

# MINTERRORE NEWS MAGAZINE™



Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector.  
Also featuring Die Trials, Test Pieces, Numismatic Rarities,  
Patterns, Currency Errors and Discoveries from the U.S. Mint.

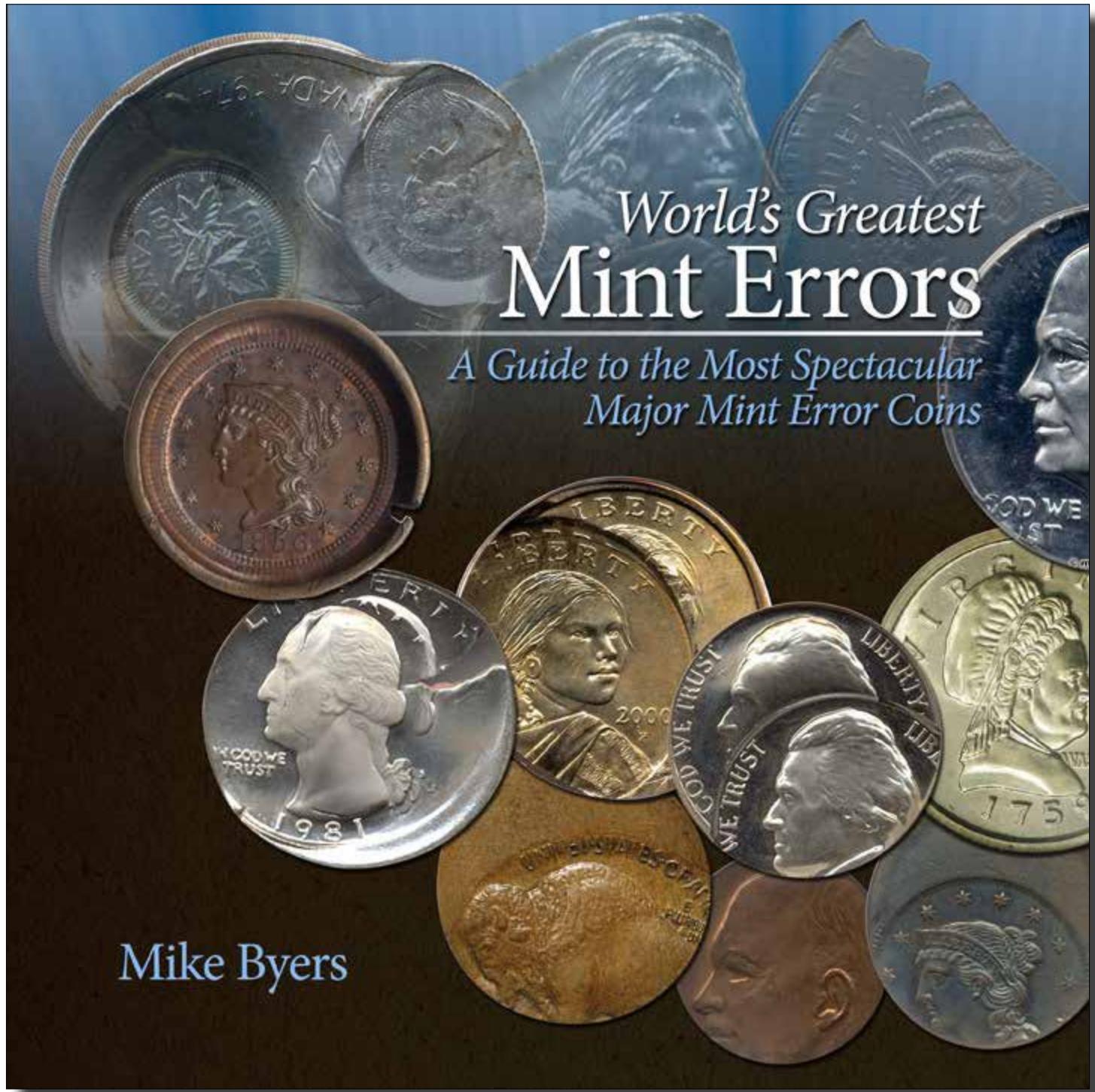


[minterrorenews.com](http://minterrorenews.com)

## Special Edition: Martha Washington *Uncancelled Dies, Test Pieces & Restrikes*



Now Available From Amazon.com and Zyrus Press





2026 Special Edition

## Publisher & Editor **Mike Byers**

Production Editor  
**Sam Rhazi**

Contributing Editors  
**Andy Lustig**  
**Saul Teichman**  
**Jeff Ylitalo**  
**John Wang**  
**Marc Crane**  
**Greg Bennick**

Contributing Writers  
**Heritage Auctions**  
**USPatterns**

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# Mint Error News Magazine

2026 Special Edition

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# MINT ERROR NEWS™ MAGAZINE

Bringing the latest mint error news to the collector.



Mike Byers, Publisher & Editor, Welcomes You!

Welcome to Mint Error News Magazine, bringing the latest mint error news and information to the collector. This is our 22nd year bringing you both an online PDF magazine and the Mint Error News website. There are over 1,500 articles, features, discoveries, news stories with mint error related info from the United States and around the World. Our website, [minterrornews.com](http://minterrornews.com), has become the most popular and informative Internet resource for mint errors and is read by thousands of dealers and collectors.

Over the last 22 years with the advent of the internet millions of collectors have flocked to online auctions and dealer websites. Many people connect to various online forums and clubs to share knowledge and learn about Mint Errors. Everyone, including dealers, collectors and even investors have instant access to information as never before. The Mint Error market has experienced an explosion in collector interest over the last 22 years.

Time and again, rare and unique Mint Errors in the numismatic market have made headline news. Authentication and certification of Mint Errors is now commonplace. In 1991, ANACS was the first to authenticate, grade and encapsulate major Mint Errors. In 1999, PCGS and NGC began certifying Mint Errors. Major Mint Errors are now pursued, collected and traded just like patterns, territorial Gold, colonials and other interesting segments of numismatics.

In 1975, I purchased a 1900 Indian Head Cent struck on a \$2 1/2 Indian Gold blank planchet for \$7,750 at a major coin auction. That price ranked among the top five ever realized for a Mint Error that few dealers or serious collectors would even consider. At that time price guides for Mint Errors were nonexistent and today that Indian Head Cent struck in Gold is certified MS65 by PCGS and is valued at six figures.

# MINT ERROR NEWS™

## PUBLISHER & EDITOR

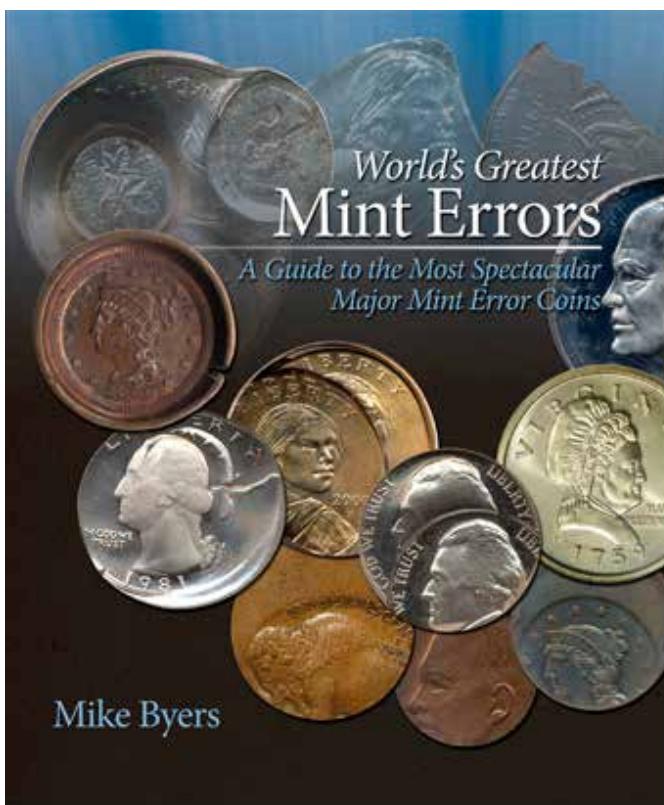


**Mike Byers**



Mike Byers ([mikebyers.com](http://mikebyers.com)) is president of Mike Byers Inc. He has been a professional numismatist for over forty years. He is one of the largest dealers handling U.S. Gold Coins, Patterns and Rarities certified by PCGS and NGC. He has handled major coin collections and attends every major coin convention. Mike Byers carries an extensive inventory as well as solicits want lists and is always looking to purchase fresh inventory and collections. You can visit Mike Byers and view his rarities at the ANA, Central States, FUN show and the Long Beach Coin Expo.

Mike Byers was a consultant to ANACS for Mint Errors from 2000 to 2006. He is also the Owner, Publisher and Editor of Mint Error News Magazine and the Mint Error News Website that was founded in 2003. In 2009, Mike Byers published his first book, *World's Greatest Mint Errors*, which received the NLG Award for Best World Coin Book and is available on Amazon. In 2016, Mike Byers was featured on Fox News in an interview with one of his unique mint errors.



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## CONSULTANTS

Mike Byers is the Publisher and Editor of Mint Error News. Consultants to Mint Error News are numismatic experts recognized worldwide including Heritage Auctions, Jim Stoutjesdyk, Dave Camire, Greg Bennick, Andy Lustig, Michael Faraone, Marc Crane, John Wang, Saul Teichman, Ron Guth, Jeff Ylitalo, Tom Caldwell, Fred Weinberg (retired), Christopher Talbot Frank, Steven Contursi, Silvano DiGenova, Brian Hodge, Joe Cronin, Allen Rowe, Ian Russell and Jim Gately.



**Jim Stoutjesdyk**

Expert on U.S. Coins, Unique Items, Patterns and Mint Errors

Vice President of Heritage Rare Coin Galleries



**Dave Camire**

Expert on Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials

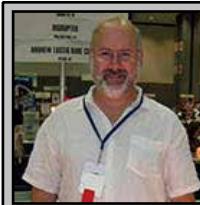
NGC Modern World Coin Grader and Finalizer  
President of Numismatic Conservation Services (NCS)  
NGC Mint Error Expert



**Greg Bennick**

Expert on Mint Errors and Trends in the Error Market

Professional Keynote Speaker, Author and Board Member of CONECA



**Andy Lustig**

Expert on Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials

Co-Founder of the Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors (uspatterns.com)



**Mike Faraone**

Expert on Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials

Owner of Mike Faraone Rare Coins  
Former Grader for PCGS and ANACS



**Marc Crane**

Expert on Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials

President of Marc One Numismatics, Inc



**John Wang**

Expert on Mint Errors and Patterns

Founder and Editor at PrivateMintNews.com



**Saul Teichman**

Expert on Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials

Co-Founder of the Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors (uspatterns.com)



**Ron Guth**

Expert on Patterns and Die Trials

Former PCGS President  
Former CoinFacts President  
Proprietor of GermanCoins.com



**Jeff Ylitalo**

Expert on Mint Errors

Former Editor for the ErrorScope

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## CONSULTANTS

**Tom Caldwell**

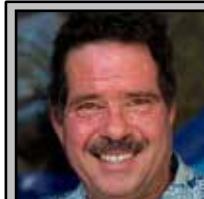
Expert on Mint Errors and Patterns

Founder of Northeast Numismatics

**Fred Weinberg**

Expert on Mint Errors and Die Trials

Former PCGS Consultant for Mint Errors

**Christopher Talbot Frank**

Expert on Modern & Dramatic  
Major Mint Errors

Owner of CTF Error Coins

**Steven L. Contursi**

Expert on U.S. Patterns

CEO of Rare Coin Wholesalers

**Silvano DiGenova**

Expert on Patterns and  
Unique & Esoteric U.S. Coinage

Founder and President of Tangible Investments

**Brian Hodge**

Expert on Specimen Coinage  
and Unique U.S. Coins

Partner and the President of Numismatics  
at Minshull Trading

**Joe Cronin**

Expert on Mint Errors and Counterfeit/Altered  
Coins Made To Resemble Genuine Errors

Author of *Mint Errors to Die For*

**Allen Rowe**

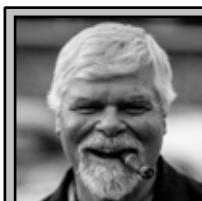
Expert on Morgan and Peace Dollar Errors,  
Especially From The Carson City Mint

Owner of Northern Nevada Coin

**Ian Russell**

Expert on Error Coins and Patterns

President and Co-Founder of GreatCollections

**Jim Gately**

Expert on 20th Century U.S. Coinage  
With an Emphasis on Buffalo Nickels

Owner of the #1 Ranked PCGS  
Registry Set of Buffalo Nickels

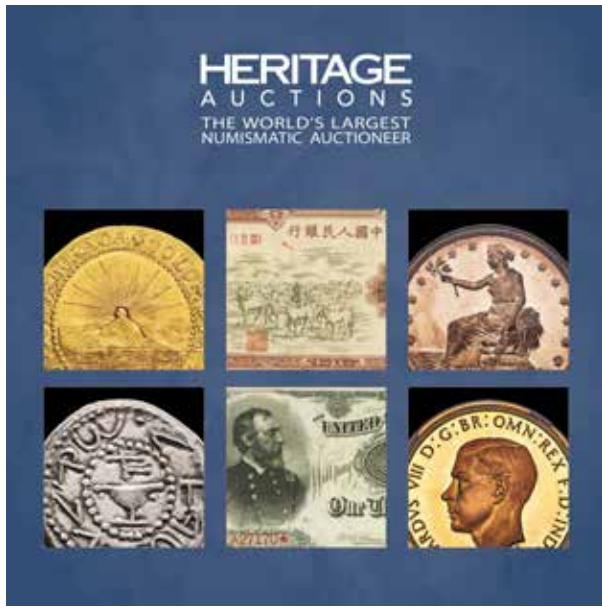
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**Jim Stoutjesdyk**

Jim Stoutjesdyk was named Vice President of Heritage Rare Coin Galleries in 2004. Since coming to Heritage in 1993, Jim has assumed a wide variety of responsibilities. He initially was hired as the Gallery Manager for Heritage's retail showroom. For several years he helped to develop Heritage's retail clientele and placed millions of dollars worth of rare coins with collectors. Jim's interest turned to wholesale trading and he quickly became a familiar face at coin shows across the nation. As Vice President, Jim's duties include buying and selling millions of dollars worth of rare coins each month, pricing all of the new coins available for sale each day, and overseeing the daily operations of the rare coin department. In 2019 the American Numismatic Association awarded Jim the very prestigious Doctor of Numismatics honorary degree.

Jim Stoutjesdyk is a Consultant to Mint Error News for U.S. Coins, Unique Items, Patterns and Mint Errors.



Heritage Auctions is the largest collectibles auctioneer and third largest auction house in the world, as well as the largest auction house founded in the U.S. We are also the undisputed Internet leader in our field, with more than 1.75 million online bidder-members registered on HA.com from all 195 countries. This loyal and growing community of collectors is a testament to the usefulness of our website, our reputation for professional business practices and our vast expertise in the field of art and collectibles.

Established in 1976, Heritage offers a wide range of U.S. & World Coins, Rare Currency, Fine & Decorative Art, American Art, Illustration Art, Modern & Contemporary Art, Urban Art, Comic Books & Comic Art, Movie Posters, Entertainment & Music Memorabilia, Jewelry & Timepieces, Luxury Handbags, Sports Collectibles, Historical & Political Memorabilia, Rare Books & Manuscripts, Ethnographic Art, & Space Exploration Memorabilia, Civil War Memorabilia, Photographs, Nature & Science, Fine and Rare Wine, Luxury Real Estate, Pop Culture Collectibles, and more.

# MINTERRORNEWS™ CONSULTANTS

Dave Camire is considered an authority on modern minting technology and production, specializing in mint errors and Chinese coins. He has visited many mints, both domestically and internationally, which is not only insightful but useful in his role as NGC Modern World Coin Grader and Finalizer. His knowledge of the minting process is helpful in distinguishing mint defects from damaged coins and establishing a coin's authenticity and grade.

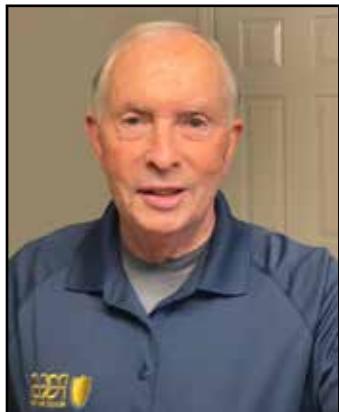
Dave co-authored *100 Greatest U.S. Error Coins* and has contributed to such numismatic publications as *Coin World* (honored with being listed as one of the 100 Most Influential People), *COINage*, *Numismatic News*, *The Numismatist* and the *Red Book*. He has been featured on National Public Radio (NPR) and seen on *Good Morning America* and the *Discovery Channel*.



**Dave Camire**

Dave is also President of Numismatic Conservation Services (NCS). With his knowledge and expertise in coin conservation, he has been an active volunteer at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History, helping to preserve the National Numismatic Collection and establishing key numismatic displays at the museum. A collector at heart, he has been collecting since he was 13 years old.

Dave Camire is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials.



Mike Faraone is the owner of Mike Faraone Rare Coins in Las Vegas, Nevada. He previously was a grader at PCGS for 12 years after 11 years at ANACS.

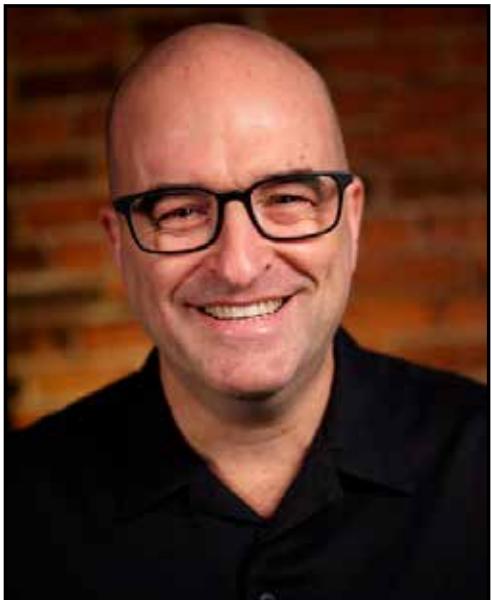
He has taught grading at the ANA Summer Seminar for twenty years. Mike has lectured on Mint errors and Counterfeit protection at numerous coin shows across the country. He is a previous president of the National Silver Dollar Roundtable and served as editor of the NSDR Journal for over twenty years. Mike can be reached via e-mail at: [mfaraone@hotmail.com](mailto:mfaraone@hotmail.com).

Mike Faraone is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials.

**Mike Faraone**

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**Greg Bennick**

Greg Bennick is a collector and researcher of major mint errors and has been actively involved in the hobby since 1981 when he made his first major error purchase, a Liberty nickel on a cent planchet, at the age of ten.

Greg attends coin shows nationwide buying and selling major mint errors. He is the co-instructor for the week-long class "Modern Minting Process/U.S. Minting Errors and Varieties" at the American Numismatic Association Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, CO.

A professional keynote speaker on the topic of Build a Better Now® for the corporate and association markets (gregbennick.com) Greg writes for multiple print outlets on major errors. He maintains an extensive personal library of error-related books, pamphlets, magazines, and ephemera going back to the dawn of the hobby in the 1950's.

Greg is a board member of CONECA, and focuses his study on major US and Canadian error coins, significant ancient and world errors, and the minting process.

Greg Bennick is a consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors and trends in the error market.

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**Marc Crane**

Marc Crane is a dealer specializing in rare U.S. coins and U.S. patterns. He started Marc One Numismatics, Inc. in 1991. He is a member of the PNG (#565).

Marc tied for 1st place in a PCGS grading contest and is considered a world-class grader and authenticator. He is a contributor to the Red Book and is permanently listed in the pattern section. His coin store in Rancho Mirage, CA is open to the public and he regularly attends coin shows and auctions across the country.

Marc Crane is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials.

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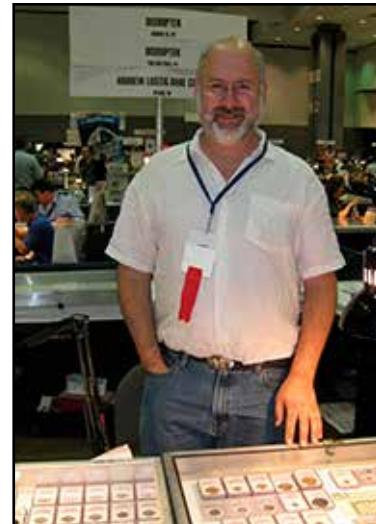
## CONSULTANTS

Andy Lustig has been dealing in U.S. and World Coins since 1975 and has attended more than 2,000 coin shows and auctions.

Andy is the co-founder of the Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors (uspatterns.com). He has been a member of the Professional Numismatists Guild (PNG #614) since 2005. He is a member of NGC and was also a former grader and authenticator for PCGS.

Andy was a speaker at the annual CSNS convention, presenting "Collecting Pattern Coinage." Andy was a major contributor to the 8th Edition of the Judd book.

Andy Lustig is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials.



**Andy Lustig**



**Saul Teichman**

Saul Teichman is a co-founder and primary contributor/editor of the Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors (uspatterns.com) as well as contributor to the 8th Edition of the Judd book and Andrew Pollock's *United States Patterns and Related Issues* as well as many other books. He has been collecting primarily off-metal U.S. Mint errors for over 20 years and maintains extensive pedigree information for many error issues which have been published here in the past.

Saul Teichman is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors, Patterns and Die Trials.

Rare Coin Wholesalers has the largest inventory of U.S. Rare Coins.

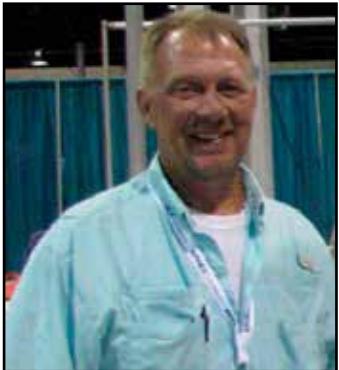
Founded in 2001, Rare Coin Wholesalers has transacted over \$2 billion in U.S. rare coin business and is a recognized leader in acquiring, managing, and selling U.S. rare coins positioned for wealth preservation and capital growth.

