that many) grade Fine to VF..."

As to the number known of the 1870-CC, no accounting has been made in the past or could easily be made now. Perhaps an educated guess would be somewhere between 20 and 30.

Similar to the other early Carson City Mint coins, the 1870-CC eagle seems to have been distributed primarily in the region in which it was minted. Few if any were exported at or near the time of issue, and any that were shipped overseas in later years were apt to already show extensive signs of wear. The Bass Collection coin is incredibly important as an absolute rarity, but further significant for its high grade. Indeed, this is the finest Harry Bass was able to locate in over 30 years of searching.

PCGS Population: 6; 3 finer (AU-50 finest).

Purchased from Rarcoa, August 24, 1973.

Exceptional-Grade 1870-S Eagle

High Condition Census

1521 1870-S AU-53 (PCGS). Reflective very light yellow gold lustre with sharp design details. One of the very finest in existence. Indeed, when David Akers wrote his text on $10 gold coins he noted that he had never seen one higher than EF grade. Allowing for "condition inflation" perhaps the present piece could have been called "very high level EF" in David Akers' time of study. Or, equally likely, this piece may not have been available for him to view, as it was purchased significantly before he began his research. However, the specimen we sold in the Eliasberg Collection, 1982, was described by us as Choice AU. With this as a background, we state that the Bass Collection specimen is one of the very finest known, and at the AU-53 level is indeed in *extraordinary* preservation.

Not only is the 1870-S a condition rarity in the grade here offered, but the absolute mintage, only 8,000 (*Guide Book*) or 9,000 (Breen) pieces, ranks it as one of the most-difficult-to-find coins of this denomination. By several angles and aspects of evaluation, the present 1870-S is a landmark.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (AU-58 finest).

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 15, 1967.

Incredibly Important Proof 1871 $10

(2X photo)

1522 1871 Proof-64 (PCGS). Bright, light gold coloration perfec frames the frosted devices. With a business strike mintage only 1,790 pieces and a Proof mintage of just 30 pieces, th date is rare in any format. Breen estimates that "possibly 10 12 Proofs survive."

Of the few surviving Proofs, several are institutionalized are impaired. The appearance of the present coin is indee one of the most important opportunities in this offering. R call our earlier comment that of all areas of Proof coinag high-grade eagles of the Liberty Head design are especially d ficult to locate, more so than denominations above or below

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976.

A Second 1871 Business Strike $10

Impressive Rarity

1523 **1871 AU-55 (PCGS).** Prooflike, as are most, if not all. Sharply struck and attractive. An outstanding specimen, Condition Census quality. Only 1,790 business strikes were minted, and of that number probably no more than 40 to 75 pieces exist today. Coin for coin, year for year, issue for issue, $10 pieces are generally rarer than any other denominations, including the larger double eagle. The specialist will recognize this as a landmark opportunity. A second business strike specimen, probably purchased by Harry Bass simply to take advantage of what he considered to be an extraordinary opportunity, as he already was comfortable with the ownership of the piece listed above.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-60).

Purchased from Paramount, February 13, 1968.

A Third Business Strike 1871 Eagle

1524 **1871 EF-45.** A well-struck example with ample mint lustre remaining in the recesses. Light golden color. A third and final opportunity to purchase an 1871 $10 from this auction.

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, December 16, 1971.

High-Grade 1871-CC Rarity

1525 **1871-CC AU-50 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold with moderate abrasions, the surfaces slightly subdued as a result. Light greenish gold with very faint traces of orange toning. Traces of mint lustre are visible, particularly on the reverse. The 1870-CC is one of the scarcest of all Carson City issues, combining as it does an early date and the situation that most if not all pieces were distributed regionally rather than internationally. Of the surviving examples, nearly all are in grades lower than the present coin. In fact, the Eliasberg specimen was EF-40, itself a notable piece, but not a match for the Bass coin offered here.

PCGS Population: 4; 5 finer (AU-58 finest).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2303.

Another Important 1871-CC $10

1526 **1871-CC EF-45.** This is another wonderful specimen of the scarce and highly prized 1871-CC $10. Pleasing surfaces with traces of lustre remaining. Light golden lustre. Some evidence of a light cleaning long ago.

Purchased from Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, February 18, 1971.

High-Grade 1871-S Rarity

"Prohibitively Rare"

1527 **1871-S AU-50 (PCGS).** A wonderful example with considerable lustre and very minor surface marks. A small mark below the eagle's beak provides a convenient pedigree marker. Extremely rare above Very Fine condition. Traces of mint lustre are seen on both obverse and reverse. Breen states: "Prohibitively rare above VF." Here is an important purchase opportunity.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (AU-55 finest).

1528 1871-S VF-35. Light coloration with hints of reddish gold in the recesses. An interesting, squarish "island" appears in the obverse field near the third star. It may be that a chip of the obverse die became detached leaving the raised area. Another example of this elusive issue. Just 16,500 were coined. Unlike double eagles, which were widely exported, most eagles remained stateside. When gold was called in by the government in 1933 and 1934, the majority of pieces went to the melting pot.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 31, 1967.

Delightful Proof 1872 $10

Incredible Rarity

(2X photo)

1529 1872 Proof-64 (PCGS). A very impressive specimen with the fully reflective fields highlighting the devices. A tiny, circular white area is noted in the left obverse field between Liberty's jaw and the second star.

Only 30 Proofs were coined this year, but probably no more than 15 to 20 were sold, of which an estimated 10 to 12 exist today. Considering that several pieces are in permanent museum collections and certain other pieces are impaired, the offering of the present coin represents an extraordinary opportunity to acquire an exceptional rarity.

PCGS Population: 5; 4 finer (Proof-66 finest).

Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 1973.

Extremely Rare 1872 $10

Notable Quality

1530 1872 AU-55 (PCGS). A nicely struck specimen with abunda mint lustre remaining. In 1988 Walter Breen estimated th only about 10 to 12 specimens survive from the original bu ness strike mintage of 16,620 pieces, a dramatic commenta which indicates that business strikes are in the same catego as Proofs! Considering that 1,630 business strikes were pr duced, and that perhaps a typical *double eagle* of this era wou have a present survival rate in the range of 5% to 10% of th coinage, it can be seen that for the eagle, the survival rate less than 1%!

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).

Throughout the present offering the method of distribution of eagl should be kept in mind, noting that survival rates tend to be very low in areas.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, L 2197.

Low-Mintage 1872-CC $10

1531 1872-CC Breen-6971. Doubled Reverse Die. EF-45 (PCGS Light yellow gold. A scrape in the left reverse field stands ou Slightly doubled reverse die with the doubling plainly visible STA, this being designated as Breen-1671 and mentioned on casually—as the aspect, while curious, does not measurably ad to the value.

In their reference on Carson City coinage, Douglas Winte and Lawrence Cutler commented that "the 1872-CC is one the most underrated and undervalued coins struck at th Carson City Mint." Indeed, with a low mintage to begin wit and a low survival ratio, the comment stands. One of man important opportunities in the present sale.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA Sale, August 1968, Lot 1026.

Another Important 1872-CC $10

1532 1872-CC VF-35 (PCGS). Medium gold with splashes of reddish gold at the date. An evenly worn specimen with a pleasing overall appearance. Another opportunity to compete to purchase a Carson City eagle that rarely crosses the auction block.
Purchased from N.K.S., August 21, 1968.

1533 1872-S EF-45. Generous amounts of mint lustre are noted in the recesses. An attractive specimen without any serious edge abrasions that are usually the case. Another scarce issue of the period with just 17,000 pieces struck.
Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

1534 1872-S EF-45. A particularly well-struck example with lustre still remaining in the recesses. A pleasing example of this rarity.
Purchased from Ed Shapiro, December 16, 1971.

1535 1872-S EF-40. Hints of mint lustre remain in the deepest recesses. A third specimen of this date and mint.

1536 1872-S VF-35. A heavily bagmarked example with some mint lustre in the recesses.
Purchased from Ed Shapiro, April 7, 1969.

Extraordinary 1873 Proof $10

Classic Rarity

(2X photo)

1537 1873 Closed 3. Proof-64 (PCGS). Light golden over fully reflective fields. This date is rare in both formats with just 25 Proofs struck and 800 pieces issued for circulation. Regarding Proofs, of this small number, it is estimated that no more than a dozen survive. Deduct the usual institutionalized and damaged pieces and the net number in private hands is apt to be about four to six. The present piece, the finest Harry Bass was able to locate in many years of searching, is thus exceedingly important. And, as if that were not enough, in business strike grades the issue is an incredible rarity as well.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

From Paramount's auction of July 1979, Lot 336.

Finest Graded 1873-CC $10

Incredible Rarity

(2X photo)

1538 1873-CC Closed 3. AU-53 (PCGS). Closed 3 in date as are all known survivors from the mintage of 12,000 coins. An attractive example that is quite well struck, which is unusual. Winter and Cutler stated that the 1873-CC eagle is "unknown above Extremely Fine-45." Obviously, they were not familiar with this example, which has been off the market for a long time. A couple of other pieces are reported at the AU level, but how resubmissions and grading inflation factor, we do not know. In any event, the present piece stands high as one of the most important Carson City offerings of our era.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 707.

Another Memorable 1873-CC $10

Exceptional Quality

1539 1873-CC EF-45 (PCGS). Medium gold with some mint lustre i the deepest recesses. A high-grade example of this rarity th has a pleasing overall appearance. A second and exceeding important opportunity to acquire an exceptional 1873-CC $1 a coin combining exceptional quality and exceptional rarity.

PCGS Population: 7; 4 finer (AU-53 finest).

Purchased from William Donner, February 20, 1968.

Condition Census 1873-S $10

Rare in All Grades

1540 1873-S Closed 3. AU-53 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold with co siderable lustre. Sharply struck including central lines in mos stars. A few very minor contact marks and hairlines are note Prohibitively rare EF according to Breen. One of the fine specimens we have seen. Walter Breen notes that this variety "prohibitively rare EF," which says it all. Just a handful of fine coins exist.

The present brings to market one of the finest of an est mated several hundred pieces remaining from a mintage o 12,000 coins. Another important opportunity.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (AU-58 finest).

Purchased from N.K.S., July 21, 1968.

1541 1873-S Net VF-30; lightly polished. Another opportunity t purchase an example of this rarity.

Purchased from Dr. Edward W.W. Lewis, September 4, 1968.

Fantastic Proof 1874 Eagle

A Landmark Rarity

(2X photo)

1542 1874 Proof-64. Some hairlines on the obverse keep this from a higher grade. A notable, indeed fantastic specimen of one of the great classic rarities of the Proof eagle series. Just 20 pieces were struck, from which Walter Breen estimates that only eight to 10 exist today. Deduct institutionalized and damaged specimens and what do we have? A good guess is four or five quality pieces in private hands. All eagles of this era are exceedingly rare, and of these, the 1874 is one of the rarest.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

From Superior's sale of September 1988, Lot 5566.

Memorable Mint State 1874 $10

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

1543 1874 MS-64 (PCGS). A high Condition Census specimen that is fully lustrous and extremely desirable. Breen lists this date and mint as "extremely rare above EF." Here is an important opportunity to purchase a specimen that combines exceptional beauty with extreme rarity.

PCGS Population: 10; 1 finer (MS-65).

Walter Breen notes that most of the bullion obtained to coin these pieces was restruck from metal obtained from earlier-dated gold dollars and quarter eagles.

Purchased from Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 26, 1984, Lot 1121.

Nice Liberty Head Eagle Grouping

1544 Large grouping of Liberty Head eagles including several New Orleans pieces and other interesting coins, nearly all of which are brilliant and have excellent lustre. A nice group with which to begin a specialized cabinet of this somewhat elusive denomination: ☆ 1874 AU-50 ☆ 1881-S AU-55 ☆ 1882 AU-50 ☆ 1886-S AU-58 ☆ 1888-O AU-55 ☆ 1888-S AU-50 ☆ 1889-S AU-55 ☆ 1891 AU-55 ☆ 1891-CC AU-50, cleaned ☆ 1892 MS-60 ☆ 1892-CC VF-30 ☆ 1892-O AU-55 ☆ 1892-S AU-50 ☆ 1893 MS-60 ☆ 1893-S AU-50 ☆ 1894 MS-62 ☆ 1894-O AU-53 ☆ 1894-S EF-40 ☆ 1895 MS-60 ☆ 1895-O MS 60. Mostly brilliant with nice lustre. (Total: 20 pieces)

Another Grouping of Liberty Head Eagles

1545 Large and interesting group of Liberty Head eagles, nearly all AU to Mint State, virtually all brilliant, and all with much lustre. Another highly desirable, attractive, interesting run: ☆ 1874 EF-45 ☆ 1881-S AU-55 ☆ 1882 EF-45, lightly toned ☆ 1886-S AU-50 ☆ 1888-O AU-50 ☆ 1888-S AU-50 ☆ 1889-S AU-55 ☆ 1891-CC AU-50 ☆ 1892 AU-58 ☆ 1892-O AU-50 ☆ 1893 AU-58 ☆ 1894 MS-62 ☆ 1894-O AU-53 ☆ 1895 MS-60 ☆ 1895-O MS-60 ☆ 1896 AU-58 ☆ 1896-S EF-45, lightly toned ☆ 1897 MS-62 ☆ 1897-S AU-55 ☆ 1897-O AU-58. Brilliant and lustrous unless otherwise noted. (Total: 20 pieces)

A Further Desirable Liberty Head $10 Group

1546 Large group of Liberty Head eagles, comprising different date and mintmark varieties including examples from Philadelphia, Carson City, New Orleans, and San Francisco. Mostly brilliant, and all with mint lustre ranging from slight to extensive. A very pleasing selection: ☆ 1874 EF-45 ☆ 1879 EF-45, numerous small surface dents ☆ 1880 EF-40 ☆ 1880-S EF-40, obverse scratch ☆ 1881 AU-55 ☆ 1881-S AU-55 ☆ 1882 AU-50 ☆ 1883 AU-50 ☆ 1886-S MS-60 ☆ 1887-S AU-55 ☆ 1888-O AU-55 ☆ 1888-S AU-58 ☆ 1889-S AU-58 ☆ 1891 MS-60 ☆ 1891-CC AU-50 ☆ 1892 MS-60 ☆ 1892-CC EF-40 ☆ 1892-O AU-55 ☆ 1892-S AU-55 ☆ 1893 MS-62. Mostly brilliant with attractive original mint lustre. A pleasing selection. (Total: 20 pieces)

Memorable 1874-CC $10

Condition Rarity

1547 1874-CC AU-53 (PCGS). A lovely example of this rare issue with considerable reflective bright yellow gold lustre and generally sharp design details, slightly weak at central obverse and reverse, typical as are nearly all authentic pieces. An important opportunity to acquire a high-grade example of this notable rarity. "Prohibitively rare above VF," notes Walter Breen. The present piece is *way above* VF!

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (AU-55 finest).

Purchased from Stack's, May 19, 1971.

Another Beautiful 1874-CC $10

High-Grade Rarity

1548 1874-CC AU-50 (PCGS). A rare issue, especially with a sha mintmark as offered here. Lustrous light yellow gold. A f above average strike, which puts it in a truly exceptional cla One of the nicest we have ever seen!

PCGS Population: 5; 5 finer (AU-55 finest).

From Parke-Bernet Galleries' sale of May 1968, Lot 168.

"Prohibitively Rare" 1874-S $10

Condition Rarity

1549 1874-S AU-50 (PCGS). A lovely example with sharp design d tails and considerable lustre. Bright yellow gold. A very hig grade example of this rarity, worthy of your serious conside ation, especially in view of Walter Breen's comment, "Prohib tively rare above VF." Somewhat similar to our earlier co ment for the 1874-CC, the present 1874-S is *way above* VF! W advise a liberal bid.

PCGS Population: 7; 3 finer (AU-55 finest).

Another High-Grade 1874-S $10

Condition Seldom Seen

1550 1874-S EF-45 (PCGS). A sharply struck specimen in light ye low gold. Another exceptionally high-grade 1874-S, a love EF-45 coin of a variety for which VF would be the norm.

From Parke-Bernet Galleries' sale of May 1968, Lot 168.

Landmark 1875 Business Strike $10

Lowest Mintage U.S. Gold Coin!

Only 100 Pieces Struck!

1551 1875 EF-45 (PCGS). Considerable mint lustre remains on both obverse and reverse. Quite well struck with the exception of the first and second stars, which show little central detail. One of the very finest known specimens of this incredible rarity, an American numismatic landmark, *the lowest business strike mintage United States gold coin.*

Only 100 pieces were struck for circulation, far and away the lowest figure for any coin in the gold series. David Akers estimated that no more than five or six business strikes survive, "including two of horrendously low quality," plus about seven or eight Proofs. While the future is not known to us or anyone else, it certainly must be the situation that the opportunity to acquire a decent business strike 1875 $10 has been more unusual in recent years than the opportunity to purchase a 1787 Brasher doubloon or an 1804 silver dollar! Harry Bass considered this to be one of the great highlights in his cabinet of gold eagles, and without a doubt its proud next owner will feel likewise.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (AU-53 finest).

From Stack's sale of the Atto Collection, December 1970, Lot 356.

Important 1875-CC Eagle

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

1552 1875-CC Net AU-50; sharpness of EF-40 with several small dents on Liberty's cheek. Light greenish yellow gold with very faint traces of orange toning. All things considered, the present piece is a very pleasing example of this issue.

Just 7,715 coins were produced. The Winter/Cutler reference estimates that just two pieces exist at the AU level! The importance of the present opportunity cannot be overstated.

PCGS Population: 3; 3 finer (AU-55 finest).

Centerpoint Proof 1876 $10

Centennial Year Rarity

(2X photo)

1553 1876 Proof-64 (PCGS). Light golden. Just 45 pieces were struck in the Proof format, and probably not all of these were sold. Breen estimates that only 14 to 18 pieces survive, and we have no reason to state otherwise. From this population can be deducted impaired pieces and those that are part of museum collections, probably bringing the number of decent specimens in private hands down to the range of eight to 10, if indeed that many.

Purchased from Robert Steinberg, August 17, 1972.

Seldom-Seen 1876-CC $10

A Key in the Series

1554 **1876-CC EF-45 (PCGS).** Highly attractive deep yellow gold with slightly reflective lustre. Only 4,696 examples were struck of the 1876-CC. Relatively few seem to have been exported, and most were probably melted. Today the population is very low. When seen, an 1876-CC is apt to be in lower grades. In fact, Walter Breen comments, "Extremely rare above VF."

Low-Mintage 1876-S Eagle

Condition Census

1555 **1876-S AU-53 (PCGS).** An important rarity, one of just 5,000 struck. Sharply struck bright yellow gold with considerable lustre and very minor surface marks. Walter Breen states: "Extremely rare above VF." Of course, the present piece is not even close to VF, but stands high as an AU specimen. Years ago, David Akers noted that he had never seen an AU coin. Today, with somewhat more liberal grading interpretations, and also with increased awareness and with coins coming out of the proverbial woodwork, our presently offered 1876-S has some company at the AU-53 level. However, it still stands as a condition rarity.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

From Rarcoa's sale of February 1972, Lot 973.

Impressive 1877 Proof-64 $10

A Mere 20 Pieces Struck

(2X photo)

1556 **1877 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A delightful specimen with heavily frosted motifs and deep mirror fields that together form a superb cameo contrast. The light gold enhances the beauty of this specimen. The 1877 eagle is rare in both formats with a scant 797 pieces issued for circulation.

Of the estimated 10 to 12 Proofs remaining today, less than a handful can match the quality of the piece offered here. For the gold specialist and connoisseur here, indeed, is an incredible rarity, an incredible quality coin, an incredible opportunity.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Purchased from Abner Kreisberg, May 7, 1969.

Rare 1877-CC Eagle

1557 1877-CC EF-40. Traces of mint lustre in the recesses. Both the obverse and reverse fields have been smoothed in an attempt to conceal a multitude of marks and abrasions. Quite sharply struck. Just 3,332 were struck with most survivors being much lower grade.

From Lester Merkin's sale of March 1967, Lot 484.

1558 1877-S EF-45. Mellow gold, with reddish gold overtones. A nicely struck example with traces of mint lustre on the reverse in the deepest recesses. A scratch is noted on Liberty's cheek and numerous contact marks appear on both obverse and reverse. An underrated date that Breen noted is "prohibitively rare above EF."

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

1559 1877-S EF-45. Mint lustre is seen in both the obverse and reverse recesses. A well-struck example with a pleasing overall appearance. Another example of this seldom-seen issue.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, August 23, 1968.

1560 1877-S EF-40. Numerous abrasions are seen on both obverse and reverse which are consistent with the grade. Quite well struck with traces of lustre in the recesses. A third and final opportunity to purchase an example of this rarity from this sale.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968. Lot 2279.

Incredible Proof 1878 Eagle

Rare and Beautiful

Mintage: 20

Surviving: 8 to 10

(2X photo)

1561 1878 Proof-64 (PCGS). An attractive specimen with pleasin light golden toning. An incredible coin from every aspec Only 20 were struck, of which it is estimated that only eight t 10 survive. Deducting institutionalized and damaged pieces, may well be the case that only three, four, or five choice piece exist in private hands. The present specimen ranks as one c the most important opportunities in this elite area, the run c Proofs in the Liberty Head series being more elusive than tha of gold coins of other denominations.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Purchased from Stack's, June 1973.

Lustrous and Attractive 1878 Eagle

Condition Rarity

1562 1878 MS-64 (PCGS). A lustrous and very attractive specimen. This is sharply struck and has frosty yellow gold lustre. A condition rarity, a coin that when seen is usually well worn, occasionally AU, and very occasionally low Mint State. The present coin is a happy exception and is one of the finest we have ever handled.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-65).

From Lester Merkin's sale of June 1970, Lot 452.

1563 1878 MS-60. A lustrous example with a pleasing overall appearance. Light bagmarks are noted on the obverse, less so on the reverse. Very scarce in this state of preservation.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 3, 1973.

1564 1878 AU-58. An attractive, fully lustrous specimen that is just a hair's breadth from full Mint State.

Purchased from Douglas Weaver, September 26, 1973

Beautiful 1878-CC $10 Rarity

Condition Rarity

(2X photo)

1565 1878-CC AU-55 (PCGS). An impressive lovely deep gold example with considerable mint lustre showing through. A very pleasing overall appearance that will delight the advanced collector. The tiny mintage of just 3,244 pieces bespeaks its rarity. Breen indicates that this issue is "prohibitively rare above VF." A lovely coin that will delight its new owner. The 1878-CC $10 claims the second lowest mintage figure of any Carson City eagle. The Winter/Cutler reference estimates that only four or five pieces exist at the AU level. Just to think, the Harry W. Bass Collection brings to market *two* of these in the same sale! Once again, *opportunity* is the key word.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Purchased from Heritage's sale of October 16, 1995, Lot 6391.

Another Memorable 1878-CC Eagle

(2X photo)

1566 1878-CC AU-50 (PCGS). A rarity in any grade, this lovely coin has deep yellow gold surfaces.

PCGS Population: 9; 3 finer (AU-55 finest).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2308.

1567 1878-S EF-40. Traces of lustre remain. Another example, not at all easy to find at the EF level, and yet fairly inexpensive.

From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1969, Lot 457.

1568 1878-S Net VF-30; sharpness of EF-45, processed to conceal marks and abrasions. A highly affordable eagle from the Bass Collection, a nice opportunity to add this impressive pedigree to a type set of gold coins.

1569 1878-S Net VF-20; sharpness of EF-45. The motto on reverse has been damaged by an attempt to remove a concentration of surface marks. Otherwise, a nice example for the grade. A significant amount of mint lustre remains.

1570 1879/8 Breen-6993. Overdate. MS-61. Fully lustrous and tractive. This is what Breen called the overdate. According Breen, the lower curve of an 8 is seen within the curve of the Indeed, there is a prominent curve in that location, and it *m* be from an 8. No other repunching is seen on the date.

This variety, which may simply be a *repunching*, rather than an overdat what Walter Breen called the 1879/8. There is a lower curve of an ear punch seen within the curve of the 9. Breen notes the issue is "extrem rare."

Purchased from N.K.S., May 25, 1971.

Incredible, Impressive Proof 1879 $10

Estimated Population: 10 Coins

(2X photo)

1571 1879 Proof-64 (PCGS). Attractive light golden surfaces. Of th original mintage of 30 Proof pieces, perhaps 10 survive toda this being Walter Breen's estimate. Of those, we can dedu institutionalized pieces as well as those that are damaged, pe haps yielding a population in private hands of five coins tha could be called desirable for an advanced cabinet. The Bas specimen is one of these. A strong bid is suggested, with th buyer secure in the knowledge that he or she will have a coi with few other equivalents in all of the world.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

From Stack's sale of October 1970, Lot 955.

1572 1879 MS-60. Fully lustrous and very attractive for the grade.
From Rowe & Brownlee, April 10, 1969.

Incredible Quality 1879-CC $10

A Carson City Landmark

(2X photo)

1573 **1879-CC AU-55 (PCGS).** A very attractive specimen with medium golden toning over lustrous surfaces. The strike is far better than average, particularly for this date and mint, usually seen weakly impressed.

The glory part of the present piece has not to do with its quality of strike and beautiful appearance—which, of course, provide essential aspects for the connoisseur, but its high quality and rarity. Only 1,762 pieces were struck, of which only a few dozen pieces survive today. Douglas Winter and Lawrence Cutler in their book on Carson City coinage stated that the 1879-CC $10 is unknown above EF-45, these authors not being aware of the Bass Collection (as coins in the Bass Collection were not generally available to scholars except upon special application).

The Carson City enthusiast—a member of a very significant and enthusiastic group—would do well to disregard any published price quotations or indications of value that might be at hand and to bid liberally and strongly. It may be many years until a comparable occasion occurs.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.
From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 362.

Condition Census 1879-O Rarity

First New Orleans Coin of Type

Mintage: 1,500 Pieces

1574 **1879-O AU-55 (PCGS).** Attractive bright yellow gold surfaces. Somewhat prooflike. A series of parallel roller marks are noted in the reverse field below the eagle, this being as made.

The 1879-O eagle combines several aspects of interest and desirability. The variety represents the first New Orleans $10 coin struck after the Civil War, and thus it is the first of its type, with the motto IN GOD WE TRUST. Second, the mintage amounted to just 1,500 specimens in an era in which no collectors were interested in saving mintmarked varieties. Third, the high grade ranks it as one of the finest we have ever seen or offered. Spirited bidding on this lot is the order of the day!

PCGS Population: 6; 1 finer (AU-58).
From Stack's sale of the Delp Collection, November 1972, Lot 812.

1575 1879-S AU-58. A well-struck, lustrous example that is extremely attractive. Fairly elusive in this state of preservation. David Akers suggests that the typical piece on the market is apt to be VF. And yet, the issue is inexpensive.
Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 30, 1972.

1576 1879-S AU-55. Fully lustrous and very attractive. Difficult to locate this nice.
Purchased from N.K.S., May 25, 1971.

Incredible 1880 Proof $10 Rarity

Breen: "Probably Fewer Than 10 Survive"

(2X photo)

1577 1880 Proof-64 (PCGS). A light gold example with nice eye appeal. Of the 36 pieces struck in Proof, fewer than 10 can be accounted for today, per the research of Walter Breen.

In the 1880s very few numismatists collected Proof $10 coins, the number probably being not more than a dozen at most. In subsequent years, as collections containing these pieces were sold, market interest was lacking, and Proof gold coins of the 1870s and 1880s typically sold for very little over face value. Thus, it was just as easy for a collector to "spend" a high-denomination Proof as to go through the procedure of selling it on offer to a dealer or consigning it to an auction. Lest any present day reader doubt this, all you need to do is to check price lists of Proof $10 and $20 coins sold at auction up through the early 1920s—this being decades after the present 1880 coin was struck.

When collecting Proofs *finally* became popular in the 1930s, eagles of this era were found to be extreme rarities. As a result, some of the most impressive cabinets of gold coins ever formed did not contain Proof strikings.

The present coin is an extraordinary opportunity to acquire an extraordinary coin!

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

From Stack's sale of May 1974, Lot 495.

Attractive 1880-CC $10

High Quality

1578 1880-CC AU-58 (PCGS). Fully reflective surfaces, sharp struck in deep greenish yellow gold. Considerable lustre re mains. Only a handful of 1880-CC eagles are finer than t present specimen. It is certainly a possibility that this prese coin, graded AU-58 by PCGS, would merit the MS-60 desig tion elsewhere (as the publication title *The Certified Coin Dea Newsletter* indicates, many PCGS coins grade for grade sell higher prices than coins certified elsewhere, reflecting the re tive conservative nature of PCGS evaluations. Call it as yo wish—AU-58 as PCGS did, or some other grade, but by a evaluation here, indeed, is a lovely, desirable, and elusive coi

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-60 finest).

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 716

1579 1880-CC AU-50. Considerable prooflike mint lustre showi through. From this date forward Carson City Mint eagles b come somewhat more readily available in the higher grad ranges. Quite a few of these have come from overseas hoar where they were shipped beginning in the late 1870s (our es mate of time).

Purchased from Lester Merkin, January 24, 1968.

1580 1880-CC AU-50. A fairly well-struck example with a generou amount of mint lustre, particularly on the reverse. Anothe pleasing example, somewhat more affordable than the prece ing two.

1581 1880-CC VF-35. No serious nicks or other major impairment This is the quality usually seen for coins of this date, a typic piece which no doubt circulated in the American West.

Purchased from U.S. Coin, September 14, 1967.

1582 1880-CC Net VF-30; sharpness of EF-45, obverse burnishe and numerous surfaces marks are noted. However, still a desi able specimen.

Purchased from Quality Sales Corporation's auction of Novembe 1972, Lot 1212.

1583 1880-CC VF-30. A final example of this popular Carson Cit date.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lo 2310.

1584 1880-O EF-45. A pleasing example with considerable mint lus tre. Several short scratches are noted in the left obverse field Prohibitively rare in AU according to Breen.

Purchased from Paramount, May 8, 1967.

1585 1880-O EF-40. Numerous tiny dents and scratches are note on the obverse. A rare coin and desirable as such.

From Parke-Bernet Galleries, no date given, Lot 176.

Amazing Proof 1881 $10

Fewer Than a Dozen Known

(2X photo)

1586 1881 Proof-64 (PCGS). Almost a full cameo, when viewed from the proper angle, attractive with light golden surfaces. Only 42 pieces were struck in the Proof format, of which probably fewer than 20 were sold, and of which fewer than a dozen can be accounted for today. As is true of all Proofs of this era, a number of these pieces are held in museum collections and others are impaired, yielding a very tiny population in public hands. Of those held by collectors, many are apt to remain in a given cabinet for many years, even decades, even longer (witness our recent sale of the Childs Collection in which certain gold coins remained in that cabinet for well over a century, completely unavailable to several generations of numismatists). The present coin, combining high grade, quality, and rarity represents an exceedingly important opportunity.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Stack's sale of May 1974, Lot 497.

1587 Trio of 1881 eagles: ☆ AU-58 (2) ☆ AU-55. (Total: 3 pieces)

1588 1881 AU-55. Lustrous light yellow gold surfaces.

1589 1881-CC AU-55. A well-struck example with numerous light obverse marks and abrasions.

Purchased from Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3250.

1590 1881-CC AU-55. A prooflike specimen that is very attractive. Difficult to locate this choice.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 720.

1591 1881-O EF-45. A nice example of this issue. Today, the population is probably no more than 5% of the production quantity of 8,350 coins.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, August 4, 1967.

Lovely Liberty Head Group

1592 Selection of Liberty Head eagles, each being of a different variety, and, interestingly, including specimens from each of the mints that struck eagles: Philadelphia, Carson City, Denver, New Orleans, and San Francisco. The examination and contemplation of this interesting group should bring great joy to its next owner. ☆ 1881-S EF-45 ☆ 1888-S EF-40 ☆ 1891-CC EF-45 ☆ 1892 AU-58 ☆ 1893 AU-58 ☆ 1893-CC VF-30 ☆ 1894-O EF-45 ☆ 1897 MS-60 ☆ 1901-S MS-60 ☆ 1902-S EF-45 ☆ 1906-D AU-55 ☆ 1907 MS-60. Mostly brilliant with nice lustre. (Total: 12 pieces)

Lovely Cameo Proof 1882 $10

Incredibly Rare

(2X photo)

1593 1882 Proof-64 (PCGS). A wonderful cameo Proof with bright yellow devices and deeply mirrored fields. Again, here is another prime rarity, a coin with very few equals in private hands. Of the original 44 pieces that were struck, it is doubtful that as many as 15 survive.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (Proof-65).

