

RARE COINS FORGED

THE COUNTERFEIT PIECES DO NOT FOOL THE EXPERTS.

Dates Are Changed and Mint Marks Are Imitated, but There Are Always Little Things That Reveal the Fraud—Even Cent Pieces Altered.

Rare United States coins can't be counterfeited so as to pass muster," said an old coin dealer emphatically. "There is no more chance of die makers being able to make an exact counterpart of a coin than there is to imitate successfully the impression of a man's thumb.

"That there are imitations is true enough, but they are clumsy. Most of them are simple alterations of date. They can be told at a glance by signs as unfailing as the sun.

"While the coins of a series of years may seem at first glance to be all of one exact pattern, yet close observation will reveal distinct differences. No better illustration of this can be shown than the rare cent pieces of 1794.

"Fifty-six distinct varieties of cents were issued in that year, and all of them closely resembled one another. Careful study enables experts to tell them apart. It was in this way that coin experts found that there were so many different dies made for the cent in 1794, for the mint records make no mention of the fact.

"The favorite coin with those who alter dates is the rare 1799 cent, which is worth \$200 and more if in unaltered condition. The 1798 cent is the issue that most closely resembles this cent, and this is the coin that is used for alteration. No collector should be taken in by one of these altered specimens, for there were only two varieties of the 1799 cent, and each has marked differences from the coins of the previous year.

"The 1804 dollar is another fine example. That is the rarest American coin. You would naturally suppose that there would be many attempts to counterfeit this dollar, for it is worth from \$1,000 up. There has never been a single attempt to counterfeit this famous coin, but a number of coins have been turned out with the date altered.

"The design of the 1804 dollar is the same to all practical purposes as that of the year preceding it and in fact as far back as 1798. The silver dollars of 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803 and 1804 are all supposed to be alike, with the exception of the date, and they do look as much alike as two peas to the novice. Yet the die makers each year have left trifling differences that make the variety and the year of issue as clear as daylight.

"In almost every case when attempts

have been made to imitate the 1804 date the dollar of 1801 has been used, a specimen of which is only worth a couple of dollars. To all appearances an 1801 dollar is precisely like the 1804 coin, with the trifling difference in date, and thus the person making the alterations seems to think he has nothing to do but simply change the 1 into a 4. Yet the reverse of the 1801 dollar bears little variations that show the year in which it was struck.

"Plausible tales are nearly always told by persons with such altered coins to sell. Not long ago a man came into my place from the far west. Out of a chamois bag which he carried around his neck he took two coins carefully wrapped in tissue paper.

"Tenderly he laid the coins in my hand. He was not a coin collector, he said, but had heard that these two pieces were very valuable and had bought them at a low figure.

"One of the coins was supposed to be an 1804 dollar and the other the rare 1853 half dollar, without the arrow points alongside of the date, which ought to have been worth from \$75 to \$100. They were certainly beauties, both of them, and the old man told their history, which went something like this:

"Back in the early forties a farm seeker, with his family and all his effects in a prairie schooner, came to a halt at a ferry landing on the eastern side of a river in Kansas. The man was at the end of his financial resources, and the only thing in the way of money he had left was a large silver dollar of 1801.

"He persuaded the ferryman to take his outfit across in his flatboat and left with him this dollar, which the pioneer said was a rare one, worth \$10 or \$12 back in the states, and he made the ferryman promise to hold the coin until he called for it and paid the price of the ferrage.

"The owner of the dollar never called. After keeping the dollar for many years the ferryman died, and his son disposed of it to the present owner, who had picked it up for the bargain price of \$200. The ferryman's son, who was a good natured fellow, gave the buyer as good measure the 1853 half dollar, which, he said, was also a rare coin.

"Now, that was a very likely story and ought to sell any coin, but not here in the east. They were both very fine specimens, and they looked good to the eye, but they were both imitations and not worth any more than the metal of which they were made except as curiosities.

"The 1804 dollar was one altered from 1801 which a glance at the reverse showed, although the substituted '4' would have given the thing away, for this last figure was raised very perceptibly higher than the '1801'.

"As for the 1853 half dollar, it bore no arrow points on either side of the date for the very simple reason that

they had been rubbed away. The work had been done very cleverly and thoroughly. One would hardly suspect that it had ever borne arrow heads, for there was no indication left to show this, but the industrious workman had forgotten to rub away the rays behind the eagle on the reverse of the coin.

"There were two varieties of half dollars made in 1853. One, the common variety, had arrow points on either side of the date, while on the reverse rays shot out in all directions at the back of the eagle. The other variety, which is the valuable one, had neither rays nor arrows.

