

JOHN J. FORD, Jr. COLLECTION

COINS, MEDALS AND CURRENCY Part XXI



NUMISMATIC AMERICAN HISTORY

Western Assayer's Ingots

OCTOBER 16, 2007

Stack's

123 West 57th Street • New York, NY

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

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JOHN J. FORD, JR. COLLECTION

COINS, MEDALS AND CURRENCY

Part XXI

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Approximately 7:00 P.M.

Lots 3501-3560

This Part 21 of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, lots 3501-3560, will immediately follow the sale of Part 20 of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, lots 3001-3395, presented in a separate catalogue. PLEASE NOTE: there are no lots 3396-3500.

Public Auction Sale

This Public Auction Sale will be held in
The Azekka Room (3rd Floor) of Le Parker-Meridien Hotel
118 West 57th Street, New York City (between 6th & 7th Avenues)

Stack's



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Thursday, October 11, 2007, 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Friday, October 12, 2007, 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Monday, October 15, 2007, 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Tuesday, October 16, 2007, 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

**Lots will be available for viewing at the above times
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JOHN J. FORD, JR.

A Last Salute From a Friend

Looking back over the past four years, from the time of the first sale in this monumental series, Part I of the John J. Ford, Jr. Collection that was held this month in 2003, forward to today's auction of Parts 20 and 21 of the series, it's easy to see that this has been the single most valuable and numismatically important collection of American coins and medals and currency ever put together by one collector. I knew John Ford from when I was a young man working in my family's store and even then, back in the good old days of the coin trade when it was as much fun as it was business, everyone at Stack's knew John had a very important collection. As the years went by and I rose in Stack's to become, in my turn, a principal, I got to know John on a more sophisticated level and the contents of his collection in greater detail. So, while the final sale results may at times have surprised me along with everyone else in the industry, I knew long before Stack's published the first auction catalogue that when we had printed the last one we would have presided over the dispersal of the most significant American numismatic collection ever to cross the auction block.

From the very beginning, before the first sale, Mike Hodder and I mapped out an auction strategy, sparing no expense, for the overall collection that would capitalize on its importance as well as introduce to the market in a timely fashion related series of coins, medals and currency that were of the highest importance. As an example, for the first sale we included state issued New Jersey and Vermont colonial coins and national government issued Continental Dollars and Fugio Cents, knowing that specialists in each series would compete for elusive varieties they wanted and that their bidding would be supported (or surpassed) by collectors interested in colonial coins in a general way, type collectors looking for superb quality colonial coins, and dollar enthusiasts. We added John's specimen of the Confederate Half Dollar to the end of that sale to heighten anticipation throughout and to conclude with an extraordinary coin worthy of only the most advanced collectors. We intentionally made the first auction a stupendous offering of (mostly) colonial coins whose quality had never been equaled and we deliberately kept the number of lots under 350. Our intention from the start was to introduce collectors to John's holdings in a stunning way because we wanted today's generation to realize who Mr. Ford was, how important he had been to American numismatics, and that anyone who wanted to buy something important



from the sales of John's collection was going to have to be strong and ready for a bidding fight. When the last lot had been hammered those 335 lots in the first auction had sold for \$5.6 million.

As each new part of John's collection was announced and then auctioned, we found ourselves making markets in areas that no one previously had thought would ever become widely popular because they were too esoteric, weren't in the Red Book, or were too rare to appeal to more than specialists. We brought the sale of Part 4 of Mr. Ford's collection to Chicago in 2004. The 330 lots of Hard Times Tokens sold for over \$1 million and the 316 lots of Encased Postage Stamps made over \$700,000. We devoted a whole catalogue with more than 800 lots to a portion of Mr. Ford's collection of currency, included obsolete, southern states, Georgia and Massachusetts colonial currency, and original Confederate Cents, and took the ensuing Part 10 to Atlanta in 2005 and sold it for over \$2.4 million. We took John's collection of Massachusetts silver coins, placed them in a research catalogue devoted only to that series, and auctioned the 147 lots of Part 12 for \$6.5 million. In each case,

new collectors appeared, new record prices were set, new cataloguing honors were won.

We now come to the end of the series, the sale of Parts 20 and 21 of John's collection. Part 20 included his western medals, some of his western tokens, and portions of his western ephemera. Part 21, that you hold in your hands, is devoted solely to the sale of his western territorial ingots and assay bars.

I think my friend John would have been pleased with the results of the sale of his collection and proud of the job we did for him and his family. John was a demanding collector. He was, above all else, however, a consummate business man who understood that a good deal is one where all parties come out feeling like they had made something but the best deal is the one where he made more than everyone else! It was fun for me to let him outsmart me once in a while, the pleasure he got from telling me later about how well he had done was worth more to me than the bit of money I might have made if I had held out for more at the start.

John's goal in his professional life was always to aim for perfection. He noticed mistakes and was as unforgiving to those whose errors he detected as he was to himself for the mistakes he made. Needless to say, John didn't make many errors so he was a tough act to follow. I think the catalogues and auction results my firm has produced for John and his

family would have satisfied even his demanding nature. There is no other set of auction catalogues and prices realized more often found in collectors' and dealers' libraries than the Ford Sales. In fact, a copy of Walter Breen's Encyclopedia and a set of Stack's John J. Ford, Jr. catalogues will cover just about every collecting field in as much numismatic and commercial depth as any but the most advanced specialist might need.

I used to take my lunch at my desk around 1:00PM eastern time each day. John knew that and he'd call me on the phone every day around that time, when he knew I'd be able to spend some time talking to him. We'd talk about the current market, new finds he'd made, who sold what to whom and for how much, how Hodder or someone else had screwed up this time, we'd trade a joke, reminisce about the old days and old timers still with us or those who had passed on, and all in all waste an hour jawing in the best way you can, with an old friend who was smart, knowledgeable about the business, and fun to talk to. I miss hearing my secretary tell me "Mr. Ford's on the line and he wants to talk to you". I miss John and I miss his era. We won't see either again. The catalogues of his collection are his legacy to numismatics and our monument to his memory.

Lawrence R. Stack
New York, New York



TERRITORIAL AND WESTERN ASSAYER'S INGOTS

THE JOHN J. FORD, JR. COLLECTION — PART XXI

Introduction to This Catalogue and Its Contents

Western Assayer's Ingots

Perhaps no part of the late Mr. Ford's collection has been so expectantly awaited as this and it is not without consideration that it has been saved to the end. So much of Mr. Ford's contribution to United States numismatics has been shadowed by the controversy that surrounded him. It was with painful awareness of this fact that Larry Stack and the cataloguer decided before the first words were written that the last ones would describe the ingots whose collection was the source of so much pleasure and frustration for Mr. Ford.

There is no point in rehearsing here the past history of the debate about the western assay bars. Scores of sources are available to tell that story, from newspaper pieces to peer reviewed articles, from video and audio recordings to public filings. We are still too close to the events to describe them with the detachment that only time brings, however, and the history of what was popularly called The Great Debate will await its chronicler in times yet to come.

The ingots included in the present catalogue represent decades of collecting activity. Mr. Ford was not the first to collect western ingots but he was certainly the most determined and thorough. Beginning in the early 1950s Mr. Ford tried not to let an ingot escape his interest. He scoured auction catalogues, advertised widely in western newspapers and hobby magazines, and paid the expenses of finders who traveled the western states of Arizona and Nevada looking for ingots that might be for sale. Whether he bought any particular ingot was never left up to chance and if he didn't buy one he wanted the first time he made an offer for it, the notes (and the photos taken for him by Stack's photographer Rankow) he took at the time about its ownership were always close to hand and never far from the front of his prodigious memory. Some ingots in the collection to follow will, from close readings of their provenances, show how determined Mr. Ford could be, over a space of decades in some cases, to track down, buy, and own an ingot that struck his fancy.

A number of the ingots in Mr. Ford's collection were obtained for him by Paul Franklin, Sr. on buying trips in the western states. Mr. Franklin's name has been linked with Mr. Ford's in the controversy alluded to earlier. An unfortunate result has been to render obscure Franklin's important role in the popularization and study of error coins at a time when most collectors

were still calling such things "freaks." The cataloguer suggests that it is intellectually lazy to dismiss an unfamiliar object as not worthy of collecting because it is associated with an individual who has been the subject of unrelated controversy. Each numismatic item should stand or fall on its own merits and if The Great Debate was anything more than just distasteful theater I hope it showed that.

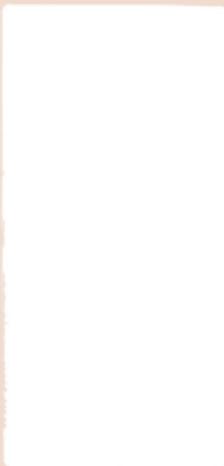
Ingots such as these are rare survivors of a time when precious metals were still ripped from the earth by individual miners, probably in the form of nuggets, nodules, dust, or some other fairly concentrated forms. Almost without exception these ingots are small, not much larger than could be easily carried in one small person's hand. Large mining companies also made ingots and some of the assayers whose names appear on the bars to follow also made much larger ingots for big mining companies. The larger the company, the larger the ingot.

It is the cataloguer's considered opinion that most of the ingots in the Ford Collection were made to be saved and not spent. Of course, they could have been spent as a money substitute. But the simple fact that they survive suggests that they were not primarily made to enter the channels of commerce. Before the discovery of the treasure on the S.S. Central America we had no collection of large, commercial sized bars from the 1850s because those that had been made met their intended fates in the melting pots of the world's great mints. The little bars that have been collected since the late 1800s were always around. When first published in periodicals or auction catalogues they are often described as having been saved, or as a souvenir, or an heirloom, descriptives suggesting a sentimental value attached to the ingot that made it worth more than just the bullion value it contained.

Some ingots are their own evidence for the sentimental element to their value. These are the inscribed ingots, bars on which a dedicatory inscription had been engraved, sometimes with a date included. Occasions for making such bars include pledges of affection for blood relations and spouses, patriotic gatherings, and even the cessation of hostilities in a war. Other ingots have had their faces and sides smoothed and polished, edges and corners sharp or chamfered, and a few specially ornamented, but do not carry an inscription

of sentiment. Most of these bear one assayer's name on their face, that of Conrad Wiegand of Gold Hill, Nevada. Most also have a fairly regular shape and thickness. The cataloguer suspects that Wiegand made a small business making small bars like these that could be taken to a local engraver where the inscription desired could be added, the whole making a nice presentation piece for a friend or relative.

Most bars from a single assayer betray a regularity in their layout that allows one to identify a bar's maker even though his name might have been effaced. Wiegand's bars are remarkably regular in their layout and it is likely that he and his assistants must have deliberately followed some general template. Some assayers seem to have changed the way they laid out the information put on their bars when they moved from one location to an-



other. Francis Blake's Weaverville, California bars are very similar the one to the other but are very unlike the ones his company made when it moved to Unionville, Nevada, even though some of the punches used to make both kinds were identical.

Most of these small bars seem to have been well made at the time. Care seems to have been taken to smooth down fissures, flaws, and surface roughness. Faces and sides were often highly polished and edges were squared off. Many bars show no signs of cooling depressions, which seem to have been filled as the bar cooled and then polished away. Some bars that do have a central cooling fissure have been stamped around it, to avoid obscuring the information on the bar. Other bars, notably the A.P. Molitor bar, look decidedly ugly and could not have been objects of pride to their makers or owners unless they had some importance that escapes us today. Perhaps such bars were made from the first ore extracted from a promising new mining claim. We may never know.

The assayer's general rule of thumb when marking a bar seems to have been to stamp in the bar's individual gold and silver fineness, its total weight

in ounces, the individual dollar value of the gold and silver contents, and the combined dollar value of the bar. The sequence of this information was not standardized everywhere. The assayer's name should also figure on the bar, of course. Most, but not all, bars have all this information on them. There is usually an apparent reason why some bars do not. It should not be forgotten that these small bars were not made to be quickly shipped to some New York bank or foreign mint for the current account of a San Francisco banker. They were, rather, personal artifacts made for a particular occasion or sentimental purpose. They were spendable but they weren't meant to be melted down right away. Some of them are so small in value that they could only have been a pocket souvenir or keepsake. As long as such a bar had its total dollar value and weight, other particulars were largely irrelevant to its purpose.



Organization of This Catalog

The ingots to follow have been arranged alphabetically by the assayer's surname. It is tempting to organize these listings geographically, by state or territory as it then was, but since some assayers moved around, a geographical list would result in multiple appearances of the same assayer, which might become confusing. Francis Blake, for example, worked both in Unionville, Nevada and Silver City, Idaho Territory. Mr. Ford's collection includes ingots made by Blake in both locales, meaning Blake would have to be listed under Nevada as well as Idaho Territory, if a geographical structure were adopted. The cataloguer thinks it simpler to list assayers by their last names but to indicate in an easily noticed form the location of the assayer's operation that produced the ingot under discussion. Each assayer is introduced by a short sketch of his history as well as it is known. Assayers with some connection to the California gold fields have been intensively studied. Dan Owens, a private researcher who was turned on to studying the histories of California assayers by the romance of the loss and discovery of the S.S. Central America's treasure, amassed an enormous store of contemporary newspaper, census, and city directory data on assayers of the 1850s and 1860s. Mr. Ford quickly

became aware of Dan's work, encouraged it, and found him a publisher in Stack's and what was then Bowers & Merena. The assayer sections to follow that have a California connection have benefited more than the cataloguer can say from Dan's study. Comparison with the meager sketches on non-California assayers to follow betrays better than words the debt owed by this catalogue to Mr. Owens.



Catalogue descriptions of ingots will be seen to follow a standardized layout, much as Wiegand's ingots do. The inscribed faces of each bar are illustrated above the catalog description. Mr. Ford liked to see illustrations of all sides of any bar whether stamped or not. The cataloguer has broken with this precedent because he feels illustrating the blank faces to be largely irrelevant for the commercial purpose of this catalogue. Those illustrations are available online, however. Each description ends with whatever information about the bar's provenance was saved by Mr. Ford. Many of the bars in the collection are accompanied by exceptionally detailed informational cards and most of these still have the photographs Mr. Ford had made of the bars at the time he bought them. Some bars have no cards, some have little data, and some have no records of their provenances, at all. Mr. Ford liked to say that he kept detailed records on every ingot he owned or even knew about and from those that survive it is clear he did his best to fulfill that promise.

The catalog contains only ingots. Mr. Ford might have objected that arranging the last two sales in this present cycle this way divorced the ingots from their numismatic and historical context. He would certainly be right and any numismatic scholar would agree. But an auction catalog has its own logic and the sale of a great collection its own strategy. The cataloguer has thought it wiser to let the two important parts of Mr. Ford's collections of Western Americana stand each on its own. That said, it should be remembered that Ford Parts 20 and 21 complement each other and that the latter can be better appreciated by seeing it through the lens of the former.

The Office of Internal Revenue

A handful of ingots is known that bear a small, round stamp engraved (in abbreviated form) "U.S. Internal Revenue" around a set of scales superimposed on a Union shield. The seal, like the wording, is the forerunner of that of our own beloved Internal Revenue Service. The Internal Revenue Act of July 1, 1862 was established to "provide Internal Revenue to support the Government and to pay Interest of the Public Debt." As described by Linda Haas Davenport:

The act authorized establishment of the Office of Commissioner of Internal Revenue in the Treasury Department to superintend the collection of taxes and duties and to prepare the regulations, instructions, directions, and forms used in assessing and collecting taxes.

The President of the United States was authorized by the act to divide, by Executive order, the States and territories into collection districts, but the number of districts was not to exceed the number of congressional Representatives from a State or territory. He also appointed an assessor and a collector for each district. The assessor then divided his district into divisions and assigned an assistant assessor for each division. The collectors appointed deputies who had authority to levy taxes and duties.

Persons, partnerships, firms, associations, or corporations submitted to the assistant assessor of their division a list showing amount of annual income, articles subject to the special tax or duty, and the quantity of goods made or sold that were to be charged with a specific or ad valorem tax or duty. The assistant assessors collected the lists and compiled in alphabetical order two lists: (1) name of persons residing in the division who were liable for taxation and (2) names of persons residing outside the division who owned property in it. Under each person's name was the value assessed, enumeration of taxable income or items, and the amount of duty or tax due. The lists were delivered to the district assessor, who examined them, corrected any errors, and approved them. He then advertised the name of the place where the lists could be reviewed. Appeals were heard for 15 days. After the examination and appeal, the assessor compiled lists of amounts due from each division in his district. He supplied copies of them to the collector, who then gave notice that taxes were due and collected them.

The effective date for taxes to be levied was set by the Secretary of the Treasury as September 1, 1862. Because of the lack of adequate definitions in the act, the complexity of the tax schedules, and the variations in assessment dates, some annual duties were not levied until the following May. By May 1863 a

high degree of uniformity in instructions, regulations, decisions, and forms had been developed. Individual assistant assessors, however, continue to alter the forms for their own purposes and to enumerate taxable property in a manner they found convenient.

The original Internal Revenue Act was significantly modified by the amendment of March 3, 1863 (12 Stat. 713), and by the Internal Revenue Act of June 30, 1864 (13 Stat. 223). Congress, by joint resolution of July 4, 1864 (13 Stat. 417), levied a special Income Tax that was to be assessed separately from the existing tax.

An act of December 24, 1872 (17 Stat. 401), abolished the offices of assessors and assistant assessors effective July 1, 1873. On May 20, 1873, the offices were closed and the assessment lists shipped to the office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Washington, DC.

The Law of June 30, 1864 levied specific and ad valorem taxes upon articles, goods, wares, and merchandise. Of particular importance to the ingots under discussion, the June 30, 1864 act stated that “On Bullion in lump, ingot, bar, or otherwise, a tax of one-half of one per centum ad valorem, to be paid by the



assayer of the same, who shall stamp the product of the assay as the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, may prescribe by general regulations.” The law went on to prohibit severally the export of raw gold or silver, jewelers from using bullion not stamped, and all sales and export of bullion assayed privately or by a federal mint unless so stamped. Two years later the Act of July 12, 1866 set license fees that assayers were required to pay (“Assayers assaying gold and silver, or either, of a value not exceeding in one year \$250,000, shall pay \$100 for each license, and \$200 when the value exceeds \$250,000 and does not exceed \$500,000, and \$500 when the value exceeds \$500,000.”) and amended Section 154 of the Act of June 30, 1864 to provide for criminal penalties for counterfeiting a bullion stamp. John Kleeberg has written that the requirement that ingots be stamped by assayers ended with the Act of March 31, 1868, 15 Stat. 58 (1869). Linda Haas Davenport has written that the system of assessors was dismantled in 1873.

Exactly how the law operated in the assay offices of Unionville or Gold Hill, Nevada, is not yet known.

The source records for the study are in the National Archives. Suffice it to say for the present purposes that it seems to the cataloguer that the stamps called for by the law of June 30, 1864 must have been made by the federal government and shipped to local assessors, who would issue them to those businesses required to use them. Presumably, they were signed for on receipt, were returned in due course, and replaced by new ones when the old had worn out or broken through heavy use. How the tax was collected is not entirely certain, either. It is likely that assayers factored the cost of the tax into the cost they charged their customers, either piecemeal or as part of general overhead. Assayers accounted to the assessors for their total business and tax was levied on that amount, so presumably assessors visited and audited assayers much like a modern field audit; or assayers might simply have been required to bring their books down to the local office for audit or even more simply to file a quarterly return stating under penalty their total assays for the period.

The Question of Authenticity

This is an unpleasant question to have to raise, not because a serious challenge has been made against western ingots as a species, but because the challenge has come from academic numismatists whose professional judgments were not solely grounded on dispassionate consideration of fact.

The cataloguer has shown, in a public presentation, in a peer-reviewed article, and in an open, public debate, that western assay bars like the ones to follow existed in the past, were collected by well known figures like John Work Garrett, Wayte Raymond, and F.C.C. Boyd, were published as interesting collectables by Edgar H. Adams and Tom Elder, contain the types and amounts of silver and gold they say they do, and have varied and colorful histories that tie in with the broader history of western expansion and the pageant of great fortunes made from newly-opened gold and silver mines.

The fundamental questions to be asked of any numismatic object are, of course, is it authentic or not and how would one attempt to prove or disprove such a case. When one studies the authenticity of a modern coin the first step is to see if it adheres to the governmental standards of weight, fineness, and size, then to see if its dies can be matched to those seen on other, known genuine specimens of the same issue. Finally, one determines if the coin in question was made correctly, die-struck and not cast, for example. Armed with appropriate results, one can decide with a fair degree of certainty that the subject coin is or is not real.

Working with modern medals is a little more difficult since there may be no published standards to apply. This

is particularly so in the case, for example, of American Indian Peace Medals. Although struck at the U.S. Mint and even though mintage figures and delivery dates are known for many of these issues, no two are identical in weight or actual diameter. In such a case, the numismatist must rely on less scientific norms than weight and metallic standards, bringing in, instead, such things as the medal's color, sonority when rung, general appearance, thickness across the rims, pedigree when credible, sharpness of letters on the fields, and finally, where science leaves off and art begins, how the medal makes one feel (i.e., one's "gut feeling" about the medal).

Working with unique objects like western ingots is another step removed from the security of modern, standard-made machine-struck federal coins. No two ingots are exactly alike and each really is unique. Even ingots made by the same assayer will not look exactly alike. And although an ingot's weight and metallic contents may be stamped directly on the face of the bar for all to see, like the published standards for a federal coin, they cannot be relied upon to help decide if an ingot is real or not since the person who stamped them on the bar might have been a 19th century assayer or a 20th century counterfeiter. Needless to say, there are also no standard weights or sizes for these small ingots so shape and weight are of no dispositive assistance in determining authenticity.

The whole question of the authenticity of these ingots might not have needed to be raised was it not for a remarkable claim that all of them were made by a single counterfeiter. The only exception allowed in this condemnation was the treasure of the S.S. Central America, which had to be real since it sank to the bottom of the ocean in 1857. The cataloguer suspects that had those bars been put on the market absent their pedigree they, too, would have been condemned as fakes by the same argument that has challenged all other such ingots. The flaw in the argument against western ingots being real, of course, was the date it assigned their counterfeiting, after 1950. If any bars could be found that were known to exist before 1950, then the bars could not all have been made by a counterfeiter after that date. If some ingots are known to have existed before 1950, then the argument condemning all of them as fakes made after that date necessarily fails in general and any claim of spuriousness must be made case by case against individual bars and not against the species as a whole. The cataloguer published a list of bars known before 1950, including two sold in the Garrett Collection in 1981, but the argument against the bars as a class went on.

Metallurgical analysis of some ingots has been accomplished and results of modern tests show how accurate 19th c. assays could be. Such tests can be instructive in

themselves but are useless for determining authenticity except in the cases of some fairly clumsy counterfeits whose true nature can be detected by other, simpler means. Andrew Pollock III and Bill Metropolis, both Stack's staff members, have suggested application of isotopic analysis as a means in aid of authentication of ingots. Different ore sources have different isotopic spectra and these can be used to "fingerprint" the source of the ore, the mine or neighboring locality, from whence the ore was mined that went into an ingot. Such work is routinely done with British copper coins, for example. Lacking in American numismatic metallurgical studies is a database of samples from mines around the west, however. With such a resource in place the cataloguer suspects that the vast majority of the small kinds of bars found in Mr. Ford's collection would be found to derive exactly from the locales the assayers whose names are found on the bars drew their business. These small bars were souvenirs, presentation gifts, and samples and the ores that went into their making therefore came from a constricted range. In the case of large bars such as those found on the S.S. Central America, isotopic analysis would probably not be helpful since it may be assumed that clearing house banking-assay firms like Kellogg and Justh & Hunter drew the bullion for their melts from brokers and banks spread over a wider geographical range.

Among the bars known to have existed before 1950 is a small handful that has the stamp of the Office of Internal Revenue described earlier. The cataloguer undertook a close punch study of the OIR stamps on the three bars in the present collection known to have existed before 1950. They include the H. Harris ingot number 2128 published by Edgar Adams in the September, 1911 issue of *The Numismatist*, the A.P. Molitor ingot number 406 from the Garrett sale (lot 1944) that can be traced back to a Woodward sale in October, 1884, and the Blake & Company ingot number 945 independently pedigreed to the heir of the person actually named on the bar (the documentation will be found with the lot).

The OIR stamp shows a set of scales above the Union shield and the words U.S. INTR. REVENUE around, a star below, the whole in a round outline. The stamps on each of the three bars under examination have certain design features in common. This is not unexpected since such stamps were most likely raised in the Philadelphia Mint from, ultimately, a single master die which shared these elements. There are four of these elements: the void on the left side of the weigh pan on the right is concave, the void on the right side of that pan has a pointed right tip, the vertical bar of the balance is left of center, and the diameter of the punch outline is 19 mm. Interestingly, these same features can be seen on an ingot not present in the Ford Collection, the \$3.04

Blake & Company bar that Tom Elder auctioned in January, 1936. There are other similar examples of OIR stamped bars that share these same features known from illustrations before 1950.

The Ford Collection includes a further 11 bars that also have an OIR stamp on them but that cannot be pedigreed independently earlier than 1950. These are Kuh ingot number 7564, Blake & Co. ingots number 319 and 1047, Posen ingot number 2959, Wiegand ingots valued \$19.82, \$20.00, \$50.60, and \$36.43, Ruhling ingot number 6932, Gould & Curry Assay Office ingot number 8280, and Van Wyck ingot number 3051. Nine of them show the concave void on the left side of the right pan, nine show the pointed right tip on the right side of the same pan, seven show the vertical bar left of center, and eight show outlines clear enough to establish a 19 mm diameter. The bars were not all sharply stamped, one was double punched, and not all them have smooth surfaces, so in some cases it is not possible to see design elements clearly enough to decide whether they are present, or not. This accounts for the differences between numbers of bars and numbers exhibiting certain features.

If the three ingots pedigreed before 1950 are genuine, then one may assume their OIR seals are genuine. If the OIR seals on the 11 ingots in the collection that cannot be pedigreed before 1950 are from the same master that raised the seals on the three ingots that can be pedigreed before 1950, then it can be presumed that those seals are also genuine, and if the seals are presumed real, then so may the ingots be that they are on.

It is particularly interesting to notice what appear to be regional differences among some of the OIR stamps on the Ford ingots. The three Blake & Company ingots (one of which existed before 1950) show two close spikes rising from the right balance pan but none of the other eight OIR-stamped bars do (with two exceptions: the OIR stamp on the Wiegand \$20.00 ingot is off flan at that point and the right pan on the OIR stamp on the Webb ingot no. 14 is obscure). The Harris ingot no. 2128 (which existed before 1950) has two wide spikes at the right balance pan but none of the other 10 ingots do. Wiegand ingot no. 1586 has two over one spikes at the right end of the balance beam but two of the three Blake ingots do not (Blake no. 319 is obscure at that position). Two of the three Blake bars have one over two spikes at the right

end of the balance beam but three of the four Wiegand bars do not (the exception, the Wiegand \$20.00 bar, is obscure at that position). Kuh ingot no. 7564, Posen ingot no. 2959, and Harris no. 2128 all show one spike at the right end of the balance beam but none of the Blake or Wiegand bars do (with two exceptions: Wiegand \$20.00 and Blake no. 319, both of which are obscure at that position). The Kuh, Posen, and Harris bars also show one spike below the left end of the balance beam and that feature, which may have been in a master, can also be seen on two of the four Wiegand bars (on Wiegand no. 1586 the spike there is dissimilar and on Wiegand \$20.00 the bar is obscure at that position). The Molitor ingot no. 406 (which existed before 1950) does not share four of these six regional indicators (the bar is obscure at the other two positions), the Ruhling bar shares none of the regional characteristics, and the Van Wyck bar is obscure at the salient points. The cataloguer concludes that while the OIR stamps on the Ford bars were ultimately raised from a common master, individual stamps were raised from working hubs of which there must have been multiple. It also appears likely to him that stamps were distributed in groups to assessors as they were called for and that what we see in the rough groupings of one spike, two spikes, etc. among the Ford OIR stamped bars is the evidence that remains of different shipments of stamps raised about the same time in the Philadelphia Mint, then shipped out west to be distributed to assayers in different states or territories.

One of the three ingots pedigreed before 1950, the Blake & Company ingot number 945, is one of six bars that bear the Blake & Co. mark. Two of the six Blake bars state they were made in Unionville, Nevada territory, the other four (including Blake 945) that they were made in Owyhee, Idaho Territory. The four Owyhee ingots all share the same BLAKE & CO. ASSAYERS, OWYHEE, and No. logotypes. Two of the four share with the two Unionville bars the same No. logotype. The two Unionville bars also share the same SILVER logotype. Clearly, the Blake & Company ingots in this collection are closely interlinked by the shared use of common logotypes and it may safely be assumed all six were made by one or more workshops that shared some of the same tools. Three of the Blake & Company ingots have OIR seals that share all of the four master elements in common. One of those OIR sealed Blake & Company ingots, number 945, can be pedigreed to before 1950.

There are 14 ingots in this collection that bear the stamp of Conrad Wiegand. All but two share the same No., OZS., C.WIEGAND, ASSAYER, GOLD., SILV., and FINE. logotypes. One bar, the \$26.95 ingot, shares only the OZS. logotype with the other 12 and one, the \$19.82 valued bar, shares no logotypes with any other Wiegand bar. Given the number of Wiegand stamped bars known today his assay office must have been busy.

The physical appearances of a fairly high percentage of Wiegand bars seem to suggest they may have been made for purchase as gifts or presentations, a factor that would tend to increase their chances of surviving beyond a generation after manufacture. Four of the Wiegand ingots in this collection have OIR seals stamped on them. Two of the four OIR seals show the concave left end of the master seal, three of the four show the pointed right tip, all four show the vertical bar favoring the left side, and two of the four are within 19 mm. diameter outlines. The \$26.95 valued bar does not have an OIR seal. The \$19.82 valued bar has all of the four elements seen on genuine OIR seals.

Punch links may be noted on other bars in the collection, including two of three Harvey Harris bars that share the same assayer's ethnic punch; both of the Thomas Price & Son ingots, that share the same ethnic logotype; both Gould & Curry Silver Mining Co. bars, that share the same ethnic logotype; and the two N.A. Boles bars, that share five punches in common. Punch link studies of ingots are in their infancy. The brief descriptions of links seen on the Ford bars presented above are the first undertaken. The exceptionally large number of ingots in Mr. Ford's overall collection presented a unique opportunity to look closely at such things as size and shape, punch linkages, and OIR stamp morphology. The cataloguer hopes that a thorough study of punch linkages across many more ingots will be undertaken.

