

So-Called Dollar Collectors' Club Journal

Volume №1, Issue №1



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The club is in desperate need of an Editor, one or two Assistant Editors and a Publisher. Please give serious consideration to volunteering. The club would greatly appreciate your support.

A very big THANK YOU goes out to two individuals that have recently volunteered to help the So-Called Dollar Collector's Club. Tony Swicer is now the club secretary. His mailing address and e-mail address is in the journal and club correspondence can be directed to him. Tony also included an article in this first journal which I'm sure you will enjoy reading. Mike Johnson has volunteered to be the Web Site Coordinator. The web site has been up in a test mode for a few months to allow club members to make suggestions. We plan to go live with the web site in a month. There are currently over fifty photos of So-Called's available for viewing on the web site, with many more to come.

Check it out at www.SoCalledDollar.org

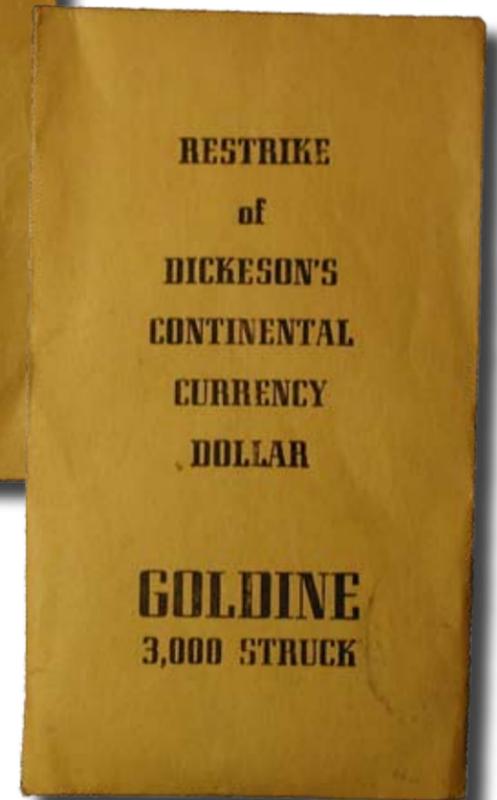
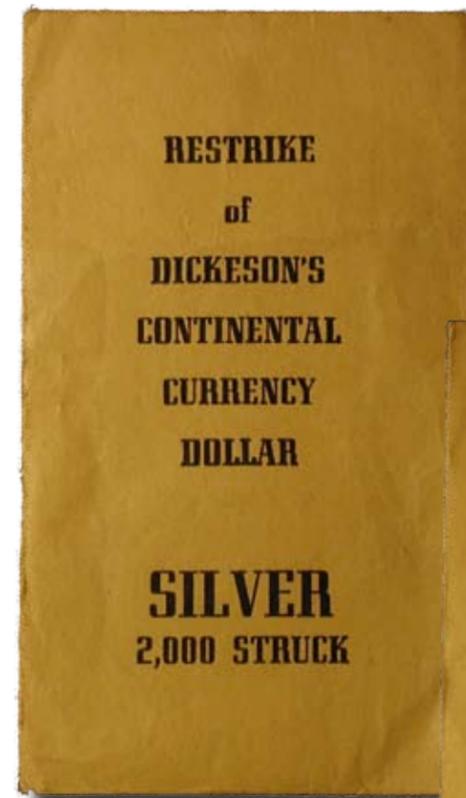
The So-Called Dollar Collectors Club is off to a great start. To date there are 87 members. Everyone who joins in the first year will be "Charter Members" and their club member number will always indicate they are a Charter Member. The fact that there are this many members is very good considering there has been very little marketing or advertising to promote the club. The amount of work associated with starting a new club is burying me and I have gotten somewhat behind on some of the things I should be doing for the club. I hope that around the time this first journal is published and the website is completed I will have time to focus on getting other club members responsible for various club positions. Following is a list of Members that have joined.