Nice Liberty Head $10 Group

1594 Grouping of Liberty Head eagles, each a different date and mint, and including along the way at least one from each of the various mints that struck the denomination: ☆ 1882 EF-45 ☆ 1889-S AU-50 ☆ 1891-CC EF-40, lightly brushed ☆ 1892 AU-50 ☆ 1893 AU-53 ☆ 1893-S AU-58 ☆ 1897 AU-58 ☆ 1899-O AU-50 ☆ 1901-S AU-58 ☆ 1902-S AU-58 ☆ 1905-S VF-35 ☆ 1906-D EF-45 ☆ 1906-S AU-58 ☆ 1907 AU-58 ☆ 1907-D AU-50. (Total: 15 pieces)

High-Grade 1882-CC $10

1595 1882-CC AU-58 (PCGS). Sharply struck with bright yello gold lustre, frosty in appearance. Just 6,764 examples we struck. Today, most pieces on the market are in lower grade In fact, Walter Breen notes that this issue is "prohibitively ra above EF." No doubt most if not all originally circulated stat side, with some later going overseas in bulk shipments–l which time the coins already had wear.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Purchased from Douglas Weaver, August 30, 1973.

Another Nice 1882-CC $10

1596 1882-CC AU-55 (PCGS). Reflective light yellow gold lustr with sharp design details and very minor surface marks. A other opportunity to acquire a high-grade example of this ra ity.

PCGS Population: 9; 4 finer (AU-58 finest).

High-Grade 1882-O $10

1597 1882-O AU-55. A well-struck and attractive example wit somewhat prooflike surfaces. A small vertical scrape is see before Liberty's lips. Breen lists this date and mint as "Prohib tively rare in AU."

Purchased from N.K.S., September 5, 1967.

1598 1882-O AU-50. A lovely example with attractive prooflike su faces. The obverse displays a few nicks and scratches whic preclude a higher grade. Worthy of a substantial bid.

Purchased from Arizona Stamp & Coin, April 14, 1969.

Highly Important Proof 1883 $10

Population: 12 to 15

(2X photo)

1599 1883 Proof-64 (PCGS). Attractive light gold with very pleasing surfaces. While 47 pieces were issued in Proof, it is believed that only a dozen or perhaps as many as 15 exist today, creating a great rarity and, in the present instance, a highly important opportunity.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1097; earlier from Davis-Graves, April 1954, Lot 885.

Lustrous 1883-CC Eagle

1600 1883-CC Tall Close mintmark. AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous honey gold with some prooflike reflectivity in the recessed areas. A rare and popular branch mint issue, one of only 12,000 examples of the date struck. Called "very rare above EF" by Walter Breen, a fact seemingly acknowledged by the PCGS *Population Report.*

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer (MS-60 finest).

A pair of tiny die chips has caused some raised areas of metal between the dentils and the two innermost points of the last obverse star.

In his *Encyclopedia,* Walter Breen describes mintmark varieties for this date, loosely fitting them into broad categories of "Small wide CC" and "Tall close CC." We have given the 1883-CC eagles in this section careful scrutiny, and as a result, will make appropriate mintmark descriptions for each of the specimens offered here. However, Breen *Encyclopedia* numbers have not been assigned to these varieties, as none exactly match Breen's descriptions. Here is an area that is wide open for numismatic research.

The mintmark on this specimen is centered in the field slightly higher than mid-point, with the first C over the left upright of the N in TEN, and with the second C above the right upright of the N. The mintmark letters are tilted slightly left, with the second C slightly higher than the first C. The bottommost tip of the feather is above a point midway between the two letters, which are less than a letter's width apart. The overall size and spacing of the letters indicates that Breen would have classified this mintmark "Tall close CC."

Purchased from Douglas Weaver, August 30, 1973.

1601 1883-CC Tall Close mintmark. EF-45. An attractive example with somewhat prooflike surfaces.

Mintmark slightly left and at a point above midway in the field, and tilted slightly left, the second C slightly higher than the first C. First C above space between E and N, slightly more over N. Second C nearly over right upright of N. Point of arrow feather even with back of second C. Less than a letter's space between the letters of the mintmark, one of Breen's "Tall Close" mintmark varieties.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, July 28, 1969.

1602 1883-CC Small Wide mintmark. EF-45. A very attractive example with fully prooflike surfaces and unusual as such. A small scrape is noted in the reverse field near the eagle's head. Another important opportunity to acquire an example of this popular Carson City eagle.

What is probably the remnants of an errant 8 is seen in the upper loop of the first 8 in the date.

Mintmark slightly above the halfway point in the field, first C tilted slightly left, and above space between E and N, mainly over N. Second C above right upright of N and partly over the field to the right of that letter. Point of feather mid-way between the mintmark letters, those slightly further apart than the width of one of those letters. This mintmark fits Breen's "Small Wide" mintmark classification.

From N.K.S., April 4, 1968.

1603 1883-CC Tall Close mintmark. VF-35. Mellow medium gold. No serious marks or impairments.

Same mintmark style as Lot 1601. This is the variety Breen referred to as the Doubled Reverse die.

1604 1883-CC Tall Close mintmark. VF-35. Some traces of lustre remain. The tops of the letters of UNITED STATES OF are doubled.

Same mintmark style as Lot 1601.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, Lot 2313.

1605 1883-CC Tall Close mintmark. VF-35. Mint lustre remains in the recesses. A final 1873-CC.
Same mintmark style as Lot 1600.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, October 7, 1968.

1606 1883-S AU-55. A lustrous and attractive example of this date. Breen notes that this date is "usually weakly struck," this *sharply struck* piece being an exception!
From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1969, Lot 470.

1607 1883-S AU-55. A fully lustrous, well-struck specimen that is worthy of a substantial bid. Note that this coin also is an exception to the usual weak striking.
Purchased from Julian Leidman, November 26, 1969.

Landmark 1884 $10

Population: 8 to 10

(2X photo)

1608 **1884 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Lovely mellow gold over orange peel surfaces similar to the fields seen on Proof coins of the period. The present coin combines exquisite beauty, high grade, and extreme rarity. Walter Breen estimates that fewer than eight pieces survive. Of these, at least two are held by museums, and others are nicked and scratched. It might be that just three, four, or five equivalent quality pieces exist in all of numismatics!
PCGS Population: 9; none finer.
Purchased from Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 483.

"Canceled Die" 1884-CC $10

1609 **1884-CC Breen-7019. AU-55 (PCGS).** Light greenish yello gold with sharp design details and very minor abrasions. Co siderable reflective lustre remains. The obverse has sever raised lines on the bust of Liberty, these described by Bree under the classification of "canceled obverse." He was sugges ing that the obverse die was cancelled by Mint workmen wh tried to efface it (unsuccessfully) before it went to press. A interesting and valuable eagle, one for which there is a place an advanced collection of Carson City coins.
From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, April 1968, L 2314.

1610 **1884-CC Breen-7019. "Canceled obverse." EF-45.** Same var ety as the preceding. A very pleasing specimen with abundar mint lustre and problem-free surfaces.

Highly Important Proof 1885 $10

Incredible Rarity

(2X photo)

1611 1885 Proof-64 (PCGS). Lovely mellow gold over orange peel surfaces set off a lovely cameo effect. A splendid specimen which ranks as one of the finest of 15 to 18 remaining from an original production of 67 coins. Few museums or private collections can compete with the quality of the Bass Collection specimen. Another incredible opportunity, one that has been in just two cabinets since the time it was minted!

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (Proof-65).

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 489.

Cameo Proof 1886 $10 Rarity

(2X photo)

1612 1886 Proof-64 (PCGS). A beautiful piece, with frosted surfaces giving a cameo effect against deep mirror fields. Only 60 pieces were struck, probably no more than 30 were sold, and perhaps half that number or so can be traced today. Again we have a combination of exquisite beauty and aesthetic appeal, high grade, and significant rarity. A truly marvelous opportunity.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (Proof-65).

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of April 1972, Lot 1278.

Gem Proof 1887 $10

Few Equals Anywhere

(2X photo)

1613 1887 Proof-65 (PCGS). Another lovely cameo Proof, one of fewer than 20 believed to survive from a mintage of 80. As related earlier in the present text, Proof eagles had a very high attrition rate, as they had no significant market value until over a half century past their striking dates!

Of those that survive today, few 1887 $10 pieces can equal the quality of the Bass Collection coin offered here. As such, a liberal bid is indicated. For those who are sensitive to "grading numbers," we reiterate that in our opinion PCGS has tended to be a bit conservative, and it may well the case that another grading service would be happy to add a higher number to its own holder (of course, calling a coin a specific higher grade does not make it one).

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1108.

1614 1887-S MS-62. A lustrous, well-struck example of an issue th seems to have been a part of overseas shipment, with the resu that many pieces seen today are in such grades as AU ar lower ranges of Mint State. Of course, to have peaks one mu have valleys in contrast. Similarly, to build a solid foundatio of collecting interest in rare $10 pieces one must have co mon issues that are easily acquired, these to provide a bas foundation and jumping-off spot. In such a category th 1877-S belongs.

Purchased from N.K.S., May 23, 1968.

Important Proof-64 1888 $10

(2X photo)

1615 1888 Proof-64 (PCGS). Lovely mellow gold over orange pee surfaces in the fields. The devices are frosty giving rise to th very desirable cameo effect. Perhaps 20 to 25 specimens sur vive. Another rare coin, another rare opportunity.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

From Stack's sale of May 1974, Lot 500.

1616 1888 AU-58. Somewhat subdued lustre.

From Superior's sale of May 1973, Lot 752.

1617 **1888-O MS-62.** A lustrous, well-struck example that is at the high end of this grade. Mint lustre is complete and is very attractive. Three small copper spots are noted on the reverse. While plentiful in circulated grades this issue is extremely difficult to locate in Mint State. Here is an important purchase opportunity.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 18, 1972.

Marvelous Liberty Head $10 Starter Collection

1618 **A very nice starter collection of Liberty Head eagles of the later range of dates,** commencing in 1888 and concluding in 1906, and along the way including many interesting dates and mints. All coins are of high quality, and are excellent examples of the designated grades. All have lustre, and most are brilliant. The higher the grade, the more the brilliance and the more the lustre, as might be expected. A lovely way to start a specialized collection, perhaps a foundation such as to which we alluded in our earlier description with Lot 1614. ☆ 1888-O AU-58 ☆ 1898 AU-58 ☆ 1898-S EF-40 ☆ 1899 MS-60 ☆ 1899-O AU-55 ☆ 1900 MS-60 ☆ 1901 MS-60 ☆ 1901-O AU-55 ☆ 1901-S MS-61 ☆ 1902 EF-45 ☆ 1902-S MS-61 ☆ 1903 AU-55 ☆ 1903-O AU-58 ☆ 1903-S AU-50 ☆ 1904 AU-53 ☆ 1904-O AU-58 ☆ 1905 MS-62 ☆ 1905-S AU-50, lightly cleaned ☆ 1906 AU-58 ☆ 1906-D MS-62 ☆ 1906-O AU-58. Mostly brilliant and lustrous. All are attractive for the grade assigned. (Total: 21 pieces)

One Dozen Liberty Head Eagles

1619 **One dozen Liberty Head eagles, all different dates and mints:** ☆ 1888-O AU-58 ☆ 1889-S AU-50 ☆ 1891-CC EF-40 ☆ 1893 AU-58 ☆ 1897 AU-50 ☆ 1899-O EF-45 ☆ 1901-S MS-60 ☆ 1902-S MS-61 ☆ 1906-D AU-55 ☆ 1906-S EF-40 ☆ 1907 AU-50, lightly brushed ☆ 1907-D AU-58. Mostly brilliant with nice lustre. (Total: 12 pieces)

1620 **1888-S MS-62.** An attractive, lustrous specimen with greenish gold toning in the peripheries. While the 1888-S is plentiful in circulated grades it becomes more difficult to locate at this grade level.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of October 1968, Lot 948.

Memorable Proof 1889 $10

Extreme Rarity

(2X photo)

1621 **1889 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Lovely cameo Proof with very light yellow devices and deeper fields. A wonderful example for the date or type collector. Although 45 Proofs are said to have been minted, probably fewer than 20 were sold and it is doubtful if more than a dozen can be traced today. As is true of all Proofs of this era, some are in institutions, others are damaged or otherwise impaired. The number of pieces in the Bass Collection—a combination of high numerical grade with excellent aesthetic appeal—is very low. To these attributes can be added the fact that the 1889 eagle is rare as a *date* in any and all grades, business strikes being very elusive.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

1622 **1889 AU-55.** A delightful coin with lovely surfaces and traces of mint lustre showing through. Only 4,440 pieces were issued for circulation. This is one of the rarest Philadelphia business strike issues of the period. Only occasionally does a specimen come on the market.

Important Proof 1890 $10

Rare and Beautiful

(2X photo)

1623 1890 Proof-64 (PCGS). An interesting and desirable example of this rarity, one of the very finest known, when one considers the high numerical number plus the high aesthetic appeal, the last consideration being every bit as important as the number itself. It seems that many if not most gold Proofs of this era were handled very carelessly at the Mint—jostled around in drawers and nicked and marked—as, indeed, Walter Breen commented in his Proof coin *Encyclopedia*. Thus, by the time that the typical piece left the mint, it was probably closer to Proof-60 than to Proof-65!

Regarding the 1890, 63 pieces were said to have been struck, perhaps 30 or so were sold, and perhaps two dozen survive today. Most of these are of a quality far less than the piece offered here.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Under magnification it is revealed that the die for the portrait of Miss Liberty had been touched up before striking, leaving polished areas near the ear and eye. Most of the field below the portrait also has been polished in the die, and curls behind the neck are incomplete. This characteristic is true of all authentic Proofs and is mentioned simply as a point of interest (any "Proof" lacking these features is apt to be a fake!).

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1116.

1624 1890-CC AU-58. The obverse field has several light nicks a abrasions. The reverse is relatively free of these. A scarce iss with a mintage of only 17,500.

From Paramount's sale of May 1966, Lot 613.

Glittering Gem Proof 1891 $10

The Eliasberg Coin

(2X photo)

1625 1891 Proof-65 (PCGS). A sparkling beauty that is certain t delight its new owner. The color is mellow gold and the field are fully reflective. Perhaps 15 specimens survive out of a tot original mintage of 48 pieces. Once again, high numerica grade plus exquisite aesthetic appeal come together to create landmark offering.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

From our sale of the Eliasberg Collection, October 27, 1982, Lo 795.

1626 1891-CC MS-60. Repunched mintmark. Pleasing mint lustre.

1627 Pair of 1891-CC eagles grading AU-58. Both brilliant wit mint lustre. (Total: 2 pieces)

Trio of AU Eagles

1628 Trio of 1891-CC eagles grading AU-55. All are brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 3 pieces)

Attractive 1892 Proof $10

Important Rarity

(2X photo)

1629 1892 Proof-64 (PCGS). Attractive light gold over fully brilliant surfaces. A pleasing specimen that will no doubt delight its new owner. From the original mintage of 72 specimens, it is believed that fewer than 30 survive today. As is the case with many if not most of these issues, quality coins are few and far between on the market today.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Marks Collection, November 9, 1971, Lot 1653.

Breathtaking Cameo Proof 1893 $10

(2X photo)

1630 1893 Proof-64 (PCGS). The frosted devices are accentuated by "black" fields. From a mintage of 55 pieces it is believed that fewer than 20 examples survive today. Take away pieces in museums as well as damaged coins and it is probably the case that fewer than 10 really nice examples are in private hands, of which this is one.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (Proof-65).

The die for the figure of Liberty has been polished near the ear and in the field beneath Miss Liberty, this being characteristic of all authentic issues.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 1970, Lot 3254.

1631 1893 MS-63. A lustrous example with light abrasions, particularly on the obverse. One of the most readily available dates in the series, an ideal type coin.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 765.

Large Selection of Liberty Head Eagles

1632 Large selection of 20 Liberty Head eagles, each a different date and mint: ☆ 1893 AU-50 ☆ 1894 AU-55 ☆ 1894-O EF-45 ☆ 1895 AU-50 ☆ 1895-O AU-55 ☆ 1897 AU-50 ☆ 1897-O EF-45 ☆ 1897-S AU-55 ☆ 1899-O EF-40 ☆ 1901-S VF-35, cleaned ☆ 1902-S VF-35 ☆ 1903-O AU-50 ☆ 1905 AU-53 ☆ 1905-S EF-40 ☆ 1906 AU-50 ☆ 1906-D AU-58 ☆ 1906-S EF-45 ☆ 1907 MS-62 ☆ 1907-D AU-58 ☆ 1907-S AU-50. This is the last issue in the Liberty Head series. Each with varying degrees of original mint lustre. Another marvelous opportunity to acquire a foundational collection of this interesting and somewhat elusive (compared to denominations higher and lower) denomination. (Total: 20 pieces)

1633 1893-CC EF-45. A pleasing example of the last Carson City $10 piece, a coin with excellent eye appeal. Only 14,000 coins were struck.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, January 22, 1968.

Attractive Liberty $10 Selection

1634 Selection of Liberty Head eagles, each a different date and mint: ☆ 1893-O AU-58 ☆ 1895-O AU-50 ☆ 1897 VF-35 ☆ 1897-O AU-50 ☆ 1897-S VF-35 ☆ 1899 AU-53 ☆ 1899-O EF-40 ☆ 1900 EF-40 ☆ 1901 AU-55 ☆ 1901-S MS-62 ☆ 1902 AU-55 ☆ 1903 EF-45 ☆ 1903-O AU-53 ☆ 1905 AU-53 ☆ 1905-S EF-40 ☆ 1906 AU-50 ☆ 1906-D AU-58 ☆ 1906-S EF-40 ☆ 1907 MS-62 ☆ 1907-D MS-62 ☆ 1907-S AU-50. Most are brilliant with pleasing mint lustre. A very nice grouping which includes issues of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (Total: 21 pieces)

Twenty Different Liberty Head $10s

1635 Large grouping of Liberty Head eagles representing 20 different dates and mints: ☆ 1893-O AU-55 ☆ 1894 AU-58 ☆ 1894-O AU-50 ☆ 1895 AU-55 ☆ 1895-O AU-55 ☆ 1897 MS-60 ☆ 1897-O AU-55 ☆ 1897-S VF-35 ☆ 1898 AU-58 ☆ 1898-S EF-45 ☆ 1899 MS-60 ☆ 1899-O AU-55 ☆ 1899-S AU-50 ☆ 1900 MS-62 ☆ 1901 MS-60 ☆ 1901-O AU-58 ☆ 1901-S MS-62 ☆ 1902 AU-53 ☆ 1902-S MS-62 ☆ 1903 MS-62. Those AU and finer are brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 20 pieces)

Superb Gem Proof-66 1894 $10

A Numismatic Landmark

(2X photo)

1636 1894 Proof-66 (PCGS). This magnificent specimen is the *cr de la crème* of this issue, quite possibly exceeded by no oth example from its mintage. Just 43 Proofs were struck, of wh fewer than half survive. Even a Proof-63 coin would be a gr attraction. The present coin, an "old friend" from the magn cent Fairfield Collection, now emerges after 22 years in hidi

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

From our sale of the Fairfield Collection, October 6-8, 1977.

Grouping of Liberty Head Eagles

1637 Grouping of 20 different Liberty Head eagles, another ve attractive selection that could well form the foundation fo specialized cabinet. ☆ 1894 MS-60 ☆ 1894-O AU-50 ☆ 18 AU-58 ☆ 1895-O AU-55 ☆ 1896 AU-58 ☆ 1896-S VF-20 ☆ 18 MS-62 ☆ 1897-O AU-58 ☆ 1897-S AU-53 ☆ 1898 MS-60 1898-S AU-55 ☆ 1899 MS-62 ☆ 1899-O AU-58 ☆ 1899-S AU- ☆ 1900 MS-62 ☆ 1900-S AU-50, cleaned ☆ 1901 MS-61 ☆ 190 O MS-60 ☆ 1902-S EF-45 ☆ 1906-D AU-55. Ever popular as t first Denver Mint issue. Mostly brilliant and lustrous. (Total: pieces)

1638 1894-O AU-58. A lustrous example with reflective surfaces. A nice type coin.
From Lester Merkin's sale of April 1969, Lot 493.

1639 1894-O AU-58. Fully lustrous and very attractive.
From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 384.

1640 **1894-S AU-53.** Considerable lustre remains. Breen comments, "Extremely rare AU." Extremely rare this may be, but the market price is quite modest.
Purchased from Arnold Rosing, June 5, 1967.

Memorable Proof 1895 $10

(2X photo)

1641 **1895 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A glittering cameo Proof, a splendid specimen from a mintage of just 56 pieces. The vast majority have disappeared, with Walter Breen indicating that possibly 18 to 20 survive. Of those, few could equal the coin now offered. Another major opportunity.

1642 **1895-S AU-50.** Sharply struck and very attractive. Mint lustre remains on both obverse and reverse. Breen comments that this date and mint is "prohibitively rare AU."
From Abe Kosoff's C.S.N.A. sale, November 1968, Lot 966.

Gem Proof 1896 Eagle

Among Finest Known

(2X photo)

1643 **1896 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A glittering cameo Proof, one of about two dozen surviving from a mintage of 78 coins. Few pieces in all of American numismatics can equal the quality of this splendid specimen. Another major opportunity for the connoisseur.
PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (Proof-66).

1644 1896-S AU-50. Traces of mint lustre are found in the recesses. A pleasing specimen devoid of any distracting marks or abrasions. Breen notes: "prohibitively rare AU." The buyer looking for *worthwhile opportunities* in American coinage may well consider that as we go to press the present coin has an indicated market value of only several hundred dollars. Where else can one buy something that is called "prohibitively rare AU" by one of America's leading experts, and pay just a few hundred dollars for it?!
Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, June 25, 1968.

1645 1896-S AU-50. Just a hint of mint lustre in the recesses. Difficult to locate this choice. We strongly recommend that prospective bidders spend much time contemplating the offerings in the present catalogue, as there are many scarce and rare coins—the present 1896-S $10 included—that have not been publicized and are not widely known to the collecting community. Thus, the alert buyer who bids aggressively is apt to acquire pieces that cannot be found elsewhere except with much effort, and in some instances cannot be found at all.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 762.

Dazzling Gem Proof 1897 $10

(2X photo)

1646 **1897 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Attractive light yellow gold. An impressive specimen that surely ranks as one of the finest known. Perhaps 30 to 40 exist from a mintage of 69 pieces. Few can hold a candle to the present coin quality-wise.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1135.

1647 **1897-O MS-61.** A pleasing, lustrous example. A small area of tiny marks is noted beneath the eagle's left wing. Popular New Orleans issue.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, April 11, 1972.

Dazzling Gem 1898 Proof $10

(2X photo)

1648 **1898 Proof-65 (PCGS).** The devices are contrasted to the r ror fields giving a wonderful cameo effect. The light gold co is very pleasing. Breen estimates that 35 to 40 Proofs survive the 67 pieces struck. Quite a few extant Proof 1898 eagles h been scratched or damaged, and a few are held by museu There are probably no more than a half dozen to 10 pie that are in a class with the lovely Bass Collection gem.

PCGS Population: 9; 6 finer (Proof-67 finest).

From Stack's sale of the Forrest Collection, September 1972, 538.

Selection of Liberty Head Eagles

1649 **Large grouping of Liberty Head eagles, all different da and mints:** ☆ 1898 AU-55 ☆ 1898-S VF-35 ☆ 1899 AU- brushed ☆ 1899-O AU-53. Very scarce; seldom seen in a gra higher than this ☆ 1900 AU-58 ☆ 1901 AU-55 ☆ 1901-O AU ☆ 1901-S MS-61 ☆ 1902 EF-40 ☆ 1902-S MS-61 ☆ 1903 AU ☆ 1903-O AU-55 ☆ 1903-S EF-45 ☆ 1904 AU-50 ☆ 1904-O A 55 ☆ 1905 MS-60, light obverse scratch ☆ 1905-S AU-50 1906 AU-58 ☆ 1906-D MS-61. First year of the Denver Mint 1906-O AU-55. Last year of the New Orleans Mint coinage this denomination. Mostly brilliant and lustrous. (Total: pieces)

Attractive 1899 Proof Eagle

1650 **1899 Proof-62 (PCGS).** Sharply struck cameo Proof in deep green-gold. A delightful example at the Proof-62 level, not a gem by any means, but a "high end" Proof-62 which is certainly equal some we have seen called Proof-63 or even Proof-64 elsewhere. Only 86 Proofs were struck, of which perhaps a third survive. As a reality check, we estimate that if 25 to 30 survive (per Breen), the present piece is probably just above mid range, say with 15 lower grade coins and 10 to 15 higher grade pieces.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1139.

1651 1899-S MS-62. A lustrous example of a coin that is celebrating its centennial this year.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 3, 1968.

Notable Quality 1900 Proof Eagle

Splendid Gem

(2X photo)

1652 **1900 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Lovely light yellow gold. A notable quality example of this issue, last date of the 19th century (or first date of the 20th century, if you prefer and are not a mathematician). Only 120 coins were struck, of which no more than a third survive today. This is certainly one of the finest known.

PCGS Population: 5; 6 finer (Proof-67 finest).

From Stack's sale of May 1974, Lot 506.

1653 **1900 MS-61.** Pale gold with numerous light bagmarks as you would expect at this level.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 1141.

Impressive Proof 1901 $10

(2X photo)

1654 1901 Proof-64 (PCGS). Beautiful mellow gold color is a joy to behold. The fields are highly reflective, setting off the frosted devices with a cameo effect. A very impressive, very beautiful and very rare coin. Probably only 30 to 40 exist, and of these the present coin is no doubt in the top 10 or 15 survivors quality-wise.

This is Breen's No. 7070, with the first three numerals of the date repunched. He estimates that "possibly 30-40 survive."

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1145.

Brilliant Proof 1902 Eagle

1655 1902 Proof-63 (PCGS). A very nice example of this issue. T Proof coinage amounted to 113 pieces, of which 35 to 40 s vive today, some being damaged and impaired, others in n seums. Probably only a dozen or so pieces are nicer than t one.

The portrait of Miss Liberty was lightly polished *in the die* on this issue, t characteristic being true of all authentic Proof strikings. The same for was continued in 1903 (and is better known for the 1903 date, although 1902 pieces are similar).

From Stack's sale of May 1974, Lot 508.

1656 1902-S MS-63. A pleasing specimen with highly reflecti fields. A significant number of Mint State pieces of this da and mint were discovered in the early 1970s, thus providi the opportunity to acquire a frosty San Francisco eagle f relatively low cost. As such, this is an excellent consideratio for a type set.

From Stack's sale of September 28, 1967.

1657 1902-S MS-63. A fully lustrous specimen that is particularly tractive. Sharply struck and very desirable.

Dazzling Proof 1903 $10

(2X photo)

1658 1903 Proof-64 (PCGS). This is the second year that fully brilliant Proofs were issued. A lovely quality piece, certainly at the high end of the Proof-64 grade range and likely a candidate for Proof-65. Few equivalent or nicer pieces exist among the three dozen or so coins surviving from a mintage of 96 pieces.

All authentic Proofs of this year are from an obverse die with the portrait of Miss Liberty polished.

From Paramount's sale of March 1973, Lot 1115.

Choice Proof 1904 Eagle

1659 1904 Proof-63 (PCGS). A wonderful specimen that at first appears to be a gem, and quite a few observers would call it that. However, under close magnification some minor hairlines are visible, prompting the experts at PCGS to call this Proof-63. This is certainly "a lot of coin for the money," and prospective buyers would do well to examine it carefully. Of the 108 Proofs struck, probably no more than a third exist today. The present coin is probably in the top 45% of survivors quality-wise.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lot 2571.

1660 1904 MS-63. A very pleasing specimen that is definitely at the high end of this grade range. Fully lustrous and brilliant. This would make a welcome addition to a high quality type set.

From Lester Merkin's sale of July 1970, Lot 456.

Rare Proof 1905 Eagle

(2X photo)

1661 1905 Proof-64 (PCGS). Attractive light gold. A nice example of this rare Proof issue. Of the 86 coins struck, perhaps slightly more than a third survive today. An important opportunity.

PCGS Population: 5; 4 finer (Proof-66 finest).

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 14, 1970, Lot 1157.

1662 1905-S AU-58. The 1905-S is rare in Mint State, this piece is only a whisper away from that level. Fully brilliant and quite pleasing.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, June 25, 1968.

Splendid Proof 1906 Eagle

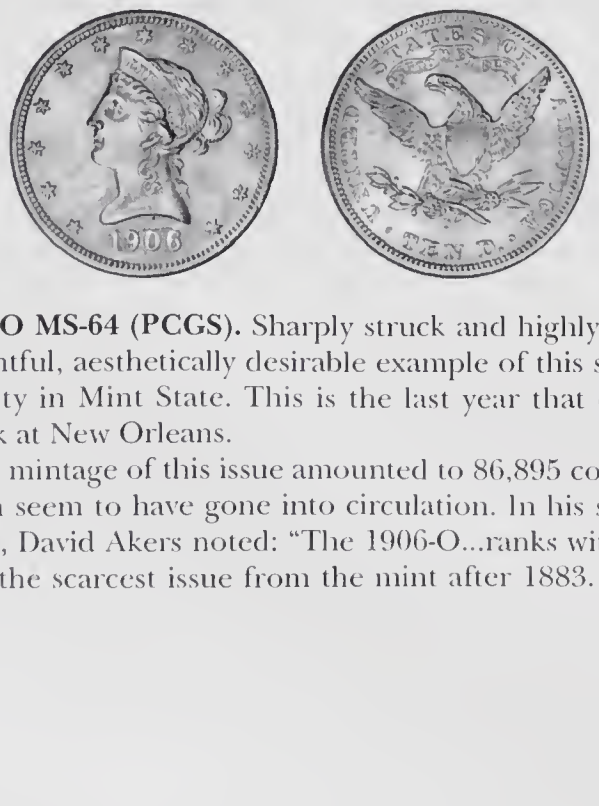
(2X photo)

1663 1906 Proof-64 (PCGS). Attractive light gold color. A splendid specimen remaining from a low Proof mintage of only 77 coins. We doubt if more than 10 or 15 survivors are of this quality or finer.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of December 18, 1970, Lot 3263.

Impressive and Rare 1906-O $10

Outstanding Quality



1664 1906-O MS-64 (PCGS). Sharply struck and highly lustrous. A delightful, aesthetically desirable example of this scarce issue, a rarity in Mint State. This is the last year that eagles were struck at New Orleans.

The mintage of this issue amounted to 86,895 coins, most of which seem to have gone into circulation. In his study of the series, David Akers noted: "The 1906-O...ranks with the 1899-O as the scarcest issue from the mint after 1883. Most specimens are fairly high grade EF or AU, but strictly Uncirculate examples are very scarce. Choice and especially gem quali Uncirculated specimens are rare and seldom encountered."

Today it is difficult to sort reality from fiction, due to th popular practice of resubmitting coins to the same service an crossing them over to other services. As it has been said els where in the present catalogue, multiple listings often repr sent but a single coin. Thus, for a more balanced view it is ne essary to look to the wisdom of those who have studied the s ries, including David Akers, and, in all modesty, ourselves.

PCGS Population: 9; 2 finer (MS-66 finest).

From Paramount's Auction '86, August 5, 1986, Lot 1943.

Important Proof 1907 Eagle

(2X photo)

1665 1907 Proof-64 (PCGS). A sharp Proof with deep mirrore fields. Highly important as a rarity—probably no more tha half or a third survive from a mintage of 74 pieces—and also a the last year of the Liberty Head motif. A numismatic classi by any evaluation, by any standard.

From Stack's sale of the Scanlon Collection, October 1973, Lo 2582.

