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# LONGACRE'S LEDGER

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Vol. 1, No. 3

July, 1991

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Single Copy: \$4.50



Official Publication of the  
FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
The "Fly-In Club"

FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT  
COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
"The Fly-In Club"  
P.O. Box 915  
Palo Alto, CA 94302

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

# FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT COLLECTORS SOCIETY

The purpose of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society is to promote the study and collection of Longacre's design of small cents.

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## OFFICERS

President.....Richard Snow  
Vice President/Florida Rep.....Bob Misbin  
Vice President/Northeast Rep.....Henry Hettger  
Secretary.....Xan Chamberlain  
Treasurer.....Charles Jones  
Publisher/Editor.....Larry R. Steve

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## ON THE COVER -

### 1887 Doubled Die Obverse

Class V Hub Doubling - Pivoted Hub, CCW, with the pivot centered near the mouth and nose of the 'Indian'. The second impression of the Hub was rotated slightly about the pivot point. Notice the doubling on the center of the last 3 feathers and the word 'AMERICA'. Do not confuse the doubling on the letters with the normally encountered 'Extra outlines'. Note how the tips of the serifs of the 'E' and 'C' are separated from the second impression.

(courtesy Jack Beymer, photo by Tom Mulvaney)

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT -

The success or failure of a club like the Fly-In Club depends mainly on the participation of its membership. If the amount of articles and letters submitted to Larry are any indication, the success of this club is virtually guaranteed! I wish to thank every member who took the time to write something for the journal.

As you receive this issue, the ANA 100th anniversary convention is about to begin in Chicago! We have planned a membership meeting on Saturday, August 17, in room 7 from 1:00 to 3:00. Please plan to attend. The short business meeting will be devoted to electing officers, discussing improvements, and adopting official by-laws. If you will not be able to attend, please mail your election ballot back to me.

After the business section, we plan to have a general roundtable discussion of each members prize Flying Eagle and Indian Cent collection. If you plan to attend and have something you feel may be of interest, please bring them along! This discussion will not require a formal presentation, so please don't feel you are under any pressure to enlighten the group. The education gained will hopefully make it worthwhile. I hope to meet all the 'voices on the phone' that I have had the honor of meeting through the Fly-In Club.

- Rick Snow, President

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## EDITOR'S COMMENT -

NOTICE: Please be sure to save the second issue of the Ledger (Vol. 1, No. 2) as it is a "small letter" variety as a result of an "engraving" error. With a limited "mintage" of just 500 pieces, it may be considered by some to be a RARE collectors item.

All kidding aside, the printer simply forgot to use the larger typeset for the masthead before making the final run. Rather than wait another week to a week and one-half to rerun the entire lot, I decided, out of consideration to both the members and the advertisers, that it would be best to simply mail the Ledger as printed.

I am also happy to announce that I was able to save the club \$100 for our printing costs as a result of this minor oversight. With a non-profit organization such as ours, every dollar is important and the printer was very gracious to extend to us this savings.

Still, the thought of a variety ...

On the subject of varieties - while several club members are interested in this aspect of collecting, as Editor, I recognize that the Ledger should present a balanced approach. As we continue to grow, issues involving grading, 'relative rarity' and other items of interest will also be explored and reported.

I hope that you find the articles that appear both interesting and informative.

- Larry R. Steve, Editor

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -**

A few quick comments on our great club publication, Longacre's Ledger. I was pleased to note the overall quality of the first issue, and I am delighted to see that the quality has carried over into the second issue. I know you will keep up the high standards set by these two issues!

\_\_\_\_\_ - Frank Van Valen

I want to comment on the first issue of Longacre's Ledger. You have done a fantastic job with it, nice format, clear plates, and evidence of serious study on the part of those putting it together.

\_\_\_\_\_ - Calvin O. Levorson

I'm still enjoying the L Ledger.

\_\_\_\_\_ - Carole Kelsey

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**MEMBERSHIP REPORT -**

The interest in this series is tremendous as evidenced by the membership applications submitted.

As of the date of this issue, with our membership having surpassed 300, the success of our club is virtually assured.