If you have a suggestion for a name for this publication, please see the web site discussion forum or contact the editor.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP LISTING

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Cecilia Shevlin, CA | 30. James M. Stoffe, CA | 59. Robert Mayer, AZ |
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| 27. Michael Chambers, OR | 56. Ken Stempien, CA | 86. Joe Yager, CA |
| 28. Mike Patton, WA | 57. George J. Wean, PA | 87. Roy Iwata, CA |
| 29. Pat Cheever, WA | 58. Dick Johnson, CT | |

Envelopes used by Empire Coin Company to market Dickeson restrikes.
Photos: Jeff Shevlin.



In 1964 a new die was made for the Boy Scouts of America from the same hubs Dickeson created. For these dies the words 6th Boy Scout / Jamboree '64 were added to the dies. Coincidentally these dies do not have many of the die characteristics previously identified, but were unquestionably made from the same hubs created from the original Dickeson dies. These pieces were struck in aluminum and are reported to exist in other metals, although I have seen only the aluminum.

There is still a lot of research to be done and stories to be told on the Dickeson Continental Dollar restrikes. If you have any additional information to provide please contact the author Jeff Shevlin, SoCalledGuy@SoCalledDollar.org

Both photos: Bronze restrike made by Bashlow of Dickeson Continental Currency Dollar.
Photos: Jeff Shevlin.





Above: S mark on Bashlow silver restrikes.



Above: Die Gouge on Bashlow restrikes.
Photos: Jeff Shevlin.

There are a number of certain die characteristics that uniquely identify the Bowers variety. All of the pieces that I have seen on the obverse have a small die gouge in the denticles above the O of CONTINENTAL and a small diagonal die scratch below the C of CONTINENTAL. Both marks appear as raised metal on the surface.

Later in 1962 Robert Bashlow offered for sale Continental Dollar restrikes in goldine, bronze and silver. Bashlow had hubs created from the Dickeson dies and produced at least two more obverse dies and two more reverse dies. One of the reverse dies was marked with a small S (for silver) near the rim between the circle for Delaware and Pennsylvania. Both obverse dies and the S marked reverse die were used to strike 2,000 .900 fine silver impressions.

The same obverse dies and an unmarked reverse die were used to strike 5,000 bronze and 3,000 goldine or brass impressions. The bronze and goldine can be found today although they are more difficult to find than one would expect. The silver piece is seldom offered for sale.

The Bashlow restrikes can be distinguished from the Bowers restrikes by the unique color of the goldine and bronze and by the S on the silver strikings. The two obverse die diagnostics mentioned on the Bowers restrikes do not appear on these dies, instead most of these restrikes (the silver, goldine and bronze) have a slight die gouge in the denticles between the C and O of CONTINENTAL, a uniquely different die gouge for this obverse die.

Some silver, goldine and bronze Bashlow restrikes were marketed in the envelope depicted. (Photo: Previous page.)

After striking the pieces for Empire Coin Company Bashlow donated the original Dickeson dies to the Smithsonian Institution. Advertisements at that time were indicating that no more pieces could thus be struck from them, however, prior to donating the dies to the Smithsonian, Bashlow had the dies copied via transfer hubs, just as he had the original 1861 confederate cent dies created by Lovett copied the same year. Those hubs were later used to create additional dies. The hubs and dies current location is unknown.

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The So-Called Dollar Collector's Club Journal

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NEW – SO-CALLED DOLLAR INTERNET DISCUSSION FORUM
[WWW.SOCALLEDDOLLAR.ORG](http://www.SOCALLEDDOLLAR.ORG)

The new web site which is still under development will have an area for club members and interested guests to electronically discuss items of interest as they relate to So-Called Dollars. The user will be able to review comments and research information posted by other collectors as well as post your own relevant information, ask questions and share dialog with fellow collectors.

The following topics are planned to initially be available. You will be able to create new topics yourself for whatever areas you are interested in.

