

# Coin Chronicles

The Newsletter of the Trenton Numismatic Club

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## AN ANALYSIS OF THE RARITY SCALE DISTRIBUTION OF MY PRIMARY AND DUPLICATE LARGE CENT COLLECTIONS

-Howard Spencer Pitkow

### INTRODUCTION

Over the last several years, encompassing twenty-three P-W articles, I have discussed for the reader the sequence of events describing my endeavors of trying to collect as many half and large cent varieties as possible. As of this writing I now possess 875 varieties in my PRIMARY large cent collection consisting of 267 early dates, 242 middle dates and 366 late dates.

I now have a total of 969 coppers when my 65 half cent and 29 delisted large cent varieties ( all 3 middle and 26 of 27 late dates ) are included with my 875 large cents in my primary collection. This total does not include my 462 large cent and 45 half cent DUPLICATES.

The focus of this twenty-fourth article for P-W will deal with an analysis of the rarity scale distribution of my PRIMARY and DUPLICATE large cent collections.

### PRIMARY LARGE CENT COLLECTION

In Table 1 I have compared the R4, R5 and R6 rarity scale values in my PRIMARY collection with that of the most recent values published in "THE SCORE" (early dates), "THE LIST" (middle dates) and "COMMON CENTS REPORT" (late dates). In this table the reader can observe that the total rarity values ( R4, R5, R6 ) for the early, middle and late dates in my collection are 96, 46 and 85 respectively for a total of 227 coppers. When we look at the corresponding values in the above mentioned publications the respective totals for the above large cent classifications

are 123, 47 and 85 for a total of 255. Hence, the percentage of my PRIMARY collection when compared to the literature is 78% ( 96 of 123 ) for early dates, 98% for middle dates ( 46 of 47 ) and 100% ( 85 of 85 ) for the late dates. Therefore, my R4, R5 and R6 total ( 227 of 255 ) calculates to 89% of the known values.

When we break down the above discussed totals the reader will note that the R4 rarity values for my early, middle and late dates is 43, 36 and 51 respectively with a total of 130 in my PRIMARY collection. When we compare these R4 values to those known for the three large cent groups the corresponding numbers are 54, 36 and 51 for a total of 141 ( Table 1 ). When one looks at the percentage of my PRIMARY collection with that of the three EAC publications the values of the early dates ( 43 of 54 ) is 80% while both the middle ( 36 of 36 ) and late dates ( 51 of 51 ) are complete at 100% for the R4 distribution. The total R4's in my collection ( 130 ) when compared to the total ( 141 ) is 92%.

As for the R5 values the corresponding numbers for my early, middle and late dates are 50, 9 and 31 for a total of 90 ( Table 1 ). The respective known values are 58, 9 and 31 for a total of 98. Again the percentages for the early dates ( 50 of 58 ) is 86% while the values for both the middle dates ( 9 of 9 ) and late dates ( 31 of 31 ) is 100% for the R5 coppers. The total R5's in my collection ( 90 ) when compared to the EAC literature ( 98 ) is 92%.

When considering the R6's in my PRIMARY collection I have 3 early dates, 1 middle date and 3 late dates for a total of 7 ( Table 1 ). By comparison the respective known literature numbers are 11, 2 and 3 for a total of 16. Hence, the R6 percentage for the early dates ( 3 of 11 ) is 27% while the middle date percentage is 50% ( 1 of 2 ) and the late date value is 100% ( 3 of 3 ) for the R6 large cents. The total R6's in my collection ( 7 ) when compared to the literature total ( 16 ) is 44%.

It is interesting to note that there are more late date R4's ( 51 ) than early dates ( 43 ) and middle dates ( 36 ) in my PRIMARY collection ( Table 1 ). This may be partially a reflection of the total numbers in the variety series of my late dates ( 366 ), early dates ( 267 ) and middle dates ( 242 ). As for my R5 large cents there are more early dates ( 50 ) than late dates ( 31 ) with much fewer middle dates ( 9 ). Although less dramatic, due to low numbers, my copper collection contains equal R6 early and late dates ( 3 each ) when compared to the middle dates ( 1 ).