Steven L. Contursi is a Consultant to Mint Error News for U.S. Patterns.



**Steven L. Contursi**

# MINT ERROR NEWS™ CONSULTANTS



Jeff Ylitalo has collected Mint Error coins since 1993. He has avidly researched & written about this area of numismatics since 2006 contributing dozens of articles to CONECAs bi-monthly publication ErrorScope and Mint Error News. Jeff is the former editor for the ErrorScope 2008-2017.

Jeff's research and collecting focus is now primarily centered on World Error coins. Jeff can be reached via e-mail at: [jylitalo@yahoo.com](mailto:jylitalo@yahoo.com).

Jeff Ylitalo is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors.

**Jeff Ylitalo**

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John Wang is an avid numismatic researcher and collector. His research focus is on absolute rarities including patterns, mint errors and exonumia, with particular interest in coin census, pedigrees, coin designers and minters. A historian at heart, John enjoys tracing coins and people through time.

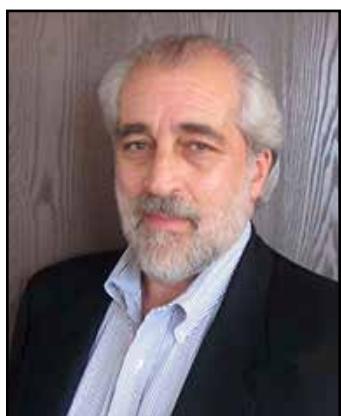
John writes for Mint Error News, the So-Called Dollar Fellowship and Wikipedia. He is also a top contributor to Collectors Universe Message Forums. Beyond writing, John enjoys creating coins, including co-creating a 2021 Morgan Dollar commemorative with Moonlight Mint, and inspiring a Frank Gasparro Liberty Dollar pattern design commemorative with Grove Minting Company. A collector at heart, John maintains a set of So-Called Dollar rarities in the PCGS Set Registry. John is founder and editor at [PrivateMintNews.com](http://PrivateMintNews.com).



**John Wang**

John Wang is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors and Patterns.

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Fred Weinberg is a highly respected numismatist, with 40 years of full time experience in the rare coin marketplace.

He deals in numismatic United States Gold & Silver coinage, as well as specializing in buying & selling Major Mint Error coinage of all types.

He is one of the original 31 dealers selected as an authorized PCGS (Professional Coin Grading Service) dealer at it's inception in 1986.

Fred Weinberg has now retired and was a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors and Die Trials.

**Fred Weinberg**

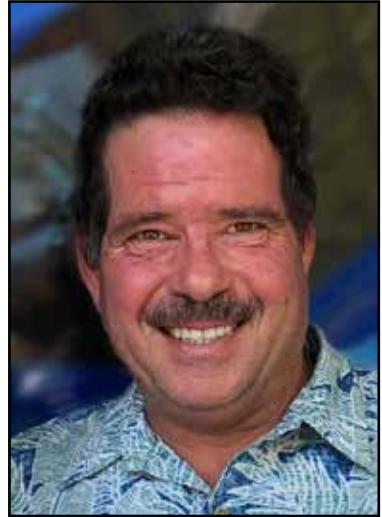
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## CONSULTANTS

Christopher Talbot Frank is an error coin dealer of over 25 years and is doing business as CTF Error Coins. Christopher specializes in superior eye appealing error coinage with a wide variety of dramatic specimens. He has an artistic background as a professional photographer and now specializes in high end numismatic photography. Christopher handpicks every coin in his inventory based on eye appeal first and rarity second.

Chris's 800 plus certified coin inventory is basically an error coin type set in many dates and denominations. Although he carries all error types and dates, he specializes in mint state modern and the very rare ultra modern (2002-present) error coins. Christopher has authored many articles on error coins for Mint Error News over the last few years.

Christopher Talbot Frank is a consultant to Mint Error News for modern and dramatic Major Mint Errors.



**Christopher Talbot Frank**



**Ron Guth**

Ron Guth is a recognized authority on United States and German coins. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant who has been involved professionally in numismatics for over fifty years as a collector, dealer, researcher, and writer. His books and articles have earned numerous awards, including the American Numismatic Association's Heath Literary award and the Olga & Wayte Raymond awards, the Numismatic Literary Guild's Best Numismatic Investment Book and Best Book of the Year awards, and the Professional Numismatic Guild's Best Book of the Year award. In 2003, Ron received the prestigious President's Award from the American Numismatic Association in recognition of his numerous contributions to numismatics. In 2021, Coin World named Ron as one of the Top Ten Most Influential People in Numismatics for the sixty-year period from 1960-2020.

Ron created the CoinFacts website (now PCGS CoinFacts) in 1999 and sold the website to Collectors Universe in 2004 (where it is now presented as PCGS CoinFacts). Ron served in various capacities at Collectors Universe, including Director of Numismatic Research, President of the Professional Coin Grading Service, and President of PCGS CoinFacts.

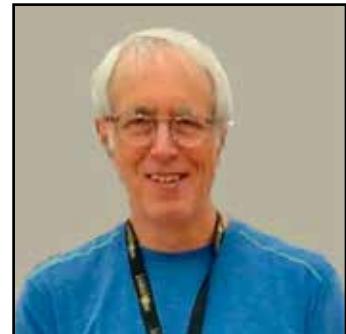
Currently, Ron serves as proprietor of GermanCoins.com and as Chief Investigator at the Numismatic Detective Agency, where he provides expert provenance on high-end coins. Ron Guth is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Patterns and Die Trials.

# MINTERRORNEWS™ CONSULTANTS

Tom Caldwell founded Northeast Numismatics over 50 years ago. In the years that have elapsed since 1964, Tom has proven his expertise in every area of US coinage, from rare colonials and patterns to high grade proof type and gold.

In addition to being an ANA life member since 1972 (#1318) and a member of the Professional Numismatists Guild (PNG), Tom is a life member of the Society for US Commemorative Coins, the Central States Numismatic Society, Florida United Numismatists, the Numismatic Association of Southern California, as well as other regional and national organizations. He has attended every major coin show and auction since the late 1960s, and can often be seen at shows out for a run in the early morning (he has completed several marathons).

Tom Caldwell is a Consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors and Patterns.



**Tom Caldwell**



**Joe Cronin**

Joe Cronin is currently a History teacher, a former U.S. Treasury Department law enforcement officer, and has been a coin collector for over thirty years. Within the last ten years he has focused more on Mint errors, and also fake and altered coins made to resemble genuine errors.

He is the author of the popular error reference book, *Mint Errors to Die For*, has written articles for CONECA's *Errorscope*, and is the creator and moderator of the Facebook® page, "Joe Cronin's Mint Errors Explained." Joe often attends coin shows in the Western N.Y. area with educational tables on Mint errors and Henning nickels. Feel free to contact Joe at [jcro57@yahoo.com](mailto:jcro57@yahoo.com).

Joe Cronin is a consultant to Mint Error News for Mint Errors and Counterfeit/Altered coins made to resemble genuine errors.

Brian Hodge is a Partner and the President of Numismatics at Minshull Trading. Over the last three decades years they have been a leader in the numismatic industry and have grown into a formidable market maker, garnering the respect of every major market player.

He is a member of every major numismatic organization in the country, including PNG, ICTA, FUN, CSNS, and a life member of the ANA. He is a regular Red Book contributor and maintains consistent and up-to-date pricing to sustain healthy markets.

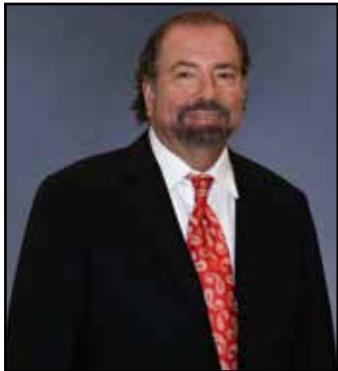


**Brian Hodge**

Brian Hodge is a consultant to Mint Error News for Specimen Coinage and Unique U.S. Coins.

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## CONSULTANTS



**Silvano DiGenova**

Tangible Investments founder and president Silvano DiGenova is an authority on the rare coin market, grading, authenticity, and appraisals. In fact, since Silvano co-founded the renowned Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) and designed the PCGS coin grading standards, you could actually say he wrote the book on coin grading.

Millions of collectors and investors depend on Silvano DiGenova's expertise every day. He has been featured in Fortune Magazine's "People to Watch," quoted on the front page of The Wall Street Journal, interviewed in hundreds of U.S. newspapers, and has appeared several times as a commentator on CNN, FNN, CNBC, the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, and more.

Silvano DiGenova is a consultant to Mint Error News for Patterns and Unique & Esoteric U.S. Coinage.

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Allen Rowe is the owner of Northern Nevada Coin, which specializes in buying silver dollars, gold coins, Carson City coins, gold scrap, complete collections, estates, hoards, investment holdings, coins, silver bullion, gold bullion, and rare paper money from collectors, investors, and other coin dealers. He has been buying gold in Carson City, Reno, Sparks, Minden, Gardnerville, Lake Tahoe, Fallon, Virginia City, and northern Nevada since 1993.



**Allen Rowe**

An interesting array of dollar errors is currently available to be viewed on Northern Nevada Coin's website [brokencc.com](http://brokencc.com). The gallery includes several off-center Morgan dollars, a broadstruck Morgan, a spectacularly broadstruck Peace dollar, an example of a rotated reverse, a blank silver dollar planchet, and the Amazing Broken CC.

Allen Rowe is a consultant to Mint Error News for Morgan and Peace Dollar Mint Errors, especially mint errors and rarities from the Carson City Mint.

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## CONSULTANTS

Ian is president and co-founder of GreatCollections Coin & Paper Money Auctions. From a young age, Ian was interested in collectibles and started working on weekends for a stamp dealer in Sydney, Australia at age 14. From there he learned about auctions at Stanley Gibbons Australia, personally handling many important sales including the Purcell Collection of Kangaroo and Map Series, the Mackey Collection of Australian States/Pacific Islands and the Morrison Hill China Collection. Ian also put together the company's first paper money auction featuring one of the finest New Zealand bank note collections ever formed.

Ian is a member of the prestigious Professional Numismatists Guild, member 785 and abides by the PNG Code of Ethics. In 2021, CoinWorld Magazine named Ian one of the most influential people in numismatics. Contact Ian Russell at [ian@greatcollections.com](mailto:ian@greatcollections.com).

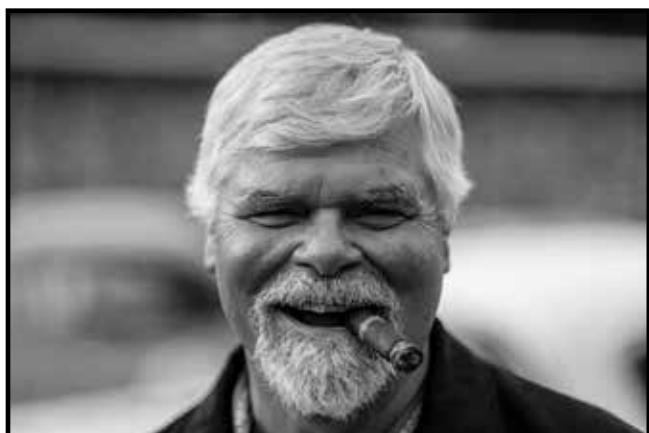


**Ian Russell**

Great Collections holds the record auctioning the famous \$1 Sacagawea obverse muled with a Quarter reverse for \$194,062.50.

Ian Russell is a consultant to Mint Error News for Error Coins and Patterns.

---



**Jim Gately**

Jim Gately is the owner of the #1 ranked PCGS registry set of Buffalo Nickels. He also has other registry sets with PCGS.

He purchased the unique 1913 Gold Buffalo Nickel from Mike Byers for \$400,000 and proudly included it in his set.

Jim is an expert on 20th Century U.S. coinage with an emphasis on Buffalo Nickels. He is a consultant to Mint Error News for Double Dies and Overdates.

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

1965 Martha Washington Strikes

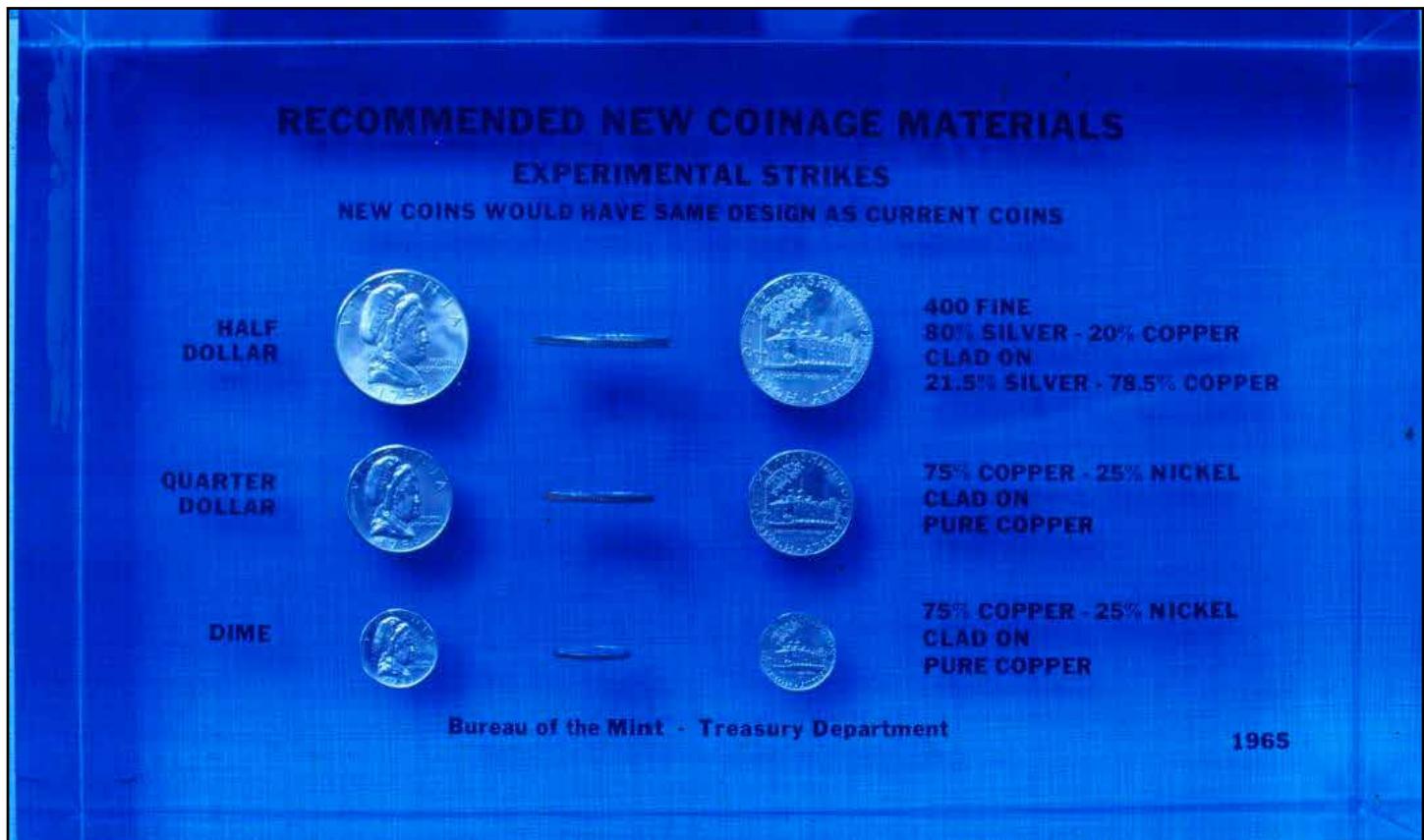


Photo courtesy of the National Numismatic Collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

*"My Secretary of the Treasury, Joe Fowler, is a little stingy about making samples, but I have some here. Joe made sure that I wouldn't put them in my pocket by sending them over here in plastic. Actually, no new coins can be minted until this bill is signed. So these strikes, as they are called, are coins that we will never use. On one side is our First Lady, Martha Washington. On the other, a replica of Mount Vernon."*

Lyndon B. Johnson, July 23, 1965

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

These remarks were made by President Johnson at the signing of the Coinage Act of 1965 and appear in the *Public Papers of the Presidents* (p782).

This blue lucite block, which measures about 12 x 7 inches, features 3 examples each of the Martha Washington dime J2101/P2081 quarter J2116/P2082 and half dollar J2134/P2083. The dime and quarter are struck on the copper nickel clad planchets of today whereas the half dollar is apparently struck on the silver clad planchets used from 1965 to 1970.

This is one of 2 such blocks that are presently in the Smithsonian.

The Martha Washington obverse was designed by Edward R. Grove and the reverse is by Philip Fowler.

These pieces are believed to have been struck in various alloys as the mint was attempting to eliminate silver from our coinage. The accepted alloys, apparently, are the ones saved in the 2 lucite blocks.

The mint uses these dies in various sizes for all-purpose testing of planchets both internally and by outside vendors such as IDX Inc, PMX Industries and the Olin Brass Corporation. Because of this, additional Martha Washington trials exist such as the J2180/P4100 and the J2185.

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

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J2101/P2081

This is the Martha Washington dime. It is believed to be the first metallurgical trials using the current cupro-nickel clad planchets. The Martha Washington obverse was designed by Edward R. Grove and the reverse is by Philip Fowler.

There are 6 examples in the Smithsonian embedded in two blocks of blue lucite along with [J2116/P2082](#) and [J2134/P2083](#). To view one of these blocks, click [here](#).

In collectors hands, one was offered in the 2003 ANA sale and another in AU grade was offered by Heritage in their 2007 FUN sale. As of today, over a dozen are known.

Since then, additional information regarding these dies has come to light and is listed below.

In addition to the cupro-nickel clad examples listed above, these were also believed to have been struck as follows:

nickel [J2100](#)

50% silver, 50% copper [J2102](#)

silver clad [J2103](#)

columbium (type 1) [J2104](#)

columbium (type 2) [J2105](#)

zirconium [J2106](#)

Monel (nickel base alloy) [J2107](#)

nickel-5% silicon with magnetic core [J2108](#)

stainless steel (type 301-Type I) [J2109](#)

stainless steel (type 301-Type II) [J2110](#)

stainless steel (type 302) [J2111](#)

It is not known if any of these still exist.

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COINWEEK  
Publisher & Editor



World's Greatest  
Mint Errors  
NLG Award: Best World Coin Book

## **NGC Certifies Unique Martha Washington Cent Test Piece**

**T**his is a Martha Washington test piece struck in 1999/2000. The April 10, 2000 issue of Coin World featured an article about a Martha Washington trial piece. The article revealed that the "Martha Washington/Mount Vernon dies were most recently used during metallurgical die trial testing for the Sacagawea dollar."

This Martha Washington piece is a die trial experimental test strike. The Martha Washington/Mount Vernon dies were used to strike this trial piece on a 2.5 gram zinc-copper cent planchet. It was struck 10% off-center with a uniface reverse.

This die trial piece was discovered by a Brinks employee. It is in gem mint state condition with red

and brown toning. The obverse design of the die features a bust of Martha Washington facing right. In the right field is the inscription MARTHA WASHINGTON. Above the portrait is VIRGINIA and below the date 1759.



# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

*Mike Byers' discovery was featured in a front page article in Coin World*

Copyright story reprinted by permission from Page 1 and Page 16 of the August 7, 2000 issue of *COIN WORLD*, Sidney, OH (coinworld.com)

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August 7, 2000 "Enriching coin collecting through knowledge"

**40 YEARS**

**Martha Washington 'error' may not be Mint product**

Mint lends dies to private firms for tests

By Victoria Stone Moledor  
*Coin World* Staff

A recent discovery of a current Lincoln cent planchet with the off-center image of the U.S. Mint's trial Martha Washington dies led to an announcement from Mint officials: The dies are made available to the Mint's metal and blank vendors for testing, and therefore any item with the image of the trial pieces may not have been struck by the U.S. Mint.

The dies are not regulated by the U.S. Mint, said Michael S. White. Therefore, it is not outside the bounds of reason that the dies may at times be used in an "uncontrolled" manner, meaning that any item with the image of the Martha Washington pattern dies may have been struck outside the U.S. Mint, and would therefore not be considered a U.S. Mint product.

**A WEAKLY** struck cent planchet struck with the Mint's Martha Washington pattern test die may not be a genuine Mint product.

Please see MARTHA Page 16

**MARTHA** from Page 1

By press time, the Mint could not confirm for *Coin World* how many years it has made the Martha Washington dies available to outside vendors for metallurgical testing, how many companies may have the dies and how many pairs are outside the Mint. The Mint also could not confirm if the pattern dies were employed recently for use in the U.S. Mint.

The item that drew comment from the Mint was submitted to ANACS by Michael S. Byers of Byers Numismatic Corp. Byers told *Coin World* the item was found in a Mint-sewn bag of 1999 Lincoln cents when it was opened in a Brink's Inc. counting room.

In light of the information provided by the Mint, said Michael Fahey, senior authenticator with ANACS, the coin was returned as a "no decision" item since it could not be verified as an official U.S. Mint product.

The item is uniface with a weak, 10 percent off-center strike. "There is a marked difference in coins that are struck on an ordinary machine press vs. a U.S. Mint coinage press," Fahey said. "This item could have easily been created with an ordinary machine press," he added.

The piece was struck on a copper-plated, zinc planchet of the type first used for the 1982 Lincoln cent and for all cents since 1983.

According to *United States Patterns and Related Issues* by Andrew W. Pollock III, the only trial pieces purported to have survived metallurgical testing in 1965 were the dime, quarter dollar and half dollar equivalent strikes in copper-nickel clad over copper. They are embedded in a block of Lucite displayed at the Smithsonian Institution.

According to an April 22, 1975, letter to pattern researcher Abe Kosoff from Eva

Adams, Mint director from October 1961 to August 1969, "... to be certain no coins were 'lost' while being viewed at official hearings, etc., we had them embedded in a large plastic 'block' which no one certainly could 'pocket' accidentally or otherwise. One of these was presented to the Smithsonian Institution. ..."