1. Continental Dollar Restrikes (HK852-856) by Dickeson, Elder, Bashlow, Bowers and the Boy Scouts of America
2. Counterfeits – WATCH OUT!
3. New "Metal" varieties
4. New "Die" varieties
5. 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire medals – different die varieties research (HK340-342)
6. So-Called Dollars that don't belong in the book
7. Original So-Called Dollar packaging and marketing materials
8. Designers and Engravers of So-Called Dollars
9. What do you think are the ten most common So-Called Dollars, and what do they sell for?
10. eBay activity for So-Called Dollars
11. What can you do to help out the club?
12. 1876 U.S. Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
13. 1892-1893 Worlds Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois
14. 1894 California Midwinter Exposition in San Francisco, California
15. 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri
16. 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco,, California
17. 1933-1934 Century of Progress exposition in Chicago, Illinois
18. 1939-1940 Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco, California
19. Come up with a name for the So-Called Dollar Collectors Club quarterly journal.....
Any Suggestions?

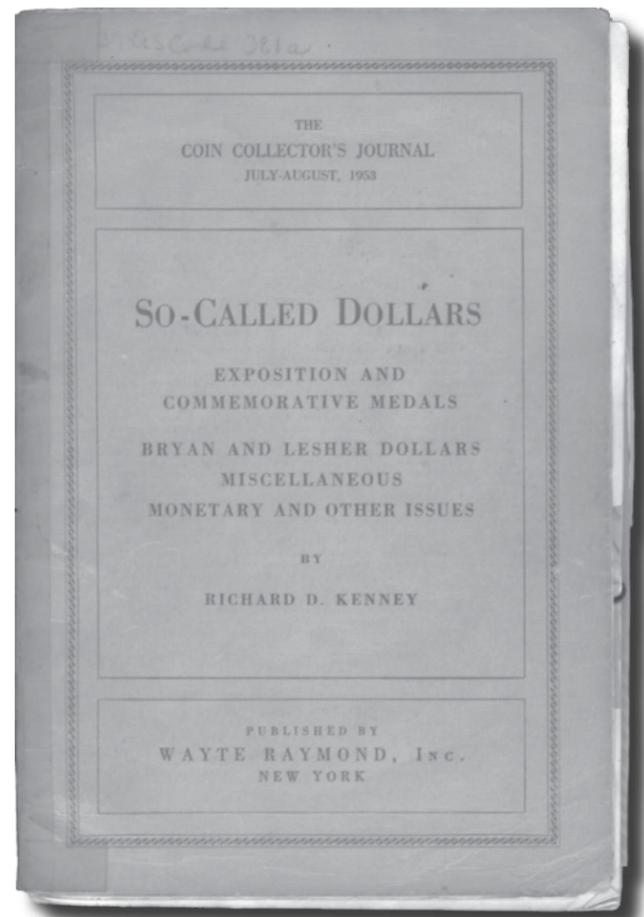
Twenty five or more different discussion groups are planned to be established.

Interested
In placing an ad in future
editions of this publication?