How to Date An Ingot

The 1864 tax was levied to help pay for the costs of the war and did not long survive it. Begun in late 1864 it was history four or nine years later. For our purposes, any ingot not otherwise dated that has an OIR stamp on it may be dated 1864-68 or 1864-73. Ingots that do not have an OIR stamp can be dated in other ways, only one of which always seems precise. The business history of an assayer can help establish an ingot's date. In the case of the F.W. Blake & Company bars in Mr. Ford's collection that have Blake's Unionville business address on them, we know from Dan Owens' research that Francis Blake set up his assaying business in Upper Unionville, Nevada during the period March to April, 1864 and that by the end of April two years later he had relocated to Silver City, Idaho Territory. So, the two Unionville bars in Mr. Ford's collection can be confidently dated March/April, 1864 to April 30, 1866. We can refine this dating even further. One of these two bars has an OIR stamp on it while the other does not. The one that does was made after September, 1864 (when the law requiring stamps on ingots came into effect) and whenever such stamps were first made available to assayers in the west, probably by the end of that year at the latest; and before April 30, 1866 (when Blake left Nevada), so we can shave another five months off the beginning of the

date range. We can date the bar that does not have an OIR stamp on it even more precisely, since it must have been made between March/April, 1864 (when Blake set up shop in Nevada) and September/December of that year (when the OIR law came into effect and stamps probably became available).

Some few bars carry their own date of manufacture, or at least, they appear to. Both Blake in Idaho and Conrad Wiegand in Nevada made and sold presentation bars that are among the nicest looking ingots of them all. Among these are a handful of specially made presentation bars given on particular occasions long since forgotten. Some of the inscriptions recognizing these occasions are dated. For example, the Mrs. E.R. Piper bar made by Blake carries the precise January 1, 1868 date. The R. Bray bar made by Wiegand is similarly precisely dated August 10, 1871 while the Siebenhauer bar also by Wiegand is simply dated 1871. Neither Blake nor Wiegand were engravers by trade so it is probable that while they made the bars, the inscriptions were added elsewhere. Unless one assumes these bars were made and held for an indeterminate period before receiving their dedicatory inscriptions, it is likely that the inscriptions were put on the bars soon after they were made and that the year date in the bar's inscription corresponds with the year the bar was actually made. In these cases, then, which are admittedly few, we can comfortably date these three bars with some precision 1868, 1871, and 1871, respectively.

Some of Wiegand's other ingots bear a year date directly adjacent to the OIR stamp (a few other assayer's bars are known with similar year dates). The cataloguer suspects either that Wiegand added the date in these cases as a way of identifying which year he paid the ad valorem tax on that particular bar, should a question ever arise about it, or that the OIR required the date be added as a way of cross checking in case of audit.

Most bars cannot be dated with anything approaching such precision, however. In those cases recourse to the business history of the assayer offers the best guidance to when a particular assayer's product might have been made.

Like his holdings of colonial coins, Betts medals, Indian peace medals, colonial coins, etc., Mr. Ford's collection of assayer's ingots is the largest and most important ever to cross the auction block. It is the cataloguer's expectation that when this present offering is placed on the market the field of assay ingots will move closer to the mainstream of numismatic collectibles and become more familiar to the wider coin collecting public.

My particular thanks are due to Andrew W. Pollock III for closely reading the manuscript and George Fuld for the Mehl-Newcomer inventory references.

Mike Hodder

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

THE JOHN J. FORD, Jr. COLLECTION

PART XXI

WESTERN ASSAYER'S INGOTS

Tuesday Evening, October 16, 2007

Approximately 7:00 P.M.

Lots 3501-3560

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In accordance with the terms of sale, each successful bidder also agrees to pay a buyer's charge of fifteen percent (15%) of the winning bid recognized by the auctioneer.



WESTERN ASSAYER'S INGOTS

G.I. BEALE

Silver City, Nevada

Nothing is currently known about this assayer that is not stated on the following ingot, the only one known to the cataloguer.

A CENTENNIAL INGOT FROM SILVER CITY, NEVADA

The Only Bar by Beale Known to the Cataloguer



Lot No. 3501

- 3501 **G.I. Beale, Assayer. Silver City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot no. 1832, dated 1776-1876.** Appearance of Extremely Fine. A very attractive, highly polished, well made, and nicely hand engraved presentation ingot. All sides still bright and somewhat reflective. Engraving worn in places, one side apparently deliberately defaced. The dual dates suggest this was made in celebration of the national centennial in 1876. This is a most handsome little bar whose study might yield more information about its maker than is presently known.

Face: No. 1832 / G.I. BEALE. / ASSAYER / SILVER CITY / NEV. / OZ. 3.50 / F [to left between the next two] G .045 / S 939 / \$[to left between the next two] G. 3.25 / S. 4.25 / \$7.50.

Back: blank.

Top side: 1876.

Bottom side: 1776.

Left side: G.I.B.

Right side: J.C.B.

Dimensions: 42.7 x 18.9 x 13.4 mm.

Current weight: 111.1 gms.

Noted on Mr. Ford's informational card accompanying the lot "Originally contained in a custom case, covered with ultra-thin maroon leather (decorated with fine cross hatched lines), and lined with pink silk; gilt lines on top of lid; brass hardware. In addition to ingot, case contained four 1876 coins, Trade Dollar, Half Dollar, Quarter, Dime (mintmarks or lack of same ascertained, but not recorded), and had space for an additional item at top (not present), and possibly two others (to be placed vertically on each side of row of coins). Case and contents purchased from Frank Rose, Toronto, Canada, 8/24/76, at A.N.A. Convention, N.Y.C." Photographs also accompany the lot.

BELMONT SILVER MINING COMPANY

Belmont, Nevada

Like the first and the following, neither Mr. Ford nor the cataloguer discovered any information about the particular Belmont company that made this ingot.

A SILVER INGOT DATED JULY 12, 1873



Lot No. 3502

3502 **Belmont Silver Mining Company. Belmont, Nevada. Silver assay ingot, July 12, 1873.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. A rough and rather crude looking ingot, medium silver gray in color, with unfinished surfaces. The company's name and location is accomplished in logotype as is Ozs. but everything else inscribed on the bar is by individual punches and in the date, "th" has been cobbled together by punching two numerals 1 horizontally and then overlaying another two numerals 1 vertically on the first set.

Face: BELMONT S.M.CO / BELMONT.NEV. / OZS.23.50 / S 981 F / \$29.80.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: JULY 12 [followed by vertical 11 punched over horizontal 11] 1873.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 75.3 x 48.1 x 20.6 mm.

Stated weight: 23.5 ozs.

Noted on Mr. Ford's illustrated informational card accompanying the lot as being in the Kagin Collection on July 31, 1956 and December, 1957.

W.L. BERRY, ASSAYER Nevada

Like Beale, the cataloguer can offer no information about this assayer that cannot be told from the bar bearing Berry's name. The bar seems very well formed by an accomplished assayer. It has the look of a piece made in the 1870s or 80s more than that of one made earlier.

A HANDSOME NEVADA INGOT The Only Bar by Berry Known to the Cataloguer



Lot No. 3503

3503 **W.L. Berry, Assayer. Nevada. Silver and gold assay ingot no. 3.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. A very handsome and well made ingot with polished faces, nicely chamfered edges, and a pleasing trapezoidal shape. The assayer's name and location as well as GOLD and SILVER were accomplished by logotype punches. The piece is not dated and has no presentation inscription but it was clearly not made either to be spent or melted right away. It seems to have been a souvenir or keepsake of the time made using punches ordinarily intended for bars of much larger size (note how the FINE punch twice runs off the bar). This ingot was once in Newcomer's Collection according to Mehl's 1931 inventory.

Face: SILVER 854 F[INE] / GOLD 15 FIN[E].

Back: W.L. BERRY / ASSAYER / NEVADA.

Top side: GOLD \$1.46.

Bottom side: SILVER \$7.34.

Left side: OZ / 6.65.

Right side: No. 3.

Dimensions: 54.8 x 25.4 x 15.3 mm.

Current weight: 206.5 gms.

Noted on Mr. Ford's illustrated informational card accompanying the lot as ex Kagin Collection on June 18, 1958. Recently, George Fuld found this bar on Mehl's 1931 inventory of the Waldo C. Newcomer Collection.

**BLAKE & COMPANY
FRANCIS W. BLAKE**

**Weaverville, California
Unionville, Nevada
Silver City, Owyhee County, I.T. (Idaho Territory)
Prescott, A.T. (Arizona Territory)**

Blake, Mr. F.W., was born in Boston, July 24, 1828. He went to California in 1852, settling in Weaverville, and engaging in the assaying business, and subsequently moved to Unionville, Nevada, where he opened an assay office, and was married to Miss Sarah Meador, of that place. In 1866 he came to Silver City, and was engaged as assayer for all the principal mines and mills in this locality. He erected the granite block on Washington Street, now occupied by Dave Adams, and took a very active interest in the affairs of the county generally. In 1873 he left with his family for New York, remaining there until 1875, when he returned to the west, locating at Prescott, Arizona, where he engaged in banking and assaying, and also as agent for Wells, Fargo & Company's express, and served one term as mayor of Prescott. His death occurred August 2, 1895, at Prescott, Arizona, and his widow and only son (a native of Silver City) still reside at Prescott, where his son carries on his father's business.

From A Historical Descriptive and Commercial Directory of Owyhee County, Idaho (January 1898, Silver City, Idaho), p.101: Owyhee Avalanche (1898).

"The development of the American West in the 19th century encompassed so many events over such a broad area that even today many details still remain to be studied. One such story began with the chance appearance of a small silver ingot in Bowers and Merena's Abe Kosoff estate auction late in 1985. Accidentally misattributed to a California firm, this piece had actually been issued by an assayer in the Nevada boomtown of Unionville. Slowly the search for data about this ingot-maker led to the unraveling of the life of a little-known pioneer banker, assayer and expressman—Francis Wheeler Blake.

Born in Boston on July 24, 1828, Blake's early years in the east are unknown until he set sail for California in 1852. Choosing the faster sea route over an arduous overland journey, Blake took a ship to Panama, crossed the Isthmus on foot or mule-back, then sailed to San Francisco on board the steamer *Constitution*.

Shortly after his arrival on May 22, 1852, Blake headed for the northern California gold fields of Trinity County. There he found employment as an agent of Rhodes & Lusk Express in Weaverville, but soon realized that he could do much better for himself by opening his own business. Thus EW Blake & Co. Express was founded later in 1852 to operate stages between Weaverville and Shasta.

From the very beginning, and for the rest of his life, Blake was closely affiliated with Wells Fargo & Co. At first his line simply connected with their stages at Shasta. Then when he built his Weaverville office in 1854, which was one of the first brick buildings in town and cost the staggering sum of \$5,000, he shared space with Wells Fargo, becoming their Weaverville agent. In addition to operating his daily express to Shasta and back, Blake also conducted a banking business which handled gold dust for the miners in the vicinity.

Blake sold his brick office building in August 1857, although he remained in business in Weaverville for two more years. Competition was heavy in both the express and banking businesses, which may have prompted Blake to abandon his ventures in 1859. Wells Fargo transferred their Weaverville agency to Greenwood & Newbauer's Northern Express, and Blake left Weaverville.

By 1861 he had relocated in Carson City, capital of the newly created Nevada Territory. There he operated a storage and commission business in partnership with J.O. Pope, and was a respected member of the business community. In April 1862, Blake was one of the 12 founders of the Odd Fellows' Carson City Lodge No.4, but within two years he joined the rush to the booming mining camp of Unionville, Nevada.

In March 1864, Blake purchased Block & Co.'s assay office in Upper Unionville, moved the equipment to a more auspicious location in Thomas Ewing's new brick building on Main Street, and reopened in April as "Blake & Co., assayers." The firm's first ad stated, "Gold and silver Bullion, and ores of every description

melted and assayed; and returns of bullion made in bars or coin, at the option of depositors.”

The Humboldt Register newspaper reported on July 2 that “Blake’s assay office...has been glutted, in the past two weeks with crude bullion from the mail. Things begin to look like ‘biz’.” Just how much “biz” was evident a month later when the paper stated “Blake & Co. received Wednesday, for melting, 16,000 ounces crude bullion.”

Throughout the next two years similar notices appeared nearly every week stating the various amounts of bullion which he had received or the size of refined ingot shipped the preceding week. Besides his profitable assay business, Blake also served as a secretary of the local chapter of the I.O.O.F. [International Order of Odd Fellows], as well as secretary of both the Humboldt Salt Mining Co. and the Twilight Tunneling Co.

However, as with most mining booms, Unionville’s heady days were short-lived. By early 1866 the *Register* was complaining: “The times are dull, and many seek to improve their fortunes by going ‘to other scenes and pastures new’.” Thomas Ewing, who operated an extensive retail merchandise store in the same building as Blake’s assay office, shipped in April “a monster stock of groceries, liquors, clothing, hardware, mining tools, provisions, and the like” to the bustling new mining camp of Silver City, Idaho Territory.

Blake must have already decided to move north to Silver City, for his last advertisement appeared in the *Register* on April 28, and he quickly sold his assay business to H.M. Judge, previously an assayer for the Ophir Mining Company in Virginia City. When Ewing left Unionville on April 30 to follow his goods north, Blake was one of those accompanying him. Also in the party was Edward B. Blake, believed to be Francis’ brother, but about whom little else is known.

By July the new firm of Blake & Co., assayers, had begun operations in a building on Washington Street, with E.B. Blake opening a small sign painting business next door, but there was still one item of unfinished business in Nevada. On November 8, 1866, Blake, who was then 38 years of age, married 22-year-old Sarah E. Meador in the tiny Nevada community of Limerick.

The Silver City assay office continued to prosper. In July 1867, Blake & Co. advertised in the Owyhee Avalanche: “We guarantee our Assays to conform to the

standard of the U.S. Branch Mint. Bars discounted at current rates. Particular attention paid to assays of Ore of every description.” A later history of Owyhee County stated that he was engaged as assayer for all the principal mines and mills in this locality.

When the couple’s only child, Edward Meador Blake, was born on August 7, 1867, it is thought that he was named for Edward Blake who accompanied Francis to Idaho the previous year.

In 1868 Blake became the local agent for the Manhattan Life Insurance Company of New York, and is also reported to have built an imposing stone building known as the Granite Block. The following year he expanded further by purchasing Charles P. Robbins’ jewelry and watchmaking store located in the Granite Block, and by early 1870 he had also moved the assay office into this building.

Blake’s various business enterprises remained unchanged until October 1873, when the assay office apparently closed. The November 15 issue of the *Avalanche* reported, “Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Blake and Master Eddie took their departure for Boston last Thursday evening. Mr. Blake goes to visit his old mother, whom he has not seen for 23 years, and will return about the middle of next month.” The newspaper was in error, though, as Blake did not return to Silver City, and his jewelry store was closed the following April.

The Blake family remained in the east, possibly residing in New York as well as Boston, until they moved to Prescott, *Arizona Territory*. On October 29, 1875 the *Arizona Weekly Miner* stated that Frank W. Blake had been appointed agent for the new Arizona and New Mexico Express Company which would connect Prescott with the railroad at Caliente.

Returning to the express business was not enough, though, and by August he had opened an assay office in Prescott. The editor of the *Miner* was moved to comment, “We have known Mr. Blake, as an Assayer, for nearly a quarter of a century, in California, Nevada, and Idaho, and have yet to hear the correctness of a single assay of his questioned.”

This assay office, like those previously established elsewhere, immediately proved to be a success, enabling Blake to take on the positions of secretary and bookkeeper of the Peck Mining Company. In his spare time he was also involved in locating the Grecian Bend mine in the Tiger mining district, the Atlas mine in the Hassayampa district, and the Apache mine in the Weaver mining district.

Early in June 1877, Wells Fargo & Co. opened their Prescott office, and naturally chose F.W. Blake as their agent. Soon he was also appointed agent and general superintendent for the Peck Mining Company, was elected mayor of Prescott, and once again began selling insurance on the side.

Blake remained Wells Fargo & Co.'s agent in Prescott until 1884, when he allowed the position to be filled by his brother-in-law, John Frank Meador. Mrs. Blake's father had settled in Arizona's Salt River Valley and the Blake's became fairly close to the Meador family.

For the next four years Blake turned his attentions to other projects such as the Walnut Grove Water Storage Co., the Piedmont Cattle Co., the local Masonic chapter, the First National Bank in Prescott, and for a time he even served as cashier of the Bank of Prescott. At one point, a local newspaperman rightfully called Blake "the hardest desk worker in Prescott."

In 1888 Blake again assumed the position of Wells Fargo agent, which he held until ill health forced his resignation in 1895. Edward M. Blake then succeeded his father as agent and held this office until 1899.

On August 1, 1895 Francis Blake died in Prescott of Bright's disease. He was buried in the local Masonic cemetery, where his wife was also laid to rest when she died in 1923.

For 42 years Blake had been an expressman, banker, and assayer, serving countless thousands of people in four states and territories. "He was a man of more than ordinary ability," one obituary stated. "His death will cause widespread sadness." Blake's integrity and character were without reproach, and perhaps his greatest achievement was the creation of some stability in raw mining camps scattered in the remote regions of the west."

Douglas McDonald. "F.W. Blake: Western Assayer, Banker, and Expressman." *Rare Coin Review* (Bowers & Merena, Inc., Spring 1987, No. 64, pp. 66-67).



Gold Mining in California
Currier and Ives

TWO HUMBOLDT COUNTY, N.T. BLAKE & CO. INGOTS
The Extremely Rare Upper Unionville Bars



Lot No. 3504

3504 **Blake & Company. Upper Unionville, Humboldt County, Nevada Territory. Silver assay ingot no. 319.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine/Fine. A nice looking bar, square in shape, flat top and slightly rounded back. Smaller on the top than the logotypes used, some letters run off the edges. Flawed on both sides, the back particularly. Opposing corners clipped like the bigger S.S. Central America gold bars. **Extremely rare:** Blake was in Humboldt County less than two years; this and the next are the only Blake bars in Mr. Ford's collection with this address. The bar can be dated, consequently, to the period September 1, 1864 to April 30, 1866. The cataloguer can recall only one other Blake ingot from this address, ingot no. 372.

Face: BLAKE & C[o.] / ASSAYERS. / UNIONVILLE [HUMBOLDT - CO.N.T.].

Back: OIR stamp.

Top side: SILVER F..724.

Bottom side: \$3.88.

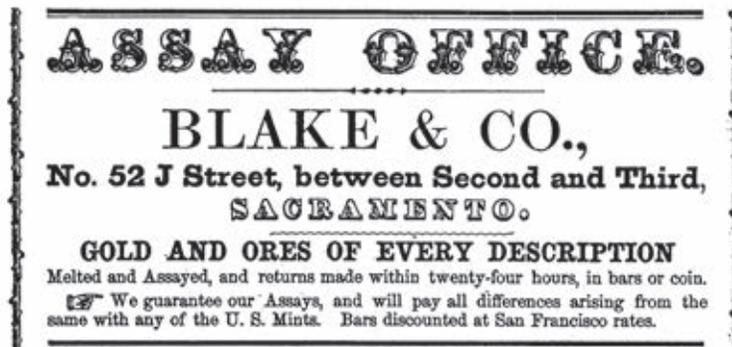
Left side: NO.319.

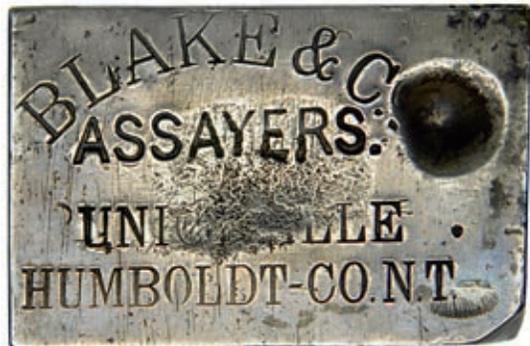
Right side: Oz 4.15.

Dimensions: 44.1 x 31.4 x 9.7 mm.

Current weight: 129.3 gms.

Provenance unrecorded.





Lot No. 3505



3505 **Blake & Company. Upper Unionville, Humboldt County, Nevada Territory. Silver assay ingot no. 147.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. A bigger bar than the last, medium gray color, nicely squared off edges. Deep flaw at right on the face, cooling fissure on back. Two opposing corners clipped. Made before the previous but listed here by its size and weight. **Extremely rare** as the last. The bar may be dated to the period April/May, 1864 to September 1 or slightly later, 1864.

Face: BLAKE & Co. / ASSAYERS. / UNIONVILLE / HUMBOLDT - CO.N.T.

Back: Blank.

Top side: VALUE \$15.82.

Bottom side: SILVER FINE .815.

Left side: No.147.

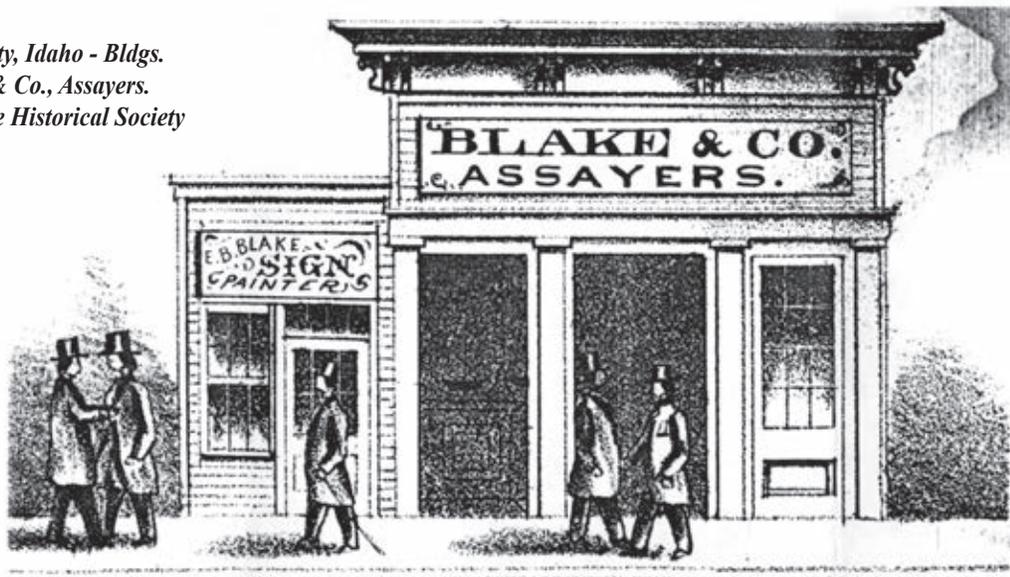
Right side: Oz. 15.02.

Dimensions: 66.6 x 44.5 x 16.4 mm.

Stated weight: 15.02 ozs.

Provenance unrecorded.

*Silver City, Idaho - Bldgs.
Blake & Co., Assayers.
Idaho State Historical Society*



THE FIRST OF FOUR BLAKE & CO. OWYHEE COUNTY, I.T. INGOTS
Some of the Finest Ingots Made by Any Assayer



Lot No. 3506

3506 **Blake & Company. Silver City, Owyhee County, Idaho Territory. Silver & gold presentation assay ingot no. 2745.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. A very handsome ingot, toned in deep silver gray. Surfaces heavily polished before stamping, the layout highly regular, the execution clearly showing a degree of care. This ingot was not made to be casually spent, it has all the look of a special order bar. Perhaps the letter "B" punched into the top side distinguished it from another. There are some unfortunate gouges on the face, one rather large and disfiguring in the center. This ingot can be dated with some precision. The tax law of 1862 was emasculated in December, 1872 and along with it, the requirement of the law of June 30, 1864 that ingots had to be stamped with the OIR seal. Blake's assaying business in Silver City closed in October, 1873. The bar, consequently, may be dated to the period December, 1872 to October, 1873. The obvious differences between the layouts of this and the other Owyhee bars in the collection and that seen on the two Unionville bars earlier may perhaps be explainable by a desire to have all commercially important information on a bar presented immediately to sight, eliminating the need to flip the bar around to read each face and all four sides. Note that the layout of the two Unionville bars is nearly the same on each as is that on the four Owyhee bars in the collection, yet the two families are dissimilar. Note also that the Unionville bars bear the town and county name while the Owyhee bars bear only the county name and omit the Silver City town name. It is also interesting that neither of the Unionville bars signifies anything other than the silver content in their inscriptions, yet the finenesses are low enough to suggest other contents of some significance, part of which must have been gold. The Owyhee bars, on the other hand, carefully indicate their silver and gold contents even though none are obviously commercial ingots. Perhaps Mr. Blake's operation had become more sophisticated by the time it was moved to Silver City.

Face: No. 2745 / BLAKE & CO. / ASSAYERS. / OWYHEE, I.T. / OZ.4.20 / G.F. .012 / S.F. .987 / G.\$1.04 / S.\$5.35.

Back: blank.

Top side: B.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 52.5 x 28.2 x 8.4 mm.

Current weight: 130.8 gms.

Ex Jim Hosler on November 24, 1966. Mr. Ford's informational card, Rankow photographs, and correspondence regarding the purchase accompany this lot.

ANOTHER HANDSOME AND WELL MADE BLAKE & CO. INGOT



Lot No. 3507

3507 **Blake & Company. Silver City, Owyhee County, Idaho Territory. Silver & gold presentation assay ingot no. 1047.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. Another handsome ingot, this toned a lighter silver gray. Like the last, surfaces heavily polished before stamping, the face layout highly regular, the back bearing the presentation inscription, the Office of Internal Revenue stamp cleverly serving as a central decorative element. Squared off edges and sharp corners mark this as a carefully made bar. There is one unfortunate production flaw in the top side, otherwise the ingot is remarkably clean. The tax law of June 30, 1864 requiring OIR stamps on ingots came into effect in September of that year. By December, 1872, it was essentially repealed. This bar, then, may be dated to the period September, 1864 to December, 1872. This is a presentation bar, not a commercial one. The accuracy of commercial assays, especially involving large amounts of bullion, was paramount in the business. Reliability could best be ascertained by clipping opposing corners of a bar, saving one chip (as they were called at the time) for double checking later and assaying the fineness of the other, whose contents should correspond exactly with the finenesses stamped on the face of the bar. In the case of a bar made for other than commercial purposes, such as presentation pieces and ingots too small to have been worth troubling with, there was no need to put the ingot's assay to the test. In the case of the former, the sentiment attached to the bar was probably more important to the giver and recipient than the assay of the bar. It seems to the cataloguer that this is why almost all known small assay bars do not have the corner clips found on all the big S.S. *Central America* gold ingots that were destined for commercial melting pots.

Face: No. 1047 / BLAKE & CO. / ASSAYERS. / OWYHEE, I.T. / OZ.4.10 / G.F. .130 / S.F. .856 / G.\$11.01 / S.\$4.53.

Back: within a decorative border: Miss M.F.C. / FROM / OIR stamp / F.H.S. / of / I.T.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 55.0 x 24.8 x 8.3 mm.

Current weight: 127.3 gms.

Ex Paul Franklin, obtained from Gimbels coin department through Don Taxay in early October, 1961. Mr. Ford's informational card and Rankow photographs accompany this lot.

A NICELY MADE BROAD BLAKE & CO. INGOT



Lot No. 3508

3508 **Blake & Company. Silver City, Owyhee County, Idaho Territory. Silver & gold presentation assay ingot no. 1680.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. A broad ingot with nice, deep coin silver gray color and some iridescence. Nicely made, with sharp edges, squared off corners, polished surfaces, and Blake's typical regular layout. The marks on the face that look like scratches were in the surface of the bar before it was stamped and so are as made. This bar may be dated to the period December, 1872 to October, 1873. Like bar no. 2745, this ingot must have been made after December, 1872 when the tax law of 1862 as amended was effectively terminated and before October, 1873 when Blake closed his assaying business in Silver City. In this respect, it is interesting to note that there are nearly 650 ingot numbers between bar no. 1047 made before December, 1872 and bar no. 1680, made after that date, but over 1,000 ingot numbers between bars no. 1680 and no. 2745 made between December, 1872 and October, 1873. Careful readers will by now have noticed that not only do Blake's bars show remarkable regularity in their layouts, but also in their shapes and sizes, particularly their thicknesses, which closely range from 8.3 to 9.0 mm. (8.4, 8.3, 9.0, and 8.6 mm., respectively). A similar regularity in thickness may also be observed on the bars made by Conrad Wiegand to be found later in this catalogue. It might be mentioned parenthetically that anyone attempting to counterfeit Blake's or Wiegand's bars in the 1950's would have had to have known that both makers' genuine bars exhibit a consistent layout and thickness in order to make his copies look like the real thing. And this at a time in our hobby's history when bars were few and far between in the trade.

Face: No.1680 / BLAKE & CO. / ASSAYERS / OWYHEE, I.T. / OZ.7.13 / G.F..022 / S.F. .974 / G.\$3.24 / S.\$8.97.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

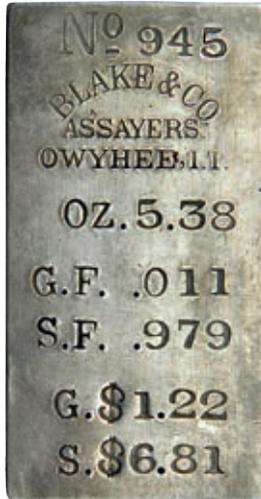
Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 59.8 x 38.7 x 9.0 mm.

Current weight: 222.5 gms.

Provenance unrecorded.

**A DATED AND PROVENANCED BLAKE BAR
WITH THE OFFICE OF INTERNAL REVENUE STAMP
Presentation Ingot to Mrs. Elida Kirkpatrick Piper Dated Jan. 1, 1868**



Lot No. 3509

3509* **Blake & Company. Silver City, Owyhee County, Idaho Territory. Silver & gold presentation assay ingot no. 945. Dated on the bar January 1, 1868.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. A very presentable bar, pale silver gray in color. Polished surfaces, sharp edges, squared corners. Typical layout on both face and back for a Blake presentation bar, similar to that seen on bar No. 1047, with equal care taken to the placement of the logotypes, letters, presentation inscription, and the OIR stamp. Several small and not too intrusive edge cuts both sides. A highly important ingot, the ingot date and OIR stamp are essential parts of the argument proving ingots like these are genuine and collectable. Mr. Ford purchased this ingot from the great-granddaughter of the recipient named on the bar. Mrs. Piper's middle initial, K, was mistaken for an R and was so mis-stamped. Presentation inscriptions were probably written down on paper by the giver and it was up to him to be sure the engraver could read the handwriting and get the spellings right. The seller wrote Mr. Ford saying: "This piece was given my great-grandmother, Elida Kirkpatrick Piper for the many civic things she had done for the City of Rathdrum, Idaho." Accompanying the lot are original, yellowed newspaper clippings announcing the death of Mr. J.J. Piper, the husband of the recipient named on this bar. The provenance of this ingot has been condemned as phony but without explaining how a fake pedigree involving a complete nobody makes a genuine bar more valuable than otherwise. The cataloguer has no reason to doubt the authenticity of the pedigree materials that accompany this lot.