*Coin World* readers will recall that in April 2000, the Numismatic Guaranty Corporation of America authenticated and encapsulated a Martha Washington "dime." Eagle Numismatics submitted the dime trial piece to NGC, which graded the piece Mint State 65.

Readers will also recall that in 1999 as the Sacagawea dollar alloy was tested, Martha Washington pattern dies were used to test the alloy's suitability for coining. The dies were the size of the dollar, and *Coin World*'s photo files dating from 1965 confirm that dies also exist in the half dollar, quarter dollar and dime size. The dies were used in testing potential replacement compositions for the 90 percent silver alloy used for those three denominations since the 19th century.

Given the size of the image reproduction on the latest item, both the owner and ANACS staff surmised that an obverse dime die struck the coin.

Edward R. Grove, a sculptor, medallist and bank note engraver, is credited with preparing the Martha Washington obverse design. The test designs were used because of "the technical avoidance by the government of forging their own coins before they were passed into law," according to *The Numismatist* article.

Grove's design features a bust of Martha Washington facing right. In the right field is inscribed MARTHA WASHINGTON, with VIRGINIA above and 1759 below.

Another Mint engraver, Philip Fowler, is credited with executing the designs for the Mount Vernon reverse. The design features a three-quarters view of the Washington's Virginia mansion with MOUNT VERNON below. Inscribed around is HOME OF THE WASHINGTON FAMILY.

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

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JA1982-1



The following possible trial was offered on Ebay by Michael S. Byers. There is also additional information provided by Paul Gilkes of Coin World relating to this and to the discovery of a [J2101/P2081](#) in private hands. For more on this, click [here](#).

**The description of the piece follows below:**

This is a Martha Washington test piece [struck in 1999/2000 on a zinc copper planchet](#) of 2.5 grams. The April 10, 2000 issue of Coin World featured an article about a Martha Washington trial piece. The article revealed that the "Martha Washington/Mount Vernon dies were most recently used during metallurgical die trial testing for the Sacagawea dollar." This Martha Washington piece is a die trial experimental test strike. The Martha Washington/Mount Vernon dies were used to strike this trial piece on a 2.5 gram zinc-copper cent planchet. It was struck 10% off-center with a uniface reverse.

This die trial piece was discovered by a Brinks employee in a bag of 1999 cents. It is in gem mint state condition with red and brown toning. The obverse design of the die features a bust of Martha Washington facing right. In the right field is the inscription MARTHA WASHINGTON. Above the portrait is VIRGINIA and below the date 1759.

From the description of the coin, it is clear that this is not a 1965 product. It is known that the Mint gave out these dies to vendors such as IDX Inc, PMX Industries and the Olin Brass Corporation for the purpose of testing planchets.

The trial was offered on Ebay and later as lot 1972 in Ira & Larry Goldberg's 10/00 sale and lot 996 in Bowers and Merena's 1/03 sale.

It is unclear whether this piece was struck from dime or cent dies. An example struck on a cent planchet has been discovered by Michael Byers. For more on this, click [here](#).

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

## Martha Washington Test Pieces That I Discovered in 2000:



# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

I discovered the first known Martha Washington Test Pieces, of ANY denomination in 2000. It was struck on a U.S. cent planchet. *Coin World* featured this discovery on their front page on August 7th, 2000.

Since then, there have been Martha Washington Test Pieces struck on the 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c and \$1 size denominations. Different metal compositions and surfaces were used in these experimental test pieces.

The only other known Martha Washington Die (obverse or reverse) in private hands is an obverse die for the cent-sized U.S. Judd #2180. Fred Weinberg displayed the Martha Washington Cent reverse die in his showcase at the Denver 2017 ANA and at previous Long Beach Expos.

The U.S. Mint conducted metallurgical tests in 1999 on the golden colored manganese-clad planchets which would later be used for the Sacagawea Dollar.

For the first time, the U.S. Mint included representatives from Industry because the new Sacagawea Dollar would have to be completely interchangeable with the existing SBA Dollar. The

electromagnetic fingerprint had to be identical. All of the metals combined changed the alloy's electromagnetic properties. Many tests were conducted including those at IDX Inc., Olin Brass and PMX Industries.

In a *Coin World* article on July 16th, 2001, James Halsey, President of IDX Inc. was interviewed. IDX Inc. is one of the firms contracted by the U.S. Mint to test prototypes. Mr. Halsey said "numerous samples in different alloys bearing the Martha Washington obverse and Mt. Vernon reverse dies - special designs used for experimental coinage - were shipped to IDX Inc. for testing. Some of the packages were insured for as high as \$250,000, with the recipients required to return any and all pieces supplied by the Mint for tests."

Two other firms under contract by the U.S. Mint include Olin Brass and PMX Industries. Both of these companies supply the U.S. Mint with the manganese-clad strips from which the Sacagawea Dollars are struck. Olin Brass is a leading U.S. copper alloy producer and is located in East Alton, Illinois. PMX Industries is located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

According to a *Coin World* article in the June 24, 2002 issue, “anti-tarnish tests were conducted at the Philadelphia Mint on January 8, 2000, on Sacagawea dollar blanks struck with the experimental Martha Washington obverse, Mount Vernon reverse experimental dies, according to Mint e-mails.” The article continued: “Seven processes were explored: one on circulation quality strikes, three on Uncirculated [Mint set] quality coins, and three on Proof quality strikes. The coins were struck on at least four different kinds of presses, with the blanks subjected to one of five burnishing methods.”

I discovered one of the three known Martha Washington Test Pieces struck on a Sacagawea Dollar blank planchet. It was certified by NGC as a dollar-sized test piece weighing 8.0 grams and was graded MS 66. It is listed as Judd #2185 on page 294 of eighth edition of *United States Pattern Coins, Experimental and Trial Pieces*.

A Martha Washington Half Dollar struck on a clad Quarter blank planchet sold for \$29,900 in a Heritage Auction at the 2003 Mid-Winter ANA.

I discovered the first Martha Washington

Test Piece struck on a clad Quarter blank planchet. This coin is the plate coin for Judd #2115 on page 290 of the eighth edition of *United States Pattern Coins, Experimental and Trial Pieces*. Recently a second Martha Washington Quarter has been discovered.

The first Martha Washington Dime Trial Piece in private hands sold for \$51,750 at the 2003 Baltimore ANA. NGC authenticated and encapsulated this Martha Washington Dime in April of 2000. The second Martha Washington Dime Trial Piece is in the Heritage Galleries 2007 January Orlando, FL (FUN) Signature Coin Auction #422. It was certified AU 58 by NGC and is struck in cupronickel-copper (multi-layer composite).

According to *United States Pattern and Related Issues*, by Andrew W. Pollock III, “the only trial pieces purported to have survived metallurgical testing in 1965 were the Dime, Quarter Dollar, and Half Dollar equivalent strikes in copper-nickel clad over copper.” There is one set of a Dime, Quarter and Half struck by the Martha Washington dies that are permanently housed in the Smithsonian Institute, embedded in blocks of lucite.

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

I also discovered a Martha Washington Test Piece struck on a copper-zinc Cent blank planchet. This Martha Washington Test Piece might have been used to test the new copper-zinc planchets for the U.S. Mint in 1982. This coin is the plate coin for Judd #2180 on page 294 of the eighth edition of *United States Pattern Coins, Experimental and Trial Pieces*. Starting in 1982 the composition and weight of the Cent planchet changed. Instead of weighing 3.11 grams and having a composition of 95% copper and 5% zinc, the weight is 2.5 grams with a composition of 97.5% zinc and 2.5% copper.

In August of 2000, I discovered a Martha Washington Test Piece on a copper-zinc Cent planchet that was struck 10% off-center with a uniface reverse. This discovery was a front page Coin World article on August 7th, 2000. In a response to the Martha Washington Test Piece that I discovered, the Mint announced that “the dies are available to the Mint’s metal and blank vendors for testing.” This die trial piece was discovered by a Brinks employee. It is in gem mint state condition with red and brown toning. The obverse design of the die features a bust of Martha Washington facing right. In the

right field is the inscription MARTHA WASHINGTON. Above the portrait is VIRGINIA and below the date 1759.

The evolving story about the Martha Washington Dies, test strikes and the discovery of these pieces is among the most interesting Numismatic stories in decades.

***Featured on the cover of Mint Error News Magazine Issue 14:***



# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

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J2184

The following metallurgical trial piece is believed to have been struck in 1999. It uses the 2nd set of Martha Washington dies which was also used on some quarters [J2116/P2082](#) and the strikings on the golden dollars [J2185](#).

Examples were struck as follows:

Reeded Edge J2183.

Intermittently reeded edge 5 or 6 reeds per block [J2184](#) as shown below.



It is believed that this intermittent reeding was an attempt to help the blind differentiate this from the quarter dollar. Martha Washington dollars on the Sacagawea dollar planchets are also known with this intermittent reeding. For more on this, click [here](#).

The Martha Washington design has become the U.S. Mint's all-purpose design for testing new compositions and planchet sizes both inside the Mint and outside by companies contracted by the Mint including IDX Inc, PMX Industries, Schuler AG and Olin Brass Corporation. Because of this, it is not known if the piece above was struck inside or outside the Mint.

Photo courtesy of Mike Byers.

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

## uspatterns.com



J2185

The following metallurgical trial piece was struck in 1999. It uses the Martha Washington design first used in 1965 on [J2101/P2081](#), [J2116/P2082](#) and [J2134/P2083](#) from the second set of dies to test the golden colored manganese brass coated planchets which would later be used for the Sacagawea dollar.

Photo courtesy of Douglas Mudd of the National Numismatic Collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

This design has become the U.S. Mint's all-purpose design for testing new compositions and planchet sizes both inside the Mint and outside by companies contracted by the Mint including IDX Inc, PMX Industries, Schuler AG and Olin Brass Corporation.

Until a few years ago, only a few people outside the Mint itself were aware of the existence of these trial pieces when the one at the top of this web page was first imaged, but not retained, by the Smithsonian.

The following, regarding these pieces, is excerpted from an article in the July 16, 2001 edition of Coin World.

"The U.S. Mint spent millions of dollars in research and development of an alloy for the Sacagawea dollar, with IDX Inc. being one of the firms contracted to test prototypes in their coin acceptors. James Halsey, president of IDX Inc., said numerous samples in different alloys bearing the Martha Washington obverse and Mount Vernon reverse dies - special designs used for experimental coinage - were shipped to IDX for testing. Some of the packages were insured for as high as \$250,000, with the recipients required to return any and all pieces supplied by the Mint for the tests."

According to a Coin World article in the June 24, 2002 issue, "anti-tarnish tests were conducted at the Philadelphia Mint on January 8, 2000, on Sacagawea dollar blanks struck with the experimental Martha Washington obverse, Mount Vernon reverse experimental dies, according to Mint e-mails." The Coin World article continued:

"Seven processes were explored: one on circulation quality strikes, three on Uncirculated [Mint set] quality coins, and three on Proof quality strikes. The coins were struck on at least four different kinds of presses, with the blanks subjected to one of five burnishing methods."

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES



The ANR piece pictured above is one of at least 2 confirmed examples which may have been struck to test one of those burnishing methods as its surfaces are more matte-like in appearance than the Smithsonian or Heritage 11/03 sale piece which have a brilliant finish and is illustrated below and is shown courtesy of Mike Byers.



All of the above examples having a plain edge are listed as [J2185](#) if they have manganese as part of the composition. As of 2017, over 100 are known in uncirculated business strike format and at least a half dozen are known in proof format.

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

The Mint also appears to have performed several experiments for the blind including [J2185A](#) which has 6 notches on the border as illustrated below courtesy of NGC which just sent us this example in July 2019. The piece was subsequently offered in Heritage's October 2019 sale. A second piece appeared in Heritage April 2020 sale.



and also [J2186](#) which has an intermittently reeded edge - 5 or 6 reeds per block - as shown below.



An example with this edge device example was offered in Superior's 11/08 sale.

Another example [J2187](#) has a fully reeded edge and was offered in the Bowers and Merena 2006 ANA sale. This would have made the dollar coin too similar to a quarter and was almost certainly rejected for that reason.

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

Pieces are also known struck from a non-manganese alloy and have the letter N dotted on both sides of the obverse as shown below. We are calling these [J2188](#).



According to the Heritage sale which first offered one, an accompanying letter from the Department of the Treasury explains the new disks that carried no actual denomination:

"The Purpose of these prototype alloy samples is to field test two (2) alloy systems that the Mint has prepared for the new dollar coin. We need to get feedback from the industry relative to any tokens, foreign coins, or any other materials that may result in slugging problems. (In other words, these samples should not be accepted in any of your current electronic coinage discrimination channels.)"

The Heritage example has a plain edge, and was found to be 77% copper, 20% zinc and 3% nickel. The sale also included an example which was 1% manganese which did not have any letters dotted in the field which we would list as a J2185. It is not known if all examples with the 'N's on them lack manganese or not. As of 2017, about 50 are known with the 'N's. There are also several examples known in the above alloy without the dotted Ns [J2189](#).

A cupro-nickel clad Martha Washington pattern dollar with the intermittent edge device is also known and is now listed as [J2184](#). For more on this piece, click [here](#).

Photo courtesy of Saul Teichman.

**MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES**

# **Martha Washington Obverse Die Used To Strike Half Dollar Experimental Test Pieces For U.S. Judd #2131-2143**



# MARTHA WASHINGTON UUNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

## uspatterns.com



J2132/P2083

This is the Martha Washington half dollar. The Martha Washington obverse was designed by Edward R. Grove and the reverse is by Philip Fowler.

Examples are believed to have been struck as follows:

Nickel [J2131](#) with a single example offered in Heritage 10/14 and Heritage 8/20 sales - NGC64.

Cupro-Nickel Clad [J2132](#) with over a dozen known including the illustrated piece above courtesy of Bowers and Merena from their July 2005 sale.. An example was first offered in ANR's 12/03 sale and a second one was in Bowers & Merena's 7/05 sale and later reoffered in ANR's 1/06 sale. One is also known struck on a clad quarter planchet. A mint error, it was offered in Heritage 3/2003 and 8/2004 sales. To view this piece, click [here](#). It is unknown if these were struck inside or outside the mint.

50% Silver, 50% Copper [J2133](#)

Silver Clad [J2134](#) as used from 1965 to 1970 on the Kennedy half dollar. There are 6 examples, 3 each embedded in two blocks of blue lucite, along with [J2101/P2081](#) and [J2116/P2082](#) in the Smithsonian. To view one of these blocks, click [here](#).

Pollock inadvertently lists these Smithsonian pieces as being struck in cupro-nickel clad.

Columbium (type 1) [J2135](#)

Columbium (type 2) [J2136](#)

Zirconium [J2137](#)

Monel (nickel base alloy) [J2138](#)

Nickel-5% Silicon with Magnetic Core [J2139](#)

Stainless Steel (type 301-Type I) [J2140](#)

Stainless Steel (type 301-Type II) [J2141](#)

Stainless Steel (type 302) [J2142](#)

Copper Zinc Silver alloy [J2143](#). In March 2016, NGC received an example for grading that is Cu 58.3%, Zn 34.3% and Ag 7.2%. This alloy does not match any mentioned in "A Study of Alloys Suitable for Use as United States Coinage". The piece was later offered in Heritage 1/17 FUN sale.

It is not known if any of the other alloys mentioned still exist.

These dies are now used by the U.S. Mint to test various planchet sizes and alloys. They were used in 1999 to test the new "brass" planchet used on the Sacagawea dollar. To view one of these trial pieces, click [here](#).

A waffle cancelled example appeared in Heritage 4/14 sale.

These dies were also given out to certain vendors including IDX Inc, PMX Industries, Schuler AG and the Olin Brass Corporation by the Mint to test planchets and may be the source for several of these which have recently appeared in collector's hands.

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

## Martha Washington Reverse Die Used To Strike 1 Cent Experimental Test Pieces For U.S. Judd #2180

This is the only known Martha Washington Reverse Die in private hands for *ANY* denomination.



# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

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**J2180/P4100**

A cent struck using the Mint's Martha Washington dies has been reported and purchased by Michael Byers, uspatterns.com member #88. It was purchased

along with an example of [J2101/P2082](#). For more on this piece, click [here](#).

This design was first used in 1965. The obverse was designed by Edward R. Grove and the reverse is by Philip Fowler. This design has since become the Mint's all-purpose dies for testing new alloys.

It is likely that this piece was struck outside the Mint from one of the vendors the Mint gave these dies to. Among the possibilities include IDX Inc, PMX Industries and the Olin Brass Corporation. Because of this, we have assigned it number **P4100**.

The reason for their striking may have been to test the new copper coated zinc planchets for the Mint. If this is the case, then this was probably struck around 1982.

The illustrated piece was offered in Heritage 11/03 sale and was graded NGC66RB. A second example, graded NGC64RED, was offered in Heritage 1/04 sale. Since that time several more have shown up and there are now over a dozen confirmed in the marketplace.

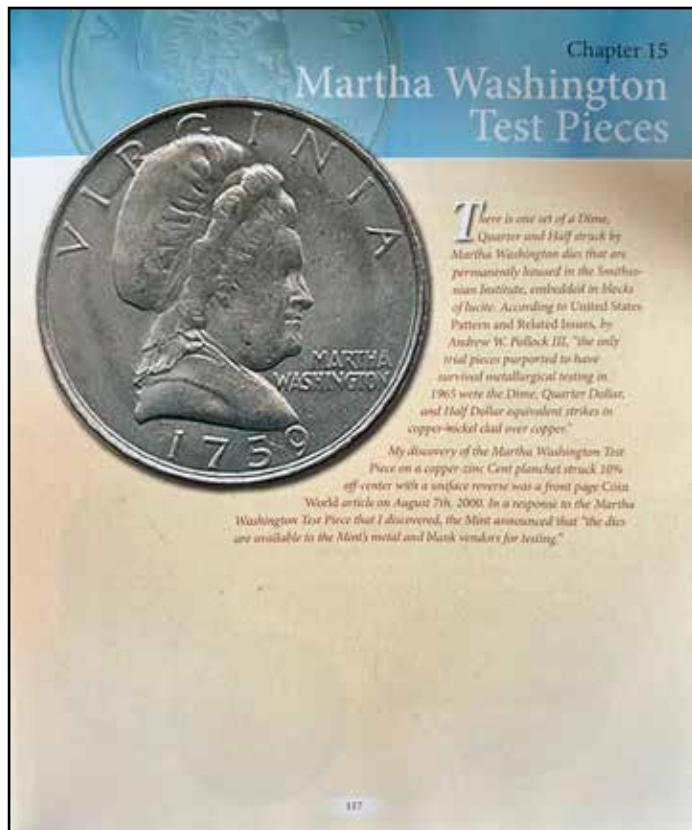
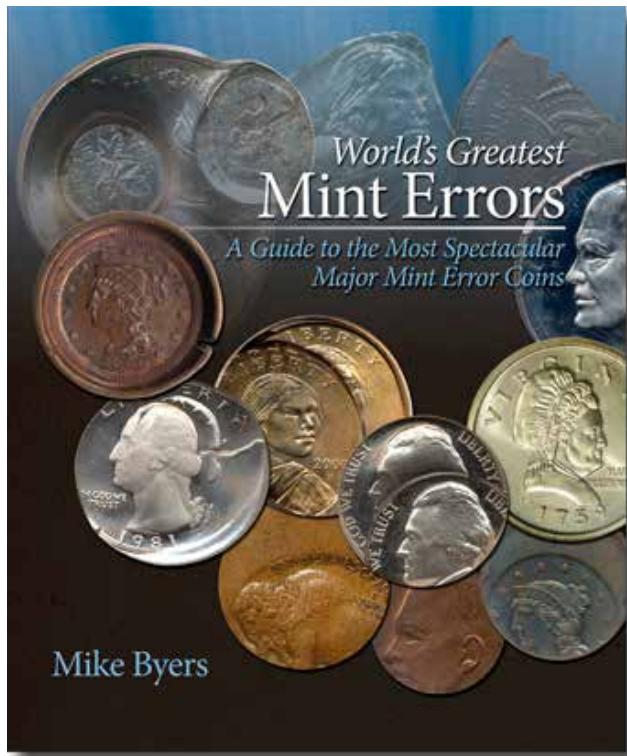
There are also at least 2 mint errors struck on dime planchets. For more on these pieces, click [here](#).

An obverse die trial in copper struck from either cent or dime dies is also known. For more on this, click [here](#).

Photo courtesy of Michael Byers.

# MARTHA WASHINGTON UNCANCELLED DIES, TEST PIECES & RESTRIKES

Martha Washington Test Pieces are featured in my NLG award winning book, *World's Greatest Mint Errors*.



# Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes



This is a historic and spectacular unique set of Martha Washington Test Pieces struck circa 1999. They are listed in the USPatterns website and have been assigned Judd 2116, which are the Martha Washington Quarter-Sized test pieces struck in cupro-nickel clad. This unique set consists of 5 different

experimental finishes that the U.S. Mint was testing. The U.S. Mint did adopt the *satin finish*, which first appeared in the 2005-2010 Mint Sets, and the *reverse proof finish*, which first appeared on the 2006-P American Silver Eagle. To date, there are no U.S. coins struck with a *brushed finish* or *antique finish*.

# Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes

## Martha Washington 25C *Antique Finish*



**Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes**

**Martha Washington 25C**  
*Antique Finish*



**Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes**

**Martha Washington 25C**  
*Antique Finish*



# Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes

## Martha Washington 25C *Satin Finish*



**Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes**

**Martha Washington 25C**  
*Satin Finish*



**Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes**

**Martha Washington 25C**  
*Satin Finish*



# Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes

## Martha Washington 25C *Brushed Finish*



**Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes**

**Martha Washington 25C**  
***Brushed Finish***



**Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes**

**Martha Washington 25C**  
***Brushed Finish***



# Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes

## Martha Washington 25C *Reverse Proof Finish*



**Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes**

**Martha Washington 25C**  
*Reverse Proof Finish*



**Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes**

**Martha Washington 25C**  
*Reverse Proof Finish*



# Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes

## Martha Washington 25C *Proof Finish*



**Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes**

**Martha Washington 25C**  
*Proof Finish*



**Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes**

**Martha Washington 25C**  
*Proof Finish*



# Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes

[uspatterns.com](http://uspatterns.com)



J2116/P2082

This is the Martha Washington quarter. It is believed to be the first metallurgical trials using the current cupro-nickel clad planchets. The Martha Washington obverse was designed by Edward R. Grove and the reverse is by Philip Fowler.

