

THE  
ANTHONY J. TARASZKA  
COLLECTION



*of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019 • ROSEMONT, ILLINOIS

*Stack's*  *Bowers*  
GALLERIES

An Official Auction at the  
ANA World's Fair of Money®



# Stack's Bowers Galleries Upcoming Auction Schedule

## Coins and Currency

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Date	Auction	Consignment Deadline
July 24, 2019	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	Visit StacksBowers.com
August 13-16, 2019	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>Ancient and World Coins &amp; Paper Money</i> An Official Auction of the ANA World's Fair of Money Rosemont, IL	Visit StacksBowers.com
August 13-16, 2019	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Paper Money</i> An Official Auction of the ANA World's Fair of Money Rosemont, IL	Visit StacksBowers.com
August 19-22, 2019	Stack's Bowers and Ponterio – <i>Chinese &amp; Asian Coins &amp; Banknotes</i> Hong Kong Auction of Chinese and Asian Coins & Currency Hong Kong	Visit StacksBowers.com
August 28, 2019	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	August 13, 2019
September 18, 2019	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	September 4, 2019
October 16, 2019	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	October 1, 2019
October 16-17, 2019	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>Ancient, World Coins &amp; Paper Money</i> StacksBowers.com	September 13, 2019
November 6, 2019	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	October 23, 2019
November 13-15, 2019	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> Official Auction of the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo Baltimore, MD	September 18, 2019
December 11, 2019	Collectors Choice Online Auction – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> StacksBowers.com	November 22, 2019
January 17-18, 2020	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>Ancient and World Coins &amp; Paper Money</i> An Official Auction of the N.Y.I.N.C. New York, NY	November 12, 2019
March 18-20, 2020	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> Official Auction of the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo Baltimore, MD	January 22, 2020
June 18-19, 2020	Stack's Bowers Galleries – <i>U.S. Coins &amp; Currency</i> Official Auction of the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Baltimore Expo Baltimore, MD	April 21, 2020

*The*  
**ANTHONY J. TARASZKA**  
**COLLECTION**



*of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles*

**SESSION 6**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019, 6:00 PM CT • LOTS 4001-4041**

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# THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION

## *of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles*

Featured in the Stack's Bowers Galleries

Official Auction at the ANA World's Fair of Money • August 13-16, 2019

### Lot Viewing

Lot Viewing will be conducted in the Santa Ana, CA offices (by appointment only): July 22-25, 2019

Lot Viewing will be conducted in the NY offices (by appointment only): August 1-5, 2019

Lot Viewing will be conducted at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rooms 2 & 3 as follows:

Saturday, August 10 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM CT	Sunday August 11 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM CT	Monday, August 12 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM CT	Tuesday, August 13 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM CT
Wednesday, August 14 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM CT	Thursday, August 15 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM CT	Friday, August 16 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM CT	

### Auction Location

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center  
5555 N. River Road  
Rosemont, IL 60018

### Auction Details

#### Session 1\*

U.S. Coins Part I  
Numismatic Americana,  
Encased Postage Stamps  
and Hard Times Tokens,  
Colonials - Large Cents  
Tuesday, August 13  
Room 12-13  
10:00 AM CT

#### Session 2\*

U.S. Coins Part II  
Small Cents through  
Half Dollars  
Tuesday, August 13  
Room 14  
11:00 AM CT

#### Session 3\*

U.S. Coins Part III  
Gold Coins, featuring  
the Fairmont Collection  
Tuesday, August 13  
Room 14  
6:00 PM CT

#### Session 4\*

U.S. Currency Part I  
National Bank Notes  
Wednesday, August 14  
Room 12-13  
6:00 PM CT

#### Session 5\*

U.S. Coins Part IV  
Silver Dollars through  
Commemoratives,  
Patterns and Miscellaneous  
Thursday, August 15  
Room 12-13  
11:00 AM CT

#### Session 6

The Anthony J.  
Taraszka Collection  
Thursday, August 15  
Room 12-13  
6:00 PM CT

#### Session 7\*

Rarities Night, featuring  
the ESM Collection  
Thursday, August 15  
Room 12-13  
*following the conclusion of the  
Anthony J. Taraszka Collection*

#### Session 8\*

U.S. Currency Part II  
U.S. Paper Money  
featuring the Caine Collection  
of Fractional Currency  
and MJS Collection  
Friday, August 16  
Room 12-13  
5:00 PM CT

*\*Please refer to our other August 2019 auction catalogs for further offerings of U.S. Coins and Currency, Ancient Coins, and World Coins and Paper Money, as well as our Internet Only Sessions.*

*View our entire auction schedule online at [StacksBowers.com](http://StacksBowers.com).*

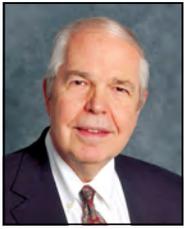
### Lot Pickup

Lot Pickup will be conducted at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rooms 2 & 3 as follows:

Wednesday, August 14 9:00 AM – Noon CT	Thursday, August 15 9:00 AM – Noon CT	Friday, August 16 9:00 AM – Noon CT	Saturday, August 17 9:00 AM – Noon CT
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*Dates, times and locations are subject to change.*

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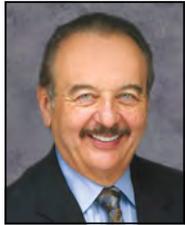
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*Cataloged by Jeff Ambio and Q. David Bowers.*

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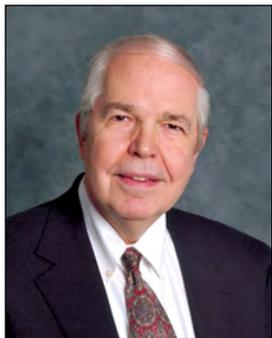
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Stack's Bowers Galleries presents

## THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION

### *of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles*



We are deeply honored to have been chosen to showcase and present the Anthony Taraszka Collection of early \$10 gold eagles. This collection, absolutely complete with every die variety issued from 1795 to 1804, is unprecedented in American numismatics. Beyond that, the grades are extraordinary with About

Uncirculated and Mint State for nearly all. Remarkably, the most famous of the early eagles, the 1795 with just 9 leaves in the palm branch, is among finest coins in the collection!

Tony Taraszka has been a fine friend of ours for many years. We remember years ago when he, with precise scientific methodology, was the first person to study early eagles in careful detail, describing the characteristics of each die and the various states of each through their use. His book, *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles 1795 –*

*1804*, became recognized as the standard source. We and others used his numbers in our catalogs. Beyond his research, Tony is a poster example of a numismatist who has shared much over the years and has been an asset to the field.

In this sale you have an opportunity never equaled to add examples to your collection—by basic types, or by *Guide Book* varieties, or by specialized varieties found only in Tony's book and the more recent *Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties* by Harry W. Bass and John Dannreuther.

We invite you to be part of numismatic history as it is being made!

My best wishes to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Q. David Bowers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Q. David Bowers  
Co-founder, Stack's Bowers Galleries

# An Eagle Collector's Journey

by Anthony J. Taraszka



My first exposure to early eagles was in a Stack's window display in the mid 1950s shortly after they moved to their 57th Street location. At that time, the display consisted of 18th and early 19th century United States eagles, half eagles, quarter eagles and other numismatic rarities both from the United States and foreign – a sight to behold! I was

instinctively drawn to the beauty of the early gold eagles – the largest coin authorized by the United States Congress in the 18th century.

Almost three decades elapsed before I seriously started collecting 18th and early 19th century United States coinage. I was impressed by the designs of the early engravers, particularly those of the 18th century. My initial interest in early copper and silver coinage evolved to include gold coinage with an emphasis on eagles and half eagles. A purchase of an early half eagle from Jim McGuigan introduced me to the 1960s Breen monographs on early US gold coinage and subsequently to the Harry Bass collection display at the 1989 Coinage of the Americas Conference. At that point in time, after acquiring some early half eagles and eagles, I considered collecting both those denominations by die marriage. I quickly realized that there were two roadblocks in my quest for early half eagles:

- 1) As they were significantly smaller coins, the half eagles' distinguishing characteristics were more difficult to identify.
- 2) There were too many unique or nearly unique half eagle pieces. Moreover, Harry Bass outbid me at a Spink sale of a unique half eagle whose acquisition he gleefully acknowledged.