Face: No. 945 / BLAKE & CO. / ASSAYERS / OWYHEE, I.T. / OZ.5.38 / G.F..011 / S.F. .979 / G.\$1.22 / S.\$6.81.

Back: MRS. E.R. PIPER / OIR stamp / JAN.1.1868.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 64.9 x 33.9 x 8.6 mm.

Current weight: 167.0 gms.

Ex Marie Estinson on January 10, 1966. Mr. Ford's informational card, Rankow photographs, correspondence from Marie Estinson, 1916 postcard to Estinson's mother from Piper's daughter Anita or Abertina, obituaries as noted.

* Shortly before this catalogue went to press, this and four other ingots from the Ford Collection were stolen during transit. Since they had already been photographed and described, Stack's decided to retain their lot descriptions in this catalog in order to preserve their numismatic evidence for future researchers and to aid in their hoped recovery.

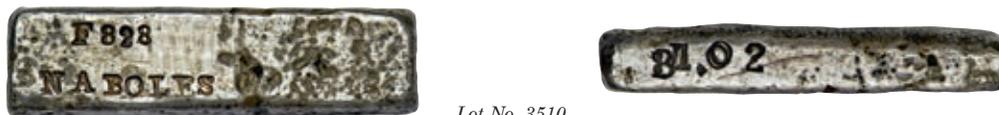
N.A. BOLES, ASSAYER

Prescott, Arizona

Essentially nothing is known to the cataloguer or was to Mr. Ford about Boles save that his name appears stamped on three ingots, two of which are dated in December, 1883.

A PAIR OF INGOTS BY N.A. BOLES

Two of the Three Boles Ingots Known to the Cataloguer



Lot No. 3510

3510 **N.A. Boles, Assayer. Prescott, Arizona. Silver assay ingot.** Overall appearance of Fine. A very rough, crude, and unfinished bar almost straight from the mold. Medium silver gray color. The surfaces are rough and pitted, the faces are unfinished, and the legends are accomplished in individual punches. The \$ punch was made by punching a 1 over an 8. The bar does not state more about its content or value than its apparent silver fineness and total value. Presumably, the bar's owner knew enough he did not have to ask for more. The piece resembles the first of the Thomas Price & Son bars to follow. The "F," "8," "N," "A," and "B" punches on these two Boles bars are identical. These two ingots attributed to Boles are consistent in shape, size, weight, use of individual punches, and layout of the information about fineness and value. Both use the odd expedient of punching a 1 over an 8 to make something resembling a \$. Both place the fineness of the bar on the left side of the face but neither indicates the metallic content, presumably leaving it up to the owner's common sense. Neither indicates the bar's value in any other way than a simple dollar value.

Face: At left, F 828 above N A BOLES.

Back: blank.

Top side: 8/1 [to create a \$] 1.02.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 54.1 x 14.9 x 9.3 mm.

Current weight: 67.30 gms.

Ex Century Collection (Superior Galleries, February 2, 1992, lot 3430).

A SECOND RARE N.A. BOLES BAR



Lot No. 3511

- 3511 **N.A. Boles, Assayer. Prescott, Arizona. Silver assay ingot, December 15, 1883.** Overall appearance of Fine. Another rough, crude, and unfinished bar from this maker. Somewhat deeper silver gray color. Like the first, surfaces rough and pitted, the faces unfinished, the legends accomplished by individual punches. The face is scratched. The cataloguer knows of one other ingot marked by Boles besides these two, the \$9.22 bar dated December 8, 1883 that was first shown to Stack's in September, 1989 and that ultimately appeared in Stack's sale of January 15, 1997, lot 1281 (sold at \$17,600).

Face: At left, 986F, below and to the right of which N.A.B., above and to the right 12.15.83.

Back: blank.

Top side: 8/1 [to create a \$] 1.28.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 51.3 x 14.3 x 11.4 mm.

Current weight: 77.19 gms.

Ex Colonel Green and Charles A. Kays (Schulman, 1956) Collections, Dan Brown's Coin Shop, Inc. on August 17, 1970. Mr. Ford's informational card, Rankow photographs, and purchase invoice accompany the lot.

THE HAIR-RAISING TALE OF A GOLD INGOT LOST IN 1869

Some small gold ingots known to have been made in the west in cowboy days have been lost to modern view. One of the most colorful tales surrounds a small gold bar stamped "J.F.S." This was a bar made from gold mined by Colonel J.F. Stone in the heart of Apache country in the late 1860s. Stone used to carry the bar around in his pocket and would show it to anyone he thought might be interested in investing in his gold mine. On October 16, 1869 the weekly mail coach to Tucson, Arizona was brought into town riddled with bullet and lance holes and splattered with blood.

Colonel Stone, other coach passengers, and an escort of four mounted soldiers had been killed by Apaches. Stone's gold bar was missing from his pocket. In February, 1870 the *Weekly Arizonan* reported that on display at Charley Brown's saloon in Tucson were the scalp and ears of the Apache who had killed Colonel Stone, along with Stone's gold bar, recognizable by the J.F.S. initials on it. What happened to the bar after that is unknown. Perhaps it's lying in a pawnbroker's shop or unrecognized in an antique store somewhere out west.

F.H. BOUSFIELD, ASSAYER
EBERHARDT & AURORA MINING CO.
Eberhardt or Virginia City, Nevada (?)

The Eberhardt & Aurora Mining Company was an English firm established from London with the intent of mining silver from the White Pine district in Hamilton County, Nevada. The firm bought the interests of the Eberhardt mining group, formed by Captain Frank Drake and others, that had been exploiting the residual silver bearing ores in the old "Hidden Treasure" diggings on the main part of White Pine Mountain. By 1870 it was not yielding as much as it had been just five years earlier, when its owners had turned down an offer of \$4 million for it. Most of the Eberhardt's ore was found at or near

the surface and the company was forced to the expense of running a tunnel ever deeper in hopes of finding another jackpot. The Aurora Mine was another nearly played out property. The newly formed Eberhardt & Aurora Mining Company hired Frank Drake as its superintendent and Thomas Phillpotts as its mining surveyor and claim scout. The company headquarters was located in Eberhardt, at the foot of Treasure Hill. Its financial and operating papers are in the William Miles Read Papers in the Bancroft Library. The history of the firm can be read in *W.T. Jackson's Treasure Hill: Portrait of a Silver Camp*.

THE SOLE INGOT KNOWN WITH THIS ASSAYER'S NAME
A Dated Presentation Bar

3512 **F.H. Bousfield. Eberhardt or Virginia City, Nevada. Silver assay ingot no. 10, September, 1870.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. Clearly, this is a presentation piece that was rubbed and polished over the years. It is a pale silver in color with some areas bright from buffing. The surfaces were smoothed before the bar was engraved but many small flaws were left showing and the cooling depression on the back was not entirely polished away. The edges and corners are finished but not sharp. There are no disfiguring marks. This appears to be the sole ingot known with F.H. Bousfield's name and stamp. The bar was first offered for sale in Wallis & Wallis' sale of arms and armour on June 22, 1972. Mr. Ford wrote to Edward Baldwin of A.H. Baldwin & Sons, Ltd. five days before the sale describing the ingot, why he felt it was genuine, and concluding "I WANT this lot [underlined]. The problem is to get it at a reasonable price. Since no one probably knows very much about it, on either side of the ocean, it should go in the £100 range. Bid up to £550 for it, for me [underlined]. 10% more would not hurt." Mr. Ford's informational card notes "This ingot appeared as Lot 1897 in Wallis & Wallis', Lewes, Sussex, England 185th sale, Arms & Armour, June 22, 1972. Purchased on floor by Baldwin's for [price in code] against book bid of R.C. Romanella of [price in code]." Mr. Ford was so happy at getting the ingot at £270 that he paid Baldwin's an additional commission for their assistance. There is a mystery about the assayer's name on this ingot. W.S. Bousfield is listed in the 1870 Nevada census but F.H. Bousfield does not appear in any Nevada census consulted. Holabird & Kagin sold an ingot in their Fall, 2006 offering (item 75) crudely stamped WCB. & Co. that they identified as W.C. Bousfield's. Mr. Ford's F.H. Bousfield ingot is a presentation piece with an English provenance. Yet, it must have been made in Nevada. The ingot clearly bears further research.

Face: No. 10 / F.H. BOUSFIELD [scales] AS-SAYER [in an oval logotype punch] / OZ 11.87 / 990 FINE / \$15.19.

Back: blank.

Top side: SEP 1870.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: T.PHILLPOTTS / TO I.S. HODGSON.

Right side: EBERHARDT & AURORA M.Co / NEVADA.U.S.

Dimensions: 66.4 x 34.0 x 15.6 mm.

Stated weight: 11.87 ozs.

Ex Wallis & Wallis' sale of June 22, 1972, lot 1897 via A.H. Baldwin & Sons, Ltd. Mr. Ford's informational card, correspondence, copy of the original sales description, and photographs accompany the lot.



Lot No. 3512

RICHARD EULER, ASSAYER

Silver City, Idaho

Neither Mr. Ford nor the cataloguer developed any information about this assayer that does not appear on the bar stamped with his name.

THE SOLE INGOT KNOWN MADE BY THIS ASSAYER



Lot No. 3513

- 3513 **Richard Euler, Assayer. Silver City, Idaho. Silver and gold assay ingot no. 1950, May 20, 1883.** Appearance of Very Fine. A very well executed ingot with polished faces and sides, sharp edges, squared off corners. There is one large and disfiguring flaw on the face and a few smaller ones elsewhere. One wonders why Mr. McGregor didn't tell Euler to do the bar over, especially as it was a gift for his wife. This is a fairly late dated ingot from Silver City. By the early 1880s, Silver City was connected to the wider world not only by stage and telegraph, but also by telephone service. Just seven years after the date on this bar, the town of around 2,500 inhabitants was electrified. Despite the disfiguring flaw on the face of this bar, the piece has all the earmarks of a typical presentation ingot made by an assayer: the assayer's name on one face, the metallic content and values on the other, a presentation inscription around the edge. This bar was, in other words, just like one of the large standard ingots made by a mine's refinery only in much smaller size and with an inscription marking the ingot's purpose. The assayer's name and occupation appear to be in logotype, the location punch also seems to be in logotype, and it is possible that both were part of one larger, single logotype. The presentation inscription on this bar can be shown through the identity of the "S" and "G" punches to have been made by the same punches that made the weight, fineness, and value inscriptions. It is likely, therefore, that this is a bar whose presentation inscription was also effected by the assayer who made the bar it was punched on.

Face: RICHARD EULER / ASSAYER / SILVER CITY, IDAHO.

Back: No. 1950 / OZ 3.90 / G_30 F / S.898 F / G.\$ 2.41 / S.\$ 4.52.

Top side: FROM HER HUSBAND.

Bottom side: MRS. M. MC GREGOR.

Left side: 1883.

Right side: MAY 20TH.

Dimensions: 53.2 x 24.1 x 9.3 mm.

Current weight: 122.5 gms.

Ex Dr. Benjamin Quartz, Hartford, Connecticut, on July 7, 1965. Mr. Ford's informational card and Rankow photographs accompany the lot.

GOULD & CURRY SILVER MINING COMPANY
GOULD & CURRY ASSAY OFFICE
Virginia City, Nevada

The Gould & Curry Silver Mining Company's heydays were the years 1863-64, just before statehood. Incorporated a few years earlier, the founder of the original claim in the Comstock was Albert Gould, who unwisely sold his share of half the mine for a pittance and died years later and nearly broke in Reno. The mine was, in its peak earning years, the biggest producer of silver ore in the country and one of its namesakes, Abraham Curry, became the first superintendent of the Carson City Mint, which was opened principally to accommodate the huge amounts of silver bullion coming from the Comstock.

There are several what might be called "species" of silver assay ingots bearing the Gould & Curry ethnic. Three of them will be found in Mr. Ford's collection. The last is typified by the bar illustrated in Dave Bowers' *American Coin Treasures and Hoards* (p.275) and in Bowers & Ruddy's *Henry Clifford Sale catalogue* (lot 229). Since the Gould & Curry Silver Mining Company was a huge operation for its day and the bars it routinely poured were large and heavy ones, it must therefore be assumed that the following small silver bars bearing the company's ethnic were made as souvenirs and keepsakes.

In July, 1965 John O. Curtis, then curator of architecture at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, wrote to Dr. George Miles, curator at the American Numismatic Society, inquiring about a silver assay bar, asking if Dr. Miles could tell him anything about it. Mr. Ford learned about the bar through Hillel Kaslov at the A.N.S. and wrote Curtis late that month asking if the bar could be shipped to him for photography and offering to buy it. Curtis replied early in August that the bar was actually owned by William Warren, the chief curator at Old

Sturbridge Village, and stated that he thought Warren actually owned two such ingots. At the same time, Warren wrote Ford saying the bars he owned had come from his father and that they were not for sale. By late September Warren had decided to send one of the ingots to Ford for photography and it arrived on September 21, 1965. Warren's ingot was the Gould & Curry bar number 8280. Ford returned it to Warren on November 19 the same year (Ford subsequently bought the bar on April 11, 1966). In the course of their correspondence, Warren told Ford that Warren's nephew, Richard Warren, Jr., owned the other bar Curtis had mentioned, another Gould & Curry ingot, this one bar number 2. On expressing his interest in photographing that ingot, as well, William Warren sent the second bar to Ford on January 17, 1966. Ford returned it 10 days later and bought it on March 23, 1966.

The two Warren family Gould & Curry ingots are very dissimilar in appearance, as will be seen from the illustrations and descriptions to follow, yet two of their three physical measurements are quite similar. Bar number 2 seems crude compared to bar number 8280 and some of the markings on it defy easy explanation. If it were only the second silver bar made by the company, its crudity may be explained by the inexperience of its makers. Bar number 8280, by contrast, is a finished product of an experienced and capable assay office.

The third Gould & Curry ingot in the Ford Collection was obtained from a New Hampshire dealer in 1977, who claimed he got it from a family resident in California in the 1930s. It is entirely unlike the two Warren bars in size, shape, and finish, but it does share the same ethnic logotype as found on ingot number 2.

GOULD & CURRY SILVER MINING COMPANY

Ingot Number 2



Lot No. 3514

3514 **Gould & Curry Silver Mining Company. Virginia City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot no. 2.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. Light silver gray color, the bar was obviously cleaned before it was sent to Mr. Ford. Somewhat rough in places, file marks visible along portions of the long sides on the face of the bar, puddling marks on the back. Corners rounded, sides finished, the bar looks more like it was made as a souvenir than as a transport or monetary ingot. Test mark in upper right corner on back. Ethnic (maker's name) in the same logotype to be seen on ingot no. 10 later but all other inscriptions on this bar effected through individual numeral and letter punches. The meanings of "S.E./879." in center on the face are obscure to the cataloguer.

Face: At upper left, No**2, at upper right, Oz / 1485, GOULD & CURRY above S.E. 879*, SILVER MINING CO / below to left GOLD.028 1/2 / SILVER.968, below to right VALUE \$8.74 / VALUE \$18.58 / at bottom nearly centered \$27.32.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 87.1 x 40.8 x 12.7 mm.

Stated weight: 14.85 ozs.

In a letter dated 12/28/1965 addressed to John Ford at New Netherlands Coin Company on the stationery of Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts and signed William L. Warren, Chief Curator, Warren states:

"Here is a Xerox of the other ingot. I went into Boston before Christmas and my nephew found the ingot and we both forgot about it. He went to New Haven for Christmas and when he brought his family up to my home in Litchfield last Sunday, brought his ingot.

So, if after looking at the ingot, you think it important enough to photograph, I shall send it to you.

No one else in the family remembers these ingots or how my father acquired them. I feel pretty sure that his cousin Edwin Tomlinson from Quaker Farms, Connecticut gave them to father. Mr. Tomlinson left Connecticut right after the Civil War and traveled all during his adult life. He went all over the West investing in mining companies and actually mining himself in the northwest and Canada. He spent some

time in California and Alaska, panning for gold and I have samples of gold nuggets and sand.

The two largest Alaskan gold nuggets are at the Peabody Museum, New Haven."

A subsequent letter dated 2/18/1966 addressed to John Ford at Rockville Center, N.Y. on the stationery of The Stowe-Day Foundation, Hartford, Connecticut and signed by William Warren states:

"Your letter of Jan. 28th. I have sent on to my nephew asking whether he wants to sell his ingot.

Recently, I ran across a memo my father wrote in 1949 in which he lists the family silver. The ingots were on the list and he made no mention of where they came from or how they came into his possession. So I may have assumed incorrectly about Edwin Tomlinson giving them to my father. Neither of my brothers knew anything about them, though they remembered the ingots.

Museums have so much material that all of it can't be displayed. They need more storage room than display space. If it is a big collection you have, it is better to have only parts of it showing at any one time. Exhibits get static and it is better to change things and move them around. By doing so, the curators remember the artifacts and freshen their minds and the exhibits."

A final letter accompanying this lot, dated 3/23/1966 addressed to William Warren at The Stowe-Day Foundation on Mr. Ford's personal Rockville Center letterhead stationery, states:

"Many thanks for your letter which arrived while I was traveling throughout the West on a combination business and pleasure trip. Actually, I broke my left hand early last month, and soon found my left arm (up to the elbow) in plaster. Accordingly, I could not type (my bread and butter), and decided to 'go on the road.' Among other places, I visited the Arizona Pioneers Historical Society in Tucson. There, I found employed the 'rotating display' concept you so aptly described in your letter.

As you can see by the enclosed copy of my letter to your nephew, I have sent him my check for \$300 in payment for his Gould & Curry ingot. Just as soon as he lets you know that he has the check alright, I would appreciate your sending the piece down to me.

The offer in my letter of January 28th is still valid. If you want to send me your Gould & Curry ingot, I will send you my check in the amount of \$450.

I will leave your earlier data re Edwin Tomlinson (and the ingots) in my files, but will note your new information as given in your last letter."

From Richard Warren, Jr. on March 23, 1966. Mr. Ford's informational card, Rankow photographs, and related correspondence accompany the lot.

A HANDSOME GOULD & CURRY INGOT
With the Office of Internal Revenue Stamp



Lot No. 3515

3515* **Gould & Curry Assay Office. Virginia City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot no. 8280.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. A handsome ingot with rich silver gray color, good shape, and a very solid heft in the hand. Clearly made to be saved, with finished face and sides, rounded corners, properly entered inscriptions, and the cooling depression on the back finished off. Some light roughness on the face. The Gould & Curry Assay Office was attached to the Gould & Curry Silver Mining Company as the assaying arm of the bigger firm but one that could also do business with private persons. The physical dimensions of this and the preceding bar are quite similar save in their thicknesses. The Office of Internal Revenue stamp was first punched in too low and to the right. It was corrected with better centering and then re-punched over the second try probably to be sure the impression took in the metal. This ingot was illustrated in the cataloguer's 1999 *AJN* II article (see Bibliography).

Face: In logotype within a square outline GOULD & CURRY / ASSAY OFFICE above No. 8280 / 25.60 OZ. / GOLD 19.2F. / SILV. 971.0F. / GOLD \$10.16 / SILV. \$32.13 / \$42.29.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: OIR stamp punched three times.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 87.2 x 40.8 x 22.1 mm.

Stated weight: 25.60 ozs.

Ex William L. Warren on April 11, 1966. Mr. Ford's informational card, Rankow photographs, and 1965 ANS photographs accompany the lot.

* Shortly before this catalogue went to press, this and four other ingots from the Ford Collection were stolen during transit. Since they had already been photographed and described, Stack's decided to retain their lot descriptions in this catalog in order to preserve their numismatic evidence for future researchers and to aid in their hoped recovery.

A FINELY MADE GOULD & CURRY SOUVENIR INGOT



Lot No. 3516

- 3516 **Gould & Curry Silver Mining Company. Virginia City, Nevada. Silver assay ingot no. 10.** Overall appearance of Fine due principally to light impressions from the punches. Nice, rich silver gray color. An exceptionally well formed bar with sharp edges, lightly rounded corners, fully finished faces. Test cut in the center of one short edge. This was not meant to be melted or be shipped away for commercial purposes. Rather, the bar has the physical appearance of a souvenir, keepsake, or other special purpose. Its lack of fineness, weight, or even an indication of its contents shows it would not have been suitable for commerce. The ethnic is the same seen on bar number 2, above. The stamps for the bar's dollar value and ingot number were done after the ethnic stamp had been applied. Mr. Ford wrote on his collection card "A neatly finished ingot, apparently made for experimental or presentation purposes."

Face: GOULD & CURRY above \$20.50, SILVER MINING CO above No. 10.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

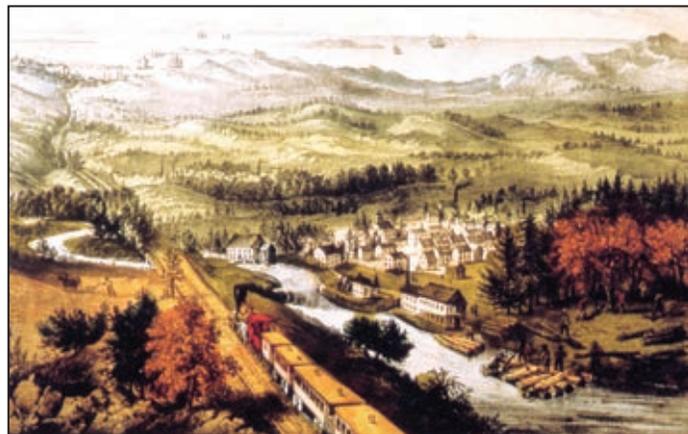
Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 87.1 x 40.8 x 12.7 mm.

Stated weight: 22.2 ozs.

Ex John Hunter, North-East Coin Company (Hillsboro, NH) at the American Numismatic Association Convention in New York City on August 25, 1977. Said by Hunter to have been ex Californian Henry B. Phillips. Mr. Ford's informational card, photographs accompany the lot.



*Through to the Pacific
Currier and Ives*

HARVEY HARRIS, ASSAYER
Marysville, San Francisco, Sacramento, California
Gold Hill, Silver City, Nevada Territory

In October, 1855 the *Sacramento Union* ran an advertisement announcing the formation of a new assaying firm under the partnership of Harvey Harris, Desiré Marchand, and C. Farrington. Harris, a gentile who had come to America from his native Denmark, had formerly been an assayer in the New Orleans and San Francisco Mints and before removing to Sacramento had worked as an assayer for Kellogg

& Company and Justh & Hunter. Harris and Marchand remained partners for nearly the next four years, dissolving the business relationship in the end of the third quarter of 1859. When he left the partnership Harris copied the shape and style of Marchand's official Paris Mint assayer's stamp and used it to mark his own bars. Harris' stamp is preserved in the Carson City Mint Museum.

1859

ASSAY OFFICE OF HARRIS & MARCHAND, Marysville Sept. 20, 1859.

By limitation the copartnership between H. Harris and D. Marchand has expired. H. Harris will continue the business of Assaying in San Francisco, Sacramento and Marysville, as heretofore having purchased the entire interest of D. Marchand.

H. Harris.

Pioneer Assay Office H. Harris 78J Street, Sacramento. Also E Street, Near the Corner Of Second, Marysville. And 105 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, Will continue to carry on the business of Melting, Refining and Assaying Gold And Ores, Of Every Description. He guarantees the correctness of his Assays, and binds himself to pay the difference that may arise with any of the U.S. Mints. Returns made in from six to twelve hours, In Bars Or Coin.

Specimens of Quartz Assayed and Valued. Terms for Assaying the same as in San Francisco.

H. Harris.

Sacramento Union, October 3, 1859.

1860

H. Harris, H. & Co. 105 Sac. Resides in Marysville.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing July 1860

Harvey Harris, age 45, Occupation assayer, Personal Value \$20,000 Birthplace Denmark Wife Amelia age 32, Children 2 sons Ernest age 13, Edward age 11

1860 Eighth Federal Census, Marysville, California, Yuba County (July)

1861

Harris & Co. 27 E Street

H. Harris of Harvey Harris & Co. res. 27 E Street; Denmark

Assay Offices

There are two offices in the City, under the Superintendence of practical Assayers, one at No. 102 First Street, Theall & Co.'s and one at 27 E Street, H. Harris & Co., proprietors. The above establishments assay the majority of all the dust and ores sent from the Northern parts of our Golden State; and when turned into bars, goes to the Atlantic first and Europe. They make returns, from all assays made by them in from six to twelve hours, in bars or coin at the option of the depositors. Those having assays made are allowed to be present and witness the assay, if they so desire.

Browns Marysville Directory for the Year Commencing March 1861

Marysville Pioneer Assay Office H Harris & Co. *Sacramento Union*, June 5, 1861

Harvey Harris Co. assayers, 509 Sacramento, resides in Marysville.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing September 1861

1862

Marysville Pioneer Assay Office H. Harris & Co. (and Silver City, Nevada Territory) *Marysville Daily Appeal*, (Summer 1862)

Pioneer Assay Office

H. Harris & Co.

San Francisco, Sacramento, Aurora, Marysville, Carson City, N.T.

Returns Made In Bars Or Coin In Six Hours!

Shippers of Bullion can draw against Consignments on our Houses at San Francisco, Marysville, or Sacramento, and Checkbooks for that purpose will be furnished. Carson City. Harris, H. & Co. assayers,

Harris' Building, S side Plaza.

J. Wells Kelly First Directory of Nevada Territory, 1862,

Harvey Harris & Co. assayers office 509 Sacramento resides in Marysville

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing September 1862

1863

H. Harris & Co. 509 Sacramento

Gazlay's San Francisco Business Directory for 1863

New Assaying Firm.

D.E. Knight and D. Marchand have opened an assay office in the room formerly occupied by H. Harris & Co. They are both practical men and will conduct their business in a proper manner. Mr. Knight has made assays from nearly every silver lode in the Humboldt County and copper lode in Yuba and Nevada counties, and he is supposed to be thoroughly posted with regard to them.

Marysville Appeal, June 2, 1863

Assay Office Of H. Harris At A.B. Paul & Co.'s Banking House, Gold Hill, NT.

The Undersigned, established as Assayer for eight years in California, and for two years in Nevada Territory, is now at Gold Hill, where he will attend to any business entrusted to him with promptness and dispatch. Gold, Silver, and Ores of every description assayed six hours in Bars or Coin at the option of depositors. For correctness of his assays he refers to Messrs. Trover & Colgate, New York, B. Behrend, New York, Davidson & Berri, San Francisco, J. Parrot & Co., San Francisco, Sather & Co., San Francisco, Tallant & Co., San Francisco, Reynolds, Reis, & Co., San Francisco, B.P. Hastings & Co., Sacramento, D.O. Mills & Co., Sacramento, Rideout & Smith, Marysville, Decker & Jewett, Marysville, B.P. Hastings & Co., Virginia City, Maynard & Flood, Gold Hill.

Gold Hill Daily News, Fall 1863

1864-1865

San Francisco: No. H Harris & Co. Assayers

Marysville: Harris & Co. Assayers 27 E

Gazlay's Business Directory of the Five Great Cities of California and Oregon 1864, 1865

Harris H. Assayer office Banking House of Almarin B. Paul & Co.

H. Harris Gold Hill Assayer. Office with A.B. Paul & Co., Odd Fellows Building Gold, Silver and Ores of every description. Assayed and returns made in six hours, in Bars or Coin, at option of depositor.

Agnew and Defenbach, Mercantile Guide and Directory for Virginia City, Gold Hill, Silver City and American City, 1864-1865

1867

H. Harris, Gold Hill

Gold Hill Pioneer Assay Office of H. Harris. Main St., Below Wells Fargo & Co. office, Gold Hill, Nevada. The undersigned established as Assayer for over eight years in California and three in Nevada, at Gold Hill, will attend to any business entrusted him with promptness and care.

Langley's The Pacific Coast Business Directory for 1867

1868-1869

Assay Office of H. Harris Silver City, Nevada

The undersigned, established as Assayer eight years in California and over five years in Nevada, has removed his office to Silver City, where he will attend to any business entrusted to him with promptness and care. Gold, Silver and ores, Of every description, carefully assayed, and returns made within six hours, in Stamped Bars or Coin, at the option of the depositor. Assays Guaranteed to conform with the U.S. Mint.

Gillis Nevada Directory for 1868-1869

1870

H. Harris, 56, Occupation Assayer, Real Estate \$2,000, Personal Estate \$1,000 Birthplace Denmark. His sons Ernest, 20, and Edward, 21, are also assayers.

1870 Ninth Federal Census, Gold Hill, Nevada, Storey County

1871-1874

Lyon County, Harris, Harvey, assay office, Main Silver City

Edward Harris, assay office, Main Silver City Ernest Harris, assayer, Dayton

Storey, Ormsby, Washoe, and Lyon Counties Directory For 1871-72

H. Harris, assayer, Silver City

Langley's The Pacific Coast Business Directory for 1871-73

Gold Hill Storey Co., H. Harris, assayer, Silver City Resides on Telegraph near R.R. son Edward Harris same.

Virginia and Truckee Railroad Directory, 1871-74

1875-1879

Storey County H. Harris, assayer, Resides at W side Telegraph next school house.

A General Business and Mining Directory, Storey, Lyon, Ormsby, and Washoe County, Nevada. 1875.

H. Harris, Silver City

Business Directory of San Francisco and Principal Towns of California and Nevada 1877.

Silver City, Lyon County, H. Harris, assayer.

Business Directory of the Pacific States and Territory for 1878.

Harvey Harris, assayer, Resides at Ws Telegraph near Central School

Harris Harvey, assayer, cor Third and Main Gold Hill.

Business Directory of Virginia City, Gold Hill Silver City, Carson City and Reno 1878-1879.

1880-1884

Gold Hill, Nevada, Storey County Harvey Harris, 66, Occupation Assayer Birthplace Denmark son Edward, 30, Occupation Assayer.

1880 Soundex

Harvey Harris, assayer, Silver City Nevada
McKenney's Pacific Coast Directory 1883-1884

1894

Died. Harris. In Gold Hill, February 12, Harvey Harris, a native of Denmark, age 80 years.

