# MASON'S <br> <br> Coin and stamp 

 <br> <br> Coin and stamp}

## COLIECTORS'



MAGAZTNE

VOL. II.

APIEII, 1868. No. 1.

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## MASON's

## Goin and Stamp Collectors MAGAZINE.

Vol. II.

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\text { APRIL, } 1868 .
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## ANTIQUARIAN RESEARCHES IN NORTH AMERICA.

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We had received an invitation from General Quitman to investigate the aboriginal structures upon his plantation, situated on the margin of the Mississippi river, eight miles above the town of Natchez.

On the sixth day of July, long before the dawn of a delightful morning, we were summoned from our slumbers by our faithful groom, who had been actively engaged during the greater part of the night in preparing for

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On the sixth day of July, long before the dawn of a delightful morning, we were summoned from our slumbers by our faithful groom, who had been actively engaged during the greatcr part of the night in preparing for
our early departure on the coming morn.

We found everything in readiness; our horses saddled and in the eourtyard; our instruments, note-books, port-folios, \&e., were deposited in our saddle-bags, whieh were waiting orders only to be plaeed upon the saddles. The stars were yet beaming their silvery brightness, and the elear heaven was the advent of a glorious dawn.

As the mist of night melted gently away, we partook of breakfast in the true Southern style; and, as we arose from the meal, the beauteous light of day burst forth in all its splendor.

We mounted, and sped our eourse through a ehain of diluvial hills, and over the wooded heights of Adams county, with light hearts. A short ride brought us to the vieinity of the overseer's house and the negro quarters, that fringe the beautiful plantations in the neighborhood of the town.

As we were admiring these seenes, the shrill matin-bell pealed, reminding the sooty immates of the huts that the hour was approaching for the renewal of their daily toil.

In a moment, as if by the wand of a magieian, the eurly heads of hundreds, old and young, male and female, issued out from the doors of their quarters, and as they inhaled the pure southerly atmosphere, they sent forth a whoop or a song of gladness at the sight of a brilliant sun.

Some rent the air with their shrill voices, aeeompanied with an oceasional grotesque jerk of the head or extremities, to exeite the laughter of their eomrades. All was animation as they advanced towards the overseer to answer to the roll-call.

We journeyed on, and as the sun increased in brilliancy, we deseended the gorge leading to the crossing of the
great mammoth ravine, so eelebrated for its numerous and unique fossil remains. This is the locality of the only truly fossilized human bone upon reeord.

At various times, for the last thin'ty years, bones of extraordinary size have been found in this bayou, throughout its whole extent, even to where it empties into the St. Catharine.

These relies, so valuable to the mtelligent naturalist, and interesting to the eause of seience, have generally been abandoned, after exeiting a momentary euriosity, to moulder away in a eotton-gin yard, or a fence eorner, by the disintegrating effeets of the atmosphere, or to beeome the prey of some itinerant euriosity-monger.

I regret to say that, after the novelty of diseovery subsides, researeh generally ceases, even when a little labor bestowed in the pursuit. might be attended with the happiest results.

The reason of this is, however, evident; most of the good people in the eountry are too much oeeupied with their agrieultural pursuits to bestow on seientific matters more than mere momentary attention. And yet, no portion of the eommunity are more deeply benefited in geologieal developments of every kind than our planters.

It is to be hoped that they will, before long, shake off their apathy, and give some oeeasional attention to the interest of seienee ; whieh their position often puts in their power to addvanee, without mueh trouble or expense.

I had frequently been told by persons living in this vieinity, of skeletons that had found heads and tusks several feet long, whiel were never removed from their original beds. During my eight years sojourn in the South, I colleeted a large number of the mique
fossils, a majority of which were found in this ravine; among them, stand most prominent, the "Milodon of Owen," "Megalonyx of Harlem," the gigantic "Equus Amerieanus of Dickeson," the tecth of whieh I handed over to my colleague Dr. Leidy, for deseription, (see Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences, 1867), the Mastodon, Bison, Elk, Castoroides, ©.Ec.
(To be Continued.)