"Attempts have been made to imitate the coat of 1815. No cents were issued in that year, and yet I have seen a dozen specimens bearing the date.

"Now the latter day imitators have taken up the task of adding mint letters to certain coins to make them resemble rare varieties. The accumulation of coins bearing these mint marks is taking a good deal of the attention of collectors nowadays, and the imitators think they have an easy field, but their time is simply wasted, for their productions meet with no better success than the imitation of the earlier coins and can be singled out in a moment.

"The coin most often imitated is the half dollar of 1838, made at New Orleans. There were only twenty of these coined, and each one is worth from \$75 to \$100. To all appearances this coin is just the same as many others issued at other branch mints during the same year, with the exception of the tiny 'o' beneath the bust.

"From time to time persons have taken an ordinary half dollar of this date and with infinite pains have supplied it with this mint letter. In the majority of cases the work has been done so skillfully that the letter has every appearance of genuineness to the novice. But almost invariably the letter is located in a spot different from that occupied by the 'o' on the genuine coin.

"Even if the imitator took care to place the mint letter in its proper position there are other points of difference in the dies which reveal the fact that the coin has been tampered with."—New York Sun.

THE MEXICAN RACE.

It is a blending of the Indian with the Moro-Spaniard.

The Mexican is a blend of the strong and sober Indian race, melancholy, serious of thought, with the Moro-Spaniard, who for eight centuries waged war in the Iberian peninsula. The Moors left in Spain something of their blood, much of their speech and not a little of their habit of thought and customs. It is a good stock, that old Arab race—administrators, wonderful cultivators of the soil, chivalric as becomes

the riders of horses, courteous, with an oriental graciousness. The blend with the southern Spaniard made the Andalusian race which profoundly influenced the first immigration into Mexico. We hear their words, the relics of their speech, and we note often the vestiges of their customs. The Moro-Spaniard has made his impress on Mexican architecture and customs. Often the Moorish eyes in some Mexican woman's face, proud, yet mournful, arrest attention in the crowded streets.

The Anglo-Saxon is the newer man, as it were. He is a man of positive achievements. To him are due the railway and the steamship, the telegraph and the telephone, the consolidation of business, the active commercial conquest of the world's markets. He in our modern age matches the old Romans in many deeds, in world adventure. He is the younger brother in the great Aryan family, which came into Europe ages ago from northern India. Spaniard and American, Mexican and German, are all relatives, kinsmen long time unaware of their blood relation. Spanish, English, French, Italian and German, the basis of Aryan and the Sanskrit is the common storehouse of the word roots, which we all employ every day.

Curious that we should insist on our differences when we are all essentially the same. Whatever is Aryan in us (and that is the greater part) is not Semitic. We are blood brothers and not strangers. The Moor is Arabian and therefore Semitic, as are the Jews. But most of the blood in Spanish veins is Aryan, and hence relates whatever is Latin in the Mexican, the Central or South American, to the German, English and American.

By magnifying our differences, after all but our distinctive family traits, we draw apart. If we stopped to trace our origin we should see that we are not strangers, but brethren—Modern Mexico.

YOUTHFUL WARRIORS.

Pizarro completed the conquest of Peru at thirty-five and died at forty.

Cortez effected the conquest of Mexico and completed his military career before the age of thirty-six.

The great Conde defeated the Spaniards at Rocroi at twenty-two and won all his military fame before the age of twenty-five.

Peter the Great of Russia was proclaimed czar at ten years of age, organized a large army at twenty, won the victory at Embach at thirty, founded St. Petersburg at thirty-one and died at the age of fifty-five.

The Question.

"A politician should strive to be a representative man."

"Certainly," answered Senator Sorghum. "The question is whether you are going to represent the public or the boss."—Washington Star.

TRICKS OF ORATORY

DEVICES USED BY NOTED SPEAKERS TO GAIN A POINT.

The Effect Demosthenes Attained by Mispronouncing His Words—The Trick into Which the Eloquent Curran Drew a Witness.

One wonders of Demosthenes whether he ever in after years resumed of set purpose that habit of stammering which he had taken such heroic means to eradicate. A stammer is a most effective trick sometimes, and we know that Alcibiades found his lip by no means the least useful of his many winning ways. The trick in oratory combines both the conventional meanings of the word. It is sometimes a habit, sometimes a will, sometimes both.

Addison tells a capital story of a trick in forensic oratory. At Westminster hall "there was a counselor who never pleaded without a piece of pack-thread in his hand, which he used to twist about a thumb or finger all the while he was speaking. The wags of those days called it 'the thread of his discourse,' for he was not able to utter a word without it," as a foolish client proved once to his own cost, for he stole the thread, and his advocate came to utter grief.