Death Of An Octogenarian

Harvey Harris a Pioneer Resident Joins The Silent Majority

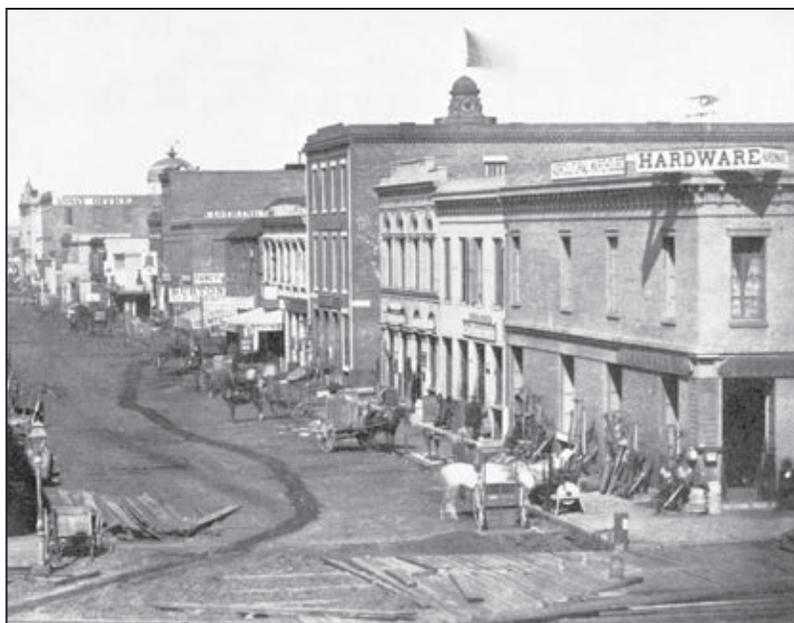
Harvey Harris died in Gold Hill yesterday at the age of eighty years. He was a pioneer resident of the Comstock and Silver City where he arrived in 1859 and had an assay office in Gold Hill for many years. He was a native of Denmark and served that country as Consul for Nevada for nearly three decades.

He leaves several children, among them E. Harris, proprietor of the Harris mine in Washoe county, and the widow of the late Dr. Kirby. Deceased was remarkably vigorous for a person of his advanced age. During his long residence in Gold Hill and Silver City he was noted for strict business integrity and was esteemed as an exemplary citizen.

Burial of Harvey Harris

The burial of the late Harvey Harris took place in Carson on Wednesday, from the residence of Ernest Harris, son of the deceased, Rev. George R. Davis officiating. A choir of ladies and gentlemen rendered appropriate music, and the coffin was covered with flowers. A long procession of carriages followed the remains to the grave.

Territorial Enterprise, February 13 & 16, 1894



*Battery Street, San Francisco
San Francisco Album, 1856, photograph by G.R. Fardon*

HARVEY HARRIS INGOT NO. 2128
Published by Edgar H. Adams in 1911



Lot No. 3517

3517 **Harvey Harris, Assayer. Gold Hill or Silver City, Nevada. Silver & gold presentation assay ingot no. 2128.** Overall appearance of Very Fine to Extremely Fine. A well made ingot with squared off edges and sharp corners. Surfaces probably originally polished thus the decision to classify this as a presentation ingot although its present appearance is none too winsome. Medium gray color. Minor surface flaws on the face. Harris worked as an assayer both in Gold Hill and Silver City during 1864-72. The stamp of the Office of Internal Revenue only corresponds with this dating and cannot refine it. On this bar, the ethnic (i.e. maker's name) and the bar's gross weight have been stamped over the OIR punch. The assayer clearly had the bar's weight and value already worked out on paper before he came to stamping the bar as required by law. One may also be fairly certain that Harris did not intend to make the bar look any more presentable than it does now. Had this been a Blake & Company ingot the layout would have been more symmetrical. Note there are no corner clips on this bar. **Extremely rare**, the cataloguer has records of only a handful of Harris bars. Kleeberg listed six he considered to be genuine, to which the cataloguer can add another in the second lot to follow. Unlike the present bar, most of Harris' ingots show his distinctive assayer's stamp, copied from the one Marchand used on their earlier joint products. On Harris's stamp, the letters "H" lack a complete crossbar. This Harvey Harris bar was published by Edgar H. Adams in the September, 1911 issue of *The Numismatist* in his "Live American Numismatic

Items." Adams wrote, in part: "Mr. S.D. Kiger, now of Portland, Oregon, reports the acquisition of two very interesting pieces...He states that the pieces had been in the possession of the family from whom he obtained them for nearly fifty years, and they were originally owned by J.W. Wright of the State Bank of California. Mr. Kiger learns that the slugs were used as money at Pioch and Virginia City, Nev." Adams illustrated the face and right side of the Harris bar in the notice. He mentioned a second item obtained by Mr. Kiger and illustrated a bar that has a \$6.25 value and 965 fineness stamped on it, but no ethnic. It is interesting to note that this bar, which may be dated after September, 1864 by the presence of the OIR stamp, is numbered 2128, yet the bar to follow, dated on the bar August 1864, is numbered 2685. Perhaps Harris maintained two record books?

Face: No. 2128. / H.HARRIS / OIR stamp / 13.10 OZ. / G.026 F.[vertically between this and next] / S.957 / \$23.24.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 68.8 x 39.0 x 14.5 mm.

Stated weight: 13.1 ozs.

Provenance otherwise unrecorded.

TWO SILVER HARVEY HARRIS INGOTS
Each Showing His Distinctive Assayer's Stamp



Lot No. 3518

3518 **Harvey Harris, Assayer. Gold Hill, Nevada Territory. Silver & gold presentation assay ingot no. 2685, August, 1864.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. A rather unprepossessing ingot. The piece is a light to medium silver color and has been cleaned at one time. The face and sides are rough, almost as made, with minimal polishing. The back has been ball-peened to make it smoother but still lacks polish. The sides have not been well finished, the edges are not sharp, and the corners were not well squared. This has the look of a work-a-day world ingot pressed into use as a presentation bar. The assayer's name and location are in logotypes but whether they are one or two is uncertain. GOLD and SILVER were in logotypes. The opposing corners of this bar have been clipped for proof of assay. This bar bears Harris' Gold Hill location and, most unusually, the letters N.T. for Nevada Territory. When this bar made its first auction appearance the cataloguer incorrectly described Harvey Harris as a Jewish assayer. Dan Owens has more accurately shown Harris as gentile.

Face: No. 2685. / H. HARRIS / H. HARRIS / ASSAYER around an all-seeing eye [his assayer's stamp] / GOLDHILL. N.T. / 12.12.OZ. / \$34.97.

Back: AUGT. 1864 (6 punched over 4).

Top side: M.W. IRVIN.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: GOLD 083 FINE / SILVER 905 FINE.

Right side: MRS. JANE JACKSON.

Dimensions: 67.3 x 44.8 x 12.0 mm.

Stated weight: 12.20 ozs.

Ex Chris Schenkel Collection (Bowers & Merena, November 12, 1990, lot 4481).

A ROUGH LOOKING PRESENTATION INGOT



Lot No. 3519

- 3519 **Harvey Harris, Assayer. Gold Hill or Silver City, Owyhee County, Idaho Territory. Silver & gold presentation assay ingot no. 6226.** Overall appearance of Fine to Very Fine. A very rough looking ingot that would have been spent or melted at the time had it not been a presentation bar. The faces are rough and unfinished in places, the edges are not sharp, and the corners are not squared off. The cooling depression on the back has been smoothed down, however, showing some care was exercised when the bar was made. The punches are rather crude in appearance. OZ has been punched over the end of FINE on the face. The fraction in the gold fineness has been made by superimposing a 1 above a 2. Harris' assayer's stamp shows the distinctive incomplete H's. Harris' name appears on the bar only in this stamp, unlike the previous bar.

Face: No. 6226 / H. HARRIS / ASSAYER around an all-seeing eye [his assayer's stamp] / 5.95 OZ / FINE [vertically to right alongside next two] G 019 1/2 / S 976 / \$9.90.

Back: blank.

Top side: S. / W. / G.

Bottom side: I. SHAW.

Left side: G\$ 2.40.

Right side: S\$ 7.50.

Dimensions: 49.0 x 24.8 x 15.1 mm.

Current weight: 185.8 gms.

Ex Adelpia Stamp & Coin Company, Harry Forman, New Netherlands Coin Company on October 25, 1959, Paul Franklin on October 25, 1959. Mr. Ford's informational card, Rankow photographs, and a pro forma inspection invoice dated October 26, 1959 to Ray Johnson at the A.N.S. accompany the lot.

KING, WEBB & COMPANY

Virtually nothing is known about the business or personal histories of Mark A. King or Edward Webb. They are listed in the 1867 edition of Pacific Coast Business Directory as assayers and bankers in Idaho. Subsequent references to one or the other partner in the firm have them in Silver City, Idaho Territory and Portland, Oregon. The Clifford sale cataloguers, from whom the information published here is derived, developed little else of value about the firm.

AN ENIGMATIC LITTLE INGOT



Lot No. 3520

3520 **King, Webb & Company. Silver City (?), Owyhee County, Idaho Territory. Silver and gold assay ingot no. 14.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. An appealing little ingot. Like the Molitor bar to come, no obvious care seems to have been taken to prepare the faces to receive the punches, the Office of Internal Revenue stamp and ethnic logotype having been applied over a disfiguring cooling fissure. One corner of the bar has been sharply clipped. The piece is a nice, small square with good, medium silver gray color.

Face: [K]ING WEBB & [Co] / OIR stamp / A[SSAY]ERS / OWYHEE.

Back: Oz.2.29 / S\$2.73 / G\$2.60.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: No. 14.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 30.9 x 25.0 x 8.5 mm.

Current weight: 71.41 gms.

Ex Clifford Collection (Bowers & Ruddy, March 18, 1982, lot 223).



New York Public Library Picture Collection

DAVID E. KNIGHT
KNIGHT & COMPANY
Marysville, California

David E. Knight. As one of the earlier settlers of Marysville, and as a citizen of great prominence, influence and popularity, it is eminently fitting that a brief sketch of the life of David E. Knight should be given in a work of this kind. He was born October 24, 1825, in Tunbridge, Vermont, and died at his home in Marysville, California, January 5, 1900...

Going with his parents to Piermont, N.H. when a child, David E. Knight was there brought up and educated. Subsequently removing to Boston, he learned the shoemaker trade, but on account of ill health was advised by his physician to seek a milder climate, and went to New Orleans. Returning to the North, he lived for a time in Boston, and then started for the Pacific coast, coming to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama in 1852.

After working at the plumbing trade in San Francisco for a few months he settled in Sacramento, where he established a gas plant, which he operated three years. Selling out in 1856, he took up residence in Marysville, and from that time until his death was actively identified with the best and highest interests of the place, being one of the foremost to promote and advance its industrial prosperity and growth. On locating here he built the gas plant at the corner of Second and B streets, operating until his death. He was subsequently identified with the establishment of various beneficial enterprises, including the Marysville Electric Company; the Empire Foundry and Harvester Works; the Marysville and Yuba City Street Railroad Company; the Marysville Steam Laundry; the Democrat Publishing Company; the Marysville Woolen Mill, of which he was manager for more than 30 years; and the Decker and Jewett City Bank, of which he was one of the directorate for a number of years.

He also built and operated a line of steamboats between Marysville and San Francisco, making a trip once each week regularly. He was everywhere recognized as a man of exceptional business judgment and ability, and was universally honored and esteemed for his manly integrity and sterling virtues. He was noted for his character and philanthropy and his great generosity to the poor and needy, who ever found in him a friend and helper.

Mr. Knight married, in Boston, Massachusetts, Miss Mary A. Hobert. Mr. Knight was a Republican

in politics, and for two terms served as a member of the City Council. He was a delegate to the national convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln, and with one exception was a delegate to each convention until his death from that time. For several terms he was one of the directors of the State Agricultural Society, and also served as president of the Pacific Coast Trotting Horse Breeders' Association. He was active in social circles, being for years an influential member of the Union League Club of San Francisco, and was prominent in fraternal organizations....

The name of David E. Knight swells the roll call of men who build for all time, and whose interests are of such practical and essential nature that their successors must follow closely in their footsteps or lag behind in the march of progress and civilization. The superstructure of his life was founded upon the resources of a great new state, and upon universal principles of toleration, and humanity which man, from the age of civilization, has cherished as his highest ideals. He was a devoted friend of education, encouraging a high standard and personally interesting himself in maintaining them. It has been said of him that no appeal for assistance in behalf of a worthy public enterprise, or whatever nature, was ever made to him in vain. He was a man of great generosity of heart, contributing liberally and cheerfully of his means toward the relief of suffering wherever he beheld it. He was widely known as a man of unimpeachable integrity, and all his transaction in business were free from that narrow and selfish spirit so characteristic of the modern commercial world. His deeds of kindness were invariably performed in as unostentatious as manner as possible, and knowledge of them never reached others through him. The Sacramento valley has had few men like him, from whatever point of view his career be regarded, and there are still living many citizens of discriminating judgment who express the opinion that during his lifetime he was unquestionably the first citizen of Yuba County. The record of his well spent and noble life is one to which his beneficiaries should revert with feelings of great pride, conscious of the knowledge that he is entitled to a conspicuous place in the historical literature of the state of California, in whose early development he took an active and important part.

History of the State of California and Biographical Record of the Sacramento Valley, California (pp.1584,1587).

1852

Sailed April 5, 1852 steamship Northern Light from New York to San Juan; passengers include D.E. Knight.

New York Times, April 6, 1852

Steamship Pacific arrives May 13, 1852 in San Francisco; passengers include D.E. Knight.

Alta California, May 14, 1852

1863

NEW ASSAYING FIRM. NEW ASSAYING FIRM. NEW ASSAYING FIRM.

D.E. Knight and D. Marchand have opened an assay office in the room formerly occupied by H. Harris & Co. They are both practical men and will conduct their business in a proper manner. Mr. Knight has made assays from nearly every silver lode in the Humboldt County and copper lode in Yuba and Nevada counties, and he is supposed to be thoroughly posted with regard to them.

Marysville Appeal, June 2, 1863

KNIGHT & CO., ASSAYERS OF GOLD, SILVER, and ALL KINDS OF ORES, No. 27 E Street, Marysville.

Ores of every description carefully Assayed, and Returns made in from 6 to 12 hours. Having Purchased the old stand of H. Harris & Co. in this city, and engaged the services of a competent Assayer, we are now prepared to conduct the business of Assaying in all its branches, with care and dispatch, and hope to receive, as we shall certainly endeavor to deserve, a fair share of public patronage. Assays Guaranteed.

Marysville Appeal, June 4, 1863

1864

Removal Notice. The Assay Office Of KNIGHT & CO. Has Been Removed From E Street To No. 32 D Street, Between First and Second, Marysville.

Daily California Express, November 28, 1864

1866

Dissolution. The Co-Partnership Heretofore Existing between D.E. Knight and D.C. Marchand, under the firm of Knight & Co., assayers, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All outstanding accounts of the late firm will be settled by D.E. Knight.

The Assay business will continue to be carried on in all its branches, at the old stand, No. 32 D Street, Marysville, and under the firm name of Knight & Co., as heretofore.

Marysville Daily Appeal, February 11, 1866

1867-1868

D.E. Knight. Assayer. 32 D Marysville.
Langley's Pacific Coast Directory for 1867

1870

FRANK W.H. AARON (Successor to Knight & Co.). Assayer Of Gold, Silver And Ores No. 32 D Street, Marysville.

Marysville Daily Appeal, April 15, 1870

1875

Knight & Co. Assayers 40 D Street, Marysville.

The California State Business Directory, (August, 1875)

1900

...he caught the gold fever and came to this State, arriving in the Spring of 1852. His estate is estimated at \$200,000.

Sacramento Bee, January 6, 1900

“David E. Knight came in 1852 from Boston to San Francisco, where he established a manufactory, and two years later, when the San Francisco Gas Works had been completed, he went into the gas fixture and fitting business. In 1860 he established an assaying plant in Marysville under the name of Knight & Co., handling large quantities of gold for several years, or until the railroad was started and the mineral was carried to San Francisco. In this same year he established the Marysville Woolen Mills...In January 1887, he introduced the arc-light electric system into Marysville. In 1889 he built a well-equipped street-car line from Marysville to Yuba City. Mr. Knight was born in Vermont and was 73 years of age.”

San Francisco Chronicle, January 6, 1900

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT.		65
KNIGHT & CO.		
ASSAYERS OF		
GOLD, SILVER AND ORES,		
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.		
No. 32 D STREET, MARYSVILLE, CAL.		
ASSAYS GUARANTEED.		
WE REFER BY PERMISSION TO		
FABBOTT & CO., San Francisco.	DECKER & JEWETT, Marysville.	BIDEOUT & CO., Camptonville.
BIDEOUT & SMITH, Marysville.	VAN MULLER & CO., Marysville.	J. COSLY & CO., La Porte.
JOHN ROHR & CO.		
26 & 28 D STREET, MARYSVILLE,		
DEALERS IN		
FURNITURE and BEDDING,		

Marysville Daily Appeal, 5/1/62

A HANDSOME KNIGHT & COMPANY INGOT
With a Rare Early Tax Paid Stamp



Lot No. 3521

3521* Knight & Company, Assayers. Marysville, California. Silver assay ingot no. 1766. Overall appearance of a nice Very Fine with deep gray toning. Good care taken with the face, back shows a deep central cooling depression. This is a very fine looking ingot, well made with chamfered edges and all faces polished save the back which has been allowed to remain in its "natural" state. Opposing corners clipped and, unusually, signed, with a monogram that Mr. Ford interpreted as A.M. (for Agosthon Molitor). This is one of the rare ingots that shows the Office of Internal Revenue tax paid in a form other than the conventional round OIR stamp (the Riehn, Hemme bar to follow is the other). The rectangular tax paid notation on this bar suggests the absence of regular OIR stamps yet the need to annotate specie bars in accordance with the law of June 30, 1864. The cataloguer suggests this bar was made soon after the law had come into effect, but before local assessors had received the familiar round OIR stamps they were to issue to assayers, probably in the period September to December, 1864.

Face: No. 1766. / KNIGHT & Co. / ASSAYERS / [the following within a square outline] U.S. INTERNAL / REVENUE. / TAX \$0.05 / \$10.58.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: OZ. 8.72.

Right side: .939 FINE.

Dimensions: 60.9 x 36.2 x 13.0 mm.

Current weight: 271.0 gms.

Ex B. Max Mehl on January 28, 1923 to John Work Garrett, Garrett Collection (Bowers & Ruddy, March 25, 1981, lot 1947.

* Shortly before this catalogue went to press, this and four other ingots from the Ford Collection were stolen during transit. Since they had already been photographed and described, Stack's decided to retain their lot descriptions in this catalog in order to preserve their numismatic evidence for future researchers and to aid in their hoped recovery.

LEOPOLD KUH, ASSAYER
San Francisco, California
Virginia City, Nevada

1856-1860

Leopold Kuh. Resides at Green betw. Kearny and Dupont. Leopold Kuh works at the U.S. Mint.

Colville's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1856

Kuh, Leopold. Clerk U.S. Branch Mint. Dwells at NE corner Green and Lafayette.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing January 1, 1858

Kuh, Leopold & Fisher Henry I. Gold refinery. Taylor Sr. Wharf corner Green and Lafayette Place.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing June 1859

Leopold Kuh. Age 43. Occupation Clerk. Birthplace Hungary. Married, three children.

1860 Eighth Federal Census, San Francisco, California, San Francisco County.

Leopold Kuh at Gold Refinery corner Brannan and Harris. Dwells at NE corner Green and Lafayette.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing July 1860

1861-1865

Leopold Kuh & Co. James S. Harrison and Joseph Butler Metallurgical Works. Clark between Davis and East. Dwells at 994 Mason.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing September 1861

Leopold Kuh, (Late U.S. Br. Mint, San Francisco.) Assayer and Metallurgical Chemist. A Street, at the Central Company's Mine, Virginia City.

First Directory of Nevada Territory J. Wells Kelly, San Francisco 1862.

Virginia City. Leopold Kuh. Late U.S. Branch Mint, San Francisco Assayer and Metallurgical Chemist. A Street Near the Ophir Mine.

Kelly's Second Directory of Nevada Territory, 1863

Virginia City. Leopold Kuh of the Branch Mint in San Francisco has an assay office on A Street,

near the Ophir Mine, and the unbounded public confidence and his vast professional experience, gives him a leading position among the assayists of the Pacific Coast.

Mercantile Guide and Directory for Virginia City, Gold Hill, Silver City and American City, 1864-1865.

Leopold Kuh, Assayer and Metallurgical Chemist. Office On Taylor Street, southwest cor. of D. street, Virginia. Established in 1861. Bullion Melted, Assayed, And returns thereof made in stamped Bars or Coin. The correctness of his computations is proved in the same way as done by him during a number of years in the U.S. Mine, San Francisco. All kinds of Ores and Minerals tested, assayed and analyzed. Refers to Public Opinion.

Gold Hill Daily News, 1865

1868

A Rare Chance, All My Assaying Apparatus, Utensils, Materials, Etc. Also, a very comfortable House and Lot, Situated on Sutton Av. corner of Stewart Street, For Sale at a Bargain. Leopold Kuh, corner Taylor and D streets, Virginia, Nevada.

Daily Safeguard, November 2, 1868 (Virginia City)

Leopold Kuh assayer and metallurgical Chemist. 611 Commercial. Dwells at 1906 Powell Street. Leopold Kuh (Formerly of the U.S. Branch Mint San Francisco) Assayer and Metallurgical Chemist No. 611 Commercial Street Opposite U.S. Branch Mint San Francisco, Cal.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing December 1869

1870-1886

Leopold Kuh. Age 54. Occupation Assayer. Personal Estate \$1,000. Birthplace Hungary.

1870 Ninth Federal Census, San Francisco, California, San Francisco County.

Kuh. In this city, March 21, Leopold Kuh, a native of Hungary. Age 70 years, 5 months.

Alta California, March 22, 1886

A HEFTY LEOPOLD KUH PRESENTATION INGOT



Lot No. 3522

3522 **Leopold Kuh, Assayer. Virginia City, Nevada Territory. Silver & gold assay ingot no. 7564.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. A solid and hefty presentation ingot that looks, in miniature, much like one of its larger, commercial brother ingots must have. Medium silver gray color. Some flaws and roughness on all sides, fairly serious flaw on face. All sides polished in one degree or another, the cooling fissure on the back smoothed for the purpose. The bar's stampings were laid out so they would all be right side up and legible if the bar was set on a table with its face up. No corners clipped. **Extremely rare:** the cataloguer can recall just this and the 13.27 ounce bar shown in Mr. Ford's circular published in Dave Bowers' *American Coin Treasures and Hoards* (1997). Before Dan Owens' work on western assayers was published Mr. Ford believed that Kuh was Chinese, probably because the name did not seem western to him.

Face: No. 7564. / L. KUH. / ASSAYER. / VIRGINIA. / OIR stamp /G.\$ [vertically between this and the next] 3.91 / S.13.82.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: Ozs.. / 11.14.

Left side: G.017 F. / S.960 F.

Right side: J. MYRAS / TO / MARY BARNES.

Dimensions: 54.4 x 33.5 x 18.7 mm.

Stated weight: 11.14 ozs.

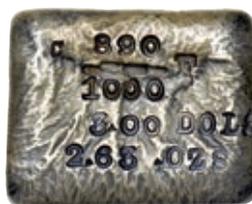
Recorded on Mr. Ford's informational card that accompanies the lot as "Nov. 1954. Obtained from the D.K. Estate by N.N., 11/6/54, and traded to Franklin as part payment of the B & A strip, 11/11/54." Rankow photographs also accompany this lot.

LEEDS MINING COMPANY

Silver Reef, Washington County, Utah

Bancroft's History of Utah (1889) notes that the Leeds Silver Mining Company, formed in San Francisco, was one of the first outfits to exploit the silver fields of Washington County.

A SOUVENIR INGOT DATED 1877



Lot No. 3523

3523 **Leeds Mining Company. Silver Reef, Washington County, Utah. Silver assay ingot. December, 1877.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. A pleasing if rough small ingot fairly well formed and clearly meant as a souvenir or memento. Medium to deep silver gray in color. Back stamping legible despite being on the cooling face of the bar. All inscriptions accomplished by individual punches, no logotypes in use.

Face: UTAH / SILVER / LEEDS / MINING Co / DEC / 1877.

Back: C 890 / 1000 F / 3.00 DOLS / 2.65 .OZS.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 32.8 x 26.4 x 10.8 mm.

Current weight: 81.69 gms.

Mr. Ford's informational card that accompanies the lot notes this bar was sold to D.K. (Don Kiefer) in August, 1953, that it went from Kiefer's estate to New Netherlands Coin Company on November 6, 1954, and that New Netherlands sold it to Art Kagin on May 5, 1956. In June, 1958 it was part of the Kagin Reference Collection.

MATHEY, KUSTEL & RIOTTE

Nevada or San Francisco, California (?)

Nothing is presently known about the firm whose name appears on the following ingot, the only one seen to date. A Mr. G. Kustel resident in Dayton, Nevada obtained a U.S. patent in 1865 for an ore-

concentrating table and a man by the same name, then resident in San Francisco, shared a U.S. patent with a Mr. F.W. Smith in 1872 for an ore roasting method.

ANOTHER ENIGMATIC WESTERN BAR The Sole Ingot Known From This Company



Lot No. 3524

- 3524 **Mathey, Kustel & Riotte. Uncertain location (Nevada or San Francisco, California). Silver assay ingot no. 121.** Overall appearance of Fine to Very Fine. Medium silver gray in color. Some scratches, initial "W" scratched on face. Rather rough and unfinished in appearance, a casting that was stamped with no attempt to make the piece presentable and as such, probably a working bar or sample. This is the sole ingot from this company seen thus far. The ethnic was made to resemble the OIR stamp and may serve to suggest a date for this bar in the 1870s and later. This ingot was once in Newcomer's Collection according to Mehl's 1931 inventory.

Face: MATHEY, KUSTEL & RIOTTE in a round logotype, other letters indistinct, scales in the center / \$6.42 / OZ.497.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: SILVER 999 FINE.

Right side: No. 121.

Dimensions: 67.0 x 25.5 x 9.8 mm.

Current weight: 154.4 gms.

Mr. Ford's informational card that accompanies the lot notes this bar was in the Kagin Collection on December 14, 1957. Recently, George Fuld found this bar on Mehl's 1931 inventory of the Waldo C. Newcomer Collection.

MAUD E. LORD-DRAKE

Leadville, Colorado

Maud Drake, nee Lord, was not an assayer, refiner, or engraver. She was a noted American medium and spiritualist of the late 19th century, active in New York City, Boston, and Leadville. The bar to follow has been listed under her name since it does not bear the name of its maker.

Maud Lord was born in 1852 in Marion County, West Virginia. Her biographical sketch composed for Hartmann's *Who's Who in Occultism...*(1927) describes her as "Active working medium for 65 years; full-form visible materializations in daylight; independent music from guitar carried around the room near the ceiling by spirit musicians; independent voices and singing; inspirational lectures and tests, and prophecies; Clairvoyant, Clairaudient and Psychometrist. Gave two readings to Queen Victoria in Buckingham Palace. At the age of 24, spirits christened her the 'Daughter of the Orient' because her marvelous endowments were equal to the psychic powers possessed by the medium at the Temple of Delphi 4,000 years ago. John Slater recently said, 'In her day, Maud was Queen of them all. Her name alone was sufficient to pack the largest building anywhere.'"

Mrs. Lord-Drake, a friend to Madame Helena Blavatsky and Colonel H.S. Olcott in whose rooms known as "The Lamasery" she conducted seances, disappeared from Boston on May 1, 1879 while on her way to Brockton, Massachusetts by train to hold a spirit gathering. Her sudden and unexpected absence raised alarms leading to police investigations and newspaper speculations, all of which only added to the mystery surrounding one who could speak to the dead. Two

years later, Mrs. Lord-Drake was actively pursuing the Other World in Leadville, Colorado, where this ingot honoring her departure was made. She shared the Leadville public's attention with Baby Doe, later of wider Matchless Mine fame. On Lord-Drake's return east she resumed her career but this was not to last long before it received the sort of scrutiny she must have found unwelcome. In 1885 she was investigated by the Seybert Commission, established by the University of Pennsylvania to look into claims of spiritualism following a bequest by Henry Seybert. Descriptions of the seances held by Lord-Drake under somewhat controlled conditions in February of that year were published by the Commission in 1887 and led to some public skepticism of her claims. In 1891 Lord-Drake claimed she had helped set up Stanford University by suggesting that Leland Stanford's dead son told his parents in one of her seances that he wanted a university founded in his name. In 1892 Mr. & Mrs. Leland Stanford publicly stated that they had decided to found the university nearly six months before they had first met Mrs. Lord-Drake and had their first seance with her. The Stanfords also stated that in their opinion Lord-Drake had been exposed as a fraud in 1892. To vindicate herself, Lord-Drake published her memoirs in 1904 but the heyday of American spiritualism had passed and with it, her fame. She died in 1924.

The ingot to follow appears to have been made for her by her disciples in Leadville, Colorado. Uniquely among the other Ford Collection bars it states its content as 1000 Fine silver. It is also the best made, most ornate and best designed of all of Mr. Ford's ingots. That it is also unique needs no real emphasis.



A PRESENTATION INGOT TO MAUDE E. LORD-DRAKE
The Celebrated Medium and Spiritualist



Lot No. 3525

3525 **Maude E. Lord-Drake. Leadville, Colorado. Silver assay ingot, September 22, 1881.** Overall appearance of Choice About Uncirculated. Essentially as made but irregularly toned in pale and darker silver gray. Judging by the inscription, the bar was probably given a bright silver wash when made that has since worn mostly away. A very well formed ingot with sharp edges and corners, planed and polished faces, and hand engraving that captures the style and feeling of a mountain mining town of the period. A unique ingot, presented to Mrs. Lord-Drake probably at the time of her departure back east. The inscriptions express a sweet sentiment one hopes was both reciprocated and appreciated.

Face: LOVE AND TRUTH / PRESENTED TO / MAUD E LORD, / BY HER MANY FRIENDS / OF / LEADVILLE, COLORADO / SEPT.22d, 1881. [flanked by ovals left and right showing a miner with pick or shovel, all within an ornate border].

Back: Dearest Sister / We present to you this small memento / Of pure unalloyed silver from / Its native mountain home, / as emblematical in its whiteness / Of the purity of your heart, and / Refined in its material as are / The principles you have taught us.

Top side: God bless and protect you and / The principles you advocate, is the / Prayer of your Leadville friends.

Bottom side: [a view of the mountains around Leadville].

Left side: Weight / 32 oz. 20 dwts / 1000 Fine.

Right side: Engraved by / Paul Lyon / With Dan G. Golding [inserted between last and next] / Leadville Colo.

Dimensions: 95.5 x 47.5 x 22.7 mm.

Stated weight: 32 ozs., 20 dwt.

Ex Stack's sale of October 22, 1982, lot 1620.

MEYERS & COMPANY San Francisco, California (?)