## 'THE OLDEST' COINS.

Whether IIerorlotus is right in attributing the invention of eoined money to the Lydians, is perhaps somewhat open to question. It is, however, very remarkable that the aneient $\Lambda$ ssyrians and Egyptians, with all their wonderful advance in civilization, should never have invented anything better than lumps and bars of metal as a mediun for exchange. The carliest money mentioned in the Bible-as, for instance, that earried by Joseph's brethren into Egypt, was "in weight."

The first Hebrew coinage is no older than the Maceabees. The first Egyptian began with the suecessors of Alexander. Examples of Lyydian coins have come down to us, but as they have no inseriptions, their dates ean only be guessed at. Some of them are of the rudest deseription, being merely a lump of elcetrum-three parts gold to one of silver-upon one surface of which was impressed a lion's head or other clevice; the other surface, like that of the old silver coins of Жgina, being merely flattened by the block upon which the metal was struck. A method, "equally simple, is mentioned in the " Asiatie Transactions" as having been lately practiced in India.
"A pieec of mango-tree, about four feet in length, was half-buried in the
ground, in the middle of whiel was inserted a die; upon the die was placed a circular piece of gold, and over that another die. The upper dic was then struck with a sledge hammer, and the mohur dropped on one side eomplete."

## QUEEN ANNE'S FARTIILNGS.

About one English coin there exists a very singular delusion: Queen Anne's firthing. Often and often have the officers of the British Museum received letters asking whether, as the writer was in posession of the third of the farthings, of whieh the Museum had the other two, he was not entitled to some one thousand pounds or so ; and grievous, no doubt, has been his disappointment at being told that his fancied treasure might possibly be worth four or five shillings. How the delusion ever originated, it is impossible to say; but one account tells us that a lady in Yorkshire having lost one of these farthings, which she valued as the bequest of a dear friend, offered a very large sum for its recovery, and this gave rise to a false impression of the value of any specimen. It is commonly believed that only threc examples of the farthings were struek off, because it was found that there was a flaw near the bridge of the Queen's nose.

There are really no less than five or six different patterns of the farthing, but most of them were struck for approval only, and never issued. The genuine farthing has the inscription "Anヶ2a Dei gracia" surrounding the Queen's bust ; on the reverse the figure of, and the inscription, "Brittania." It is dated 1714. Another, which was also perhaps in eireulation, exaetly resembles the one just mentioned, but has the date 1713. They have broad
milled edges, like the farthings of George III. Of the patterns, the rarest seems to be one like the genuine farthing, but with the inscription "Anna Regina." In 1823 there was a trial at Dublin about a Queen Anne's farthing, which, it was stated, had actually been sold for eight hundred pounds.

## PECULIARITIES of AMERICAN

 COINS.$$
\text { No. } 2 .
$$

There is an imperfection in the obverse of the 1817 cent with fifteen stars, that I have never seen stated in print. Under the lobulus of the ear is a triangular piece of copper which is botha peculiar to this variety of the American cent, and also an unintentional supernumerary on the part of the artist.

There is a cent of 1802 with a break in the obverse die, which gives it a peculiar appearance. I have seen more than one sample of it. The erack commencing on the right side at the edge about half way between the date and the word "liberty," extends nearly to the head, then, with an acute angle, it turns upwards, just escaping the letter " $y$ " of the word "liberty." This angular broken part of the dic las produced a depression in the coin, so marked, that a distinguished dealer in a remarkably populous city in the United States, who possessed one, suggested to the writer that it might have been occasioned by a blow of a hammer or other implement.

As far as my information extends, there are two types of the "Vermontensium Res Publica; " one with eight trees, and one with seven trees. I have in my possession a variety of the latter, that has some remarkable features. The tree to the estreme light does not touch the bank upon which
it was intended to stand, but is perceptibly to its right. Another tree is elevated abore the bank, about a line or a line and a half. A third difference is in a duplicate letter "u" in the "Publica," which the artist, it would appear, had made to run too much inwards, so that he duplicated it in a more proper place, but neglected to crase the original.

This is my theory-others may suggest a more plausible one. A word about calling pieces unique. Dealers in their business, amateurs in speaking of what they have seen, and catalogues describing picces for sale, frequently make use of the word. May I not suggest that it would be more modest and avert the danger of contempt and ridicule, to say, "believed to be unique," or "unique, so far as is known to the speaker."