\_\_\_\_\_ - Xan Chamberlain, Secretary

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**TREASURY REPORT**

January 1 - April 30, 1991

**Income:**

## Membership dues

- Charter Members Renewals (198) (through April 30, 1991)	\$2,970.00
- New Members (xxx) (since April 30, 1991)	0.00

Cash Donations/Loans	100.00
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Advertising Revenues	134.16
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**Expenses:**

Journal Printing	\$1,315.65
Postage	183.65
Other	22.34
A.N.A. Membership	38.00
Cases for coin shows	30.00
Typing for ads	20.00
Returned Check Fee	3.00
Bank Service Charge	<u>3.61</u>

Total Expenses	<u>1,616.25</u>
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Net Income (Deficit)	\$1,587.91
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Note: Rick Snow loaned the club \$100 interest free, to get started.

## CORRECTION -

Once again I find it necessary to issue a correction. I suppose, however, that this is to be expected when producing any written material such as the Ledger. As I much prefer to issue a correction than to leave an error uncorrected, our apologies Frank ...

### Correction

On page 27 of Vol. 1 No. 1 of the Ledger, the member who discovered this coin was incorrectly identified. The correct spelling of his name is Frank Van Valen.

- Larry R. Steve, Editor

## ANNOUNCEMENTS -

- Membership cards will be forthcoming shortly. Hopefully, they will be made available by the A.N.A. 100th Anniversary Convention in Chicago. Otherwise, we plan to mail them with the October issue of the Ledger. Until then, your membership number and expiration date can be found on the first line of your mailing label.
- The deadline for articles, advertising and other items of interest for the October issue of the Ledger is September 15, 1991.
- Election ballots for officers for the 1992 calendar year can be found as an insert in this issue; write-in nominations will be permitted. Members not planning to attend the A.N.A. convention should mail in their choice.

## OLD KENTUCKY COIN

Bill Weikel, Ph.D.

Indian Cent Specialist / Constant Buyer

Member ANA, FUN, LM-KSNA & FLY-IN #133

Vol. 1 No. 3 SPECIALS...

Remember last month's 1858/7 ? Here's another but in MS-62 with only a minor spot or two keeping it from MS-63+. Breen # 1931. Priced right @ \$1350.00. Better call on this one... last month I had four members wanting the AU-50. 1864"L" Simply lovely in PCGS MS-64 RB, only one @ \$450.00. 1909-S Fine, \$125.00; 1908-S VF, \$32.50 only two of each !

More nice coins from PCGS...

1865 MS64RB \$309.99	1883 MS63RD \$ 62.00	1898 MS63 RB \$ 42.00
1871 PR64RB 455.55	1885 MS63BN 106.00	1908 MS64 RB 70.00
1874 PR64RB 450.00	1891 MS64RB 150.00	
1908S MS64RB 295.00 (a bit dull)		
1909 MS65RB 132.00; MS64 RB \$65.00; MS64 RD 175.00		

All slabs unless noted have a specially nice eye appeal !

Special slabs from ANACS, all are Proofs...

1879 PF 63 RB \$179.00	1884 PF 63 RB \$147.00
1895 PF 63 RB 123.00 (a few light spots)	

Pretty coins from NGC...

1863 MS63 \$155.00	1865 MS64RB \$285.00	1883 PF63BN \$155.00
1864CN MS63 180.00	1876 MS64RB 225.00	1899 MS65RB 165.00
1864CN MS62 119.00	(more brown)	1909 MS64RD 179.00

Following are a small sample of my "raw" Indians...

1859 AU \$120.00	1869/8 EF48+ \$425.00	1877 VG10++ \$299.99
1862 MS63 115.00	1871 PF63RB 400.00	1877 Abt GD 155.00
1863 MS63 155.00	1873 MS64RB 260.00	1879 MS64RB 105.00
1864BZ MS64RB 159.00	1876 MS64RB 199.00	1882 MS63RB 55.00
1865 MS60+BN 48.00	1877 VF 499.00	1883 PF63RB 149.00
1868 MS63RB 199.00	(retoned)	1884 MS64RD 130.00

I have 2x2 boxes of nice Indians, all dates, most from good to VF, many dates in EF, AU and UNC. I have dozens of later date UNC coins Proofs etc. not listed here. Call or send want lists. See us at Table 360 at ANA 100th Anniversary Convention.

Terms - 15 day no question return if not removed from holder.  
- VISA/MC add 4%  
- Postage/Insurance add \$2.50  
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Old Kentucky Coin

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## OTHER THANS BY THE ROLL

by Joe Haney

In order to stimulate a little more active interest in Indian Cents, I thought I'd relate an incident that took place some six or seven years ago that changed my whole concept of collecting coins. I have told the story before but with the newly formed Flying Eagle/Indian Head Cent club I thought it might be appropriate to refresh some memories and prod other collectors into actively taking up the search for coins that are other than normal.