Wonderful 1908-D No Motto $10

Indian Head Motif

"Errant Mintmark"

1666 1908-D Indian Head. No Motto. MS-64 (PCGS). Satiny orange-gold lustre with very few marks or other impairments. Very slightly weak at center of obverse, which is the norm for authentic specimens of the issue. A coin of hand-picked quality, one that will delight its new owner.

One could easily call the 1908-D No Motto the "Errant Mintmark" variety, for the D mintmark is way out in left field (literally), beyond the branch—in a location completely different from that used on any other mintmark in the series! This characteristic, which is found on all known specimens of the 1908-D Without Motto (but not on those with motto) is not widely known or appreciated and seems to us to lend quite a bit of interest.

From a trade with Stanley Kesselman.

Notable 1909 Indian $10

1667 1909 MS-64 (PCGS). A superb example in deep yellow gold with very sharp design details. The surfaces are nearly flawless, and the piece has tremendous eye appeal. Even though Harry Bass did not specialize in Indian Head $10 pieces and only acquired a few, one can imagine that when he saw this coin he simply had to own it!

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 16, 1972.

1668 1909-S MS-63. Light gold. A few minute contact marks are noted on Miss Liberty's jaw and in the left obverse field. The mint lustre is somewhat subdued. The 1909-S is scarce in Mint State. Most of the known Uncirculated examples are from a tiny hoard discovered in the 1970s.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 1975.

1669 1910-D MS-62. A lustrous example with attractive surfaces.

From the Goliad Corporation's sale of the Verner Collection, August 8, 1972.

Rare 1911-D Eagle

1670 1911-D MS-63 (PCGS). Sharply struck with light yellow gold lustre. This is the lowest mintage regular issue in the series. Rare in all grades, the 1911-D is especially elusive in Mint State, and even more so at the MS-67 level offered here. A find for the astute collector.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 6, 1972.

1671 1912 MS-63. Fully lustrous and attractive.

From Paramount's Auction '79 Sale, Lot 357.

1672 1912-S AU-50. Marks on cheek.

Purchased from Rex McGee.

Lustrous and Beautiful 1913 $10

1673 1913 MS-64. A fully lustrous example. Tiny contact marks are noted on Liberty's lips and chin.

From Abe Kosoff, August 1973, via trade.

1674 1914 MS-63. Numerous contact marks are noted on the face of Miss Liberty.

From Stack's sale of the Delp Collection, November 1972, Lot 852.

Lustrous and Attractive 1914-S $10

1675 1914-S MS-62 (PCGS). Lustrous and attractive, a very nice example in a grade far higher than typically seen for the 1914-S. "Very scarce in Mint State" notes Walter Breen, a significant comment.

1676 1915 MS-63. A pleasing fully lustrous example that is at the high end of this grade designation.

From Stack's sale of April 1973, Lot 1107.

DOUBLE EAGLES 1850 ONWARD

The Bass Collection $20 Double Eagles A Beautiful Selection

Our offering of gold $20 double eagles commences with the first year of issue, 1850, and continues to the early 20th century. Included are the finest Proofs Harry W. Bass, Jr., was able to find in three decades of connoisseurship, plus many important business strikes, including notable rarities. As will be seen in the pages to follow, the Proofs of the 1860s and 1870s combine exceptional condition with extraordinary rarity, followed by the decade of the 1880s, laden with low-mintage dates and three Proof-only issues (1883, 1884, and 1887).

Many of the double eagles in the Bass Collection were acquired in the 1960s and 1970s when choice specimens were more available than they are today. As his numismatic interest became known, Harry Bass was given first choice of many outstanding coins. Among earlier issues, especially of the decades of the 1850s through the 1870s, he was fascinated with minute differences in dies, often involving the date logotype, but also including mintmark variations and die states. In the present catalogue many notes are given of such features.

Our Part III sale is planned to showcase important business strikes and at the same time offer duplicate Proofs (of which the selection is modest in comparison to the present offering).

Numismatic Notes

In 1849 the California Gold Rush was paramount in news accounts, discussions, and activities. Although the extent of the finds in the West would not be realized for some years to come, it was evident that gold, once *rare* in America, would become plentiful. The legislative act of March 3, 1849, reflected this, and created two new denominations: the gold dollar, a utilitarian issue which would become the lowest federal gold denomination to circulate, and the large and heavy $20 double eagle, the latter forming an efficient way to convert bullion to coin form. Several patterns were struck in 1849, of which only one gold impression is known today, residing in the Smithsonian Institution. Beginning in 1850, double eagles were produced in quantity for commerce.

Double eagles were made in six major design types. In the Liberty Head series, from the first year of issue, 1850, mintage was accomplished continuously. New Orleans struck coins in the era 1850-1861 and again in 1879. San Francisco produced the denomination from the year of its opening, 1854, onward; and Carson City struck double eagles for many years during the period 1870-1893. Beginning in 1906, the Denver Mint issued $20 pieces as well.

The $20 denomination was the largest regularly issued American coin. It represented the most efficient way to coin a given amount of gold bullion into coin form. Thus, for most of the years in which double eagles were struck, their total face value far exceeded that of other denominations.

Type I

1850-1866 Liberty Head, No Motto

Designed by James B. Longacre, the obverse features compact head of Miss Liberty, her hair tied in a bun, wear a coronet inscribed LIBERTY. Stars surround, and the dat below. The motif is similar to that used on the gold dollars 1849-1854.

The reverse is a new motif not used elsewhere on Ameri coinage and consists of an eagle with a squared-off shield its breast, holding an olive branch and arrows, with orname to the left and right, stars and rays above, with the inscripti UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TWENTY D. surroundi

The business strike mintage of the type totaled 23,526,6 while an estimated 375 or so Proofs were made.

The type collector will have no difficulty acquiring an ample of one of the more plentiful dates in Very Fine to tremely Fine preservation. AU pieces are scarce. Uncircula pieces are very scarce, and superb Uncirculated coins are ceedingly rare, although occasionally pieces dated 1861 co on the market. Early San Francisco Mint issues, 1854-S throu 1857-S, are sometimes seen with lightly etched surfaces. Su pieces were recovered from shipwrecks and spent a century more subjected to the effects of salt water. Proofs in all stances are exceedingly rare.

Two sunken ships laden with double eagles have been s vaged, and beautiful specimens have come to the surface. T *S.S. Central America*, sunk off the coast of North Carolina September 12, 1857, was found by the Columbus-Amer Discovery Group in the late 1980s, and as the present co ments are being written, various marketing plans are bei discussed. The primary treasure seems to be several thousa beautiful 1857-S double eagles, some of which are gems. T lesser extent, other San Francisco Mint gold coins were cluded in the find, most being of the $20 denomination. Th will make available to the numismatic fraternity many coins a quality and quantity not heretofore encountered.

The *S.S. Brother Jonathan*, sunk off of Crescent City, Calif nia, on July 20, 1865, was found by Deep Sea Research, I During the late 1990s 1,207 coins, mostly double eagles, w recovered from the wreck. An inventory was published in t book *The Treasure Ship S.S. Brother Jonathan*, published in 19 and 1,006 of the coins were sold at auction by Bowers a Merena this past May. Hundreds of 1865-S $20 pieces, incl ing many choice and a few gem pieces came to market, as c some attractive issues of earlier dates in the 1860s. The aucti attracted hundreds of enthusiastic bidders, many of wh were new to the coin collecting hobby. No doubt the mu more extensive *S.S. Central America* coins, when sold, will ha a fantastically beneficial effect upon the market.

By contrast, just about any and all other $20 pieces of t 1850-1866 type range from scarce to rare to non-existent Mint State, an exception being the year 1861 (Philadelp Mint), for which specimens are occasionally seen.

The Bass Collection offers a wonderful selection of doul eagles. The prospective bidder is encouraged to take the

portunity to add to a collection already in progress, or to be-in one. A new era of great popularity for the double eagle—he largest and most impressive American gold coin denomi-nation—seems to be just across the threshold.

Under **Distribution of Double Eagles** below we give an over-iew of how coins of this denomination were minted and cir-ulated. This information, combined with production figures, elps understand why some dates and mintmarks are common nd others are rare. Moreover, often a double eagle can be ommon in a circulated grade but an extreme rarity if Mint tate.

Type II

1866-1876 Liberty Head, Motto, TWENTY D.

In 1866 the reverse of the Liberty Head design was modified y adding the motto IN GOD WE TRUST within the circle of tars above the eagle. This motto was continued from this oint forward. The type minted from 1866 through 1876 is efined by the combination of the IN GOD WE TRUST motto ith the denomination below expressed as TWENTY D.

In 1877 the denomination was expressed differently, thus olating the earlier issues as a distinct type. Production was ontinuous at the Philadelphia and San Francisco mints. arson City coins were produced beginning in 1870, with 870-CC being a rarity today.

Business strike mintage of the Type II double eagle totaled 6,160,758 pieces, to which 335 Proofs can be added.

As fortune would have it, the emergence of *treasure coins* rom the *S.S. Central America* and *S.S. Brother Jonathan* have ade it a reality for the numismatist to acquire a choice or em Mint State specimen of the Type I design (1850-1866). ther circumstances, discussed below under **Collecting Con-derations,** have made Type III double eagles (1877-1907) lentiful in Mint State. However, no such special circum-ances smiled upon the presently discussed Type II coins 866-1876), and in comparison Mint State coins are very rare. he Bass Collection coins offer many opportunities in this gard, an offering that may never be equaled.

Although Mint State coins are scarce or rare and even AU ecimens are elusive, the type set collector can readily obtain e higher-mintage issues in such grades as VF and EF.

Type III

1877-1907 Liberty Head, TWENTY DOLLARS

The Liberty Head obverse motif was continued during the 877-1907 span, as was the reverse with IN GOD WE TRUST ove the eagle. However, the denomination, formerly ex-essed as TWENTY D., was changed to read TWENTY DOL-ARS, thus creating a new type.

Examples were produced continuously at Philadelphia and termittently at Carson City and San Francisco. New Orleans oduced double eagles of this style in 1879, and pieces were uck at Denver in 1906 and 1907.

There are a number of rare issues within the span, with the 1883 and 1884 Philadelphia coins being legendary Proof-only dates and the 1887, also a Proof-only issue, having its own degree of fame.

Business strike mintage of this type totaled 64,137,477 pieces, to which figure can be added 2,426 Proofs.

The type set collector will have no difficulty obtaining a representative example in any grade from Very Fine to AU, with Extremely Fine and AU pieces being abundant. Uncirculated pieces are scarcer and when seen are apt to be dated from the 1890s through 1907. Superb Uncirculated pieces are scarcer yet and when found are apt to be dated 1904. Proofs in all instances are rare, and it is probably the case that as many as two thirds of certain Proofs have been lost.

Type IV

MCMVII (1907) High Relief

Augustus Saint-Gaudens, one of America's most prominent sculptors, was part of a Mint committee in 1890 which considered coinage designs submitted by public competition. It was hoped to replace the Liberty Seated silver designs and Liberty Head gold designs which had been in use for many years. In 1892 he combined his talents with those of Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber to design a medal for the World's Columbian Exposition, with Saint-Gaudens' work appearing on the obverse and Barber's on the reverse. The combination with Barber's work apparently was against his wishes, for as Don Taxay notes in his monumental reference, *The United States Mint and Coinage,* the sculptor avoided the Mint from that time onward until 1905.

In the latter year Theodore Roosevelt commissioned Saint-Gaudens to do his inauguration medal. Pleased with the result, Roosevelt began a correspondence with the sculptor with the view in mind of improving the designs of the national coinage. A letter from Roosevelt dated November 6, 1905, notes:

> How is the gold coinage design coming along? I want to make a suggestion. It seems to me to be worthwhile to try for really good coinage; though I suppose there will be a revolt about it. I was looking up some gold coins of Alexander the Great today [at the small display in the "Castle" building of the Smithsonian Institution], and I was struck by their high relief. Would it be well to have our coins in high relief, and also to have the rims raised? The point of having the rim raised would be, of course, to protect the figure of the coins; and if we have the figures in high relief, like the figures on the old Greek coins, they will surely last longer. What do you think of this?

Saint-Gaudens' reply is quoted in part:

> You have hit the nail on the head with regard to the coinage. Of course the great coins (and you might say the only coins) are the Greek ones you speak of, just as the great medals are those in the 15th century by Pisani and Sperandie. Nothing would please me more than to make the attempt in the direction of the heads of Alexander, but the authorities on modern monetary requirements would I fear "throw fits" to speak emphatically if the thing were done now. It would be great if it could be accomplished and I do not see what the objection would be if the edges were high enough to prevent the rubbing. Perhaps an inquiry from you would not receive the antagonistic reply from those who have the say in such matters that would certainly be made to me.

> Up to the present I have done no work on the actual models for the coins, but I have made sketches, and the matter is constantly in my mind. I have about determined on the composition of one side, which would contain an eagle very much like the one I placed on your medal with a modification that would be advantageous; on the other side some kind of a (possibly winged) figure of Liberty striding forward as if on a mountain top, holding aloft on one arm a shield bearing the stars and stripes with the word Liberty marked across the field; in the other hand perhaps a flaming torch, the drapery would be flowing in the breeze. My idea would be to make it a living thing and typical of progress.
>
> Tell me frankly what you think of this and what your ideas may be. I remember you spoke of the head of an Indian; of course that is always a superb thing to do, but would it be a sufficiently clear emblem of Liberty as required by the law?

Correspondence continued. Saint-Gaudens was commissioned by President Roosevelt to redesign the entire coinage from the cent to the double eagle. The story of the issue is further told in the present catalogue in the notes under Lot 1957, description of a lovely MCMVII High Relief $20, the epitomization of the project.

As forecast by Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber, great problems occurred with striking the coins in high relief. It was found that three blows of the press were necessary in order to bring the design up to the required sharpness. Realizing that the configuration was unacceptable for high speed coinage production, Mint officials decided to strike a limited number and then modify the design. Accordingly, 11,250 of the high relief, MCMVII Roman numerals design were made. The Saint-Gaudens design was then changed to a shallow relief. The Roman numeral date, which caused confusion with the public, was dropped.

Type V

1907-1908 Saint-Gaudens, No Motto

After the 11,250 High Relief MCMVII pieces had been struck, the design was modified under the direction of Chief Engraver Barber at the Philadelphia Mint, and subsequent issues featured shallow relief and the date in Arabic numerals. The first style minted, that produced at the Philadelphia Mint in 1907 and 1908 and in Denver in 1908, lacks the motto IN GOD WE TRUST, for President Theodore Roosevelt personally objected to it.

The general design remained the same as on the MCMVII High Relief issues and depicts Miss Liberty striding forward, with rays and the Capitol building in the background, LIBERTY above, and the date, now expressed in Arabic numerals as 1907 (or 1908), to the lower right.

The reverse is similar and depicts an eagle flying to the left over the sun, with UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and TWENTY DOLLARS in two lines above. Around the obverse border of all Saint-Gaudens $20 issues is a circle of stars, 46 stars on those minted from 1907 through 1911 and 48 stars on those made from 1912 through 1933. The lettered edge, E PLURIBUS UNUM, was continued on this and the next type.

Business strike mintage of the 1907-1908 No Motto double eagle totaled 5,294,968. Examples can be readily obtained in grades from Extremely Fine to AU. Uncirculated pieces are countered with some frequency, but superb Uncirculated c are decidedly scarce, exceptions being 1908 Philadelphia M pieces brought to market in the late 1990s and designate the Wells Fargo Hoard.

Type VI

1908-1933 Saint-Gaudens, With Motto

In 1908 the Saint-Gaudens design was modified by add IN GOD WE TRUST in an arc just above the sun on the verse. Otherwise the design is the same as the preceding. Iss minted from 1908 through 1911 have 46 stars around obverse border, while those minted from 1912 through 1 have 48 stars, reflecting a larger number of states in the Un Numismatists have taken little note of the star counts, therefore the 46- and 48-star issues are not considered t separate types.

Production was accomplished on a fairly continuous b from 1908 through 1933, exceptions being the years 19 1919. Despite high mintages, certain issues of the 1920s rare, for many were simply stored by the Treasury Departm and then melted following the 1933 gold recall.

Business strike mintage totaled a substantial 64,981,4 Matte and Roman Finish Proofs were made to the exten 687 pieces, the total for all dates 1908-1915.

The type set collector will encounter no difficulty findi specimen in Extremely Fine to AU grade. Uncirculated c are relatively plentiful, but superb Uncirculated pieces are sive. In general, issues from 1908 through 1921 are very in superb Uncirculated condition, while certain issues of 1920s, particularly Philadelphia Mint coins from 1924 to 19 are more readily obtained, but still they present a challen

Collecting Considerations

Similar to the situation for $5 and $10 coins, $20 g double eagles were not widely collected by numismatists u the 1930s. In 1893, in his *Mint Marks* monograph, Hea stated that he was not aware of a single numismatist who lected $20 coins by mintmark varieties. The situation did change appreciably by 1909, when Edgar H. Adams publis *Adams Official Premium List of United States Private and Ter rial Gold Coins*. For example, Carson City rarities, so m appreciated by a later generation of numismatists, had no mium value at the time.

Numismatic interest in double eagles arose in the mid-19 advanced strongly in the 1940s, and came of age in the 19 and 1960s, by which time dates and mintmarks were in w demand. Ever since that time popularity has increased, today in 1999 at least several dozen enthusiasts are specia in the series, some concentrating upon certain areas, such Carson City issues or 1907-1933 Saint-Gaudens pieces.

The following study provides a key to the availability double eagles:

Distribution of Double Eagles:

A Key to Availability

Although many $20 gold coins were used in everyday Ameri-an commerce, most found employment in bank transactions. A decade by decade study by QDB reveals the following char-acteristics:

Double Eagles Minted 1850-1859

This is the era of the California Gold Rush. Unprecedented quantities of gold metal were shipped from California to the East, to be minted into coins at Philadelphia and New Orleans. Beginning in 1854, the San Francisco Mint struck double eagles, after which time fewer were made at New Orleans. However, large shipments of gold bullion continued to the East, mainly through the port of New York City, and large quantities of $20 pieces were produced at the Philadelphia Mint.

In this decade, more so than any other in American history, the $20 found use in domestic commerce. On the West Coast, such pieces were commonly encountered in banking and trade. Double eagles were widely used in other areas, especially west of the Mississippi River. In the East and Midwest, most business was conducted via bank notes and credits. Gold coins were not widely used.

Many double eagles were exported, especially to London (a center of gold trading), but also to other European areas as well, plus South America. Such coins were virtually unknown in the Pacific trade, where silver was preferred. Of the double eagles that went to Europe, it seems that most were melted there. No significant hoards of Mint State double eagles of the 1850-1859 years are known to have come to light there in later years.

The *S.S. Central America,* laden with thousands of double eagles including newly-minted 1857-S coins and some earlier issues, mostly from the San Francisco Mint, was sunk in a hurricane on September 12, 1857. As related earlier in the present discussion, many coins were found in the late 1980s by the Columbus-America Discovery Group. These constitute the only significant hoard of Mint State double eagles known to exist.

Numismatic interest during the era: Perhaps two, three, or four collectors acquired Proofs from the Philadelphia Mint, and each year an example of the date was placed in the Mint Cabinet. There was no interest in mintmarked coins.

Double Eagles Minted 1860-1869

Double eagles of 1860 follow the distribution pattern of the preceding decade. On December 28, 1861, Eastern banks stopped paying out gold coins at par. By that time the New Orleans Mint had stopped producing coins and was under the control of the Confederate States of America.

By early 1862, double eagles were available only at a premium in terms of paper money. The same situation existed in the Midwest. From that time until December 14, 1878, gold coins did not circulate in those areas. Trade and commerce was conducted by an array of federal paper money, mainly Legal Tender notes and, later, National Bank notes as well. Fractional Currency notes were made of various denominations from 3¢ to 50¢. Not a single gold coin was to be found in normal circulation.

However, double eagles continued to be struck at the Philadelphia Mint from bullion shipped by sea from California. Such coins were either kept in Treasury vaults or sold at a premium to individuals and firms who used them in the export trade with Europe. While some double eagles shipped to England and elsewhere were melted, many were retained in vaults there. Nearly all were subjected to extensive handling then and later, with the result that a high-grade American double eagle of this era, if found in Europe at a later date, was apt to grade AU or very low Mint State, often with very extensive bagmarks. The typically encountered grade was not high at all, but was more likely to be EF or, sometimes, VF.

The West Coast had entirely different monetary arrangements. Federal paper money was not in general circulation, and commerce was conducted via silver and gold coins. These were aplenty in circulation and traded at face value. However, if anyone wanted to make a purchase in Legal Tender or National Bank notes brought from the East, an appropriate surcharge would be paid. Double eagles struck at the San Francisco Mint were circulated extensively, and over a period of years became worn down to such grades as VF and EF, generally showing much more wear than their lightly used counterparts struck in Philadelphia.

The aforementioned group of 1865-S and earlier $20 pieces recovered from the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* constitute about the only source for choice and gem Mint State double eagles from this decade.

Numismatic interest during the era: Perhaps five to 10 collectors acquired Proofs from the Philadelphia Mint, and each year an example of the date was placed in the Mint Cabinet. There was no interest in mintmarked coins.

Double Eagles Minted 1870-1879

In 1870 the Carson City Mint opened for business. It seems to the writer that the issues of the early 1870s were mostly used in the region in which they were struck. Similar to typical San Francisco double eagles, the coins of the early 1870s wore quickly, with the result that most became designated as VF by a later generation of numismatists. EF coins proved to be scarce, and AU coins were rarities. About mid-decade, after 1873, quantities of lightly circulated Carson City double eagles were used in the export trade, shipped to European and South American markets via the port of San Francisco. Years later, such locations provided the source for specimens, including some high-grade AU and even Mint State coins, but typically EF to AU. However, as Carson City double eagles were, for the most part, minted in small numbers, the quantities found were not extensive.

During the decade double eagles minted in San Francisco continued to be used extensively in commerce, although in this era paper money, including a special issue of National Gold

Bank notes, began to be employed in the West. Many pieces were shipped to Europe and South America. Surviving San Francisco Mint specimens seen today range from VF to low Mint State, with VF, EF, and AU being typical.

Philadelphia Mint coins continued to be used primarily in the export trade, for such coins still did not circulate in commerce. Surviving pieces tend to range in grade from EF to AU, plus some heavily bagmarked low-level Mint State pieces.

The New Orleans Mint began striking double eagles in 1879 and made only 2,325 pieces. It seems that most of these coins were used in domestic circulation. Today, nearly all pieces show extensive wear. This proved to be the beginning and the end for New Orleans involvement in the Type III $20 design, and no further pieces were struck there.

Toward the end of the decade, gold coins were again available in banks in the East and Midwest (see following section).

Numismatic interest during the era: Perhaps 10 to 15 collectors acquired Proofs from the Philadelphia Mint, and each year an example of the date was placed in the Mint Cabinet. There was no interest in mintmarked coins. Numismatists found that there was virtually no resale market for earlier-dated Proofs, and when they tired of owning such pieces, it was often easier to spend them than to find a buyer who would pay a premium. So far as is known, not a single numismatist cared a whit about the newly opened Carson City Mint!

Double Eagles Minted 1880-1889

Beginning on December 17, 1878, gold coins began to circulate at par (in terms of paper money), ending the premium that had been demanded for such coins ever since the waning days of December 1861. A new generation of bankers, merchants, and general citizens became familiar for the first time with large, heavy, and impressive double eagles. In the East and Midwest, currency was so firmly entrenched in commercial channels—with various types including Legal Tender notes, National Bank notes, and the new Silver Certificates, among others—that $20 gold pieces never became popular with the public. On the West Coast paper money came into widespread use, and in populated areas such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Portland, transactions that were once effected in gold coins were now mostly handled by paper. In inland districts such as Nevada, Colorado, and other mountain and desert states, gold coins were seen more often.

San Francisco was the mint of choice, and most double eagles were struck there during the decade.

A large export trade arose with double eagles, and large quantities of newly minted issues as well as circulated older pieces were sent to Europe and South America. Typically jostled together in cloth bags, such pieces soon became extensively nicked and marked as they were moved around from place to place.

Numismatic interest during the era: Perhaps 15 to 30 collectors acquired Proofs from the Philadelphia Mint, and each year an example of the date was placed in the Mint Cabinet. There was no interest in mintmarked coins. The resale market for Proofs continued to be negligible, and many su coins were spent.

Double Eagles Minted 1890-1899

The 1890s were essentially rerun of the scenario of 1880s. Paper money continued to be in use almost everywh except for certain interior desert and mountain states in West. The San Francisco Mint was again the most popu depot for coinage of the double eagle. In 1893 the coin presses at Carson City struck their last coins. After that ti production was limited to San Francisco and Philadelphia, w both making generous quantities, San Francisco remaining the lead.

Numismatic interest during the era: Perhaps 20 to 40 col tors acquired Proofs from the Philadelphia Mint, and each y an example of the date was placed in the Mint Cabinet. T resale market for Proof continued to reflect about a zero mand. More coins were spent.

In 1893 Augustus G. Heaton, an accomplished numismat scholar, and writer, published *A Treatise on The Coinage of United States Branch Mints.* Familiarly designated as Mint Mar the monograph sold well at $1 per copy. The author lis various *causes of attractiveness* in an effort to encourage collecting of silver and gold coins by mintmark varieties. parently, Heaton did not know of even a single numisr tist who collected double eagles by mintmarks. Regarding series he commented:

> DOUBLE EAGLES OR $20 PIECES: In New Orleans double eagles were coined from 1850 to 1861 and not again until 1879. 1854, 1856, and 1879 are very scarce dates. The others should be freely found. The San Francisco Mint has issued this coin from 1854 to the present (except the void year 1886), in such uniformly large amounts that the smallest coinage, in 1887, is of 283,000 pieces. All should be common by this criterion.
>
> Carson City supplies the piece from 1870 to 1885 (except the 1881 and 1882), and from 1889 to the present date of 1893. The first date only should be rare, and 1878, 1879, 1881, and 1885 are rather scarce.
>
> There are in all 71 double eagle mintmarks to 1893, representing a face value of $1,420.

It is seen from the preceding that Heaton was confused c cerning Carson City issues, in one place stating that no 18 or 1882 coins were minted, when in fact both were made fairly large quantities. At the time there was no regularly issu numismatic guide listing coins by dates, mintmarks, and p duction quantities, and it was difficult for collectors to det mine which issues actually were struck. *The Annual Report of Director of the Mint* was helpful in some instances, but ma figures required analysis, as from the late 1850s onward t reports were given in fiscal years (July 1 to the following Ju 30) rather than in calendar years. Thus, for many varietie was no easy matter to determine which coins had been stru bearing specific dates.

Heaton's *Mint Marks* treatise was popular, but few collect could afford or were interested in saving double eagles by rieties other than date.

Double Eagles Minted 1900-1909

These were heady times in the American and international economy (although a hiccup was provided by the Panic of 1907). Large quantities of double eagles were minted, with the year 1904 breaking all previous records with a quantity of over 11 million pieces. It seems that most double eagles were used in the export trade, where such pieces were deposited in the vaults of private and public banks as well as national treasuries.

In terms of gold bullion processed into coins, double eagles accounted for many multiples of the small amounts used for other denominations, which by this time included the $2.50, $5, and $10.

The Denver Mint opened for business in 1906 and thenceforth coined double eagles, among other denominations.

Numismatic interest during the era: Interest in mintmarks perked up slightly, and perhaps two or three numismatists seriously sought such specimens. One individual was J.M. Clapp (who died in 1906), whose coins later passed to his son, John H. Clapp, and in 1942 to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr.

In 1909 Edgar H. Adams, one of the foremost scholars in numismatics, published *Adams' Official Premium List of United States Private and Territorial Gold Coins Indicated by Prices Brought at Public Sales.* Adams was also a coin dealer and had as one of his most important clients William H. Woodin, who sought gold coins by date and mintmark, but concentrated on the denominations from $1 through $3.

Regarding double eagles, Adams did not indicate a single date or mintmark in the Liberty Head series that had even the slightest premium value! For Saint-Gaudens double eagles, which had been minted since 1907, only the MCMVII coins ($30 and $35 value) and the 1907 Arabic numerals varieties ($20.50) were listed!

As demonstrated, collecting interest was very close to the zero mark! It is worth quoting Adams' comment, which also included $10 coins:

"$10 and $20 pieces do not bring much of a premium, as they are sought by only a few collectors. The collectors as a rule value only those $10 gold pieces which were issued from 1795 to 1804, and all such coins are here scheduled."

While it may seem from the mintage figures that there was no demand for Proof double eagles, the facts belie this, and correspondence from Henry Chapman to Robert Garrett in 1911 indicated that a year of searching did not turn up a gold Proof set of the year 1909! Other information suggests that no more than five collectors acquired Proof $20s each year.

Double Eagles Minted 1910-1919

Good times continued in the economy, until August 1914, when the World War broke out in Europe. After that time, conditions in Europe were parlous, while in the United States rampant inflation took place. Double eagles continued to be minted through 1916, after with production ceased.

Large quantities of $20 pieces were exported during the decade. If anything, the wartime conditions in Europe caused great distrust of national currencies on that continent, and highly-regarded United States gold coins were considered to be more desirable than ever.

Within the United States, double eagles were hardly ever seen in circulation, except perhaps in remote towns in the interior of the American West. The $20 gold piece was nearly completely relegated to the status of an international trade coin.

Numismatic interest during the era: There was a modest increase in interest, and it is likely that several numismatists sought new issues as they became available. However, it also seems that no effort was made to track down a date or mintmark if it could not be readily found. The writer has located nothing in numismatic literature to indicate that even a single collector of the decade was interested in the mintage figures, history, or distribution of mintmarked issues.

Double Eagles Minted 1920-1929

After the Treaty of Versailles, which ended the World War, the economy of Europe was in a turmoil, especially within conquered Germany. American gold double eagles continued to be highly prized, and large quantities were minted at Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco. Freshly minted coins were deposited in federal vaults. As export demand arose, the contents of these vaults were tapped. As fortune would have it, some varieties of double eagles were largely exported, while other varieties, including those struck in large quantities, remained in storage.

Of the various issues produced during the decade, the following were exported in quantity: 1920, 1922, 1922-S, 1923, 1923-D, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, and 1928. Many other issues, including Denver and San Francisco coins after 1923, remained in storage, and only a few were ever distributed.

As an example of these unusual arrangements, of the 1923-D double eagle, 1,702,250 were struck, and hundreds of thousands were exported. Today, the 1923-D is readily available in Mint State. On the other hand, for the 1927-S the mintage was 3,107,000, but it seems that very few were ever distributed, perhaps fewer than 1,000 coins. Today, the 1927-S is regarded as an important and expensive rarity.

Numismatic interest during the era: Interest remained very modest and B. Max Mehl, for one, found that certain high denomination Proof gold coins were better spent than listed in his catalogues, as there was little demand for them. Thomas L. Elder, the New York City dealer, bemoaned that the market had relatively few "large buyers," and that the great numismatists of earlier times had no modern counterparts.

In Chicago, Virgil M. Brand, who had been collecting coins of all nations and denominations since the inception of his interest in the 1880s, passed away. Nearly all of his business strike double eagles were later cashed in for face value!

Double Eagles Minted 1930-1933

During the decade, double eagles were minted from 1930 to 1933. In April 1933, the government stopped paying out gold coins at face value and began to call in the pieces held by the

public, except for those of recognized numismatic value. With the coinage of pieces minted early in 1933, the production of the American double eagle ceased.

Business strike double eagles were turned into the Treasury by the millions and melted, and further millions of undistributed issues from the 1920s met the same fate. Meanwhile, foreign banks and governments held on to American $20 pieces more tightly than ever and had no interest in shipping them back to the United States in exchange for freshly printed paper money.

Numismatic interest during the era: Interest was modest, but was beginning to increase. Frederick C.C. Boyd was early in the date-and-mintmark game in the $20 series, Wayte Raymond was interested, and perhaps a handful of others were as well. Still, there was little concern as to which issues minted in recent times, including the 1920s, were scarce. The Treasury Department obligingly provided needed earlier dates of the 1920s and early 1930s, including the 1927-D $20 (which later proved to be a rarity), to anyone who cared to pay face value plus a nominal handling charge.

Epilogue: Collecting Comes of Age
(but too late!)

A widespread interest in double eagles arose in the mid-1930s, when gold coins were absent from circulation and their desirability was recognized.