In Table 1 both my R4's ( 130 of 141 ) and R5's ( 90 of 98 ) exhibit the same high percentage of total varieties 92% each whereas the comparable percentage for R6's decreased dramatically to 44% ( 7 of 16 ).

In Table 2 I have compared my total number for each of the R4, R5 and R6 to my total 875 varieties as a percentage. The reader will note that the R4 percentage ( 5.0% ) is 50% higher than the R5 percentage ( 10.3% ). Interestingly, the total R4,5,6 percentage ( 25.9% ) is about a quarter of my total varieties ( 227 of 875 ).

In Table 3 the total number of R4,5,6 is expressed as a percentage of the varieties I possess for each of my early, middle and late date copper categories. In this case the percentage for the early dates ( 36.0% ) is a little over a third of my 267 early date varieties ( 96 of 267 ). This percentage is followed by the late dates at 23.2% ( 85 of 366 ) and the middle dates at 19.0% ( 46 of 242 ).

In Table 4 I exhibit a variation of Tables 2 and 3 illustrating R4, R5 and R6 totals for each of the early, middle and late dates as a function of the grand totals for each of these rarities in my collection for the that of the above three large cent classifications. For example if we look at the R4 column one can observe that my late dates comprise 51 of my 130 total R4's for 39.2%. This is followed by the early dates which make up 43 of my 130 total R4's at 33.1%. Finally, the middle dates come in at 27.7% ( 36 of my 130 )

If we analyze the R5 column in Table 4 both my early date and late date R5's ( 50 and 31 respectively ) comprise 55.6% and 34.4% of my total 90 R5's whereas the middle date share is only 10.0% ( 9 of 90 ) of the R5's. As for the R6's both the early and late dates make up 3 each of the total 7 R6's ( 42.9% ) while the middle dates consist of 1 of the 7 R6's in my collection ( 14.3% ).

Again, when the reader looks at Table 4, my middle date R4 ( 27.7% ), R5 ( 10.0% ) and R6 ( 14.3% ) percentages are the lowest by far in all 3 large cent classifications averaging only 17.3%. On the other hand the early date percentages generally have the highest percentages at 33.1% ( R4 ), 55.6% ( R5 ) and 42.9% ( R6 ) respectively. This averages out to 43.9%. When we consider the late dates ( 39.2%, 34.4% and 42.9% ) their average percentage falls in between those of the middle and late dates at 38.8%.

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## COIN SHOW SCHEDULE

By Bill Liatys

### *February 2016* LOCAL SHOW SCHEDULE

**PARSIPPANY** *March 6th at Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM*  
*Pal Bldg 33 Baldwin Road Parsnippany NJ*

**BURLINGTON** *March 13th Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM*  
*Burlington Mason Lodge Route 541 Burlington, NJ*

**TREVOSE** *March 20st Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM*  
*Trevoese Fire House 4900 Street Road Trevoese, PA*

**TRI-STATE COIN & STAMP SHOW** *No Show-Easter Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM*  
*Williamson's Restaurant 500 Blair Mill Road Horsham, PA*

**WHITMAN COIN & COLLECTIBLES** *March 31 – April 3 Thursday – Sunday*  
*Thursday – Noon – 6 PM Friday – Saturday - 10 AM – 6 PM Sunday – 10 AM – 3 PM*  
*Baltimore Convention Center One W. Pratt Street*  
*Baltimore, MD*

**GSNA ANNUAL CONVENTION SHOW** *May 12 – May 14 Thursday – Saturday*  
*Thursday – 1 PM – 7 PM Friday – 10 AM – 7 PM Saturday – 10 AM – 4 PM*  
*Ukrainian Cultural Center 135 Davidson Ave. Somerset, NJ*

### *President's Message*

*By Andrew Waholek*

Hello to all and Happy February! I hope everyone has had a wonderful month! We will be having our second meeting of the year on Monday February 22nd 2016 at 7pm. Make sure to bring those new coins that you've acquired for some show and tell. I myself have a few cool goodies I can't wait to show to all of you.