Please contact the
Advertising Manager



The Original Hibler & Kappen So-Called Dollar Book “REQUIREMENTS” Announcement

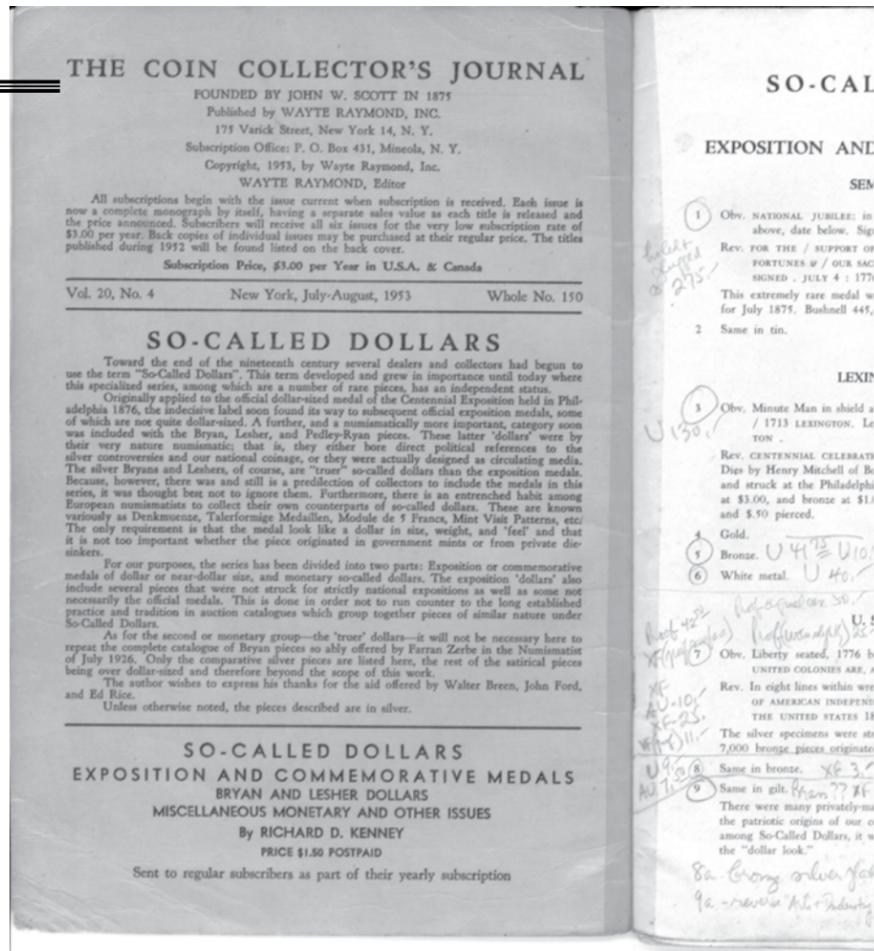


By W. David Perkins, NLG

I thought readers of the So-Called Dollar Collectors Club Journal might be interested in seeing a copy of what Hal E. Hibler called in 1961 “his requirements” for medals to be included in his soon to be published revision and extension of Richard D. Kenney’s “So-Called Dollar” book.

Top: Cover of the Ostheimer copy of the Richard D. Kenney pamphlet (book) on So-Called Dollars. This book was published in July-August 1953. This copy is heavily annotated throughout.

Bottom: Inside of the front cover of Kenney book.



Coin Collectors Journal. The article is titled So-Called Dollars, Exposition and Commemorative Medals, Bryon and Lesher Dollars, Miscellaneous Monetary and Other Issues, was also written by Richard D. Kenney. Although the Continental Dollar restrikes are not included in this article, most likely because they were covered in a similar article a year and a half earlier written by Kenney, there is a footnote to the fact that Thomas L. Elder used Dickeson’s Continental Dollar dies and muled them with other dies.

A discussion with Thomas D. DeLorey, author of “Thomas L. Elder, a Catalogue of his Tokens and Medals” published in 1980, revealed that DeLorey believes that Elder did not strike any Continental Dollar copies with both the obverse and reverse of the Dickeson dies. He believes that Elder only muled the Dickeson dies with other dies. DeLorey stated a through review of Elder’s auction catalog sales did not reveal any pieces struck from both dies and offered for sale by Elder. I agree with Tom De Lorey’s conclusion but speculate that it is possible a few special pieces could have been struck. It appears that Elder only used the obverse die, as no Elder strikings have been attributed to date with the reverse die of the Dickeson’s Continental Dollar.

Although it will most likely never be known for sure everyone who may have had the Dickeson’s dies from the time they were made in the 1870’s until the early 1960’s, no effort to market significant quantities occurred after Dickeson and prior to the 1960’s. Elder in 1917 muled the Dickeson obverse Continental Currency die with other dies, and marketed them and these are quite collectable today.