On August 31, 1934, two young boys, described as poor and underprivileged, were playing in the cellar of a house at 132 South Eden Street, East Baltimore, rented by the father of one of the boys. Henry Grob, age 15, and his companion, Theodore Jones, 16, came upon a cache of gold coins. After a brief discussion as to what should be done, the lads took the treasure to the local police station and turned the find over to the authorities. Later, the boys said that they had "held out" some of the pieces, and these were subsequently added to the first group. One newspaper account put the amount as 3,558 coins with $11,425.50 face value. All were dated before 1857. Meanwhile, at the police station some of the patrolmen "tried their hand at cleaning them with coal oil [kerosene] and vinegar," a procedure definitely not recommended by numismatists!

Multiple claims were filed for ownership. For the rest of 1934 and into May 1935 the matter was in the courts. Meanwhile, although the gold coins were to have remained undisturbed pending the outcome, the family of one of the finders sold $185 worth for face value. Judge Eugene O'Dunne of the Second Circuit Court of Baltimore eventually awarded proceeds from the entire find to the two teenagers, negating an offer by the two ladies who owned the house to give the boys 24%. To finally settle the matter, the court mandated that coins be sold at auction. The sale was held on May 2, 1935 the Lord Baltimore Hotel downtown, with Perry W. Fu serving as auctioneer. About 100 attended including a few o of-town dealers and many local curiosity seekers. Grouped i 438 lots and casually described (most pieces were simply cal "very fine") in a printed catalogue, the hoard reali $19,558.75.

The star of the sale was a "very fine" 1856-O double eagl $105 which went to a Virginia numismatist, setting a record a rare mintmark issue of the denomination. A copy of the s listing was later studied by Walter Breen, who compiled inv tory from it. The following double eagles were included:

1850-dated double eagles: 92 pieces • 1850-O: 5 • 1851: • 1851-O: 10 • 1852: 47 • 1852-O: 2 • 1853: 27 • 1854: 1 1855: 6 • 1855-S: 12 • 1856: 1 • 1856-O: 1 [prized as a rar • 1856-S: 23

News of other events and finds, plus widespread awaren of the instability of banks and financial institutions, drew m citizens to the allure of owning gold and to the challenge collecting double eagles. Within the decade at least a doz numismatists—Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., the Baltimore financ prominent among them—began collecting large denomi tions with a passion.

In 1934, Wayte Raymond launched the first edition o *Standard Catalogue of United States Coins,* which for the fi time brought to the numismatic community a handy sou listing dates, mintmarks, mintage figures, and values. Wh the American economy faltered during the Depression, rare coin market was experiencing boom times, further ac erated by the commemorative craze of 1935-1936, the ini tion of the monthly *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* in 19 and other factors.

In the years since the 1930s, double eagles have beco widely popular. After World War II, various foreign banks a national treasuries yielded millions of long-stored Ameri double eagles, in essence providing the basis for the sup known today. As the series was studied, it was found that c tain issues were common, others rare. Authors such as Wal Breen, David Akers, Douglas Winter, and Lawrence Cut (Carson City gold) shared thoughts, opinions, and discover The present writer (QDB) added his share, including sagas lost treasure ships and hoards. Double eagles became a namic and highly appreciated series.

While much more could be written, the preceding "ess serves as a summary of the double eagle series and the fact determining availability of certain issues today.

Choice Mint State 1850 $20

Among Finest Known
First Year of Issue

(2X photo)

1677 1850 MS-63 (PCGS). Brilliant and deeply frosty. A splendid business strike, one of the finest we have ever seen. The obverse and reverse are both well struck with needle-sharp definition. An ideal coin for the double eagle specialist as well as the type collector.

In 1850 there was no numismatic interest in the new double eagle denomination, or at least the writer has not been able to locate a record of such. Thus, examples were not saved by collectors. Years later when interest finally did develop, double eagles from the decade of the 1850s were found to be well-worn, with typical grades being VF or EF. Regarding the 1850, even a choice AU example can be regarded as scarce.

Among 1850 double eagles from the Philadelphia Mint there are some interesting differences regarding the surface (plain or basined) of the obverse, such not having been studied in detail.

PCGS Population: 1; 2 finer (MS-64).

The date logotype is slightly low, with the 1 closer to the dentils than to the neck truncation. Numerous die striae are seen, at a slight angle to the left of the vertical, from upper right to lower left. The fields are slightly basined, and thus this is probably struck later than the prooflike example in the next lot. Moreover, the present piece seems to be an early impression from the obverse die.

The reverse die has the A (STATES) lightly patched to the left, a situation that recurs in subsequent listings of double eagles of the decade. On the master die the A had only the right-side 40% of the crossbar. Working dies were sometimes left alone (showing just this part of the crossbar) or, more often, patched by adding a line to the left. On the present die a crack connects the tops of ED (UNITED). Another begins above the first S (STATES) and connects the tops of TATES. Yet another extends from F (OF) to the right, intermittently through the tops of AMERICA. Yet another crack begins at the border below W (TWENTY), extends to the right and connects the bases of ENTY D.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 824.

Superb 1850 $20

1678 1850 AU-58 (PCGS). A spectacular coin, virtually of presentation quality. Extremely sharply struck in all areas, with the obverse portrait appearing almost cameo-like. The fields are semi-prooflike, especially on the obverse, giving another aspect of quality to what is truly a remarkable coin.

Representing as this does the first year of issue of the $20 denomination, the inspection of America's most popular (in terms of face value coin) gold issue, this coin will deservedly attract much attention as it is being sold. One could spend *years* in searching and not come up with a comparable example. Truly a *great* coin in every sense of the word.

Multiple dies were used to produce 1,170,261 pieces this year. All are of the same general configuration. The Breen text notes that certain varieties have the ball of the 5 "closed," meaning that it touches the upright above. These do not constitute a significant die varieties as such, but simply refer to the depth in which the four-digit logotype punch was impressed into the working die.

Some varieties of this and later years can be distinguished by having part of the crossbar in A (STATES) broken, this being on the master, not uniquely the working die, as it occurs across a number of years for this decade and beyond.

Even a casual examination of the presently offered Bass Collection double eagle of 1850 reveals that the field is not as dished as that seen on most contemporary issues, including the New Orleans varieties offered subsequently. The obverse is quite plane and is certainly related in concept to certain gold dollars of the preceding year (1849) that also have plane fields. This aspect does not seem to have been discussed in any literature immediately at hand.

For the record, certain die characteristics are given of the piece offered here: the field of the coin is *deep* inside the dentils and, as noted, is not significantly dished or basined. Thus, the dentils are more prominent on this than on the later varieties, and even the spaces between the dentils are significantly elevated in comparison to the fields. The hub die, however, is the same as used later in the era and is distinguished by the relationship of the star points to the nearby dentils, by the inside upper left of Y (LIBERTY) being doubled, and other characteristics. However, the preparation of the working die was significantly different in the present instance. The logotype 1850 was punched into the die in medium depth, giving a "light" date, but still well defined. The left edge of the left serif of the first digit is closer to the left side of a dentils than to its center. The distance to the dentil is about one third that of the distance from the peak of the 1 to the neck above. Doubtless, a review of other $20 dies would show positional differences.

On the reverse the crossbar of the A (STATES) is mostly missing. A fine crack extends from the border through the tops of TE (UNITED), the upper left of the D, and back to the border.

Purchased from Joe Flynn, Jr, August 4, 1972. Later, Harry kept a weather eye out for choice 1850 $20 pieces, and noted that two years later in 1974, Paramount offered him a "bagmarked AU-50."

Pleasing, Lustrous 1850 $20

1679 1850 AU-55. A very nice coin from an early die pair, pleasing and lustrous. While the Bass Collection contains many treasures, and one can almost lose a sense of reality, the fact remains that this particular $20 is one of the finest to come on the market in recent times.

Obverse die with field quite plane, with the result that it has a cameo-like appearance. Ball of 5 barely touching upright, Breen's "closed 5."

A (STATES) normal. Crack begins at border at lower left of T (TWENTY) and continues clockwise to link all the letter tops through the final S in STATES. Another crack connects OF AMERIC.

Purchased from Paramount, February 28, 1974.

1680 Trio of double eagles dated 1850: ☆ EF-45. Some prooflil surfaces seen when the coin is held at an angle to the light VF-35. Some lustre still remains ☆ VF-30. Some prooflike su face. (Total: 3 pieces)

Double Eagle Group

1681 Group of double eagles dated in the 1850s: ☆1850 VF-20 1851 EF-40 (2) ☆ "1853/2" So-called overdate. VF-20 ☆ 185 VF-35 ☆ 1856 EF-45 ☆ 1857 VF-35. An attractive group that c fers a nice selection of dates. (Total: 7 pieces)

Nice $20 Selection

1682 A nice selection of early double eagles: ☆ 1850 VF-20 ☆ 185 VF-30 ☆ 1852 Double Date. EF-40 ☆ 1853 VF-20 ☆ 1856-S V 30 ☆ 1857-S EF-40 ☆ 1858 VF-25 ☆ 1860 EF-45. A nice sele tion from the early range of the series. (Total: 8 pieces)

Attractive 1850-O $20

1683 1850-O AU-55 (PCGS). A very nice example of the first New Orleans issue of the new denomination. Yellow gold probabl from California. Prooflike surfaces are evident particularly i protected areas.

Date logotype impressed rather lightly in the die, giving an "open" 5. Die normal compared to the 1850 earlier described, and now with sufficien basining that the dentils stand on their own as discrete entities, not wit *raised* areas within.

In 1850 New Orleans was a popular stop for steamers and other ships con necting with California commerce via the Isthmus of Panama. Typically, ves sels would go north from Panama (later from Nicaragua as well) and touch at New Orleans or New York City, bringing with them cargoes of gold from the West.

Purchased from N.K.S., March 25, 1970. Harry Bass found the 1850-O to be interesting and formed what he called a "study group of various pieces, but apparently made no detailed notes thereafter.

Another 1850-O $20

1684 1850-O AU-55 (PCGS). A pleasing example of the date, mintmark, and grade.

Date and mintmark both fairly deeply impressed into their respective dies.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 825.

Lustrous Mint State 1851 $20

1685 1851 MS-62 (PCGS). Brilliant, lustrous, and frosty, one of the finest we have seen of the second date in the series, a variety which is not rare in an absolute sense, but which is usually seen well worn. The present coin is a numismatic delight.

The reverse die is oriented about 170° from the obverse, instead of the normal 180° On the obverse the date logotype is deep into the die and is slightly closer to the dentils than to the neck truncation. The stars are somewhat "small," especially near the coronet of Miss Liberty, indicating either relapping (not otherwise evident) or light impression of the master die into the working die.

On the reverse A (STATES) has the crossbar mostly missing and is not corrected. A *massive* die break, certainly unusual in the $20 series, extends from the rim above the first A (AMERICA), down through the tops of ME, and back through the rim. It seems that a chunk of the obverse rim was about to break away, just a few strikes separated from a cud. A smaller crack continues to the right to link the tops of the letters of ERIC.

In addition to the attributes of the present specimen regarding its high grade, the coin is of importance to the specialist for the idiosyncrasies just noted.

Purchased from Paramount, February 28, 1974.

High-Grade 1851 $20

1686 1851 MS-62 (PCGS). A lovely specimen, one of the finest seen, of this $20 date. Both obverse and reverse are boldly struck. This lustrous, simply *gorgeous* coin will attract wide bidding attention and will no doubt *forever* occupy the "1851 space" in the cabinet of its next owner.

Date logotype about centered between bust and dentils. Reverse with broken A (STATES).

Purchased from Paramount, February 28, 1974.

Lovely Mint State 1851 $20

1687 1851 MS-60. A lovely coin with satiny lustre. Some horizontal brush marks separate the piece from a higher grade. Not easy to find at this level.

Date logotype high, much closer to bust then dentils. A (STATES) crudely patched to the left, no doubt on the working die after someone observed this defect.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 405.

1688 Pair of Liberty double eagles: ☆ 1851 AU-55 Most mint lustre still remains. A very attractive example of an issue which can be rated as extremely scarce at this grade level ☆ 1851 AU-50. Some mint lustre still remains. (Total: 2 pieces)

Remarkable 1851-O $20

(2X photo)

1689 1851-O MS-62 (PCGS). A superb, almost unbelievable quality example of an issue which is rare even in AU! True Mint State pieces are virtually unheard of. The double eagle specialist will find this to be one of the most remarkable coins in this section of the catalogue. Worthy of a strong bid, with the realization that it may be a long time until a comparable coin crosses the block.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Obverse with date logotype centered. Some interesting raised rust marks are seen on the lower part of the neck. In the headband of Miss Liberty, the I (LIBERTY) appears to be an L, typical for the era, but particularly noted by Harry Bass in this instance. A tiny ridge of metal connects the I with the adjacent D.

The mintmark O is high and is just a hair's breadth from the eagle's tail. A delicate crack links the tops of MERICA and extends to the right, going to the border below the period following D.

As time went on and coin collecting became popular in the United States, the acquisition of double eagles by date sequence finally took hold. By circa 1859-1860, a handful of collectors began to acquire *Proofs* of the different dates. Still, there was absolutely no interest in mintmarked coins. In 1893 in his treatise, *Mint Marks,* Augustus G. Heaton stated that he did not know of a single collector of mintmarked coins for any of the $5, $10, or $20 denominations! Not even the Mint Cabinet saved examples of New Orleans or other branch issues. Instead, the few interested collectors concentrated only on acquiring date runs.

In the meantime, New Orleans coinage was produced to service the commercial needs of the Mississippi River basin as well as commerce in and of the port. Such pieces were strictly workhorse pieces in the economy, and within a few years the large and heavy $20 pieces became worn down to grades such as EF, and a few years later, to VF.

From Stack's sale of August 1976, Lot 3164, there noted: "May be part of the Baltimore find unearthed August 1, 1934."

1690 Pair of double eagles: ☆ 1851-O EF-40. A nice example at this grade level of this early New Orleans issue ☆ 1852 AU-58. Highly lustrous and frosty. A very attractive piece. (Total: 2 pieces)

Choice Mint State 1852 $20

Doubled Date

1691 1852 Breen-7152. Doubled Date. MS-63 (PCGS). A superb specimen with lustrous, frosty surfaces. A numismatic prize. Both obverse and reverse have satiny lustre of exquisite beauty. Desirable enough as an example of the 1852 year, but even more so because of the spectacularly repunched date digits.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-64).

On the obverse the date numerals were given one blow of the four-digit logotype, then another, with the second blow being about 5% below the first. The result is a sharply doubled date, more so toward the end of the string of numerals, indicating a slight rotation between blows. A hairline crack connects stars 8-11, another crack connects stars 12-13 and continues onward, and still another crack connects the bases of the date numerals. Perhaps these cracks resulted in die failure, accounting for the scarcity of this variety.

On the reverse the A (STATES) is very lightly patched.

Purchased from Federal Coin Exchange, April 14, 1976.

Attractive 1852 $20

1692 1852 MS-60. Sharply struck and very attractive. Satiny lustre on obverse and reverse. One of the higher grade pieces that has ever come under our view. For the specialist here is another *find* in the gold series.

Obverse with date logotype lightly impressed into the working die; logotype centered. Reverse with lightly patched A (STATES). Both obverse and reverse have a somewhat granular or matte surface, as made—no doubt accounting for the satiny aspect mentioned earlier. A very interesting and desirable specimen.

From Stack's sale of August 1976, Lot 3165.

1693 Pair of 1852 double eagles grading EF-45: Both are lustrous and attractive. (Total: 2 pieces)

Prooflike 1852-O $20

1694 1852-O AU-58 (PCGS). A dazzling showpiece, a coin that is almost as prooflike as a full Proof! What a coin it must have been at the moment of striking! Today, some friction is seen, as noted by the grade, but still the piece is very beautiful and very important. A tiny planchet chip is seen to the right of the last date digit.

Date logotype entered deeply into the die; very slightly closer to the bust than to the dentils. Reverse with patched A (STATES), this patching done in a slightly different manner than that described earlier. It is obvious that this defect was noticed, and workers in the Die Department sought to fix the crossbar.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, July 8, 1969.

Lustrous 1853 Double Eagle

1695 1853 MS-62 (PCGS). Attractive and highly lustrous, an outstanding example of a common date $20 that is typically seen in such grades as VF and EF, only rarely in Mint State. Accordingly, the condition-conscious buyer will want to bid accordingly.

Date logotype punched very deeply into the die, more heavily towards the bottom than the top; about centered between bust and dentils. Reverse with A (STATES) patched so as to almost defy detection.

From the Quality Sales Corporation's sale of the Beck Collection, February 1976, Lot 546.

1696 Pair of 1853 double eagles, grading AU-50. Much lustre is still evident, particularly on the reverse of both pieces. (Total: 2 pieces)

1697 Pair of double eagles dated in the 1850s: ☆ 1853 EF-45. Light yellow gold with much mint lustres still visible ☆ 1853-O VF-35. Some lustre still remains. (Total: 2 pieces)

Date logotype centered. Repunching at 3. Reverse with patched A (STATES).

From Superior's sale of September 1972, Lot 2050.

Selection of Liberty $20s

1698 Selection of Liberty double eagles, all different: ☆ 1853 EF-40, short reverse scratch ☆ 1860 VF-35. Pale gold surfaces ☆ 1873 Open 3. EF-45 ☆ 1875 AU-55 ☆ 1876 AU-50 ☆ 1877 AU-53 ☆ 1878 AU-58. Brilliant and lustrous except where noted. (Total: 7 pieces)

Varied Group of Philadelphia $20

1699 Octette of Type I double eagles: ☆ 1853 VF-35 ☆ 1860 EF-40 ☆ 1861 VF-35 ☆ 1864 VF-25 ☆ 1870 VF-30 ☆ 1872 EF-45 ☆ 1873 Open 3. AU-55 ☆ 1874 AU-50. A varied selection of Philadelphia issues, a nice intermittent date run. (Total: 8 pieces)

1700 1853-O EF-45. Lightly burnished in field.

Date centered. On reverse A (STATES) is broken at crossbar.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 252.

1701 Pair of 1854 Small Date double eagles: ☆ AU-50. Sharply struck and very lustrous. The reverse on its own could grade several points higher ☆ VF-35. Some mint lustre still remains. (Total: 2 pieces)

Both coins are of the Small Date style, logotype fairly high. Last two digits repunched at the top, minor traces of the first digit repunched low, indicating a slight rotation of the date logotype centered around the second digit. Reverse with lightly patched A (STATES).

1702 Pair of double eagles: ☆ 1854 Small Date. VF-20 ☆ 1854-S EF-40. First double eagle issue from the newly opened San Francisco Mint. (Total: 2 pieces)

From Glendining and Company's sale of October 1970, Lot 1048.

1703 1854 Large Date. AU-55. Lightly brushed. Brilliant, lustrous surfaces.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (AU-58).

The Large Date logotype, listed for a long time by Breen, and only recently (new 53rd edition) recognized by the *Guide Book*, seems to be much scarcer than the normal or Small Date variety. Walter Breen suggests that the Large Date logotype was also used on the 1854 silver dollar. Not only were most Philadelphia Mint coins of the other (Small Date) variety, but New Orleans and San Francisco examples had the small date as well. The Large Date is easily discernible.

On the present coin, the date is very high, virtually touching the truncation of the bust (a small recess being made in the bust to accommodate it), and also lightly impressed into the die. On the reverse the A (STATES) is lightly patched.

From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1966, Lot 371.

Beautiful 1854-S $20

1704 1854-S MS-63. Surfaces very minutely granular. Reverse die extensively cracked. This is from the group of double eagles commonly referred to as hoard coins, and discussed at some length in Dave Bowers' *American Coin Treasures and Hoards*. It could be that these were immersed in sea water for a short time, although stories vary widely. Another account has it that they were found in the walls of a San Francisco building. These pieces came on the market in the 1970s to delight collectors who were not accustomed to seeing *any* San Francisco coin in Mint State, let alone this, the first year of issue. How many were found is not known, but perhaps no more than a few hundred. Today they are widely dispersed. Grading opinions vary almost as widely and we have seen pieces such as this graded all the way up to Gem Mint State. The present coin stands on its own as a very desirable example and no doubt will attract much interest as it crosses the block.

The obverse logotype was entered shallowly into the die and is closer to the dentils than to the bust. On the present piece, a crack is seen from the border through the left side of the 5, continuing to the bust, with branches extending from the 5 to the right, continuing down to the border.

On the reverse the S mintmark is high and touches the tail feathers of the eagle. The A (STATES) is broken; not patched. A tracery of die breaks is seen, particularly on the lower area and on the left side. In addition some raised ridges are in the glory of stars above the eagle's head, particularly a prominent ridge which connects from one of the leftmost top two stars, extending downward to the rightmost star.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman on September 9, 1977.

Lustrous 1855 $20

1705 1855 MS-61 (PCGS). Highly lustrous with nearly unbroken frost. A very attractive example of an issue which is normally seen in well worn grades.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer (MS-63).

Date and logotype quite low, with the space between 1 and the dentils being half that of the space between the 1 and the bust. Reverse with lightly patched A (STATES).

Purchased from Paramount, February 28, 1974.

Scarce 1855-O $20

1706 1855-O VF-35. Quite scarce today as the reduced mintage of 8,000 indicates, a dramatic decline from the 71,000 struck in New Orleans in the preceding year. Today, examples are elusive in all grades.

Date logotype with italic 5's as always. About centered between dentils and bust. Reverse with patched A (STATES). Mintmark close to but clear of eagle's tail feathers.

Purchased from Fred Sweeney, April 14, 1972.

Lustrous 1855-S $20

1707 1855-S MS-61 (PCGS). Highly lustrous and very attractive, splendid specimen of an issue which typically occurs in VF and EF grades. Over the years few pieces equal to the present coin have come on the market.

Date logotype with italic 5's, as always; well centered. Reverse with a hint of a patch on the A (STATES). Mintmark slightly closer to N (TWENTY) than to eagle's tail feathers.

Purchased from Fred Sweeney, October 3, 1877.

1708 1855-S AU-50. Attractive light gold surfaces. A general rule among Bass Collection coins is that even if a piece shows some wear—as in the present instance—it is among the finer examples existing in that particular grade category.

Slanting 5's in date as always. Medium S (again as always), sometimes called "Large S." Date logotype ever so slightly high.

Purchased from Roth, December 2, 1969.

1709 Pair of 1855-S double eagles: ☆ EF-45 ☆ EF-40. An attractive pair with much lustre. (Total: 2 pieces)

Frosty 1856 Double Eagle

1710 1856 AU-55, or finer. Highly frosty and lustrous, a very nice example of the date and grade.

Date logotype with upright 5 (as always), positioned slightly high. Crack from left extends through base of date. Another crack connects stars 11-12 and extends to near the border close to star 13, while yet another crack commences in the field and goes through star 13. The die seems on the verge of shattering, but no doubt it was good for a few thousand additional impressions.

From Stack's sale of the Shapero Collection, October 1971, Lot 1168.

Classic 1856-O $20 Rarity

Lustrous AU-53

1711 **1856-O AU-53 (PCGS).** Both obverse and reverse are fully brilliant and with a generous quotient of mint lustre, particularly in protected areas. Of the 10 to 12 known (per the Breen *Encyclopedia*) certainly this is one of the several finest (another high quality piece will be offered in Part III of the Bass Collection).

For years the acquisition of an 1856-O has been the dream of every advanced specialist in the double eagle series. Only 2,250 pieces were struck, the smallest mintage recorded by any New Orleans $20 coin. These quickly passed into circulation, where most were worn down to such grades as VF and EF. Decades later, when collecting $20 pieces became popular, it was learned that there were virtually none to be found. Even some of the greatest specialized collections have lacked an example.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (MS-63 finest).

It is seen that for the most part, the mintages of New Orleans $20 pieces dropped off sharply for the years 1854-1856, perhaps coinciding with the opening of the San Francisco Mint in the spring of 1854, thus providing a facility to coin gold that might have otherwise been shipped to the East.

Only one pair of dies is known to have struck 1856-O $20 pieces. Thus, the comments for this coin are probably appropriate for all other specimens as well. On the obverse the date logotype is low, with the 1 closer to a dentil than to the bust. The figures are punched deeply into the die, resulting in a "closed 5." On the reverse the O mintmark is high and close to the eagle's feathers. The A (STATES) is lightly patched. *On this particular specimen* a crack is seen from a dentil through the D of the denomination extending upward to the band on which UNUM is inscribed.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 19, 1968.

Lustrous 1856-S $20

1712 1856-S MS-63 (PCGS). Lustrous and attractive Mint State. A very nice example of this popular San Francisco issue, a piece that has spent its career on land and thus is different from some of the "seawater Uncirculated" pieces that have been offered over the years and have been widely cited in the literature.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Date logotype boldly entered into the working die, deeply enough that the ball of the 5 touches the line above; positioned about twice as close to the dentils than to the bust above. Reverse with S mintmark about centered between tail and letter. A (STATES) appears virtually perfect.

From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1124.

1713 1856-S AU-58. Sharply struck and very lustrous. Another pleasing example of a San Francisco Mint issue which, when seen, is apt to be well worn—excepting specimens fortuitously found as part of hoards.

Date centered (to reiterate, this feature is observed by comparing the position of the 1 to the bust truncation above and the dentils below). Reverse with well-patched A (STATES). S-mintmark is short at the top with the serif slanting.

1714 1856-S AU-55. Light yellow gold.

Date low, about twice as close to the dentil as to the truncation above. Reverse with lightly patched A (STATES). S mintmark short at top and with slanting serif. Delicate cracks linking bases of letters from TED (UNITED) clockwise through AME.

Purchased from I. Kleinman, November 13, 1971.

1715 1856-S AU-50. Bright yellow gold. Much lustre remains.

Date logotype slightly low. Reverse with broken A (STATES). Mintmark short at top with slanting serif. Crack connects top of TE (UNITED). Crack connects tops of MER (AMERICA).

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, August 4, 1967.

Nice Selection of San Francisco $20

1716 A very nice selection of double eagles from the first 15 years of San Francisco Mint operation: ☆ 1856-S VF-30 ☆ 1857-S VF-35 ☆ 1858-S EF-40 ☆ 1861-S VF-30 ☆ 1863-S VF-35 ☆ 1864-S VF-20 ☆ 1867-S VF-35 ☆ 1868-S VF-35. A wonderful selection of $20s. (Total: 8 pieces)

1717 1857 AU-55. Somewhat prooflike obverse. Much mint lustre on the reverse. A very handsome example of the issue.

Date logotype low. Diagonal die striae (upper left to lower right) in fields. Clash mark behind lower center of hair. Reverse with broken A (STATES). Diagonal die striae seemingly indicate an early impression from the die pair.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, August 15, 1972.

1718 1857-O EF-45. Somewhat prooflike surfaces on obverse ar reverse. Bright yellow gold, probably from California metal. very attractive example of this scarce issue.

Date logotype well centered. Deeply punched into the die, more so ward the bottom of the date than the top. On reverse the A (STATES) patched. First A (AMERICA) filled at the bottom. O mintmark leans sligh left.

From Parke-Bernet Galleries' sale of the McGraw Collection, M 1968, Lot 14.

1719 1857-S AU-55. Sharp and very lustrous.

Date slightly low.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1215

1720 1857-S AU-50. Bright yellow gold with pleasing lustre remai ing.

Date slightly low. Deeply impressed into die. On the reverse the S mi mark is heavier on the top than on the bottom, although it is not inverte

Purchased from N.K.S., July 7, 1968.

Octette of Early San Francisco $20s

1721 Eight different dates of San Francisco double eagles: ☆ 185 S VF-30 ☆ 1861-S VF-20 ☆ 1869-S EF-40 ☆ 1870-S EF-40 1871-S EF-40 ☆ 1872-S EF-45 ☆ 1873-S Closed 3, AU-50 1874-S AU-50. (Total: 8 pieces)

High-Grade 1858 $20

1722 1858 AU-55 (PCGS). Nicely struck and with abundant lustre. pleasing specimen of an issue which is very rare at this lev and which has not been represented in any hoards or finds which we are aware.

Date and logotype quite "open" this year, with the digit 8 leaning slight to the right; the 5 is differently configured than the year before, and has longer flag at the top, etc. On the present coin the date logotype is abo centered.

On the reverse there is a very unusual clash mark from the outline of t head of Miss Liberty, this appearing below the ribbon (upon which is i scribed UNUM) at the lower right. Significant clash marks on $20 of this e are seldom seen.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 865.

1723 1858 EF-45. Lustrous with some traces of prooflike effect i the protected devices.

Notable 1858-O $20

1724 1858-O AU-55 (PCGS). A dazzling specimen of this fairly scarce issue, a variety which is seldom seen in higher grades and, in fact, is fairly scarce in lower grades as well. Another *find* for the advanced collector.

PCGS Population: 6; 1 finer (AU-58).

Date logotype very slightly low; (perfect, no repunching). Reverse with O mintmark lightly in the die, and slightly high. Patched A (STATES), anachronism.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2416.

1725 1858-O VF-25. Some lustre remains.

Impressive 1858-S $20

1726 1858-S MS-61 (PCGS). Deeply and nearly fully lustrous. Sharply struck. A very impressive example of a common date in lower grades, but anything but in the quality offered here. As marvelous Mint State coins from the *S.S. Central America* (sunk on September 12, 1857) and the *S.S. Brother Jonathan* (lost on July 30, 1865) come to market, a coin such as this 1858-S, not known to have been included in any hoard, will ascend in relative importance. One can readily envision that with the romance of sunken treasures recovered from the sea, plus the attractive low market price of *bullion* gold, more numismatists than ever will have their attention drawn toward the large, impressive, and fascinating $20 series.

Date logotype high and much closer to bust than dentils. Reverse expertly patched A (STATES).

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1218.

1727 1858-S AU-55. Brilliant and highly lustrous. A lovely coin for the assigned grade.

1728 1858-S AU-50. Bright yellow gold. Well struck and very attractive. Quite scarce in any grade higher than EF.

Date logotype high, twice as close to truncation as to dentils.

From Superior's sale of February, 1973, Lot 867.

Sharp 1859 $20

1729 1859 AU-53 (PCGS). A sharply defined specimen of this issue. Some nicks, especially on the obverse, account for the overall grade. Much finer than usually seen, the issue being rather elusive.

In this year a new master die was introduced in the $20 series. The differences are slight upon casual examination, but readily noticeable upon close inspection. The initials of the designer, J.B.L. (James Barton Longacre), formerly almost completely under the hair curls on the right side of the truncation, are now clear of the haircurls and immediately to the left. The star points have different relationships to the nearest dentil; as an example, the point of star 1, which points directly to the center of the dentil on the earlier 1850-57 hub, now points to a space between dentils.

Date logotype in small numerals, widely spaced this year. On the present coin the logotype is located slightly high of center. Reverse with broken A (STATES), no attempt at patching.

Purchased from N.K.S., November 7, 1968.

1730 1859 VF-35. Light yellow gold.

Date centered. Repunched, particularly noticeable at the tops of the first two digits. Reverse with patched A (STATES).

Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

Remarkably Fine 1859-O $20

(2X photo)

1731 1859-O Heavy Clash Marks. AU-58 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold, no doubt struck from California metal. Lustrous and somewhat prooflike. Very sharply struck. The 1859-O is seldom seen in grades higher than VF and EF. Thus, the present offering is highly important.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Date logotype well centered. On the high parts of Miss Liberty's head are seen some clash marks from the glory of rays on the reverse and other eagle details, making the viewer wonder how such clash marks could have appeared so deeply in the die.

On the reverse the A (STATES) is lightly patched. In the leftmost recess of the small field area below the glory of rays on the reverse are seen many interesting raised die lines, perhaps clash marks from Miss Liberty's hair, but if so, the dies were in a different orientation than they are now. As is true of so many coins of this era, inspection through a magnifying glass can reveal many fascinating details.

From our sale of the Herstal Collection, February 1974, Lot 9.

Condition Census 1859-O $20

1732 1859-O AU-53 (PCGS). Lustrous and attractive. A Conditi Census example of a New Orleans coin that when seen is a to be VF or EF, only rarely AU.

PCGS Population: 9; 3 finer (AU-58 finest).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, L 2417.