There are 6 examples in the Smithsonian embedded in two blocks of blue lucite along with [J2101/P2081](#) and [J2134/P2083](#). To view one of these blocks, click [here](#).

The first example reported in private hands was by Michael Byers, uspatterns.com member #88. For more on this piece, click [here](#). Another example from different dies, was offered in Superior's 11/03 and 2/05 sales. This discovery was made by your editor, Saul Teichman, and was the subject of an article in the December 22, 2003 edition of Coin World by Eric von Klinger. Both are shown for comparison below:



On the first illustrated piece, the Byers example, the lettering on both sides is closer to the rims. On the obverse, Edward Grove's initials are under Martha's neck to the left of the "1" in "1759" and on the reverse, the tree touches the letter "A" in "Washington". This is the same die arrangement as used on the Smithsonian pieces, all 3 denominations, known to have been struck in 1965.

On the second illustrated piece, the Superior example, the lettering on both sides is further from the rims and Edward Grove's initials are not on the obverse. On the reverse the tree touches the "S" in "Washington". This die arrangement is the same as used on the 1999 pieces used to test the Sacagawea dollar planchets - [J2185](#).

Since this was written, a second example from the first set of dies like the Byers piece was offered in Stacks 6/06 sale. The Stacks example was later graded NGC63 and consigned to Heritage. At least 2 are known from the later dies. The total known today is over a dozen.

# Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes

In addition to the cupro-nickel clad examples listed above, these were struck in additional alloys as shown below which were taken from the "Final Report on a Study of Alloys Suitable for Use as United States Coinage to U.S. Department of the Treasury Bureau of the Mint February 12, 1965" by Batelle Memorial Institute:



nickel [J2115](#)

cupro-nickel clad [J2116](#). These exist in both business strike and proof format in various finishes. A set of 5 was struck circa 1999 as follows proof, reverse proof, brushed finish, satin finish and antique finish

50% silver, 50% copper [J2117](#)

silver clad [J2118](#)

columbium (type 1) [J2119](#)

columbium (type 2) [J2120](#)

zirconium [J2121](#)

Monel (nickel base alloy) [J2122](#)

nickel-5% silicon with magnetic core [J2123](#)

stainless steel (type 301-Type I) [J2124](#)

stainless steel (type 301-Type II) [J2125](#)

stainless steel (type 302) [J2126](#)

With regard to the alloys, the first 4 were considered the best choices for coining with the last 4, the worst. It is clear that the Monel and stainless steel pieces, for example, did not strike up fully. It is not known if any of these other pieces still exist. As expected, they were struck from the earlier dies.

These Martha Washington dies are now used by the U.S. Mint to test various planchet sizes and alloys. They were used in 1999 to test the new "brass" planchet used on the Sacagawea dollar. To view one of these trial pieces, click [here](#).

These dies were also given out to certain vendors including IDX Inc, PMX Industries, Schuler AG and the Olin Brass Corporation by the Mint to test planchets and may be the source for several of these which have recently appeared in collector's hands.

A waffle cancelled example appeared in Heritage 4/14 sale.

Photos courtesy of Michael Byers and Superior.

# Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces With 5 Different Experimental Finishes

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## NEWS & ANALYSIS

### Retrospective on Mint test pieces

Surface testing by U.S. Mint would help determine best finishes to use

by Paul Gilkes, Coin World Senior Editor

In a recent issue of MintErrorNews.com online, error coin specialist Mike Byers examines experimental Martha Washington quarter dollar pieces the United States Mint struck at the Philadelphia Mint in 1999 to test five different surface finishes on copper-nickel clad planchets.

Obverses of the experimental pieces feature a portrait facing right of former First Lady Martha Washington; reverses exhibit a rendition of Mount Vernon. The obverse is dated 1759.

"Martha Washington dies have 'fantasy designs' intended to avoid creating rarities with regular coinage motifs," Byers explains. "The design of these [experimental] Proof dies was used by the U.S. Mint for metallurgical testing beginning in

1965 until 2011, when the dies were redesigned."

In 1999, the United States Mint was testing strikes with an Antique Finish, Satin Finish, Brushed Finish, Standard Proof Finish and Reverse Proof Finish. All strikes were within collar dies that imparted a reeded edge.

Examples of the Martha Washington experimental pieces Byers illustrated were certified by Numismatic Guaranty Company with Details grades.

The coinage bureau adopted the Satin Finish, which first appeared on coins in the Uncirculated Mint sets of 2005 through 2010. The Mint also adopted the Reverse Proof Finish for use first on the 2006-P American Eagle silver dollar.



The Satin Finish, as experimentally struck using Martha Washington test dies nonsense-dated 1759 on these example pieces, was first implemented by the U.S. Mint on collector coins in the Uncirculated Mint sets of 2005 through 2010.

Images courtesy of Mike Byers.



The Reverse Proof finish, experimented with first on these Martha Washington nonsense dies, first appeared for collectors on the 2006-P American Eagle silver dollar.

The Standard Proof Finish features laser frosted devices contrasted against mirrored fields. The Reverse Proof Finish exhibits mirrored devices against frosted fields.

The Martha Washington obverse design was rendered by Edward R. Grove, an engraver at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in the 1930s and 1940s and a sculptor-engraver at the Philadelphia Mint from 1962 to 1965.

The Mount Vernon reverse design is by Philip E. Fowler, a former sculptor-engraver at the United States Mint from 1962 and into the 1970s.

More information on the Martha Washington quarter dollar experimental strikes can be found by searching for the article titled "Unique Set of Martha Washington Test Pieces with 5 Different Experimental Finishes" or by links from <https://minterrrornews.com/contentlist.html#discoveries>.

Information is also found at <https://uspatterns.com/p2082.html>. ☐

### Pennies prominent in upcoming sale

Next installment of L.E. Bruun Collection to be sold in New York

by Larry Jewett, Coin World Editorial Director

Stack's Bowers Galleries will conduct Part IV of the sale of the L.E. Bruun Collection in New York, March 24 and 25 at the Kosciuszko Foundation on East 65th Street. To date, the almost 5,000 lots sold from this unprecedented collection via live and internet auctions have realized over €32 million (including the buyer's premium).

The March 2026 auction will be focused on top pop and high-graded coins from all eras of Scandinavian numismatics, from the earliest Viking age pennies to the

decimal coinage of the 20th century. Michael Fornitz, director of Stack's Bowers Galleries Copenhagen, notes: "Many of the coins were obtained directly from the Royal Mints of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, or were even sourced from royal collections; they are unrivaled in beauty and conservation."

The March 2026 sale will also feature coins from the Danish West Indies and the former trading post of Tranquebar on the Indian East Coast. The Danish West Indies, now the U.S. Virgin Is-



Silver pennies of the Danish kings of England will figure prominently in the March sale of Part IV of the L.E. Bruun Collection. In Part III, in October 2025, this penny from Great Britain sold for £1,560.

All images courtesy of Stack's Bowers.

lands of St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix, were sold to the United States in 1917 and the coinage has always attracted a broad, international following.

"L. E. Bruun had an unsurpassed collection of coins from the former Danish colonies, and we are delighted to introduce this

fantastic selection to the bidders in New York," Fornitz continued.

Lars Emil Bruun was an avid collector of silver pennies from the Danish kings of England of the 11th century: Cnut, Harold Harefoot and Harthacnut. An exclusive selection of high-grade pennies is chosen for the March sale. ☐



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P.O. Box 806

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# uspatterns.com

The Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors is dedicated to the study of many of the rarest coins struck at the U.S. Mint: patterns, die trials and experimental pieces.

## Welcome to The Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors!

For those of you not familiar with this fascinating area of numismatics, patterns are prototypes for coins that, for the most part, were never approved for circulation. Most patterns are very rare, some unique, and others unknown outside of museums.

A good place to start learning about these pieces is our Beginner's Corner which includes a page on How to use this Website or the Photo Gallery which contains examples of many of the different pattern issues.

The United States Mint produced more than 1000 different patterns, as well as many die trials and experimental pieces. Despite the great rarity of many of these individual items, the great variety makes the series surprisingly collectable.

There are relatively few collectors specializing in United States pattern coinage. Most of these collectors target specific areas. For example, there are collectors who specialize in Indian Cent patterns, others collecting Morgan dollar patterns, and so on.

In addition to these specialists, there are thousands of collectors of regular issue United States coins who try to buy a few patterns to complement their collections. Many of these historical coins have wide appeal and are surprisingly affordable. There are many collectors who, for example, would like to own an 1855 Flying Eagle large cent (J-167, about 500 pieces struck) to go with their collection of large cents or with their collection of Flying Eagle small cents.



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Our Team:

Marc	Chris
Madison	Megan
Barry	Mathew

# A SELECTION OF MARTHA WASHINGTON TEST PIECES SOLD IN HERITAGE AUCTIONS



**Martha Washington Half-Dollar Test Piece  
Judd-2132, MS63**

**SOLD ON APR 18, 2008 FOR: \$6,900.00**



**1982 (1759 dated) Martha Washington Half Dollar-Sized Test Piece, Judd-2132, Pollock-2083, R.8 (?), MS63 NGC.** 11.2 grams. The obverse has a portrait of Martha Washington facing right, and the reverse shows a view of Mount Vernon. Struck in cupronickel-copper (multi-layer composite) with a reeded edge. Struck from the so-called "nonsense dies" as the legends lack any mention of a denomination. Sharply struck, each side shows strong die clashing, and there is just the lightest hint of toning over the satiny surfaces.

**Martha Washington Half-Dollar Test Piece**  
**Judd-2132, MS63**



**Martha Washington Half-Dollar Test Piece**  
**Judd-2132, MS63**



**“1759” Martha Washington “Quarter” MS61**

**Judd-2116, Struck in 1965**

**SOLD ON JAN 11, 2008 FOR: \$7,475.00**



**1965 (1759 dated) Martha Washington Quarter-Sized Medalet, Judd-2116, Pollock-2082, Low R.7, MS61 NGC.** 5.7 grams. The obverse has a portrait of Martha Washington facing right, while the reverse shows a view of Mount Vernon. Struck in cupronickel-copper (multi-layer composite). Struck from the so-called “nonsense dies” as the legends lack any mention of a denomination. The ninth edition of Judd (page 284) states that “although various metals were used, only cupro-nickel clad is confirmed to exist.” The USPatterns.com website has even more to say about this particular pattern: “It is believed to be the first metallurgical trials using the current cupro-nickel clad planchets. The Martha Washington obverse was designed by Edward R. Grove and the reverse is by Philip Fowler. There are 6 examples in the Smithsonian embedded in two blocks of blue lucite along with J2101/P2081 and J2134/P2083.” A satiny and suitably struck example with light gold toning and faint clashmarks on each side. The variety without Edward R. Grove’s initials beneath the shoulder. A rare opportunity to acquire this legitimate test striking from 1965.

**“1759” Martha Washington “Quarter” MS61  
Judd-2116, Struck in 1965**



**“1759” Martha Washington “Quarter” MS61  
Judd-2116, Struck in 1965**



**Judd-2182 Martha Washington 'Nickel' MS61**

**SOLD ON AUG 10, 2007 FOR: \$7,475.00**



**Undated Martha Washington 'Nickel,' Judd-2182, R.8, MS61 NGC.** 5.0 gm, identical to the weight of a typical Jefferson nickel. Struck in nickel with a plain edge. Unlisted in Pollock, who describes only dime-sized, quarter-sized, and half dollar-sized pieces from similar "nonsense" dies struck in 1965. The alloy of the five cent piece has remained unchanged since 1866, with the exception of the 1942 to 1945 "War nickels." USPatterns.com speculates that Judd-2182 was produced circa 1985 to test the Schuler coin press. Like all known examples of Judd-2182, the initials of Edward Groves are beneath the bust, and the tree touches the A in WASHINGTON. An untoned piece with scattered minute marks that in most cases were likely present on the planchet prior to the strike.

**Judd-2182 Martha Washington 'Nickel' MS61**



**Judd-2182 Martha Washington 'Nickel' MS61**



**MS66 Martha Washington “Dollar,” Judd-2185**

**SOLD ON AUG 9, 2007 FOR: \$9,775.00**



**(1999) Martha Washington “Dollar,” Judd-2185, Low R.7, MS66 NGC.** 8.2 gm. The 1759-dated obverse has a portrait of Martha Washington facing right, while the reverse shows a view of Mount Vernon. These dies, which omit a denomination and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have been used by the Mint to test coinage alloys since 1965. Struck in magnesium brass-coated copper-clad metal with a plain edge. The consistent green-gold color is similar to that of the Sacagawea dollar, which succeeded the Anthony dollar in 2000. An intricately struck Premium Gem with vibrant satin luster and a virtually immaculate reverse. The obverse has only a few minuscule ticks. Only a single example of this pattern has previously appeared in a Heritage auction, as lot 11257 in our November 2003 New York Signature. ANR auctioned an MS63 example in December 2003 for \$20,700.

**MS66 Martha Washington “Dollar,” Judd-2185**



MS66 Martha Washington “Dollar,” Judd-2185



**'Nonsense Prototype Disk' Pair, MS66  
With Martha Washington Design**

**SOLD ON MAY 29, 2009 FOR: \$9,200.00**



**(1999) Sacagawea Prototype Composition Disks MS66 NGC.** The composition disks were resurrected Martha Washington dies used earlier in 1965 for similar composition tests. In 1999 as the Mint was preparing for the new Sacagawea dollars, they again issued prototypes.

An accompanying letter from the Department of the Treasury explains the new disks that carried no actual denomination:

“The Purpose of these prototype alloy samples is to field test two (2) alloy systems that the Mint has prepared for the new dollar coin. We need to

get feedback from the industry relative to any tokens, foreign coins, or any other materials that may result in slugging problems. (In other words, these samples should not be accepted in any of your current electronic coinage discrimination channels.)”

The two pieces offered here are the “N” and “O” composition test disks sent out by the Mint. We believe that this is the first time both alloy systems have been offered together. These test disks are included in the 10th edition of the Judd reference as Judd-2184 to Judd-2187, although the numbering may require revision.

(1999) ‘N’ Composition Test Disk MS66 NGC. Plain Edge. This disk has a composition of 77% copper, 20% zinc, and 3% nickel. It has the letter N etched twice in the obverse field for identification purposes. The brilliant yellow surfaces have satiny luster.

(1999) ‘O’ Composition Test Disk MS66 NGC. Plain Edge. This disk has a composition of 73% copper, 24% zinc, 2% nickel, and 1% manganese. There are no letters etched in the fields. Fully brilliant lemon-yellow with prooflike surfaces.

The 10th edition of Judd records the following:

Judd-2184 Intermittently Reeded Edge. Copper-nickel clad copper.

Judd-2185 Plain Edge. Manganese-brass coated copper-clad metal.

Judd-2186 Intermittently Reeded Edge. Manganese-brass coated copper-clad metal.

Judd-2187 Reeded Edge. Manganese-brass coated copper-clad metal.

Neither of the two pieces in the present lot exactly matches any of the four descriptions in the Judd reference. A review of the Judd numbers for these various issues is probably in order.

**'Nonsense Prototype Disk' Pair, MS66  
With Martha Washington Design**



**'Nonsense Prototype Disk' Pair, MS66  
With Martha Washington Design**



**‘Nonsense Prototype Disk’ Pair, MS66  
With Martha Washington Design**



**'Nonsense Prototype Disk' Pair, MS66**  
**With Martha Washington Design**



**(1965) Martha Washington Die Trial Medal  
J-2131, Copper-Nickel Alloy, MS64**

**SOLD ON AUG 15, 2020 FOR: \$10,200.00**



**“1759”(1965)Martha Washington“HalfDollar,”Judd-2131,Pollock-2083, R.8, MS64 NGC.** A rare 1965 trial striking, utilizing the Mint’s test dies depicting Martha Washington, Mount Vernon, and the date 1759. As the design bears no denomination and also lacks the other mandatory legends, these trial pieces are technically medals, and not coins. This fantasy design was used to test various coinage alloys in 1965, following the discontinuance of 90% silver coinage. The half dollar-size pieces were struck in multiple alloys, but only a few variations are known to exist today, and these in very limited numbers. At the writing of United States Pattern Coins, tenth edition, no examples of Judd-2131 were known to survive, though this piece has since been authenticated. The coin is struck in a composition of 75% copper and 25% nickel, similar to what was ultimately adopted for coinage. A touch of light golden toning blankets flashy silvery-gray surfaces, with well-defined motifs. Prominent clash marks are noted on the reverse.

**(1965) Martha Washington Die Trial Medal  
J-2131, Copper-Nickel Alloy, MS64**



**(1965) Martha Washington Die Trial Medal  
J-2131, Copper-Nickel Alloy, MS64**



**1759 (1965) Martha Washington 'Dime'  
Judd-2101, MS66**

**SOLD ON JAN 5, 2018 FOR: \$10,200.00**



**1759 (1965) Martha Washington Dime-Size Medal, Judd-2101, Pollock-2081, Low R.7, MS66 NGC.** These metallurgical die trials were struck from a design that featured Martha Washington on the obverse, surrounded by VIRGINIA above and 1759 below. The reverse depicts Mount Vernon with HOME OF THE WASHINGTON FAMILY around the margin. Struck in cupro-nickel with a reeded edge. Only a dozen or so of these metallurgical test pieces are believed known. The surfaces are lightly toned and there is a vertical die lamination in the right obverse field.

**1759 (1965) Martha Washington 'Dime'  
Judd-2101, MS66**



**1759 (1965) Martha Washington 'Dime'  
Judd-2101, MS66**



Important Martha Washington Test Piece, Circa 1982, Judd-2180  
**SOLD ON JAN 7, 2004 FOR: \$10,350.00**



**1982 (1759 dated) MS Martha Washington Cent-Sized Test Piece, Judd-2180, Pollock-4100, R.8 (?), MS64 Red NGC.** 2.47 grams. Similar to the piece we offered in our recent New York Sale, this piece is struck from the so-called “nonsense dies” that depicts Martha Washington facing right on the obverse. The reverse shows a view of Mount Vernon. These are called “nonsense dies” by the Mint as they lack any mention of a denomination. Struck in copper plated zinc with a plain edge.

The new Judd book gives this information about these coins, “In 1982, the Martha Washington fantasy design used in 1965 was employed to test a new composition for the cent coinage before there was a change from bronze to copper-coated zinc. Seemingly, these dies were used within the Mint and also by private entities to test various concepts. These have been tentatively attributed to 1982 but may have been made at other times as well.” The always-useful and informative USPatterns.com website has even more information on this piece: “...This design was first used in 1965. The obverse was designed by Edward R. Grove and the reverse is by Philip Fowler. This design has since become the Mint’s all-purpose dies for testing new alloys. It is likely that this piece was struck outside the Mint from one of the vendors the Mint gave these dies to. Among the possibilities include IDX Inc, PMX Industries and the Olin Brass Corporation. Because of this, we have assigned it number P4100. The reason for their striking may have been to test the new copper coated zinc planchets for the Mint. If this is the case, then this was probably struck around 1982. An obverse die trial in copper struck from either cent or dime dies is also known.”

The surfaces on this piece are flaming mint red except for a darker patch on Martha’s forehead and a couple of darker, minute die flaws on Mount Vernon on the reverse. A couple of distinctive, diagonal darker streaks are seen in the right obverse field, which will undoubtedly prove useful in tracing the pedigree of this coin in the future.

Important Martha Washington Test Piece, Circa 1982, Judd-2180



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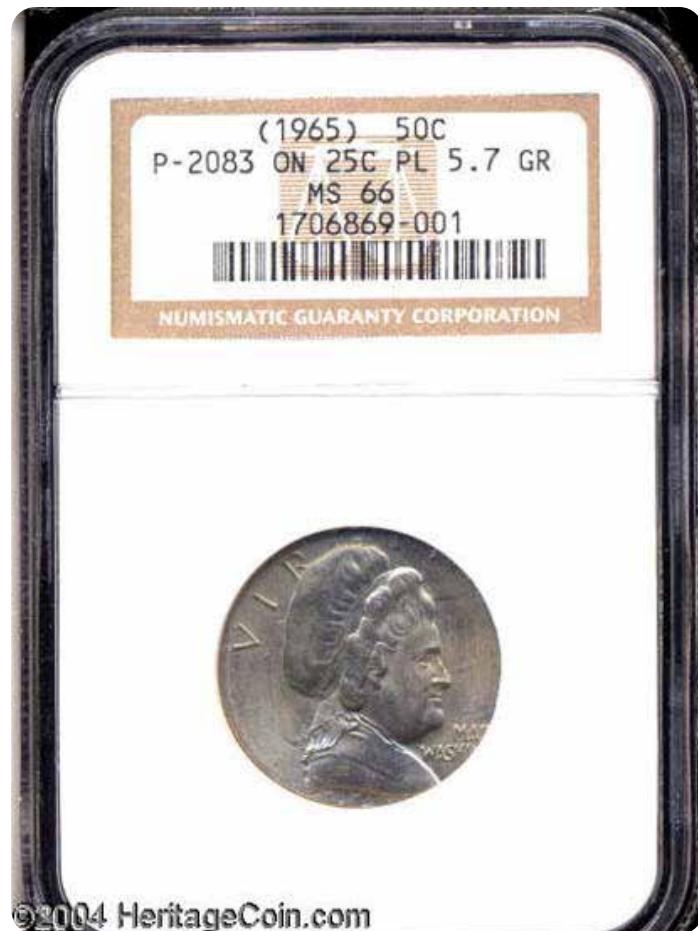
Important Martha Washington Test Piece, Circa 1982, Judd-2180



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**Unique Martha Washington Pattern Half Dollar  
Struck on a Quarter Planchet in Error**

**SOLD ON MAR 21, 2003 FOR: \$29,900.00**



**(1965) Martha Washington Half Dollar, Pollock-2083, R.8--Struck on a 25C Planchet--MS66 NGC.** 5.7 grams. In order to test various metallic compositions for their suitability as a replacement for the 90% silver, 10% copper composition then in use for the Roosevelt Dime, Washington Quarter, and Kennedy Half Dollar, the United States Mint prepared a new test design early in 1965. The work of Edward R. Grove, the obverse depicts a bust of Martha Washington facing right, her name spelled out in the lower right field. The word VIRGINIA is at the upper border and the date 1759 is below.