“THE DICKESON DIES WENT THROUGH THE HANDS OF QUITE A FEW PROMINENT COIN DEALERS”

In 1962 Empire Coin Company, at that time owned by Q. David Bowers, placed a full page ad in their March-April edition of the Empire Review offering for sale 1776 Continental Dollar Copies. The ad called them Superb Brilliant Proofs and stated:

*SUPERB BRILLIANT PROOFS
1776 Continental Dollar Copies*

We offer select Brilliant Proof pewter specimens of the 1776 Continental Dollar restruck from the M.S. Dickeson dies prepared for the Centennial of American Independence in 1876. Only 7200 specimens were struck of this beautiful showpiece.

This historically significant coin is mentioned on page 35 of the Guidebook and on page 12 of Struck Copies of Early American Coins, by Richard D. Kenney.

Collectors and dealers alike will welcome this offering at our present low price as similar impressions from these dies have sold for \$25.00 to \$40.00 and more each within recent years. We offer these historically significant and numismatically important coins at a price no higher than you would pay for many modern medals and tokens designed and struck within the past year.



Envelopes used by Robert Bashlow to market Dickeson Restrikes.
Photos: Jeff Shevlin.

Specimens are in Brilliant Proof condition, are slightly larger than a silver dollar in size and will be a beautiful addition to your collection.

We offer specimens at the following prices:

One specimen.....\$12.50
Three specimens.....29.00
Ten specimens.....59.75

ORDER NOW – SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED

Bowers produced 7200 restrikes in pewter, often referred to as white metal or tin. The Empire Coin Company restrikes from the Dickeson dies were sold and distributed in light blue envelopes. They are of high quality and appear proof-like. They have the appearance of silver but are somewhat lighter.



Advertisement placed by Empire Coin Company to sell Dickeson Restrikes.
Photo: Jeff Shevlin.

Continental Dollar Restrikes

By Jeff Shevlin



The Continental Dollar struck in 1776 was designed by Benjamin Franklin and David Rittenhouse. Probably more copies and reproductions have been made of the Continental Dollar than any other early American coin. Collectors have undoubtedly seen the replicas that dealers have for sale in their junk boxes, typically cast copies and the occasional struck replica. Most are worth a few dollars each.

There is one set of dies, the Dickeson dies, with quite a history behind them that are an exception and restrikes from those dies are highly desirable by collectors. The Dickeson dies went through the hands of quite a few prominent coin dealers before ending up at the Smithsonian where they are today. Sometime prior to the 1876 Centennial Celebration Dr. Montroville Wilson Dickeson (1813-1882) had dies made that resembled the 1776 Continental Dollar. The dies were different enough from the actual Continental Dollars so they were not confused with the originals by collectors at that time. Today these pieces are incorrectly referred to as Dickeson restrikes, they are original strikings made by Dickeson from the original dies he produced. Pieces struck later from these dies should be classified as restrikes. These same dies were later used to strike additional copies by coin dealers such as Thomas L. Elder in 1917, Q. David Bowers in 1962, Robert Bashlow later that year, and also the Boy Scouts of America in 1964. Various publications state that Bowers and Bashlow pieces were struck in 1961 but the advertisements I have seen were placed in 1962.

It is these restrikes made from Dickeson dies that collectors today are willing to pay a premium to own. The dilemma for today's collectors is determining who struck what when and how does one know which is which? After extensive research and discussion with many prominent dealers and collectors, I have determined that most people, even the experts, often do not know how to distinguish the various varieties. The original Dickeson pieces and the various restrikes are usually misattributed.

The So-Called Dollars book published in 1963 by Hibler and Kappen lists Continental Dollar Restrikes H&K 852-Silver, H&K 853-Copper, H&K 854-White Metal, H&K 855-Pewter and H&K 856-Lead. Each one of these pieces listed in the book should be directly attributed to Dickeson and Dickeson only. There is a footnote in Hibler & Kappen's book that references later copies made in the early 1960's, shortly prior to the publication of their book.