A Final Rare 1859-O $20

1733 1859-O AU-50 (PCGS). Some prooflike surfaces can be see particularly on the reverse. A nice example of the date, mir mark, and grade. Scarce at any and all grade levels. Th present specimen mounts a serious challenge to the Conditio Census level.

Obverse logotype high, as preceeding. Reverse with patched A (STATE

From Stacks's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 85

1734 1859-S AU-50. Brilliant with pleasing mint lustre.

Date very high and slightly repunched, the repunching most visible at t base of the first two digits. Reverse with well patched A (STATES).

Purchased from Leo A. Young, April 14, 1967.

1735 1859-S AU-50. Light yellow gold, much lustre remains.

Date logotype high, about 2-1/2 times farther from the dentils than fro the neck truncation.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 870.

Lustrous 1860 $20

1736 1860 MS-61 (PCGS). Lustrous and beautiful, a gorgeous Mint State example of an issue which is plentiful in lower grades but which is certainly a rarity at the present level. In addition to its numerical designation, the piece has a generous amount of eye appeal—which can be said of nearly every coin that Harry Bass purchased. Walter Breen notes, "very rare Uncirculated."

Date logotype high and close to bust. Reverse with cracks through ATES OF AMER.

Purchased from Carl Scheinberg, January 7, 1973.

1737 1860 AU-55. A nice example of the date and type.

Date logotype very slightly low. Lower left serif of 1 diagonally truncated. Slight amount of extra material (from repunching) at lower right outside of 0.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1220.

Remarkable Quality 1860-O $20

None Finer Certified

1738 1860-O AU-55 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold, no doubt indicating striking from California metal. The obverse is partially prooflike but with much less lustre in protected areas. The reverse has a larger amount of prooflike surface. Only 6,600 pieces were minted, most of which have been lost. Those that survive are generally in significantly lower grades than the coin offered here. The present coin has only one peer in the PCGS survey.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Obverse with date logotype slightly low. Reverse with A (STATES) expertly patched and appearing almost normal. Crack from border through E (UNITED) to eagle's wing on the left. A light crack is intermittent through STATES OF. While our notes of the die states, etc., of double eagles is probably of interest only to a small fraction of potential buyers, the Bass Collection does provide the opportunity to study details among multiple coins in numbers that usually are not seen in a single cabinet.

Purchased from Stephen Tebo, March 27, 1969.

Memorable 1860-S $20

1739 1860-S AU-58 (PCGS). Lustrous and beautiful, one of the nicest 1860-S $20 pieces we have ever seen. This date was not represented in any hoards or caches of which we have personal knowledge, although Walter Breen mentions a "Northern California" group of which he must have been aware. The 1860-S is normally encountered only in lower grades, and heavily bagmarked. In any event, the present specimen is very rare and desirable today, as few equivalent pieces exist in all of numismatics.

Date logotype high. Reverse with large mintmark, closer to eagle than to letter. A (STATES) patched with a horizontal bar in slightly lower relief than other elements.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 852.

1740 1860-S EF-45. Light yellow gold surfaces. Lustre in protected areas.

Date about three times closer to the truncation than to the dentils. Very slight repunching at left side of first two digits. Reverse with delicate cracks through bases of letters beginning with F (OF) continuing clockwise to D (TWENTY D).

Purchased from Roth, December 2, 1969.

Choice Proof 1861 $20

Akers: "Rarest U.S. Proof Gold Coin"

PCGS: Finest Graded

1741 1861 Proof-64 (PCGS). A glittering cameo specimen with frosty devices set against deep mirror fields, the latter having the popular "orange peel" surface characteristic of gold coins of the 19th century. A fantastic rarity, a joy to behold, a piece that is high in quality among the very few known to exist.

David Akers, in cataloguing this identical specimen in 1984, made several statements which are certainly worth quoting here, the most dramatic being the following: "The 1861 Proof double eagle is probably the rarest U.S. Proof gold coin after 1858...One of only two different specimens to be sold at auction in nearly four decades."

Although the number of Proofs minted is stated as 66 pieces in the literature, this is either a gross error, or many were melted. The latter seems to be at least part of the answer, as subsequently discussed.

In his 1979 (updated in 1989) *Eucyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Proof Coins 1722-1989,* Walter Breen was able to track down just five appearances, including the piece in the Mint Collection in the Smithsonian Institute. Breen further noted that "All the gold Proofs were delivered April 5...some of these remained unsold...and the unsold coins were sent down to the melter and refiner in January 1862."

It is further notable that Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., who possessed a beautiful run of lovely Proof double eagles, did not have an example of the 1861 date. Although no records are known, one can speculate that 66 pieces may have been struck to await potential buyers, most probably because it was an effort to create the dies, set the presses up, etc., and it was easy to produce several dozen examples at once—but that the buyers never arrived. How many found buyers is a matter of conjecture, but it would not strain credulity to suggest that perhaps no more than 10 to 12 were ever sold. Indeed, reviewing files of 19th-century auction catalogues it would be difficult to name even this many numismatists who are known to have collected Proof double eagles by date. By any evaluation, the present Proof 1861 is a numismatic landmark, a coin with few equals anywhere in numismatics, a piece that is a highlight of the present section of the sale.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, August 1984. Immediately earlier, from Paramount's section of Auction '84, July 25, 1984, Lot 965.

Wonderful Gem 1861 $20

Business Strike

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

1742 1861 MS-65 (PCGS). A wonderful specimen with satiny, creamy mint lustre on obverse and reverse, virtually a presentation coin, certainly a showpiece. While the 1861 $20 is the only date of the first two or three years of the 1860s that comes to market in Mint State with any degree of frequency, only a handful can be called true gems. This is one.

For the type collector, for the connoisseur, for the double eagle specialist, the present piece will be a treasure to own.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-67).

Date logotype high, with 1 about three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils. The master die was impressed very deeply into the working die, raising all of the details excellently, and even allowing for an extra area on the neck truncation below J.B.L.

On both obverse and reverse not a crack is in sight. One might imagine that this was a very early striking from the die pair.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, October 30, 1972.

Another Splendid 1861 $20

1743 1861 MS-63 (PCGS). Brilliant, lustrous, and frosty. A nice companion to the preceding.

PCGS Population: 9; 4 finer (MS-67 finest).

The obverse is from a different die than the preceding and is characterized by having the date logotype slightly low. Again, the working die was boldly impressed, creating a wealth of detail.

On the reverse a barely perceptible die crack links the tops of MER (AMERICA).

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 419.

Another Mint State 1861 $20

1744 1861 MS-62 (PCGS). Brilliant and lustrous. A very attractive example of this popular date, one we handled 27 years ago (how time flies!).

Date logotype closer to the neck than to the dentils. Reverse with somewhat crudely and heavily patched A (STATES).

From our sale of the Armand Champa Collection, May 1972, Lot 558.

Prooflike 1861 $20

1745 1861 MS-61 (PCGS). A splendid specimen, nicer than usually seen, of this fairly plentiful date. Most other Mint State coins are frosty overall, with little if any prooflike surface; the present piece is an exception.

Date logotype is slightly closer to the dentils than to the bust.

A (STATES) patched by a heavy bar which extends slightly beyond the left side of the letter.

From Quality Sales Corporation's offering of the Beck Collection, February 1976, Lot 547.

Final Mint State 1861 $20

1746 1861 MS-60. A lustrous coin of great beauty, as this date often is found. The reverse, if graded separately, would merit a point or two higher.

Date logotype high; over twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils. Reverse with hairline crack through tops of letters in UNITED STATES; separate crack connecting F (OF) and nearby A.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, December 16, 1971.

1747 1861 AU-58. Lustrous light yellow gold.

Date centered.

Purchased from Dan Brown, December 5, 1967.

1748 1861 AU-55. Much lustre still remains, particularly on the reverse.

Date centered. Reverse with track linking ES (STATES); two unconnected cracks at space between O (OF) and F.

Purchased from Rarcoa, December 6, 1971.

1749 1861 AU-50. Lustrous yellow gold with pleasing brilliance. Some light die polish lines are noted in the reverse fields, as struck. A trace of rim damage is noted on the reverse at 2:30, a minor distraction.

Date very high; about three times closer to bust than to dentils. Crack from border between stars 4 and 5. Reverse with tiny crack from border down to D (UNITED).

Over 100 die pairs were used to produce the 1861 Philadelphia Mint coinage, an array so extensive that it would never be possible to catalogue them all. The notes included here are simply for general interest and are similar to comments that Harry Bass jotted down during his ownership of the pieces.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, March 15, 1972.

1750 Trio of double eagles: ☆ 1861 VF-35 ☆ 1864 VF-35 ☆ 1864-S VF-30. (Total: 3 pieces)

Key 1861-O $20

1751 1861-O AU-50 (PCGS). Bagmarks on obverse and reverse, not particularly unusual for the variety and grade. Somewhat lightly struck overall, again not unusual for 1861-O. Long regarded as a key date, the variety is among the more elusive of its era.

Three pairs of dies were shipped to New Orleans from Philadelphia on December 10, 1860, during the same period in which the Confederate States of America government was in its formative stages. Only one pair was ever used. It is believed (cf. Breen) that the mintage of 17,741 pieces was comprised of 5,000 examples for the Union, plus 9,750 struck when the city of New Orleans was occupied by troops from Louisiana. Finally, 2,991 are believed to have been struck slightly later when Confederate troops were in charge. For about a year, New Orleans was held by Southern forces. Later it was "liberated" and controlled under General Benjamin Butler, of whom many stories have been told. Some called him "Spoons Butler," as he stole or requisitioned silverware from local inhabitants. To the victor went the spoils, and apparently Butler and his men took maximum advantage. Later, seeking to have the last word concerning his service and reputation, Butler wrote extensively of his life and the occupation of the city.

Today the 1861-O $20 is one of the more popular issues of its era, from the aspect of rarity and also its historical connection. Logotype high and about three times closer to the bust than to the dentils. On the reverse the O is high and nearly touches the feathers. If a late die state of the 1861-O were to be discovered, with breaks, it could be assumed that it was struck by the Confederacy or, at least, by forces from Louisiana.

From Stack's sale of May 1968, Lot 931.

1752 1861-S AU-55. Very brilliant and highly lustrous. The reverse has nearly full mint frost.

Date centered. Punched into the die at medium depth, neither light nor heavy. On the obverse, a crack links stars one and two; another crack links stars 10-13.

From Stack's sale of August 1976, Lot 3205.

1753 1861-S EF-45. Some lustre remains in protected areas, particularly on the reverse. A high-grade example of this popular issue, quite affordable in today's market.

Date logotype slightly high. Crack links stars 10-12. Some clash marks behind hair. Reverse with delicate clash marks, especially below eagle's wing to the right and from the tail feathers extending right to below UNUM. Crack at left border from T (TWENTY) clockwise through UN.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, April 15, 1972.

Grouping of Liberty Head $20s

1754 Offering of eight different Liberty Head double eagles, mostly of the scarce Type II design: ☆ 1861-S VF-35, cleaned ☆ 1871-S VF-35 ☆ 1872-S EF-45 ☆ 1873-S Closed 3. VF-35 ☆ 1873-S Open 3. VF-35 ☆ 1874-S EF-45 ☆ 1875-S AU-50 ☆ 1876-S AU-53, light rim bumps. All with some mint lustre, save the 1861-S. This offering includes quite a few of the scarcer Type II design used 1866-1876 and thus is of more than passing interest. (Total: 8 pieces)

Lustrous High-Grade 1862 $20

Condition Census

1755 **1862 AU-55 (PCGS).** Quite lustrous, but at the same time extensively bagmarked, the latter being evidence of use in commerce or being jostled about in storage. Very scarce in high AU or low Mint State grade. The present piece is quite significant in this context.

PCGS Population: 2; 4 finer (MS-62 finest).

Date logotype very high. On the reverse, the A (STATES) appears perfect.

Just an idea: It could have been that for the master die or hub used to make this general issue, the letter V was used in the different A's on the reverse, these appearing in STATES and also AMERICA. A close examination of the two A's in AMERICA will reveal that each has a different crossbar. If a V were used in an inverted position and the crossbars added, this would explain the variations. There are other instances in American coinage in which inverted V's have been used to create A's, and on a pattern $5 gold coin, an inverted A was used in place of a V.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 856.

1756 **1862 EF-45.** Light yellow gold. Somewhat prooflike.

Date slightly below center. Reverse with patched A (STATES).

Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

1757 **1862-S AU-50.** Pleasing light gold surfaces. Much mint lustre remains, particularly on the reverse. Some brush marks and some carbon flecks on the obverse.

Date slightly high. On the reverse, S mintmark leans slightly left. Delicate cracks through NITED; and separately from first S (STATES) clockwise to first A (AMERICA); another crack through ERICA.

Purchased from Roth, December 2, 1969.

1758 **1862-S EF-45.** Light yellow gold. Some lustre remains in protected areas.

Breen-7214, repunched 86 in date, the 6 in particular showing traces of a significantly lower numeral, but mostly effaced. Date logotype high.

Reverse with crack through tops of OF continuing clockwise to D.

Purchased from Stack's, May 19, 1971.

Dazzling Proof 1863 $20

A Fantastic Rarity

None Finer Graded

1759 1863 Proof-64 (PCGS). A dazzling specimen of rare beauty, combining a high technical grade with an absolutely gorgeous appearance—an American classic in every sense of the word. Another highlight from the Bass Collection.

The Proof mintage is posted at 30 pieces, but it is likely that only about 10 or so could be traced today, two of these in museum collections and at least three or four others with notable impairments. As is true of all Proof $20 pieces, certification data are of no help due to multiple appearances of the same specimens. We suggest that perhaps sales in 1863 amounted to no more than 15 to 20 coins. No doubt, some of these were purchased by citizens who simply wanted to own $20 pieces in an era in which such coins were not seen in circulation. Proofs were obtainable at the Mint, but had to be paid for in gold coins (only obtainable from a bullion dealer) or at a premium in terms of "greenback" notes. While this is pure speculation, the purchase of coins by non-numismatists would account for the number of cleaned and impaired pieces known today.

In addition to the advantages that the present Proof has as a high-grade rarity, it is important as one of relatively few Proof $20 coins remaining from the early span of the series, 1850-1865, without motto. Thus, anyone desiring a coin for a type set would do well to consider this piece. And, of course, the specialist will automatically become attracted!

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

On the obverse the date logotype is *far to the right of the normal position*, spectacularly so as will be quickly revealed by noting in the photograph the position of the final digit, 3, with the lowest loop of the hair. Actually, this is a more "comfortable" position for the date than the normal position to the far left. (In 1877 the obverse was reconfigured, the position orientation of the head of Miss Liberty were altered somewhat, and more space was given between the neck and the dentils; as a result, $20 pieces 1877-1907 do not have the "space problem" seen in the earlier years.) Within the context of the date, noting the position as mentioned, the numerals are fairly high, with the 1 being closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1224.

1760 1863 EF-45. Bright and slightly prooflike. Very attractive. Again we note that the Bass Collection coins are virtually all excellent examples at their particular grade levels—whether the grades be worn or Mint State.

Date left and high. Final digit centered below low part of curl.

Purchased from Stack's, December 7, 1971.

1761 1863 VF-35. Pale gold surfaces.

Date left (normal position) and slightly low. Planchet flakes are seen near the first digit of the date.

Purchased from N.K.S., January 10, 1968.

Frosty 1863-S $20

1762 1863-S AU-58 (PCGS). Frosty and lustrous. A very attractive example of this popular San Francisco date.

Date logotype slightly low. Minute crack through 63. Reverse with A (STATES) normal. Peripheral cracks at tops of letters at several different positions.

From Stack's sale of the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 859.

1763 1863-S AU-53. Frosty and lustrous. A beautiful example somewhat reminiscent of the attractive pieces that were recovered from the *S.S. Brother Jonathan,* but this particular coin was in numismatic hands long before that find.

Date logotype slightly low. Crack from border through bases of 186. Reverse with small S mintmark, Breen-7217, noted as "rare." Discontinuous peripheral cracks from second T (STATES) through lettering clockwise to E (TWENTY). Coins with the small S mintmark seem to have been but a fraction of the San Francisco Mint output this year.

From Stack's sale of the Copeland Collection, April 1967, Lot 1906.

1764 1863-S AU-50. Lustrous and frosty. A splendid coin.

Date centered. Reverse with medium S mintmark, normal for the date. Crack through tops of MERI.

Puchased from Rowe & Brownlee, June 27, 1968.

1765 1863-S EF-45. Another attractive example of this popular San Francisco variety.

Date low. Reverse with medium S mintmark. Delicate crack through MER (AMERICA).

From Superior's sale of September 1973, Lot 851.

Magnificent Proof 1864 $20

Fantastic Rarity

None Finer Graded

1766 1864 Proof-64 (PCGS). Another simply amazing quality Proof, combining high numerical grade with superb eye appeal. Add to that the concept of extreme rarity, and again we have a great classic. It may be a long time until an equivalent offering of Proofs reaches the marketplace. The connoisseur and specialist would do well to "reach" to acquire this and related examples.

The mintage of the 1864 is recorded at 50 pieces, but conventional wisdom, which we share, has it that no more than a dozen exist today. Of these, one is in the Smithsonian Institution and another in the American Numismatic Society collection, thus removing these from market consideration. Still others are impaired. In 1864 it was a difficult matter to obtain Proof gold coins from the Mint (see our notes under 1863), and thus it is likely that no more than 20 pieces ever found buyers.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer. Perhaps some of these represent resubmissions.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1226.

1767 1864 AU-50. Light yellow gold. Some mint lustre in protected areas, particularly on the reverse.

Date very high and close to truncation. Logotype this year with widely spaced 8 and 6. On this particular coin, a tiny crack links the 6 and 4. On the reverse, intermittent cracks are seen from the second S (STATES) clockwise through AMER.

Purchased from N.K.S., June 14, 1967.

1768 1864 AU-50. Light yellow gold.

Date high, about three times closer to the truncation than to the dentils. Reverse with patched A (STATES).

Purchased from I. Kleinman, October 1, 1971.

1769 1864 EF-45. Light yellow gold. Another attractive example.

Date logotype high, about twice as close to the truncation as to the dentils. Reverse with patched A (STATES).

From Glendining's sale of October 1970, Lot 048; acquired by Rowe & Brownlee, later sold to Harry Bass.

1770 1865 AU-55. Frosty and lustrous. Not far from Mint State. In fact, the reverse challenges the MS-60 level.

Date slightly high and far left. Logotype deeply impressed into working die. Reverse with some diagonal die striae, oriented from upper right to lower left, about the opposite direction as typically seen. No doubt an early striking from the die. Patched A (STATES).

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, March 31, 1969.

1771 1865 AU-50. Another attractive example.

Date logotype left and fairly high. Some clash marks at center of Miss Liberty's head and behind hair. Reverse with patched A (STATES). Irregular cracks from OF clockwise to nearby A, almost to M.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, January 22, 1968.

Blundered Date 1865 $20

Dramatic Error

1772 1865 AU-50. A very interesting specimen of this date, one with a curious repunching as described below. Attractive and lustrous.

Date very high, nearly touching truncation, and *dramatically* repunched, one of the most startling repunchings in the series. No doubt if Walter Breen had seen this variety it would have merited a separate entry in his magnificent *Encyclopedia*. The first punch of the logotype was far too high, with the peak of the 1 deeply embedded in the neck of Miss Liberty, sufficiently so that this piece could be called a *blundered die*, giving it a status greater than a simple repunching.

Reverse with patched A (STATES). Crack through top of STATES; another crack through OF AMERIC.

As described, the present piece is extremely interesting from a technical viewpoint. The double eagle specialist will want to linger while viewing it.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of November 1972, Lot 1302.

1773 1865 EF-45. Medium yellow gold.

Blundered date as earlier described, another specimen of an issue that may well be rare. In the present instance, Harry Bass looked intensely and long for varieties that interested him, and who knows how many dozens of 1865 double eagles he may have seen before acquiring the two pieces offered in the present sale.

Reverse with patched A (STATES). Crack through TATES; separately through OF AMERI. From the same die pair as earlier described for the other blundered date, but the present state being slightly earlier.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 15, 1967.

1774 1865-S AU-50. Soft yellow gold with some lustre remaining. Abrasions are noted on the cheek, but still a nice type coin.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 30, 1972.

1775 1865-S EF-45. Some lustre remains.

1776 1865-S EF-45. Light yellow gold.

Date logotype punched lightly into the working die; earlier, the working die was rather lightly impressed from the master die, creating some lightness at star points. Crack from border right to star 7-8, continuing toward star 9. Reverse with doubled crossbar in A (STATES), perhaps from being patched twice. Shattered die, with cracks linking most peripheral letters, the only exception being the clockwise area from N (UNITED) clockwise to D in the same word. Massive crack from border to U (UNITED). Another massive crack from border to right side of M (AMERICA). One of the most dramatically shattered dies we have ever seen on *any* $20 piece, regardless of date or mint. A minting curiosity that should attract a very strong bid from the specialist.

Reverse has medium S mintmark.

Purchased from Ed Shapiro, April 7, 1969.

1777 Trio of double eagles: ☆ 1865-S EF-40. Pale gold surfaces ☆ 1866-S Motto. EF-45. Some mint lustre remains ☆ 1867 MS-60. Somewhat prooflike surfaces, with some obverse tooling. (Total: 3 pieces)

1778 Trio of double eagles: ☆ 1865-S EF-40. Light yellow gold ☆ 1866-S Motto. EF-45. Light yellow gold surfaces ☆ 1867 AU-50. Each displays much lustre. (Total: 3 pieces)

San Francisco Double Eagle Trio

1779 Trio of San Francisco Mint double eagles: ☆ 1865-S VF-35. Light yellow gold. Some lustre remains on the reverse ☆ 1866-S With Motto. EF-40. Brilliant and lustrous ☆ 1867-S EF-45. Much lustre remains on the reverse. (Total: 3 pieces)

1780 Pair of San Francisco Mint $20s: ☆ 1865-S VF-35. Some lustre is seen on the reverse ☆ 1867-S EF-45. Bright and lustrous. The reverse could be graded several points higher. (Total: 2 pieces)

Scarce 1866-S No Motto $20

1781 1866-S No Motto. EF-40. Light yellow gold. Some lustre is still seen in protected areas and recesses, particularly on the reverse.

A very attractive example of one of the true scarcities in the series, an issue which is seldom encountered in any grade, and which is at least five to 10 times rarer than the With Motto version of the same mint and date. To our knowledge, no specimens have been represented in Mint State hoards or treasure finds.

Obverse with date slightly high, logotype deep in die. Some clash marks at center. Reverse with small S (as always), somewhat lightly impressed in the die.

New Reverse Hub

In 1866 the reverse hub was changed partway through the year. The differences are numerous and can be readily ascertained under low magnification. Important differences are as follows:

OLD HUB: Large solid ray with truncated top points just past the lower left of first S (STATES).

No ray below second T (STATES).

Four thick rays are between the two heaviest rays on the left side and are below the first S (STATES).

Right side of star above eagle's eye.

Curl above IB (PLURIBUS) small and distant from U (UNITED).

NEW HUB: Thicker ray with somewhat open center points directly at lower left of S.

Large heavy ray extends to close to left side of base of second T.

Five thin light rays, with rays separating 3-2 are below the F and the space to the right of it.

Star directly over eagle's eye.

Curl begins over B (PLURIBUS) and is closer to U and slightly to the right of its center.

Among dies of the new hub, the motto IN GOD WE TRUST seems to have been entered by hand on certain early varieties, particularly those dated 1866. Later, IN GOD WE TRUST was made part of the hub itself and thus does not vary. Some notes concerning the motto are given in subsequent listings.

Purchased from Leo A. Young, April 14, 1967.

1782 1866 With Motto. AU-55. Brilliant and lustrous. Quite close t Mint State with the reverse being particularly so.

Date logotype slightly high. Some double outlines to the portrait of M Liberty and the stars, probably caused by a slight double punching of t master die into the working die, not by "die chatter," as the latter instan would have resulted in slight doubling of the date as well.

Reverse with delicate crack from border upward to W (TWENTY) co tinuing slightly to the right toward the feathers; another crack extends fro border to between I and T (UNITED), then extending upward, with anoth crack connecting the bases of TE and the eagle's wing. A further crack seen from D through STATE.

In the motto, a line drawn to connect the tops of IN would pass far abo the nearby G (GOD).

From Stack's sale of the Massachusetts Historical Society Collectio October 1970, Lot 871.

1783 1866 With Motto. AU-55. Highly lustrous, particularly on th reverse.

Date logotype fairly high, twice as close to truncation as to dentils.

Reverse with delicate crack beginning at N (UNITED) extending clockwis irregularly to C (AMERICA). On the motto, a line drawn to connect the top of IN would pass far above the nearby G (GOD); the N is sharply doubl punched. Apparently the motto was entered by hand. In a recent convers tion (August 1999) with Tom DeLorey, Tom advised the cataloguer that h first noted differences in the motto IN GOD WE TRUST a few years ag and beginning in the mid-1990s these were mentioned in the price cat logue issued by *Coin World*. Among the Bass coins, at least three differe variations are seen in the motto among $20 pieces of the 1866 date.

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, January 23, 1973.

1784 1866-S With Motto. AU-50. Highly lustrous. The reverse i somewhat prooflike. Fairly well bagmarked, especially on th obverse, this being accounted for in the grade number, an therefore not necessarily needing mention here. In genera the more prooflike a coin is, the more susceptible it is to ac quiring bagmarks.

Date logotype high. Reverse with medium S mintmark, differently confi ured and of larger size than the usual small S style.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 23, 1967.

1785 1866-S With Motto. AU-50. Misplaced Date variety, apparentl unlisted.

Date slightly low. *Stray or misplaced date numeral, seemingly an 8, is seen in th dentils to the left of the 1,* apparently unrecorded, but noted by Harry Bass a "Something in dentils below 1 of date!" Variety unknown to Breen.

Reverse with small mintmark, the only variety listed by Breen (althoug the medium mintmark exists, as offered in the present sale, and is distinctl different). A line connecting the tops of IN would intersect the upper left c the adjacent G.

Purchased from N.K.S., February 4, 1972.

Brilliant, Lustrous 1867 $20

1786 1867 MS-61 (PCGS). Especially brilliant and very lustrous. Some bagmarks are consistent with the grade, but are fewer than normally seen for the date and mint. Walter Breen in his *Encyclopedia* (p. 567) notes, "Philadelphia issues 1866-1872 are mostly scarce, except for the 1867 Uncirculateds, from a hoard (possibly 2,000, found in Europe about 1966, distributed in the USA beginning about 1973)." We have no information concerning this hoard but would suggest that if the number even remotely approached 2,000, examples would be much more plentiful on the market than they are today. In any event, more information would be welcomed, as the editor (QDB) keeps files on old-time hoards. Not withstanding the preceding, it is evident that the coin is from a different source as it was acquired earlier than the hoard's putative distribution date.

Date logotype in large figures, very close to bust. On the reverse the A (STATES) is perfect, the anomaly seemingly being corrected in the master die by this time.

Purchased from N.K.S., November 7, 1968. Harry Bass kept track of high-grade examples of this year, and noted that in December 1971 another firm offered him an example, but it was "much bagmarked" and in "lesser condition."

High-Quality 1867-S $20

Condition Census

1787 1867-S AU-58 (PCGS). Brilliant surfaces with nice original mint lustre on both sides. The central details are nicely defined while some softness is noted at the periphery, most obvious in the obverse stars from 2:00 to 5:00. An attractive example of high quality for this particular issue, rarely seen finer. In *Scott's Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins*, 1971, author Don Taxay said: "Unknown Uncirculated."

PCGS Population: 8; 4 finer (MS-61 finest).

On the present coin, the date logotype is twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils. On the reverse a tiny crack extends from a dentil to the left side of the final A (AMERICA).

Concerning the Taxay catalogue was an effort to effectively succeed the late lamented *Standard Catalogues of United States Coins* published by Wayte Raymond (later John J. Ford, Jr.) in various editions from the 1930s through the 1950s. Much technical information was included from different sources. A revised edition, by Joseph Rose and Howard Hazelcorn, appeared in 1976. Despite its merits, the new work never caught on, and distribution was limited. In a later era, 1988, *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* went far beyond Taxay, but, unlike Taxay, included no price listings.

A number of years ago the present editor (Q. David Bowers) had discussions with Kenneth E. Bressett (editor of *A Guide Book of United States Coins*) concerning the producing of a catalogue with a wealth of technical and historical information plus prices, this being intended for sophisticated collectors. However, Whitman Publishing Company underwent (and later continued to undergo) various corporate changes, ownerships, and policies, and nothing ever came of the matter. Today in 1999 we have too much information *all over the place* and not enough information in one single, usable, *handy* form. Thus, the potential for such a work still exists.

From International Gold Corporation, September 11, 1972. Shortly after acquiring this piece, Harry Bass entered in his notes: "Taxay lists that this variety was "unknown Uncirculated." Today, taking into account the grade inflation in some quarters, and also a wider awareness, some low-grade Mint State pieces have been reported. Still, the issue remains rare.

1788 1867-S AU-50. Lustrous and frosty. Some splashes of light toning.

Date slightly high. Reverse with small S mintmark, apparently as always.

Purchased from Lester Merkin, June 15, 1967.

1789 1867-S AU-50. Lustrous and attractive.

Date slightly high.

Source not recorded; probably acquired in the late 1960s.

Choice Proof 1868 $20 Rarity

Condition Census

(2X photo)

1790 1868 Proof-63 (PCGS). A lovely specimen in rich yellow gold. Some surface toning or haze on the obverse and reverse may mask surfaces that are of a significantly higher technical grade. As is the case on other $20 pieces the coin bespeaks quality and eye appeal. All in all it is a very handsome, very desirable example of this major rarity.

Regarding Proofs, the mintage records suggest that 25 were struck, but it is highly unlikely that more than 10 or 15 were made. Years ago David Akers commented, "certainly fewer than 10 Proofs still exist, the actual number is probably only seven or eight." In the same vein, Walter Breen was able to track only eight specimens, one possibly representing a duplication. Of these two were in museums (Smithsonian Institution and American Numismatic Society) and at least two others were impaired.

For the connoisseur and specialist this coin represents an incredible opportunity.

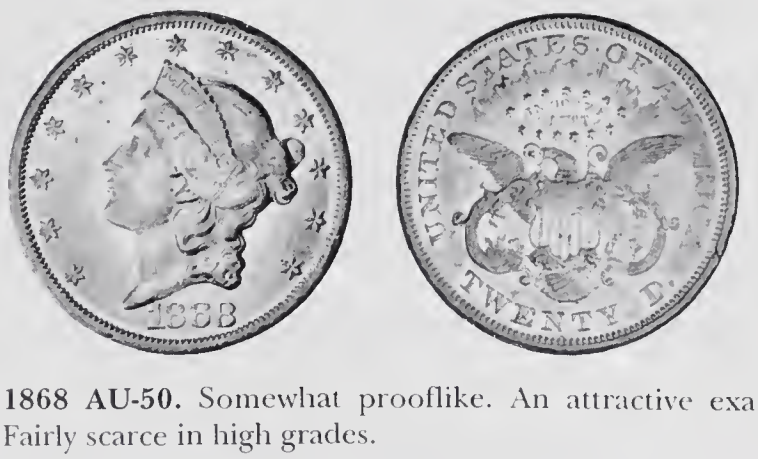
PCGS Population: 4; 4 finer (Proof-65 finest).

In *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Proof Coins 1722 -1989* the author related the following: "One of the gold sets was immediately added to a silver minor set and delivered (for $65.50 in greenbacks, equivalent to $43.54 specie) from the coiner to the curator of the Mint Cabinet. It is now in the Smithsonian. A second complete set is in ANS. I would be curious to know if the complete aluminum set in original presentation case, offered in the *Numismatic Gallery Monthly*, May 1950, page 3, at $850, is still intact..."

The reference to $65.50 to greenbacks reflects the continuing situation at the time—gold coins were not available at par in Uncle Sam's currency, and in order to obtain them a strong premium had to be paid. This situation was to continue until December 17, 1878, and would make the ordering of Proof gold coins as well as obtaining business strikes a somewhat difficult procedure.

Date logotype high and close to the neck truncation.

From New England's sale of the Mocatta Collection, July 1979, Lot 450.