The reverse was designed by Philip Fowler and Mount Vernon is the central element. The word MOUNT VERNON is below and the inscription HOME OF THE WASHINGTON FAMILY is around the periphery.

The Mint prepared Dime, Quarter, and Half Dollar dies with this Martha Washington design and used them to deliver experimental pieces on planchets of several different compositions, as listed in Pollock:

1. 75% copper, 25% nickel.
2. Cupronickel-copper (multilayer composite).
3. 50% silver, 50% copper.
4. Coin silver-copper (multilayer composite).
5. Columbium (types I and II).
6. Zirconium.
7. Monel (a nickel based alloy).
8. Nickel-5% Silicon with a magnetic core.
9. Stainless steel (three compositions).

We do not know exactly how many specimens were prepared in each alloy, but we do know that, up until now, only three coins were believed extant. These coins, a Dime, Quarter, and Half Dollar, were among those cupronickel-copper composite examples viewed at official government hearings. To prevent the coins from being lost, Eva Adams, Director of the Mint from October 1961 to August 1969, reported that the pieces were embedded in blocks of Lucite. One of these blocks was presented to the Smithsonian Institution, in which all three of the aforementioned examples are still housed.

The present coin was previously unknown to the collecting community, and, to the best of our knowledge, it is the only Martha Washington Half Dollar pattern available to collectors. The fact that this piece is an error further adds to its desirability. We do not know exactly how and under what circumstances this coin was struck. We are, however, certain of the planchet composition. A metallurgical analysis done by S & N Labs in Santa Ana, California reports a composition of 75% copper and 25% nickel (negligible amounts of manganese and iron are also listed). A copy of the analysis, which is dated December 26, 2002, is included with this lot. This planchet, which NGC weighed at 5.7 grams (the 2003 Red Book lists a weight of 5.67 grams for the copper-nickel clad Quarter planchets of 1965-date), was accidentally inserted between the Half Dollar dies. As a result, the peripheral devices are off the planchet in all areas save for those at the left borders. Also of note are bold clashmarks (as struck)--a curious feature for a pattern coin. It is likely that this error was produced late in the press run after the dies had come together in the absence of an intervening planchet. The surfaces are generally untoned, although one can see some delicate golden iridescence at a few angles. A few ticks on the obverse portrait are noted solely for accuracy, and pedigree concerns compel us to mention a tiny as struck flaw in the center of Washington's cheek. Clearly, this is a coin whose history and technical attributes would afford hours of study.

**Unique Martha Washington Pattern Half Dollar  
Struck on a Quarter Planchet in Error**



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**Unique Martha Washington Pattern Half Dollar  
Struck on a Quarter Planchet in Error**



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**Rare “1759” Martha Washington “Quarter” MS63**  
**SOLD ON AUG 13, 2006 FOR: \$25,300.00**



**(1759) Martha Washington “Quarter”, Judd-2116, Pollock-2082, Low R.7, MS63 NGC.** 5.73 grams. The obverse has a portrait of Martha Washington facing right, while the reverse shows a view of Mount Vernon. Struck in cupronickel-copper (multi-layer composite). Struck from the so-called “nonsense dies” without a specified denomination. Dime-sized and half dollar-size pieces were also produced. USPatterns.com states: “It is believed to be the first metallurgical trials [circa 1965] using the current cupro-nickel clad planchets. The Martha Washington obverse was designed by Edward R. Grove and the reverse is by Philip Fowler.” Grove’s initials are beneath Washington’s shoulder. A satiny and lightly toned piece with minor striking softness in the centers. A radial obverse die crack at 8 o’clock and an apparent clash mark at 7 o’clock on the reverse should be of interest to the pattern specialist.

Rare “1759” Martha Washington “Quarter” MS63



Rare “1759” Martha Washington “Quarter” MS63



**(1965) Martha Washington Half  
Struck in Cupronickel-Copper  
Judd-2132, MS67  
High-Grade Clad Coinage Test Piece**

**SOLD ON MAY 5, 2023 FOR: \$15,600.00**



**(1965) Martha Washington Half Dollar, Judd-2132, Pollock-2083, Low R.7, MS67 PCGS. CAC.** From the well-known “nonsense dies” used by the U.S. Mint to test new coinage compositions since 1965. The obverse features a bust right of Martha Washington, the first First Lady, and the date 1759 below, the year of her marriage to George. The reverse presents a view of Mount Vernon. Struck with a reeded edge in the same cupronickel-copper composition used to strike the 1965 clad dimes and quarter, although half dollars bearing that date were 40% silver. Other examples seen display clash marks from the portrait on the reverse field, but the present specimen is unclashed. The borders show a hint of golden toning, along with faint traces of marks that were on the planchet prior to the strike. PCGS and NGC combined have certified seven pieces including two as MS67 with none finer (3/23).

**(1965) Martha Washington Half  
Struck in Cupronickel-Copper  
Judd-2132, MS67  
High-Grade Clad Coinage Test Piece**



**(1965) Martha Washington Half  
Struck in Cupronickel-Copper  
Judd-2132, MS67  
High-Grade Clad Coinage Test Piece**



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1943 Cent  
Struck on a Bronze  
Planchet  
AU58 PCGS. CAC  
**Realized \$252,000**



1982-D Small Date  
Cent  
Struck in Bronze  
AU58 NGC  
**Realized \$10,800**



Undated Two Cent Piece  
Full Brockage Obverse  
MS62 Brown PCGS  
**Realized \$9,600**



1943-S Nickel  
Struck on a Zinc-Coated  
Steel Planchet  
AU58 NGC  
**Realized \$2,880**



1965 Dime  
Struck on a Silver  
Dime Planchet  
MS62 PCGS  
**Realized \$9,000**



1971-D Quarter,  
Brockage Reverse  
Struck on Nickel Planchet  
MS65 PCGS  
**Realized \$4,320**



2000-D Maryland Quarter  
Struck on Feeder Finger  
Ungraded NGC  
**Realized \$15,600**



1999-SBA Dollar  
Struck on a Sacagawea Planchet  
MS64 PCGS  
**Realized \$15,600**



2000-P Sacagawea Dollar /  
Statehood Quarter Mule  
MS67 NGC  
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# NGC CERTIFIES PAIR OF PROOF UNCANCELLED MARTHA WASHINGTON DIES

by Mike Byers ([mikebyers.com](http://mikebyers.com))

*Martha Washington dies were used by the U.S. Mint  
and contracted vendors for experimental testing.*



**Used to Strike Half Dollar Test Pieces (Judd #2131-2143)**



# NGC CERTIFIES PAIR OF PROOF UUNCANCELLED MARTHA WASHINGTON DIES

This is the *only known* set of PROOF Uncancelled Martha Washington Half Dollar-sized dies in private hands. Martha Washington dies have become the U.S. Mint's all-purpose design for testing new compositions, surfaces and planchet sizes. These experimental strikings were conducted both inside the Mint and outside by companies contracted by the U.S. Mint. Companies within the United States included IDX Inc, PMX Industries, and Olin Brass Corporation while Schuler AG in Germany struck coins overseas. Schuler AG is the supplier of Schuler coin presses to the United States Mint to strike our coinage.

These PROOF Uncancelled Martha Washington Half Dollar-sized dies are featured on the cover of *Mint Error News Magazine* Issue #86. There are only two other Martha Washington Half Dollar-Sized Uncancelled Dies known in private hands, and those struck mint state test pieces. The first one discovered was featured both in *Coin Week* and on the cover of *Mint Error News Magazine* Issue #44.

Martha Washington dies have "fantasy designs" intended to avoid creating rarities with regular coinage motifs. The design of these proof dies was used by the U.S. Mint for metallurgical testing beginning in 1965 until 2011 when the dies were redesigned. The obverse features a bust of Martha Washington, with the inscription "VIRGINIA" above and the date "1759" (the year she married George Washington) below. The reverse typically features an image of Mount Vernon. These Martha Washington proof dies and test pieces are featured in the U.S. Patterns website (uspatterns.com).

This unique set of PROOF Uncancelled Martha Washington Half Dollar-sized dies belong in a premier collection of U.S. patterns or unique numismatic treasures. These dies are part of the U.S. Mint's history of experimenting and striking pattern coins prior to producing our nation's coins for circulation. The story of the Martha Washington dies and test strikes, as it unfolds, is one of the most interesting numismatic developments in decades.

# NGC CERTIFIES PAIR OF PROOF UNCANCELLED MARTHA WASHINGTON DIES



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# NGC CERTIFIES PAIR OF PROOF UNCANCELLED MARTHA WASHINGTON DIES



# Martha Washington Series

Half Dollar Restrikes From Original 1999 Obverse Die  
One Cent Restrikes From Original 1982 Reverse Die  
Certified & Graded by NGC



# Martha Washington Series

## First Martha Washington Series Restrikes:

These were struck with this original Martha Washington half dollar-sized obverse die & original Martha Washington cent-sized reverse die.



## Martha Washington Series

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The United States Mint in Philadelphia conducted test strikes in 1965, 1982 and 1999 to test different metals and new alloys. The U.S. Mint specially designed “Martha Washington” dies for these test strikes. The Martha Washington obverse die was designed by Edward R. Grove and the reverse die was designed by Philip Fowler. The date “1759” is significant because that is the year that George Washington and Martha Dandridge Custis were married. They later retired to the Mount Vernon estate.

Through 1964, our coinage was struck in 90% silver. Due to the rising cost, the silver content of the Half Dollar was reduced to 40% in 1965. In 1965, the Martha Washington Half Dollar dies were used to test this new silver composition.

According to United States Patterns and Related Issues by Andrew W. Pollock III, the only trial pieces to have survived metallurgical testing in 1965 were the dime, quarter and half dollar, which are embedded in a block of lucite now displayed at the Smithsonian Institution. The U.S. Mint took precautionary measures to preserve these historical Martha Washington Test Pieces since they were not released to the public.

In 1982, the Martha Washington One Cent dies were used to test the new copper-zinc alloy. From 1909 through 1982 the Lincoln One Cent was struck in copper. Similar to the situation in 1965 with the rising cost of silver, the rising cost of copper forced the U.S. Mint to test and experiment producing the One Cent using different copper alloys.

In 1999, the Martha Washington dies were used once again to test a new composition consisting of manganese brass to replace existing clad coinage and was eventually chosen for the new Sacagawea Dollar.

The reference book, United States Pattern Coins by J. Hewitt Judd, M.D.

## Martha Washington Series

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lists the complete Martha Washington series of test strikes in the different denominations and metals.

NGC certified and encapsulated a Martha Washington Half Dollar Obverse Die and a Martha Washington One Cent Reverse Die.

The 1999 Martha Washington Half Dollar obverse die struck test pieces for U.S. Judd #2131.

The 1982 Martha Washington One Cent reverse die struck test pieces for U.S. Judd #2180.

Although the U.S. Mint had struck the Martha Washington test pieces in 1965 and housed a few in the Smithsonian to document the history of United States coinage, the numismatic community wasn't aware that the U.S. Mint used Martha Washington dies until 1999. Coin World, which is the largest numismatic publication, featured a front page article on the Martha Washington test pieces in the August 7, 2000 edition which was breaking news in the coin community.

The first 1965 Martha Washington Dime Trial Piece in private hands sold for \$51,750 at the 2003 Baltimore ANA. NGC authenticated and encapsulated this Martha Washington Dime in April of 2000.

In 2019, restrikes were produced from the original 1999 Martha Washington Half Dollar obverse die and the original 1982 Martha Washington One Cent reverse die. These were certified and graded by NGC.

These Martha Washington restrikes document the U.S. Mint's history of experimenting and striking pattern coins prior to producing our nation's coins for circulation.

# Martha Washington Series

## 1/2oz Gold Restrike



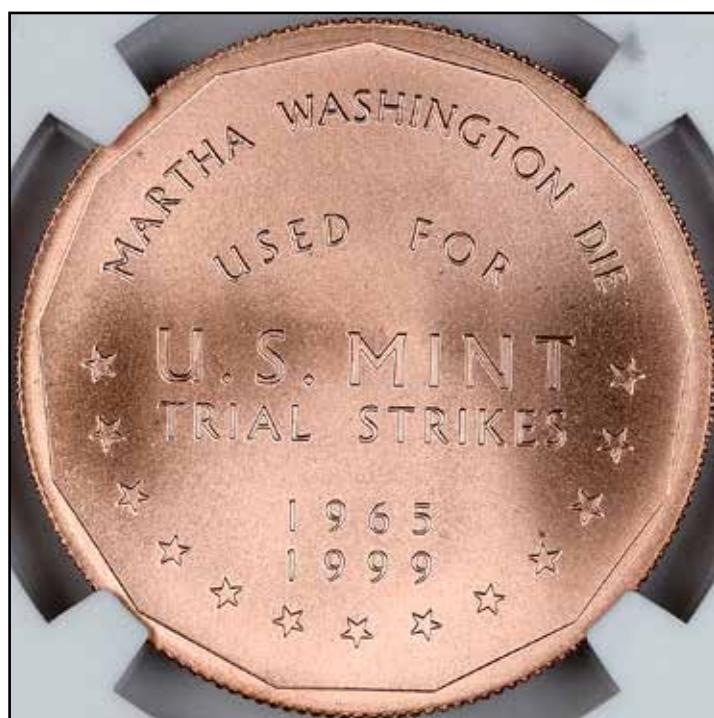
# Martha Washington Series

## *Silver Restrike*



# Martha Washington Series

## Copper Restrike



# Martha Washington Series

## Brass Restrike



# Martha Washington Series

## Aluminum Restrike



# Martha Washington Series

## Niobium Restrike



# Martha Washington Series

## *40% Silver Restrike on 1965 50C*



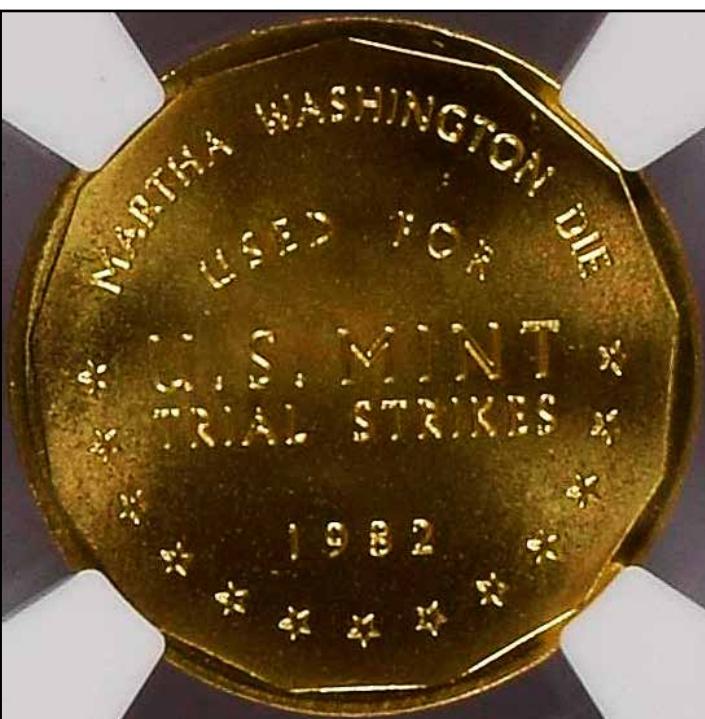
# Martha Washington Series

## *Clad Restrike on 1999-D 50C*



# Martha Washington Series

## 1/10oz Gold Restrike



# Martha Washington Series

## *Silver Restrike*



# Martha Washington Series

## *Copper Restrike*



# Martha Washington Series

## *Aluminum Restrike*



## Martha Washington Series

# *Mintages*

### Half Dollar-sized Restrikes

Obverse: *original* Martha Washington Die used by the U.S. Mint

Reverse: die engraved by a private mint located in the United States

Composition	Mintage
1/2oz .999 Gold	4
.999 Silver (~14 grams)	19
Aluminum	11
Niobium	4
Copper (pure)	9
Brass	5
Overstruck on 40% Silver 1965 50C	10
Overstruck on Clad 1999-D 50C	10

### Cent-sized Restrikes

Reverse: *original* Martha Washington Die used by the U.S. Mint

Obverse: die engraved by a private mint located in the United States

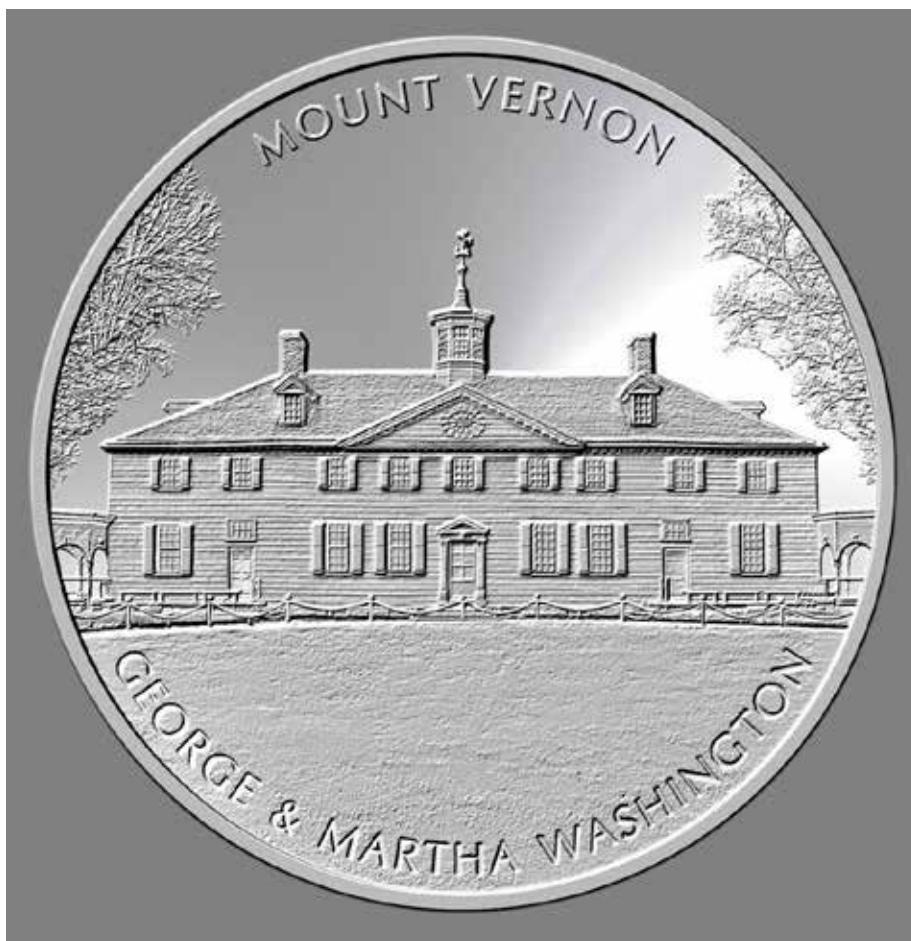
Composition	Mintage
1/10oz .999 Gold	4
.999 Silver (5.35 grams, irregular)	7
Aluminum	12
Copper (struck on U.S. Mint pre-1982 cent planchets)	15

# Martha Washington Series

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## Second Martha Washington Series Restrikes:

These were struck with this original Martha Washington half dollar-sized obverse die & a NEW reverse die designed by a private mint in the United States



# Martha Washington Series

## 1oz Gold Restrike

*mintage: 104*



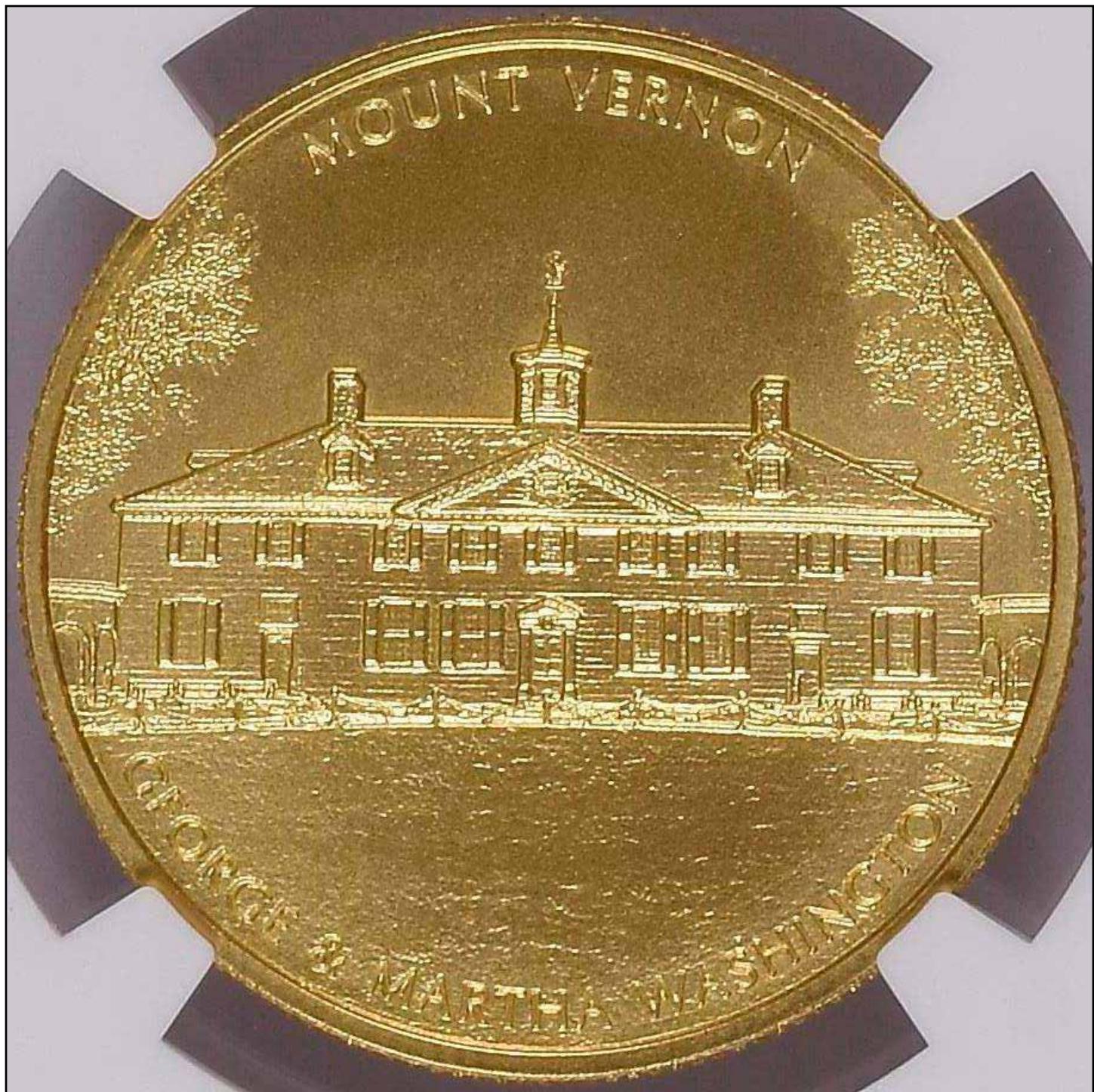
# Martha Washington Series

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## 1oz Gold Restrike



**Martha Washington Series**  
***1oz Gold Restrike***



# Martha Washington Series

## *Silver Restrike*

*mintage: 1,010*



# Martha Washington Series

## *Silver Restrike*



# Martha Washington Series

## *Silver Restrike*



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# Mint Error News Price Guide

**- Updated January 2026 -**

This price guide is brought to you by Mint Error News. It has been compiled by many of the top major mint error dealers.