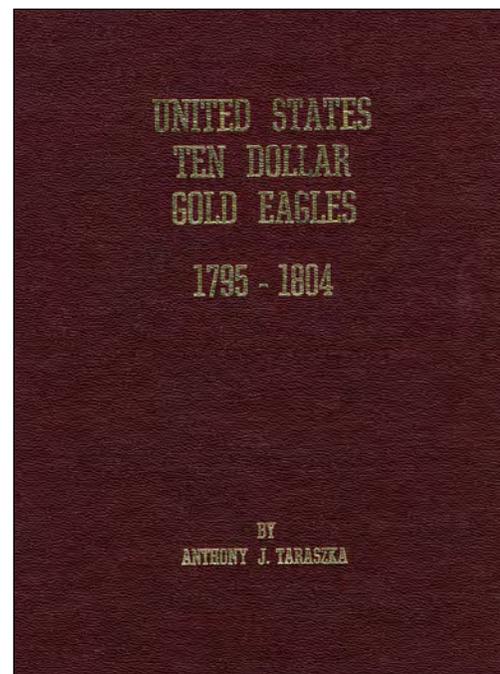
In the 1980s through the mid 1990s, early eagles were frequently found on the bourse floor as well as in auctions. More often than not they were not slabbed which aided in the identification of die states since it eliminated the plastic reflections. I soon realized that there were several inaccuracies in the Breen monographs and eventually produced

a condensed two page spreadsheet which summarized the specific identifiables of the various die marriages. Numerous dealers encouraged me to publish that data which ultimately resulted in the publication of my book on early eagles – *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles 1795 – 1804*.

In 1994, I was fortunate enough to acquire a specimen of the 1799 T-13. At that time the only other known specimen was in the Bass collection. This acquisition of what was at that time a nearly unique piece, led me to believe that it was possible to complete a collection of all 32 known die marriages.

The next morale boost occurred later that year when I acquired a very choice Mint State example of the 1797 T-11 with a very faint die break through the shield. That very faint die break led me to discover that the last two 1797-dated eagles, T-11 and T-12, were actually struck after both of the 1798/7-dated eagles. The thrill associated with making a significant contribution to numismatics heightened my enthusiasm for the project.

In the process of upgrading earlier acquisitions some interesting die states caught my attention and I was hooked – collecting both die marriages as well as interesting die states.



Major additions to the collection came from the auction of the James A. Stack collection as well as bourse dealers. By 1998 only two die marriages were missing from the collection - the 1803 T-27 and T-32. Fortunately they both appeared in auctions at the Portland ANA and fortuitously an additional 1803 T-32 in a NGC-62 holder was found on the bourse floor. The 1803 T-32 was the last business strike eagle produced until 1838 and the only die marriage not present in the Bass collection.

In the quest for different die marriages and die states often one was caught between expediency and patience. The net result was a less than satisfactory specimen of several pieces. By 2016 my goal of collecting United States eagles was finally realized by acquiring a better specimen of the 1795 T-4 (somewhat elusive in choice condition), finding a 1797 T-12 in initial die state with fully struck up stars on the reverse (also quite uncommon), and purchasing pieces from the auctions of the Harry Bass collection. An initial die state of the 1800 T-23 without any obverse die breaks somehow eluded my search.

Given the numerous obverse and reverse dies used in 1799 dated eagles with readily visible die breaks, their die emission sequence could be systematically deduced. Since the 1803 dated eagles used only one obverse die it presented a significant challenge to determine the die emission sequence. Breen proposed his 1-A, 1-B, 1-C, 1-D, 1-E, 1-F sequence. Harry Bass's notes indicated that he opted for

Breen numbers in the following sequence 1-C, 1-D, 1-A, 1-B, 1-E, 1-F. I was in agreement on the last four attributions but did not have a specimen of 1803 Breen-1C (T-27) to make any reasoned evaluation on the correct placement of Breen 1-C (T-27). I contacted Harry Bass, whose reputation for detailed study was well established, and explained my dilemma. He could not remember the specific details of why he chose his die sequence but sent me a photo of his 1803 Breen 1-C (T-27) specimen. Unfortunately, that photo did not provide me a basis for any reasoned judgement.

My 1998 acquisition of a 1803 Breen-1C (T-27) did not help resolve this puzzle. Finally, at the urging of Russ Logan, I photographed the edge of all the eagles in my collection and obtained similar photos of the 1803 Breen 1-C (T-27) and 1-D (T-26) from the Harry Bass Research Foundation. Noting the systematic change in the number of edge reeds I chose to have 1803 Breen-1D (T-26) precede the Breen-1C (T-27) die pairing. Future studies may lead to a different conclusion.

In conclusion, I want to thank all the dealers who helped me in my quest - amongst them, Jim McGuigan, Anthony Terranova, Mark Borckardt, Julian Leidman and Larry Stack. The value of personal communications with Harry Bass and subsequent help of Ed Dean at the Harry Bass Research Foundation, which permitted study of his coins and provided photos, is gratefully acknowledged and truly appreciated.

*The*  
**ANTHONY J.  
TARASZKA  
COLLECTION**



*of 1795 to 1804  
\$10 Gold Eagles*

**SESSION 6**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019, 6:00 PM CT • LOTS 4001-4041

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4001

1795 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-1. Rarity-3+. 13 Leaves. AU-58 (PCGS).



## Historic 1795 Capped Bust Right Eagle Popular BD-1, Taraszka-1 Die Marriage The First Eagle Variety Struck



4001

**1795 Capped Bust Right. Breen Dannreuther-1, Taraszka-1. Rarity-3+. 13 Leaves. AU-58 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type I: Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle. Style I: Head of 1795 with 15 stars arranged 10 left, five right; Reverse of 1795 with 13 leaves (sometimes called fronds) on the palm branch. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-1, Taraszka-1, Breen 1-A, HBCC-3169. On the obverse, the tip of the digit 5 in the date is over the bust, the left base of the letter L in LIBERTY touches Liberty's cap, star 11 is close to the letter Y in LIBERTY, and the upper left serif of the same letter is elongated by a small die line. The reverse is most readily identifiable by looking at the eighth leaf on the palm branch, which nearly touches the letter U in UNITED. This variety represents the first and only use of this obverse die. The reverse was later used to strike eagles of the BD-2, Taraszka-2 variety.

**Die State:** BD Die State b/a-b. A delicate die crack connects the outer points of stars 3 to 9 on the obverse, and there is a small die lump between the outermost point of star 5 and the border. The reverse is an intermediate die state with faint die cracks from the border above the first A in AMERICA to the upper left corner of the adjacent M and between the tops of the letters ED in UNITED. Other die cracks for DB Die State b are not present, however, including ones that would eventually form from the eagle's right wing tip to the letter T in UNITED, from the border to the letter D in UNITED, and through the letters ER in AMERICA and the eagle's left wing tip. In a later state (BD Die State c), the aforementioned obverse die crack would eventually extend through all stars on the left, as well as through the base of the digits 179 in the date, and another crack would develop through stars 14 and 15 to the end of Liberty's bust. Die State c is the latest state known for the obverse, although the terminal state probably featured clashing that forced Mint personnel to retire the die. (For more on this, see below in our discussion of the die state for the BD-2, Taraszka-2 example in this collection.)

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** Most Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle tens were struck from 1795-dated dies. The mintage for calendar year 1795 is 5,583 coins, per Mint records. John W. Dannreuther (*Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties: A Study of Die States, 1795-1834*, 2006) provides an estimate of coins struck from 1795-dated dies that ranges from a low of 5,859 to a high of 10,915 pieces.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 2,795 to 5,583 eagles were struck from the 1795 BD-1 die marriage.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 225 to 325 coins at all levels of preservation (per Dannreuther). BD-1 is the most frequently encountered die variety of the issue.

**Strike:** This is an expertly produced coin by early U.S. Mint standards. Both sides are ideally centered within fully and uniformly denticulated borders. We note only a touch of softness to the centers, a few of Liberty's hair tresses behind the ear and some of the eagle's neck and breast feathers indistinct. All other design elements are boldly defined.

**Surfaces:** Both sides are noticeably semi-prooflike in finish with appreciable reflectivity in the fields. Otherwise bright medium gold, the surfaces exhibit warmer reddish-rose outlines to many of the design elements, especially on the reverse. There are only wispy handling marks from commerce, the most useful identifying features a tiny flan flaw at the reverse border below the first palm leaf and a few wispy scuffs nearby in the field below the second and third leaves.

**Commentary:** The Mint Act of April 2, 1792, established the \$10 gold coin, or eagle, as the United States' highest denomination. The first examples were struck in 1795, arguably the most historically significant gold coins struck in the United States Mint. Although the 1795 Small Eagle \$5 was the first gold coin struck by the United States Mint (in late July), no other coin symbolizes the aspirations of the nation and the American economy like the 1795 eagle. It was an ambitious denomination, first conceived by Thomas Jefferson, the author of most initial underpinnings of the American coinage system. Then serving as one of Virginia's delegates to Congress, Jefferson described the eagle for the first time in his *Notes on the Establishment of a Money Unit and of a Coinage for the United States*, popularly known as his "Notes on Coinage," written in the spring of 1784. After explaining why the money unit should be pegged to the familiar Spanish milled dollar and why a decimal-based system is easier for both natives and foreigners, Jefferson suggested: "If we adopt the dollar for our unit, we should strike four coins, one of gold, two of silver, and one of copper, viz. 1. a golden piece equal in value to 10 dollars, 2. the unit or dollar itself of silver, 3. the tenth of a dollar, of silver also, 4. the hundredth of a dollar of copper." He further explored his "golden piece" in terms of two coins then common in the cash boxes of American merchants, the first made in mints in Portugal and Brazil, the second a standard English gold coin, noting that the eagle "will be 1/5 more than a half Joe and 1/15 more than a double guinea. It will be readily estimated then by reference to either of them, but more readily and accurately as equal to 10 dollars."