As you read, you will see 'other than normal' has more than one meaning. The first 'other than' has to do with an article that is altogether different from what it appears or is supposed to be. The second is when an article, for all intent and purposes is normal but still somewhat different from its counterparts.

Let's start with the first. We'll set the scene. Saturday, early morning in the local fire company's hall. The room is filled with people carrying Red books, Blue books, coin magazines, and coin papers. The reason, an auction (all coins) is about to get underway. A good many faces are familiar. Dealers, collectors, and others that I know that are just curious. It is probably one of the biggest (I have seen two or three larger) collections I have ever seen at an auction. And this all belonged to one collector. Amazing! I later found out, this was only half of the total collection. I got to the hall early so I could root through some of the many sets and group lots that were offered. I couldn't even make a dent in what was shown.

I went right to the Indian Cent sets, of which there was ten or twelve albums. What an accumulation. The only problem was, there was no quality. Not one coin would make a strong fine, with many in the sub good category. About half the sets were complete and the rest, near so. Of course I mean the normal complete set, no 1856. All low grade coins led me to believe that the collector just liked to fill holes but as I started looking through the other coins and sets

(mostly part sets), I could see that I was wrong. I spotted a partial Standing Liberty Quarter set that my modest bid was eventually able to purchase that had some nice pieces in it. I couldn't have gotten it any cheaper if I had used a gun. Advantage number one for Joe. The next was a bag of Barber Dimes. Most of the dimes were of low grade, but I could see one, a 1916 with a heavy haze about it that later turned out to be About Uncirculated. The coin was void of luster but probably one of the best struck Barber Dimes I have ever seen. I picked up the lot for bullion cost. Advantage number two for Joe.

The next incident is really a story in itself but I think it has to be told here to show that things aren't always peaches and cream but rather, win some, lose some. And I mean that both literally and figuratively. Eight to ten lots right in a row, each a Liberty Head Nickel, were listed 1883 No Cents, BU. How many times have you seen this at an auction? How many times have you bothered turning them over to see if they actually were the No Cents variety? Well, you guessed it, right in the middle of these eight to ten, was one 'With Cents'. My bid of nine Dollars was enough to capture this prize. As most of you know the 'With Cents' is ten times plus more valuable than its No Cents kissing cousin. Advantage number three for Joe???? NO, NO, NO, not this time. You see, I lost the coin. Yes I said lost. It was one of the low points of my collecting days. A very humiliating and costly mistake but one that I have learned from. Always make sure you receive and secure any purchase you make.

When the auction was over, I paid for the lots that I won, checked and saw that I received each lot and put the coins in a paper bag. I remember the 1883 With Cents well as it was the last one to go into the bag. I looked at it with my glass to make sure I got the right lot (the coin with cents) and flipped it with my fingers into the bag. That was the last time I ever saw my pride and joy. I had received a dozen or so lots that went into the bag, a couple of which were sets in albums. Remember the partial Standing Liberty Quarter set? Well as I flipped the 2x2 hugger with the actual Nickel in it into the bag, it must have stuck in the end

of one of the albums that were standing upright. You can guess the rest. Someplace between that instant and my putting the bag on the front seat of my car, the coin just seemed to evaporate.

I decided to have just a sandwich and cup of coffee for dinner so I could sit and brood by myself. My tears kept dripping into my coffee so I decided to try cheering myself up by checking the other coins I had bought. Everything went well and I eventually got down to my last two lots, the two rolls of Indian cents and the whole reason for this article. If we can flash back to where I was telling you of the sets of low grade Indian cents, I can tell you of the first 'Other Than Normal'.

Just before the auction started I saw two lots of Indian cents on my auction sheet (each a roll of 50 pcs.). I had to go looking for them. As the auctioneer banged his gavel to start the auction I found the Indian cent rolls buried alongside some other lots. I had time to pour half of a roll into my hand. Of course even with my glasses I couldn't tell much about the coins, other than they were high quality. This is an 'Other Than' because a roll of anything that is not marked BU, is supposed to be common date well circulated coins, right. Wrong! One coin with a little underlying mint luster caught my eye. With the help of my 16 X loupe I could see it was an 1871 in about uncirculated condition. This led me to mark my auction sheet-buy!! I had no time to really look at the rest of the coins, other than to see they were of a high grade. I did manage to similarly dump the second roll into my hand and could see they were the same as the first, relatively high grade. This lot I also marked - buy!! I had no idea of how high my bid would be for each roll but told the friends I was with that I would go at least to seventy-five dollars for each roll. It is one of those things that you go by the seat of your pants when the bidding starts. Talk about the luck of the Irish. I had someone sitting on my shoulder that day. I had no decisions to make. My winning bid of \$25.00 took the first roll and \$22.50 the second. I felt like the weight of the world dropped from my shoulders. And remember I didn't even know what was in the rolls, other