This price guide is a guide. Prices fluctuate due to the date, grade, eye appeal and how dramatic the striking error is. Rarity is also a factor. The price is sometimes based on the rarity and grade of the type of coin as well as how rare the error is. The price can also vary depending on whether two collectors are bidding for the same rare major mint error. When purchasing a mint error, it is important to use multiple resources to determine value, as there are many mint errors that do not fit into one category.

## Proof Errors (Updated January 2026)



Proof coins are struck by technicians who hand feed the blanks into special presses. They are produced, examined, and packaged using extreme quality control. It is very unusual to find major proof errors. A few broadstrikes, off-centers, double strikes in collars and off-metals have been known to be found in sealed proof sets. Proof errors are aggressively sought after by many error collectors.

A very small group of Proof errors recently came from a collection that was auctioned by the State of California. The U.S. Secret Service inspected and released this collection to the State of California determining that it was legal to own. The State of California then auctioned the collection and it has been dispersed since the sale.

Denomination	Broadstrikes	Die Trials	Double/Triple Strikes	Off-Center Strikes	Partial Collar Errors
Proof Lincoln Cent	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$500
Proof Jefferson Nickel	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$1,000
Proof Clad Dime	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,250
Proof Clad Quarter	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,250
Proof Clad Half	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
Proof Ike Dollar	\$15,000	-	\$25,000	-	\$4,000
Presidential Dollar	-	-	-	-	3 Known

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Broadstrikes (Updated January 2026)



A broadstruck error occurs when a coin is struck without the collar to form the rim and edge that is part of the shape of the coin. Coins can be broadstruck on either type one or type two planchets. When a coin is broadstruck the blank being fed into the collar will spread and distort outward as it is being struck because the collar isn't in the correct position to retain it.

Denomination	(Small) XF/AU	(Small) Unc	(Large) XF/AU	(Large) Unc
Large Cent	\$150	\$300	\$400	\$1,500
Flying Eagle Cent (1857 – 1858)	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$7,500
Indian Cent	\$50	\$150	\$200	\$350
Lincoln Cent 1930 and Earlier	\$50	\$150	\$100	\$250
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$40	\$100	\$75	\$200
Proof Lincoln Cent	N/A	\$750	N/A	\$1,000
3 Cent Nickel	\$250	\$1,000	\$400	\$1,500
3 Cent Silver	\$1,000	\$3,500	\$1,500	\$5,000
Shield Nickel	\$400	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$2,500
Liberty Nickel	\$150	\$300	\$200	\$600
Buffalo Nickel	\$100	\$200	\$200	\$500
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$100	\$200	\$200	\$500
Proof Jefferson Nickel	N/A	\$750	N/A	\$1,000
Seated Half Dime Legend	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$2,500
Seated Dime Legend	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$2,500
Barber Dime	\$150	\$250	\$200	\$400
Mercury Dime	\$40	\$150	\$150	\$250
Proof Clad Dime	N/A	\$750	N/A	\$1,000
Barber Quarter	\$600	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$2,500
Standing Liberty Quarter	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$75	\$150	\$100	\$250
State Quarter	N/A	\$25	N/A	\$50
Proof Clad Quarter	N/A	\$750	N/A	\$1,000
Barber Half	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
Walking Liberty Half	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$7,000
Franklin Half	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
Kennedy Half Silver	\$150	\$250	\$200	\$300
Kennedy Half Clad	\$40	\$60	\$50	\$75
Proof Clad Half	N/A	\$1,000	N/A	\$2,000
Morgan Dollar	\$200	\$500	\$400	\$1,000
Peace Dollar	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$6,000	\$10,000
IKE Dollar	\$100	\$150	\$150	\$200
SBA Dollar	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$200
Sac Dollar	N/A	\$300	N/A	\$1,000
Presidential Dollar	N/A	\$1,500	N/A	\$2,500

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Partial Collars (Updated January 2026)



Partial collar strikes occur when there is a malfunction of the striking press. This causes the collar to be in an incorrect position. The lower die (usually the reverse die) is recessed in the collar. This allows the coin which is going to be struck to have a formed rim. After a coin is struck the lower die raises upwards, pushing the struck coin out of the collar and ejecting it. If a blank entering the collar is not properly seated, it will only have partial reeding as it is struck. The edge of this coin will have a partial reeding and a partial blank surface area. Recently, the Mint has installed new machinery where either die can be installed in either position.

Denomination	XF/AU	Unc
Large Cent	\$100	\$200
Flying Eagle Cent (1857 – 1858)	\$500	\$1,500
Indian Cent	\$35	\$100
Lincoln Cent 1930 and Earlier	\$30	\$100
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$25	\$50
Proof Lincoln Cent	N/A	\$750
3 Cent Nickel	\$150	\$500
3 Cent Silver	\$250	\$750
Shield Nickel	\$200	\$600
Liberty Nickel	\$50	\$150
Buffalo Nickel	\$50	\$75
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$40	\$60
Proof Jefferson Nickel	N/A	\$1,000
Seated Half Dime Legend	\$750	\$1,500
Seated Dime Legend	\$500	\$1,250
Barber Dime	\$75	\$150
Mercury Dime	\$30	\$100
Proof Clad Dime	N/A	\$1,250
Barber Quarter	\$300	\$750
Standing Liberty Quarter	\$1,250	\$2,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$40	\$75
State Quarter	N/A	\$15
Proof Clad Quarter	N/A	\$1,500
Barber Half	\$1,000	\$1,500
Walking Liberty Half	\$1,500	\$3,500
Franklin Half	\$500	\$1,000
Kennedy Half Silver	\$50	\$100
Kennedy Half Clad	\$20	\$30
Proof Clad Half	N/A	\$2,000
Morgan Dollar	\$150	\$300
Peace Dollar	\$1,000	\$2,500
IKE Dollar	\$50	\$100
SBA Dollar	\$20	\$30
Sac Dollar	N/A	\$100
Presidential Dollar	N/A	\$400
\$1 Gold Type 1	\$1,000	\$2,000
\$1 Gold Type 2	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$1 Gold Type 3	\$1,000	\$2,000
\$2½ Liberty	\$1,500	\$3,000
\$2½ Indian	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$3	\$5,000	\$10,000
\$5 Liberty	\$4,000	\$5,000
\$5 Indian	\$4,000	\$6,000
\$10 Liberty	\$4,000	\$7,500
\$10 Indian	\$7,500	\$10,000
\$20 Liberty Type 3	\$7,500	\$10,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Uniface Strikes (Updated January 2026)



Uniface coins occur when there have been two blank planchets in the press at the same time. The other blank will obstruct the die on either the obverse or reverse side, which will prevent it from having that design on the coin. There are many different variations involving uniface errors. In addition to having a 100% blank obverse or reverse, a coin can be struck off-center, with a blank planchet in the collar which will obstruct one side of the off-center. There are also mated pairs which have a combination of multiple errors which can include a side which is uniface. Finally, there are uniface strikes due to a die cap which adhered to the die, forming itself in the shape of a die and striking blank planchets.

Denomination	Uniface Obverse XF	Uniface Obverse Unc	Uniface Reverse XF	Uniface Reverse Unc
Large Cent	\$1,500	\$4,000	\$1,250	\$2,000
Indian Cent	\$750	\$3,000	\$700	\$2,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$250	\$500	\$200	\$400
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$50	\$100	\$40	\$75
3 Cent Nickel	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$1,250	\$2,500
Shield Nickel	\$1,750	\$4,000	\$1,500	\$3,000
Liberty Nickel	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$1,500	\$3,000
Buffalo Nickel	\$2,250	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$2,500
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$300	\$750	\$250	\$500
Jefferson Nickel	\$20	\$40	\$20	\$40
Barber Dime	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$2,500
Mercury Dime	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$2,250
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$100	\$150	\$100	\$150
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$40	\$75	\$35	\$60
Washington Quarter Silver	\$400	\$750	\$350	\$500
Washington Quarter Clad	\$100	\$125	\$75	\$100
State Quarter	N/A	\$300	N/A	\$500
Kennedy Half Clad	\$750	\$1,000	\$500	\$750
IKE Dollar	\$2,000	\$4,000	N/A	\$3,000
SBA Dollar	\$500	\$1,000	N/A	\$750
Sac Dollar	\$750	\$1,500	N/A	\$1,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Bonded Coins (Updated January 2026)



**B**onded coins occur when the feeder system, which supplies blank planchets to the coin press, malfunctions and jams. When this occurs, a struck coin is not properly ejected and another planchet is fed into the collar and is struck. This struck coin will land on top of the previously unejected strike. These coins will then crush and bond together. This may occur many times as more coins bond.

Denomination	2 Planchets	3-4 Planchets	5-10 Planchets
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$5,000	\$15,000	—
Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$600	\$2,000	\$5,000 - \$10,000
Jefferson Nickel	\$1,250	\$5,000	\$6,000 - \$10,000
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$4,000	\$12,500	—
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$10,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$7,500	—	—
Washington Quarter Clad	\$3,000	—	—
State Quarter	\$5,000	—	—
Kennedy Half Silver	\$12,500	—	—
Kennedy Half Clad	\$10,000	—	—
IKE Dollar	—	—	—
SBA Dollar	\$10,000	—	—
Sac Dollar	\$10,000	—	—

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Struck Fragments (Updated January 2026)



The blanking press takes the coils of metal strips and punches blanks out of it, ejecting the webbing at the other end. The webbing is cut into small scrap pieces to be melted and recycled. Occasionally a scrap piece will be mixed with the blank planchets and struck by the dies. Struck fragments are rare in the larger denominations. These can be uniface or die struck both sides and are very rare on type coins.

Denomination	Uniface	Die Struck Both Sides
Indian Cent	\$1,000	\$2,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$750	\$2,000
Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$75	\$125
3 Cent Nickel	\$3,000	\$3,500
Jefferson Nickel	\$100	\$200
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$500	\$1,000
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$150	\$250
Washington Quarter Silver	\$1,250	\$1,500
Washington Quarter Clad	\$200	\$300
State Quarter	\$750	\$1,000
Kennedy Half Silver	\$1,500	\$2,500
Kennedy Half Clad	\$750	\$1,250
IKE Dollar	\$4,000	\$6,000
SBA Dollar	\$2,000	\$3,000
Sac Dollar	\$2,000	\$4,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Mated Pairs (Updated January 2026)



**M**ated pairs involve two individual coins with different errors that were struck together at the same time. Mated pair error combinations can be found in most error types and come in many shapes and sizes. Mated pairs can be overlapped when one of the coins is struck off-center on top of another coin. Another type involves a brockage where a struck coin was perfectly centered on a blank and restruck. Some mated pairs involve a die cap where the cap and brockage coin are discovered together, but this is a scarce find.

The rarest mated pair type involves two die caps (obverse and reverse) where both dies were capped at the same time and both die caps are mated. This last type is extremely rare and there are only a few known examples of mated pairs involving an obverse die cap and reverse die cap. There are several of these mated pairs known on Kennedy Halves including two dated 1976, which is the Bicentennial year. One of the most spectacular mated pairs involve two Barber Dimes, an obverse die cap mated to a reverse die cap and are unique.

Mated pairs can also involve an off-metal where a smaller blank planchet or smaller struck coin was struck on top of a larger coin. This type is extremely rare. The most spectacular pair known is a double struck Franklin Half which was mated to a Lincoln Cent. The Lincoln Cent blank was on top of the obverse of the struck Franklin Half. This pair was then struck together. It is unique.

Denomination	Overlapping	Full Brockage	Die Cap	2 Die Caps
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$7,500	—
Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$500	\$750	\$750	\$1,250
Liberty Nickel	—	\$20,000	—	—
Jefferson Nickel (pre War Time)	—	—	—	\$10,000
Jefferson Nickel	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$2,500
Barber Dime	—	—	—	\$50,000
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,000	—
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$5,000	—	—	—
Washington Quarter Clad	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
State Quarter	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	—
Kennedy Half Silver	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$12,500
Kennedy Half Clad	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,500
Kennedy Half Bicentennial	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$10,000
IKE Dollar	\$20,000	—	—	—
SBA Dollar	\$10,000	\$12,500	—	—
Sac Dollar	—	—	—	—

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Transitional Errors (Updated January 2026)



A transitional error occurs when a coin is struck on a planchet from a previous year with different metal composition. The most famous transitional is a 1943 copper cent struck on a 1942 copper blank. 1943 cents were struck in steel because of the copper shortage during World War II. Other famous transitionals include 1965 coinage struck in silver instead of clad.

There are also transitionals struck on blanks for the next year. An example is 1964 coinage in clad instead of silver. Most recently, transitionals were discovered involving the SBA and Sacagawea Dollars of 1999 and 2000. There are eight known 1999 SBA Dollars struck on the brass planchet for the 2000 Sacagawea Dollar, and four known 2000 Sacagawea Dollars struck on a clad planchet for the 1999 SBA Dollar.

Denomination	Off-Metal Planchet	Circulated	AU	Unc	Choice Unc – Gem
Lincoln Cent 1943 Transitional	Copper Cent Planchet	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$300,000	\$350,000
Lincoln Cent 1944 Transitional	Steel Cent Planchet	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
Lincoln Cent 1964 Transitional	Clad Dime Planchet	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000
Lincoln Cent 1965 Transitional	Silver Dime Planchet	\$2,750	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500
Roosevelt Dime 1964 Transitional	Clad Dime Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$8,500
Roosevelt Dime 1965 Transitional	Silver Dime Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$8,500
Washington Quarter 1964 Transitional	Clad Quarter Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$12,500
Washington Quarter 1965 Transitional	Silver Quarter Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$8,500
Kennedy Half 1964 Transitional	Clad Half Planchet	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,000
Kennedy Half 1965 Transitional	Silver Half Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$10,000
Kennedy Half 1964 Transitional	Clad Quarter Planchet	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
Kennedy Half 1965 Transitional	Silver Quarter Planchet	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
Ike Dollar Transitional	40% Silver Planchet	\$2,750	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$5,000
SBA Dollar Transitional	Sacagawea Planchet	N/A	N/A	\$7,500	\$10,000
Sacagawea Dollar Transitional	SBA Planchet	N/A	N/A	\$7,500	\$10,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## U.S. Gold Errors (Updated January 2026)



Major mint errors on U.S. Gold coins are the most prized category of all mint errors. Gold errors are very rare and a few have traded in the \$75,000 to \$100,000 range. Even a broadstruck U.S. Gold coin can easily sell for \$15,000 to \$30,000 compared to a broadstruck Cent, Nickel, Dime or Quarter which all sell for well under \$10. Many serious collectors of Gold Errors have to wait patiently for months and sometimes even years to acquire that one special piece for their collection.

The prices listed here are for common dates in AU-Unc. Better dates and errors that are in gem condition are worth considerably more.

Denomination	Partial Collar	Broadstruck	Clipped Planchet	3% - 5% Off-Center	10% - 15% Off-Center
\$1 Gold Type 1	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$7,500
\$1 Gold Type 2	\$3,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$25,000
\$1 Gold Type 3	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$7,500
\$2½ Liberty	\$3,000	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
\$2½ Indian	\$3,000	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$7,500
\$3 Indian	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$35,000
\$5 Liberty	\$4,000	\$8,500	\$3,000	\$7,500	\$30,000
\$5 Indian	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
\$10 Liberty	\$4,000	\$20,000	\$3,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
\$10 Indian	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
\$20 Liberty	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$7,500	\$50,000	\$125,000
\$20 St. Gaudens	—	—	\$5,000	—	—
\$5 American Eagle	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$750	\$2,500	\$3,500
\$10 American Eagle	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$3,500
\$25 American Eagle	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
\$50 American Eagle	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$10,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Indents (Updated January 2026)



An indent error occurs when two blanks are fed inadvertently into the same collar, with one blank partly overlaying on top of the other. When the hammer die strikes this combination, the upper blank will be forced into the lower blank, creating a depression which is shaped similar to the upper blank. A scarce type of indent occurs when a blank intended for one denomination lands on top of a blank from a different denomination.

Denomination	10% - 25% XF	30% - 50% XF	10% - 25% Unc	30% - 50% Unc
Large Cent	\$300	\$600	\$750	\$2,000
Indian Cent	\$250	\$500	\$400	\$750
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$100	\$300	\$175	\$500
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$30	\$75	\$75	\$125
3 Cent Nickel	\$500	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$3,000
Shield Nickel	\$500	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$3,000
Liberty Nickel	\$400	\$1,000	\$750	\$1,500
Buffalo Nickel	\$300	\$1,000	\$600	\$2,000
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$200	\$400	\$400	\$750
Jefferson Nickel	\$10	\$25	\$15	\$30
Barber Dime	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$3,000
Mercury Dime	\$300	\$750	\$500	\$1,500
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$100
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$10	\$20	\$15	\$30
Washington Quarter Silver	\$100	\$200	\$150	\$300
Washington Quarter Clad	\$25	\$50	\$35	\$100
State Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$200	\$350
Kennedy Half Clad	\$150	\$300	\$200	\$400
IKE Dollar	\$350	\$1,000	\$500	\$2,500
SBA Dollar	\$200	\$400	\$250	\$500
Sac Dollar	\$300	\$500	\$400	\$750

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Die Caps (Updated January 2026)



Die caps are caused when a struck coin sticks to the upper hammer die. Once the coin is struck to the die face, the reverse of the struck coin becomes the new die face. When the next blank is fed into the collar and the strike occurs, the reverse design of the adhered struck coin impresses itself into the new blank. This struck coin is a brockage strike. The coin that adhered to the upper die is known as a die cap. This process repeats itself as more coins are struck by the cap. The greater the number of strikes, the higher the cap metal will be pushed around the upper die shaft. Eventually, the cap breaks away from the die in the shape of a thimble.

Denomination	Obverse Cap XF	Obverse Cap Unc	Reverse Cap XF	Reverse Cap Unc
Large Cent	\$25,000	\$50,000	—	—
Indian Cent 1859	\$20,000	\$40,000	—	—
Indian Cent 1860-1864	\$15,000	\$40,000	—	—
Indian Cent 1864-1909	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$2,500	\$7,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	—	—	—	—
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$500	\$1,000
Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$150	\$200	\$50	\$100
2 Cent Piece	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
3 Cent Nickel	—	—	—	—
Shield Nickel	—	—	—	—
Liberty Nickel	\$12,500	\$25,000	—	—
Buffalo Nickel (1 Known)	—	\$30,000	—	—
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$10,000	—	—	—
Jefferson Nickel	\$200	\$350	\$150	\$250
Barber Dime	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Mercury Dime (2 Known)	\$5,000	\$7,500	—	—
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$750	\$1,250	\$500	\$750
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$200	\$400	\$200	\$250
Barber Quarter	\$20,000	\$50,000	—	—
Washington Quarter Silver	\$1,500	\$4,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
Washington Quarter Clad	\$350	\$750	\$250	\$350
State Quarter	N/A	\$1,000	N/A	\$600
Kennedy Half Silver	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
Kennedy Half Clad	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$1,500	\$2,000
Kennedy Half Bicentennial	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$1,750	\$2,500
IKE Dollar	—	\$30,000	—	—
SBA Dollar	N/A	\$15,000	N/A	\$10,000
Sac Dollar	N/A	\$15,000	N/A	\$15,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Die Adjustment Strikes (Updated January 2026)



Die adjustment strikes are also known as die trials. This error occurs when a coin is struck from the press with very little pressure. When the press is being set up and adjusted, extremely weak strikes occur as the strike pressure reaches its optimum level. These die trials are destroyed after being struck and are rarely found in circulation.