It should have been stated in my last article, that there is a 1798 cent, by no means rare, with the '99 head. I have recently met with an 1806 halfcent, and heard of a cent of 1802 without stems to the wreath.

In my next, I shall have something to say about coins I have scen or can show, that have been made to perform two uses.
§

## COIN SALES.

The "Nippes Collection" of coins which was to have been sold in this city recently, remains in statu quo; the trustees of the Nippes estate not having decided whether to sell in New York or Philadelphia. Due notice will be given of the sale, and catalogues sent to each subscriber. The other "Philadelphia Sale," alluded to in previous numbers of this journal is at a stand still, owing to the lack of fine American coins momiscd by outside parties, but not yet forthcoming.
W. E. Woodward is now negotiating for a $\$ 14,000$ colleetion, which, if purchased, will be offered for public sale in New York in July.

## SMALL COLNS.

Mr. Kelley introduced a bill recently providing for a uniform system of small coinage, directing the coinage of one, three, five, and ten eent pieees of nickel and silver, whieh shall be legal tender to the amount of $\$ 1$, said coins to be substituted for the present silver, niekel and paper eoinage of and under the value of ten cents. Referred to the committee on eoinage.

Experiments are now being made at U. S. Mint, with a view of issuing 10 and 15 cent pieees similar to present 5 cent picees, and withdrawal of all paper curreney below the denomination of 25 eents.

## NO MORE POSTAGE STAMPS TO BE USED.

We see it stated that hereafter we are to have only stamped envelopes.The old-fashioned postage stamp, onee considered so great a eonvenience, is now voted as a nuisance, says an exc ! ange ; they are so often lost when used, and are so often forgrotten by writers of letters, that the department has decided to diseourage their further use. Aecordingly, discontinuing their further manufacture, it has determined to issue in future only stamped envelopes. These will be issued of all sizes and rates of postage, and to encourage their general use they will be sent to any address, when three hundred are ordered, with the printed notification on the baek to return to the writer if not called for in a specified time. This re-mailing, also, will be done free of postage.
[The above paragraph is going the rounds of the press, but from whence it emanated, or by whose authority printed, we are unable to ascertain.Certain it is, that the government would not be guilty of such a foolish act as to deprive the poorer classes of the invaluable privilege of buying a single stamp. An envelope stamped would eost singly four cents, as no less sum eould be taken for it; thus making a paekage of envelopes (now costing 10 cents) 25 cents.
The injustice of the thing is apparent at a glanee, besides its inconvenienees. If a government letter envelope is mis-direeted, it nceessitates a loss of three eents to a class unable and unwilling to suffer so great a wrong. ED.]

## MEDALS.

J. A. Bolen, of Springfield, Mass., has issued some very handsome medals reeently. We make room for the following :

No. 24. Historieal Token. Obverse, eagle on shield, Massaehusetts 1866. Reverse, Lexington, $\Lambda$ pril 19, 1775 ; Baltimore, April 19, 1861. Size 18.

No. 25. Springfield Token. Obverse same as No. 24. Reverse, Springfield Antiquarians: Jas. Parker, Wm. H. Bowdoin, C. B. Newell, J. A. Bolen, J. Whiteomb, D. K. Lee, Wm. Clogston. Size 18.

No. 26. Business Card. Obverse, head to lett ; J. A. Bolen, 1867 ; Reverse same as No. 21. Size 16.
No. 27. Washington Medal. Obverse, head to right; Washington.Reverse, Geo. Washington, 1st President U. S.; the Union is the main prop of our Liberty. Size 16.
No. 28. Jefferson Medal. Obverse, head to right; Jefferson. Reverse, Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President U. S.

Equal and exact Justice to all men.Sizc 16.