Last month I had the pleasure of meeting with the new library director Scott Chianese and making a donation on behalf of the club to the library. We discussed the purpose and history of who our club is and what we are about. We will also be taking care of the display cases that are located in the entrance of the library in October of this year. If anyone would like to help by putting a display together, or, if you have ideas for something that you would like to see, please let me know. Hope to see many of you there with us this month! Untill then.... Stay warm and safe!

From Page 1

#### DUPLICATE LARGE CENT COLLECTION

Of my 462 DUPLICATE large cents only 370 were attributable. The other 92 coppers were partial / no dates or were so incredibly worn defying attribution. When the rarity scale values ( Table 5 ) are analyzed the reader will note that of the 370 total duplicates there are 296 R 1/2 ( 80% ), 49 R3 ( 13% ), 17 R4 ( 5% ) and 8 R5 ( 2% ). When these totals are further subdivided for the early dates the relative numbers are 24 R1/2, 5 R3, 1 R4 and 0 R5 for a total of 30. For the middle date duplicates there are 132 R1/2, 16 R3, 3 R4 and 1 R5 for a total of 152. When the late dates are considered one can observe from Table 5 the 140 R1/2, 28 R3, 13 R4 and 7 R5 for a total of 188. Here we can see that the collective number of rarities ( R1/2 to R5 ) decreases progressively ( 296, 49, 17, 8 ) as we ascend the rarity scale, an inverse relationship ( Table 5 ). The above mentioned trend in Table 5 also applies when we compare the rarity scale ( R1/2 to R5 ) to each of the early, middle and late date categories. For the early dates the numbers progressively decrease from 24 ( R 1/2 ) to 5 ( R3 ) and eventually 1 ( R4 ) and 0 ( R5 ). This inverse relationship, as we ascend the rarity scale, is also evident in the middle dates where the numbers are 132 ( R 1/2 ), 16 ( R3 ), 3 ( R4 ) and 1 ( R5 ) as well as for the late dates of 140 ( R 1/2 ), 28 ( R3 ), 13 ( R4 ) and 7 ( R5 ).

Contrary to the above inverse relationship tendencies there is a direct positive relationship between each one of the four rarity groups as we ascend each of the three large cent categories. For example, this is exhibited for the R 1/2 ( 24, 132, 140 ), R3 ( 5, 16, 28 ), R4 ( 1, 3, 13 ) and R5 ( 0, 1, 7 ) which progressively increases in the early, middle and late date large cent groupings. In order for the reader to gain an additional perspective it should be noted that among these duplicate cents there are 25 R4 plus R5 ( 7% ) ( Table 5 ). If we include the R3 group this number increases to 74 ( 20% ) of the 370 duplicate total. The remaining 296 duplicates are R 1/2 ( 80% ).

In Table 6 I have compared my PRIMARY and DUPLICATE large cent variety collections as a function of the rarity scale ( R4, R5, R6 ). The reader will note that in the early, middle and late date categories there is a significant increase, especially in the R4 and R5 groups, in the primary large cent category when compared to the duplicates. These differences are staggering and self evident. For the three large cent category totals the rarity ratios are 96:1 ( early dates ), 46:4 ( middle dates ) and 85:20 ( late dates ) respectively.

TABLE 1				
Number and Percentage of Rarities in my Primary Large Cent Collection <sup>a, b</sup>				
RARITY	R4	R5	R6	TOTAL
Early Dates				
Collection	43	50	3	96
"The Score"	54	58	11	123
Percent	80	86	27	78
Middle Dates				
Collection	36	9	1	46
"The List"	36	9	2	47
Percent	100	100	50	98
Late Dates				
Collection	51	31	3	85
"Common Cents"	51	31	3	85
Percent	100	100	100	100
Total				
Collection	130	90	7	227
EAC Literature	141	98	16	255
Percent	92	92	44	89

<sup>a</sup> Excludes noncollectibles, proofs, uniques and delisted varieties

<sup>b</sup> Based on 875 varieties

TABLE 2		
Percent of Rarities in My Primary Large Cent Collection Compared to Total Varieties		
RARITY	FRACTION	PERCENTAGE
R4	130 ÷ 875	15.0%
R5	90 ÷ 875	10.3%
R6	7 ÷ 875	0.8%
Total R4, 5, 6	227 ÷ 875	25.9%