1791 1868 AU-50. Somewhat prooflike. An attractive example. Fairly scarce in high grades.

Date logotype very high and grazing the truncation. First two digits measurably double punched, fourth digit less so, scarcely noticeable on the third digit (indicating that the third digit was the pivot point). On the reverse, dentils long in certain areas and leaning left (this characteristic is seen in certain other coins of this era and will not be noted henceforth in our descriptions).

Purchased from Lester Merkin, January 22, 1968.

1792 1868 EF-40. Prooflike surfaces.

Date high and grazing the truncation.

Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

1793 Pair of 1868 double eagles: ☆ 1868 VF-35 ☆ 1868-S EF-40 (Total: 2 pieces)

Date centered.

1794 1868-S AU-50. A very pleasing coin with much lustre, especially on the reverse. Quite scarce.

Date quite high, about three times closer to the neck truncation than to the dentils below; positioned to the right, with the last digit ever so slightly to the left of center of the lowest curl. Where to put the date on double eagle dies was hardly standardized at the Mint, and when the logotype was placed to the right, as here, the date was much less crowded. When the date is far to the left, the first digit is very close to the truncation above and the dentils below. Reverse with small S mintmark (apparently as always).

From Stack's sale of February 1972, Lot 920.

Incredible Proof 1869 $20

High Condition Census

1795 1869 Proof-64 (PCGS). A magnificent specimen struck in bright yellow gold. Frosted devices against deep mirror fields give this an exquisite cameo effect. A lovely combination of high numerical grade and all important eye appeal come together to make this coin incredibly important. *Beyond this,* there is the aspect of rarity!

Only 25 examples were struck of the 1869 $20, but such pieces were difficult to order, and it is highly unlikely that more than a dozen or so actually found buyers. Today the number of different specimens is not known, but Walter Breen's estimate of 10 or 12 pieces is likely correct. In terms of availability in the market, the pieces held by the Smithsonian Institution and the American Numismatic Society must of necessity be subtracted, and no doubt a few others are impaired. Thus, this Bass Collection coin represents a particularly important opportunity.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (Proof-66).

It seems to be popular for certain graders—and this comment has no reference whatever to PCGS—to elevate the grades of certain rarities. Thus, it would not at all surprise us if the present coin, a great rarity and graded by PCGS as Proof-64, might be "re-evaluated" by some more liberal grading entity, and called a higher number. It is to be remembered that with very few exceptions, Bass Collection coins are among the very finest of their kind—and thus, all things being equal, pieces are more apt to be "high end" than "low end" in quality. In today's market, most sophisticated buyers go beyond numbers and look at aesthetic appeal as well. However, there still are quite a few who worship numbers only, without looking at or considering anything else.

Obverse with date logotype large, and positioned too high, grazing the neck truncation.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1225.

Breathtaking 1869 $20

Business Strike

High Condition Census

1796 1869 MS-63 (PCGS). Described in Harry Bass's notes as the "finest(?)" he had encountered up to that time. Indeed, the quality of this piece is simply breathtaking, outstanding. The bagmarks are minimal, resulting in a coin that displays nearly all its original prooflike surface, blending to lustre at the borders on the obverse. The reverse on its own is nearly entirely prooflike. This coin, from a date not known to have been represented in any hoards, will be a great attraction as it crosses the block.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-65).

Date logotype large this year. On the present coin it is placed high and close to the neck truncation.

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 2222.

1797 1869 AU-55. Highly lustrous, not far from full Mint State, th being particularly true of the reverse.

Date high and slightly right. Repunching at the base of 1. Reverse wi hairline crack connecting the tops of UNITE.

Purchased from I. Kleinman, October 10, 1971.

1798 1869 EF-45. Another nice specimen of this Philadelphia Mi issue.

Date high and slightly right. Repunching at the base of 1.

Purchased from N.K.S., May 14, 1968.

1799 1869-S AU-55. Nearly fully lustrous. A cut on the cheek shoul be mentioned, although the grade number takes care of from a technical viewpoint. A handsome example of an issu which is typically seen in lower grades.

Date high and fairly close to truncation. Reverse with small S (apparen as always). Hairline crack at TAT (STATES).

Source not stated; probably purchased in the late 1960s.

1800 1869-S AU-50. Fairly extensively bagmarked, not unusual fo the grade, but somewhat unusual for a Bass Collection coin Perhaps this is a piece that saw several decades in internationa trade.

Date very high and almost touching truncation.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 19, 1968.

Splendid Proof 1870 $20

Solo Finest Graded by PCGS

1801 1870 Proof-64 (PCGS). Similar to the preceding Proof 1869, the present 1870 is a lovely cameo, with frosted devices set off by deep mirror fields. Quality such as this is seldom seen for *any* Proof $20 date, much less for the rare 1870.

Mintage figures relate that 35 pieces were struck, but distribution seemed to have remained low, and again Walter Breen estimates that possibly just 10 to 20 Proofs exists. Deducting institutionally held pieces as well as impaired examples, it may may be the case that only five or six truly choice specimens are privately held. Thus, the present opportunity—representing the finest coin that Harry Bass could locate in many years of collecting—is not likely to be repeated anytime soon.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Date logotype about three times closer to the neck of Miss Liberty than to the dentils, this being noted by the position of the first digit.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1238.

1802 1870 AU-50. Bright and somewhat prooflike, particularly on the reverse.

Date about centered.

Purchased from William Donner, February 20, 1968.

1803 1870 EF-40. Bright yellow gold.

Date about centered.

Purchased from N.K.S., June 26, 1967.

Famous 1870-CC $20 Rarity

First Carson City Issue

Far and Away the Rarest "CC" $20

1804 1870-CC EF-45 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold. Some surface marks as usual for the grade and issue. A splendid specimen to obtain, a numismatic landmark and showpiece. David Akers' words are relevant; "Without question this is one of the rarest and most famous of all double eagles. It is by far the rarest Carson City Mint $20..."

The number of different specimens known has been the subject of various estimates, but most agree that fewer than three dozen pieces can be accounted for. Most of these are at lower grade levels.

The rarity of this piece is explained by two considerations. First, only 3,789 were struck. More important, it is our belief that $20 pieces of the early 1870s were not widely exported but, instead, saw circulation in and around Nevada and the American West. In time, most became abraded and worn, and further most were melted. Thus, the survival rate is extremely low, seemingly less than 1% of the production quantity.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer (AU-50 finest).

Obverse with logotype high and close to the neck of Miss Liberty, but distinctly separated from it. Reverse with CC mintmark positioned with the first mint letter over the right side of the upright of N (TWENTY). In their excellent book, *Gold Coins of the Old West: The Carson City Mint 1870-1893*, Douglas Winter and Lawrence E. Cutler, M.D., devote extensive space to this particular issue, notably observing that there are two die varieties—one being the variety offered here in the Bass Part II sale, called "2B". Their description follows: "The first (2-B) has a small rather compact

mintmark which is placed high and near to the tail feathers of the eagle and is located over the space between the NT in TWENTY. A few pieces show minor doubling on the reverse lettering. The second variety (1-A) has the mintmark placed over the right upright stroke of the N in TWENTY and the date placement is lower than on obverse 2."

The same writers suggest that possibly 35 to 45 specimens exist, this number being a bit more liberal than seen elsewhere. The highest class according to Winter-Cutler grade Extremely Fine, of which either nine to 10 are known.

For the record, Don Taxay in *The Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins*, 1971, placed his estimate of the known pieces as 13 to 30. As is the case with virtually all American rarities, certification data are largely useless, as valuable coins such as the 1870-CC $20 are apt play tag or musical chairs and be submitted and resubmitted to various services, thus ballooning the number beyond any reasonable estimate of the actual quantity of *different* pieces extant.

Before placing the Winter-Cutler volume back on the table, we quote their general comments about the 1870-CC: "The 1870-CC is, by a large margin, the rarest Carson City double eagle. While the overall rarity has been somewhat exaggerated in the past, it is still one of the rarest of all Liberty Head $20s and it is probably the most famous and desirable gold coin struck at the Carson City Mint.

"The quality of strike for this issue is not very good. The obverse is always weaker than the reverse. The stars, especially those at the left, are flat while Liberty's hair is blunt. On the reverse, the wing feathers tend to show reasonably good detail while the borders are weaker. The tail feathers are always very blunt, as are the stars which encircle the motto. Every 1870-CC double eagle we have ever seen is very heavily abraded. The fields nearly always show deep, detracting gouges while many pieces have conspicuous bumps on the rims from mishandling. This is an issue which obviously went directly into circulation and stayed there for quite some time. The lustre on those few higher grade pieces which exist is somewhat prooflike. The coloration tends to be a medium orange-gold shade. Many survivors have been cleaned and the concept of 'eye appeal' is alien when it comes to this date.

"The reason for the uneven wear pattern seen on the 1870-CC double eagle seems to be the result of technical difficulties at the Carson City Mint. When these coins were struck, they were not properly centered within the collar. As a result, the left obverse rim and the corresponding reverse are narrower and more weakly impressed than the rims at the right side of the coin. This characteristic is seen on all examples of this date and it is a good test for the authenticity of any 1870-CC double eagle."

With regard to the authenticity, we recall the consternation a few years ago when well known Beverly Hills dealer Jerry Cohen sought to acquire an 1870-CC $20 that had been well pedigreed to a famous American cabinet, and was one of the best-recorded pieces. There was one problem: upon close inspection he found it to be a counterfeit! While forgeries of the 1870-CC are few and far between, they are mentioned by Cutler-Winter and Breen, stated "authentication recommended."

Thus concludes our commentary on this lovely 1870-CC, a splendid specimen of a splendid rarity.

From our sale of the King of Siam Collection, October 1987, Lot 2054.

1805 1870-S EF-45. Highly lustrous, particularly on the reverse.

Date very high and almost touching truncation. Reverse with small mintmark (apparently as always; mintmark variations are not particularly significant after the 1860s, and henceforth we will not note their size unless something unusual catches our eye). Crack links tops of ATES and, separately, OF. Although San Francisco Mint double eagles of the 1870s are sometime seen with die cracks, the situation is not nearly as prevalent as for the 1850s and 1860s.

Purchased from Parke-Bernet Galleries' sale of May 1968, Lot 40.

1806 1871 AU-50. Light yellow gold, much mint lustre remains, particularly on the reverse.

Date high. In logotype 7 and 1 are close (as usually seen), but a variety does exist with these digits spaced widely.

Purchased from William Donner, February 17, 1968.

1807 1871 EF-40. Bright lustrous fields with somewhat pale orange highlights. Areas of the reverse exhibit light hairlines from brushing in the past.

Date fairly high. Minor repunching at lower left of 1; 7 and 1 closely spaced.

From Abe Kosoff's ANA Sale, August 1968, Lot 1079.

Elusive 1871-CC $20

1808 1871-CC EF-45 (PCGS). Small bump on left obverse rim. Medium yellow gold. A very pleasing example of the date and variety, a scarcity from early in the series. An important coin for the specialist.

Date logotype large this year. About evenly centered.

As noted under Lot 1804, it has been our long-standing opinion that the distribution of Carson City gold coins in the early 1870s was conducted quite different from that of later years. In the later expanse of the series, mid-1870s onward, many Carson City gold coins were shipped to San Francisco (sometimes after having been lightly circulated in Nevada), and from San Francisco were exported—including to Europe and South America. In sharp contrast, double eagles of the early 1870s seemed to have stayed closer to home, and to have circulated extensively on the West Coast, particularly in Nevada and in other inland areas. Thus, for all early Carson City gold coins such grades as VF and EF are par for the course and are extremely desirable, with Mint State pieces being virtually nonexistent. Toward the end of the double eagle series, the opposite is largely true—high-grade coins such as EF and AU are the rule, not the exception, and scattered Mint State coins are seen.

Purchased from Fred Sweeney, April 14, 1972. At the time Harry Bass had expended some effort looking for a "nice" 1871-CC, and had turned down a lesser piece offered in December 1971 by New York City dealer Ed Shapiro.

Important Mint State 1871-S $20

None Finer Graded

1809 **1871-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Lustrous with somewhat satiny frost. Deeply basined dies. A nice example of this popular San Francisco issue, one which is common in lower grades, but which is elusive in Mint State.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

On the logotype the figures are bold, with 18 and 71 more closely spaced than the central 87, though Walter Breen raises the possibility, "May exist with 71 apart."

Purchased from Jimmy Hayes, August 18, 1972.

1810 **1871-S AU-50.** Bright and somewhat prooflike, particularly on the reverse.

Date logotype heavily punched into die and about centered. 7 and 1 close. Stray bar or ridge in field to left of base of 7. Tiny S mintmark is not much more than a little blob and would have been better suited for use on a half dime!

Purchased from N.K.S., May 14, 1968.

1811 **1872 AU-50.** Bright and lustrous, a very beautiful coin.

Date centered. Boldly impressed into working die.

Purchased from I. Kleinman, October 10, 1971.

Pleasing EF 1872-CC $20

1812 **1872-CC EF-45.** Light yellow gold. A lovely specimen of th somewhat scarce and extremely popular issue.

Date deeply punched into working die and well positioned. Reverse wi widely spaced letters in mintmark. Two tiny die ridges are seen from t border at R (AMERICA), one to the left of the letter and one piercing t letter.

From Glendining's sale of October 16, 1970, Lot 1049, to Rowe Brownlee.

1813 **1872-CC VF-35.** Another nice specimen of this popular min mark variety.

Date high and close to truncation. Deeply punched into die. Reverse wi mintmark more closely spaced than on preceding.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, L 2493.

1814 **1872-S AU-50.** Lustrous medium gold surfaces. The reverse very close to Mint State.

Date slightly above center. Medium depth of punch into working di slightly deeper toward the end of the date.

Purchased from I. Kleinman, November 31, 1971.

Incredible Rare 1873 Proof $20

Closed 3

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS

1815 1873 Closed 3. Proof-63 (PCGS). Another Bass Collection Proof $20, this coin, like its predecessors in this sale, was hand selected for quality. This specimen is rich yellow gold, with cameo-like devices set against deep mirror fields, making it as pretty as the proverbial picture.

Only 25 Proofs were struck, but most of these have either disappeared or were not distributed to begin with, yielding no more than a dozen known today, possibly as few as 10. Of these at least two are in museum collections, and others are impaired. O-P-P-O-R-T-U-N-I-T-Y comes to the fore.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Obverse with Closed 3 as on all Proofs. On the $20 denomination the balls of the 3 are not as close together as on certain other denominations. Still, they are closer than on the later Open 3 issue. Date logotype ever so slightly closer to the bust than to the dentils.

Purchased from Rarcoa, April 1972.

1816 1873 Closed 3. AU-50. Lightly brushed.

Date well centered.

The 1873 Closed 3 and Open 3 issues in the $20 series are not as distinctive in appearance as they are on other denominations. However, as a quick rule of thumb, the Open 3 has spacing between the upper and lower knob of the 3 about equal to the entire width of the upper knob, while the Closed 3 has a significantly smaller spacing. Still, on the Closed 3 the knobs are not so close that they can be mistaken for the 8 (as they can be on certain other issues such as the cent and five-cents).

Purchased from J.C. Nash, April 28, 1978.

1817 1873 Closed 3. EF-45. The reverse has nearly full original lustre.

Date well centered.

Purchased from Rarcoa, December 28, 1971.

1818 1873 Open 3. AU-58. Highly lustrous.

Date slightly high.

From Lester Merkin's sale of January 22, 1968, Lot 267.

Offering of Liberty Head $20s

1819 Selection of lustrous Philadelphia Mint double eagles: ☆ 1873 Open 3. AU-50 ☆ 1874 EF-45 ☆ 1890 AU-53 ☆ 1893 MS-60 ☆ 1894 AU-58 ☆ 1895 AU-58 ☆ 1897 MS-60 ☆ 1898 AU-55. All are lustrous and pleasing. (Total: 8 pieces)

Eight Different Philadelphia $20s

1820 Grouping of Philadelphia Mint Liberty Head double eagles: ☆ 1873 Open 3. AU-50 ☆ 1875 AU-50 ☆ 1876 AU-50 ☆ 1877 EF-45 ☆ 1878 AU-55 ☆ 1879 AU-50 ☆ 1880 EF-45 ☆ 1888 AU-50. Most are brilliant and all have pleasing original mint lustre. (Total: 8 pieces)

Eight Different Philadelphia $20s

1821 Grouping of eight different Philadelphia Mint double eagles: ☆ 1873 Open 3. AU-50 ☆ 1876 EF-40 ☆ 1878 AU-58 ☆ 1879 VF-35, cleaned ☆ 1880 EF-40 ☆ 1888 AU-50 ☆ 1889 AU-50 ☆ 1890 AU-58. Mostly brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 8 pieces)

Lustrous 1873-CC Closed 3 $20

1822 1873-CC Closed 3. AU-55 (PCGS). A nice example of the date, variety, mintmark, and grade—about what one might expect. Popular as an essential part of the Carson City gold series. The year 1873 represents the first year for which Carson City double eagles could be reasonably expected to be found in EF grade on a regular basis and occasionally AU.

Date logotype high. Closed 3 as always seen, but with the knobs of the 3 not quite as close as on certain other denominations.

From Paramount's sale of August 1969, Lot 2235.

1823 1873-CC Closed 3. VF-20. Smooth, even wear. Pale gold surfaces. Ever-popular Carson City issue.

Closed 3 in date, as always for Carson City issues (these dies having been made up early in the year and sent to the West). Date high. Reverse with mint letters fairly closely spaced.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, May 30, 1972.

1824 1873-S Closed 3. AU-55. Bright and brilliant. The reverse is nearly full Mint State.

Date well centered. Closed 3 (as most often seen among San Francisco issues).

Purchased from I. Kleinman, October 1, 1971.

Eight Different San Francisco $20s

1825 Grouping of San Francisco Mint Liberty double eagles: 1873-S Closed 3. EF-40 ☆ 1874-S EF-40 ☆ 1896-S AU-55 ☆ 1897-S AU-55 ☆ 1898-S AU-55 ☆ 1899-S AU-53 ☆ 1900-S AU-53 ☆ 1901-S AU-55. All with nice lustre for the assigned grade. (Total: 8 pieces)

Another San Francisco $20 Group

1826 Grouping of San Francisco Mint Liberty Head double eagles: ☆ 1873-S Closed 3. EF-40 ☆ 1874-S VF-35 ☆ 1893-S AU-55 ☆ 1895-S AU-58 ☆ 1896-S AU-55 ☆ 1898-S AU-58 ☆ 1899-S MS-60 ☆ 1900-S AU-58. All with nice lustre for the assigned grade. (Total: 8 pieces)

1827 Pair of 1873-S $20, both graded EF-45: ☆ Closed 3 ☆ Open 3. (Total: 2 pieces)

Date logotype high. Reverse with minute crack through TES (STATES). mintmark is centered over upper right tip of N (TWENTY).

1828 1873-S Open 3. AU-50. Brilliant and with much lustre. An attractive example of this *rare* variety.

The 1873-S Open 3 $20 has been known to specialists for some time, mentioned in David Akers's 1982 study, and merits a separate number and the description *rare* in *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U. S. and Colonial Coins*. However, it was only recently (the new 53rd Edition dated 2000) that the variety was listed in the *Guide Book of United States Coins*. No doubt this appearance will result in an increased demand for the issue. How rare the 1873-S Open 3 is in relation to the usually seen 1873-S Closed 3 remains to be seen, but it is probably several times more elusive (although you would not know it from the pieces we present here as part of the Harry W. Bass Collection!).

Date logotype high. Reverse with minute crack through TES (STATES). mintmark is centered over upper right tip of N (TWENTY).

From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1966, Lot 419.

1829 1873-S Open 3. AU-50. Much lustre still remains, particularly on the reverse.

Date logotype high. Reverse with minute crack through TES (STATES). mintmark is centered over upper right tip of N (TWENTY).

From Glendining's sale of October 16, 1970, to Rowe & Brownlee to Harry W. Bass.

1830 Trio of double eagles: ☆ 1873-S Open 3. EF-45. Highly lustrous for the grade, particularly on the reverse. The overall appeal is substantially finer than the assigned grade implies ☆ 1874 AU-58. Brilliant and lustrous. The reverse is especially frosty and could grade at least MS-60 if judged independently ☆ 1874-S EF-45. (Total: 3 pieces)

1831 **1874-CC AU-50.** Bright yellow gold. Obverse with some mentionable scratches before the face, largely taken care of by the grade number, but worthy of notation in any event. About average for a Carson City double eagle of this era.

Date high. Logotype punched into die at medium depth. On the reverse the mint letters are widely spaced. Raised ridge from border pierces R (AMERICA).

Purchased from N.K.S., July 9, 1968.

1832 **1874-CC EF-45.** Much lustre remains on the reverse.

Date high and lightly impressed into working die. Reverse with mintmark letters widely spaced. Ridge from border pierces R (AMERICA).

Purchased from Paramount, December 15, 1968.

1833 **1874-S AU-55.** Highly lustrous, particularly on the reverse.

Date high. Crack through bases of 18, intermittently extending left through stars one and two.

Reverse with bottom right of S mintmark missing, possibly due to relapping. Certain low-relief details are light. Crack begins at U (UNITED) and continues clockwise to E (AMERICA). Another crack is seen through the bases of ENTY (TWENTY). Apparently a much used die by the time that this particular coin was struck.

Purchased from I. Kleinman, October 1, 1971.

Quintette of 1874-S Double Eagles

1834 **Five 1874-S Liberty double eagles:** ☆ AU-53 ☆ AU-50 (4). All are brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 5 pieces)

Fabulous Proof 1875 $20

A Classic Rarity

High Condition Census

(2X photo)

1835 **1875 Proof-63 (PCGS).** A stunningly beautiful, fabulously rare issue in the gold Proof series. For many years the Proofs dated 1875—with a mintage of just 20 coins in each denomination—have been considered the *crème de la crème* of the decade. Only at widely spaced intervals do examples come on the market, with the high denomination $10 and $20 being the most elusive of all. Typically, a period of many *years* elapses between auction offerings. The present coin, the second of the two finest graded by PCGS, is an American numismatic landmark. A strong bid is indicated, with the assurance that few equals exist anywhere.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (Proof-64).

We are quite aware that PCGS is sometimes on the conservative side, and it would not surprise us to have some other entity grade this coin at a higher level.

From the mintage of 20 specimens, Walter Breen estimates that no more than 10 to 12 exist. Of these, at least two, possibly three, are in institutions, and a few others are nicked and scratched. Thus, the present coin is one of just a handful of really beautiful pieces.

From Superior's Auction '85 sale, July 1985, Lot 978.

1836 1875 MS-61. Brilliant and lustrous. The reverse, if graded separately, would be a couple of points higher.

Date low and deeply punched into die.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, April 19, 1969.

1837 1875 Breen-7254. "Cancelled J.B.L". MS-60. Brilliant and highly lustrous. The reverse particularly so. An interesting variety that is neither widely known nor widely collected, but is certainly worthy of study. This piece will be of importance to the advanced specialist.

Obverse with, per Breen, "Cancelled J.B.L. Rare. A heavy die file mark obliterates Longacre's initials. Petty spite?" The only problem with this analysis is that the initials would have been recessed and on a slant into the die and would be rather difficult to file, although it certainly could be done. Whatever the reason, filing or otherwise, spite or otherwise, there is no trace of the designer's initials, an anomaly.

The date is deeply punched and is slightly low. On the reverse a crack begins at U (UNITED) and continues clockwise to the final S (STATES). Another crack connects OF. Another connects the tops of MERI.

Purchased from Lester Merkin's sale of October 1969, Lot 471.

Sparkling 1875-CC $20

1838 1875-CC MS-62 (PCGS). Slightly prooflike on the obverse. Pleasing light yellow gold, a very attractive piece overall. A nice representative of the variety and the grade.

Date logotype slightly low. On the reverse the CC mintmark is mostly filled.

The formation of a collection within a collection is always a popular pursuit. In the double eagle specialty, a particularly interesting challenge is to obtain one each of the various dates 1870-1893 for which Carson City struck pieces. As a general guide to collecting, the 1870-CC is the rarity of rarities, the most formidable coin, although the existence of several dozen pieces takes it out of the "impossible" class. The 1871-CC and 1872-CC are typically seen in lower grades, VF being par, EF being a bit unusual, and anything finer being remarkable. For 1873 and later, EF coins become a regular possibility, AU pieces exist for several of the different varieties, and toward the later end of the series it is even possible to obtain Mint State coins. The Bass Collection sale provides the opportunity to add to or to begin such a specialty.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, November 6, 1972.

Mint State 1875-CC $20

1839 1875-CC MS-60. An affordable Mint State coin, a piece that within the reach of just about every double eagle specialist.

Dies similar to preceding.

Another Mint State 1875-CC $20

1840 1875-CC MS-60. Brilliant and lustrous. A highly attractive e ample of this Carson City issue, a piece with a great deal of ey appeal.

Date logotype deeply punched and slightly low. Some die striae can b seen, perhaps indicating that this is an early impression. On the reverse t mintmark letters are fairly closely spaced and are filled. A light crack is see from T (UNITED) clockwise to the first T (STATES). An almost invisib crack connects the tops of M and E (AMERICA). Another barely discernib crack is at the bottom connecting TY (TWENTY) and the adjacent D. Pe haps the *doubled die reverse*, conforming somewhat to Breen-7258, howev the mint letters on the present piece (and that to follow) are closely space Delicate crack connects D (UNITED) with adjacent S; another from final (STATES) to O (OF); another through the tops of MER.

Purchased from Douglas Weaver, July 29, 1973.

1841 1875-CC AU-58. Brilliant and lustrous. A nice mate to the pr ceding and from the same die pair.

Die state similar to the preceding.

Purchased from N.K.S., April 28, 1967.

1842 1875-CC AU-55. Lustrous and frosty.

Date logotype deeply punched and slightly low. Placed slightly farthe right than usually seen.

Reverse with closely spaced CC. Delicate crack connects final S (STATES with adjacent O. Delicate tracery of cracks intermittently at MERICA.

Purchased from Arnold Rosing, June 21, 1967.

Trio of Carson City Mint $20s

1843 Threesome of Carson City Mint double eagles: ☆ 1875-CC (2). EF-40 and VF-35 ☆ 1890-CC EF-40, obverse graffiti. Each with nice lustre for the grade. (Total: 3 pieces)

1844 1875-S AU-58. Very lustrous and frosty, just as nice as some pieces called full Mint State.

Date centered. Reverse with S mintmark centered over upper right tip of N (TWENTY).

From Superior's sale of 1973, Lot 911.

1845 1875-S AU-58. The reverse can be graded full MS-60.

Date about centered. Reverse with mintmark over right upright of N (TWENTY). Cracks around most of the periphery and also, separately, at the top of the rays.

Purchased from W.F. Betz, June 6, 1967.

1846 1875-S AU-55. Some marks on the obverse keep this from a higher grade. The reverse on its own merits the designation AU-58 or MS-60.

Date centered. Reverse with S mintmark over upper right serif of N (TWENTY). Delicate intermittent cracks around the border from U (UNTIED) clockwise to C (AMERICA).

Purchased from N.K.S., August 21, 1968.

Selection of Double Eagles

1847 Selection of eight different Liberty Head double eagles: ☆ 1875-S AU-50 ☆ 1876-S AU-53 ☆ 1877-S AU-55 ☆ 1878-S AU-50 ☆ 1880-S EF-45 ☆ 1881-S EF-45 ☆ 1882-S AU-50 ☆ 1883-S AU-58. Mostly brilliant with some degree of original mint lustre remaining. (Total: 8 pieces)

Grouping of San Francisco $20s

1848 Selection of eight different Liberty Head double eagles from the San Francisco Mint: ☆ 1875-S EF-45 ☆ 1876-S AU-50 ☆ 1877-S AU-55 ☆ 1878-S AU-50 ☆ 1879-S EF-45 ☆ 1880-S AU-50 ☆ 1881-S AU-50 ☆ 1882-S AU-53. All brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 8 pieces)

San Francisco Mint Octet

1849 Attractive selection of Liberty Head double eagles from the San Francisco Mint: ☆ 1875-S VF-35 ☆ 1876-S AU-50 ☆ 1877-S AU-58, light abrasions across Miss Liberty's cheek ☆ 1878-S AU-55 ☆ 1879-S AU-53 ☆ 1880-S AU-50 ☆ 1881-S AU-55 ☆ 1882-S AU-58. All brilliant with nice lustre for the assigned grade. (Total: 8 pieces)

Incredible 1876 Proof $20 Rarity

None Finer Graded by PCGS

1850 1876 Proof-64 (PCGS). A splendid specimen of exquisite quality and unquestioned rarity. Although 45 Proofs were struck—perhaps in anticipation that visitors to the Centennial Exhibition of American Independence held in nearby Fairmount Park would sally over to the Philadelphia Mint—today only eight to 10 pieces are believed to exist (Walter Breen's estimate). Only at widely spaced intervals does an example appear on the market, and even then the coin is not apt to be in the grade offered here. For the double eagle specialist this represents a coin in the same general league rarity-wise as the earlier-discussed 1875, although the mantle of fame has not descended upon the 1876 to the same extent. Here, indeed, is a tremendously important opportunity.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

How many *different* specimens this number represents we have no clue.

1851 **1876 MS-61.** Lustrous and attractive. A nice example of the grade.

Old-style hub (see note under Lot 1853).

1852 **1876 MS-60.** Lustrous and frosty.

Date centered. Reverse from old-style hub. Delicate cracks link many of the letters beginning with U (UNITED) continuing clockwise through R (AMERICA).

Purchased from N.K.S., July 8, 1968.

1853 **1876 AU-58.** Lustrous and attractive. Reverse somewhat prooflike. From the new "Light Motto" reverse hub used only in this year and at this mint, a great curiosity that is very easy to discern, but mention of which seems to be virtually unknown (if we are wrong, a letter from reader will result in a prompt credit in a future issue of the *Rare Coin Review*). Every double eagle collection should have one!

Obverse with date slightly right and fairly low. This issue displays a new hub for the reverse, with notable differences over that used earlier, including those dated 1876. This was late in the game, for in the next year the hub would be redesigned again (to change the spelling of the denomination). Thus, the hub described here was used only briefly.

Old "heavy" hub: Seven thin rays between eagle's wing at upper left and thick ray below first S (STATES). Center of thick ray is about below the left edge of the serif at the upright of the second T (STATES). IN GOD WE in heavy letters and close to the word TRUST below it. For purposes of convenience, the old type hub could be called "Heavy Motto."

New "light motto" hub: Six thin rays between eagle's wing at upper left and thick ray below first S (STATES). Center of thick ray is between the AT (STATES) and more under the A. IN GOD WE in light letters and farther from TRUST. For purposes of convenience the new styled hub could be called "Light Motto."

From Rarcoa, February 1972.

1854 **1876 AU-58.** Somewhat prooflike on the obverse. Lustrous reverse. A very *special* coin that we expect to bring a "MS-60 price," as it stands high above what one normally sees for this date.

Date slightly low.

Reverse from new "Light Motto" hub.

1855 **1876 AU-55.** Brilliant and lustrous.

Date slightly low. Die crack through base of date numerals. Another crack links stars one and two. Still another crack is seen at star 13.

Reverse from new hub. Die cracked through top of letters from first S (STATES) clockwise through C (AMERICA).

Purchased from Leo A. Young, April 14, 1967.

1856 **1876-CC AU-58.** Highly prooflike. A splendid specimen at this grade level. A very popular date, the 1876-CC was made in large quantities and thus is eminently affordable.

Date slightly high. Reverse of the old-type (Heavy Motto) hub, apparently as always for the mintmarked varieties (Carson City and San Francisco). Mintmark letters closely spaced. Light cracks at top of rays from about the 11:00 to 12:00 position.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, July 8, 1968.

1857 **1876-CC AU-55.** Highly lustrous. Another specimen of this popular Carson City issue.

Date slightly high. Reverse with delicate and quite irregular crack through UNITED S, so minute as to be virtually invisible.

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of November 1971, Lot 1250.

1858 **1876-CC AU-53.** Another nice example.

Date slightly high. Reverse with cracks through tops of rays from 11:00 to 12:00. Delicate cracks through MERIC (AMERICA).

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 5, 1968.