There is no evidence known that certainly identifies the Meyers & Co. stamp on the unique gold bar in this collection with any firm in business in San Francisco or elsewhere. It used to be thought that the firm named was the well known Meyer & Co. of Philadelphia and the round brass slugs known with that ethnic and an enigmatic Troy weight designation were patterns for a proposed territorial coinage. It now appears that Meyer & Co. of Philadelphia were scale makers of the 1840s and 1850s and that the brass slugs were nothing more than scale weights denominated in Troy ounces. A candidate the cataloguer can suggest as the maker of the unique gold \$18 bar in this collection is William Meyer and Company of San Francisco (although he cannot explain the different

spellings of the name). Mentioned in a notice on page 2 of the February 28, 1852 *Weekly Alta California*, the William Meyer firm is described as having just received a small lot of gold dust from Sydney, Australia which was valued at about \$16.25 per ounce. This was the first the paper had noticed as arriving from the southern continent and was considered worthy of reporting. Although the evidence is slim, it seems to suggest that this Meyer & Company had some interest in gold and some connection to the business surrounding it. Whether that is enough to identify the maker of the following unique lot will be up to each collector to decide for himself. Further searches through the newspaper archives of the time may help to shed more light on this question.

THE UNIQUE MEYERS & CO. GOLD \$18 INGOT



Lot No. 3526

3526 **Meyers & Co. San Francisco, California (?)**. **Gold \$18 assay ingot.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. Nice, bright yellow gold color. Top and bottom corners on left trimmed when made creating a rectangular ingot with six sides. Minor roughness, particularly on the back. Edge test cut. **Unique.** Mr. Ford dated the Meyers & Co. bar to 1849, based on its resemblance to the Moffat bars and to the fact that gold in small bar form was popular only in 1849, being supplanted by coin thereafter. Moffat & Company's small rectangular gold bars of 1849 were stamped with their fineness in carats and their dollar value but not their weight. Presumably, in commerce such a bar was weighed and its gold content by weight figured by multiplying the bar's decimal fineness by its weight to discover the pure gold content and then multiplying that sum by \$20.6718, the standard Mint price for a Troy ounce of pure gold from 1834-1933. Taking one Moffat \$16 bar as an example (Garrett: 927), that piece weighs 436.5 grains (just one grain shy of a full ounce avoirdupois) and has a stated carat of 20.75. If we divide 20.75 carats by 24 we find the bar is stated to be .8645833 fine gold and if we multiply that decimal fineness by 436.5 grains we find the bar is said to

contain 377.39061 grains of pure gold and that product multiplied by 0.0430662 cents (the value of a grain of pure gold at the Mint price of \$20.6718 per Troy ounce of 480 grains) yields a value for the Moffat bar in question of \$16.25.

When the present Meyers & Co. bar was sold in the 1982 Clifford Collection auction the cataloguer at the time worried about what he saw as a problematic difference in the \$18 stated gold value of the bar and a \$16 per ounce price of gold in San Francisco in 1849 and concluded that the Meyers & Co. bar was "enigmatic." It seems to the present writer that there really isn't a problematic difference here at all, however. The Moffat bar does not state its weight but as the math detailed above shows, assumes the customer could verify the bar's stated \$16 value pretty easily if he wanted to. The only datum Moffat did not provide his customer was the bar's weight, which was subject to change by clipping, wear, etc. anyway Always assumed was the standard mint value of a Troy ounce of 480 grains of pure gold and at that standard Moffat's \$16 bar was undervalued by about 1.5%. Back in Philadelphia a few years later Eckfeldt and Dubois also remarked on how Moffat's bars were slightly undervalued.

The Meyers & Co. \$18 bar states its weight as 1 Troy ounce and at 480.0 grains it is right on the money. It also gives its value as \$18 but does not state its fineness. With the weight and value of the bar known, one of Meyers & Co.'s customers only had verify the bar's weight and then divide the bar's value of \$18 by the value of a Troy ounce of pure gold \$20.6718 to get the bar's implied fineness, .87075. There's more math to do to verify Moffat's bar's value of \$16 than there is to establish the Meyer's bar's fineness. However, its fineness was still subject to verification, which would cost the customer an assayer's charge and the loss of some metal in the process. Moffat's reputation and references established the credibility of his assays right from the start and anyone could weigh a bar for free. While it may look like verifying a Moffat bar was a more complicated process, verifying a Meyers & Co. bar turns out to be even more so, and costlier, too.

On its face, there appears to be nothing problematical about this Meyers & Co. bar's weight or dollar value, despite the Clifford cataloguer's misgivings. That said, in the absence of any sure information about who this Meyers & Co. was and given the fact that this is the only such bar known, this object must remain a matter for further study.

Face: MEYERS & Co. in a rectangular logotype punch with a background of horizontal lines / 1 [single numeral punch] OZ. TROY [in raised lines from the base of the mold] / a rectangular punch of the same length as the first on this side, also with a background of horizontal lines, comprising a \$ followed by space for a value on which has been punched in individual numerals 18.00.

Back: U.S. STANDARD above WARRANTED, all apparently by individual letter punches.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 31.8 x 15.6 x 3.5 mm.

Current weight: 31.14 gms.

Mr. Ford's informational card that accompanies the lot records the bar's provenance as "Aluminum foil impressions given to me by P.[aul] F.[ranklin], 4/20/56. Ingot ordered at [price in code]. Ingot obtained and sold to me by P.F. on April 28, '56 at the Central States Con.[vention] in Indianapolis. "After figuring his cost and what he paid Franklin through a series of tight deals, Mr. Ford continues "\$18 Meyers discovered by John Kenworthy of Phoenix, Arizona. Alum. foil impressions to Stack's, 6/19/58. Sold by me, 4/6/59 to John Murrell, Dallas, Texas, via John Rowe." As we know, from Murrell the bar went to Henry Clifford in whose sale it later appeared (Bowers & Ruddy, March 18, 1982, lot 73) and from where Mr. Ford bought it for \$21,000.



Harper's Monthly, April 1860

AGOSTHON P. MOLITOR
STEPHEN F. MOLITOR
San Francisco, California
San Diego, California
Deadwood, Dakota Territory

Agosthon Molitor began his work as an assayer in California in 1851 in partnership with fellow Hungarians Samuel Wass and Charles Uznay in the firm of Wass, Molitor and Company, one of the most important private coinage ventures in the west. He left California in 1856. His story as an independent assayer begins on his return to that state in 1859. Stephen Molitor, his son, had a checkered career through many western mining camps and even into

Canada, working as a tramp assayer (as Fred Holabird so aptly described him) in the 1860s and 1870s. By 1884-5 he was located in Tinton, South Dakota (then Dakota Territory) and had joined with others to form the American Tin Mining Company. Molitor was its assayer. However, the tin boom quickly faded and by the beginning of 1893 tin was played out and with it, Stephen Molitor's recorded career as an assayer.

1857

The firm of Wass, Molitor & Co., assayers of Gold and Silver, is this day dissolved by mutual consent, and their business will be settled by Charles Uznay, a member of said firm, and now a member of the house of Haraszthy, Uznay & Co., Gold and Silver Refiners and Assayers, office No. 85 Battery Street, between Commercial and Sacramento. The Assay Laboratory of the late firm having been transferred, and connected with the new Refinery the friends and depositors who have heretofore deposited with Wass, Molitor & Co., are respectfully solicited to continue their business with the new firm of Haraszthy, Uznay & Co.

(Signed) S.C. Wass, A.P. Molitor, Chas. Uznay
Alta California, March 17, 1857

1858

Molitor, Stephen F. Assayer Dwells at 67 Dupont
Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing January 1, 1858

Wanted A Partner With A cash capital of \$4,000 to \$5,000 to engage in the assaying and general gold dust business in one of the interior mining towns. The best testimonials will be furnished as to the capability and business capacity of the subscriber. A letter, with real name, addressed through the post office to S. Molitor, will be attended to.

Alta California, January 28, 1858

Assay Office S. MOLITOR & CO. Commercial Street (Opposite U.S. Branch Mint.) - The Undersigned Have Opened an office for the Assay of Gold, Silver And Minerals of every description, and hope by strict attention to business, promptness and dispatch, to secure a portion of the patronage of the public. Customers are invited to examine the melting pro-

cess. They guarantee the correctness of their Assays. returns made in six hours. S. Molitor & Co.

Alta California, April 16, 1858

1859

The Gr.[af] V.[as] [Count Wass, formerly of Wass, Molitor] gold smelting plant, of which I informed the Hungarian public extensively some years ago has fallen upon evil days. In the absence of Samu Vas and Molitor the partners who remained here (Haraszthy and Uznay) engaged in perilous speculations and soon the formerly rosy condition of the plant became so complicated that operations had to be suspended. It is too bad that V. and Molitor could not have returned at that time; they would have set everything right with their clear and calculating natures. But it is too late now. The business cannot be helped. Molitor, it is true, returned from London, but only after his whole fortune had gone up in smoke. At present the poor man is back where he started when he first came to California a few years ago, and is now beginning anew. A few days ago he opened a refinery across from the United States Mint with his younger brother, and their business is doing fairly well again.

California for Hungarian readers, Letters of Janos Xantus 1857 and 1859 (p. 137: Feb. 4, 1859)

1860

Molitor (Stephen) & Co. (August P. Molitor). Assayers 110 Montgomery. Dwells at 159 Jackson.

Molitor Augustus P. (S. Molitor & Co.) Dwells at 159 Jackson. Office-110 Montgomery.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing July 1860

A.P. Molitor. Age 30. Occupation Assayer. Birthplace Austria

A.P. Molitor. Age 40. Occupation Assayer. Birthplace Austria

S. Molitor. Age 34 or 39. Occupation Assayer. Personal Estate \$1500. Birthplace Hungary.

1860 Eighth Federal Census, San Francisco, California, San Francisco County

1861

Molitor, Augustus P. (Stephen Molitor & Co.). Dwells at 515 Jackson. Molitor, (Stephen) & Co. (Augustus P. Molitor). Assayers 418 Montgomery. Dwells at 244 Stevenson.

Molitor, T. with (S. Molitor & Co.). Dwells at 244 Stevenson.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing September 1861

1862

Molitor, Augustus P. (S. Molitor & Co.). Dwells at 253 Stevenson.

Molitor, (Stephen) & Co. (Augustus P. Molitor). Assayers 418 Montgomery. Resides in Victoria.

Molitor, Titus. Assayer with (S. Molitor & Co.)

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing September 1862

1863

Molitor, Augustus P. (S. Molitor & Co.). Dwells at 253 Stevenson.

Molitor, (Stephen) & Co. (Augustus P. Molitor). Assayers 418 Montgomery. Dwells at 253 Stevenson.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1863

1864

Molitor, Augustus P. Assayer. Office 418 Montgomery. Dwells at 253 Stevenson.

Molitor, G. & S.M. Co. (Reese River District). Office 606 Montgomery. Molitor, Julius. Assayer with A.P. Molitor. Dwells at 253 Stevenson. Molitor, Stephen. Office 418 Mont. Dwells at 253 Stevenson.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1864

S. Molitor & Co. advertised that they were open for business in Gold Hill, Nevada. Molitor's partner was A. Schmolz, late of the U.S. Branch Mint, San Francisco.

Gold Hill Daily News, November 1864

1865

Molitor, Augustus P. Assayer. Office 611 Commercial opposite U.S. Branch Mint. Dwells at 804 Stockton.

Molitor, Julius. Assayer with A.P. Dwells at 804 Stockton. Molitor, Titus. Assayer with A.P. Dwells at 804 Stockton.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing December 1865

1867

Gold Bars, Of Whatever Size, If Well cast, assayed for Two Dollars, at A.P. Molitor's Assay Office, 611 Commercial Street, Opposite U.S. Mint.

Alta California, April 14, 1867

Augustus P. Molitor assayer office 611 Commercial Dwells at 1018 Stockton Augustus P. Molitor assayer office 611 Commercial Dwells at 1018 Stockton Augustus P. Molitor assayer office 611 Commercial Dwells at 1018 Stockton

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing September 1867

1868

Augustus P. Molitor. Assayer. Dwells at 1018 Stockton. Mrs. A.P. Molitor. Proprietress, Bellevue House, 1018 Stockton.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1868

1869

Augustus P. Molitor. Assayer. Dwells at 1018 Stockton. Mrs. A.P. Molitor. Proprietress, Bellevue House, 1018 Stockton.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing December 1869

1870

A.P. Molitor, Age 47, Occupation Assayer. Real Estate \$500. Personal Estate \$500. Birthplace Hungary.

1870 Ninth Federal Census, San Diego California, San Diego County.

Stephen Molitor Age 37, Occupation Assayer. Personal Estate \$3,000.

1870 Ninth Federal Census, Helena, Montana Territory, Lewis and Clark County.

1871-1879

San Diego, South. A.P. Molitor. Assayer. Montana Territory. Stephen F. Molitor. Helena. Assayer. 43 Main.

The Pacific Coast Business Directory for 1871-1873.

ONE OF TWO TRACED A.P. MOLITOR SILVER INGOTS
This ex Garrett Collection



Lot No. 3527

3527* **Augustus P. Molitor, Assayer. San Francisco, California. Silver & gold assay ingot no. 406.** Overall appearance of Very Fine or so, actually essentially Uncirculated. A very unprepossessing thin ingot with rough surfaces, poorly finished edges, deep cooling fissures on the back that were overpunched regardless. One has the impression that this was not meant for general public consumption but was intended for a more private audience, perhaps as a test ingot or a souvenir of a new business venture. Light silver gray in color with some flash on the smoother parts of the surfaces. Face fairly well stamped but back quite poor, ASSAYER only partial, OIR stamp incompletely punched in. This bar made its first appearance at public auction within a couple of decades of when it was made. In the intervening century and more, one of the longest pedigree chains known for any ingot, it has had only four recorded owners. Two other silver A.P. Molitor bars are known to the cataloguer: (1) Holabird-Kagin Fall 2006 FPL, item 52, a \$5.73 bar offered at \$75,000 and (2) a piece described as a \$2 bar by Woodward in the same sale the present Garrett-Ford bar was offered in. Its whereabouts are presently untraced. This present ingot was illustrated in the cataloguer's 1999 *AJN* II article on ingots.

Face: OZ 2 27 / S840 FINE.[vertically at right between this and next] / G108 / S\$2 .46 / G\$5 06.

Back: A.P. MOLITOR / ASSAYER / OIR stamp / No. 406.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 52.3 x 32.2 x 4.3 mm.

Current weight: 70.72 gms.

Ex William E. Woodward's sale of October 13, 1884, lot 2620; Georg F. Ulex Collection (Lyman Low, July, 1902, lot 536); Garrett Collection (Bowers & Ruddy, March 25, 1981, lot 1944).

* Shortly before this catalogue went to press, this and four other ingots from the Ford Collection were stolen during transit. Since they had already been photographed and described, Stack's decided to retain their lot descriptions in this catalog in order to preserve their numismatic evidence for future researchers and to aid in their hoped recovery.

ONE OF THREE KNOWN S.F. MOLITOR TIN INGOTS



Lot No. 3528

3528 **Stephen F. Molitor, Assayer. American Tin Mining Company. Deadwood, Dakota Territory. Tin ingot.** Overall appearance of Fine to Very Fine. Deep gray color. Fairly well formed for this small sized ingot, one probably made as a sample more than for commercial uses. Some minor roughness, location soft and runs partially off the edge. One of just three such tin ingots with this assayer's stamp known to the cataloguer, the other two being numbers 68 and 69 in Holabird-Kagin's Fall, 2006 fixed price list offering of the Robert Bass Collection, where the most extensive history of Molitor and tin mining ever published in a numismatic source may be read. The cataloguer notes that Holabird-Kagin 69 was ex Charles W. Foster's collection (Rushville, New York). It was bought by Jim Ruddy in August, 1960 and offered to Mr. Ford on August 30 of that year along with the 1869 Savage Mine Company bar (to be found later in this sale) for \$400 the pair. Mr. Ford declined and Ruddy traded the Molitor and Savage bars to Art Kagin in October, 1960 for a group of \$3 gold pieces.

Face: AMERICAN / TIN MINING Co. / S.F. MOLITOR / ASSAYER / DEADWOOD, D.T.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

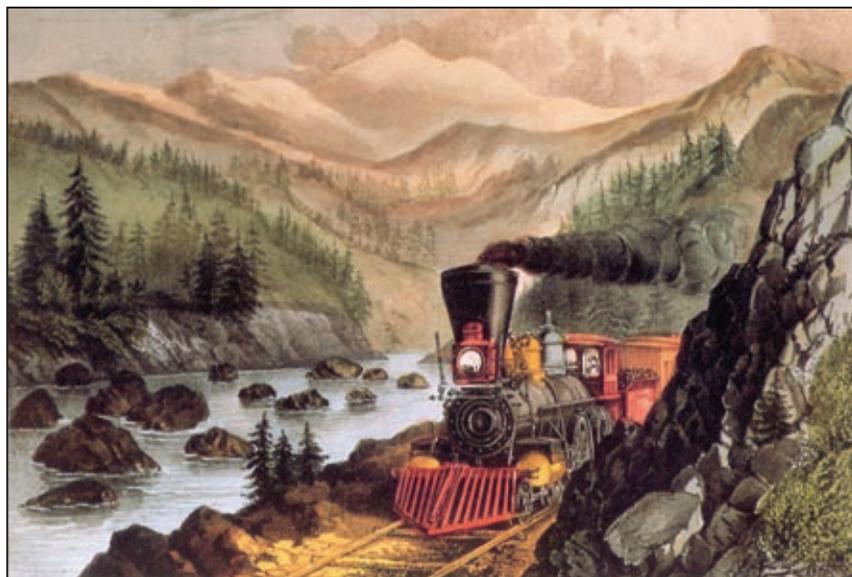
Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 53.0 x 24.6 x 13.3 mm.

Current weight: 116.2 gms.

Provenance unrecorded.



*The Route to California/Truckee River Sierra Nevada
Currier and Ives*

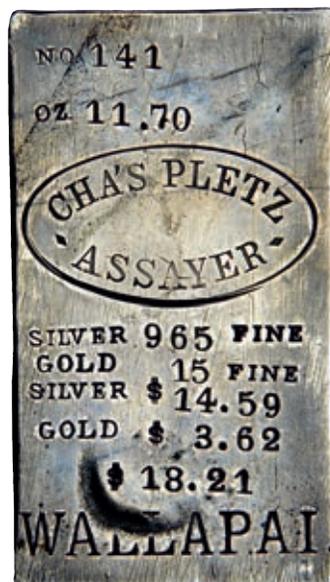
CHARLES PLETZ, ASSAYER

Wallapai Mining District, Cerbat Mountain, Mohave County, Arizona

Very little is recorded of Charles Pletz beyond a few bare notices in *Arizona's Weekly Miner* newspaper of the mid-1870s (all of which were provided to Mr. Ford by the Sharlot Hall Historical Society). The paper's issue of May 14, 1875 notes Pletz as superintendent of the Mass Mine while the following June 4 the paper notes Pletz' interest in mining in the Mineral Park District. For July 9, 1875 the paper stated that Pletz would operate a mining mill at Mineral Park. The issue of October 22, 1875 noted that Pletz had opened an assay office, location not noted. On July 14, 1876

the paper reported that Pletz was to be named supervisor of the Quartz Mounting Mill. On November 17, 1876 the same paper noted Pletz as assistant assayer of the Aztlan Mill and on March 9 of the following year reported that Pletz had sold an interest in the Everett Mine. The last mention of Pletz known to the cataloguer is a notice in the *Miner* of November 9, 1932, that describes a place in the Cerbat Mountain where a certain Jack Flynn dug out several hundred pounds of silver ore, samples of which assayed out at Pletz' assay office at more than \$3,000 a ton.

THE MOST VALUABLE CHARLES PLETZ SILVER ASSAY INGOT And the Only Bar Made by This Assayer Now Available for Sale



Lot No. 3529

3529 **Charles Pletz, Assayer. Wallapai Mining District, Cerbat Mountain, Mohave County, Arizona. Silver and gold assay ingot no. 141.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. Nice, medium silver gray color. Good stampings, minor puddling at the bottom of the face, cooling flaws incompletely polished away on the back, rearward edges imperfectly finished but others mostly sharp and presentable. The bar has been finished after cooling and was probably not meant to be melted or spent, but rather was made as a souvenir or keepsake. This is the only Pletz marked ingot currently available for sale. There appear to be two other silver assay bars known stamped by Charles Pletz. Ingot no. 235 was illustrated in *How They Dug the Gold* (Arizona Pioneer's Historical

Society, 1967). Mr. Ford contacted the bar's owner, a Mr. Milton Singer of Bloomfield, Connecticut in August, 1973, asking, without success as it turned out, if the bar were for sale. In his letter to Singer, Mr. Ford mentioned he knew of one other Pletz ingot, bar no. 141 (see lot to follow). Nearly five years later, on February 20, 1978, Mr. Ford made a second attempt to buy Singer's Pletz ingot, this time offering \$1,000 for it. Mr. Singer again declined to sell the bar, but sent Mr. Ford photographs of it for his files. Then, on December 17, 1979 Don Kagin received a letter from Mr. Singer asking if there was a Pletz bar in the Clifford Collection. Don forwarded Singer's letter to Mr. Ford, who replied that there wasn't and reminded Singer once again of Ford's interest in buying Singer's

Pletz bar. Singer graciously declined once more, but offered Mr. Ford some information that helped locate Pletz' assay office in Mohave County, Arizona. In December, 1984, Singer wrote Ford saying that his son wanted to have the Pletz bar, implying that it was thereafter "off the market", but the bar appeared for sale in John Hamilton's fixed price list offering published in the *TAMS Journal* in February, 1991. In February, 1993 Hal Birt wrote Ford saying that Hamilton had brought the bar to the recent Tucson show. Its present whereabouts are unknown to the cataloguer and were to Mr. Ford.

A third Pletz ingot is bar no. 28, from the collection of the Sharlot Hall Historical Society in Prescott, Arizona. Paul Franklin brought the bar's existence to Mr. Ford's attention towards the end of 1979, a few months before Mr. Singer wrote to Don Kagin about Pletz. On September 14, 1979 Norm Tessman, Curator of Collections for the Society, sent photographs of their ingot to Franklin, and Paul forwarded them on to Mr. Ford. Ford replied immediately, asking for additional photographs and other information, particularly about assayer Frank Blake. A few months later, after Ford received Singer's letter about Pletz' Mohave County location, Ford wrote Tessman once again, repeating his earlier request. Tessman replied almost immediately, saying he had neglected Mr. Ford's earlier request for information in part because "Quite frankly, I had just rejected Paul Franklin's attempt to obtain the Pletz ingot and was slightly sour about what I perceived (again perhaps unjustly) as an attempt to take advantage of the Museum." Tessman offered to make his research library available to Mr. Ford should a visit to the Society be thought worthwhile. The ingot's present whereabouts have not been ascertained.

The Ford and Sharlot Hall Historical Society Pletz bars are similar in size, style, and layout. Both have their inscriptions arranged across the shorter dimension of the rectangular shape. On both, the bar number is first followed by the bar's weight and the assayer's logotype stamp (the same on both). Thereafter the two bars are somewhat dissimilar. On Ford's the gold and silver finenesses and value are next whereas the Sharlot Hall bar has only its silver fineness and value. Since the Sharlot Hall bar's fineness is given as 987, one wonders why Pletz felt it was unnecessary to in-

dicating that bar's gold fineness of .013 when on the Ford bar he stamped GOLD 15 FINE and on the Singer bar he noted GOLD 0.10 FINE. Another difference between the Ford and Sharlot Hall ingots is the absence of a location on the latter, which is given as WALLAPAI on Ford's (and Singer's) bar. Finally, both Ford's and the Sharlot Hall's Pletz bars have no inscriptions anywhere save on their faces.

Like the Ford bar, Singer's also states the location name but unlike Ford's, does so on one long edge. Singer's bar arranged its information partly along the short dimension of the rectangular shape, but after noting the bar's number and weight, then changes to the long dimension to list the finenesses and values. In addition, on Singer's bar the assayer's logotype stamp, which is the same one seen on the Ford and Sharlot Hall ingots, is placed on the back of Singer's and is partly obscured by the cooling depression there.

All three Pletz ingots are small bars principally of silver with rather low values, \$14.57 (Sharlot Hall), \$11.25 (Singer), and \$18.21 (Ford).

Face: No. 141 / OZ. 11.70 / CHA'S PLETZ ASSAYER [in logotype within an oval outline] / SILVER 965 FINE / GOLD 15 FINE / SILVER \$14.59 / GOLD \$3.62 / \$18.21 / WALLAPAI.

Back: blank.

Top edge: blank.

Bottom edge: blank.

Left edge: blank.

Right edge: blank.

Dimensions: 75.5 x 43.0 x 10.5 mm.

Stated weight: 11.7 ozs.

Ex L.G. Barnard (Memphis, Tennessee) to P.B. Trotter before the summer of 1955. Seen at the Chase Money Museum in July, 1954. Offer made by New Netherlands Coin Company on August 5, 1954, declined. Offered to Morton Stack on September 6, 1955, declined. Seen by Mr. Ford at the 1955 ANA Convention in Omaha, believed at the time owned by P.B. Trotter. Sold by Trotter to Jerry Cohen at the Detroit Central States Convention on April 29, 1960 and thence by Cohen to Harry Forman. Sold by Forman to Art Kagin and by Kagin to Ford, date unrecorded. Mr. Ford's informational card and photograph, together with photographs of the Singer no. 235 and Sharlot Hall no. 28 ingots, accompany the lot. Mr. Ford noted the actual weight of the bar as 11.5 ozs.

EDWARD POSEN, ASSAYER
Denver, Colorado

Posen is another assayer about whose personal and business histories essentially nothing is known. The Clifford Sale cataloguers found an Edward Posen, Ph.D. listed as running an assay office and an analytical laboratory in Denver in 1883.

AN EXTREMELY RARE GOLD AND SILVER INGOT BY POSEN



Lot No. 3530

3530 **Edward Posen, Assayer. Denver, Colorado. Gold & silver assay ingot no. 2959.** Overall appearance of a rough Very Fine. Pale yellow gold color. Surfaces quite rough, top edge irregular as made. An odd ingot. The shape of the bar calls for a layout along the long axis but the assayer has chosen to enter the bar's details along the shorter one. The layout betrays deliberation and must have been to a purpose because it has been accomplished with some finesse. The absence of specific notations of the bar's silver and gold values may be explained by the exigencies of the chosen layout. The bar is more yellow than might have been expected from the gold content. The piece was made with some care but the facilities available to the assayer were not sophisticated judging from the bar's rough and flawed appearance. Edges and corners not all well finished. The ethnic (E POSEN/ASSAYER/DENVER) was probably a logotype and thus with unalterable spacing between individual elements in the punch. Otherwise, given the care exercised elsewhere on the bar to work within the demands of the vertical layout, the letters at the right of the ethnic would not have been allowed to run off that edge. Posen ingots are extremely rare, Clifford: 231 being one of the few others that come to mind. If this is the right Edward Posen, presumably his products became more accomplished by 1883.

Face: E POSEN / ASSAYER / DENVER / G 584 / S 342 / \$43.31 / 3.47OZ / OIR stamp.

Back: No. 2959.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 76.2 x 23.4 x 4.6 mm.

Current weight: 108.2 gms.

Ex Ben Kuehling, Paul Franklin on May 18, 1966. Mr. Ford's information card and Rankow photographs accompany the lot.

THOMAS PRICE, ASSAYER
THOMAS PRICE & SON
San Francisco, California

1863-1870

Thomas Price Assayer with Kellogg, Hewston & Co. 416 Montgomery Street Dwells on Taylor between Filbert and Greenwich.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1863

Thomas Price Assayer with Kellogg, Hewston & Co. and Professor City College Dwells at 508 Taylor.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1864.

Thomas Price Assayer with Kellogg, Hewston & Co., commission merchant and Professor City College office on California Street, Dwells at 508 Taylor.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1865

Thomas Price Professor Chemistry Toland and City Colleges and dealer ores office on Battery Street, Dwells at 715 Post.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1867

Thomas Price Professor Chemistry Toland and City Colleges and assayer San Francisco Assaying and Refining Works, Dwells at 715 Post.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1868

Thomas Price assayer San Francisco Chemical Works, and Professor Chemistry Toland Medical and City College, Dwells at 715 Post.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1869

Thomas Price Occupation Assayer Real Estate \$10,000 Personal Estate \$2,500 Birthplace Wales

1870 Ninth Federal Census San Francisco, California, San Francisco County

1887

Thomas Price Assayer 524 Sacramento Street.

Our Review of the leading enterprises of San Francisco would not be complete without some allusion to what is undoubtedly the most complete establishment of the kind west of Chicago, and most probably in the

country. We refer to the well known establishment of Professor Thomas Price, located at 524 Sacramento Street. Here will be found the most costly and elaborate apparatus, and in the different departments thirteen assistants are employed. The business naturally divides itself into three departments, the bullion, the metallurgical, and the chemical...

The Bullion Department. This department includes the receiving of bullion, melting, assaying and refining. The bullion is received in all shapes, crude and otherwise... Attached to the bullion department is a complete and separate assay office... Now that the U.S. Mint is closed for its annual settlement, the bullion department is kept busy. Miners will be enabled to get returns from Professor Price more promptly than from the Mint, and bullion may be deposited in the same manner.

Metallurgical Department. The metallurgical department is fitted with an extensive ore floor, with crushers and pulverizers, for the crushing and sampling of ores... There are special furnaces for smelting rich ore and other products...

The Chemical Department. This consists of a chemical laboratory... A particular specialty is made of analysis of food, drink and poisons, and all industrial products... Investigations will be undertaken of chemical processes of any kind...

All of these departments are personally supervised and conducted by Professor Price and numerous skilled assistants, chief of whom is his son, Arthur Price, who has studied his profession in the leading chemical schools of England and Germany. The appliances and apparatus are all of the best in each department, and the whole establishment is conducted on a scale commensurate with its importance. While a large portion of the work is that connected with the assaying, refining, sampling, testing, etc., of ores and bullion, as may be seen, all matters relating to sanitary and industrial chemistry are carefully attended to.

The business of this establishment extends all over the Union, and Professor Price has the agency of several large English companies. A native of Wales, Great Britain, he has resided here for 25 years, and is thoroughly identified with the city of his adoption and her best interests. Prompt, honorable, energetic, he has in his son a most valuable coadjutor, and their immense patronage is the result of their own energy and application.

1889

Thomas Price & Son Assay Office 524 Sacramento Street

...Its location in a city, near to the greatest mining region of the world, its long and eventful career and unusually complete facilities combine to make this business one of paramount importance among the industries of San Francisco. The premises comprise the old Pacific Mail building situated on the corner of Sacramento and Leidesdorff streets...

This important enterprise was inaugurated in 1862 by Professor Thomas Price with whom is now associated his son Mr. Arthur F. Price. These gentlemen have devoted their lives to chemical and scientific investigation relating to this branch of the business and are thoroughly posted in its every detail. They employ a score or more of skilled and competent workmen, who receive salaries proportioned to their knowledge and experience. Business is carried on all over the Coast and extends to Australia and China. The proprietors of this leading assay office are not only expert chemists and metallurgists but active progressive business men as well, standing high in esteem and respect of all in the community socially and commercially.