Jefferson did not coin the name "eagle" for his 10 dollar denomination. In May 1785, Jefferson submitted his *Propositions Respecting the Coinage of Gold, Silver, and Copper*, in which he referred to the largest gold coin of the newly independent republic as the "crown," an ironic choice that first appears in Gouverneur Morris' 1783 writings regarding a very different coinage scheme. Jefferson was not terribly fond of the title, as he remarked "as to the names above chosen, they, like all

# THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION

of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



other names, are arbitrary, and better may perhaps be substituted." A letter from Jefferson to William Carmichael, dated November 4, 1785, reveals that the question of denominations had still not been decided. Virginia delegate James Monroe reported to Jefferson, then in Paris, in January 1786 that "the subject of the mint...will be taken up again so soon as we have 9 or 10 states (for at present we have but 7)." It took eight more months, but Congress finally came to a resolution on a coinage system on August 8, 1786, declaring that the coin "equal to ten dollars, to be stamped with the impression of the American eagle [would] be called An Eagle." Not everyone loved the name. Edmund Pendleton, a Virginia planter and politician, wrote to James Madison in December 1786 to complain about the new federal government prerogative to coin money, a power formerly held by the states. He preferred the former system by which the central government merely regulated the value of the coins then circulating, "leaving it to each [state] to coin any bullion they might fortunately meet with at home and in such pieces as their convenience should direct, whether in Eagles or Sparrows, so they conformed to the rules prescribed." Alexander Hamilton, befitting his reputation, was more direct, writing in his 1791 report "On the Establishment of a Mint" that "the eagle is not a very expressive or apt appellation for the largest gold piece, but nothing better occurs." Thus, the name remained, as did the denomination, first struck in September 1795 and last coined in 1933.

The first eagles are large and impressive coins, measuring approximately 33 millimeters and weighing 17.50 grams. The composition is an alloy of .9167 gold and .0833 silver and copper. These standards for size, weight and composition would remain current until Jefferson, then as president, halted eagle production in 1804. When coinage of this denomination resumed in 1838, the coins were smaller, lighter and made of an alloy of .900 gold and .100 copper, per the Coinage Act of June 28, 1834.

Numismatists have long referred to the design of the United States Mint's first eagles as the Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle, this type the work of Robert Scot, first chief engraver of the United States Mint. However, as Capped Bust is also the popular name of a different style introduced by John Reich on silver coins in 1807, it has been suggested that another name such as Conical Cap Right be used. The obverse depicts a draped bust of Liberty facing right with flowing hair and a turban-like cap. The word LIBERTY is above, the date is below and, depending on the date of the specific coin in question, 15, 16 or 13 stars are arranged around the border. The reverse design, which is particularly elegant, features an eagle with outstretched wings grasping a palm branch in its talons and a wreath without berries in its beak. The legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is around the border, the tips of the eagle's wings intruding into the lettering. There is no expression of the denomination on either side of these early eagles, whose value was determined based on the precious metal content and weight. In fact, to speak of the early eagle as a denomination is actually a misnomer for, as Dannreuther states, "Even though a gold eagle was denominated as a ten-dollar coin, our forefathers traded gold by the tale...*Tale*, in this instance, means count or tally, the number of things taken together (*i.e.*, the weight and purity of an individual coin)." Scot's design is said (by Walter Breen) to have been copied from an ancient cameo, perhaps explaining the use of a palm branch on the reverse, otherwise unusual.

Scot's Capped Bust Right obverse, Small Eagle reverse motif combination was only used on eagles dated 1795, 1796 and 1797.

The total mintage for this type is estimated at 10,609 to 18,676 pieces (per Dannreuther). A word on mintages for early U.S. Mint coins is perhaps in order here. The figures provided in government archives represent the number of examples struck in any given calendar year, but do not necessarily correspond to the number of coins struck from dies bearing that date. The early United States Mint experienced considerable difficulty procuring high quality steel for making dies. Functional dies, therefore, were often used until they failed, even if the date on the coins did not match the calendar year. Additionally, early U.S. Mint gold and silver coins were not struck on government account but, rather, at the request of bullion depositors who requested coins of a certain denomination in exchange for their precious metal. When they received a new warrant for coinage, Mint personnel often utilized whatever functional dies were at hand to fill that warrant, again without regard for whether the date on the coins being struck matched the calendar year. With these facts in mind, numismatic scholars have had to estimate the number of coins struck for individual issues and varieties in the early eagle series based primarily on the number of coins extant, of course with consideration for the yearly mintage figures provided in Mint records. In fact, Dannreuther's estimate of 10,609 to 18,676 Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle tens produced encompasses the total of 13,344 coins struck provided in the *Guide Book of United States Coins* (the Red Book), the latter of which is based more closely on yearly mintage figures as reported in Mint records.

Attrition for early eagles of 1795 to 1804 was extremely high. Although it is likely that some pieces circulated in commerce in the 1790s, afterward many if not most were exported and melted. Indeed, the exportation of eagles and the subsequent loss of gold had become so great by the earliest years of the 19th century that President Thomas Jefferson halted production of this denomination in 1804. Coinage did not resume until 1838; in the intervening years the half eagle was the highest denomination U.S. coin. The coinage of silver dollars, the highest silver denomination, was stopped as well (and did not resume until 1836). Most numismatic scholars believe that fewer than 1% of early eagles struck have survived to the present day. All dates and varieties in this series are scarce, and some are exceedingly rare.

Five die marriages of the 1795-dated issue are known, and they feature two obverse and three reverse dies. BD-1, represented here, is widely regarded as the first eagle produced. Evidence for this prominent placement in U.S. coinage history stems from the fact that this is most frequently encountered of the five known die varieties of this issue, first year issues and varieties often being saved in significant numbers due to their novelty. Additionally, several prooflike 1795 BD-1 eagles are known, and Dannreuther reports the possible existence of at least one presentation striking (described by the early U.S. Mint as a "master coin"). One of the prooflike coins is in the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution, and it was once owned by Chief Coiner Henry Voigt and Adam Eckfeldt. These specially prepared and preserved coins would undoubtedly have been among the first eagles produced, providing further evidence for the status of BD-1 as the first 1795 eagle variety. As a lovely Choice About Uncirculated survivor of the historic first year 1795 Capped Bust Right eagle, the coin offered here would make an impressive addition to an advanced gold type or variety set.

PCGS# 45710. NGC ID: 25ZU.

Acquired from Mid-American Rare Coin Galleries at the Detroit ANA Convention, August 1994. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.



Congress of the United States:

AT THE THIRD SESSION,

Begun and held at the City of Philadelphia, on  
Monday the sixth of December, one thou-  
sand seven hundred and ninety.

**R**ESOLVED by the SENATE and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of  
the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a mint  
shall be established under such regulations as shall be directed by law.

*Resolved,* That the President of the United States be, and he is  
hereby authorized to cause to be engaged, such principal artists as  
shall be necessary to carry the preceding resolution into effect, and to  
stipulate the terms and conditions of their service, and also to cause to  
be procured such apparatus as shall be requisite for the same purpose.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

JOHN ADAMS, *Vice-President of the United States,*  
*and President of the Senate.*

APPROVED, March the third, 1791.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, *President of the United States.*

DEPOSITED among the ROLLS in the OFFICE of the SECRETARY  
of STATE.

*W. L. G. Mason* Secretary of State.

Reproduction of the resolution establishing a federal mint, March 3, 1791.  
(From *Illustrated History of the United States Mint*, George G. Evans)

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4002

1795 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-2. Rarity-4+. 13 Leaves. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.



## Early Die State 1795 BD-2 Eagle



4002

**1795 Capped Bust Right, BD-2, Taraszka-2. Rarity-4+. 13 Leaves. EF-45 (PCGS). CAC.**

**Type and Style:** Type I: Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle. Style I: Head of 1795 with 15 stars arranged 10 left, five right; Reverse of 1795 with 13 leaves on the palm branch. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-2, Taraszka-2, Breen 2-A, HBCC-3170. Obverse diagnostics include Liberty's bust over the tip of the digit 5 in the date and star 11 away from the letter Y in LIBERTY. The reverse is most readily identifiable by looking at the eighth leaf on the palm branch, which nearly touches the letter U in UNITED. This variety represents the first of three uses for this obverse die, which was later used to produce the scarce BD-3, Taraszka-3 9 Leaves variety, as well as the BD-5, Taraszka-5 13 Leaves variety. BD-2, Taraszka-2 represents the second and final use of this reverse die.