Walter Breen in his book Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins, states that years later after 1876, but prior to WWI Elder acquired one or both dies and made restrikes. Breen was probably aware of various medals produced by Elder and most likely had seen the Continental Dollar obverse die which Elder muled with other dies. Although Elder may have had the reverse die as well, I do not believe he ever used the reverse die to create Continental Dollar restrikes or other mulings.

The article titled *Struck Copies of Early American Coins* written by Richard D. Kenney and published by The Coin Collector's Journal in January-February of 1952 discusses how certain struck copies of rare American coins were listed in auction catalogs and have been popular to collect since the 1850's. The Dickeson Continental Dollar restrikes are identified in that article. The only metal varieties identified by Kenney were Copper, Tin and 50 specimens in silver. The photos contained in the article are of such low quality they are of little value for attribution.

The first article published on So-Called Dollars that I am aware of is the one published in July-August of 1953 by the

Kenny's pamphlet (book) titled *So-Called Dollars / Exposition and Commemorative Medals / Bryan and Leber Dollars / Miscellaneous Monetary and Other Issues*, was published in July-August, 1953. Kenny stated that "Toward the end of the nineteenth century several dealers and collectors had begun to use the term "So-Called Dollars." Thus the term So-Called Dollars was formalized in print. The Kenny pamphlet was 20 pages in length, with Kenny numbers 1-271. Numbers 201-271 were Trade Tokens.

This announcement was stapled to a letter from Hal Hibler to Mr. Alfred Ostheimer. The letter was dated September 14, 1961. The letter reads in part:

Enclosed is another copy, per your request of our "requirements" which is a replica of an announcement appearing in May, June and July coin publications.

Your continued cooperation is appreciated and with kind regards, I am Sincerely yours,

H. E. Hibler

Alfred J. Ostheimer III and his wife, Jacquenette C. Ostheimer are listed as contributors (under "Acknowledgments" in the front of the book) to Harold E. Hibler and Charles V. Kappen's book *So-Called Dollars*. Per my research, the Ostheimers contributed a number of new varieties to the H&K book. They also contributed many of the So-Called Dollars from their collection to be photographed and plated in the book. The Ostheimer collection of So-Called Dollars was extensive and included many So-Called Dollars struck on unlisted planchets (metals) and mulings of dies. The Ostheimer collection also included numerous medals not listed in the Hibler & Kappen book.