that a real nice 1871 Indian. Looking back, if I had known the full content of those two rolls of coins I am not sure I would have gotten through the auction.

As I spread the first roll of Indian cents out on a towel in front of me on the kitchen table I could see my assessment of the coins being high grade was correct. The fifth or sixth coin I picked up was a real shocker. 1877 AU/UNC brown with plenty of underlying mint luster. I had to put it down for a few seconds as I didn't believe what I saw. At second glance the war whoop that I let startled my family as it did me. I am not the excitable type but this was an 'Other Than, Other Than, Other Than'. Nothing I found in the rest of the roll or the second roll surprised me. Probably 10 or 15 were AU/UNC such as the 1871, 1873, 1874, 1875, etc.. I remember, I hugged up 40 of them, put them in two plastic pages, and took them to show my friends at one of the clubs I belong to. I believe there might have been a few that were VF. The rest were of higher grade. Truly a once in a lifetime find. With four or five exceptions, 1872, 1908-S, 1909-S, and one or two others, the set was all there from 1859 to 1909 with of course some duplicates.

That should be the end of our story but it isn't. In fact, it's just the beginning. In with all these gem coins were two that were out second 'Other Than Normal'. I don't remember the exact dates but I believe one was an 1867 Indian cent. A normal coin for all intent and purposes. It was a cent. It could be spent as a cent. A collector would pay what ever the grade would warrant. But to me it became an 'Other Than' when I saw the date was partially repunched. It turned out to be a 67/67. The other coin was similar only a different date.

These two rolls and more-so the two 'Other Thans' changed my entire outlook on collecting. I started actively searching for more 'Other Than' coins and believe me what I have turned up is out of this world. My Indian Head cent collections is well over 500 pcs.. All of these varieties led me on a search for albums to house them. None were and still are not available so designed and assembled my own. My active search did not stop with the Indian cents. I kept letting it expand

to my other coins. Believe it or not, I am now saving varieties in series of coins that I don't even collect.

You too can do this. Start small and look for repunched dates on Indian cents. There are plenty of them out there. I think once started with an 'Other Than' or two, you will be hooked. This hooked will not be bad. It will get you deeper and deeper into coins and enhance the hobby to you so much so, that years down the line you will want to write something similar to this article to help others and stimulate them as I hope I have done here. Good Hunting.

#### WANTED TO BUY : VARIETIES

I am a serious collector of varieties - primarily repunched dates, overdates and doubled dies. I prefer VF or better (Full LIBERTY). Paying 5 to 50% over CDN Bid, depending upon condition and type of variety. Write first!

Larry R. Steve • ANA, CONECA & FLY-IN #2  
P.O. Box 291 • Jarrettsville, MD 21084  
Telephone (301) 557-8508 after 5 p.m.

## AN ASSESSMENT OF INDIAN CENTS - PART II

by Larry R. Steve

In the last issue of the Ledger, in Part I of this article, I began to present my personal assessment of collecting Flying Eagle and Indian Cents. I covered such topics as significance, closed set, design, popularity, availability and lack of promotion. These are just but a few of the reasons for my interest in these coins.

As I continued my assessment of which series I wanted to pursue, long *before* I jumped in with both feet, I began to realize that there were far more many good reasons in choosing Flying Eagle and Indian Cents over some of the other series. It just seemed to me that the more I analyzed the pros and cons, the more the risks became secondary and the more the "rewards" became apparent.

The risks that I refer to are quite obviously the financial risks involved when one builds a collection. However, with careful research and a systematic acquisition approach, this risk can be greatly minimized. Yes, prices may fluctuate to some degree, but as briefly discussed below, the affordability and stability of the prices for this series is quite favorable.

As to the systematic acquisition approach, what I am referring to is essentially a continuing process. If one builds a date set collection over a period of time, the fluctuation in prices that occur may be offset, to some degree, by the fact that such a set forms what Q. David Bowers refers to as a "balanced 'portfolio'" - a set with some common and some rare dates.