**Die State:** BD Die State a/d. The obverse die state is perfect with neither cracks nor evidence of lapping. The reverse is the only die state known for the BD-2 attribution, and it has been lapped to efface clash marks. The field areas between the palm leaves are now wider, as is that between the eagle's legs, and the tops of the letters ED in UNITED are incomplete. Interestingly, there are no examples of Reverse Die State c known for either the BD-1 or BD-2 varieties, although Dannreuther asserts that the clashing likely occurred late in the press run for the BD-1 variety. The clashing likely caused fatal injury to the obverse die, forcing its retirement, but the reverse was lapped and mated with a new obverse to produce the BD-2 variety. As with so many early U.S. Mint gold coin varieties, the paucity of surviving examples precludes definitive work on die states. Terminal die state coins have not survived (or have yet to be attributed) for many early eagle varieties, although they are suspected since Mint personnel would have used the dies until they failed.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** Most Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle tens were struck from 1795-dated dies. The mintage for calendar year 1795 is 5,583 coins, per Mint records. Dannreuther provides an estimate of coins struck from 1795-dated dies that ranges from a low of 5,859 to a high of 10,915 pieces.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 1,500 to 2,332 eagles were struck from the 1795 BD-2 die marriage.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Approximately 100 examples are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** Lightly worn overall, predominantly on the high points, this coin retains the sharpest detail in the recesses of the design. All major design elements are bold, nonetheless, and the denticulation is uniform around both sides from a well centered strike.

**Surfaces:** Handsome medium gold surfaces retain ample satin luster. The appearance is smooth and appealing, so much so that we are hard pressed to find useful identifying features. Closer inspection reveals a tiny nick in the reverse field above the eagle's right wing that, when taken in conjunction with a few other equally minuscule handling marks, confirms this coin's provenance per the images in print.

**Commentary:** Although BD-2 is the only other readily collectable variety of the 1795 eagle, examples are more than twice as scarce as those of the BD-1 die pairing. The present example is an excellent candidate to represent this challenging early gold series in an advanced type set or specialized collection.

PCGS# 45711. NGC ID: 25ZU.

*From our (Stack's) sale of September 1998, lot 1850. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka.*

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of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4003

1795 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-2. Rarity-4+. 13 Leaves. AU-55 (PCGS).



## Semi-Prooflike 1795 BD-2 Eagle Late Die State



4003

**1795 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-2. Rarity-4+. 13 Leaves. AU-55 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type I: Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle. Style I: Head of 1795 with 15 stars arranged 10 left, five right; Reverse of 1795 with 13 leaves on the palm branch. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-2, Taraszka-2, Breen 2-A, HBCC-3170. Obverse diagnostics include Liberty's bust over the tip of the digit 5 in the date and star 11 away from the letter Y in LIBERTY. This variety represents the first of three uses for this obverse die, which was later used to produce the scarce BD-3, Taraszka-3 9 Leaves variety, as well as the BD-5, Taraszka-5 13 Leaves variety. The reverse is most readily identifiable by looking at the eighth leaf on the palm branch, which nearly touches the letter U in UNITED. BD-2, Taraszka-2 represents the second and final use of this reverse die.

**Die State:** BD Die State d/d. The obverse has been strongly lapped, probably to efface clash marks, although it also effaced the faint cracks between stars 1 to 10 and through the base of the digits 17 in the date that define Obverse Die States b and c for this variety. The most dramatic evidence of this excessive lapping, however, is the shortened points on many of the stars, particularly pronounced when one compares this coin to the Die State a/d example offered above. A new set of faint die cracks from the upper left and right points of star 13 are noted, features also seen on the Obverse Die State d example of the BD-3 9 leaves variety offered below. Interestingly, Dannreuther does not report this obverse die state on examples of the BD-2 variety, the latest known to the author being Die State c. We suspect, therefore, that this coin is one of the latest impressions from the BD-2 die pairing, struck after the obverse die was relapped after striking examples in Die State c. The reverse is the only die state known for the BD-2 attribution, and it has been lapped to efface clash marks. The field areas between the palm leaves are now wider, as is that between the eagle's legs, and the tops of the letters ED in UNITED are incomplete.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** Most Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle tens were struck from 1795-dated dies. The mintage for calendar year 1795 is 5,583 coins, per Mint records. Dannreuther provides an estimate of coins struck from 1795-dated dies that ranges from a low of 5,859 to a high of 10,915 pieces.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 1,500 to 2,332 eagles were struck from the 1795 BD-2 die marriage.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Approximately 100 examples are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This coin is overall sharply struck, where allowed by the die state, with most of Liberty's hair tresses crisply delineated and much of the eagle's plumage sharp. Slightly weak in the centers, although we stress that this is common for Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle tens.

**Surfaces:** Light greenish-gold patina is seen throughout, and the surfaces retain much of the original semi-prooflike finish. A few faint adjustment marks in the center of the reverse at the eagle's breast and legs are as made, and there are no marks of consequence. This piece is of very pleasing quality.

**Commentary:** Our consignor obviously collected this coin for its advanced die state, a companion piece to the early die state (a/d) BD-2 example offered above. In fact, this coin represents the latest obverse die state for the 1795 BD-2 variety known to your cataloger, and it was likely produced shortly before the reverse die was replaced by that of the famous BD-3 9 Leaves variety. In addition to the appeal that it holds for early eagle variety enthusiasts, this beautiful Choice AU has much to offer advanced gold type collectors seeking a high quality example of this historic and challenging design.

PCGS# 45711. NGC ID: 25ZU.

*Ex Joe Flynn, Sr. Coin Company, September 1971; Harry W. Bass, Jr.; our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part II, October 1999, lot 1303; Superior's New York ANA Sale of August 2002, lot 1840.*

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4004

1795 Capped Bust Right. BD-3, Taraszka-3. Rarity-6. 9 Leaves. MS-63 (PCGS).



Classic 1795 BD-3, Taraszka-3 9 Leaves Eagle  
 Rarest and Most Famous of the  
 Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle Die Varieties  
 Extraordinary Condition Census PCGS MS-63 Quality



4004

**1795 Capped Bust Right. BD-3, Taraszka-3. Rarity-6. 9 Leaves. MS-63 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type I: Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle. Style II: Head of 1795 with 15 stars arranged 10 left, five right; Reverse of 1795 with nine leaves or fronds on the palm branch. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-3, Taraszka-3, Breen 4-C, HBCC-3171. Obverse diagnostics include Liberty's bust over the tip of the digit 5 in the date and star 11 away from the letter Y in LIBERTY. The reverse is readily identifiable by having only nine leaves or fronds on the palm branch — unique among reverse dies in the Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle ten-dollar gold series of 1795 to 1797. This variety represents the second of three uses for this obverse die, which was earlier used to produce the BD-2, Taraszka-2 13 Leaves variety, and later in the BD-5, Taraszka-5 13 Leaves marriage. BD-3, Taraszka-3 represents the only use of this reverse die.

**Die State:** BD Die State d/b. The late obverse die state was inherited from the end of the BD-2 press run, and it is identifiable by excessive lapping that has shortened the points of many stars, as well as faint die cracks at the upper left and right points of star 13. The reverse is also in a late die state with heavy breaks manifesting as buckling at the tip of leaf 2, atop the first T in STATES, and at the first A in AMERICA. Lapping has hollowed spots at the eagle's right wing tip, inside the left wing, and at the upper junction of the eagle's tail and legs. These are the only obverse and reverse die states known for the BD-3 variety.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** Most Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle tens were struck from 1795-dated dies. The mintage for calendar year 1795 is 5,583 coins, per Mint records. Dannreuther provides an estimate of coins struck from 1795-dated dies that ranges from a low of 5,859 to a high of 10,915 pieces.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that only 210 to 500 coins were struck from this die pair.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Numismatic scholars agree that this is the rarest die variety in the Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle ten-dollar gold series. Dannreuther believes that only 20 to 22 coins are extant in all grades; *PCGS CoinFacts* provides a slightly more liberal total of just 18 to 22 survivors.

**Strike:** Sharply defined for both the type and die state, both sides exhibit crisp detail to virtually all design elements. Central high point

softness is typical of the type, while the lack of detail to a few minor features is the result of excessive die lapping, as described above.

**Surfaces:** This is a beautiful coin with subtle green-gold undertones to dominant medium gold patina. The obverse is semi-prooflike, the reverse close to fully prooflike. Both sides exhibit only wispy, inconspicuous handling marks; a few minuscule planchet voids in the left obverse field the only useful identifying features. The reverse is particularly attractive with no scratches, and the eagle's breast and legs are free of planchet adjustment marks. Overall superior in eye appeal than some higher graded examples.