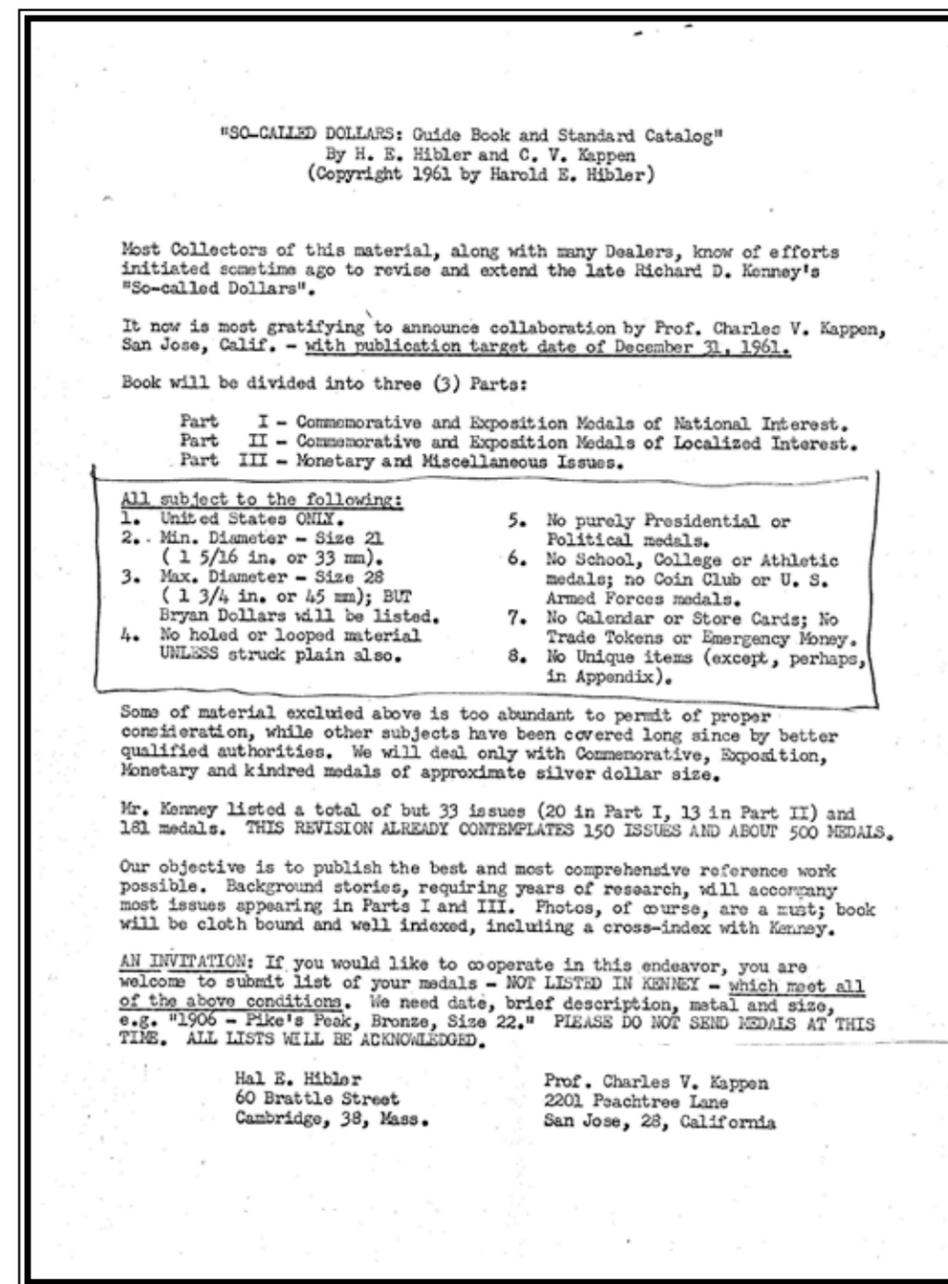
Note the targeted publication date for the H&K book was December 31, 1961. In the announcement the author's noted, "Mr. Kenny listed a total of but 33 issues (20 in Part I, 13 in Part II) and 181 medals. THIS REVISION ALREADY CONTEMPLATES 150 ISSUES AND ABOUT 500 MEDALS."

This notice helps us to understand how far along Hibler and Kappen's research was as of early 1961. We can conclude that many varieties were added after this notice was published. As a side note, I find it curious that Hibler and Kappen state under the heading All Subject to the

following; "No Unique items (except, perhaps, in Appendix").

Lastly, we learn where both Hibler and Kappen were residing at the time this was published. I hope our members enjoy viewing this announcement.

Original notice announcing "requirements" for the Hibler and Kappen book. This copy was sent to Mr. and Mrs. Ostheimer in September of 1961.



Above: Dickeson Continental Dollar Obverse.
Left: Dickeson Continental Dollar Reverse.
Right: Dickeson Continental Dollar Reverse.
Photos: Tom Mulvaney.

SO-CALLED DOLLARS 1980-1990

By Tony Swicer

I started collecting So-Called dollars in the late 1970's when I got an HK book in a trade. The more I looked at the book, the more interested I became in So-Called Dollars. The book is an amazing numismatic story of our Nations history at world's fairs etc. After collecting over 2000 pieces and 90% of the book, I sold my collection in 1990. Here is what happened in between.

Colorado's "Century of Progress" Dollar, 1933.
Photos: Jeff Shevlin.