This continuing approach, however, also refers to improving ones collection. Suppose you had previously purchased a particular date for \$20, and you now find that the price for this date is only \$18. Rather than lament the "loss" of 10% in value, I would attempt to purchase another coin for this date that, *in my opinion*,

is slightly better than the one that I have or better matches the other dates in my collection. Ideally I would then try to sell the original coin that I had for the current price of \$18.

Have I lost \$2 in the transaction? Not really, because the net change is \$0. If I felt that the original coin was worth \$20 when I bought it, certainly the second coin (which again is one that I feel is slightly better) would have also been worth \$20 at the time (perhaps even a Dollar or two more). If you continue this approach in building your collection, when completed, a well matched set is far better than one that varies in grade, strike, etc. from date to date. This is perhaps part of the essence of a numismatic approach as opposed to an investment approach.

The "rewards" that I refer to are NOT financial rewards, but rather the accomplishment of assembling a nice collection, the enjoyment of doing so, the comradeship in dealing with other like collectors, and the knowledge gained in this pursuit. After a while, you begin to recognize which dates in what grades and what varieties (if that's your interest) are truly rare and difficult to acquire. If you take this approach, the financial aspect will take care of itself.

Another reward is in the research and the knowledge gained in collecting a particular series. But here again, some preliminary or background research should be completed before embarking on a more serious pursuit of the series. You certainly wouldn't buy a house, a car or some other major item without first having some knowledge about the item in which you're interested.

I might add as a corollary to the expression that one should "buy the book before the coin", one should also "read the book after it's bought". And as a second corollary, "buy more than one book". Certainly the more knowledge one acquires, the better prepared one becomes; but equally important, one can more greatly appreciate and enjoy the endeavor.

Following is a continuation of my assessment:

Challenge - A unique characteristic is perhaps the multi-faceted challenge that one is faced with when assembling a set of Flying Eagle and Indian Cents. Not only is grade an important aspect, but strike and color are equally important. And for this particular series, apart from the keys and semi-keys that are common features of other series, there is actually a two-tier aspect with regard to the degree of difficulty in completing a set.

The first challenging aspect that I considered was this two-tier characteristic. Essentially, as most collectors will recognize, the series can be divided into two parts — a "short set" consisting of dates from 1879 through 1909-S; and the pre-1879 dated coins. Although not generally collected as a short set, the coins in this group are far more readily available in all grades than those in the second group (pre-1879). Reflecting upon the span of time that this series covers as compared to other popular series, this aspect came as no surprise. And it was this challenge for pre-1879 coins that caught my attention.

Another interesting aspect for this series is that of grade. Regardless of what level one attempts to complete a set of Flying Eagle and Indian Cents, it is a challenge to locate all the coins in the same grade. For a collection of Good to Very Good, a characteristic to look for is complete rims; for a collection of Fine to Very Fine - complete LIBERTY; and for a collection of Extra Fine to Almost Uncirculated - four diamonds (although for some dates with weak strikes, this may actually be a bit more difficult).

For the mid to higher grades, locating a coin with a full strike presents yet another challenge. The four diamonds on the ribbon is but just a part of the strike. The characteristics that I wanted to look for were, for the obverse: the feather tips in the headdress (particularly the first three feathers) and the beads on the necklace; and for the reverse: a completely struck shield and the feathers on the arrows.

Another challenging aspect, for all grades, is that of color. The colors can range from tan to chocolate

brown to deep brown, and from full red through varying shades of red-brown; all with or without streaks and other woodgrain toning. Spotting is yet another aspect of concern. Assembling a well-matched set is certainly one of the greater challenges for this series.

Affordability - Affordability is certainly high on the list of those factors that one needs to consider when determining which series to pursue. With the availability of these coins being rather high, the question of affordability simply becomes a question of at what level (grade) one wants to pursue.

A complete set (58 coins) in Good to Very Good can range from \$550 to \$700. At that price level collecting these coins are certainly affordable. From that level you can work your way up. One of our members is presently working on an article entitled "The Finest Set of Mint State Flying Eagle and Indian Cents"; I'm sure that it will be rather interesting reading.

Price Stability - Along with affordability is price stability as a determining factor. Many of the trade publications have recently reported, with some apparent amazement, that, despite the "crash" in the coin market, Flying Eagle and Indian Cents seem to be doing quite well. In fact, they report that this series continues to advance despite all the declines in other series. The simple truth is that this series did not really follow the market into the dizzying heights of 1989.