The Industries of San Francisco, California. Cosmopolitan Publishing Company, San Francisco, 2 volumes in 1, 1889, p. 125; 1887, Compiled and Published by Thompson & Co, pp. 83-4.

Thomas Price was born in the country of Brecon Wales, on the thirteenth day of March 1837. After having been well-grounded in the primary branches he entered the Normal College at Swansea, where he received the education which determined his future course in life. He subsequently entered the Royal School of Mines in London, and, in both these institutions, he enjoyed the advantage of studying under some of the most distinguished professors of the day. At the conclusion of his college career, he settled in Swansea and engaged in the business of assaying and as professor of analytical chemistry, and obtained a very wide experience in those branches of science. In 1862 he came to San Francisco and engaged in the business of purchasing silver, gold and copper ores and shipping them to Swansea for reduction. In connection with this business he traveled over every portion of the Pacific Coast, visiting and examining all the principal mines.

At the conclusion of the late civil war the demand for copper ore practically ceased, and Professor Price was engaged to superintend the assaying and chemical department of the San Francisco Refinery, an institution which has since gone out of existence.

About this time he was appointed to the chair of chemistry and toxicology in the Toland Medical Col-

lege, and at a later period this institution conferred upon him the degree of M.D., he having devoted considerable time to the study of medicine.

Upon the death of William C. Ralston, the San Francisco Refinery, of which he was the master spirit, closed its doors and its business, and Professor Price then opened an establishment of his own as chemist and assayer, and, having the confidence of all with whom he had dealings, he soon found himself at the head of a successful and lucrative business, in which he is still engaged.

During the many years Professor Price has spent on this coast, he has examined mining properties in all the principal mining States and Territories, extending his researches even to North Carolina. He is now under engagement to visit and examine the gold fields of South Africa, for the working of which an enormous mining plant has been constructed under his supervision. In this connection we may mention a high compliment paid to Professor Price... by Baron Albert Grant, in an address delivered by him to the stockholders of the Lisbon-Berlyn (Transvaal) Gold Mining Company, of London. In the course of his remarks the Baron said:

“A man may be the most able and theoretical person possible, but unless he has had practical experience of mining, there are contingencies peculiar to every mine which are not reproduced in another, and which he alone can solve by the light possibility of previous actual experiments. Therefore we applied to a friend of mine, Professor Price, of San Francisco, for his assistance, and his knowledge as to the class of machinery that we should order to work the great property this company owns. Professor Price's name as anyone who knows about mining will say, will be a guarantee that the best knowledge of the subject, as well as the most straightforward conduct in any negotiations entrusted to him, will be represented in his person.

“I believe it is said of him by Americans who know him well. That anything he writes, anything he says, may be implicitly confided in, and that, I think, many of you who know perhaps about mining-and perhaps know too much-is not the common experience with other American experts you come across; I am sorry to say it is not mine. Professor Price is an exception, and is a man of vast experience. To my mind he is a perfect representative of straightforwardness and honesty, and I have no hesitation in entirely recommending my colleagues to confide in his judgment as to the character of the machinery, and the manufacturers who should be entrusted to make it...

“The quartz mill forwarded from San Francisco has reached London, according to latest accounts, and the Baron has bought 1,600 head of oxen to transport it from the African Coast to the gold

fields. Sarles and Davis, the California mill men, have already left London for South Africa, and Professor Price, we understand, will probably soon follow to make a thorough examination of the mines of that country, concerning which so little is yet known to the world. Professor Price has been very prominent in the hydraulic system of mining in California, and it is more than probable that the powerful "monitor" which have reduced mountains in this State may yet be brought into active operation in the mines of South Africa. We trust that the Professor may have a pleasant voyage, that he may meet with financial and scientific success and soon return in health and safety to his numerous friends in San Francisco. That his report will be an interesting one there can be no doubt."

The Bay of San Francisco; The Metropolis of the Pacific Coast, and its Suburban Cities. A History Illustrated. V. 1 pgs. 422-424 2 Volumes. The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1892

1912

Price in this city, October 13, Thomas Price beloved father of Arthur F. Minnie E. and Annie, Price and Mrs. J.P. Turner, a native of Wales, aged 77 years.

San Francisco Chronicle, October 14, 1912.

Thomas Price well known Chemist and Geologist Succumbs at Age 77 As Consulting Mining and Poison Expert Was Known Throughout the World

Thomas Price, the noted chemist geologist and pioneer resident of San Francisco, died at his home 2503 Broadway about 5:30 P.M. Sunday. The deceased was 77 years old...

Price was born in Brecon, Breconshire, Wales in 1835, the center of a great mining and smelting district. He was educated at Normal College, Swansea, Wales, at which institution he was afterward appointed professor of chemistry. Leaving Wales in 1862, he came direct to the Pacific Coast making San Francisco his home.

He was professor of chemistry and toxicology at the old Toland Medical College, and afterward with Dr. Lane and Dr. Gibbons Sr., organized the Medical College of the Pacific, which later became Copper Medical College.

His opinion being so much in demand by mining and manufacturing companies he gave up regular teaching and lecturing and engaged in business as a

consulting chemist and metallurgist. As a consulting geologist of extraordinary ability he was known all over the United States and Mexico, and was connected with most of the large mining companies in Montana, Arizona, Mexico and even so far east as North Carolina. He was consulting chemist to the famous Eureka, Nevada, Mining Company and the Dupont Powder Company.

Known as expert witness: He was probably better known to the public as an expert witness in prominent murder and poisoning cases. In the examination of blood-stained weapons and articles used in poison cases his evidence frequently resulted in conclusive proof and conviction. He was the chief witness in the Soder case, which happened a few years ago, through his evidence regarding a minute stain on a knife, which was proved by him to be human blood. He was called in the Botkin case, the Dr. Milton Bowers murder case, and many other cases of national prominence.

Many old residents will remember him in connection with an explosion resulting in much loss of life that occurred in the storehouse of the Wells Fargo Express Company in 1866. For days the matter was a mystery until Price, after examination, found the cause of the explosion to have been nitro-glycerine-a little known explosion at that time.

Became Famous in a Day: He became famous in a day throughout the United States when, after the local Fire Department was at its wits end to put out a fire on the steamer Elmbank, which had come from Japan with a cargo of sulphur, without taking her out to the dumping grounds and sinking her, he put the fire out by a very simple method and saved the vessel.

He obtained several whisky barrels which were handy, filled them with marble dust, poured sulphuric acid over the dust, conducted hose from the barrels to the hold of the ship, battened the hatches down and soon the fire was smothered by the carbonic acid gas which was generated in the barrels.

He is survived by one son, Arthur F. Price, and three daughters, Mrs. J.P. Turner, Miss Minnie and Miss Anna Price.

The funeral will take place from the residence, 2503 Broadway at 2 o'clock Wednesday, and the interment will be made at Cypress Lawn Cemetery. The public is invited to the funeral, but the interment will be private.

San Francisco Chronicle, October 15, 1912.

A THOMAS PRICE INGOT DATED 1881
 One of a Handful of This Assayer's Known Silver Bars



Lot No. 3531

3531 **Thomas Price, Assayer. San Francisco, California. Silver & gold assay ingot, 1881.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. A little scuffy and banged up looking with many small round depressions on all sides. Inscriptions and logotype on face fully legible, date bold as shown in the illustration. The assayer's bullion punch is in logotype as is the word "fine", here unusually all in lower case. "Oz" may also be in logotype but the cataloguer cannot be certain of this. All other numerals and letters accomplished by individual punches. Face and back ornamented around the edge. All edges squared off, corners sharp, faces smoothed but not polished. The bar looks like it may have been intended as a presentation piece and the prominent date on the back and lack of an ingot number support this. Manufactured before Professor Price associated his son Arthur in the business sometime just before or during 1889. Only a handful of silver & gold ingots are known from this assayer. Mr. Ford's holdings of three represent the largest in private hands. Holabird-Kagin offered what may be the unique gold Price ingot in their Fall, 2006 Fixed Price List sale of the Robert Bass Collection.

Face: Oz 3.90 / G.27 1/2 / S.968 / fine [to the right and lengthwise beside the last two] / THOMAS PRICE.ASSAYER.SAN FRANCISCO [in logotype] / G\$2.22 / S\$4.88 / V\$7.10.

Back: 1881.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 52.3 x 24.0 x 9.25 mm.

Current weight: 120.4 gms.

Noted as in the Kagin Collection on June 24, 1958. Mr. Ford's informational card and photographs accompany the lot.

A PAIR OF THOMAS PRICE & SON SILVER INGOTS



Lot No. 3532

3532 **Thomas Price & Son, Assayers. San Francisco, California. Silver assay ingot.** Overall appearance of Fine. A very rough and somewhat misshapen little ingot. Quite dark silver gray in color. This is a most unprepossessing bar but the complete ethnic (the assayer's bullion punch) makes it quite important. The only other such named bar known to the cataloguer, the piece in the next lot, has an incomplete ethnic. This bar is not terribly well formed, being thinner on one side than the other, and it hasn't been well finished. It has the look of a bar that was not meant to be around long, certainly not to be saved as a presentation piece. The ethnic is the same punch that will be seen partially on the next lot.

Face: 999 / FINE at the left, THOMAS PRICE & SON ASSAYERS SAN FRANCISCO. in logotype at the right.

Back: blank.

Top side: 2.04 OZ. [over ZO.].

Bottom side: SILVER.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 52.6 x 13.5 x 10.0 mm.

Current weight: 63.52 gms.

Noted as in the Kagin Collection on May 28, 1966. Mr. Ford's informational card and Rankow photographs accompany the lot.

A NOVICE ASSAYER'S INGOT



Lot No. 3533

3533 **Thomas Price & Son, Assayers. San Francisco, California. Silver & gold assay ingot no. 1769.** Overall appearance of Fine to Very Fine. A very rough and clumsily made ingot. One wants to excuse this bar as an early attempt by Arthur Price while an apprentice to his father Thomas! The piece is light silver gray in color. The ethnic is the same punch seen on the preceding lot, here incomplete. "Oz" and "No" appear to be in logotype but all other letters and numbers were accomplished by individual punches. Two opposing corners have been imperfectly cut from the bar. There are, surprisingly, no letter indications for either the gold or silver contents and the values have been left undefined on the bar, leaving one to guess at which is which by virtue of the ingot's silver color. This seems sloppy and crude from an operation praised by contemporaries as the most elaborate west of Chicago. What the bar lacks in finesse it more than makes up for in size, shape, and feel. This ingot has a most satisfying "feel" in the hand.

Face: No. 1769 / THOMAS PRICE /// ASSAYERS SAN FRANCISCO.
in logotype / Oz 2.17/052 1/2 / 915 / \$2.35 / 2.56.

Back: 1769.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 36.0 x 30.4 x 6.9 mm.

Current weight: 67.86 gms.

Ex Paul Franklin on September 4, 1964.

AN UNNAMED INGOT APPARENTLY BY PRICE



Lot No. 3534

- 3534 **Thomas Price, Assayer. San Francisco, California. Silver & gold assay ingot number 8612.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. A rather curious ingot in that it is unnamed. Its style, however, and the distinctive use of a lower case logotype for “fine” suggest Price as the assayer. Face and back outlined by an ornamental border. The piece is medium silver gray in color. The upper portions of the long edges on the back have been scraped and are damaged and there are a couple of somewhat serious nicks and dents on the long edges on the face. The left side is severely gouged and there are other, lighter, marks elsewhere on the bar. It is not a terribly pleasant looking object.

Face: No. 8612. / Oz. 5.50 / G.18 1/2 / S.947 / fine [to the right and lengthwise beside the last two] / [space for the assayer's name, here omitted] / G.\$2.10 / S.\$6.73 / V.\$8.83.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 62.7 x 25.8 x 10.0 mm.

Current weight: 168.7 gms.

Noted as in the Kagin Collection on August 30, 1956 and December, 1957. Mr. Ford's informational card and photographs accompany the lot.

J. REED, ASSAYER

Unknown Location (San Francisco?)

Absolutely nothing about this assayer was known to Mr. Ford and the cataloguer has little to add beyond the numismatic observations to follow. Assuming the date on the presumed unique Reed bar, 1876, is contemporary with its manufacture, and that the description of the bar's contents as "California Placer Gold" is accurate, Reed may

have been a San Francisco assayer active around the centennial. The piece is clearly of a commemorative nature and may have been a commercial product made for sale in San Francisco in the expectation of profiting from the national festivities as well as the growing self-consciousness of the 49'er generation.

A GOLD 1849-1876 COMMEMORATIVE INGOT

Presumed Unique



Lot No. 3535

3535 **J. Reed, Assayer. Unknown location (San Francisco?). Gold assay ingot, 1849-1876.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. Nice, medium yellow gold. Small flaw in center of back. An attractive small gold bar, nicely formed with sharp edges, squared off corners, and polished faces. The piece was obviously made for sale as a souvenir or keepsake and not for monetary purposes, as most of the small bars were. No logotypes used but there seem to be two sets of letter punches and one of numerals present on the bar. Assuming the "3 OUNCES" on the bar are Troy ounces, then 3 Troy ounces of .883 fine gold are equivalent to 2.649 ozst. of 1.0 fine gold. The bar's stated value of \$54.75 divided by 2.649 yields a value for 1 ozt. pure gold of \$20.668. The U.S. Mint's price at the time for 1 ozt. pure gold was \$20.6718, showing the bar's valuation to be 3.8 mills variant.

Face: 1849 1876 / 3 OUNCES 883 THOUS / CALIFORNIA PLACER / GOLD.

Back: VALUE / IN / UNITED STATES COIN / 54 DOLLARS 75 CENTS.

Top side: J. REED ASSAYER.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 43.3 x 17.8 x 6.9 mm.

Current weight: 93.18 gms.

Provenance unrecorded.

RIEHN, HEMME & COMPANY

San Francisco, California

Not much is known about this firm of assayers. Charles Riehn was foreman in the assay department at the San Francisco Mint in 1862. August Hemme was a German immigrant born in Hannover in 1834. He died in 1904. Riehn, Hemme & Company is listed at the corner of Montgomery and California

Streets in 1864-65, 408 Montgomery Street in 1865, and 432 Montgomery Street in 1866. In 1867-8 the company name changed to associate Mark McDonald with the firm. By 1870, McDonald's name had been dropped and the firm was then located at 404 Montgomery Street.

ONE OF ONLY TWO KNOWN RIEHN, HEMME INGOTS

And the Earlier of the Two



Lot No. 3536

- 3536 **Riehn, Hemme & Company. San Francisco, California. Silver assay ingot no. 808.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. Medium silver gray color. A fairly rough looking bar with somewhat rough surfaces, disfiguring button flaw in the center of the face (like the other bar known from this firm), and a deep cooling depression on the back. This is just one of two known Riehn, Hemme & Company ingots, the other being the first this cataloguer had seen (offered in Stack's January, 2002 auction and catalogued then as "unique"). The form of the Internal Revenue tax paid stamp on this bar is the one assumed to be earlier than the commoner round seal, here a plain tablet with the word TAX and the dollar amount of the tax payable on the bar. This form would have been used before the round stamps were shipped to assayers and seems to date bars so marked as made after September and probably before December, 1864. The apparent uniformity of this format across several different assayers in different locations suggests to the cataloguer that, rather than an ad hoc measure, this might have been according to Office of Internal Revenue requirements. Also interesting is the observation that the gold content given on this bar is 000 while on the other bar known from this firm it is 001. The firm's name on the bar was accomplished by a rather grand logotype that appears to be identical on both known Riehn, Hemme bars. This bar has had one corner clipped while the other one known (bar number 548 with the OIR stamp on the back) shows two opposing corners clipped. Mr. Ford's informational card for this ingot bears the notation (in handwriting characteristic of his younger days) "Note corner cut off for assay?" suggesting he wasn't then sure that was why corners were cut from some bars after manufacture.

Face: No. 808 / RIEHN, HEMME / & [CO] / ASSAYERS / \$5.62.

Back: TAX \$0.03.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: 4.42 Oz.

Left side: 984 FINE (doubled, first upside down) SIL[V.]

Right side: GOLD 000 FIN[E].

Dimensions: 50.3 x 26.1 x 9.5 mm.

Current weight: 137.9 gms.

Noted as in the Kagin Collection on August 30, 1956 and December, 1957. Mr. Ford's informational card and photographs accompany the lot.

GEORGE E. ROGERS, ASSAYER San Francisco, California

George E. Rogers began his career in the assaying business as clerk to G.W. Bell of San Francisco. When Bell died in an accidental nitroglycerine explosion in 1866 Rogers joined with L.A. Sanderson and continued Bell's assaying business under the name Sanderson & Co. Rogers ran the office, Sanderson was the money man, and Edward Wolleb, who had been Bell's assayer, continued in his old job under new masters. The Sanderson-Rogers partnership only lasted four months, however, being amicably dissolved on August 23, 1866 with Sanderson recommending his clients remain with Rogers. Rogers continued in the assaying business in Bell's old shop on 512 California Street, San Francisco

and Wolleb remained with him. The firm was then known under Rogers' name. A few months later, Rogers formed a partnership with H.W. Brown and opened Rogers & Brown on October 17, 1866. Rogers & Brown were in business late 1866 to the fall of 1867, when mention of the business by that name ceases and Rogers is listed in city directories under his own name as an assayer. Rogers may have maintained an assaying business under his own name in 1867 and 1868 and the 1870 census lists his occupation as assayer, but after that date city directories do not give him an occupation in their listings and it may be that he had retired from the business of assaying.

1864-1865

George E. Rogers, Clerk. 512 California.

Clerk with G.W. Bell. Dwells at American Exchange.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1864

George E. Rogers Clerk, 512 California. Dwells at 115 Dupont.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing December 1865

1866

BELLS ASSAY OFFICE.

The undersigned, having purchased the above Assay Office, would inform the former patrons and the public generally that they will continue the assay business, in all of its branches, at the old stand, 512 California Street, one door west of Montgomery Street, with the same employees, under the name of Sanderson & Co.

Mr. Edward Wolleb, for the last seven years assayer for Mr. Bell, will have charge of the Assay Department.

The Melting Department will be under the charge of Mr. Henry J. Fisher, for ten years in the United States Mint in this city and Philadelphia, and for the past seven years with Mr. Bell.

We would inform photographers that we are prepared to work their chloride of silver and ashes from their paper clippings. We have in connection with our assay business, a mill, and are prepared to work gold and silver ores in quantities from 25 lbs. to a ton or more: also, assayer's sweeps. We will be ready to

receive deposits on Thursday, May 3d, 1866.

Mr. George E. Rogers, for the past two years with Mr. Bell, will have general charge of the business.

L.A. SANDERSON, GEORGE E. ROGERS

San Francisco, April 28, 1866

Alta California, April 29, 1866

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION:

The Partnership Heretofore existing between L.A. Sanderson and George E. Rogers under the name and style of SANDERSON & Co., is this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business will be continued by George E. Rogers.

L.A. SANDERSON

GEORGE E. ROGERS

San Francisco, August 21st, 1866.

I would solicit of my friends, in behalf of Mr. Rogers, a continuance of their patronage.

L.A. SANDERSON

Alta California, August 23, 1866

BELLS ASSAY OFFICE.

THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVING purchased Mr. Sanderson's interest in the above Assay Office, would inform the former patrons and the public generally that he will continue the Assay Business in all of its branches, at the old stand, No. 512 California Street, One door west of Montgomery, San Francisco, with the same employees.

MR. EDWARD WOLLEB, for the last seven years Assayer for Mr. Bell, will have charge of the Assay Department.

The Melting Department will be under the charge of MR. HENRY J. FISHER, for ten years in the United

States Mint in this city and Philadelphia, and for the past seven years with Mr. Bell. We would inform photographers that we are prepared to work their chloride of silver and ashes from their paper clippings. We have in connection with our Assay business a Mill, and are prepared to Work Gold and Silver Ores, In quantities of from 25 lbs. to a ton or more; also Assayers' Sweeps.

GEORGE E. ROGERS

Sacramento Union, August 25, 1866

BELLS ASSAY OFFICE.

THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVING formed a copartnership this day, would inform the former patrons and the public generally that they will continue the Assay Business in all of its branches, at the old stand.

No. 512 California Street, one door west of Montgomery, San Francisco, with the same employees, under the name of ROGERS & BROWN.

Mr. EDWARD WOLLEB, for the last seven years Assayer for Mr. Bell, will have charge of the Assay Department.

The Melting Department will be under the charge of Mr. Henry J. Fisher, for ten years in the United States Mint in this city and Philadelphia, and for the past seven years with Mr. Bell. We would inform Photographers that we are prepared to work their chloride of silver and ashes from their paper clippings.

We have in connection with our Assay business, a Mill, and are prepared to Work Gold and Silver pres. In quantities of from 25 lbs. to a ton or more; also Assayers' Sweeps.

GEORGE E. ROGERS, H.W. BROWN, San Francisco, October 13, 1866.

Sacramento Union, October 17, 1866

1867

George E. Rogers H.W. Brown

Rogers & Brown, Successors to G.W. Bell, assayers.

No. 512 California Street. One door west of Montgomery, San Francisco, Cal.

Gold and Silver Ores Worked. We would inform Photographers that we are prepared to work their Chloride of Silver and Ashes from their Paper Clippings. We have in connection with our Assay Business a Mill and we are prepared to work Gold And Silver Ores in quantities from 25 to 500 pounds; also assayer's sweeps.

Langley's The Pacific Coast Directory for 1867

George E. Rogers, Assayer. 512 California. Dwells at 44 Third.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing September 1867

1868-1872

George E. Rogers, Assayer 512 California.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1868

George E. Rogers Assayer 512 California Dwells at the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing September 1869

George Rogers Age 37, Assayer, Real Estate \$20,000 Personal Estate \$30,000, Birthplace Vermont.

San Francisco 1870 Census

George E. Rogers Assayer Dwells at 1107 Stockton

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing March 1871

George E. Rogers Dwells at the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing March 1872

A GEORGE E. ROGERS SILVER PRESENTATION INGOT
The Only One Known to the Cataloguer



Lot No. 3537

3537 **George E. Rogers, Assayer. San Francisco, California. Silver presentation assay ingot.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. Deep silver gray color. Some surface roughness, cooling depression on back left mostly as poured, assayer's logotype soft in places, Oz punched over the left side of an oval shrinkage depression. Unusual decorative backgrounds provided for the stampings presumably because of the special nature of the ingot. This is the only George E. Rogers presentation ingot known both to the cataloguer and Mr. Ford. It is not possible to date this ingot with any precision. The absence of the OIR stamp shows it must have been made after 1868 and the absence of Rogers' name listed with the assayer occupation in Langley's San Francisco directory after September, 1872 suggests it might have been made before that date.

Face: GEO. E. ROGERS ASSAYER [in logotype] / O[z] 10.31 / 675 S / FINE / \$8.99.

Back: 2.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: H.H. MARTIN.

Dimensions: 56.2 x 33.9 x 17.1 mm.

Stated weight: 10.31 ozs.

Noted as in the Kagin Collection on June 24, 1958. Mr. Ford's informational card and Rankow photographs accompany the lot.

EDWARD RUHLING & CO.
San Francisco, California
Virginia City, Gold Hill, Hamilton, Nevada

1858

Edward Ruhling assayer at 114 Montgomery.
Dwells at Pine between Dupont and Kearny.
*Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year
Commencing January 1, 1858.*

1861-1865

Lithograph of Virginia City, Nevada Territory, in
1861 with E. Ruhling & Co.'s assay office included.
The Saga of the Comstock Lode (1934)

Ed Ruhling & Co. Bankers and Assayers C Street
Virginia City Nevada Territory.

E Ruhling & Co. assayers, W Side B near Pas-
ters'

*J. Wells Kelly, First Directory of Nevada Territory,
1862*

E. Ruhling & Co. Bankers and Assayers Granite
Building B Street opposite Taylor. Virginia, N.T.

Assay Office E. Ruhling & Co. Granite Building, B
Street, opposite Taylor

Virginia N.T.

E. Ruhling E. Ruhling & Co. Resides at 38 South
B

John C. Ruhling bookkeeper with E. Ruhling &
Co.

Kelly's Second Directory of Nevada Territory 1863

E. Ruhling & Co. Bankers and Assayers 42 South
B

E. Ruhling of E. Ruhling & Co. Resides on North
A

John C. Ruhling cashier E. Ruhling & Co.

*Mercantile Guide and Directory for Virginia City,
Gold Hill, Silver City and American City 1864-1865:
Virginia City.*

1868-1884

A change. E. Ruhling & Co. have purchased the
assay office of Van Wyck & Co., Gold Hill, and will
hereafter carry on the business of assaying both in
this city and at their new branch office in Gold Hill.
The firm is one of the most enterprising in the State,
and have facilities for smelting and assaying at the
shortest possible notice any amount of crude bullion

that may be brought to either of their offices. All of
their assays are warranted to conform to the standard
of the United States Mint. Their prices are precisely
the same as are charged in San Francisco.

Territorial Enterprise, April 4, 1868

“A Piece of the Last Spike.

We were yesterday presented with a piece-about an
ounce in weight-of the last spike-the silver spike of
Nevada-by E. Ruhling & Co., the well known assayers
of this city. E. Ruhling & Co. had the order for making
the silver spike, and it was under their supervision
that it was manufactured. When the spike was made-
drawn out from the bar which was moulded for the
purpose-it was found to be much longer than neces-
sary, and some four inches of the thick portion was
cut off. As even the smallest portion of this last spike
will for all time be much treasured, we will give its
exact fineness, which is gold, 50; silver 942; value per
ounce, \$22.05. Those who may hereafter manufacture
bogus specimens of the “last spike” will do well to have
the fineness in gold and silver correspond with the
genuine. The only mark on the spike when it left this
city was the stamp of E. Ruhling & Co. When brought
back we understand that it will be beautifully polished
and appropriately engraved, when it will be deposited
in the State Cabinet at Carson City...”

Territorial Enterprise, May 7, 1869

Ed Ruhling Age 38 Occupation Assayer, Real Es-
tate \$500, Personal Estate \$300 Birthplace Hamburg
Germany. Listed as a naturalized citizen.

*1870 Ninth Federal Census, Virginia City, Nevada,
Storey County*

Dissolution of Copartnership

Notice is hereby given that the copartnership
heretofore existing between E. Ruhling and H.V.S.
McCullough, under the firm name of E. Ruhling &
Co., and doing business at the City of Virginia and
Town of Gold Hill, in Storey County, and the Town
of Hamilton, in White Pine County, Nevada, is this
day dissolved by mutual consent. H.V.S. McCullough
continues the business, and is authorized to settle all
debts due to and by the company.

Dated Virginia, March 31, 1871.

E. Ruhling,

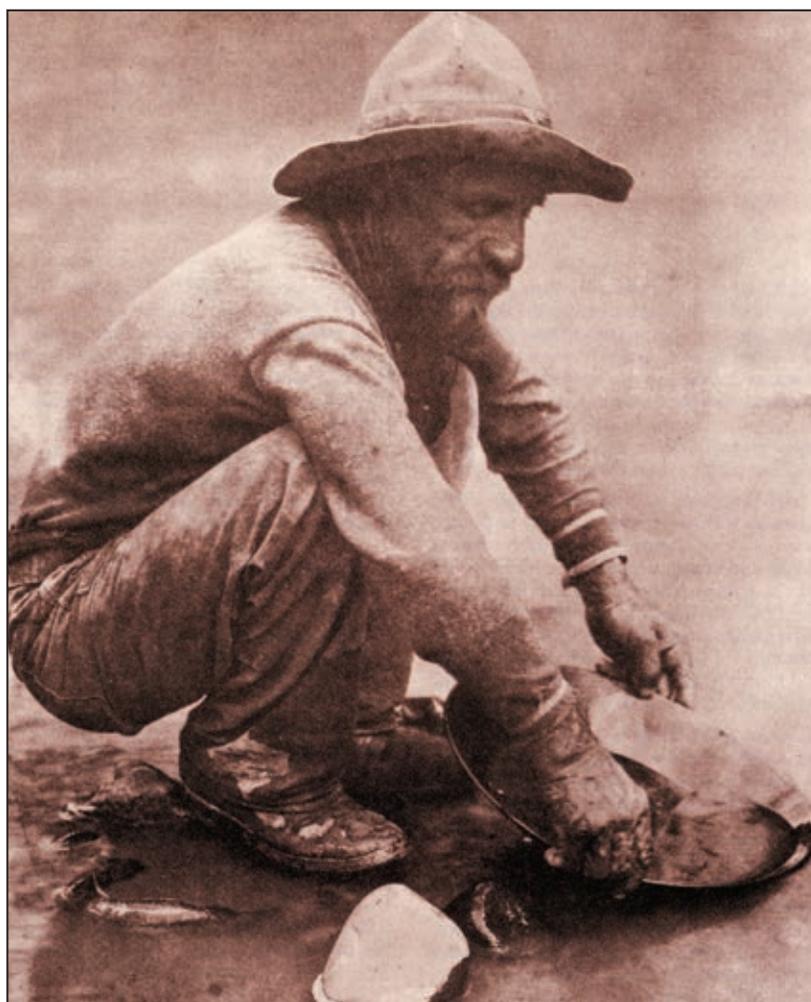
H.V.S. McCullough

Territorial Enterprise, April 4, 1871

A Large Funeral. The funeral of John C. Ruhling took place yesterday afternoon and was very largely attended... He was a brother of Edward Ruhling, of the banking and assaying firm of Ruhling & McCullough, in the early days, in this city. When it was seen that the illness of John C. Ruhling was liable to terminate

fatally, Edward was telegraphed for, he being employed as an assayer at the San Francisco Mint. He arrived here on Sunday morning but a few minutes after his brother died.

Territorial Enterprise, June 24, 1884



New York Public Library Picture Collection

AN UNPREPOSSESSING RUHLING \$5.40 INGOT

Ex Ulex (1902) and Garrett Collections



Lot No. 3538

- 3538 **E. Ruhling & Co. Virginia City, Gold Hill, or Hamilton, Nevada. Silver assay ingot.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. Medium silver gray color. Surfaces rough in places, smoother where the piece has been handled. An interesting ingot. The ethnic seems to be a logotype but the remainder of the inscriptions seems accomplished by individual punches. The bar's weight and dollar value are noted but its content is stated only as fine silver. The ingot would appear to violate some of the requirements for a "genuine" ingot demanded by critics, yet unless Mr. Ford and Mr. Franklin were older than we think they were, the bar's first auction appearance predates them by several decades. In the absence of an OIR stamp the ingot can be dated 1861-64 in Virginia City, 1868 or 1873 - 1884 in Virginia City, Gold Hill, or Hamilton, Nevada. Given the ethnic style it is unlikely that Ruhling made this bar 1858-61 in San Francisco yet the limited use of logotypes, the unhelpful "Fine Silver" description, and the uncertainty about the residual content of the ingot mark it as the product of a novice operator.