1859 **Pair of branch mint double eagles:** ☆ 1876-CC AU-50. A final example of this Carson City issue, last of the design type ☆ 1876-S AU-55. Bright and lustrous, particularly on the reverse. (Total: 2 pieces)

1860 **1876-S MS-60.** Especially brilliant, lustrous, and frosty. A very attractive coin.

Date centered. Reverse with mintmark centered over left edge of second T (TWENTY). Cracks join letters from U (UNITED) clockwise to second S (STATES). Another extends to the border to the left side of O (OF), while still another crack extends from F to the right. Yet another crack, or possibly the continuation of the one just mentioned, joins the letters AMER.

From Stack's sale of the Bartle Collection, October 1984, Lot 1091.

1861 **1876-S AU-58.** Lustrous and frosty. Somewhat prooflike.

Date slightly low. Reverse with mintmark to the right of its usual position, centered over the left side of the upright of the second T (TWENTY).

From Parke-Bernet Galleries' sale of May 1968, Lot 57.

San Francisco $20 Group

1862 **Offering of San Francisco Mint double eagles:** ☆ 1876-S EF-40, lightly cleaned ☆ 1877-S AU-55 ☆ 1878-S AU-50 ☆ 1882-S VF-20, lightly cleaned ☆ 1883-S AU-58 ☆ 1884-S MS-60 ☆ 1885-S AU-53 ☆ 1887-S AU-55. All are attractive for the grade assigned unless otherwise noted. At the time, the San Francisco Mint was the primary American depot for the coinage of gold, most metal coming from the Sierras. By this time the era of the individual miner was gone, and most activities were conducted by corporations. Double eagles were used in commerce in the American West, as well as for exports, particularly to South America and Europe (rarely to the Orient). How grateful we must all be today for the export trade of years ago. Otherwise, probably most of the coins in the present lot would have been called in by the United States government 1933-1934 and melted! (Total: 8 pieces)

1863 **1877 MS-62.** Brilliant and lustrous. A handsome example of the first year of the new reverse type with the denomination spelled out as TWENTY DOLLARS.

Beginning in 1877, the head of Miss Liberty was repositioned on the hub. The truncation is now at a considerably higher angle, permitting much more room between the neck and the dentils. Thus, after this point, date placement variations are not as noticeable. As a quick point of reference between the old style and new style, the old style had the point of Miss Liberty's coronet very close to star 7, while the new hub has the coronet tip centered between stars six and seven. Other differences could be mentioned.

The new reverse hub is a hybrid between the old style and new style hubs discussed under 1876. The motto is light on the 1877 die, and the words IN GOD WE are significantly above TRUST. However, on the new die there are seven thin rays between the eagle's wing at the upper left and first thick ray, somewhat reminiscent of the old style hub used in early 1876 and before, but differently cut. On the new hub the letters in E PLURIBUS UNUM are *much larger* than those used earlier. Other differences could be mentioned. To fully appreciate them is a simple procedure to place an 1876 "Light Motto" hub of the new hub alongside the 1877 and make comparisons.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 17, 1971.

Popular 1877-CC $20

1864 **1877-CC AU-55 (PCGS).** Especially brilliant. Somewhat proof-like surfaces, notably on the obverse. A nice example of this popular date and a somewhat scarce issue; only 42,565 were minted.

Purchased from Douglas G. Weaver, August 29, 1973.

1865 **1877-CC VF-35.** Light yellow gold.

Relevant to Carson City issues after 1876, the Winter-Cutler reference comments: "One of the features of the Type III Liberty Head double eagles is the fact that the hair detail on the obverse is much sharper than on Type II coins. This can be quickly seen by comparing, say, 1870-CC then 1876-CC..."

Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, May 5, 1973.

Selection of San Francisco $20's

1866 **Selection of San Francisco Mint double eagles, all different dates:** ☆ 1877-S EF-45 ☆ 1878-S EF-45 ☆ 1881-S EF-40 ☆ 1883-S AU-55 ☆ 1884-S AU-58 ☆ 1885-S AU-50 ☆ 1887-S AU-53 ☆ 1888-S AU-58. All brilliant with an abundance of mint lustre. (Total: 8 pieces)

San Francisco $20 Selection

1867 **Selection of San Francisco Mint double eagles:** ☆ 1877-S EF-40 ☆ 1878-S EF-40 ☆ 1883-S EF-45 ☆ 1884-S AU-55 ☆ 1887-S AU-50, brushed ☆ 1888-S AU-50 ☆ 1889-S AU-58 ☆ 1890-S AU-58. All with varying degrees of mint lustre. (Total: 8 pieces)

Exceedingly Important 1878 Proof $20

Condition Census

(2X photo)

1868 **1878 Proof-63 (PCGS).** The present 1878 brings to the auction forum another *formidable* rarity in the Proof double eagle series. The mintage was but 20 examples, from which number only eight to 10 are believed to exist today—placing the 1878 in the same league rarity-wise as the earlier discussed 1875 and 1876. The present coin is the finest obtained by Harry Bass over many years of searching.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer (MS-64 finest).
Date logotype low.

Acquired from Stack's, in trade for "common $20s," June 6, 1973.

1869 **1878 MS-61.** Brilliant and lustrous. A very attractive coin.

Under magnification the last digit shows a sharp doubling. Apparently the 8 in the logotype first touched the working die at a higher position, but then was finally punched slightly lower.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 17, 1968. When acquiring the piece, Harry Bass noted that it was a "rare grade" for the 1878 year.

Elusive 1878-CC $20

1870 **1878-CC AU-53 (PCGS).** One of the more elusive issues from the era, reflective of a relatively low mintage of 13,180 pieces. Difficult to find in all grades.

Purchased from Douglas Weaver, August 29, 1973.

1879 Proof $20 Rarity

None Finer Graded

(2X photo)

1871 **1879 Proof-63 (PCGS).** Although 30 Proofs were reported to have been minted of the 1879 double eagle, the number of pieces known today is about the same as for the earlier-mentioned 1875, 1876 and 1878—perhaps eight to 10 totally, this being the estimate of Walter Breen. In the 1870s there was negligible interest in saving double eagles by date, as the high face value was equal to a month's pay for the typical factory worker. Those few numismatists who could afford to own them usually found—or their administrators did—that the resale market for Proof double eagles was only slightly over face value. The late B. Max Mehl reported that in the early 1920s, Proof double eagles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries had virtually no resale value, and an owner might say something such as, "Would you like to buy this, or should I spend it?"

Today, any Proof double eagle is a rarity, and Proofs of the 1860s and 1870s are incredibly so. Starting with the Bass sale in 1999, and given an unlimited bank account, the most dedicated numismatist will probably not be able to complete a set of such pieces within the next 10 to 20 years. In a way, this is just fine—or at least we would consider it fine if we were a Internet or computer mogul. The thrill of the hunt is part of the game, and just as Harry Bass in some 30 years of collecting was not able to acquire certain Proofs, today's buyer will not be able to either—unless the American Numismatic Society wants to sell its collection (heaven forbid!). Returning to reality, such coins are at once wonderful, exciting, and rare. Just to catalogue and gaze upon them in the Bass Collection as they pass through our hands is a thrilling experience. *Ownership* provides the ultimate excitement. Our congratulations to the successful bidders for this and other treasures.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.
Date logotype centered.

1872 **1879 MS-61.** Brilliant and lustrous.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, December 16, 1971.

Lustrous Double Eagle Trio

1873 **Trio of double eagles, all AU:** ☆ 1879 AU-55 ☆ 1879-S AU-55 ☆ 1881-S AU-58. All brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 3 pieces)

Key 1879-CC $20

1874 **1879-CC AU-50 (PCGS).** Light yellow gold. Much mint lustre is still seen in protected areas on the obverse and in many areas on the reverse, the latter being somewhat prooflike. For a long time the 1879-CC, with a mintage of 10,708, has been regarded as a key date. Significantly, Walter Breen notes: "Usually in low grades, prohibitively rare Uncirculated."
Purchased from Ed Shapiro, December 16, 1971.

Important 1879-O $20

1875 **1879-O EF-40.** Sharply struck and very attractive. Much mint lustre still remains, particularly on the reverse.

Among branch mint $20 coins of this era, the 1879-O stands out for its remarkably low mintage of 2,325 pieces. Further, it is the last coin of this denomination struck at New Orleans. From a viewpoint of comparable mintages, only the 1856-O registers a lower number. Any appearance of an 1879-O is a numismatic event.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, October 7, 1968, in a transaction involving another coin plus a cash differential. As the 1879-O is a scarce date, Harry Bass noted that Mike Brownlee had acquired another piece from a Mr. Rann several years later in August 1973, this other coin being "15 points less." In an era in which not everyone used numbers to describe coins, Harry was ahead of his time, as he used a numerical system for all of his gold issues. This way he could easily keep track of them on his computer–another field in which Harry was ahead of his time, being attracted to these electronic devices years before the typical coin collector or dealer took advantage of thestorage and calculating power of such devices.

Lustrous 1879-S $20

1876 **1879-S MS-62 (PCGS).** A lustrous, attractive specimen whic in this grade is fairly scarce.
PCGS Population: 15; none finer.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 7, 1972.

Attractive $20 Trio

1877 **Trio of double eagles:** ☆ 1879-S AU-55. Light color gold. Lustrous, particularly on the reverse ☆ 1880 AU-55. Brilliant ☆ 1881-S AU-58. Brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 3 pieces)

Impressive and Rare 1880 Proof $20

None Finer Graded

1878 **1880 Proof-64 (PCGS).** An impressive and beautiful specimen of the rare Proof 1880 double eagle, a coin of which 36 Proofs were struck but—again—only eight to 10 are known today. Many of the finest collections of double eagles ever assembled lacked a Proof striking of this date. Among the relatively few that remain today, the present coin is of a quality that no finer pieces have been graded by PCGS. Again, a truly *formidable* rarity comes to auction. Be there!

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Concerning the number of *different* specimens we have no idea, except to say that it is a very popular procedure for holders of gold rarities to resubmit pieces for grading.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, August 16, 1971.

Key 1881 Double Eagle

Elusive Business Strike

Condition Census

1879 **1881 AU-55 (PCGS).** For many years the 1881 has been regarded as one of the key issues among double eagles in an era in which Philadelphia Mint coins are sometimes *awesome*. Just 2,200 business strikes were made, most of which have disappeared. Walter Breen estimates that only 16 to 20 survive in all grades. Perhaps lending further radiance to the desirability of the present piece it is a fact that Harry Bass was never able to obtain a *Proof* of this date in a quality which pleased him.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (MS-60 finest).

Purchased from Frank Sternberg, Zurich, November 24, 1967.

Remarkable 1882 Proof $20 Rarity

Condition Census

(2X photo)

1880 **1882 Proof-63 (PCGS).** Of this date 59 pieces were struck, but probably no more than half that number found buyers. Today the population is variously estimated as between a dozen and 20 pieces, of which the present coin is certainly in the top 50% quality-wise.

The decade of the 1880s represents an incredible era combining the rarity of Proofs with, in many instances, extremely elusive related business strikes. Concerning the latter, just 590 business strikes were made of the 1882 year—with fewer than eight survivors reported, according to Walter Breen. Thus, while the present 1882 is not a Proof-only date, the number of business strikes filling demand for the year is insignificant.

PCGS Population: 2; 5 finer (Proof-65 finest).

From Stack's sale of May 1974, Lot 527; previously from the Miles Collection, October 1968, Lot 907.

Attractive 1882-CC $20

1881 **1882-CC MS-60.** Brilliant, lustrous, and quite attractive. An excellent representative of the date, variety, and grade designation. Ever popular due to the mintmark.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2501.

Relatively High-Grade 1882-CC $20

1882 **1882-CC AU-55 (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous. A relatively high-grade example of this Carson City issue. Frosty surfaces overall.

From Lester Merkin's sale of October 1966, Lot 444.

1883 **1882-CC AU-53 (PCGS).** This piece must have been dazzling at the moment of its mintage, and must have challenged in appearance a full Philadelphia Mint Proof! On the reverse a scratch is seen in the motto, somewhat hidden, but visible readily enough upon inspection, perhaps prompting the AU-53 designation in the PCGS laboratory, rather than, say, AU-58. Another example of this popular Carson City issue.

From Stack's sale of the Alto Collection, December 1970, Lot 450.

Legendary Proof 1883 $20 Rarity

Condition Census

1884 1883 Proof-64 (PCGS). A coin of breathtaking quality, in rich yellow gold—as you like it—with frosted cameo devices set against deep mirror fields. By any reckoning—and we have certainly seen our share of gold rarities and are qualified to make this comment—this is one of the most awesome, most incredible examples of the issue ever to come to market.

The fame of the 1883 is long-enduring and is traced to its status as a Proof-only issue in the $20 series. In this year no business strikes were made for circulation. Mint records seem to suggest that 92 were struck, but this is not at all certain, and for a long time the figure of 40 reached print. The point is perhaps moot, for not even 40 were sold, and today the population is far fewer. Walter Breen has suggested "possibly 18 to 24 survive, several impaired," while David Akers checks in with a comment, "the exact number still in existence is impossible to know with certainty due to overlapping and unclear pedigrees. However, a reasonable estimate would be 15 to 18." The Smithsonian Institution has two examples, and the American Numismatic Society has one. Certain other pieces are impaired. Thus, is readily seen that in terms of market availability there may be no more than a dozen coins to match the quality and beauty of the Bass Collection specimen. One can readily imagine that this will be a centerpiece in the cabinet of its next owner.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (Proof-65 finest).

The position of the date logotype on this Proof is not as important as on earlier issues, as beginning in 1877 the position of the head of Miss Liberty was altered, providing a larger area. Thus, virtually all issues have good positioning.

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 476.

1885 **1883-CC AU-55.** Light yellow gold. A very nice example of this popular Carson City issue.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, November 11, 1969.

1886 **1883-CC AU-50.** Lustrous and frosty. A very affordable Carson City coin—a nice addition to a date or type set.
From Abner Kreisberg's sale of September 1971, Lot 1256.

1887 **1883-CC VF-35.** A final example of the issue.
From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Sanford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2502.

Mint State 1883-S $20

1888 **1883-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Somewhat prooflike on both sides. A far above average example of a date that is quite common in lesser grades, but is usually heavily bagmarked. The present piece escaped such a fate and is one of the finest we have seen.
Reverse with tiny, somewhat filled mintmark S.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 4, 1972.

1889 **1883-S MS-62.** Lustrous and frosty.
While date variations are not as noticeable among double eagles of the Type III design (1877-1907), occasionally a notable example is seen. On the present piece the date logotype is more than twice as close to the neck truncation as to the dentils, whereas on most other issues, the date is reasonably centered.
From Stack's sale of December 1972, Lot 945.

Octette of Type III $20s

San Francisco Origin

1890 **Eight different of San Francisco Type III $20s:** ☆ 1883- EF-45 ☆ 1884-S VF-35 ☆ 1887-S AU-50 ☆ 1888-S EF-40 ☆ 1889-S AU-58 ☆ 1890-S AU-58 ☆ 1891-S AU-58 ☆ 1892-S AU-55. A very attractive lustrous group. (Total: 8 pieces)

Famous 1884 $20 Rarity

Another Legendary Proof-Only Date

Condition Census

(2X photo)

1891 **1884 Proof-63 (PCGS).** A splendid specimen of a rich gold hue. Somewhat cameo-like in its overall appearance. A few marks are seen in the obverse field, otherwise this piece might well be called Proof-64 or even Proof-65 (perhaps with the "grade inflation" that seems to be occurring, even with these marks it would not be surprising to see it reholdered at a higher grade later). Call it as you will, and certainly the PCGS attribution of Proof-63 is conservative and satisfying, although our call would have been "Proof-64."

Similar to the 1883, the 1884 is a Proof-only date. The mintage is recorded as 71 pieces, from which, per Walter Breen, "possibly 16 to 20 survive, some impaired." We also mention that the Smithsonian Institution has two and the American Numismatic Society has one. Thus, again the number of truly choice pieces in private hands is likely fewer than a dozen, and in any event is somewhat fewer than the 1883.

In our sale of the Eliasberg Collection specimen in 1982 we quoted Walter Breen's comment, "This date has been subject to hysterical trumpetings of rarity since the fact came out in 1946 that the extraordinary F.C.C. Boyd Collection lacked an 1884." Of course, Breen could have easily said that just about every other important American collection also lacked an 1884! As one of many examples, the William Forrester Dunham sale, conducted by B. Max Mehl in 1941, had no 1884 Proof $20, but filled the *date* by having an 1884-CC (in VF preservation).

Among Philadelphia Mint Proofs of the Liberty Head design, the two most famous dates are the 1883 and 1884, offered in the present sale, a bridesmaid being the 1887. This trio constitutes the full panorama of Proof-only issues of the largest regular American gold denomination. While the 1887 is eminently desirable and wonderful to own, the limelight has always focused more intensely on the 1883 and 1884.

PCGS Population: 3; 5 finer (Proof-65 finest).

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 482.

1892 **1884-CC AU-55.** Bright yellow gold. Highly lustrous, particularly on the reverse. Some iridescent stains and carbon marks are seen on the neck, netting the value to the equivalent of, say, 10 or 15 points below the technical grade.
Purchased from the Goliad Corporation, May 3, 1973.

Brilliant 1884-S $20

1893 **1884-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous, a very beautiful coin which shows some bagmarks, as might be expected, but far fewer than normally encountered for this particular issue. As such, it is just as much a find for the buyer today as it was when Harry W. Bass acquired it 28 years ago.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 24, 1971.

Lovely 1884-S $20

1894 **1884-S MS-62 (PCGS).** Brilliant with semi-prooflike obverse. A high-grade example of an issue, which, when seen, is apt to be very worn.
Purchased from Michael G. Brownlee, April 17, 1967.

Gem Proof 1885 $20

Well Known Rare Date

Condition Census

1895 1885 Proof-65 (PCGS). A splendid coin of a quality which we have seldom seen offered. Of the 78 Proofs minted, perhaps 15 or so can be traced today, of which at least three are impounded in institutions, and several others are impaired. Thus, the present coin, a glittering cameo gem, is of incredible importance.

While the 1885 does not have Proof-only status similar to the 1883, 1884, and 1887, it comes fairly close, as the related business strike mintage was only 751 pieces. In annals of double eagles, the Philadelphia Mint coins of the 1880s are of paramount importance and desirability. How fortunate we are that the present listing contains these great rarities.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (Proof-66).

How the others compare to the Bass coin is not known, but it is recalled that not only do Bass Collection coins have high numbers, but, equally important (in our opinion), virtually all Bass coins have excellent aesthetic appeal.

From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 934, but acquired later by Harry Bass via trade.

Remarkable Business Strike 1885 $20

Highest PCGS Grade

(2X photo)

1896 1885 MS-63 (PCGS). A business strike not a Proof, although it does possess ample Proof surfaces. While it would be somewhat logical that the same die pair would be used to make business strikes as well as Proofs, this is not the case in the present instance, and a close comparison of the illustrations will reveal that the date on the business strikes is placed slightly differently, farther to the left, with the 8 centered under the B (J.B.L.), while on the Proofs the center of the 8 is ever so slightly to the right.

Warm gold obverse. The reverse is the same, save for some copper toning around the upper rim. The reverse die, while highly prooflike, is different from that used to strike Proofs, the latter having a small lump at the upper left of the F (OF).

As noted under our offering of the Proof of this date, related business strikes amounted to just 751 pieces. Relatively few exist, and of those, quoting Breen, "Most are EF to AU." As to the total surviving population it is a guess, and Walter Breen's estimate of 12 to 15 seems to be as good as any. From any aspect, from any evaluation, here indeed is a prime rarity.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

From NERCA's sale of the Mocatta Collection, July 1979, Lot 469.

Pair of Lustrous Double Eagles

1897 Duo of About Uncirculated double eagles: ☆ 1885-S AU-58. Light yellow gold ☆ 1888 AU-55. Highly lustrous. Many bagmarks on the obverse, some deep, keep this from a higher grade. (Total: 2 pieces)

Incredible Proof 1886 Double Eagle

Superb Gem Rarity

High Condition Census

1898 **1886 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A superb specimen—the grading number says it all from a technical viewpoint—with the added attraction of having a warm rich golden color and absolutely breathtaking eye appeal. And, as if that were not enough, while the 1886 is *not quite* a Proof-only date, probably no more than a dozen business strikes survive (from a mintage of 1,000 such pieces), placing additional market pressure on the few surviving Proofs. Moreover, there were no branch mint issues this year, thus, anyone wanting the *date* 1886 must of necessity acquire a Philadelphia Proof or business strike, both of which are elusive.

Regarding the Proofs, the Mint posted a production of 106 pieces, but most probably fewer than half of that number actually saw distribution. Today it is doubtful if as many as two dozen survive, few if any of which can match the present coin in quality. Here, indeed, is one of the great showpieces in the Bass Collection, a prize that will be a focal point in any cabinet of which it becomes a part.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (Proof-66).

Date logotype placed low.

Walter Breen notes that Proofs were made in each quarter of 1886, with 31 in the first quarter, 15 in the second, 15 in the third, and 45 in the fourth. Of these, 25 were included in sets that were available for sale (but not necessarily sold) in February. These figures would seem to indicate that by the end of the third quarter more 1886 Proof $20 pieces were needed, or perhaps it was anticipated that they would be needed, or otherwise 45 more would not have been made. However, as noted, it is highly unlikely that even half of the mintage found buyers.

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 494. From the Philadelphia Mint, February 2, 1886.

Famous 1887 $20 Rarity

Proof-Only Issue

Condition Census

(2X photo)

1899 **1887 Proof-64 (PCGS).** "Warm" gold as with the preceding Proofs. Similarly, the illustrious head of Miss Liberty set against deep mirror fields gives an overall cameo aspect to the entire obverse. A splendid specimen of this highly important Proof-only date; no related pieces were minted for circulation. Only 121 Proofs were minted, but, again, it is highly unlikely that even half were sold. Walter Breen states "possibly 20-25 survive, some impaired." We firmly second this opinion.

The present coin completes the trio of Proof-only issues in the double eagle series, the others being the earlier-offered 1883 and 1884. In the entire span of American numismatic history only a few major collections have ever had a complete offering. And, of those, few have equaled the *quality* of the Bass Collection coins.

PCGS Population: 8; 2 finer (Proof-65).

We would not be at all surprised if these numbers included multiple submissions.

We recall many years ago that a fine client and friend, Mr. Nat Scohen of Portland, Oregon, who enjoyed 19th-century Proofs, and specialized in the silver series, was offered a beautiful Proof 1887 $20 by dealer Jerry Cohen (who at the time was in Tucson, Arizona, prior to moving his business to Beverly Hills). He purchased it immediately, and for a long time afterward this was the gem of his entire collection.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1271.

Quality Selection of San Francisco Double Eagles

1900 **A quality group of eight different San Francisco issues:** ☆ 1887-S VF-35 ☆ 1889-S AU-50 ☆ 1890-S AU-55 ☆ 1891-S AU-55 ☆ 1892-S AU-50 ☆ 1893-S MS-60 ☆ 1894-S AU-58 ☆ 1895-S MS-60 An interesting and valuable selection. (Total: 8 pieces)

San Francisco Mint $20 Grouping

1901 **Offering of San Francisco double eagles, all different dates and mints:** ☆ 1887-S VF-20, harshly cleaned ☆ 1891-S MS-60 PL ☆ 1893-S EF-45, cleaned ☆ 1895-S AU-55 ☆ 1896-S AU-58 ☆ 1899-S AU-58. Mostly brilliant and lustrous, save for those with cleaning. (Total: 6 pieces)

Landmark Gem Proof 1888 $20

Solo Highest PCGS Grade

1902 1888 Proof-65 (PCGS). A splendid specimen, one of the finest known, from among an estimated 35 to 40 examples remaining from a stated mintage of 102 Proofs. As Walter Breen points out, many of the surviving Proofs are damaged. The present coin, an absolute gem of breathtaking quality, stands tall and proud as one of the very finest of its issue.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1273

Rare Proof 1889 $20

Condition Census

1903 1889 Proof-62 (PCGS). A very pleasing specimen from a *casual* viewpoint, exhibiting as it does the "warm" golden surfaces we have come to expect from a Bass Collection Proof, and also the cameo-like devices. However, upon close examination there are some lines in the field, accounting for the assigned numerical grade.

The mintage of Proofs in 1889 was just 41 coins, perhaps reflecting the true demand for Proofs of this denomination during the era—as we have felt (and stated) that certain earlier mintages made in larger numbers were not fully sold. Thus, perhaps the figure of 41 more closely represents the market. However, as perhaps only a dozen or so Proofs exist today—indeed this is a *Proof* rarity—it would not strain one's imagination to suggest that no more than 25 or 30 were sold. One can read long and carefully through 19th-century numismatic auction catalogues, contemporary accounts printed in the *American Journal of Numismatics*, and elsewhere, and encounter very few mentions of collectors who were seriously interested in acquiring Proof $20 pieces by date.

PCGS Population: 1; 3 finer (Proof-65 finest).

In the modern annals of numismatics we know of just one individual who *came close* to acquiring a full collection of Proof $1 through $20 pieces from 1858 to 1915, the late Ed Trompeter (whose collection was later broken up and sold by Superior, Heritage, and Tangible Assets Galleries). Regarding the formation of a collection by date and mintmark varieties, not necessarily including Proofs, and not including the 1861 Philadelphia Mint Paquet reverse variety, a half dozen or so numismatists have succeeded in the task, perhaps the best known collection being that of Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., which we showcased at auction in October 1982.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1276.

Attractive San Francisco Double Eagles

1904 Quality selection of eight San Francisco Mint double eagles: ☆ 1889-S AU-55 ☆ 1890-S AU-55 ☆ 1891-S EF-45 ☆ 1892-S EF-45 ☆ 1893-S AU-58 ☆ 1894-S AU-50 ☆ 1895-S AU-58 ☆ 1898-S MS-60. An interesting selection. (Total: 8 pieces)

Marvelous Proof 1890 Double Eagle

Condition Census

(2X photo)

1905 1890 Proof-64 (PCGS). A marvelous specimen with beautiful rich golden surfaces. A lovely cameo with frosted devices set against deep mirror fields. One of the finest we have seen of this low-mintage date.

Again, we have at hand a major rarity as, indeed, can be said of virtually *any* double eagle in Proof format. For the 1890 only 55 pieces were struck, with about 15 accounted for today. There is no way of knowing precisely how many *different* exist. Of those few that do survive, several are in institutional holdings or other collections and are not likely to come on the market, and others are impaired.

When evaluating the Bass Collection Proofs, it is important to realize that Harry Bass felt that time was on his side—and if a coin was not one of the very finest known specimens of the variety, he simply didn't buy it. Thus, when Proofs in such grades as Proof-55 through Proof-62 were offered, with relatively few exceptions he passed them by. This general philosophy echoed that of Emery May Holden Norweb, who was careful to study in advance the characteristics of the pieces she desired, and if quality was not present, no purchase was made. Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., likewise sought out superb specimens, and in the last century T. Harrison Garrett employed a similar philosophy.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (Proof-65).

Purchased from Abe Kosoff, April 24, 1972.

Memorable Proof 1891 $20 Rarity

Incredible Proof-67

Solo PCGS High Grade

1906 **1891 Proof-67 (PCGS).** We could stop right here, as probably 90% of the buyers "out there" follow numbers and do not need much else in the way of narrative. However, narrative is indeed important to the remaining 10% of potential buyers (which category includes a generous measure of the connoisseurs among us). On the present coin, lustrous devices set against deep mirrored fields give a beautiful cameo effect, and the overall coloration is of a warm golden hue.

While the elegant state of preservation and the beautiful appearance of this 1891 Proof are excellent recommendations pointing to great bidding enthusiasm, the overall rarity of the 1891 is also important. Just 52 Proofs were minted, of which fewer than 20 different pieces have been traced. Among these are institutionally held coins as well as impaired pieces. It may well be that the Bass Collection specimen has no peer.

Moreover, the *date* 1891 is rare in business strike form, as only 1,390 pieces were made. Regarding these, Breen writes: "Possibly 12 business strikes survive, of which four are AU to Unc, the rest VF to EF." Thus, not only is the present coin rare as a Proof, but there are no significant business strikes to mount a challenge to its courtly position.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1281.

Lustrous 1891-S Double Eagle

1907 **1891-S MS-63.** A splendid specimen with satiny lustre on obverse and reverse, a treat to the eye.

Beginning in a significant way in the late 1870s, American $20 pieces were shipped in large quantities overseas, and tended to remain there. In 1933, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt called in gold coins, Americans holding double eagles surrendered them to banks. There had been a rush away from gold bullion held by national governments, with the result that foreign banks and governments had not the slightest interest in exchanging gold coins for American paper money and held on to them as tightly as ever. In what certainly could be called a fraud or imposition upon the American public—although we do not recall it ever being cast this way in an historical account we have read—not soon after gold coins were called in, Roosevelt raised the official bullion price of gold from $20 an ounce to over $34, with the profit going to the government, not to the citizenry.

Years later, vaults in foreign lands yielded large quantities of double eagles, including many Mint State pieces from the late 1870s onward. However, among Liberty Head issues, most that survived in Mint State were apt to be heavily bagmarked, from being jostled around for a long time. Today, there are any number of $20 issues, particularly of the San Francisco Mint, that are more or less obtainable in AU grades and lower levels of Mint State, but which at MS-63 or finer are quite elusive or even rare.

In recent times, particularly in the present year (1999), there has been a rush away from gold, with the result that foreign banks have been selling the metal or announcing that they were going to do so, and financial analysts have warned people against holding gold bullion. Interestingly, these same financial analysts said little if anything about selling gold bullion when it was twice the price that it is today! The world economy is coming up roses, all of the pigeons are swans, and sunlight bathes the economic community. Gold is staid, old-fashioned, and not worth having—especially when one can purchase high technology stocks and other "hot" items. It would be interesting to compare 10 years from now (and we invite someone to write us and furnish an analysis at that time) how an investment in $10,000 worth of basic gold bullion made on June 15, 1999, as we are working on catalogue preparation of the Bass coins—we compared it with $10,000 spent by purchasing an equal amount (dollar-wise) of the five most actively traded Internet stocks on the same day.

The lower current price of gold bullion has had a very beneficial effect upon *scarce* and *rare* gold coins—pieces that have been collector's items for a long time. Numismatic demand is as strong as we have ever seen it, or even stronger. We suspect that as new areas of communication are opened and popularized—such as television shopping programs and Internet auctions and offerings—more and more people will discover the excitement of numismatics, and after perhaps spending their money foolishly and buying without knowledge, will settle down to buying books and becoming serious collectors. There is something special in a psychological sense about working on and hoping to complete a date set of coins. Building a type set or a date set, and striving to fill the last empty spaces, yields a satisfaction similar to that of completing a difficult crossword puzzle or a double-crostic challenge.

As we catalogue the present double eagles in the Harry W. Bass, Jr., Collection we reflect upon how historical, how interesting, how numismatically significant each piece is—whether common or rare, in worn condition or Mint State. Each coin is a link with American history, with numismatics, and with the life of Harry Bass.

Purchased from John Smies, June 22, 1967.

Gem Proof 1892 Double Eagle

Condition Census Quality

(2X photo)

1908 **1892 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A breathtakingly beautiful cameo of warm golden appearance—a coin that combines beauty, rarity, and just about any other attribute desired! Again, this is an incredible opportunity for the connoisseur.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (Proof-66).

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Marks Collection, November 1971, Lot 1661.

Mint State 1892-CC $20

Solo High PCGS Grade

1909 1892-CC MS-62 (PCGS). Well struck, brilliant, and lustrous. On the reverse there is a tinge of copper toning near the border. All in all, this is a lovely, indeed *memorable* specimen of one of the scarcest issues of its era. Some 27,265 coins were minted, most of which entered the channels of bullion distribution in America and in foreign trade. Today, as Douglas Winter and Larry Cutler have written, examples are seen with some frequency on the market and are not particularly difficult to locate "in any grade *except* Uncirculated." Moreover, the same authors state that many if not most Uncirculated pieces are heavily bagmarked. The Bass Collection coin is exceptional.

Reverse with a tracery of delicate cracks among the letters and through the tips of the rays commencing at TED (UNITED) and continuing clockwise to below M (AMERICA); another crack is seen from the border past the final A, to the band on which UNUM is inscribed.