On the contrary (apart from the MS-65 Full Red price movement previously reported), the price performance of these coins has been rather steady and consistent. I have The COIN DEALER NEWSLETTER A Study in RARE COIN PRICE PERFORMANCE 1963-1988 [Bowers] and a review of this reference book supports this aspect of stability for this series. I intend to report on this aspect in greater detail on a date by date basis in later issues of the *Ledger*.

This price stability was one of the greater influencing factors in my decision.

Collector Interest - Along with popularity, availability, and affordability, another contributing factor to the price stability is the fact that these coins are primarily of interest to the collector.

Any particular series can become "popular" at some point in time; that is, popular with "Wall Street" and investors, popular with the general public, or popular with collectors of other series. For many varying reasons, the "minor" denominations and copper coinage in particular have not been viewed as an "investment vehicle" by those who are influenced by such factors.

This series has, for some time now, been the domain of the "collector", let's hope that it remains as such. This collector orientation was yet another factor in my decision.

Cross-Section Appeal - The appeal of these coins to the collector is as diverse as the coins themselves. They range from those who are completing a set in Good condition, to those few who are completing Mint State sets. This cross-section appeal creates a broad based support for the series; and yet we all share a common interest. This type of interest and support can only come from the true collector, and as such is a very important factor to one who is also a collector.

To be continued...

• WANTED TO BUY •

1856 Flying Eagle MS65 (PCGS)

1864-L Indian MS65RD (PCGS)

1886 TY 2 Indian MS65RD (PCGS)

1 (218) 283-4414 • Ask for Bob

## HOW MANY ARE THERE, ANYWAY?

by Douglas W. Hill

I am interested in the major rare Indian Cent doubled dies. To me, a major doubled die is one with an easily recognizable spread and which also has received a great deal of interest from the die variety community. By rare, I look for an R-5 or higher on the Sheldon scale which translates into 75 or fewer pieces. So far, the 1865 DDR\*, 1866 1-O-III, the 1873 1-O-III and 2-O-III, the 1887 1-O-V, and the 1891 DDO\* all meet these criteria. I realize that this list may not be complete and that other doubled dies may deserve to be added.

The purpose of this article is to identify as many individual coins as possible from each of the six doubled dies. (Sometime in the future I hope to add price information.) I have already started this process as can be seen in the table below. Also included are the population estimates which in most cases I suspect will prove to be fairly accurate. But who knows for sure. That's why I have started counting!

	G-VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS60-62	MS63	MS64	Tot	Est Pop
1865 DDR*	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	4	4
1866 1-O-III	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	4	6
1873 1-O-III	3	0	5	1	3	3	0	1	16	40
1873 2-O-III	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	12
1887 1-O-V	4	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	9	40
1891 DDO*	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2

\* Type of doubling not yet determined

To date I have received a great deal of input from many knowledgeable Indian Cent collectors. Specifically, I want to thank Chris Pilliod, Larry Steve, Calvin Levorson, J.T. Stanton, Joe Haney, Rick Snow, Geoffrey Fults, and Harry X. Boosel for their time and effort. But now Fly-In members I need your help. If you own any of these doubled dies, please contact me at P.O. Box 1483, Winter Park, Florida 32790.

In your letter please include the following:

Name  
Telephone #  
Fly-In member?  
Description and Grade - Note Markers  
Photo if possible  
From whom purchased  
Date purchased  
Price Paid  
If for sale, asking price

All correspondence will be kept strictly confidential and will be used for statistical purposes only.

I can't wait to hear from you!

### DAVE'S

D.C.W. COLLECTION

(trusted name in numismatics)

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## AN IMMEDIATE NEED

by Calvin O. Levorson

Volume 1, No. 2 of Longacre's Ledger has now been issued and already sixteen varieties of Flying Eagle and Indian Head Cents have been shown. Without a doubt, as time progresses, hundreds of die varieties will appear. As a collector for 53 years, other than to be able to afford everything on my want list, my primary concern was that of a catalog system for the continually expanding size of the collection. So will be a major concern of the many varieties of the Fly-In Club. Before too much time lapses, a system should be worked out. The need is at hand now with the beginning.