Denomination	XF/AU	Unc
Indian Cent	\$1,000	\$2,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ear	\$200	\$300
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$750	\$1,500
Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$50	\$75
2 Cent	\$5,000	—
Liberty Nickel	\$3,000	\$5,000
Buffalo Nickel	\$4,000	\$7,500
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$1,250	\$2,000
Jefferson Nickel	\$75	\$100
Proof Jefferson Nickel	N/A	\$1,000
Barber Dime	\$2,500	\$3,500
Mercury Dime	\$1,000	\$1,500
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$350	\$500
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$100	\$125
Seated Quarter	\$4,000	\$7,500
Standing Liberty Quarter	\$7,500	\$15,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$500	\$750
Washington Quarter Clad (Pre-State)	\$125	\$150
State Quarter	N/A	\$200
Walking Liberty Half	\$2,500	\$5,000
Kennedy Half Silver	\$500	\$750
Kennedy Half Clad	\$200	\$250
Proof Kennedy Half 40% Silver	N/A	\$1,500
Proof Kennedy Half Clad	N/A	\$1,000
Morgan Dollar	\$1,500	\$2,500
Peace Dollar	\$7,000	\$10,000
IKE Dollar	\$300	\$400
IKE Dollar Bicentennial	\$350	\$500
SBA Dollar	N/A	\$500
Sac Dollar	N/A	\$1,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Double Denominations (Updated January 2026)



One of the most expensive, popular, and desired types of errors are the double denominations. This error happens when a coin is struck on a previously struck coin of a smaller denomination. Examples are a cent on a struck dime, and a nickel on a struck cent. The most dramatic are those with considerable design visible from the original strike. There are a few known double denominations with different dates.

Denomination	Struck On	Circulated	AU	Unc
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	Mercury Dime	\$6,000	\$12,500	\$20,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	Roosevelt Dime	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	Foreign Coin	\$2,000	\$2,500	—
Lincoln Cent Memorial	Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$6,000
Lincoln Cent Memorial	Roosevelt Dime Clad	N/A	N/A	\$750
Lincoln Cent Memorial	Foreign Coin	N/A	\$600	\$750
Jefferson Nickel	Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
Jefferson Nickel	Lincoln Cent Memorial	N/A	\$750	\$1,000
Jefferson Nickel	Foreign Coin	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500
Jefferson Nickel	Roosevelt Dime	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500
Roosevelt Dime Silver	Foreign Coin	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$7,500
Roosevelt Dime Clad	Foreign Coin	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
Washington Quarter Silver	Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$6,000
Washington Quarter Silver	Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Washington Quarter Silver	Foreign Coin	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Washington Quarter Silver	Jefferson Nickel	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$6,000
Washington Quarter Silver	Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Washington Quarter Clad	Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Washington Quarter Clad	Foreign Coin	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000
Washington Quarter Clad	Jefferson Nickel	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Washington Quarter Clad	Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000
State Quarter	Jefferson Nickel	N/A	\$2,000	\$3,000
State Quarter (Extremely Rare)	Any Other Denomination	N/A	\$10,000	\$12,500
Franklin Half	Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$7,500	\$12,500	\$25,000
Kennedy Half (Extremely Rare)	Any Denomination	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500
IKE Dollar (Extremely Rare)	Any Denomination	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000
Sac Dollar	Maryland State Quarter	N/A	\$3,000	\$4,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Brockages (Updated January 2026)



A bimetallic bimoid error can only occur when there are two coins involved. One of the coins involved will always be a struck coin which has not ejected properly. That struck coin will find its way back between the dies and will be struck next to a blank planchet which was fed into the collar. The image of that first struck coin will be impressed into that side of the blank planchet. The result will be a second coin which has images of the first coin impressed into it. Those images will be pressed into the coin and the image will be in reverse. This incuse sunken image is known as a bimetallic bimoid error.

Denomination	50% Brockage XF	100% Brockage XF	50% Brockage Unc	100% Brockage Unc
Large Cent	\$600	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$10,000
Indian Cent	\$500	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$4,000
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$350	\$500	\$650	\$1,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$125	\$200	\$200	\$350
3 Cent Nickel	\$1,250	\$2,000	\$3,500	\$5,000
3 Cent Silver	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
Shield Nickel	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
Liberty Nickel	\$1,250	\$2,250	\$2,000	\$4,000
Buffalo Nickel	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$7,500
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$250	\$750	\$750	\$1,500
Jefferson Nickel	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$150
Barber Dime	\$1,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$12,500
Mercury Dime	\$750	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$4,000
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$100	\$200	\$150	\$250
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$50	\$100	\$75	\$150
Washington Quarter Silver	\$200	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
Washington Quarter Clad	\$75	\$150	\$150	\$250
State Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$750	\$1,500
Kennedy Half Clad	N/A	N/A	\$650	\$1,500
IKE Dollar	\$1,500	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$10,000
SBA Dollar	N/A	N/A	\$500	\$2,500
Sac Dollar	N/A	N/A	\$1,500	\$5,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Double & Multiple Strikes (Updated January 2026)



When a blank planchet is struck by the dies, the normal procedure is for the feeders to eject the struck coin out of the collar and into a chute. If there is a malfunction and the struck coin isn't ejected, it may receive a second or third strike by the dies. A multiple struck coin can happen in many ways and have many combinations of errors.

(Since each double and multiple strike can vary from being 10% off-center to 90% off-center, the prices listed below can be substantially more based on the percent off-center and dramatic overall look.)

Denomination	XF/AU	Unc
Large Cent	\$1,000	\$7,500
Indian Cent	\$600	\$1,000
Lincoln Cent 1930 and Earlier	\$850	\$1,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$400	\$1,500
Proof Lincoln Cent	N/A	\$2,000
3 Cent Nickel	\$2,000	\$3,500
Liberty Nickel	\$4,000	\$10,000
Buffalo Nickel	\$5,000	\$10,000
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$750	\$2,000
Proof Jefferson Nickel	N/A	\$2,000
Barber Dime	\$4,000	\$10,000
Mercury Dime	\$3,500	\$8,500
Proof Clad Dime	N/A	\$2,000
Standing Liberty Quarter	\$15,000	\$50,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$200	\$350
State Quarter	N/A	\$350 - \$750
Proof Clad Quarter	N/A	\$2,000
Walking Liberty Half	\$10,000	\$25,000
Franklin Half	\$6,500	\$10,000
Kennedy Half Silver	\$1,500	\$2,500
Kennedy Half Clad	N/A	\$750
Proof Kennedy Half Clad	N/A	\$5,000
Morgan Dollar	\$10,000	\$25,000
Peace Dollar	\$15,000	\$40,000
IKE Dollar	\$2,000	\$4,000 - \$7,500
SBA Dollar	\$1,000	\$2,500 - \$4,000
Sac Dollar	\$750	\$1,250 - \$2,500

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Off-Center Strikes (Updated January 2026)



Off-center coins are one of the most common and best known types of errors. This happens when a blank which is supposed to be fed into the press, lands in the collar improperly. When this occurs only part of the blank is between the upper and lower dies. When the dies strike the blank, only that part will be struck with a design.

Denomination	10% - 15% XF/AU	25% - 60% XF/AU	10% - 15% Unc	25% - 60% Unc
Large Cent	\$400	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$10,000
Flying Eagle Cent (1857 – 1858)	\$2,500	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
Indian Cent	\$100	\$400	\$200	\$600
Lincoln Cent 1930 and Earlier	\$75	\$300	\$150	\$750
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$40	\$250	\$100	\$500
Proof Lincoln Cent	N/A	N/A	\$1,000	\$2,000
3 Cent Nickel	\$300	\$1,500	\$600	\$3,500
3 Cent Silver	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$7,500
Shield Nickel	\$750	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$7,500
Liberty Nickel	\$250	\$1,000	\$500	\$2,500
Buffalo Nickel	\$250	\$750	\$400	\$1,500
Jefferson Nickel War Time	\$100	\$500	\$200	\$1,000
Proof Jefferson Nickel	N/A	N/A	\$1,000	\$2,000
Seated Half Dime Legend	\$3,000	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$15,000
Seated Dime Legend	\$2,000	\$7,000	\$3,500	\$10,000
Barber Dime	\$300	\$1,500	\$500	\$2,500
Mercury Dime	\$100	\$750	\$150	\$1,250
Proof Clad Dime	N/A	N/A	\$1,000	\$2,000
Barber Quarter	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$10,000
Standing Liberty Quarter	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
Washington Quarter Silver	\$50	\$100	\$75	\$150
State Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$75	\$300
Proof Clad Quarter	N/A	N/A	\$1,500	\$2,000
Barber Half	\$4,000	\$10,000	\$6,000	\$20,000
Walking Liberty Half	\$4,000	\$12,500	\$7,500	\$20,000
Franklin Half	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$7,500
Kennedy Half Silver	\$100	\$500	\$250	\$1,000
Kennedy Half Clad	\$60	\$250	\$100	\$400
Proof Clad Half	N/A	N/A	\$1,500	\$3,000
Morgan Dollar	\$3,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$50,000
Peace Dollar	\$20,000	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
IKE Dollar	\$125	\$1,250	\$150	\$2,000
SBA Dollar	N/A	N/A	\$100	\$500
Sac Dollar	N/A	N/A	\$1,000	\$3,500
Presidential Dollar	–	–	\$1,500	\$5,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Off-Metals (Updated January 2026)



Off-metal and wrong planchet errors occur when a correctly made blank from one denomination is accidentally fed into a press for another denomination. Examples are a nickel struck on a cent planchet and a cent struck on a dime planchet. The coin struck on an incorrect blank will weigh exactly what the denomination of that blank would have been. An even more dramatic wrong planchet error is a coin struck on a previously struck coin of a different metal.

Denomination	Off-Metal Planchet	Circulated	AU	Unc	Choice Unc – Gem
Indian Cent	Foreign Planchet	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
Indian Cent	Dime Planchet	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000
Lincoln Cent Before 1919	Dime Planchet	\$4,000	\$6,500	\$10,000	–
Lincoln Cent Before 1919	Foreign Planchet	\$750	\$2,000	\$4,000	–
Lincoln Cent 1919 – 1940	Dime Planchet	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$6,000
Lincoln Cent 1919 – 1940	Foreign Planchet	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	Dime Planchet	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$7,500
Lincoln Cent 1943 Transitional	Copper Cent Planchet	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$300,000	\$350,000
Lincoln Cent 1944 Transitional	Steel Cent Planchet	\$30,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears (1941-1964)	Dime Planchet	\$500	\$600	\$1,000	\$2,000
Lincoln Cent 1965 and Later	Dime Planchet	\$125	\$150	\$200	\$350
Lincoln Cent 1964 Transitional	Clad Dime Planchet	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000
Lincoln Cent 1965 Transitional	Silver Dime Planchet	\$2,750	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500
Shield Nickel	Foreign Planchet	\$7,500	\$12,500	–	–
Shield Nickel	Cent Planchet	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$40,000	\$60,000
Liberty Nickel	Foreign Planchet	\$400	\$750	\$1,250	\$2,000
Liberty Nickel	Cent Planchet	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$7,500
Buffalo Nickel	Foreign Planchet	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$12,500	–
Buffalo Nickel	Cent Planchet	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000
Jefferson Nickel Before 1950	Cent Planchet	\$250	\$500	\$750	\$1,000
Jefferson Nickel 1950 and Later	Cent Planchet	\$125	\$150	\$200	\$250
Jefferson Nickel 1943	Steel Cent Planchet	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$5,000
Jefferson Nickel 1964 and Earlier	Silver Dime Planchet	\$200	\$300	\$350	\$400
Jefferson Nickel 1965 and Later	Clad Dime Planchet	\$150	\$200	\$225	\$250
Roosevelt Dime Silver	Foreign Planchet	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500
Roosevelt Dime Clad	Foreign Planchet	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,250	\$2,500
Roosevelt Dime 1964 Transitional	Clad Dime Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$10,000	\$12,500
Roosevelt Dime 1965 Transitional	Silver Dime Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$8,500
Washington Quarter Silver	Cent Planchet	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$750
Washington Quarter Silver	Nickel Planchet	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$600
Washington Quarter Clad	Cent Planchet	\$250	\$300	\$400	\$500

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Off-Metals (Updated January 2026)

Denomination	Off-Metal Planchet	Circulated	AU	Unc	Choice Unc – Gem
Washington Quarter Clad	Nickel Planchet	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250
Washington Quarter	Silver Dime Planchet	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$650
Washington Quarter	Clad Dime Planchet	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400
Washington Quarter 1964 Transitional	Clad Quarter Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$12,500
Washington Quarter 1965 Transitional	Silver Quarter Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$8,500
State Quarter	Cent Planchet	N/A	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$8,000
Delaware State Quarter	Nickel Planchet	N/A	\$500	\$650	\$750
All Other State Quarters	Nickel Planchet	N/A	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500
State Quarter	Dime Planchet	N/A	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$6,000
Walking Half	Dime Planchet	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$50,000
Walking Half	Quarter Planchet	\$17,500	\$22,500	\$40,000	\$35,000
Walking Half	Foreign Planchet	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$25,000
Franklin Half	Cent Planchet	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Franklin Half	Nickel Planchet	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Franklin Half	Dime Planchet	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$5,500	\$6,500
Franklin Half	Quarter Planchet	\$600	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,250
Kennedy Half Silver 1964	Cent Planchet	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$2,000
Kennedy Half Silver 1964	Nickel Planchet	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$2,000
Kennedy Half Silver 1964	Dime Planchet	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$2,000	\$2,500
Kennedy Half Silver 1964	Quarter Planchet	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$750
Kennedy Half Clad	Cent Planchet	\$750	\$850	\$1,000	\$1,500
Kennedy Half Clad	Nickel Planchet	\$750	\$850	\$1,000	\$1,250
Kennedy Half Clad	Dime Planchet	\$750	\$850	\$1,000	\$1,400
Kennedy Half Clad	Quarter Planchet	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500
Kennedy Half 1964 Transitional	Clad Half Planchet	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,000
Kennedy Half 1965 Transitional	Silver Half Planchet	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$10,000
Kennedy Half 1964 Transitional	Clad Quarter Planchet	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
Kennedy Half 1965 Transitional	Silver Quarter Planchet	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
Ike Dollar	Cent Planchet	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000
Ike Dollar	Nickel Planchet	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$20,000
Ike Dollar	Dime Planchet	\$7,500	\$8,500	\$10,000	\$12,500
Ike Dollar	Quarter Planchet	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$15,000
Ike Dollar	Half Planchet	\$1,600	\$1,750	\$2,000	\$3,000
Ike Dollar	Foreign Planchet	\$900	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,500
Ike Dollar Transitional	40% Silver Planchet	\$2,750	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$5,000
SBA Dollar	Cent Planchet	N/A	\$1,750	\$3,000	\$5,000
SBA Dollar	Nickel Planchet	N/A	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000
SBA Dollar	Dime Planchet	N/A	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$10,000
SBA Dollar	Quarter Planchet	N/A	\$600	\$850	\$1,000
Sac Dollar	Cent Planchet	N/A	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$20,000
Sac Dollar	Nickel Planchet	N/A	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$20,000
Sac Dollar	Dime Planchet	N/A	\$8,000	\$15,000	\$20,000
Sac Dollar	Quarter Planchet	N/A	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Counterbrockages (Updated January 2026)



A counterbrockage error involves a cap die and a previously struck coin. When a cap die strikes a previously struck coin, the obverse design from that struck coin will be impressed into the cap. The result will be a design where the cap face will be an incuse brockage. When a new blank is struck by this cap die with an incuse brockage image, the obverse will have a raised and spread image from that incuse design of the cap. This brockage impression is known as a counterbrockage.

Denomination	Circulated	AU	Unc	Choice Unc - Gem
Indian Cent	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
Lincoln Cent 1943 Steel	\$500	\$750	\$1,500	\$2,000
Lincoln Cent Wheat Ears	\$200	\$200	\$300	\$500
Lincoln Cent Memorial	\$40	\$50	\$75	\$100
Shield Nickel	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
Liberty Nickel	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
Jefferson Nickel	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200
Barber Dime	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$300	\$500	\$750	\$1,000
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$100	\$150	\$250	\$300
Washington Quarter Silver	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
Washington Quarter Clad	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$400
State Quarter	N/A	\$750	\$1,250	\$1,500
Kennedy Half Silver	\$1,250	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000
Kennedy Half Clad	\$500	\$750	\$1,250	\$1,500
SBA Dollar	N/A	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Fold-Over Strikes (Updated January 2026)



A fold-over coin is one of the most dramatic types of errors. It occurs when the blank is standing vertically between the dies. During the strike, the force is so great that it bends and folds the blank. These fold-overs can be on-center or off-center, and come in many different shapes. There are a few fold-overs with multiple errors, either with an additional strike or fold-over. Denominations above quarters are very scarce.

Denomination	AU	AU Dated	Unc	Unc Dated
Indian Cent Memorial Copper	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,500
Lincoln Cent Memorial Zinc	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,250
Jefferson Nickel	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$4,000
Roosevelt Dime Silver	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
Roosevelt Dime Clad	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$4,500
Washington Quarter Silver	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Washington Quarter Clad	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
State Quarter	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$8,500

# Mint Error News Price Guide

## Martha Washington Test Pieces (Updated January 2026)



There is one set of a Dime, Quarter and Half struck by Martha Washington dies that are permanently housed in the Smithsonian Institute, embedded in blocks of lucite. According to United States Pattern and Related Issues, by Andrew W. Pollock III, “the only trial pieces purported to have survived metallurgical testing in 1965 were the Dime, Quarter Dollar, and Half Dollar equivalent strikes in copper-nickel clad over copper.”

Mike Byers' discovery of the Martha Washington Test Piece on a copper-zinc Cent planchet struck 10% off-center with a uniface reverse was a front page Coin World article on August 7th, 2000.

Denomination	Unc	Choice	Gem
Martha Cent	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
Martha Nickel	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500
Martha Dime	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500
Martha Quarter	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$3,000
Martha Half Dollar	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000
Martha Dollar (SBA Planchet)	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000
Martha Dollar (Sac Planchet)	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000

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Issues of Mint Error News Magazine are available for you to read online at:

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Mike Byers is the Publisher & Editor of Mint Error News Magazine

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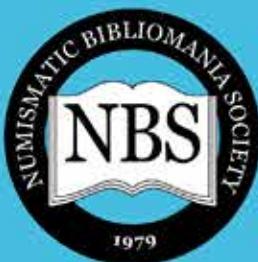
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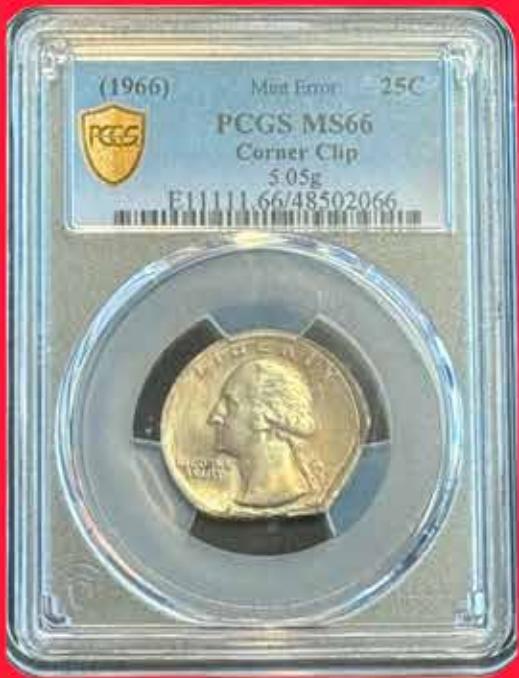
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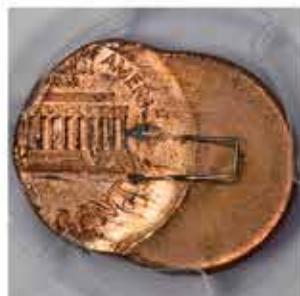
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## German coin specialist

### Ron Guth, Numismatic Expert

Ron Guth is a recognized authority on United States and German coins. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant who has been involved professionally in numismatics for over fifty years as a collector, dealer, researcher, and writer. His books and articles have earned numerous awards, including the American Numismatic Association's Heath Literary award and the Olga & Wayte Raymond awards, the Numismatic Literary Guild's Best Numismatic Investment Book and Best Book of the Year awards, and the Professional Numismatic Guild's Best Book of the Year award. In 2003, Ron received the prestigious President's Award from the American Numismatic Association in recognition of his numerous contributions to numismatics. In 2021, Coin World named Ron as one of the Top Ten Most Influential People in Numismatics for the sixty-year period from 1960-2020.

Ron created the CoinFacts website (now PCGS CoinFacts) in 1999 and sold the website to Collectors Universe in 2004 (where it is now presented as PCGS CoinFacts). Ron served in various capacities at Collectors Universe, including Director of Numismatic Research, President of the Professional Coin Grading Service, and President of PCGS CoinFacts.

Currently, Ron serves as proprietor of GermanCoins.com and as Chief Investigator at the Numismatic Detective Agency, where he provides expert provenance on high-end coins.

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Coverage includes private mints issuers of all eras and locations with an initial focus on the United States. Modern issuer coverage will include Daniel Carr of Moonlight Mint, Ron Lands of Gallery Mint Museum, Jared Grove of Grove Minting, Provident Metals, and other issuers. Classic issuers will include issuers of tokens, medals and coins including Civil War Tokens, So-Called Dollars, Territorial and Pioneer coins as well as Private Patterns.