I started setting up at coin shows in 1981. The shows seemed to be the best way to acquire So-Called Dollars. I started memorizing the HK book, so that if I saw a so-called, I knew what it was worth. Coin dealers for the most part did not know about so-called and they did not take time to research them. Generally, they would over price common bronze and brass pieces and under price rarities. I purchased HK-552 Nevada Silver Centennial in the original box for \$10. A HK-789 Leshler dollar was purchased at a Long Beach show in the foreign section for \$50. Many pieces could be bought in 3-ring binders for 50ct or \$1. In the early 1980's

I PURCHASED 17 HK-493 LINCOLN GOLD DOLLARS FOR \$25 EACH AT A HERITAGE AUCTION.

From 1983 to 1990, I was a coin buyer for a company here in Florida. I attended almost every major coin show during that time. In my spare time I would look for so-called. The best shows to find them were Long Beach, FUN, and the ANA. One Long Beach show I purchased over 300 so-called, but never less than 60.

After a few years of buying so-called, most dealers knew me and they knew that I paid fair prices. It got to the point that I would quote them my buy price on so-called and they would usually sell. Several dealers sold me collections of so-called. I had a standing buy order with Dean Tavener of Montana for HK-820 Montana dollar at \$100 each and HK-825 Pedley-Ryan dollars at \$30 each. I purchased 33 Montana dollars over the years, and at one Long Beach show Dean shows me a Pedley-Ryan and says, "Is this what you want?" I said yes, and he pulled out 80 more pieces, which I bought.

The 1961 Continental dollar restrikes were available by the roll at Long Beach. I purchased white metal, goldline, and copper at \$5 each. Silver restrikes were \$15. While I was attending a coin auction at Superior Galleries in Beverly Hills, they told me that they had so-called dollar books in the basement. I said how many and how much?

I purchased 279 HK books for \$11 each delivered. Over the next few years I sold all of them at \$20 each postpaid.

I ran a classified ad in Coin World for several years and had a mailing list of 350 so-called dollar collectors. I mailed a price list out about 4 times a year.

I attended the C.L. Emmons sale of so-called dollars in New Jersey in the mid 1980's. I was able to purchase several HK plate pieces pictured in the book. 2 pieces I did not get were HK-7 Crystal Palace-Police purchased by the Smithsonian and

HK-1004 Battle of Lexington in gold (3 struck) purchased by a coin dealer from Lexington, MA for \$3500.

Here is a list of the small hoards of so-called that I purchased in the 1980's.

1. HK-125 Battle of Groton Heights, 25 silver, 80 white metal, 100 bronze.
2. HK-154a Columbian Expo. Aluminum, 4 pieces.
3. HK-336 & 338 Pikes Peak, 30 silver and 75 bronze with envelopes.
4. HK-346-347 Jamestown BU, 60 pieces.
5. HK-387 Taft-Diaz, 12 pieces.
6. HK-460 McCormick Reaper, 125 pieces.
7. HK-508 Wash. DC Sesqui. 40 in box of issue.
8. HK-509 Louisiana Purchase Sesqui. 40 pieces BU.
9. HK-542, 582, 586, 587, and 588, 20 of each original envelopes BU.
10. HK-583 & 589 BU 100 & 45 pieces.
11. HK-687 Santa Monica Breakwater, 40 pieces.
12. HK-780, 781, 785, 786 Bryan dollars, 34 total pieces.
13. HK-870 Colorado dollar, 30 pieces BU.
14. HK-911-913 Four Freedoms BU, 30 of each.
15. HK-1030 Pan-Pacific Expo. I had 5 pieces.

After all the so-called I have owned, my favorite piece was HK-1032 U.S. Sesqui. in gold. 6 were struck and given to dignitaries of foreign nations at the fair.

My collection has been absorbed by the collector base. I see very few so-called at shows today. I can say that I never paid too much for a so-called dollar. Today I dabble with so-called but I collect National Bank Notes of Kentucky, my home state.

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