The system of the Pattern Cent cataloguing seems adequate, as recorded by Judd, and is universally accepted. With exception, the 1856 Flying Eagle is owned by many collectors, so one may want it listed with the normally collectable coins. Also Taxay in Scott, 1976, and Breen, 1988, may also find usage here.

During my years of collecting the catalog system has been modified several times to currently consist of a system that will expand with the size of the collection and also to provide a better and more efficient means of cataloguing. Most personal collections need satisfy only the collector, so most anything will be satisfactory. With a catalog system at an organizational level, such as the Fly-In Club, the need increases. There is also a need for a coordinator so as to supply everyone interested with the same data. Further, a capable authenticator would be a desired need. If a coin cannot be identified, it likely cannot be catalogued with other than an Unknown classification. Wouldn't it be interesting to own a coin collection that is all catalogued as Unknown? Most die varieties are easily identifiable, however, there are many instances where even the experts fail to agree. Not all the grading services are capable of properly attributing die varieties with current and proper terminology.

Although there are, or will be, many more Doubled Die Flying Eagle and Indian Cents that presently known, they will need be catalogued. There will not be so many

as with the other categories or die varieties. John Wexler 1975, 1981, 1984, devised a system of identification and cataloging the doubled dies into various classes of doubling. His work is quite universal in use and is the system adopted by CONECA. Del Romines, very capably, followed John Wexler as Authenticator for Coneca. He also used the Wexler system, adding several new classes of die doubling. They do have some Flying Eagle and Indian Cents listed. It thus seems appropriate that our organization utilize the same system to identify the doubled dies, and coordinate our listings with those of Coneca, so there are not dual listing of the same piece.

With our organization being restricted to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents, a system is proposed which would build the catalogue number as follows: A prefix capital letter "C" for Cent, followed by the date and mint. If more than one major type exists, the next letter/figure would be "T1", "T2", "T3", etc.. Type numbers would apply only to those coins such as: 1858 Large and Small letters, 1864 with and without L, 1873 Open and Closed 3, 1886 Last feather CA and IC, etc.. Following the Type number, if used, would come a capital letter to indicate the category of die variety, or other variety. For example, let us say we will record these varieties: A = Doubled Dies, B = Repunched Dates, C = Retained Cuds, D = Pre-cuds (See note following), E = Cuds, F = Die Clashes, G = Die Cracks, H = Die Chips, including filled numerals and letters, I = Off Metal, J = Missing Numerals or other elements of detail, K = Struck Off-Center, etc, etc.. It seems most likely that the 26 characters in our alphabet would suffice, but if not, a double letter could be used.

The term Retained Cud is represented on a coins as a die crack extending from one point on the rim to another point on the rim. Continued use of the die results in the area between the crack and outer edge of the rim breaks away from the die, and will produce a Cud in that area of the coin. The term Pre-Cud I have seen used synonymously as Retained Cud. I believe there should be a separate definition for the term Pre-Cud. This term should refer to a die crack of some length which is headed for the rim at another point which

logically will become a retained cud and cud if the die continued in use.

So, we can now identify the denomination, the date, mint if applicable, the type if applicable, and the category of die variety. To designate whether the variety we are listing is on the obverse or reverse, the next entry would be a capital "O" for obverse, or an "R" for reverse.

Because there will be several listings under each category and each date, the requirement to designate a number of the listing will follow with consecutive numbers.

Should the exact same die have another type of variety on it, the listing number can be followed by a small letter to designate which die. Some examples follow:

- C-1857FR3 = The third listing of an 1857 Flying Eagle Cent having a Die Clash on the reverse.
- C-1858T2B1 = The first listing of an 1858 Cent with small letters having a Repunched Date. Since the date is always on the obverse, it is not necessary to show "O" within the listing number.
- C-1858T1Ao2a = The second obverse listing of an 1858 Cent with large letters, upon which is an obverse doubled die. This is also the first listed obverse doubled die of more than one on the same die (not the same coin). The verbal description that accompanies the listing would show Wexler's classification of the die.
- C-1859-F06 = The sixth listing of an 1859 Cent having an obverse die clash.

The cataloguing and numbering of each variety is for simplification of listing, computerization, etc., with each new listing or record maintenance of your collection records, a verbal description should also be used to record such things as Condition, cost, which class of doubled die, or any descriptive data you may desire. The catalog number can be placed on the coin holder so you can precisely verify which variety you are looking at without having to use a magnifying lens or microscope to do so.