No. 29. Jackson Medal. Obverse, head to right; Jackson. Reversc, Andrew Jackson, 7th President U.S. The stern old soldier : a foc to traitors.Size 16.
No, 30. Lincoln Medal. Obverse, head to right; Lincoln. Reversc, Abraham Lincoln, 16th President U. S. Emancipation, the great event of the 19th century. Size 16.
No. 31. Webster Mcdal. Obverse, head to right; Webstcr. Reverse, Daniel Webster, the able defender of the Constitution. Sizc 16.
No. 32. Libertas Americana MIdal. Obverse, head to left with flowing hair. Liberty cap over right shoulder. Libcratas Americana, 4 Juil, 1776. Reverse, same as obverse of No. 26. Size 16.
[The above medals can be had in copper on receipt of 50 cents each, by addressing this office. Ed.]

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## Waynesville, Warren Co., Ohio, Februcry 26th, 1868.

Gents.:-I have a number of very old and valuable copper coins, which I value very highly, and had thought I would never part with them, but for reasons unncecssary to state here, I am willing to sell, if I can get what I consider a fair pricc. I have one brass coin which you have not, most likely, on your list. I valuc it above price, still I will scll, but it must bring a sum far above what you offer for our copper coinage. I will explain briefly as I can: James II. of England, you will find by reference to Macauley's History, was dethroned by his son-inlav, William of Orange. He came back with a French Army to Ireland, raised
a rebellion there, but ran out of moncy, when, says the historian, he collected old brass cannon, kettles, door-knobs, \&c., scnt them to the mint and had them coincd into "shillings," "halfguincas" and "guincas," and decreed arbitrarily that they should be received as such, though their intrinsic valuc would rate then hardly with half-pence. William, the King of England, sent an army and quickly drove him out of the country, and thus stopped this strange coinage. Macauley testifics that he has "seen several" of these coins in libraries, and from his manner and from the force of circumstances, we must believe they are very rarc.He also testifies that these coins are remarkably well executed for the time to which they belong, a fact in which I fully agrec. Now, I have one of these guincas-most likely the only one on the continent; date, 1689. It is in a splendid state of prescrvation, cverything about it quite legible and perfect, millcd edges. I would respectfully invite a bid for that coin. If it is so rare in England, it is of course much more of a novelty here.

Tir. J. B.

Salem, March 10, 1868.
Dear Sirs:-The '99 came duly to hand. Enclosed picase find ' 98 like minc. Though comparatively poor, it shows the horn on the 8 , and has the large date and boldly cut head which ' 98 's in general do not have, and convinces me that it must be an overstrike. Please accept it with my regards for you, as holding the same opinion with me.
I was pleased and amused to read your answer to the collection of coftin wood, buttons, tecth, \&e. Many of the fimily think M. \& W. quite spicy, thongh they do not appreciate the coin part.

The fellow, too, who keeps coins in oil three or four weeks, illustrates a large class that colleet with an idea to the age regardless of quality, and think that a eoin must be rusty to be old, forgetting that, like some old people, age may preserve a youthful appearance. I should like to supply him with rusty eireles of copper from "half-way-roek" in our larbor, where every fisherman that passes or has passed in his boat, since 1626 or thereabouts, has thrown a eopper to Dame Luck. Please send me the priced eatalogue, and believe me, Yours, truly, J. R.
[ A sense of modesty should eompel us to omit your letter, but we eannot forego the pleasure of adding "eondiments" to our dry dishes of numismatie matter ; henee the appearance of your letter. Ed.]

Messrs. Editors :-The only proper way to have an international unit of value for eoinage, is to have all nations adopt the proper system of weights and measures, based upon the diameter of the earth. The Freneh system. based upon the quadrant, is not the proper one. The ten-millionth part of the diameter is about 50.135 inches, and the eubie one-hundredth part of this, of distilled water; would weigh about $319-10$ troy grains, which of gold, at the standard fineness, is of the value of $123 \frac{1}{2}$ eents nearly, or about $1 \frac{1}{2}$ eents more than an ounce of silver of standard fineness. As the dollar was originally the ounce eoin of silver, the name being only a local one for a partieular eoinage, this unit of value would be in conformity with it. The value of the dollar has been getting less and less, instead of being restored to what it was originally. The ounee coill of silver was eommon in Europe a century aco ; besides the dollar, the
erowns, sequins and scudi were ounce eoins, and the dueats double ounce eoins. The gold dollar, one-fourth larger than at present, would be much better ; and the silver dollar of an $0 \%$. weight would be a beautiful eoin, and would be peeuliarly the workingman's eoin, and most aceeptable to a majority of the Ameriean people, who, with everything else enlarged, would like the large dollar. The present dollar differs from the Freneh five-franc: piece exaetly $2 \frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ; a differenee of the easiest eomputation ; and it should not be forgotten is that of the SpanishAmeriean States. The system of weights, measures and values, indicated above, will probably be adopted at no distant day, when, if the proposed ehange be now made, there would have to be another eoinage in order to have the measure of value. I suppose Ameriean and English seientifie men would base a metrieal system of weights and measures upon the diameter, and not the quadrant of the earth. It would be far better to establish this system now than change the eoinage. There are other weighty reasons against giving up the Ameriean dollar for the Freneh 5 -frane pieee, to whieh I will not allude. A Reader.