**Commentary:** This famous variety was apparently discovered by William H. Woodin, a student of the early gold series, who recognized it as a great rarity. Waldo Newcomer gave the variety his imprimatur in 1926 by buying the Woodin specimen for \$100, which Walter Breen suggested "was several times the then going price for 1795s in that



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of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



grade." A second specimen was not identified until 1960, when Breen cataloged one for New Netherlands' 55th sale, calling it "of extreme desirability as a type coin." Interest in the variety grew with the recognition of it as a major type (the only early eagle with nine leaves on the reverse) and a major rarity, though as late as 1980 David W. Akers reported that "it has never received any publicity." Its profile is much higher in the present day. Dannreuther writes that "it is one of the most famous die varieties among all early gold coins - the king of the Small Eagle type."

The rarity of this variety is no doubt explained by the failure of the reverse die, as all known examples display the heavy breaks described above. Although some numismatists have described the 9 leaves variety as a die cutting error, the general consensus among scholars is that it represents an intentional experiment on the part of Mint personnel. Dannreuther explains:

*"...the fact that the reverse was changed to 11 leaves for 1796 and 1797 indicates that [the 9 Leaves] was an intentional experiment. Perhaps the arrangement of 13 leaves was considered too crowded and grouping of 9 leaves was thought too sparse, leading to the introduction of 11 leaves on the branch in 1796."*

Elusive and desirable at all levels of preservation, that fact that several of the 20 or so known examples are in low grades highlights the rarity and significance of this Choice Mint State coin. In fact, the Taraszka specimen is tied for Condition Census #3 with just one other PCGS MS-63. It is one of only four Choice Mint State 9 Leaves eagles known, just three of which are in private hands:



William H. Woodin

1) **Very Choice Mint State.** The Harry Bass Core Collection specimen now on display at the American Numismatic Association Museum.

2) **PCGS MS-63+.** Ex Superior's session of Auction '89, July 1989, lot 908, via RARCOA; our (in conjunction with Sotheby's) sale of the D. Brent Pogue Collection, Part II, September 2015, lot 2091, where it realized \$1,057,500 against a catalog estimate of \$350,000-\$450,000. This is the finest 1795 9 Leaves eagle in private hands.

3) **PCGS MS-63.** Ex Mike Brownlee; Superior's May 29, 30, 1995 Auction, lot 3684. *The present example.*

4) **PCGS MS-63.** Ex Christie's/Spink America's sale of September 1990, lot 605; Heritage's ANA National Money Sale of March 1998, lot 6460 (as PCGS MS-61); Superior's National Money Show Auction of March 2001, lot 853.

Representing what could very well be a once in a lifetime bidding opportunity for advanced early gold variety enthusiasts, we anticipate strong competition for this Condition Census example of the famous 1795 9 Leaves eagle rarity.

PCGS# 45714. NGC ID: BFYL.

PCGS Population: 2; with a single MS-63+ finer.

*Ex Mike Brownlee; Superior's May 29, 30, 1995 Auction, lot 3684. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka, and also pictured on the front cover of Superior's May 1995 auction catalog.*

**The Very Rare 1932 Double Eagle**

60 1932. Brilliant Unc., identical quality to last, and probably will bring a little more. **Plate**  
We have four recent records for this date: Dr. Smith (1955) \$500, Balleinbohn \$400, T. J. Clarke (1956) \$320, Molish \$425.00. Remember that these were all several years before the current interest in this gold.

**The Excessively Rare 1795 Eagle with Nine Leaves in Branch**

61 1795. Adams S; Hat in Clapp; Newcomer 439. **Rarity B.** Eagle standing on branch with nine leaves (regular has THIRTEEN). Extremely Fine, weak in centers, and with many adjustment marks; some chips out of planchet (as made) on both sides. Firm dent at T of UNITE D. A few small pin-like planchet defects. **The first one we have seen, and only the second we have heard of. Of extreme desirability as a type coin potentially a \$2,000 item. Plate**  
Previously included with the 911 delivered November 27, 1795, the last coinage of the year. The other four varieties have 13 leaves in branch; the 1795-7 have 11. The other specimen known to us is the Newcomer coin, illustrated by Adams in the 1934 *Coin Collector's Journal*, and it has dropped out of sight. It was VF and cost Newcomer \$100, which was then at just double the ordinary price. To account for the rarity of this variety is difficult. Probably the reverse die breaks - at next to right leaf on branch, and at first T in STATES - advanced rapidly, rendering the die useless. At least fifty times rarer than the regular type of this year, which is now at least a \$600 coin EF; therefore our estimate is not unreasonable.

62 1797. Heraldic Eagle. A-2; C-2; N-442. Extremely Fine, mostly clean, much mint frost, but weakly struck in centers, though elsewhere very sharp. **Plate**  
Mintage of this design, 12,009. Compare H. P. Smith 103, Balleinbohn 1435, and lot 1094 following, for other examples of this die. Newcomer's, VF; brought \$260.00.

63 1797. Similar; reverse of 1798 (star well to left of beak), A-4; C-4; N-444. Very Fine, clean and nice. **Plate**  
Ct. Woodin 116; Melish 2350 and lot 684 of our last sale, at \$245.00.

64 1799. Irregular date, small stars, very small berries. A-5; C-3; N-450. Well over Ex. Fine, lightly bag marked. **Plate**  
Ct. Woodin 110; same die as that in our Fifty-Third sale, but far better. Worth well over \$200 in the present market.

65 1801. A-1; C-1; N-456. Usual variety of the date. Better than VF, exceptionally clean; mediocre strike, with some adjustment marks at RY. After looking at the sharp breast feathers we suspect we are grossly undergrading this price. **Plate**  
Compare lot 688, our Fifty-Fourth sale, at \$220.00.

66 1803. Rev. Small stars. Thin light letters. A-1; not in Clapp; N-458. Ex. Fine to About Unc., unevenly struck but a beauty; clean and lustrous, especially on reverse. **Plate**  
Compare lot 683, our Fifty-Fourth sale, at \$220.00.

67 1803. Similar. A-2; C-2; N-459. Die injured, especially below tail and near and under UNI. Close to Ex. Fine, adjustment marks. Better than that in our Stratus offering. **Plate**

68 1805. Brilliant, splendid Uncirculated. The only one we have ever heard of in this grade!

69 1856. Just Very Fine. Scarce, only 60,490 minted.

70 1856 "O". Weak, thin O over FN. Fine obverse, VG reverse; even wear, no serious blemish. **Rare, unappreciated!**  
Mintage 14,200. Lie of metal 1431 - only one other instance made for the year. Two records worth noting - \$70, in Davis-Graves, VF, 1964, and \$77.50 for another one in our Fifty-Fourth sale, which was better than \$70.

71 1857 "O". Almost Very Fine. Obverse sharper than reverse (as on last); clean, rather bold, evenly worn. Very rare.  
Mintage 5,500. Melish's is a trifle better; no other recent records.

**The Extremely Rare 1859 "O" Eagle**

72 1859 "O". Extremely Fine, fairly clean, sharp, with traces of original prooflike surface. Hidden fine bruise RARER THAN THE 1858 BY MINTAGE AND BY ACTUAL COUNT OF SPECIMENS SEEN! This rarity will be a bargain, whatever the price it brings! **Plate**  
Mintage 2,500 (the 1858 has a mintage of 2,211). We have not seen as many as ten examples of this coinmark, which about eleven 1858's are now known to us, including yours impounded. The piece here offered is unusually fine, being decidedly superior to the Davis-Graves and Melish coins, as well as the impression in our Forty-Ninth offering.

**55<sup>th</sup>**  
CATALOGUE  
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# THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION

Starts 6:00 pm CT August 15, 2019



Artist's rendition of the first United States Mint in Philadelphia. (Sketch by George L. Osborn)

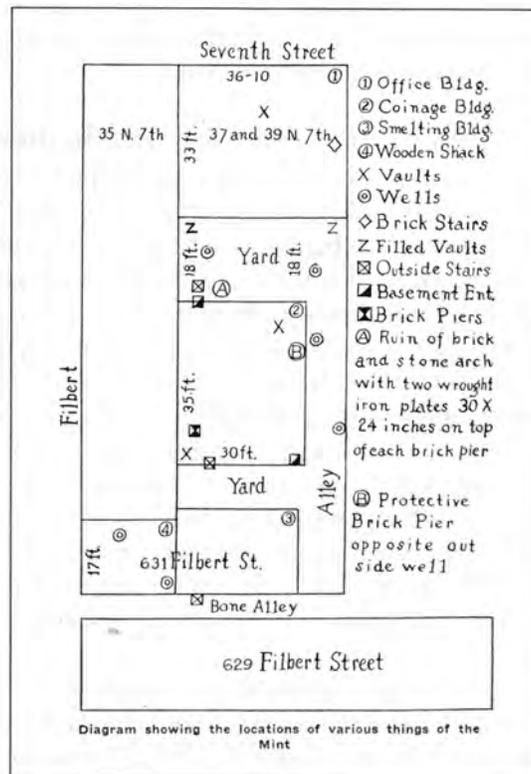


Diagram of buildings of the Mint with the front located on Seventh Street.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4005

1795 Capped Bust Right. BD-4, Taraszka-4. Rarity-5. 13 Leaves. MS-62 (PCGS).



## Scarce 1795 BD-4, Taraszka-4 Eagle Significant Mint State Preservation



4005

**1795 Capped Bust Right. BD-4, Taraszka-4. Rarity-5. 13 Leaves. MS-62 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type I: Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle. Style I: Head of 1795 with 15 stars arranged 10 left, five right; Reverse of 1795 with 13 leaves on the palm branch. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-4, Taraszka-4, Breen 3-B, HBCC-3172. The obverse die is easy to identify as it is the only one for the 1795 eagle on which the digit 5 in the date extends to the right past Liberty's bust. Closer inspection with a loupe reveals a pair of apostrophe-like die lines from the dentils to the upper right of the letter E in LIBERTY. On the reverse, the eighth leaf or frond on the palm branch is distant from the letter U in UNITED. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die. BD-4 is the first of two uses for this reverse die, which was later used to strike examples of the BD-5, Taraszka-5 variety.