Whether or not our organization uses this system, or develops a modified version or such, or develops an entirely different system, the need is present. You may find it worthwhile to list your personal collection in this manner. It is easy to learn, easy to use, and will expand as your collection grows.

It is hoped that all who read this will have occasion to use every letter of the alphabet to list their collection.

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## The F.IND.ERS™ REPORT

by Larry R. Steve

1863/863

As I continue my search for varieties, I find that it is next to impossible NOT to find something new and exciting for this series. Actually, for a few dates, I have found that simply looking for a "regular" variety is more of a challenge than finding an "error" variety. This is certainly a turn of events, and I may wish to report on this aspect in later issues.

In my correspondence and conversations with other club members, I would say that there are literally hundreds of varieties to be reported. Some of these are fairly easy to find, while others are extremely rare, (see Doug Hill's article "How Many Are There, Anyway?" on page 18 of this issue).

With the ever increasing number of such varieties, I couldn't agree more with Calvin Levorson's assertion that we have "an immediate need" to develop, at an organizational level, a system of authenticating and cataloguing the reported varieties. Plans are currently underway to fill this need, and we will keep you informed as we progress.

This month I have selected to show two varieties of 1863, a rather common date, but one that was surely to have a variety or two. Walter Breen reports in his Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins that there were probably 250 pairs of dies used. With that many pairs of dies, it was really just a matter of time and patience to come across one that was a variety.

The first is one that I would classify as a nice repunched date: 1863/863. Traces can be seen in the upper loop of the 8, above the loop of the 6, and inside both loops of the 3.

The second 1863 variety shown has a most unusual upper left serif on the 'E' of 'STATES'. I am really at a loss to explain the cause of this variety, but I found the coin to be rather interesting. I refer to this variety as an 1863 "Flying E".



1863 "Flying E"



(Photos by Tom Mulvaney)

This months feature coin is of an 1889 Doubled Die Reverse submitted by Chris Pilliod. As can be seen in the photo below, the doubling is quite dramatic. Note the doubling of the acorns and the veins of the leaves in the wreath, and along the right edge of the shield.

For you doubled die collectors out there, this is certainly one you should look for.

EDITOR'S NOTE: F.IND.ERS IS A TRADEMARK OF LARRY R. STEVE AND IS USED WITHIN THIS JOURNAL WITH HIS PERMISSION.

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#### 1889 Doubled Die Reverse



(Courtesy Chris Pilliod)

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To best communicate your Fly-In die varieties to others, you may want to use the proper terminology. Here are some commonly used definitions that sometimes get used wrongly:

**Repunched date.** This is doubling on the date that is caused when the die maker punches the numerals into the die more than once. The doubling should be distinctly visible to qualify. No other devices on the coin should show doubling from this cause. Do not use the term 'Recutting' as this gives the impression that dies are engraved rather than punched. Compare with 'Machine Doubling' below.

**Doubled die.** This is doubling on the devices (Obverse or Reverse) caused when the master die is shifted slightly between impressions in the die. On Flyers and Indians, the doubling will not show on the date. Compare with 'Machine Doubling' below. Do not use the term 'Double Struck' as that indicates a coin struck twice, and are made at the time of striking, and not the die making stage.

**Machine Doubling.** These are caused during the striking process, by either loose machinery, or loose dies. These usually carry no premium. These will show doubling on both the date and the devices! The doubling will be flat and shelf-like.

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Display Ads: Rates are for camera-ready display copy.

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Ads will only be accepted from members in good standing of the Society.

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Only ads for Flying Eagle and Indian cents are permitted.

Mail bid advertising cannot be accepted.

Unless otherwise noted, grading will be in accordance with the *Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins*.

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Send Application and check payable to:

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c/o Xan Chamberlain, Secretary  
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the collectors of small cents minted prior to the Lincoln design. Its intent is to foster a fraternal association among its members for the purpose of numismatic study, promotion and the sharing of knowledge about these coins.

It is a democratic organization and, with the exception of the Publisher/Editor (whose position is based upon qualifications), the Officers are elected by a simple majority of the members of the Society.

The Society's official publication, *Longacre's Ledger*, is produced quarterly (January, April, July and October) and is distributed to all members in good standing.

Additional copies for members and non-members alike can be obtained at a cost of \$4.50 per issue, subject to availability.

Articles, advertising, Letters to the Editor and other items of interest for possible inclusion in the Journal should be directed to:

Editor  
Longacre's Ledger  
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The deadline for any such item is the 15th of the month preceding the publication date.