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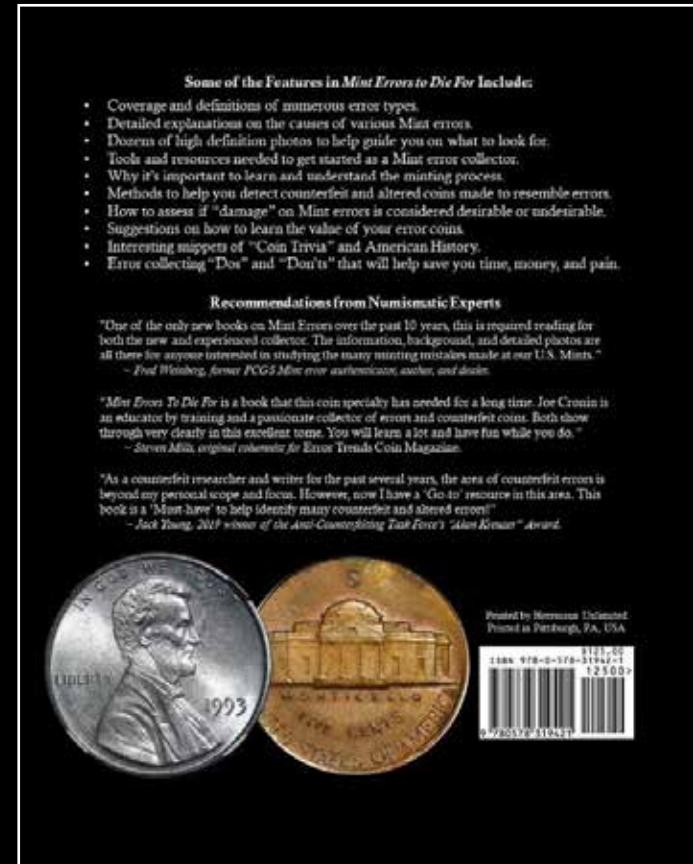
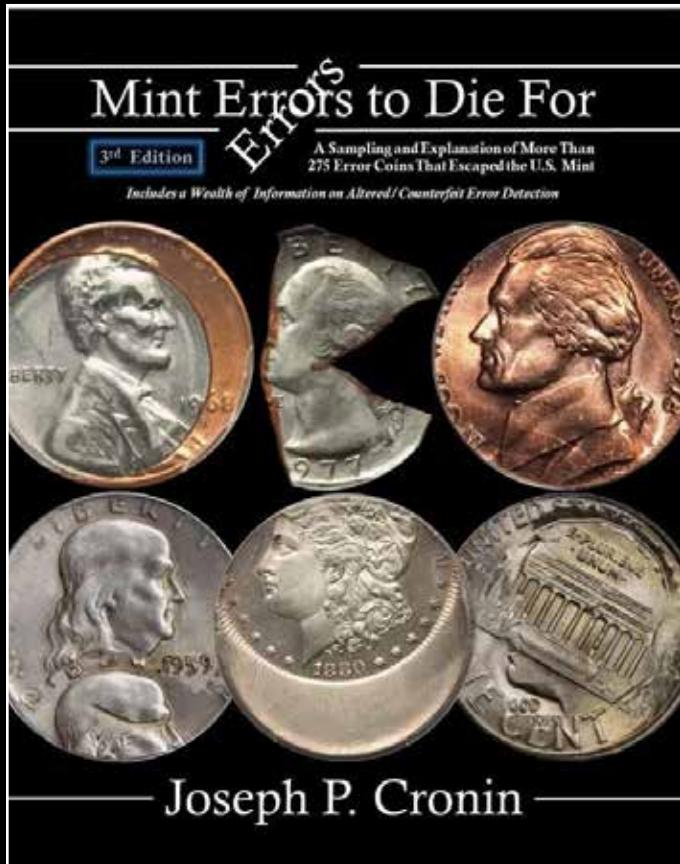
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- Detailed explanations on the causes of various Mint errors.
- Dozens of high definition photos to help guide you on what to look for.
- Tools and resources needed to get started as a Mint error collector.
- Why it's important to learn and understand the minting process.
- Methods to help you detect counterfeit and altered coins made to resemble errors.
- How to assess if "damage" on Mint errors is considered desirable or undesirable.
- Suggestions on how to learn the value of your error coins.
- Interesting snippets of "Coin Trivia" and American History.
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"One of the only new books on Mint Errors over the past 10 years, this is required reading for both the new and experienced collector. The information, background, and detailed photos are all there for anyone interested in studying the many minting mistakes made at our U.S. Mints." — *Ed Weisberg, former PCGS Mint error authenticator, author, and dealer.*

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# Mint Errors to Die For

A Sampling and Explanation of More Than 250 Error Coins That Escaped the U.S. Mint

## Non-gold Coins Struck on Gold Planchets



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CoinFacts; NGC label photo courtesy of MikeByers.com



**Coin Trivia:** Though the 1913 Buffalo nickel is on a \$5 gold Half Eagle planchet, Mint errors on \$2.5 gold planchets include: Indian Head Cents: (3) 1900, 1905, 1906, and 1907. Lincoln Cents: 1911, 1915, and 1927

### 1913 (Type 2) Buffalo Nickel: Struck on a \$5 Gold Half Eagle Planchet

Though there are nine known cents (six Indian Heads and three Lincolns) struck on gold Quarter Eagle (\$2.5) planchets, this is the only known Buffalo nickel struck on a gold planchet of any type; in this case, it's likely a \$5 gold Half Eagle planchet. (Some speculate it was made intentionally as were the five known 1913 Liberty nickels). Sadly someone cut into the rim on the reverse at 8 o'clock (see photo below) likely to prove it's just another plated novelty coin. Now even if you're 99.9% sure your suspect coin is a fake, don't ever, ever do that! As a result, PCGS gave it a "Genuine/AU Details" grade. It's no surprise that the psychological impact of PCGS' grade adversely affected its initial selling price: \$78,000 at Heritage Auctions in January of 2021 – a heck of a lot less than what many experts expected despite the damage.

In an interesting twist, Las Vegas rare coin dealer Mike Byers reacquired the coin and advocated it shouldn't have been given a "Genuine" label as there are a few other high-profile straight-graded coins/patterns with post-Mint alterations. NGC agreed and straight-graded it at AU-53; he later sold the coin privately for \$400,000! (Source: [MikeByers.com/6324417-001.html](http://MikeByers.com/6324417-001.html))



### What the Planchet Was Intended to Become

Below is a 1913 Indian Head \$5 gold Half Eagle, which is likely what the planchet for the featured 1913 Buffalo nickel was supposed to become. Seeing that U.S. Mint control of gold and silver planchets was so tight even back then, it is unknown if this is a true error or a Mint-assisted coin. (Photos courtesy of PCGS® Used by permission at PCGS.com/CoinFacts)



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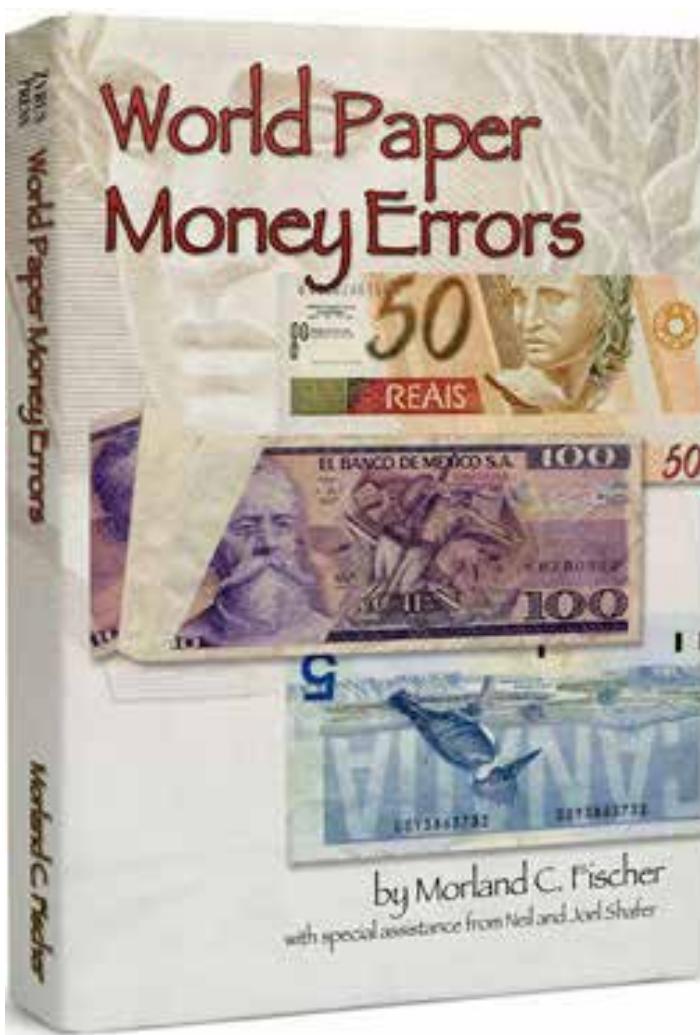


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This has always been an enormously popular book, not only among established collectors but also with newcomers seeking to learn more about their “find.” There is no other book like it on the market. More than a price guide, its 296 pages contain a wealth of information on what to look for and what mistakes to avoid. It is a necessity for all dealers, collectors, and anyone who comes into regular contact with paper money.

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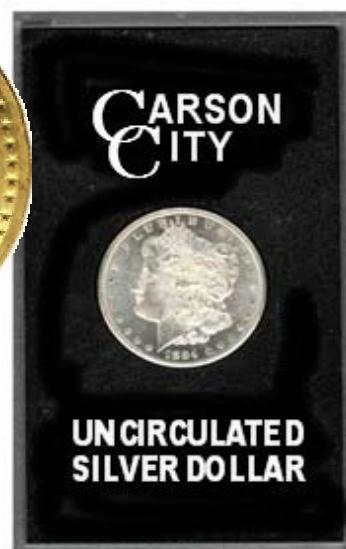
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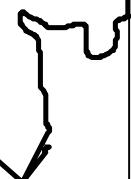
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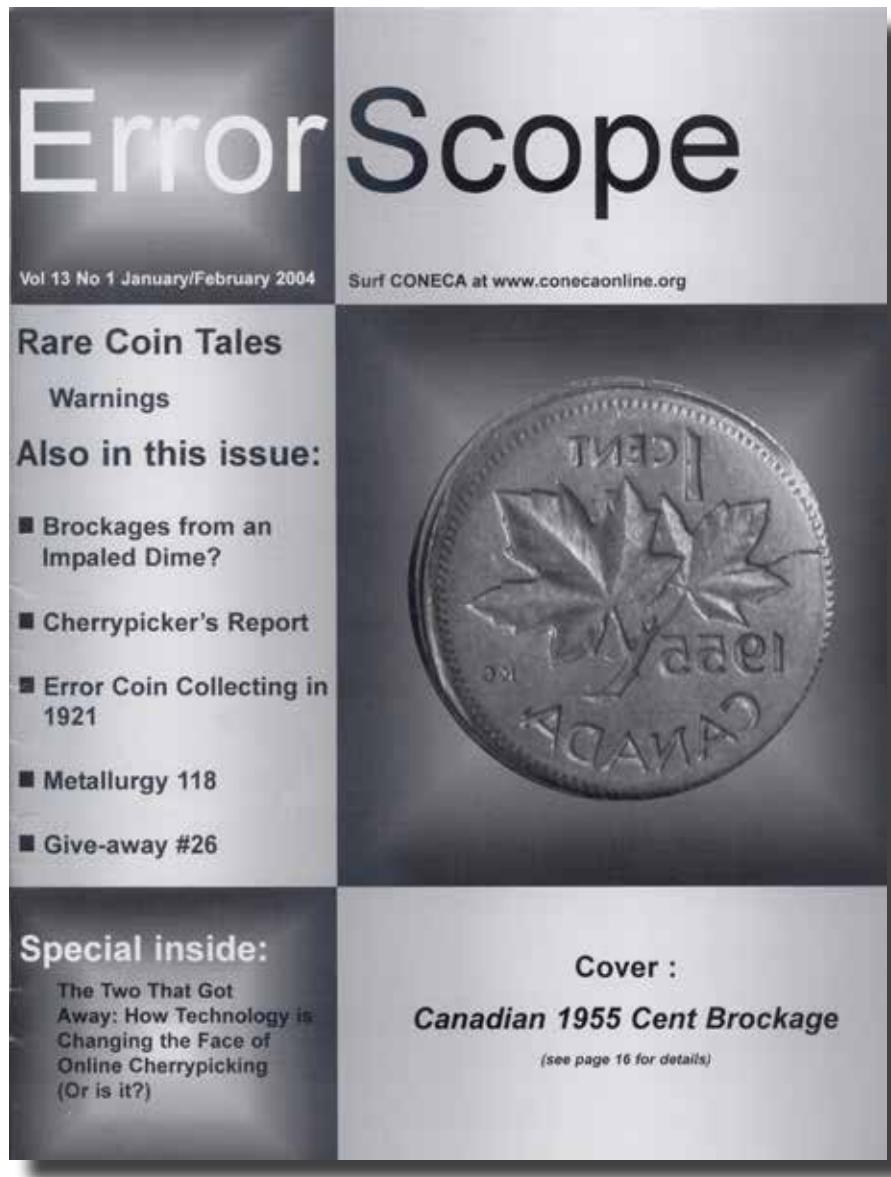


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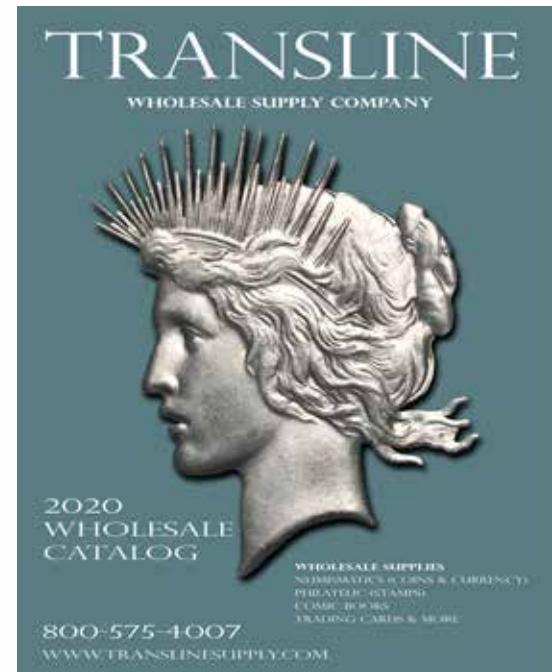
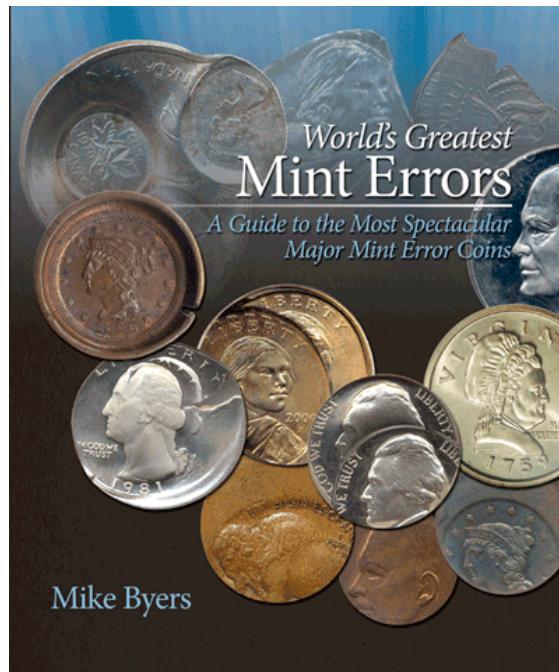
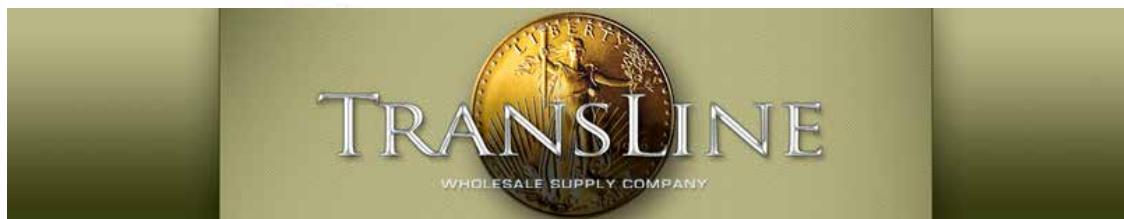
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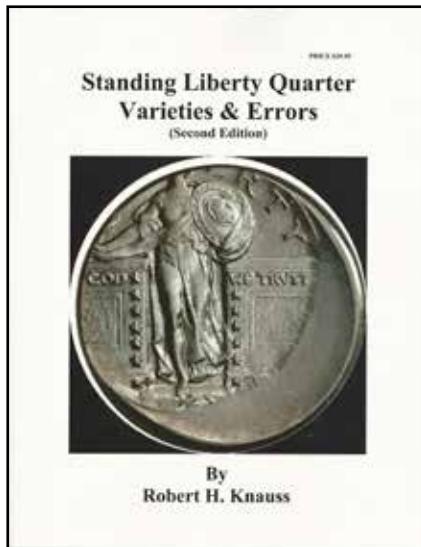
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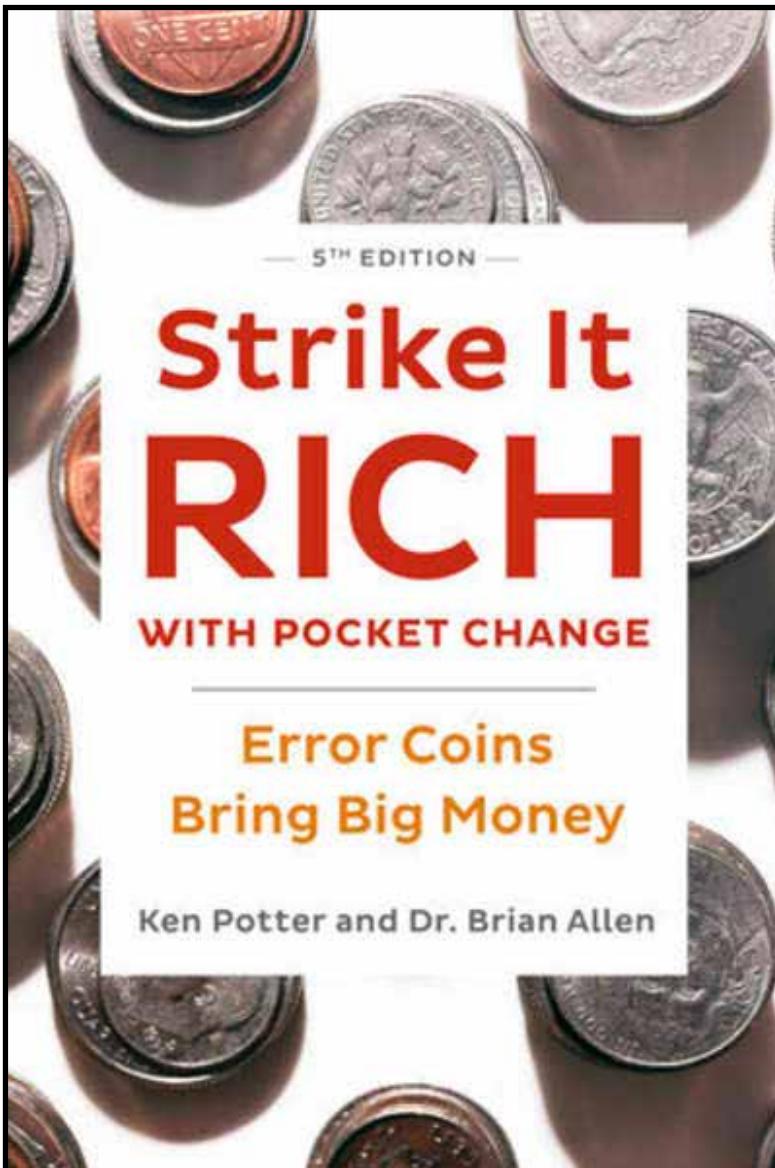
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# MINT ERROR NEWS GLOSSARY



## What Are Uncancelled Dies?

Uncancelled dies made at the U.S. Mint are extremely rare in private hands. These have been authenticated and certified by NGC. In addition to the unique Martha Washington Cent Size Uncancelled die, there are two known that are Half Dollar size. A 1967 Philippines 10 Sentimos Uncancelled obverse die was also certified and featured in the NGC article on Uncancelled dies. Recently, five Uncancelled Costa Rica dies surfaced, including the unique 1897 2 Colones proof obverse die.

This is the only known Martha Washington Cent-Sized Uncancelled Die in private hands. It was featured on the cover of *Mint Error News Magazine* Issue #51. There are only four other Martha Washington Half Dollar-Sized Uncancelled Dies known in private hands, two mint state and two proof. These half dollar Martha Washington Dies were purchased by Mike Byers. The first one discovered was featured both in *Coin Week* and on the cover of *Mint Error News Magazine* Issue #44.

# 2026 Coin Shows



**Visit Mike Byers at the following shows:**

<b>January 8 - 11, 2026</b>	<b>71<sup>st</sup> Annual FUN Convention Orlando, Florida</b>
<b>February 17 - 20, 2026</b>	<b>Long Beach Expo Long Beach, California</b>
<b>February 26 - 28, 2026</b>	<b>ANA National Money Show Savannah, Georgia</b>
<b>August 25 - 29, 2026</b>	<b>ANA World's Fair of Money Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</b>

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Mike Byers has been a professional numismatist for forty years. He is one of the largest dealers handling U.S. Gold Coins, Patterns and Rarities certified by PCGS and NGC. He has handled major coin collections and attends every major coin convention. Mike Byers carries an extensive inventory as well as solicits want lists and is always looking to purchase fresh inventory and collections.

Mike Byers was a consultant to ANACS for Mint Errors from 2000 to 2006. He is also the Publisher and Editor of Mint Error News Magazine and the Mint Error News Website that was founded in 2003. In 2009, Mike Byers published his first book, *World's Greatest Mint Errors*, which received the NLG Award for Best World Coin Book and is available on Amazon.com.

Mike Byers is a life member of ANA since 1985, a charter member of NGC and a featured dealer/member of PCGS. He is also a life member of the Central States Numismatic Society and the Florida United Numismatists. He is a member of CDN Exchange (BYRS).

Mike Byers was born in the coin business attending coin shows since he was six years old. When he was seventeen, he issued his first coin catalog. He has been a Market-Maker in U.S. Gold Coins and a dealer in major mint errors. In 1987 he offered limited partnerships and rare coin funds. He has written articles for The Coin Dealer Newsletter and has been featured on the front page of Coin World numerous times with his numismatic rarities. Mike Byers is a contributing author on mint errors for CoinWeek. He also assisted with the mint error section of Coin Facts on the PCGS website. You can visit Mike Byers and view his rarities at the ANA, Central States, FUN show and the Long Beach Coin Expo.



# MIKE BYERS INC

P.O. Box 401496, LAS VEGAS, NV 89140

MIKE@MIKEBYERS.COM | 714-914-6415



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