**Die State:** BD Die State b/b. A faint obverse die crack begins between stars 9 and 10 and continues through the top of star 10 and the letters LIBE in LIBERTY. The reverse exhibits a prominent lump die break in the field between the words OF and AMERICA, as well as light cracks through the letters UNITED ST and TES. This is the latest known die state of the 1795 BD-4 variety. Since it is unknown in any other pairing, and given the paucity of survivors from the BD-4 marriage, this obverse must have suffered some kind of early injury that caused it to fail. We suspect that the die's failure was due at least in part to clashing, since the reverse was lapped either shortly before or (more likely) right after it was paired with the obverse previously used in the BD-2 and BD-3 marriages to create the BD-5 variety.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** Most Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle tens were struck from 1795-dated dies. The mintage for calendar

year 1795 is 5,583 coins, per Mint records. Dannreuther provides an estimate of coins struck from 1795-dated dies that ranges from a low of 5,859 to a high of 10,915 pieces.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that only 854 to 1,500 eagles were struck from the 1795 BD-4 die marriage.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 60 to 80 examples are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This exceptionally well produced early eagle exhibits bold to sharp striking detail that even extends to most of the central design elements. Only for a few of the hair strands behind Liberty's ear and the eagle's head, breast and legs do we note minor lack of detail.

**Surfaces:** Lovely satin surfaces are modestly semi-prooflike in the fields. Tinges of pale rose iridescence enliven otherwise dominant deep gold patina. There are a few extremely faint adjustment marks within Liberty's hair behind the ear, a shallow planchet flaw in the same area, and an even smaller curved strikethrough in the reverse field below the eagle's left wing.

**Commentary:** This is the third scarcest die marriage of the 1795 eagle, its elusiveness resulting from the early demise of the obverse die due to an as yet undiscovered injury. Interestingly, the finest known 1795 eagle of any variety was coined from these dies: the fabulous Garrett-Pogue specimen in PCGS MS-66+ that we sold for \$2,585,000 in our September 2015 Pogue II sale. Mint State examples of all early eagles are eagerly sought, and we suspect that both advanced type collectors and early gold variety enthusiasts will compete vigorously for the honor of securing this significant BD-4 eagle.

PCGS# 45712. NGC ID: 25ZU.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the 13 Leaves variety): 19; 16 finer (MS-66+ finest).

Acquired from Summit Rare Coins, April 2006.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4006  
1795 Capped Bust Right. BD-5, Taraszka-5. Rarity-5. 13 Leaves. AU-58 (PCGS).



## Elusive 1795 BD-5 Eagle Scarcest of the Four 13 Leaves Die Varieties



4006

**1795 Capped Bust Right. BD-5, Taraszka-5. Rarity-5. 13 Leaves. AU-58 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type I: Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle. Style I: Head of 1795 with 15 stars arranged 10 left, five right; Reverse of 1795 with 13 leaves on the palm branch. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-5, Taraszka-5, Breen 4-B, HBCC-3173. Obverse diagnostics include Liberty's bust over the tip of the digit 5 in the date and star 11 away from the letter Y in LIBERTY. On the reverse, the eighth leaf or frond on the palm branch is distant from the letter U in UNITED. This variety represents the last of three uses for this obverse die, which was earlier used to produce the BD-2, Taraszka-2 13 Leaves variety and the fabled BD-3, Taraszka-3 9 Leaves variety. BD-5, Taraszka-5 represents the final use of this reverse die, whose first use was in the BD-4, Taraszka-4 pairing.

**Die State:** BD Die State *e/c*. The obverse is in an even later, further lapped state than its last usage in the BD-3 9 Leaves marriage. Many of the star points are even further truncated, especially those for stars 2 and 9, and the lapping has also weakened the faint die cracks at the upper left and right points of star 13. The reverse exhibits a prominent lump die break in the field between the words OF and AMERICA, as well as light cracks through the letters UNITED ST and TES, as inherited from its use in the BD-4 marriage. In the present die state for the BD-5 pairing, the reverse die was lapped with the field areas extended between the eagle's legs and at the eagle's right hip. This is the only known die state for the 1795 BD-5 eagle.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** Most Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle tens were struck from 1795-dated dies. The mintage for calendar year 1795 is 5,583 coins, per Mint records. Dannreuther (*Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties: A Study of Die States, 1795-1834*, 2006) provides an estimate of coins struck from 1795-dated dies that ranges from a low of 5,859 to a high of 10,915 pieces.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther provides an estimated mintage of 500 to 1,000 coins from the 1795 BD-5 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 35 to 45 examples are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a well defined coin for the die state, the detail in the centers on both the obverse and reverse is sharp to full. Liberty's hair strands are individually outlined and most feathers on the eagle's breast are clear and sharp. Isolated peripheral features are a bit soft due to the aforementioned lapping of both dies, and there is scant denticulation at 2 to 3 o'clock on both sides due to the presence of a few extremely faint adjustment marks in that area on the obverse. All design elements are fully appreciable, nonetheless, and we note only the lightest trace of rubbing on the high points that is appropriate for the PCGS grade.

**Surfaces:** Deep, rich green-gold patina on both sides displays splashes of reddish-rose iridescence under a light. There is considerable evidence of a semi-prooflike finish; the surfaces are appreciable reflective in the fields. A faint, nearly vertical pin scratch in the lower reverse field from the end of the fourth palm frond is the only useful identifying feature, as the remaining handling marks are mostly small and singularly inconspicuous.

**Commentary:** BD-5 is the final die marriage produced for the 1795 Capped Bust Right eagle, and it is also the scarcest of the four associated with the 13 Leaves *Guide Book* variety. This variety was created when the early demise of the BD-4 obverse forced Mint personnel to return the obverse die of the BD-2 and BD-3 varieties to production. This obverse, therefore, became the workhorse of the issue, appearing in three different marriages. No die states of this variety are known other than BD Die State *e/c*, represented here, so it is likely that Mint personnel relapped both sides before using them in the BD-5 combination. This relapping points to clashing in the BD-4 marriage that undoubtedly contributed to (if not caused) the terminal damage to the obverse of that variety. The workhorse obverse of BD-2 and BD-3 was probably relapped as a matter of course to prepare it for one final press run in the BD-5 pairing. With fewer than 50 coins believed extant, BD-5 represents a significant find whenever an example appears on the market. The present example is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference. It is a superior quality Choice AU that will appeal to advanced type collectors and early gold variety specialists.

PCGS# 45713. NGC ID: 25ZU.

*From our (Stack's) sale of September 1995, lot 894. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka.*

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4007

1796 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-6, the only known dies. Rarity-4. AU-58 (PCGS).



## Semi-Prooflike 1796 Eagle Scarce and Highly Significant Issue



4007

**1796 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-6, the only known dies. Rarity-4. AU-58 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type I: Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle. Style III: Head of 1795 with 16 stars arranged eight left, eight right; Reverse of 1796 with 11 leaves on the palm branch. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot. This issue represents the only use of Style III in the Capped Bust Right eagle series.

**Die Variety:** BD-1, Taraszka-6, Breen 1-A, HBCC-3174. This is the only known die marriage for the 1796 Capped Bust Right eagle, the reverse also used to strike all known 1797 Small Eagle tens.

**Die State:** BD Die State c/b. The obverse exhibits a light crack that begins in the field below the letter E in LIBERTY and continues through Liberty's cap and the hair behind the ear before terminating at the edge of the bust above the digit 9 in the date. A second, considerably smaller crack is present from star 15 to the border. The reverse is lightly clashed, evidence for which is seen within the top of the wreath below the letters TES in STATES. This is the penultimate die state known for this variety.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The mintage for calendar year 1796 is 4,146 coins, per Mint records. Dannreuther estimates that 3,500 to 4,146 eagles were struck from the only known 1796-dated die pairing. The author's lower estimate allows for the likelihood that many 1795-dated eagles were delivered during calendar year 1796. Additionally, the existence of a single 1796 eagle in BD Die State d/c confirms that some 1796-dated coins were also struck in 1797 (see below).