Face: E.RUHLING & Co. / .4.160Z.

Back: \$5.40.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: FINE SILVER.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 49.5 x 24.9 x 11.2 mm.

Current weight: 129.8 gms.

Ex George F. Ulex Collection (Lyman Low, July 8, 1902, lot 535), Garrett Collection (Bowers & Ruddy, March 25, 1981, lot 1945). Mr. Ford did not make up informational cards for every ingot in his collection, the present piece being an example.

A NICE RUHLING BAR WITH AN INTERNAL REVENUE STAMP



Lot No. 3539

- 3539 **E. Ruhling & Co. Probably Virginia City, Nevada. Silver and gold assay ingot no. 6932.** Overall appearance of nice Very Fine. Pale silver in color on all sides, the piece has been cleaned. A well made ingot and most likely a commercial bar rather than a presentation or souvenir ingot. Unlike the previous, this ingot has the look of a professionally made product executed by a firm experienced in the trade. All sides flat and fairly smooth but not polished and the edges left essentially as they came from the ingot mold. Deep cooling depression on the back. Some marks, scratches on the inscribed face, one fairly serious dig to the right of the assayer's logotype. Same ethnic, SILVER, GOLD logotype punches as on the bar to follow; FINE logotype possibly the same as on next. The Office of Internal Revenue punch on this bar shows all four of the diagnostics seen on the others in Mr. Ford's collection.

Face: No. 6932. / E.RUHLING & Co. ASSAYERS / 25.70 Oz. / SILVER 976 FINE / GOLD 017 FINE / SILVER \$32.43 / GOLD \$9.03.

Back: blank.

Top side: OIR stamp.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 65.9 x 49.0 x 24.4 mm.

Stated weight: 25.70 ozs.

Ex Heritage's sale of February 2, 1989, lot 2998; the same bar was illustrated in Columbus Industries' (Fred Holabird) offering in November, 1999. First offered to Mr. Ford in November, 1987 by John Heleva of Cal National Coin Exchange for \$6,000. Mr. Ford countered with \$3,500. At the Heritage sale in 1989 Mr. Ford paid his agent (Tony Terranova) \$3,410 for it.

A RUHLING PRESENTATION INGOT



Lot No. 3540

3540 **E. Ruhling & Co. Virginia City, Gold Hill, or Hamilton, Nevada. Silver and gold assay ingot no. 9467.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. A well made bar and an instructive contrast to the preceding. Face and sides finished and flat, edges squared, one long side polished to receive the presentation inscription (probably by the engraving shop), the other left as poured but stamped, nevertheless. Back very rough, left entirely as made with a crater like cooling depression. Same ethnic, SILVER, GOLD logotype punches as on the previous bar; FINE logotype possibly the same as on the preceding. The identities of A. Blum and A. Brisacher are unknown. "Roundlow" is likely the source of the silver that made the bar but whether it was the name of a mine, a small claim, or something else is also unknown to the cataloguer. Ruhling's company made the massive \$3,123.76 silver and gold bar for the benefit of the wounded survivors and families of the dead in the Franco-Prussian War, 1870.

Face: No. 9467. / E.RUHLING & Co. ASSAYERS / 23.60 Oz. / SILVER 678 FINE / GOLD 004 FINE / SILVER \$20.68 / GOLD \$1.95 / \$22.63.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: A. Blum Jr. / From / A. Brisacher [all in a neat script].

Right side: ROUNDLOW.

Dimensions: 74.9 x 42.6 x 24.4 mm.

Stated weight: 23.60 ozs.

Bought from Gary Fitzgerald by Tony Terranova for Jon Hanson at the June, 1982 Long Beach convention. Said ex a Westchester County, N.Y. antiques auction. Ex Jon Hanson on August 14, 1997. Mr. Ford's informational card with his pencil drawing of the bar accompanies the lot.

SAVAGE MINING COMPANY

Virginia City, Nevada

The Savage Mining Company was founded by A.O. and L.C. Savage in 1859 on the Comstock Lode. Neighbors were the Gould & Curry and Hale & Norcross holdings. Silver ore was extracted for the first few years and the mine expanded through acquisition of two other mining companies' hold-

ings. After 1865 successful extraction declined, principally due to flooding encountered in the mines. By 1875 the Savage had combined with the Chollar-Potosi and Hale & Norcross companies. The Savage Mining Company's records extend to 1920.

AN 1869 SAVAGE MINING COMPANY INGOT



Lot No. 3541

- 3541 **Savage Mining Company. Virginia City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot, 1869.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. Nice, medium silver gray in color. An interesting, flat bar run off into a narrow, shallow mould longer than the ingot here. Flat long sides, one short side cleanly sheared, the other mechanically separated from the rest of the pour. Ethnic and metallic designations in logotype, numerals by individual punches (large punched over smaller ones). The piece has the look of a bar pulled off a longer melt, stamped and saved as a souvenir. George Bauer showed a Savage Mining Company bar dated 1869 at the April 30, 1937 meeting of the Westchester County Coin Club. It is possible that the present lot is the same bar but the provenance chain is broken after 1937. This was one of three silver bars offered to Mr. Ford by Jim Ruddy in 1960. According to Mr. Ford's notes, Ruddy had obtained the bar from Charles W. Foster of Rushville, New York in August, 1960. Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. Nice, medium silver gray in color. An interesting, flat bar run off into a narrow, shallow mould longer than the ingot here. Flat long sides, one short side cleanly sheared, the other mechanically separated from the rest of the pour. Ethnic and metallic designations in logotype, numerals by individual punches (large punched over smaller ones). The piece has the look of a bar pulled off a longer melt, stamped and saved as a souvenir. George Bauer showed a Savage Mining Company bar dated 1869 at the April 30, 1937 meeting of the Westchester County Coin Club. It is possible that the present lot is the same bar but the provenance chain is broken after 1937. This was one of three silver bars offered to Mr. Ford by Jim Ruddy in 1960. According to Mr. Ford's notes, Ruddy had obtained the bar from Charles W. Foster of Rushville, New York in August, 1960.

Face: GOLD \$1.80 / SILVER \$3.60 / \$5.40.

Back: SAVAGE M. Co. / 1869.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 66.4 x 32.2 x 4.8 mm.

Current weight: 94.14 gms.

Ex Charles W. Foster Collection in August, 1960, Jim Ruddy (Empire Coin Company, Inc.) offered with two others to Mr. Ford at \$400, declined, traded by Ruddy to Art Kagin at the October 28, 1960 MANA convention in Washington, D.C. Mr. Ford's informational card, Stack's photographs, and Ruddy's approval invoice dated 8-30-60 accompany the lot.

F.W. SCHULTZ & SON
Virginia City, Nevada Territory

As with so many other western assayers (or engravers, Schultz may have been either) of the middle and late 19th century, given the fact that this field of research is so new it should not be surprising that at present the cataloguer knows absolutely nothing about this assayer beyond what can be read on this commemorative ingot. Unlike all the other bars in the Ford Collection, this one is purely a decorative object, one might almost say a jewelry item, with no pretense whatsoever to being a monetary ingot with a presentation inscription or a keepsake of a new mine's output. Mr.

A. Bateman's friends got together and had a nice presentation plaque made for him by the assayer (or engraver) F.W. Schultz using silver that must have had some special meaning to Bateman. The friends presented the gift to Bateman on Christmas day, 1862. That much the piece tells. Where the Sargent Ledge, Ferguson Co (County, Colorado?), and Buena Vista were is unknown, assuming these words were correctly spelled by the engraver. The piece was rather garishly engraved but must have pleased Mr. Bateman as it was carefully preserved for over a century.

A UNIQUE PRESENTATION SILVER PIECE



Lot No. 3542

3542 **F.W. Schultz & Son. Virginia City, Nevada Territory. Silver presentation plaque, December 25, 1862.** Overall appearance of Very Fine, scroll work broken from top left. Bright silver color. Not a terribly well formed piece, there is a small flaw on the engraved face, deeper and disfiguring ones on the back, and the hole through the piece is neither round nor oval and is off-center. The object has the look of a locally made item done not entirely professionally. The entire piece is engraved by hand as is Schultz' signature on the back, there were no punches used in making the plaque.

Face: Presented / to / A. BATEMAN. / by / mutual friends / taken from the / SARGENT LEDGE / FERGUESON CO / BUENA VISTA DEC.25th. 1862.

Back: F.W. Schultz e. fil. / VIRGINIA CITY.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 54.2 x 43.3 x 5.3 mm.

Current weight: 93.45 gms.

Ex Century Collection (Superior Galleries, February 2, 1992, lot 3430), Irving Goodman Collection (Superior Galleries, May 27, 1996, lot 1096).

STEWART SILVER REDUCTION WORKS Georgetown, Colorado

A Mr. Stewart ran a reducing works in Georgetown 1874-75. Charles M. Moor appears unknown beyond the fact that the bar names him as its assayer. The name of the mine does not help in establishing a date for the company. This is another ingot about which essentially nothing is known to the cataloguer, or was to Mr. Ford, earlier, beyond the fact of its existence.

The bar does not appear to have been a commercial product as there is no value given. The field of collecting ingots is very young and there are miles of room for new discoveries, research, and the profit that can be made from being the one who knows more than most about it.

THE 16 TO 1 MINE



Lot No. 3543

3543 **Stewart Silver Reduction Works. Charles M. Moor, Assayer. Silver ingot.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. Nice, medium silver gray color. A fairly well made ingot with rounded corners and edges, faces finished for stamping, cooling depression on back partially smoothed down. No logotypes used, one set of letter punches and two of numerals appear on the bar. The mine's name refers, of course, to the then prevailing ratio of silver to gold.

Face: STEWART SILVER / REDUCTION WORKS / ASSAYER / CHARLES M. MOOR / GEORGETOWN.

Back: blank.

Top side: 16 TO 1 MINE / GEORGETOWN COL.

Bottom side: FINE 6 OZ. 18 DWT.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 51.0 x 29.4 x 14.2 mm.

Current weight: 211.7 gms.

Provenance unrecorded.

**H.W. THEALL
THEALL AND COMPANY
Marysville, California
Virginia City, Austin, Hamilton, Nevada**

1856

H.W. Theall, Forest City agent for Wells Fargo
Alta California, January 22, 1856

H.W. Theall Agent Wells Fargo D Street between
2d and 3d Streets

*Amy's Marysville Directory for the Year Commencing
November 1, 1856*

1858

H.W. Theall Agent for Wells Fargo 32 D; NY.

*Amy's Marysville Directory for the Year Commencing
June 1858*

1859

Assay Office of Theall & Co., (Successors to Justh
& Hunter.)

No. 102 First Street, between D and High, Marys-
ville.

Gold and Ores Of every Description, Melted and
Assayed, At San Francisco Rates, and returns made
in Bars or United States Coin

Within six hours. Our Assays are Guaranteed; and
Bars Discounted at the lowest rates.

Daily National Democrat, April 1, 1859

1863

H.W Theall, John A. Paxton, WB. Thornburgh As-
say Office Of

Theall & Co. Virginia City Nevada Territory...
Theall & Co. Assayers and Metallurgists office South
C corner Taylor H.W Theall Resides at South B near
Savage Claim.

Kelly's Second Nevada Directory, 1863:

1864

H.W Theall, Virginia...Paxton, Thornburgh & Co.
Austin Assay Office of Theall & Co.

Virginia Daily Union, April 1864

H.W Theall, John A. Paxton, W.B. Thornburgh
Assay Office Of Theall & Co. Virginia City

Virginia Daily Union, June 1864

1866

A. Soderling assayer at Theall & Co.

*Harrington's Directory of the City of Austin for the
Year 1866.*

1867

John A. Paxton having withdrawn from the firm of
Theall & Co., Assayers the business will be continued
under the same firm name of Theall & Co., by H.W
Theall and W.B. Thornburgh. Theall & Co. Virginia,
January 25, 1867.

Territorial Enterprise, January 25, 1867.

1868

Assay Office of W.C. Bousefield & Co. Successors to
Theall & Co. Corner C and Taylor streets, Opposite
Bank of California, Virginia, Nevada.

Territorial Enterprise, February 22, 1868.

Theall & Co., Stock and Money Brokers, 62 South
C, Mining Stocks, U.S. Bonds, Legal Tenders And
Other Securities Bought and Sold.

H.W. Theall City Treasurer.

Territorial Enterprise, March 11, 1868.

1869

Death Of A Marysvillian. We regret to announce
the death of H.W Theall, a former citizen of Marys-
ville, who died at White Pine on Tuesday last. The
Virginia Enterprise, 26th instant, says: "A telegram
received here last evening by ex-Mayor Currie, of
this city, from White Pine, brings the sad news
of the death of H.W Theall, an old and highly re-
spected citizen of this State. The dispatch does not
state of what disease he died. Deceased was long
concerned in an assay office in this city and was
widely known among business men. Socially he
was a most estimable man, and his death will be
deeply regretted by all who knew him. He leaves a
wife and one child."

Marysville Daily Appeal, May 28, 1869

A RARE THEALL AND COMPANY INGOT



Lot No. 3544

3544 **Theall and Company. Marysville, California or Virginia City, Nevada Territory. Silver assay ingot.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. A small, dark, and not terribly impressive ingot at first glance. Fairly well made, with squared off edges, sharp corners, and faces that had been polished. The ethnic appears to be by individual punches as are the numerals, OZ, and FINE stamps. The back shows an ornamental border composed of individual punches and looks as if it had been intended to receive an inscription. This bar may have been meant as a presentation ingot that was either never finished if ordered or never sold as such. Theall's ingots are extremely rare and this was the only example Mr. Ford had in his collection. The absence of the OIR stamp most likely dates the bar to the period 1859 to just before 1865 and places its manufacture either in Marysville, California or Virginia City, Nevada Territory. Since Theall died in May, 1869 it is just possible the bar was made in Hamilton, Nevada early that year. An exceptionally interesting Theall bar that appeared in American Numismatic Rarities' sale of January, 2004 (lot 125) was dated September 20, 1864 and bore a tax paid inscription accomplished in individual punches. H.W. Theall (given name unknown) was a native of New York City born in 1827. He arrived in California when in his late 20s and settled in Marysville, where he opened an assay office in the old premises of Justh & Hunter in 1859. Four years later he expanded his business into Virginia City, later into Austin and Hamilton, Nevada. Other, less well known assayers whose names appear on some rare ingots worked for Theall at one time in their careers, including Soderling and Bousfield. The firm of Van Wyck & Company succeeded to Theall's business on his death in 1869.

Face: THEALL AND CO. / 2.82 OZ. / 996 FINE / \$5.64.

Back: ornamental border.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 49.5 x 21.0 x 8.2 mm.

Current weight: 90.31 gms.

Mr. Ford's informational card that accompanies the lot records this as in the Kagin Collection on December 14, 1957. Reference photographs also accompany the lot.

TIP-TOP MINE Arizona Territory

There were several mines named Tip-Top in Arizona before statehood on February 14, 1912 and the one named on this bar cannot be identified. George E. Webber remains unidentified, as well. The bar to follow was clearly a presentation bar and/or was made

as a desk ornament. There are no marks of content, weight, fineness, or value. Unusually, its inscriptions have been made by reducing the surface of the bar around them.

A TIP-TOP MINE SOUVENIR INGOT



Lot No. 3545

3545 **Tip-Top Mine. George E. Webber. Arizona Territory. Silver (?) ingot.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. A well made bar intended as a souvenir or desk ornament (paper weight). Sharp edges, squared off corners, polished faces, inscription built up by reducing the level of the bar around it.

Face: GEO. E. WEBBER / TIP-TOP MINE / A.T.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 61.2 x 35.7 x 15.9 mm.

Provenance unrecorded.

VAN WYCK & COMPANY
SIDNEY VAN WYCK
Virginia City, Nevada

Sidney Van Wyck arrived in San Francisco from Baltimore before 1851. By 1860 he was working as a laborer in a gold refinery in the city. Kelly's 1863

directory lists Van Wyck as in business with a Mr. Winchester in Aurora, Nevada Territory.

1864

Van Wyck & Co. Assayers. Taylor's Building, Taylor Street Virginia City.

Gold and Silver Bullion Melted and Assayed, and returns made in Bars the day of deposit. Our Assays Will conform strictly to the standard of the U.S. Mint, And our charges will be the same as in San Francisco. Particular attention given to Ore Assays.

Virginia Daily Union, June 3, 1864

1865

Van Wyck & Sanchez, Gold Hill,... Nevada

We are now prepared to receive Deposits of Gold and Silver Bullion,

For Melting and Assaying...

Gold Hill Daily News, September 1865

1866

Removal

Messrs. Van Wyck & Co., assayers of this city are about to remove their assaying apparatus to their office in Gold Hill, where they intend to concentrate their entire business of assaying.

Territorial Enterprise, May 2, 1866

1867

Van Wyck & Sanchez Gold Hill

Langley's Pacific Coast Business Directory for 1867

Van Wyck Sydney M. Assayer Dwells at 916 Leavenworth

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing September 1867

1868

E. Ruhling Gold Hill Branch Assay advertises as successor to Van Wyck & Co., Main Street, Gold Hill, NV
Virginia Territorial Enterprise, April 1868

1869-1871

Van Wyck & Co.

Late of Virginia City and Gold Hill Assayers Main Street, Hamilton

(Successors to Theall & Co.). We are prepared to Melt and Assay Silver Bullion at San Francisco charges. Ore Assays carefully made at reasonable rates.

Daily Inland Empire, June 12, 1869

Sidney M. Van Wyck Age 39, Occupation Assayer, Real Estate \$5,000, Personal Estate \$8,000, Birthplace Maryland, wife and four children.

1870 Ninth Federal Census, Hamilton City, Nevada, White Pine County

Van Wyck & Co. Hamilton, White Pine County, Assayers, Main

The Pacific Coast Directory for 1871-1873

1887

Obituary. Van Wyck-In this city, April 27, Sidney M. Van Wyck, a native of Maryland, aged 57 years.

Alta California, April 28, 1887.

A SMALL VAN WYCK & COMPANY INGOT



Lot No. 3546

3546 **Van Wyck & Company. Virginia City, Nevada. Silver assay ingot, no. 3051.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. Not a terribly well made ingot, the faces polished but the edges not squared off, particularly those on the bottom. Ethnic, location, No. and ozs. in logotype, numerals by individual punches. The bar is silver in color and Van Wyck seems to have expected his customer to assume the bar was pure silver since there are no indications anywhere of its metallic content. This is another unusual bar that only goes to show that there were no hard and fast rules about what an assayer had to mark on his bars in the 1860s and 1870s. Judging by the presence of the OIR stamp on this bar and the ad hoc tax paid stamp on the Van Wyck & Co. bar numbered 761 offered in Stack's January 2002 auction, the present bar was made after the latter yet it looks much cruder and lacks the data the earlier bar carried. Comparison of punches on the two bars suggests that the No., \$, and ozs. punches are identical. The ethnic and location stamps are not.

Face: No. / 3051 / OZS. / 4.95 / \$ / 6.39.

Back: OIR stamp.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: VAN WYCK & Co.

Right side: VIRGINIA NEV.

Dimensions: 59.1 x 22.2 x 12.3 mm.

Current weight: 155.2 gms.

Mr. Ford's informational card notes that he received Polaroid photos of this ingot (that also accompany the lot) from Fred Werner on January 25, 1978. Werner had traded Japanese coins for the ingot with Ron Gillio at the ANA Mid-Year convention in Colorado Springs in February, 1978. Werner consigned the ingot to NASCA's Allen Scott sale (April 28, 1980, lot 2444) from which Mr. Ford bought it for \$3,360. Other photographs also accompany the lot.

CONRAD WIEGAND

Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada

Conrad Wiegand's ingots are probably the most popular of them all. This is due in part to the fact that there seem to be enough of them in collectors' hands that one or two come on the market in any given year. Their popularity is also explainable by their appearance. Much like Francis Blake's bars, which exhibit a pleasing and regular layout of the information stamped on his bars, Wiegand's also are remarkably regular in this same regard. In fact, a Wiegand bar that has been damaged and no longer shows the assayer's name can still be identified as one of Wiegand's, just by the way the stamps on the bar are laid out. And perhaps more importantly, some of Wiegand's bars are more gold than silver.

Wiegand's bars are also the most popular because many of them are dated, their presentation or dedicatory inscriptions bearing year and sometimes even day dates. Blake's bars do, too, of course, but there are more

Wiegand bars around and more of them are dated than are Blake's. Among Wiegand's bars the commonest date is 1866. The date is usually found directly underneath the Office of Internal Revenue's stamp and the cataloguer suspects Wiegand dated the 1866 bars in that place to satisfy some tax regulation with which we are not familiar but that was probably part of the July 12, 1866 tax law that established a structure of licensing fees payable by assayers. Interestingly, Wiegand's dated bars usually do not have bar numbers whereas the undated bars are all numbered.

The ingots to follow have been arranged with the dated ones listed first followed by the undated bars. Last among the Wiegand bars is a short series of what the cataloguer calls anomalous bars, ones whose layouts are unlike the standard Wiegand type, carry unexpected inscriptions, or in one case are not punch linked to any other Wiegand ingot.

1856

Conrad Wiegand assayer USBM Resides at First between Folsom and Harrison

Colville's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1856

1861-1863

Conrad Wiegand assayer USBM Dwells at 525 Union

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing September 1861

Conrad Wiegand assayer USBM Dwells at 525 Union

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing September 1862

Conrad Wiegand assayer Dwells at 525 Union

Langley's San Francisco Directory for the Year Commencing October 1863

1865

[To be Opened June First.] Bullion And Ores Assayed, At Gold Hill... Storey County, Nevada, By Conrad Wiegand Formerly Supervising Assayer, At The United States Mint, San Francisco, Cal., And Late Superintendent of Assaying At The Gould & Curry Mill, Virginia City, Nevada Gold And Silver Bullion Melted and Assayed, at San Francisco rates.

Returns in Bars are as speedily rendered as is compatible with a critical ascertainment of Value. The values stamped are guaranteed to be those which the U.S. Mint (or its Branches) will declare, if deposited for coinage.

Ore assays carefully made at rates reasonably correspondent with the number and character of Assays desired, and with the amount and form of sample furnished. Specific and detailed circulars furnished on application personally at the office, or by mail to Conrad Wiegand, East side of Main Street, near and below Wells Fargo & Co.'s, Gold Hill.

Gold Hill Daily News, May 27, 1865 (in part)

Gold Hill Assay Office And Analytical Laboratory...
 Gold Hill Assay Office And Analytical Laboratory...
 Gold Hill Assay Office And Analytical Laboratory...
 Chemical and Analytical Department, (Rickard & Wiegand, Proprietors). Wm. T. Rickard, F.C.S., Formerly Assayer and Analytical Chemist by special appointment of the Government of Chile, and late of Mitchell & Rickard, London.

Gold Hill Daily News, September 1865

1866

Gold Hill Assay Office Re-Opened!

Edwards & Wiegand Proprietors

Territorial Enterprise

1867

Dissolution.

The Partnership Heretofore Existing between A.S. Edwards and Conrad Wiegand, in the business of assaying at Gold Hill, under the firm names of Edwards & Wiegand and Wiegand & Co., is this day dissolved in accordance with the terms of copartnership agreement. All claims against the late firm now outstanding should be presented for settlement to C. Wiegand & Co., successors to Wiegand & Co. and all dues of the firms dissolved are also payable to C. Wiegand & Co. Edwards & Wiegand and Wiegand & Co.

Territorial Enterprise, August 31, 1867

1868

Wiegand's Virginia Assay Office. Today this new assay office opens for business on C Street, next door north of Gillig, Mott & Co.'s. The Gold Hill Assay Office will continue to do business as heretofore, but the new establishment is opened as a convenience to the patrons of Mr. Wiegand in this city and neighborhood. The new receiving room is in Frederick's jewelry store.

Territorial Enterprise, August 1, 1868

1870

Publisher Conrad Wiegand

Newspaper-Peoples Tribune (Gold Hill, Nevada)
January 1870-June 1870

C. Wiegand Age 40 Occupation Assayer Real Estate \$1,000 Birthplace Pennsylvania M.D. Wiegand Age 40 Occupation Keeping House Birthplace New Jersey. E.A. Wiegand Female Age 13 Birthplace California.

1870 Ninth Federal Census, Gold Hill, Nevada, Storey County

1871-1872

A. Soderling (c/o Wiegand & Co.) Resides at 37 South B Virginia

Wiegand & Co. assayers 36 South C Virginia

C. Wiegand. C. Wiegand & Co. Resides at 37 South B Virginia

Storey, Ormsby, Washoe and Lyon Counties Directory for 1871-1872, H.S. Crocker & Co., 1871

If there ever was a harmless man, it is Conrad Wiegand, of Gold Hill, Nevada. If ever there was a gentle spirit that thought itself unfired gunpowder and latent ruin, it is Conrad Wiegand. If ever there was an oyster that fancied itself a whale; or a jack-o-lantern, confined to a swamp, that fancied itself a planet with

a billion-mile orbit; or a summer zephyr that deemed itself a hurricane, it is Conrad Wiegand. Therefore, what wonder is it that when he says a thing, he thinks the world listens; that when he does a thing the world stands still to look; and that when he suffers, there is a convulsion of nature? When I met Conrad, he was "Superintendent of the Gold Hill Assay Office" and he was not only its Superintendent, but its entire force. And he was a street preacher, too, with a mongrel religion of his own invention, whereby he expected to regenerate the universe. This was years ago. Here latterly he has entered journalism; and his journalism is what might be expected to be; colossal to ear, but pigmy to eye. It is extravagant grandiloquence confined to a newspaper about the size of a double letter sheet. He doubtless edits, sets the type, and prints his paper, all alone; but he delights to speak of the concern as if it occupied a block and employs a thousand men...

Something less than two years ago, Conrad assailed several people mercilessly in his little "People's Tribune."

Roughing It, Mark Twain (1872)

1877

Wiegand & Co. Virginia Assay office and chemical Lab 38 North C.

C.A. Wiegand Manager Silver Note Bank Co. 38 North C.

A Business Directory of San Francisco and the Principal Towns of California and Nevada, L.M. McKenney.

1880

Death of Conrad Wiegand.

He Commits Suicide by Hanging.

Yesterday morning our people were shocked and saddened by the news that Conrad Wiegand, the well-known assayer, had committed suicide by hanging himself in a room in the basement of his establishment on North C Street. Such news was quite unexpected, as he had within the last two or three years passed bravely through very severe family afflictions, and had during his career as a business man frequently sustained heavy financial losses.

...For a long time past Mr. Wiegand has had spells of nervousness, during which it was impossible for him to obtain sound and healthful sleep. At such times he frequently arose and busied himself in his library, or with the books in his office. In order not to disturb his wife with his restlessness, he was in the habit of sleeping on a lounge, and getting up and lying down, as the humor inclined him.

Of late he had been working very hard in his assay office, and was very nervous and restless. His financial affairs were not in a condition which was satisfactory to himself, though they were by no means desperate, and would have given most men little uneasiness. However, he worried not a little about matters connected with his business.

Last Sunday evening he complained of feeling unwell and went to rest on his lounge. About 7 o'clock yesterday morning, when breakfast was ready, Mrs. Wiegand went to the office (the family residence being in the same building as the assay office) to call her husband. Not finding him there she went down to the library, which was situated on the ground floor at the rear of the house, but he was not among his books, and (when Mrs. Wiegand turned to go upstairs she saw her husband.)

...He probably had not an enemy in the world.

Of late Mr. Wiegand's nervous affliction seemed to increase upon him, and he found it almost impossible to shake it off, though he took long walks for the purpose and tried all manner of remedies. The prevailing opinion is that this condition of mind became suddenly aggravated into positive insanity, during which he took his life.

The death of his only daughter, nearly three years ago, was a severe blow to Mr. Wiegand, from which he never fully recovered. She was married to Thomas Dunn and lived happily with him, but died a few weeks after giving birth to her first child. Not long afterward the bereaved husband was taken sick and died at Mr. Wiegand's house, leaving the little girl to the care of her grandparents, with whom she has since lived. Mr. Wiegand was strongly attached to the child, and was constantly regretting that he could not provide for her future as he would have like to. Besides these family troubles that seemed to prey on his mind, Mr. Wiegand met with many business reverses, and worried continually because he was compelled to incur debt. Some years ago he was obliged to go through bankruptcy, but he afterwards paid every cent of his liabilities, although not legally bound to do so. Since that time, he had been struggling against the ebb tide of his fortunes to place his family in such a position as to guarantee them a competency, but all his efforts appear to have been in vain, none of his projects terminating successfully.

As his debts amount to but \$5,000 or \$6,000, they would not have given a less sensitive person placed in his situation any great deal of uneasiness, for he was possessed of property to almost, if not quite that value.

The statement that nothing was paid him for the use of his patent process for the refining of bullion

now in use on the Comstock, is incorrect. His process is in use at the Omega mill, at the Woodworth and at the Morgan, and from these three mills the royalty paid him amounted to about \$300 per month. Thus it will be seen that with this income, and what he was able to make in his assay office, his affairs were in no very bad condition.

Conrad Wiegand was born in Pennsylvania... and was educated in the East as a chemist. He came to California in the early days, and for a number of years was chief assayer in the United States Mint. In 1863 he left San Francisco to accept a position as assayer at the Gould and Curry works, where he remained two years. He then opened an assay office in Gold Hill and carried on quite an extensive business, but although he was one of the best assayers on the Comstock and thoroughly scientific, his generous eccentricities always kept him embarrassed financially. Perhaps no man in the country better understood the silver question than Conrad Wiegand, and it is well known that Senator Jones and others who have become prominent in the discussions of this subject in Congress obtained many of their ideas from him. The plan of issuing silver certificates originated in his brain and was often discussed by him long before it made its appearance in Congress. Mr. Wiegand was a prolific writer upon financial questions, and although his style was peculiar and reflected his eccentricities, his ideas were generally sound.

By the death of Conrad Wiegand, the community loses one of its worthiest members, and one who was universally respected. He was strictly honorable in every relation of life and liberal to a fault. When he had money it was next to impossible for him to keep it if he saw persons who were in any kind of distress that coin would relieve. He not unfrequently gave money to persons who were undeserving of his charity, and was doubtless more imposed upon in this respect than anyone knows or will ever know, for he believed even the lowest and most vicious capable of reform, and was always ready to put his hand in his pocket when such persons talked reformation to him.

An inquest was commenced before Acting Coroner Justice Moses last evening at 6 o'clock and five witnesses were examined. On account of the opinion held by some that it was not a suicide...

At 3:30 o'clock this afternoon there will be funeral services at the late residence of the deceased, but only intimate friends of the family will be present. The remains will not be buried here, but will be placed in a vault, there to be kept until it is convenient to transfer them to California, where they will find their last resting place, by the side of his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W Dunn.