West Philul'u, Feb., 1868.
[No ehange of names or emblems is required. As we were the first of all the world to adopt a deeimal system of money, so we shall never have oceasion to ehange its denominations. The word dollar sounds well; the thing dollar shines well and elinks well ; but it will sound and shine and elink just as well with three pennyworth less of gold in it. The eagle will spread its wings just as boldly, and the head of Liberty will look as blandly on the new eoins as the old ; only the eagle's flight will be more distant in search of a profita-
ble exchange, and the head of Liberty will carry its suggestions to remoter lands, under the proposed system."In God we Trust " is a good motto for our coins. On the whole, we hope and believe, that Ameriean gold bearing these blessed words, and as a part of a universal eoinage now being inaugurated, will yet penetrate the furthest East, and bring its return of value. Ed.]

Gentlemen:-In the artiele "Peeuliarities in Ancriean Coins," the writer says he has notieed on the halfcents of 1804 and 1805 an arrangement of the half wreaths, which differs from that of any other of the half-cents, and as far as he has been able to learn, there is no similar arrangement among the eents from 1793 to 1807 inclusive. It eonsists in laving no stem to the ends of the half wreaths, which are tied with a ribbon just abore the $1-200$ ths, they being united together and forming one continuous wreath.

I found, several weeks ago, a eent of 1802 among my series of U. S. eents, that has no stem to either end of the half-wreaths ; is tied the same as those on the half-eents of 1804 and 1805 spoken of ; also, the 1-100ths has two lines and in the word "States," on the reverse the last $S$ has part of another $S$ under it, evidently a mistake of some careless engriaver. A. R. F.

> Norwich, Chenaigo Co., N. Y., March 7th, $1 S 68$.

Mason \& Wells. Gents. :-I do not deem it strange that you find it neeessary to inerease its price. I have been well pleased with the numbers issued, and most heartily wish you an inereased list of subscribers, eommensurate with its value.

In regard to the varieties of the half-
eents of $180 t$ and 1805 , deseribed in
"Peeuliarities in Ameriean Coins," as
"having no stem to either end of the
half-wreaths," I beg to advise you that
I have in my collection half-eents of 1804, both with and without the cross upon the 4 , having sueh a wreath; also, a half-eent of 1806, having such a wreath; and I have also three varieties of the cent of 1802 having sueh a wreath, and I herewith enclose a rubbing of one of them. Allow me, also, to eall your attention to the faet, that Dickeson, in his Numismatie Manual, describes one variety of the cent of 179S, as being struek from a dic altered from that of 1797 . Will you inform me what was the last year of the issue of the silver three eent piece? [1868. ED.] Very respectfully, Join Sifan Randall.

Boston, Mass.
Gents. :-Please correet the mistake in Mareh number, in speaking of the Mercury. You state that the fourth number was one month behind time ; it was only six days. From October 25th to Mareh 1st, five numbers have appeared, which is pretty near "up to time." Iours, resp'y,
J. Trifet.

Gents. :-I think your magizine is the neatest and most useful magazine of the kind that has yet been issued, and even those who are not bona fille eollectors are reading it with great interest. Yours. respectfully,
J. A. B., Springfield, Mass.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENCE.