TABLE 3			
Percent of Rarities for My Primary Early, Middle and Late Date Total Varieties			
CLASSIFICATION	RARITIES	FRACTION	PERCENTAGE
Early Dates	R4, 5, 6	96 ÷ 267	36.0%
Middle Dates	R4, 5, 6	46 ÷ 242	19.0%
Late Dates	R4, 5, 6	85 ÷ 366	23.2%

TABLE 4						
Percent of Total Individual Rarity Classification for Early, Middle and Late Dates in My Primary Large Cent Collection						
R4		R5		R6		
Large Cent	Fraction	Percentage	Fraction	Percentage	Fraction	Percentage
Early Date	43 ÷ 130	33.1%	50 ÷ 90	55.6%	3 ÷ 7	42.9%
Middle Date	36 ÷ 130	27.7%	9 ÷ 90	10.0%	1 ÷ 7	14.3%
Late Date	51 ÷ 130	39.2%	31 ÷ 90	34.4%	3 ÷ 7	42.9%

TABLE 5					
Duplicate Large Cent Rarity Scale Distribution <sup>a, b, c, d, e</sup>					
Rarity	R1/2	R3	R4	R5	Total
Early Dates	24	5	1	0	30
Middle Dates	132	16	3	1	152
Late Dates	140	28	13	7	188
Total	296	49	17	8	370
Percentage	80	13	5	2	100

<sup>a</sup> R 4 + 5 = 25 = 7%

<sup>b</sup> R 3, 4 + 5 = 74 = 20%

<sup>c</sup> R 1 + 2 = 296 = 80%

<sup>d</sup> Excludes 43 partial/no date cents

<sup>e</sup> Excludes 49 unattributable cents

TABLE 6						
Comparison of My Primary and Duplicate Large Cent Rarity Scale Distribution						
Rarity Scale	Early Date		Middle Date		Late Date	
	Primary	Duplicate	Primary	Duplicate	Primary	Duplicate
R4	43	1	36	3	51	13
R5	50	0	9	1	31	7
R6	3	0	1	0	3	0
TOTAL	96	1	46	4	85	20



**Trenton Numismatic Club**

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**Trenton Numismatic Club is members of:**



## Peoples Line- Passenger Steamship

-Harry Garrison

These Civil War store card tokens ( NY-630-BD-1a ) served as both advertising and timetable . The People's line steamboats were the "Isaac Newton" and the "New World" running between New York and Albany daily in connection with the New York Central Railroad. Arriving in Albany passengers were able to connect with morning trains heading to the East, West and North.

The steamers left for Albany every evening at 6 o'clock from pier 16 at the base of Cortland Street. The New World sailed on Mondays Wednesdays and Saturdays while the Isaac Newton took the alternate evenings. The ships left Albany at 7:30 pm for the return trip to New York City. The Isaac Newton was at one time depicted on a Currier and Ives lithograph titled "A night on the Hudson" Ultimately, the Isaac Newton burned in the waters off Manhattan and sank on December 5, 1863. The Hendrick Hudson replaced the burned ship and served the line until 1865.

## Did you know that:

6. Legend holds that George Washington donated some of his personal silver to the Mint for manufacturing early coinage.
7. The Mint's first delivery of coins occurred in 1793 and consisted of 11,178 copper cents.
8. Mint marks, "S", "D", "P", or "W" designate the Mint facility, which produced the coin.
9. Thomas Jefferson first proposed the decimal currency system, which we use today.
10. By provision of the Coinage Act of 1965, Mint marks were not carried on coins made in 1965, 1966, or 1967.

Information from [usmint.gov](http://usmint.gov)

## Articles Wanted

If you have a topic you'd like to be covered in the Newsletter... write an article or submit your idea. Don't be shy....do it. All entries are welcome. Articles will appear in the Newsletter as soon as possible and might be edited for space consideration, not editorial content.

## Meeting Schedule

The Trenton Numismatic Club meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ONE JUSTICE SAMUEL A. ALITO JR. WAY  
HAMILTON, NJ 08619-3809

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