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Since there is only a single die variety known for the 1796 eagle, the estimated mintage for the variety is the same as that for the issue.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Dannreuther provides an estimate of 125 to 175 coins extant in all grades.

**Strike:** The strike is impressive by the standards of the early United States Mint, the impression nicely centered on both sides within boldly and uniformly denticulated borders. The stars, branch and wreath are sharp, and Liberty's portrait and the eagle's plumage are full apart from trivial softness to the high points of Liberty's cap and bust, as well as the eagle's head, breast and legs.

**Surfaces:** Vivid golden yellow patina is seen on both sides of this beautiful early eagle. The finish is semi-prooflike with the fields retaining plenty of reflectivity. Wispy handling marks are most readily evident on the obverse over and around Liberty's portrait; closer inspection with a loupe also reveals numerous light, crisscrossing adjustment marks (as made) within the hair strands behind the ear.

**Commentary:** This is a scarce early eagle, not as rare as the 1797 Small Eagle, but appreciably scarcer than the first year 1795. The 1796 is also highly significant to those who study and collect die varieties and die states of early eagles. It is the first eagle that displays 16 stars on the obverse. Clearly the only known obverse die of this issue was prepared after Tennessee's admission to the Union as the 16th state on June 1, 1796. The reverse die is also significant due to its introduction of 11 leaves or fronds on the palm branch, likely the culmination of experimentation on the part of Mint personnel that began with the use of 13 leaves on most reverse dies of the 1795-dated issue and also saw the creation of the famous and scarce 1795 BD-3 9 Leaves variety. This reverse die would finish the Small Eagle series with its use in both the 1796- and 1797-dated issues. Finally, the 1796 as an issue is significant to variety specialists because it includes the first confirmed remarriage in the early eagle series. At least one 1796 eagle is known in BD Die State d/c, the reverse with a crack from the border through the right side of the letter O in OF to the wreath. Since this reverse also was used to strike all known 1797 Small Eagle tens, all confirmed examples of which do not display this crack, clearly some 1796-dated coins were struck after the 1797 Small Eagle pieces. The often-seen prominent obverse die crack on the 1797 Small Eagle coins likely resulted in the demise of that die and the brief return of the 1796-dated obverse to production (see below, in our description for the 1797 Small Eagle coin in this collection). For advanced type collectors or dedicated early eagle variety specialists, this premium quality 1796 holds tremendous appeal and is worthy of strong bids.

PCGS# 45715. NGC ID: BFYM.

PCGS Population: 17; 11 finer (MS-63 finest).

*Acquired from Mid-American Rare Coin Galleries at the Detroit ANA Convention, August 1994. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.*

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4008

1797 Capped Bust Right. Small Eagle. BD-1, Taraszka-7. Rarity-5. AU-55 (PCGS).



## Impressive 1797 Small Eagle Ten The Scarcest Date of the Small Eagle Design Type



4008

**1797 Capped Bust Right. Small Eagle. BD-1, Taraszka-7. Rarity-5. AU-55 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type I: Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle. Style IV: Head of 1795 with 16 stars arranged 12 left, four right; Reverse of 1796 with 11 leaves on the palm branch. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot. This issue represents the only use of Style IV in the Capped Bust Right eagle series.

**Die Variety:** BD-1, Taraszka-7, Breen 1-A, HBCC-3175. This is the only known die marriage for the 1797 Small Eagle ten, the reverse also used to strike all known 1796 eagles.

**Die State:** BD Die State b/b. The obverse has a prominent, advanced crack from the border past star 16 that extends nearly to Liberty's upper throat. A second, considerably lighter crack originates near the start of the first crack and extends to the end of the bust. The reverse die state is the same seen on most 1796 eagles with a light clash mark in the upper wreath below the letters TES in STATES and no cracks.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The mintage for the 1797 Small Eagle provided in most numismatic references is 3,615 coins, based on Walter Breen's (*Encyclopedia*, 1988) assertion that the 3,615 eagles delivered from March 25 through May 2, 1797, were of this issue. Based on a more exhaustive study of die states and emission sequences, as well as modern estimates on the number of coins extant, Dannreuther provides an estimated mintage of 1,250 to 3,615 coins for the 1797 Small Eagle. Indeed, we now know that some 1796-dated coins were struck after the 1797 Small Eagle pieces, perhaps included among the 3,615 eagles delivered between Mar 25 and May 2 (see below).

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Since there is only a single die variety known for the 1797 Small Eagle ten, the estimated mintage for the variety is the same as that for the issue.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Dannreuther believes that only 55 to 65 coins are extant, *PCGS CoinFacts* takes a similar stance with an estimate of 50 to 60 survivors.

**Strike:** This is an overall boldly defined early eagle, the denticulation full around both sides, all devices crisp, and the more protected areas of Liberty's portrait and the eagle retaining razor sharp detail. Trivial rub to the high points is commensurate with the assigned grade.

**Surfaces:** Both sides are predominantly lustrous with ample soft satin finish. The appearance is pleasing with a blend of deep gold and reddish-rose patina. Remarkably attractive for the type and the assigned grade, even trivial features for identification purposes are difficult to come by. Clearly this is a premium quality early eagle at the Choice AU level.

**Commentary:** The 1797 is the scarcest *date* in the brief Capped Bust Right, Small Eagle ten-dollar gold series of 1795 to 1797. Most survivors are of BD Die State b/b, as here, although the Harry Bass Core Collection specimen on display at the American Numismatic Association Museum is a notable exception without the prominent obverse die break at 4:30 (Die State a/b). As discussed above in our description for the 1796 eagle in this collection, at least one example of that date is known to have been struck after all known 1797 Small Eagle coins due to the presence of a reverse die crack from the border through the right side of the letter O in OF to the wreath. Whether a remarriage for the 1797 Small Eagle is also known is pending discovery of an example of this date with that reverse die crack. Your cataloger thinks this is unlikely since the prominent obverse die break seen on most 1797 Small Eagle coins undoubtedly resulted in the die's failure, withdrawal from production, and (brief) replacement by the 1796-dated obverse die. A highlight of the present sale, this lovely and scarce early eagle is sure to find its way into another highly regarded numismatic cabinet.

PCGS# 45716. NGC ID: BFYN.

PCGS Population: 6; 6 finer, three of which are Mint State (MS-61 finest).

Acquired from Mid-American Rare Coin Galleries at the Detroit ANA Convention, August 1994. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4009  
1797 Capped Bust Right. Heraldic Eagle. BD-2, Taraszka-8. Rarity-4+. AU-58 (PCGS).



## Highly Significant 1797 BD-2, Taraszka-8 Large Eagle Ten Early Obverse Die State



4009

**1797 Capped Bust Right. Heraldic Eagle. BD-2, Taraszka-8. Rarity-4+. AU-58 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style I: Head of 1795 with 16 stars arranged 10 left, six right; Reverse of 1797A with 13 stars in the field below the clouds and a long, thin neck on the eagle. The head punch is attributed to a hub prepared by Robert Scot, while the eagle punch is attributed by some to a hub prepared by John Smith Gardner.

**Die Variety:** BD-2, Taraszka-8, Breen 2-B, HBCC-3177. Only one obverse die was used to strike all three die marriages of the 1797 Heraldic Eagle ten, and it is easily distinguished from the obverse die of the 1797 Small Eagle issue by the 10x6 star arrangement (as opposed to 12x4). The long, thin neck eagle is definitive for the reverse die of BD-2, Taraszka-8, which does not appear in any other die pairing in this series.

**Die State:** BD Die State a/b. The obverse die state is particularly significant in that this coin does not display either of the two cracks through the digit 7 in the date that are present on virtually all known 1797 BD-2 eagles. In fact, Dannreuther states that this obverse die state: "may exist, but currently the obverse is only known with the date crack." The reverse exhibits a tiny die rust lump on top of the second letter T in STATES. Although Dannreuther uses this lump to define Reverse Die State b of this variety, he states that it "may be present for all states, thus this would be State a." The fact that the second 1797 BD-2 eagle in this collection lacks this die rust lump confirms that it is not present for all states (see below). In your cataloger's opinion, the significant feature for determining the difference between Reverse Die State a and b of the 1797 BD-2 eagle is the presence or absence of a die crack from the border between the words STATES and OF to cloud 5 and, later, into the star field. Taraszka notes this crack as: "Edge - field between S and O - cloud 5 - star 13. (None to Light)" On the present coin this crack is present, yet faint and extends only to cloud 5, which in your cataloger's opinion defines Reverse Die State b of this variety. Early to middle die state examples (*i.e.*, pre-lapping) also display several tiny die rust lumps in the field between the words STATES and OF, as well as a sharp spike-like projection from the second dentil to the left of the letter O in OF.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The mintage for the 1797 Heraldic Eagle provided in most numismatic references is 10,940 coins, based on Walter Breen's assumption that production from the new Heraldic Eagle reverse dies began on June 7, 1797, with coins bearing that date

continuing to be delivered through January 30, 1798. According to Mint records, 10,940 eagles were delivered during that period. Based on a more exhaustive study of die states and emission sequences, as well as modern estimates on the number of coins extant, Dannreuther provides a broader range of 8,750 to 12,500 coins struck for the 1797 Heraldic Eagle.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 3,500 to 5,000 examples were coined from the 1797 BD-2 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Eighty to 100 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** Evenly and boldly struck on both sides; the reverse, as typically the case for this variety, is particularly sharp with crisp delineation throughout the eagle's plumage.