M. \& M., Oswego. - Yours at hand. Proof-sets will be forwarded upon reecipt of order. Name the coins you require in your locality. If you have
any duplicates, we maty mitke satisfactory exchanges.
C.F.R., Malone.-The autographs you cumerate are not scarce or valuable. Decline exclianging for coins. Send us a Washington, Franklin or Lincoln letter, and will send you a good exchange in rare coins.

Francaise. - Never heard of Maximilian silver dollars bringing $\$ 10$, at either public or private sale in this country. There were issued by the unfortunate emperor $\$ 20$ and $\$ 10$ picces in gold ; $\$ 1,50,25,10$ and 5 cent pieces in silver. The dollars command $\$ 3$ to $\$ 5$; the $\$ 20$ gold piece $\$ 40$ to $\$ 50 ; \$ 10$ piece not to be liad at any priee ; 50 c . picee $\$ 5$ to $\$ 10 ; 2.5$ c. piece $\$ 10 ; 10$ c. piece and 5 e. piece very rare and noue offered for sale.
There were two issues of Maximillian dollars : one struck in Europe, the other in Mexico ; differing in size only.
W. S. MeK., Washington.-The piece you describe is the common French Washington token of 1783, worth 25 cents. There are three types of the Washingtons, issued in 1783 , viz. : the brass "Unity" States; the laureated head (eopper) "Liberty seated," and the "double headed" Washington (copper) valued from 25 cents to $\$ 1.50$.
C. D. W., Newburgh.-Obliged for your communication. Send dates of half-cents.
T. E. B., Sec. N. E. N. ©. A., BosTON. - Will send 20 or 2 25 copies as soon as sales are positively fixed. Did you receive February No. ?
J. A. B.-Thanks for orders. Send word what fine cents you require. Do you wish silver dollars? Shall have a lot in this month.

Philatelist.-Arrangements are in progress for an improvement in the stamp department. Catalogue of
stamps and other stami) matter crowded ont.
V. C. T'., Cleveland.-Would prefer to see the silver colledion. Fis a valuation and send it on for approval and a price. Will furnish yon amphe, security. Name entered for vol. 2d. Coin priced catalogne for 18 (hs mailed. Dolliurs of 18336,85 to $86 ; 1838$, S25; 1839,$850 ; 18.51,405 ; 185,835$; half dollars $1796,5.5$; 1801 and 1801,83 to $\$ 5$.
T. C. K., Newbury.- All right! Vol. 2d $\$ 1.50$.
A. R. F.-Marled for early insertion. Give us an article, monthly, on the "peculiarities, de."
M. B. W., Washington.-Price was omitted on the Miekley Catalogue. Should be $\$ 10$.
J. R., Salem.-" "1808 cent 12 stars." The error, no doubt, occurred in enill-ing-the 13 th star having broken off the dic. The $1-100$ ths on reverse of cents prior to 1808 was omitted afterwards.
C. L. (x., Wasmington.-The balance of your subscription at land.Will send you the 1867 numbers (9) for $\$ 1.00$. Have entered your name January, 1868, and sent the Jamuary, February and March numbers.
D. Davis, Curiosity Dealer, London.-Have sent you magazines. Please send list of anything you have appertaming to Aınerica.
W. H. P., Troy. - Not in want of present issue U. S. postage stamps.We want $\$ 25$, $\$ 50$ and $\$ 200$ revenue stamps, to complete collections.

Complaints. - We are so eramped for room, that occasionally we lay "continued" articles aside. Shall finish all "eatalogue" matter we have commenced.
J. H., Montreal.-Name entered for vol. 2d. Canada subscribers 25 e. extra for postage. Will seud catalogues of all sales free.


$\checkmark$

\section*{MASEN \& WHLIS, <br> Coin Dralers amo dral Custate Anents, <br> No. 50 North Tenth Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA. <br> COINS FOR SALE. <br> | 1791 Washington <br> 1793 Wraatl | :3 010 |
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Humphries' Foreign Coin Manual2 vols., each; 00
Mason's History of U. S. Coins. ..... 150
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bets of 1868, 5c., 3c., 2c., lc., (proof,)....... 20

## MHSOAN W WELLS,

No. 50 N. Tenth St., Philada.