Another clever sort of trick, the "taking dodge," to borrow a phrase from the vernacular, is the more generally interesting. The classic instance which naturally occurs to every one is Burke's famous "dagger scene" in the house of commons when he emphasized his peroration regarding the reign of terror in France by dramatically throwing a dagger on the floor of the house as an example of the methods of the apostles of liberty, equality and fraternity.

One of the tricks credited to Sheridan was very much on the lines of a famous "score" of classic times. A member whose admiration for the brilliant statesman was not tempered with discretion greatly annoyed Sheridan by continually ejaculating, "Hear, hear!" without rhyme or reason. Sheridan determined to give him a lesson. At the close of one of his speeches, denunciatory of some individual, he used the words, "Where shall we find a more foolish knave or a more knavish fool than he?"

"Hear, hear!" came as usual from the troublesome enthusiast. Sheridan bowed, thanked him for so obligingly supplying the required information and resumed his seat.

And long centuries before Demosthenes, inveighing against an opponent who was suspected of receiving subsidies from the court of Persia, passionately asked the crowded audience, "Is he not Mithotos—a hireling?" But as though inadvertently he mispronounced the words so obviously that the audience shouted out corrections from all points—"Misthotos! Misthotos!" the effect of which was to make the citizens themselves apply the opprobrious epithet.

Not very dissimilar in character is one of the many tricks attributed to Curran. He was engaged on a case wherein the principal witness on the other side was a gentleman of position whose evidence, if accepted, would be conclusive. In his opening speech Curran inveighed with all the bitterness and eloquence in his power against the chief witness for the other side, but without actually mentioning his name. When the time came for the witness—a Mr. Leger—to be sworn Curran interposed in the blandest way that this was surely a needless formality. Mr. Leger's character was such that he felt sure the jury would accept his simple assertion. The unfortunate man fell into the trap. "I am glad, Mr. Curran, you have a better opinion of me now than when you first spoke." "You admit, then, sir, that, though I named no names, you recognized my description as applying to yourself?"

Another of Curran's oratorical tricks is not unlike one Sheridan perpetrated on the house. In this case the last speaker, it will be remembered, had wound up his speech with a classical quotation, which, to judge from the plaudits it received, made a most effective point. Sheridan in his reply regretted the honorable member had not completed the quotation. He would do so himself, and the house would then see how fatal to the contention of the honorable member was the authority he had cited, whereupon Sheridan with magnificent dramatic effect recited a gorgeous piece of gibberish! And the house applauded vigorously.

Curran's trick was at the expense of a preternaturally stupid jury. The judge happened to be a consummate classical scholar and, knowing Curran to be the same, was naturally astounded on hearing him quote a piece of Latin as coming from the Phantasmagoria of the historian Hesiod! "You mean Latin poet, Mr. Curran. Hesiod was a Greek, a poet and not a historian, and I doubt whether he ever wrote a work called the Phantasmagoria. The lines are Juvenal's." "Hesiod, my lord, I assure you, and Greek, not Latin." "You must be out of your senses, Mr. Curran, or think I am out of mine. The lines are Latin." "Well, my lord, I can only suggest that we leave it as an issue for the jury, and I'll be bound they will find it—Greek." The trick was perfectly effectual.—London Globe.

A Chesterfield Retort.

When Lord Chesterfield was in his last illness and his death was only a matter of a few weeks, his physician advised him to go for an easy drive in his carriage, and he went out. As the equipage was proceeding slowly along it was met by a lady, who remarked pleasantly to the great invalid, "Ah, my lord, I am glad to see you able to drive out!" "I am not driving out, madam," answered Chesterfield. "I am simply rehearsing my funeral."

LAWRENCE

READY MIXED PAINTS

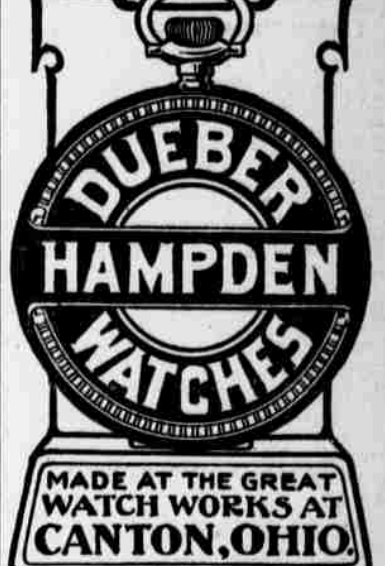
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