Territorial Enterprise, June 15, 1880

The Suicide of Conrad Wiegand. The Coroner's Inquest

Principal Points of the Testimony Taken. The Verdict.

...Martha Wiegand, wife of the deceased, was the next witness called, and testified as follows: Am the wife of Conrad Wiegand. Deceased was born in Philadelphia, and was fifty years old last March... (Last night) we talked for some time about his affairs, and discussed the necessity of retrenching our household expenses. He was very much depressed in spirits and I tried to encourage him, telling him that I could do my own work and help him with his books...Mr. Wiegand was the kindest and best husband that ever lived. He was much troubled about money matters, and sometimes spoke of a burning sensation in his head.

I went with him to the hospital for a walk on Sunday afternoon, and noticing upon our return that his eyes did not look natural, I tried to cheer him up...

...Francis E. Mills had been in Mr. Wiegand's employ a year... Talked with the deceased several times on Sunday, and found him more dejected than he had ever been before seen him. Mr. Wiegand remarked more than once during the last week that his life would end in an insane asylum, or something to that effect. Mr. Wiegand's financial circumstances were in a more desperate condition than witness had ever before known them.

The verdict of the Coroner's jury, was that deceased came to his death, by his own hand while laboring under a temporary fit of insanity.

Territorial Enterprise, June 16, 1880.

THE DATED WIEGAND INGOTS

THREE BARS DATED 1866

A GOLD \$20 INGOT



Lot No. 3547

3547 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Gold & silver assay ingot, 1866.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. Pale yellow gold in color. Numerous superficial marks on all sides. A nicely finished bar with squared edges and sharp corners. One of only two \$20 Wiegand bars known to the cataloguer.

Face: Ozs. 1.10 / GOLD. 883 FINE [vertically at right between this and next] SILV. 111 / C. WIEGAND. / ASSAYER / VAL. \$20.00.

Back: bottom half of OIR stamp / VAL. / \$20.00 / gold. / top half of OIR stamp / 1866.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 27.1 x 21.1 x 3.5 mm.

Current weight: 33.70 gms.

Ex Paul Franklin on December 8, 1960, sold to Stack's on February 28, 1961, sold by Stack's to Henry Gibson, Gibson Collection (Stack's, November 11, 1974, lot 219). Mr. Ford's informational card and Rankow photographs accompany the lot.

A GOLD \$36.42 INGOT



Lot No. 3548



3548 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Gold & silver assay ingot, 1866.** Nicely stamped with an overall appearance of Very Fine. Pale yellow gold in color. Some small flaws on back, several deep and somewhat disfiguring marks on the front, small test cut on back left edge. Squared off edges, sharp corners, faces polished before stamping. A nice looking bar. This was the first western assay ingot the present cataloguer ever described for auction.

Face: Ozs. 2.18 / GOLD. 801FINE / SILV. 119FINE / VAL. \$36.42 / OIR stamp / 1866 / [along lower right side] C. WIEGAND. / ASSAYER.

Back: C. WIEGAND / ASSAYER / GOLD HILL. NEV.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 35.5 x 28.6 x 4.3 mm.

Current weight: 67.4 gms.

Ex Paul Franklin on September 12, 1965, sold to Robert Batchelder on July 8, 1966; S. Hallock duPont Collection (Sotheby's, March 3, 1983, lot 312). Mr. Ford's informational card and Rankow photographs accompany the lot.

A GOLD \$50 INGOT



Lot No. 3549



3549 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Gold and silver assay ingot, 1866.** Extremely Fine in overall appearance. Very nice bright yellow gold color. Minor superficial roughness but no flaws or disfiguring marks needing mention. Not as well formed as other Wiegand bars, the piece cooled preferentially and the long sides look bowed inward. Otherwise, a nicely made ingot with squared off sides and corners. Portions of the outlines of the WIEGAND, ASSAYER, and SILV. logotype punches can be seen in places around those words.

Face: Ozs. 2.76 / GOLD. 880 FINE [vertically at right between this and next] SILV. 111 /

C. WIEGAND. / ASSAYER / GOLD \$50.2 / SILV. \$.40 / VAL. \$50.60.

Back: \$50.60 / OIR stamp / 1866.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 39.9 x 22.1 x 5.5 mm.

Current weight: 85.89 gms.

Purchased privately though Jon Hanson on June 22, 1984.

A SILVER PRESENTATION INGOT DATED AUGUST 10, 1871



Lot No. 3550

- 3550 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot, August 10, 1871.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. Deep silver gray color. Essentially as made and an ingot that clearly has been carefully handled since 1871. A presentation bar with deliberate layout of face elements to avoid the cooling fissure. Edges turned, all sides but face polished. Unusually thick and heavy for one of Wiegand's products, judging from its present context. The shape of the bar shows that it was meant to lie with the narrower presentation side facing up and the wider cooling fissure side down.

Face: Oz 13.70 / GOLD. 10 FINE. / C.WIEGAND. [vertically at left] ASSAYER [vertically at right] / SILV. 986 FINE. / VAL. \$20.30.

Back: R.BRAY / TO / W.I.BRAY / AUG 10. / 1871.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 66.9 x 34.4 x 19.2 mm.

Stated weight: 13.70 ozs.

Ex Byron F. Johnson Collection (Bowers & Merena, January 26, 1989, lot 2582).

A GERMAN PRESENTATION INGOT DATED 1871



Lot No. 3551

3551 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot no. 200. 1871.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. A very pleasant looking bar. Pale silver gray in color. Some light marks but none disfiguring. Apparent edge dent at upper right into face deforms last numeral in weight and “g” on right side. The bar has been polished many times in the past and some letters and numerals are fading. Edges squared, corners sharp. A poignant, dated presentation bar dedicated by L. Siebenhauer to his parents and sisters. One hopes young Siebenhauer’s life was happy.

Face: No. 200. / Ozs. 5.80 / GOLD. 36 1/2 / SILV. 962 [lengthwise] FINE / C. WIEGAND. / ASSAYER / GOLD. \$4.38 / SILV. \$7.22 / VAL. \$11.60.

Back: [lengthwise] Seinen / Eltern & Geschwistern / von / L. Siebenhauer [To his parents and sisters from L. Siebenhauer]

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: Virginia 1871.

Dimensions: 57.7 x 24.6 x 11.5 mm.

Current weight: 174.3 gms.

Purchased by Ron Gillio at the California State Numismatic Association convention on April 21, 1978, Fred S. Werner, consigned by him to NASCA's Allan Scott Collection sale (April 28, 1980, lot 2447), bought by Mr. Ford. His informational card and photographs accompany the lot.

AN ATTRACTIVE SILVER PRESENTATION BAR DATED 1874



Lot No. 3552

3552* **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot, 1874.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine and quite an attractive bar. Pale silver gray in color. Largely free from severe marks, this was carefully handled since its initial presentation. Squared edges, sharp corners. Nicely tooled ornamentation around the edges on face and back. Wiegand probably made up small bars like these with all the assay information on one face and sold them to buyers who wanted a souvenir. The bars could then be engraved with whatever presentation remarks and ornamentation the buyer wanted and cared to pay for. It's possible that Wiegand's shop provided the engraving service, too, since all that was needed was a good eye, steady hand, and a set of tools. It's also possible that the buyer took his Wiegand made bar to a local engraving shop, say, in a watchmaker's or even gunsmith's stand, and paid for the work to be done, there.

Face: [within a decorative border]: Ozs. 7.30 / GOLD 30 FINE / SILV. 952 FINE / C. WIEGAND. / ASSAYER / GOLD. \$4.52 / SILV. \$8.98 / VAL. \$13.50 / 8.

Back [lengthwise within a decorative border]: FROM F.O. GREEN / TO HENRY AMBJONSON. / 1874.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 59.7 x 29.4 x 12.0 mm.

Current weight: 224.6 gms.

Purchased by Harry Forman from L.P. Young at the Cal-State Convention in San Francisco on April 9, 1959; in Paul Franklin's collection in January, 1961; subsequently sold to Mr. Ford. His informational card and Rankow photographs accompany the lot.

** Shortly before this catalogue went to press, this and four other ingots from the Ford Collection were stolen during transit. Since they had already been photographed and described, Stack's decided to retain their lot descriptions in this catalog in order to preserve their numismatic evidence for future researchers and to aid in their hoped recovery.*

THE UNDATED WIEGAND INGOTS

A LITTLE \$2.89 INGOT



Lot No. 3553



3553 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot no. 458.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. Dark gray in color. Surfaces quite rough in places, discoloration in center of back (possibly a removed sentiment). Squared edges, sharp corners. If there weren't an inscription on the back one might class this an unsold or remainder presentation bar.

Face: No 458. / Ozs. 1.50 / GOLD. 33 1/2 FINE [vertically at right between this and next] SILV. 957 / C. WIEGAND. / ASSAYER / GOLD \$1.04 / SILV. \$1.85 / VAL. \$2.89.

Back: blank within an ornamental border.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 40.7 x 18.1 x 5.9 mm.

Current weight: 46.36 gms.

Ex Rossa & Tannenbaum on November 15, 1984.

AN UNNAMED PRESENTATION INGOT



Lot No. 3554



3554 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot no. 110.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. No important marks requiring mention. This bar looks like a presentation ingot that was never used as such. Medium silver gray in color with somewhat bright surfaces. Squared edges, sharp corners, ornamental pattern around face and back. The observant reader will by now have noticed how regular are the dimensions of Wiegand's small bars.

Face: No. 110 / Ozs. 2.70 / GOLD. 27 FINE [vertically at right between this and next] SILV. 870 / C. WIEGAND. / ASSAYER / GOLD. \$1.53 / SILV. \$3.04 / VAL. \$4.57, the whole within an ornamental border at the side.

Back: blank, ornamental border at the side.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 55.7 x 20.9 x 6.8 mm.

Current weight: 82.2 gms.

Purchased by Ron Gillio at the Pasadena, California coin show in November, 1975, sold to Fred S. Werner during the Central States Numismatic Society convention in Milwaukee on May 13, 1977, consigned to NASCA's Allan Scott Collection sale (April 28, 1980, lot 2446), bought by Mr. Ford. His informational card and double set of photographs accompany the lot.

A SMALL WORK-A-DAY WORLD INGOT



Lot No. 3555

3555 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot no. 7091.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. Quite dark in color with somewhat rough surfaces. Not a terribly well made ingot and not really up to Wiegand's standards for a presentation bar, which this almost certainly is not. Squared off face but rounded back and other edges, deep cooling fissure on back, inclusions and flaws on that side render the bar quite unattractive. Mr. Ford first learned of the existence of this ingot in a telephone call from Vernon Brown on February 28, 1958. Brown said the piece was owned by Garland C. Hughes of Grand Rapids. In the meantime, Hughes had telephoned Walter Breen about the bar. Mr. Ford contacted Hughes, who replied in a note dated June 9, 1958 saying "owner will not release the piece at this time - will keep in touch." The bar was lost to Mr. Ford's view until November, 1987, when John Helva of Cal National Coin Exchange offered it to him at \$6,000. Mr. Ford countered with \$3,500, only to learn one month later that the bar had been sold for \$4,500. Twelve years later, the ingot reappeared in Fred Holabird's late 1999 offering priced at \$4,900.

Face: No. 7091. / Ozs.4.40 / GOLD.15 1/2 FINE [vertically at right between this and next] SILV.558 / C.WIEGAND. / ASSAYER / GOLD. \$1.41 / SILV. \$3.17 / VAL. \$4.58.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 52.3 x 29.0 x 10.6 mm.

Current weight: 138.0 gms.

Ex Heritage's sale of February 2, 1989, lot 2999; the same ingot later appeared in Columbus Industries (Fred Holabird) offering in November, 1999.

A NICE UNDATED GOLD BAR



Lot No. 3556

3556 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Gold & silver assay ingot no. 2077.** Overall appearance of Extremely Fine. Very pale yellow gold in color. Polished surfaces, squared edges, sharp corners mark this as probably made as a presentation bar. Hairlined from many cleanings since, some stray signs of careless handling. Observe the typical Wiegand bar's layout: bar number at top, underneath in this sequence the weight of the bar, the individual gold and silver finenesses, the ethnic, the individual gold and silver values, and the total value of the bar.

Face: No. 2077. / Ozs. 4.80 / GOLD 265 FINE [vertically at right between this and next] SILV. 644 / C.WIEGAND. / ASSAYER / GOLD \$26.29 / SILV. \$3.99 / VAL. \$30.28.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 56.6 x 25.4 x 8.9 mm.

Current weight: 144.6 gms.

Noted as in the Kagin Reference Collection on July 31, 1956; subsequently purchased by Mr. Ford. His informational card and photographs accompany the lot.

AN UNPREPOSSESSING WIEGAND INGOT



Lot No. 3557

3557 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot no. 580.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. A somewhat crudely finished bar with smoothed sides and chamfered corners. Some discoloration, signs of oxidation. Deep cooling fissure on back and surface rough there, this bar has none of the characteristics of a presentation ingot. Mr. Ford often learned about ingots and made up data cards on them before he actually bought them. Sometimes, he was never able to purchase a bar, yet his index card on the piece allowed him to track it through the trade or better appreciate the rarity of its assayer. The presently offered ingot is a case in point, as his note on the card accompanying this lot, about thinking the bar needed to be cleaned but being unable to do so because it was not his, clearly shows.

Face: No. 580 / Ozs. 8.40 / GOLD. 50 FINE. / SILV. 938 FINE. / C.WIEGAND. / ASSAYER. / GOLD.\$ 8.68 / SILV.\$ 10.19 / VAL. \$18.87.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 65.8 x 33.7 x 12.0 mm.

Current weight: 262.9 gms.

Described on Mr. Ford's informational card as "Prop. of Ronald J. Gillio, who has store in Santa Barbara, Calif. at 12 W. Figueroa St. Purchased by R. Gillio from young man in late 1973, allegedly for \$600. Gillio said to have been offered [price in code] for ingot! In Feb. 1976 Gillio told me that cost was [price in code]-young guy obtained it from Father or Grandfather-had produce store, they got it, allegedly, from a Chinaman. Card made up 8/4/74. Obt[ained] from Gillio by Fred Werner, 5/12-14/77, Central States Conv., Milwaukee, ostensibly at R.G.'s asking price of \$2,000, but actually in trade (against gilt mt'd Jap gold). Taken by J-JF, 5/18[77], at [price in code], as part of [price in code] purchase." Card and Rankow photographs accompany the lot. After he bought the ingot Mr. Ford had additional photographs taken that also accompany this lot.

THE ANOMALOUS WIEGAND INGOTS

A BANK EXCHANGE \$22.82 INGOT

3558 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. Very pale silver with a hint of the faintest yellow from the apparent gold content. Squared edges, fairly sharp corners. The only Wiegand, or any other assayer's ingot, known with the stamp of the BANK EXCHANGE on it. It is hard to know what to make of this piece, it has much of the look of a presentation bar so perhaps the bank stamp is the sentiment. It has none of the look of a banking bar, as it is small, has no ingot number, and shows no corner clips. An anomalous bar, the only one seen like it the cataloguer can remember with a prepared banker's mark.

Face: Ozs. 3.18 / GOLD 311 FINE [horizontally at right between this and next] SILV. 586 / C.WIEGAND. / ASSAYER / GOLD. \$20.44 / SILV. \$2.38 / VAL. \$22.82.

Back: [lengthwise within an oval prepared punch] BANK / EXCHANGE / GOLD HILL / NEV., VAL. \$22.82 in logotype and individual numeral punches below.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

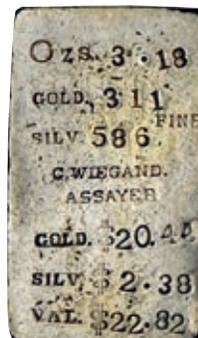
Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 43.4 x 25.7 x 7.5 mm.

Current weight: 99.05 gms.

Purchased from Paul Franklin on May 25, 1964. Mr. Ford's informational card and Rankow photographs accompany the lot.



Lot No. 3558

THE ENIGMATIC M & C 31 GOLD INGOT

3559 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Gold & silver assay ingot. M & C 31.** Overall appearance of Fine to Very Fine. Light yellow gold in color due to the fineness of the native gold content. This bar looks like it may have been made directly from unrefined ore. The significance of M & C is unknown. What 31 may have meant is also unknown. A bar with an anomalous layout but one that clearly was intended to emphasize the gold over the silver content of this nicely yellow bar.

Face: M & C 31 / Ozs. 1.5 / FINE [vertically at right between this and next] GOLD. 869 / C.WIEGAND / ASSAYER / SILV. 125 / FINE / GOLD. VAL. / \$26.95.

Back: blank.

Top side: blank.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: blank.

Right side: blank.

Dimensions: 41.8 x 23.1 x 2.8 mm.

Current weight: 46.56 gms.

Provenance unrecorded.



Lot No. 3559

AN ORPHAN WIEGAND INGOT



Lot No. 3560

3560 **Conrad Wiegand, Assayer. Gold Hill, Virginia City, Nevada. Silver & gold assay ingot no. 1586.** Overall appearance of Very Fine. Rather dark silver gray in color. Not terribly well formed and certainly not a presentation piece judging from its looks. Some marks all sides. Face and sides smoothed to take the inscriptions but back left as made with a deep fissure and a smaller one below it. Edges and corners not squared off. A most anomalous bar bearing inscriptions not seen on any other bar from any assayer. The only bar known to the cataloguer with not only the assayer's name in full, but also with an unusually detailed location of his office. This bar is the Wiegand orphan as it shares no punch links with any other in this collection.

Face: Ozs. 11.20 / Gold 25 Fine / Sil. 969Fine / OIR stamp / Gold \$5.79 / Sil. \$14.03 / Val. \$19.82.

Back: blank.

Top side: Bar No. 1586 [within single line border] / Value Endorsed.

Bottom side: blank.

Left side: BY / Conrad Wiegand / ASSAYER [within single line border].

Right side: GOLD HILL / ASSAY OFFICE[sic] / Storey County Nevada [all within single line border].

Dimensions: 68.3 x 35.5 x 13.9 mm.

Stated weight: 11.2 ozs.

Purchased by Paul Franklin from Bert Lieberman, manager of the Marshall Field (Chicago) coin department December 13 to 15, 1961; subsequently purchased from Franklin. Mr. Ford's informational card and Rankow photographs accompany the lot.

JOHN J. FORD, Jr. COLLECTION, PART XXI

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JOHN J. FORD, Jr. COLLECTION

COINS, MEDALS, AND CURRENCY – PART XXI INDEX

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TERMS OF SALE

These terms of sale are designed to conform to the Amended Rules for Public Auction Sales in New York City by the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Bylaws of the Professional Numismatists Guild, Inc.

1. This public auction sale is conducted pursuant to these Terms of Sale by licensed and bonded auctioneers, Harvey G. Stack, #0522763 and Lawrence R. Stack, #0798114.
2. **Each bidder, by bidding in the sale, agrees that a 15% BUYER'S CHARGE will be added to the "hammer price" or winning bid of each lot as determined by the auctioneer.** This 15% BUYER'S FEE will be added to the invoice of each successful bidder over and above the actual sum bid or offered. The Buyer's Fee applies regardless of a bidder's affiliation with any group or organization, and is imposed on all bidders. No lots will be delivered or shown at the auction. Auction sales are strictly for cash and must be paid for promptly in U.S. funds. Stack's reminds you that all bidders personally guarantee prompt payment in full. Checks are permitted with identification acceptable to Stack's. On any accounts past due, Stack's reserves the right to extend credit and impose periodic charges as stated in these Terms of Sale or on the invoice or statement. Buyer agrees to pay the reasonable attorney fees and costs required to collect on such past due accounts. All lots delivered in New York State are subject to applicable Sales Tax. Buyer agrees to pay any sales tax, use tax, and any other applicable taxes that now, or hereafter, are found to be due by virtue of the sale, and to indemnify and hold Stack's harmless for any sales or other taxes due thereunder, including reasonable attorneys fees, costs and any interest or penalties assessed. Buyer shall also pay all shipping and handling charges where applicable.
3. Purchasers claiming exemption from such taxes must submit resale or exemption certificates or other proof of exemption. Out-of-state Purchasers taking delivery in New York must provide an OSR certificate or pay applicable taxes due. All purchasers represent that they are not seeking to acquire goods for personal, family, or household purposes, but are bidding for resale purposes; and those submitting OSR's additionally represent that they are professionals, knowledgeable and fully aware of what they are purchasing, a representation upon which Stack's relies in agreeing to sell to Purchaser. Buyers picking up lots may be required to confirm this agreement in a separate writing.
4. Stack's is not responsible for your errors in bidding. PLEASE BID ON THE CORRECT LOT.
5. All persons seeking to bid, whether in person, by an agent or employee, or by mail, must have a catalogue and register to bid. By submitting a bid, whether in person, by mail, or through an employee or agent, the bidder acknowledges receipt of the catalogue, and agrees to adhere to these terms of sale. The auctioneer may decline to recognize any bidder who does not have a catalogue and has not registered and been given a paddle number. Any prospective bidder may be required to establish credit references or submit a deposit of 25% of their bids. All new bidders should be prepared to establish credit with the auctioneer prior to registering to bid.
6. By bidding, purchasing or offering to purchase in this sale, even if as an agent, or on behalf of a corporation or for another individual, each bidder personally guarantees prompt payment and agrees to be personally liable for the consequences of bidding; all bidders also personally guarantee prompt payment in full, including without limitation, BUYER'S FEE, taxes, surcharges, postage, handling charges, storage costs and insurance charges.
7. Stack's reserves the right to require payment in full before delivering lots to a successful bidder, and reserves the right to require the principals, and directors of any corporate bidder to execute a guarantee of payment (which, in any event they do by having an agent or employee bid in the sale) prior to allowing a bid to be placed or recognized.
8. Stack's reserves the right to impose a late charge, based solely upon Purchaser's failure to remit full and timely payment, and which late charge is not related to any necessary storage of the material purchased. Said late charge is calculated at a rate of 11-1/2% per month (18% per annum), based on the purchase price if payment has not been made in accordance with these Terms and Conditions of Sale. Purchases not collected within thirty (30) days of the date of sale may, at the sole option of Stack's, be resold for Purchaser's account by Stack's, with Purchaser liable for any deficit after Stack's receives a commission for the same in accordance with its agreement, and thereafter deducts all expenses associated with the sale, including reasonable attorneys fees.
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10. **Title remains with Stack's until paid for in full.** Should Purchaser take any action under Title 11 of the U.S. Code, or any state insolvency law, Buyer agrees to promptly return to Stack's, any lots not paid for. The Buyer agrees to keep the lots fully insured until paid for. Risk of loss is on the Buyer.
11. The highest bidder as determined in the sole discretion of the auctioneer shall be the Buyer. If the auctioneer determines that a dispute has arisen between two or more bidders, the lot may be immediately put up and sold again. Bidders with whom the dispute previously arose shall be without further recourse for any damages whatsoever.
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(e) Grading descriptions in this catalogue are provided strictly for the convenience of those who bid by mail and who are unable to personally view the coins, and represents the cataloguer's opinion of its state of preservation. Those

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27. No bidder shall have any claim against the auctioneer, or Stack's, for improper sequence of offering a lot.
28. On bullion items, bullion-like items, and encapsulated items graded by a grading service, Buyer agrees that there shall be no right of return for any reason whatsoever. Buyer further agrees that due to market volatility, in event of non-payment, Stack's shall be entitled to damages that are the greater of selling price or market, together with any supplementary or additional costs.
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30. The sole remedy that any participant in the auction shall have, whether bidding in person, by mail, or through an employee or agent, for any claim or controversy arising out of the auction shall be a refund of the original purchase price and premium paid, if any. Interest shall be paid by Stack's at a rate of no greater than nine per cent (9%) per annum, up to a maximum of six (6) years, unless the rules of the Professional Numismatists Guild, Inc. provide for a higher rate of interest or a longer period of time, in which case such rules shall prevail. A lower rate, or shorter period, may be decided by the arbitrators. Upon payment as determined by the arbitrators, or in full at the maximum rates set forth above, or at an agreed rate, Stack's shall be deemed released from any and all claims of the bidder arising out of or in connection with the sale of such property. Purchaser agrees to execute prior to delivery of any refund any documents reasonably requested to effect the intent of this paragraph. By bidding in this sale, all bidders consent to these terms and all other terms of these conditions of sale.
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32. All rights granted to the Purchaser under the within terms of sale are personal to the Purchaser. Purchaser may not assign or transfer any of these rights to any other person or entity, whether by operation of law or otherwise. Any attempt so to assign or transfer any such rights shall be absolutely VOID and unenforceable. No third party may rely on any benefit or right conferred by these Terms and Conditions of Sale and terms of warranty on any bidder or Purchaser.
33. "Purchaser" shall mean the original purchaser of the property from Stack's and not any subsequent owner or other person who may have or acquire an interest therein. If Purchaser is an agent, the agency must be disclosed at the time of sale, otherwise the benefits of the warranty shall be limited to the agent and not transferable to the undisclosed principal.
34. Should any third party attempt to utilize any warranties contained herein, they shall first give Stack's thirty (30) days written notice by Registered Mail or Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested during which time Stack's may, should it choose to contest the third party's claim, ask the Professional Numismatists Guild, Inc., or the American Arbitration Association to appoint a panel of three arbitrators skilled in the field to make such a determination at New York, N.Y. By seeking to use such remedy, the third party

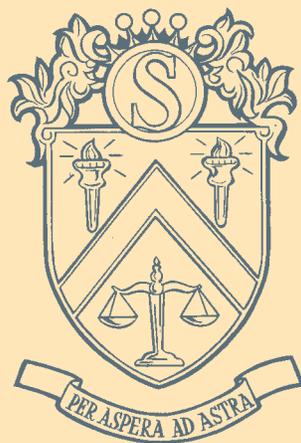
unequivocally and without reservation consents to binding arbitration, and its conclusive and binding determination of any alleged damages as a sole remedy. With respect to any other pertinent notice requirements, venue and personal and subject matter jurisdiction, said third party is bound to the provisions pertaining to bidders, buyers and purchasers, as otherwise provided for in these Terms of Sale.

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37. As a condition of bidding, bidder acknowledges that numismatic auction sales are unique in terms of their tradition and industry practices. Each bidder agrees that **any claim or controversy whatsoever arising out of this sale shall be settled as follows:** if demanded by either buyer, or Stack's by binding arbitration at New York, New York, under the rules then obtaining of the Professional Numismatists Guild, Inc., or as PNG rules may provide, the American Arbitration Association. In the event that a dispute arises between Stack's and a non-member of the PNG, this means that the American Arbitration Association, at New York, N.Y., shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the controversy. In any controversy concerning non-payment, Stack's shall have the right to proceed by arbitration or by a proceeding in any court of competent jurisdiction in the City, County, and State of New York, whichever is first commenced by Stack's. The arbitrator shall not have the power to alter the terms of condition of sale. Judgment on any award may be entered in any court of competent jurisdiction. The arbitrators, and any court, shall award the prevailing party costs and reasonable attorney fees. By bidding in this sale you agree to be bound by the arbitration provisions of the PNG as described above. Commencement of an arbitral proceeding, or confirmation of an award, as well as any notice requirements connected with such proceeding, and any other required service of process, may be made by Stack's upon all bidders by registered or certified mail directed to the address of the bidder or purchaser as listed on the bid sheet or application or form required at the time that a bidder number is issued, or by facsimile transmission with proof of receipt. Bidder agrees that such service shall constitute full in personam jurisdiction. The venue for such proceedings shall be the City of New York, State of New York and each bidder agrees to in personam (personal) jurisdiction of the City of New York, State of New York. In all cases, the maximum liability of Stack's for any item sold shall be limited to the official price of record of the item at this sale, without provision for consequential damages, or any other damages of any kind whatsoever, unless the PNG rules provide otherwise.
38. If the Purchaser fails to comply with one or more of these Terms and Conditions of Sale then, in addition to all other remedies which it may have at law or in equity, Stack's may, at its sole option, either (a) cancel the sale, retaining as liquidated damages all payments made by the Purchaser, it being recognized that actual damages may be speculative or difficult to compute, or (b) sell some or all of

the numismatic property and some or all other property of the Purchaser held by Stack's, in a quantity sufficient in the opinion of Stack's to satisfy the indebtedness, plus all accrued charges. More than one such sale may take place at the option of Stack's. Such sale may take place without notice to Purchaser; if Stack's gives notice, it shall be by regular mail to the address utilized on the bid sheet, consignment agreement or other address known to the firm. Such sale will be at Stack's standard commission rates at public or private sale, within or without the City of New York, at which time (if the sale be at auction) the defaulting party shall not bid. The proceeds shall be applied first to the satisfaction of any damages occasioned by Purchaser's breach, and then to the payment of any other indebtedness owing to Stack's, including without limitation, commissions, handling charges, the expenses of both sales, reasonable legal fees and collection agency fees and any other costs or expenses incurred hereunder. If a lot or numismatic item is not paid for, and is sold by Stack's for Purchaser's account, in accordance with the Uniform Commercial Code, Stack's shall not be required to account to the Purchaser for any excess proceeds. Purchaser is also liable to Stack's if the proceeds of such sale or sales is insufficient in the opinion of Stack's to cover the indebtedness. If other property of Purchaser is also sold, any excess of proceeds will be remitted to the Purchaser after first deducting the expenses set forth above. If Purchaser fails to remit sums due to Stack's, Purchaser grants to Stack's a lien with respect to such sum, with interest to accrue thereon at the judgment rate, until actually paid, which lien shall apply against any property of Purchaser, including any future goods of Purchaser coming into possession of Stack's. **Purchaser hereby waives all the requirements of notice, advertisement and disposition of proceeds required by law, including those set forth in New York lien law, article 9, sections 200-204 inclusive, or any successor statute, with respect to any sale.** Purchaser waives a right to redeem.

39. The auctioneer reserves the right to postpone the sale by auction for a reasonable period of time as a result of any significant event which, in the sole discretion of the auctioneer, makes it advisable to postpone the event. No bidder or prospective bidder or purchaser or prospective purchaser shall have recourse as a result of any postponement. In any event, no person may bid without registering, and ALL REGISTERED BIDDERS including mail bidders and agents by registering or bidding **agree to all of the above Terms and Conditions of Sale.**
40. By bidding or offering to bid, bidders acknowledge that they have read all of the Terms and Conditions of Sale and warranty contained herein and that they accept these terms and conditions without reservation. Stack's reserves the right to vary the Terms and Conditions of Sale by rider or other means communicated to bidders. By purchasing from Stack's, whether present in person, or by agent, by written bid, telephone or any other means, the bidder agrees to be bound by these Terms and Conditions of Sale.
41. **ALL ITEMS ILLUSTRATED ARE OF THE ACTUAL ITEMS BEING SOLD.**

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