Purchased from Douglas Weaver, February 29, 1973.

Splendid Proof 1893 $20 Rarity

(2X photo)

1910 1893 Proof-64 (PCGS). A lovely specimen, again with a cameo effect, and again with warm golden toning. From the reported mintage of 59 pieces, fewer than half can be traced today. The exact number of survivors will never be known, due to overlapping pedigrees, resubmissions to the grading services, etc. Another major opportunity, the solo specimen graded by PCGS at the Proof-64 level, with not an equal or finer coin anywhere in sight!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Interestingly and curiously, there are two Proof die varieties known of this issue. The first is described by Breen (*Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins 1722-1989,* p. 195) as having the date low and to the left. The second variety, which conforms to the description of the Bass Collection coin, has the date placed to the right and more or less centered.

Why multiple dies were used for *any* of the short run Proofs of the 1890s is not known with certainty. Among silver dollars of 1895, 880 Proofs were struck from at least five different obverse dies. Inasmuch as no specimens are known with significant die cracks (which would indicate die failure), it is a mystery as to why multiple Proof dies were employed. The suggestion has been advanced (not relating to the 1895 Proof dollar but to other Proofs of the year) that Proofs were struck in small numbers from a given die, which had been polished for that purpose, after which the die was simply used to make circulation strikes. Later, if additional Proofs were needed, a new die was given high polish, a few more Proofs were made, and again the die was used to produce circulation strikes. Although numismatic research interest is hardly focused on this rather arcane aspect of late 19th-century Proof coinage, it would be interesting to study minute die characteristics among certain Proofs and logical candidates for related business strikes (those with highly proollike surfaces) and see if any connections can be made.

From Stack's sale of September 1996, Lot 3275.

Date Run of Philadelphia Mint $20s

1911 **Date run of Philadelphia Mint double eagles:** ☆ 1893 MS-60 ☆ 1894 AU-58 ☆ 1895 AU-58 ☆ 1896 AU-58 ☆ 1897 AU-58 ☆ 1898 AU-58. Attractive and desirable. (Total: 6 pieces)

Group of Philadelphia Mint $20s

1912 **Selection of Philadelphia Mint double eagles, all different dates:** ☆ 1893 EF-45 ☆ 1895 AU-50 ☆ 1896 AU-55 ☆ 1898 AU-58 ☆ 1900 AU-55 ☆ 1901 AU-53 ☆ 1903 AU-50 ☆ 1904 AU-58. All with pleasing mint lustre. (Total: 8 pieces)

Mint State 1893-CC $20

1913 **1893-CC MS-60.** Brilliant and highly lustrous, save for an area of orange oxidation at the upper left of the reverse, for which we have deducted a couple of grade points. Sharply struck and quite desirable, an ever-popular variety that is significant as the last Carson City coinage.

Date slightly low. Die cracks around much of the border including the stars and date. Perhaps this was one of the very last Carson City double eagles minted!

Purchased from N.K.S., July 7, 1970.

Beautiful Proof 1894 $20 Rarity

Condition Census

(2X photo)

1914 **1894 Proof-64 (PCGS).** A very attractive Proof, with somewhat lighter gold color than the preceding run. Cameo-like with frosted devices. One of perhaps two dozen remaining from a mintage of 50 coins. Again, among *other* Proofs of this date, certain pieces are institutionally held and others are notably impaired.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer (Proof-65).

From Quality Sales Corporation's sale of September 1973, Lot 1311.

Gem Proof 1895 Double Eagle

Highest Graded by PCGS

Condition Census

1915 1895 Proof-65 (PCGS). A splendid specimen, virtual perfection. Rich golden surfaces with cameo-like aspects. A more beautiful, more desirable Proof 1895 will probably never come to hand.

In keeping with the general theme of the era, perhaps half or so of the pieces remain from the original mintage of 51 coins and, of those that do survive, several are institutionally held, and quite a few are nicked, scratched, or otherwise impaired. The present coin is a rare and elegant numismatic prize.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

How other pieces compare to the Bass Collection coin in the *combination* of high number plus aesthetic appeal is not known to the cataloguer.

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 520.

Liberty $20 Quartette

1916 Liberty double eagle quartette: ☆ 1895 AU-58 (2) ☆ 1903 MS-62 ☆ 1903 MS-60. All brilliant with attractive mint lustre. (Total: 4 pieces)

Liberty $20 Quintette

1917 Liberty double eagle quintette: ☆ 1895 AU-55 PL ☆ 1896 MS-60 ☆ 1900 MS-62 ☆ 1900-S AU-50 ☆ 1903 MS-62, spotted toning. All with nice lustre. (Total: 5 pieces)

Gem Proof 1896 Double Eagle

(2X photo)

1918 1896 Proof-65 (PCGS). Another memorable gem coin, a piece which comes about as close to perfection as we have ever seen on a Proof of this date. Certainly, one could search *years* before finding an equivalent.

The Proof production figure for this year had an uptick and was registered at 128 pieces, for reasons not clear, as, quoting Breen, "Possibly 20 to 25 Proofs survive, some impaired." Most probably no more than 40 to 50 ever found buyers. As we commented in an earlier note, one can read carefully through contemporary reports of the late 19th century and encounter very few mentions of any numismatists who were collecting Proof $20 pieces by date.

PCGS Population: 5; 3 finer (Proof-67 finest).

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 524, to another buyer, later acquired by Harry Bass in trade.

1919 **1896-S MS-62.** Brilliant and lustrous. A highly affordable Mint State example from the late 19th century.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, April 28, 1967.

Lovely 1897 Proof $20 Rarity

(2X photo)

1920 **1897 Proof-64 (PCGS).** Rich, deep yellow gold surfaces. Cameo appearance. Another Proof double eagle which is important enough due to its high technical or numerical grade, but beyond that has truly significant eye appeal. If the writer (QDB) were engaged in the elite pursuit of collecting Proof $20 pieces by date, we would much rather have a Proof-64 of beautiful aesthetic appeal than a technical Proof-65 or -66 with washed-out or unattractive surfaces. (Of course, we would say the same thing about coins other than double eagles, about business strikes, or just about anything under the numismatic sun.)
PCGS Population: 9; 1 finer (Proof-65).
From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 125.

San Francisco $20 Grouping

1921 **Offering of San Francisco Mint Liberty Head double eagles, all different dates:** ☆ 1897-S MS-60, light reddish orange encrustation near date ☆ 1899-S EF-40 ☆ 1900-S AU-53 ☆ 1901-S VF-20 ☆ 1902-S AU-50 ☆ 1903-S AU-55 ☆ 1904-S AU-53 ☆ 1905-S EF-45, cleaned ☆ 1906-S AU-55 ☆ 1907-S AU-50. The higher grade pieces are mostly brilliant with nice lustre. (Total: 10 pieces)

San Francisco $20 Selection

1922 **Grouping of San Francisco Mint Liberty Head double eagles, all different dates:** ☆ 1897-S AU-58 ☆ 1898-S AU-58 ☆ 1899-S AU-58 ☆ 1900-S AU-55 ☆ 1901-S AU-55. All are brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 5 pieces)

San Francisco $20 Grouping

1923 **Six different Liberty Head double eagles, all from the San Francisco Mint:** ☆ 1897-S EF-45 ☆ 1901-S EF-40 ☆ 1904-S MS-60. Brilliant and lustrous ☆ 1905-S VF-35 ☆ 1906-S EF-45 ☆ 1907-S MS-60. Brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 6 pieces)

Superb Proof 1898 $20

Incredible Proof-66

Highest PCGS Grade

1924 1898 Proof-66 (PCGS). An incredible specimen of rich yellow gold appearance, with cameo, frosted devices against deep mirror fields. Save for the delicate toning that undipped, uncleaned Proofs of this era have (such toning is from the 10% copper used as an alloy), this piece is as nice as the *day* it was made 101 years ago!

For this year the Proof mintage figure is given as 75 pieces, of which fewer than half survive today. As again, and as always for Proofs of this era, some are institutionally held and many more are nicked or impaired.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

How many *different* pieces does this number represent?

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 532.

1925 **1898-S MS-62 PL.** An affordable high-grade San Francisco issue.
Date with slight traces of repunching.
Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 17, 1968.

1926 **1898-S MS-62.** Brilliant and lustrous. Warm yellow gold color.
Date logotype low.
Purchased from Eddie Doyle, September 21, 1972, subsequently to the Goliad Corporation, October 30, 1972, to Harry Bass.

Gem Proof 1899 Double Eagle

Condition Census

(2X photo)

1927 **1899 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A gorgeous specimen, a fitting collection-mate to the illustrious Proof lineup offered earlier, and, like them, an exquisite coin combining a high technical grade with the equally important aspect of being *truly beautiful to behold.*

PCGS Population: 6; 1 finer (Proof-66).

The mintage this year amounted to 84 Proofs, of which perhaps slightly more than a third can be traced today, some institutionally held, others damaged. Very few Proofs can match the quality of the Bass Collection coin.

Purchased from Abe Kosoff, August 9, 1971.

1928 **1899 MS-63.** Brilliant and frosty. Very attractive.
Date centered, quite differently positioned than on the following lot.
From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 967.

1929 **1899 MS-63.** Brilliant and frosty. Carbon spot at lower right reverse.
Date logotype low.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 2, 1973.

Philadelphia $20 Grouping

1930 **Grouping of Philadelphia Mint Liberty double eagles:** ☆ 1899 AU-58 ☆ 1900 AU-58 ☆ 1901 AU-58 ☆ 1903 AU-58 ☆ 1904 AU-58 ☆ 1906 AU-55 ☆ 1907 AU-58. Most with light toning, but all are lustrous. (Total: 7 pieces)

Choice Proof 1900 $20

(2X photo)

1931 **1900 Proof-63 (PCGS).** A splendid specimen from an aesthetic viewpoint, a gorgeous piece with rich golden surfaces and cameo devices. The technical grade is not as high as the preceding Proofs, but this piece will stand on its own *desirability-wise* with a Proof-64 or even a Proof-65 that has been dipped or cleaned (there being a number of such pieces on the market). A picture is worth a thousand words it has been said, and viewing this coin in person will say more for its excellent attributes than would an added paragraph or two of narrative.

From Stack's Garrett sale, May 1974, Lot 538.

1932 **1900 MS-63.** Brilliant and frosty. A very attractive example of the last year of the 19th century or first year of the 20th century (take your pick).

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 2, 1973.

Splendid Proof 1902 $20

(2X photo)

1933 **1902 Proof-63 (PCGS).** Another splendid Proof, deserving of the same commentary as the Proof 1900 $20 earlier offered. For the 1902, 114 are believed to have been minted, but fewer than half that number can be traced. Again, this is an incredible opportunity.

From Stack's sale of August 1976, Lot 3287.

1934 **1902 AU-58 PL.** Bright yellow gold.

Purchased from I. Kleinman, November 5, 1971.

1935 **1902 AU-58.** Brilliant and lustrous.

From Stack's ANA Sale, November 1971, Lot 2514.

1936 1902 AU-55. Brilliant and lustrous.

A coin such as this permits just about anyone to acquire an attractive double eagle with the illustrious Harry W. Bass, Jr., Collection pedigree.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2377.

1937 Pair of AU-50 double eagles: ☆ 1902. Light yellow gold ☆ 1905. Most original mint lustre still remains. A fairly high-grade specimen of a very elusive Philadelphia Mint date. A key among early 20th-century Liberty Head double eagles. (Total: 2 pieces)

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 28, 1967.

San Francisco $20 Grouping

1938 Selection of San Francisco Mint Liberty Head double eagles: ☆ 1902-S AU-55 ☆ 1903-S MS-62 ☆ 1904-S AU-55 ☆ 1905-S AU-50 ☆ 1906-S AU-55 ☆ 1907-S AU-55. All brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 6 pieces)

Gem Proof 1903 $20

Highest PCGS Grade

(2X photo)

1939 1903 Proof-65 (PCGS). Wonderful rich golden surfaces. In this year the portrait of Miss Liberty was lightly polished at the Mint, with the result that this Proof $20 and all other authentic Proofs do not have cameo frosted heads. Among the Proof double eagles we have seen or handled of this date over a long period of years, the present coin is one of the very finest. A strong bid is recommended.

The mintage of the Proof 1903 was 158 pieces, but fewer than a third exist today, indicating that most must have been melted. There is no way that this mintage would have found buyers in the numismatic community.

It is worth quoting Walter Breen's *Proof Encyclopedia* comment that most of the coins of this date that have appeared in the market in modern times have been cleaned—somewhat mysteriously so, as Breen comments that $20 pieces of this year in particular have been "hard hit." Indeed, Breen mentions the particular piece offered here in his commentary: "Aside from Garrett's at $6,250 and Wolfson's, almost the only choice one auctioned in the past 20 years was that in the Kreisberg-Shulman sale of February 1960; most others have been scrubbed or nicked up. Quoting the pathetic records on these would be a waste of time."

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

The above-quoted commentary by Breen is reflective, by contrast, of the quality of the Bass pieces. Today in 1999 it is a world of numbers, and most charts, quotations, population reports, etc., simply give a number and say nothing about nicks, cleaning, scrubbing, lack of aesthetic appeal, or anything else. However, not mentioning these situations does not mean that they do not exist. Indeed, they do exist. To virtually every Bass Collection description could be added this comment: "This is among the finest pieces to come on the market during the time period in which Harry Bass was forming his collection." Often, Harry would consider and reject many coins before settling upon a single piece which he desired to buy.

From Stack's Garrett sale, March 1976, Lot 544.

1940 1903 MS-63. Lustrous and frosty.
Purchased from Leo A. Young, April 14, 1967.

Gem Proof 1904 Double Eagle

Highest PCGS Graded

(2X photo)

1941 1904 Proof-65 (PCGS). Surface is somewhat cameo, but not as frosty as pre-1903. A superb, breathtaking example, one of the very finest we have ever seen of the date, denomination, and finish. Lovely warm gold color as is consistent with the quality in the Bass Collection. Another magnificent and notable specimen.

The Proof mintage this year amounted to 98 pieces, of which only a third or so can be traced today, indicating that most were probably unsold. Of those that survive, it is the same story—some are institutionally held and many others are cleaned or impaired.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.
From Harmer-Rooke's sale of October 12, 1970, Lot 3305.

1942 1904 MS-64 PL. Bright yellow gold. A pleasing specimen of one of the more common issues in the $20 series—perhaps an ideal candidate for a type set.
Purchased from Jimmy Hayes, August 18, 1972.

1943 1904 MS-64. Brilliant and lustrous. A high-grade example of this popular date.
From Superior's sale of February 1973, Lot 977.

1944 1904 MS-63. Another example of this ever popular date.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, June 3, 1968.

1945 1904 MS-63. Yet another specimen.
Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, May 2, 1973.

1946 1904-S MS-64. Highly lustrous. Quite possibly the most *common* Liberty Head $20 at this grade level. After having noted that so many Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection coins are *rare*, it is only fitting that we toss in a comment concerning an issue which is plentiful.
Purchased from I. Kleinman, November 5, 1971.

San Francisco Quintette

1947 San Francisco quintette of double eagles: ☆ 1904-S MS-60 ☆ 1906-S (4). MS-60 (2), AU-50 and EF-45. Lustrous. (Total: 5 pieces)

Splendid Proof 1905 $20

None Finer Graded

(2X photo)

1948 1905 Proof-65 (PCGS). A splendid specimen. At this level here is a great rarity, although exactly how many *different* pieces are known is somewhat of a puzzlement (see Population Report below). Some 92 pieces were struck, of which fewer than half are known today, most of which are cleaned, impaired, etc. Once again, quality comes to the fore. And, not to be overlooked, is the desirability of the 1905 Philadelphia Mint double eagle as a *date,* for high-grade business strikes are very elusive, thus placing an additional demand upon the Proofs (the same comment can be made for the following Proof year, 1906).

PCGS Population: 10; none finer.

How many *different* pieces exist? Three? Four? Five? Who knows?

From Stack's sale of the DiBello Collection, May 1970, Lot 1310.

Beautiful Proof 1906 $20

(2X photo)

1949 1906 Proof-64 (PCGS). Another lovely Proof, with the head of Miss Liberty somewhat lightly polished *in the die*—and true of every authentic Proof $20 of this date. The surfaces are of beautiful rich gold appearance. Considering the scarcity of the 1906 date (related business strikes are elusive) and the stunningly beautiful appearance of the present coin, here, indeed, is a magnificent opportunity.

From Harmer-Rooke's sale of December 18, 1970, Lot 2308.

Denver Debut $20

1950 1906-D MS-63. Brilliant and lustrous. First year of coinage at the Denver Mint.

The "Denver Mint," per government records was on stream beginning in 1862, when Uncle Sam bought the private coining facilities of Clark, Gruber & Company. For years thereafter the establishment was carried on the books as the Denver Mint, and many reports can be found with this designation. However, under government auspices no coins were ever minted there. Instead, the building served as a focal point for melting, refining, assaying, and storage. Finally, when the Denver Mint began production, it was in a newly constructed facility some distance away.

Of the several mints operating now, the Denver facility is the only one that is in its original structure (although we suppose that you could say that the West Point facility, a rather modern addition to the mint lineup, is also in its original place).

In the early years of the Denver Mint much if not most of the gold came from Colorado itself, particularly the Cripple Creek Gold District about 75 miles to the southwest, but also the lower hills of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains immediately to the west of Denver. Thus, such early pieces bearing a D mintmark have a romantic "Wild West" connotation.

Purchased from Julian Leidman, February 16, 1972.

Six Nice Denver $20s

1951 Denver sextette: ☆ 1906-D (2). AU-58 and AU-50 ☆ 1907-D (4). MS-60, AU-58 (2) and EF-40. A desirable group. (Total: 6 pieces)

Superb Proof 1907 $20

Final Year of Type

PCGS Solo High Grade

(2X photo)

1952 1907 Liberty Head. Proof-66 (PCGS). A superb specimen with rich golden color and cameo aspects. One of the very finest known examples of the last date in the Liberty Head series, a year that is one of the scarcest Proof varieties of the decade.

In 1907 the recorded Proof production was 78 pieces, of which perhaps half or so survive, Breen again states, "many cleaned or impaired." Only a handful of superb gems survive, and it may be a long time until a match to the present coin appears on the market. This is the only Proof 1907 graded at the Proof-66 level by PCGS, with none higher.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

From Stack's sale of October 1970, Lot 972

Prooflike 1907-D Double Eagle

1953 1907-D MS-64 PL. With highly prooflike surfaces, a characteristic of a fair number of specimens of this date, some of which have been called *branch mint Proofs*. A lovely coin that will satisfy its new owner.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, February 4, 1972.

1954 1907-D MS-63. Brilliant and lustrous. A very pleasing specimen of the last year of the Liberty Head design.

From Parke-Bernet Galleries' sale of the McGraw Collection, May 1968, Lot 107.

1955 1907-D MS-62. Brilliant and lustrous. Another specimen of this issue.

Purchased from Rowe & Brownlee, May 7, 1969, earlier from a Rarcoa sale.

1956 1907-S MS-62. Brilliant and lustrous. Last of the San Francisco Mint Liberty Head double eagles.

Purchased from Jack L. Klausen, June 17, 1968.

High-Grade MCMVII $20

1957 MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-64. Edge repair on reverse rim at 4:00. A high-grade piece, although the repair reduces its value to a somewhat lower level. In-person inspection is recommended, as the coin is quite attractive overall.

The story of the MCMVII $20 is one of the favorite twice-told tales of numismatics, and bears a brief reiteration here:

In 1905 Theodore Roosevelt, who had examined ancient Greek coins on display at the Smithsonian, and who was fascinated with their high relief and artistry, sought to improve the appearance of circulating United States issues. At the time there was a certain sameness among the silver and gold issues in particular, each having a Liberty Head design, the silver issues by Barber and the gold issues by Longacre.

At the time America's most famous sculptor was Augustus Saint-Gaudens, long of New York City, but in recent years with a studio in Cornish, New Hampshire (today open to the public as a National Historical Site—well worth visiting, by the way). It seems that Roosevelt had at least a passing personal acquaintance with the artist, having encountered him earlier on a train, and having seen him other times as well, including during the modeling for his presidential inauguration medal in March 1905.

The story of Saint-Gaudens's artistic life is a rather interesting one, replete with turns and twists, and enough curious goings-on that the *National Enquirer* could well take notice (a few years ago in *New Yorker* magazine, a descendant of well-known architect Stanford White—a pal of Saint-Gaudens when the artist lived in New York City, wrote a tell-all biography with some virtually unbelievable commentary). However, it is the coins that interest us at present.

Roosevelt commissioned Saint-Gaudens to redesign the entire American coinage from the one-cent piece to the double eagle, providing a stipend of $5,000. In his studio he set about making sketches, most prominently for the cent, $10, and $20. Today these sketches are preserved in the archives of Dartmouth College, located in Hanover, NH, a few miles north of the Saint-Gaudens home.

The artist envisioned that the female figure of *Victory* would be ideal for the double eagle, this being adapted from the striding figure used in his *Sherman Victory Monument* completed in 1903 and installed in the Grand Army Plaza at the southeast corner of Central Park, New York City (about a one-minute walk from the Park Lane Hotel where the present Harry Bass sale will take place). Although the finished statuary group includes William Tecumseh Sherman (he of *Marching Through Georgia* fame) and his steed, it was the female figure of *Victory* alone that was considered for coinage possibilities. The motif was among the artist's own favorites, and a number of separate small models of it had been made for sale and distribution.

By late 1906 and early 1907 the motif was well underway. The progress of the project is delineated in a number of places, including the present writer's 1982 book *United States Gold Coins: An Illustrated History*. In time, some patterns were made with the field curving abruptly up to a high edge, these being called the Ultra High Relief pieces today. These were found to be unsatisfactory for coinage, and the fields were altered.

At the Mint, Chief Engraver Charles Barber was quite annoyed that President Roosevelt would have the audacity to select an artist from the outside world to design circulating American coins. For many years this had been the purview of the chief engraver and his staff. Indeed, Gobrecht, Longacre, and William Barber—the immediate successors to Charles Barber—had each turned out a string of new coinage designs.

That the Saint-Gaudens motif was innovative there was no doubt. For the first time on a federal coin, the date was expressed in Roman numerals—MCMVII, an artistic touch, but would the public be able to decipher it? More of a problem, and vociferously objected to by Chief Engraver Barber, was the high relief of the pieces. Modern coinage presses, intended to turn out double eagles in quantity and at a high rate, simply could not process dies with such high relief. Instead, they would have to be patiently struck with multiple blows of the coining press, otherwise the design would not be brought up. In a word, the whole project was *unsatisfactory*.

Theodore Roosevelt liked nothing better than a challenge, and he rose to the occasion admirably. He advised that if only one double eagle could be struck *per day*, so be it! Further, he fancied himself being engaged in a little war against the Mint, calling the project his "pet crime."

As it happened, the artist was in failing health, and Saint-Gaudens died of cancer on August 3, 1907, never seeing the final completion of his $20. The models, nearly ready, were finessed by his assistant, Henry Hering. Months later, in December 1907, the first pieces were struck. As expected, the high relief did cause problems, and it took three blows of the coining press to bring up the design to its fullest extent, a satisfactory procedure for medals, but hardly one for double eagles—remembering that the $20 piece was mainly used in international transactions, not in day-to-day commerce, and was strictly a utilitarian denomination. Coinage continued, and 11,250 High Relief pieces were struck, enough to satisfy Roosevelt. After that time, Charles Barber and his staff vastly modified the motif, lowered the relief considerably, eliminated the Roman numerals, and created new dies keeping the same basic design, but of different format and style. These were adaptable to high speed coinage from a single blow. In this form, and partway through 1908 with the motto added, the low relief Saint-Gaudens double eagles were produced through 1933.

The advent of the newly minted MCMVII High Relief $20 pieces late in 1907 caused a sensation, and there was a mad scramble to acquire pieces. Immediately the coins sold at a premium, and any bank teller lucky enough to get one could easily get $22 for it, then $25, finally about $30. Later, the novelty faded, and many pieces that had been saved as souvenirs were put back into circulation. Today it is not known how many MCMVII High Relief $20 pieces exist, but our guess is that are about 3,000 and 5,000 different coins. Every once in a while an author or numismatic publication will take a survey as to what is the finest design among American coins. Without exception, to our knowledge, the MCMVII High Relief $20 has either been selected as the all-time favorite or one of the top several favorites. Considering that there are hundreds of thousands of serious collectors of rare coins, and just a few thousand pieces in existence, it is no wonder that when a specimen such as the present Bass Collection example crosses the block there is a lot of attention paid to it.

Splendid MCMVII High Relief $20

1958 **MCMVII (1907) High Relief. MS-63 (PCGS).** Marked by Harry Bass as having a "Special Finish," in his notes. Indeed, upon close inspection the coin has a matte surface overall. On the other hand, among all other business strikes of the MCMVII $20, satiny or special surfaces are the rule, not the exception. These coins were not made with the lustrous frost that characterized business strikes of earlier and later dates. In the era before certification of coins became a reality, many pieces similar to this were marketed as "Proof." Even in current times we have seen a few pieces called "Proof" that we do not believe are. And, among the related 1907 $10 pieces with periods in the legend, there has been a discussion for quite some time as to whether all high-grade specimens are business strikes, or whether all high grade specimens are Proofs (as both seem to have the same die characteristics). An expanded discussion is beyond the scope of the present offering, except to say that the satiny surface is very attractive, and, indeed, it may be "very special" in its quality. Certainly the piece is very choice.

From NERCA's sale of the Mocatta Collection, July 1979, Lot 491. Marked by Harry Bass as having a "special finish."

Mint State MCMVII $20

1959 **MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Partial Wire Rim. MS-63 (PCGS).** A very nice example at this grade level of this American numismatic classic. A coin with a great deal of eye appeal, not only from the original design, but from the preservation of the present piece.

Purchased from Jimmy Hayes, October 6, 1972.

Another MCMVII $20

1960 **MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Wire Rim. MS-63 (PCGS).** Another example of this 20th-century American classic.

From Abe Kosoff's sale of the Shuford Collection, May 1968, Lot 2383.

MCMVII High Relief $20

1961 **MCMVII (1907) High Relief. Flat Rim. AU-50.** Satiny surfaces almost resembling a Proof. A lovely example of the issue. There should be a space in every American collection for a specimen of this design. The present coin offers a nice meeting point between relatively high grade and relatively low price.

From Stack's sale of October 1970, Lot 922.

1962 **1907 Saint-Gaudens, Arabic Date. MS-63.** First year of issue with, regular (Arabic) date. A particularly nice example with "creamy" and satiny lustre. A winning piece that is worth more than a regular "MS-63 price."

Saint-Gaudens Selection

1963 **Selection of Saint-Gaudens double eagles:** ☆ 1908-D Motto. AU-58 ☆ 1909-S AU-50 ☆ 1911-D MS-62 ☆ 1913 AU-58 ☆ 1915 AU-58 ☆ 1915-S MS-60 ☆ 1916-S MS-60. An interesting and attractive group. (Total: 7 pieces)

1964 **1909/8 Overdate. AU-58.** Warm, lustrous surfaces. A very pleasing example of an issue which is not often seen in this grade and rarely higher. Probably 90% of known examples are less than AU-58. Of additional importance as the only 20th-century overdate of the denomination.

Purchased from Stanley Kesselman, March 15, 1973.

1965 **1909/8 Overdate. AU-50.** Another example.

From Paramount's sale of May 19, 1966, Lot 657.

Saint-Gaudens Quintette

1966 **Saint-Gaudens double eagle quintette:** ☆ 1911-D MS-63 ☆ 1915-S MS-62 ☆ 1923-D MS-62 ☆ 1926 MS-63 ☆ 1927 AU-55. A desirable selection. (Total: 5 pieces)

1967 **Pair of San Francisco double eagles, grading MS-63:** ☆ 1914-S. Brilliant and lustrous ☆ 1922-S. This is for all practical purposes the only readily collectible San Francisco Mint double eagle after 1916. Brilliant and frosty. (Total: 2 pieces)

1968 **Trio of collectible Mint State double eagles:** ☆ 1923-D MS-63. Brilliant and lustrous ☆ 1928 (2). MS-64 and MS-63. Both are brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 3 pieces)

END OF SALE

Thank you for being a part of one of the greatest sales in American numismatic history.

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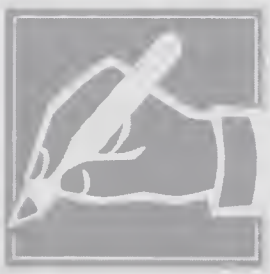

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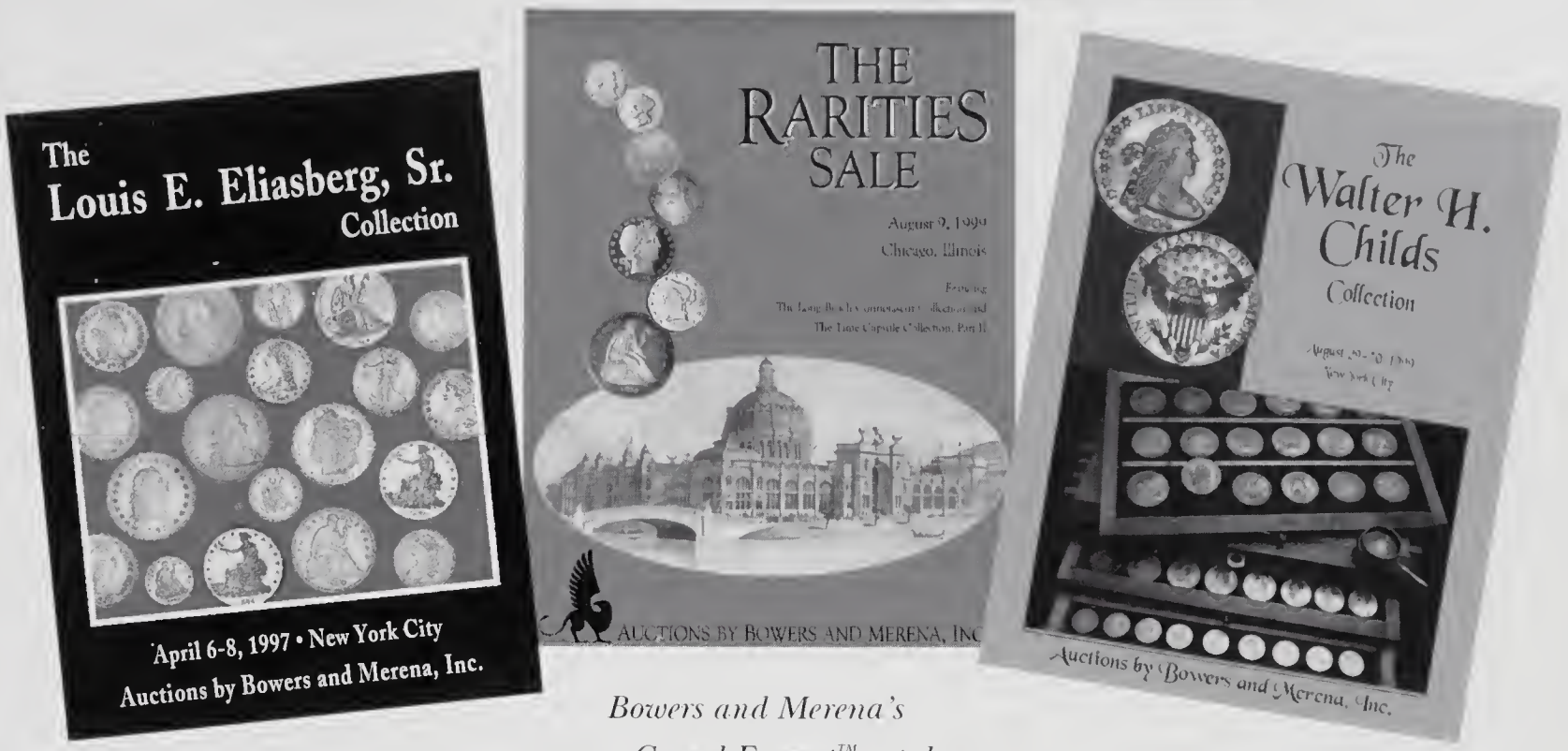

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