**Surfaces:** Handsomely original surfaces exhibit a blend of deep olive and straw gold patina, as well as subtle rose highlights around the peripheries. Overall texture is satiny, but there is some modest semi-reflectivity in the fields, especially on the reverse. Both sides are smooth with a tiny planchet pit in the obverse field before Liberty's nose the only worthwhile provenance marker.

**Commentary:** The Heraldic Eagle reverse design made its debut in the ten-dollar gold series with coins dated 1797. The work of Assistant Engraver John Smith Gardner, this design is based on the Great Seal of the United States. Its earliest use in the U.S. Mint's gold series came in 1796 with the introduction of the quarter eagle. In addition to introducing this reverse design on ten-dollar gold eagles, the 1797 Heraldic Eagle issue is significant due to the final appearance of the 16-Star Obverse for this denomination. Beginning with the 1798-dated issue all eagles through the end of the Capped Bust Right series in 1804 would display 13 stars on the obverse, although the Mint did not standardize the arrangement of these stars until 1799. BD-2 vies with BD-4 as the most readily obtainable die marriage of the 1797 Heraldic Eagle ten. The present example, however, is a notable rarity due to the early obverse die state, unknown to Dannreuther, as related above. Mr. Taraszka clearly recognized the significance of this coin's die state, and he acquired it as a companion piece to the late die state example offered below. The only Die State a/b 1797 BD-2 eagle that your cataloger has ever handled. This is an important bidding opportunity for early gold variety enthusiasts.

PCGS# 45717. NGC ID: 25ZY.

*From our (Stack's) sale of June 2000, lot 1278, and pictured on the front cover of that auction catalog.*

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4010  
1797 Capped Bust Right. Heraldic Eagle. BD-2, Taraszka-8. Rarity-4+. MS-62 (PCGS).



## Second 1797 BD-2 Eagle Previously Unknown Late Reverse Die State



4010

**1797 Capped Bust Right. Heraldic Eagle. BD-2, Taraszka-8. Rarity-4+. MS-62 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style I: Head of 1795 with 16 stars arranged 10 left, six right; Reverse of 1797A with 13 stars in the field below the clouds and a long, thin neck on the eagle. The head punch is attributed to a hub prepared by Robert Scot, while the eagle punch is attributed by some scholars to a hub prepared by John Smith Gardner.

**Die Variety:** BD-2, Taraszka-8, Breen 2-B, HBCC-3177. Only one obverse die was used to strike all three die marriages of the 1797 Heraldic Eagle ten, and it is easily distinguished from the obverse die of the 1797 Small Eagle issue by the 10x6 star arrangement (as opposed to 12x4). The long, thin neck eagle is definitive for the reverse die of BD-2, Taraszka-8, which does not appear in any other die pairing in this series.

**Die State:** BD Die State b/c. This is the typically encountered obverse die state of the 1797 BD-2 variety, identifiable by prominent die cracks through the second digit 7 in the date. The base of that digit is joined to the border by a single prominent crack, which has now developed into a small cud. There are two cracks within that digit, the left crack continuing only to the lower serif while the right crack, with die crumble evident, continues through the top of the 7 to the base of Liberty's bust. The latest reverse die state of this variety known to Dannreuther is Die State b, with a rust lump on top of the second letter T in STATES. The author, however, does write: "State c, terminal, may exist, as this is the only use of this die." The present example is in a later state than known to Dannreuther when he created his book in 2006, and we have attributed it as Reverse Die State c. The die has been lapped, removing the rust lump on top of the second letter T in STATES, thinning some of the letters in the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, removing the tiny die rust lumps in the field between the words STATES and OF and the sharp spike-like projection from the second denticle to the left of the letter O in OF, and truncating many of the dentils, especially those along the upper border. In particular, the dentils above the letter E in STATES are noticeably shorter and weaker. The die crack between the words STATES and OF to cloud 5 is bolder than seen on the Die State b example offered above, and it extends faintly into the star field.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The mintage for the 1797 Heraldic Eagle provided in most numismatic references is 10,940 coins, based on Walter Breen's assumption that production from the new Heraldic Eagle reverse dies began on June 7, 1797, with coins bearing that date continuing to be delivered through January 30, 1798. According to Mint records, 10,940 eagles were delivered during that period. Based on a more exhaustive study of die states and emission sequences, as well as modern estimates on the number of coins extant, Dannreuther provides a broader range of 8,750 to 12,500 coins struck for the 1797 Heraldic Eagle.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 3,500 to 5,000 examples were coined from the 1797 BD-2 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Eighty to 100 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** The strike is bold to sharp throughout with good detail to the hair curls behind Liberty's ear in the center of the obverse and crisp delineation throughout the eagle's plumage.

**Surfaces:** Beautiful golden yellow patina blankets frosty surfaces, the most intense luster reserved for the protected areas around the peripheral devices. Blushes of reddish-apricot toning are also evident around the borders, especially in the date area. Wispy obverse handling marks account for the MS-62 designation from PCGS. The only useful identifiers are a faint hairline scratch in the left field, a short abrasion on Liberty's cheek behind the nose, and a couple of tiny scuffs in the right field at star 12.

**Commentary:** This is a gorgeous early eagle from the first year of the Heraldic Eagle design that is sure to attract keen interest among gold type collectors. The Mint State preservation is particularly significant for advanced collectors, as even the most available early U.S. Mint gold issues are scarce in an absolute sense and rare in Uncirculated condition. This is to the best of our knowledge the discovery coin for Reverse Die State c of the 1797 BD-2 attribution. It is a highlight of the present collection and worthy of very strong bids. This coin is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference.

PCGS# 45717. NGC ID: 25ZY.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the issue): 15; 6 finer (MS-63+ finest).

From our (Stack's) sale of January 1994, lot 1132. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.



Lot 4011  
1797 Capped Bust Right. Heraldic Eagle. BD-3, Taraszka-11. Rarity-5. MS-63 (PCGS).



## Beautiful Choice Mint State 1797 BD-3 Eagle Struck After Both 1798/7 Die Varieties



4011

**1797 Capped Bust Right. Heraldic Eagle. BD-3, Taraszka-11. Rarity-5. MS-63 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style III: Head of 1795 with 16 stars arranged 10 left, six right; Reverse of 1797B with 13 stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thin neck on the eagle. The head punch is attributed to a hub prepared by Robert Scot, while the eagle punch is often attributed to a hub prepared by John Smith Gardner.

**Die Variety:** BD-3, Taraszka-11, Breen 2-D, HBCC-3178. Only one obverse die was used to strike all three die marriages of the 1797 Heraldic Eagle ten, and it is easily distinguished from the obverse die of the 1797 Small Eagle issue by the 10x6 star arrangement (as opposed to 12x4). The short, thin neck eagle is definitive for this reverse die when paired with the 1797-dated obverse, although this reverse was also used to strike both varieties of the 1798/7 eagle (Stars 9x4 and 7x6).

**Die State:** BD Die State d/c. This is the second known obverse die state of this variety, and the latest known for this workhorse die that was also used to strike the 1797 BD-2 and BD-4 eagles. In this die state, there are prominent die cracks through the second digit 7 in the date. The base of that digit is joined to the border by a single prominent crack, which has now developed into a small cud. There are two cracks within that digit, the left crack continuing only to the lower serif while the right crack, with die crumble evident, continues through the top of the 7 to the base of Liberty's bust. An additional die crack is present from the border through star 8, and the die has been lapped with the innermost points of several stars on the left noticeably truncated, especially star 10. The reverse die state, the only one known for this variety, is particularly significant for it confirms that the 1797 BD-2 was struck after both die marriages of the 1798/7 issue (see below). The die has been lapped with several of the letters in the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and many of the dentils weakened. There are light cracks through the tops of the letters UN and TED in UNITED, as inherited from Die State b (1798/7 BD-1 and BD-2), as well as a new crack from the eagle's beak down through the shield to one of the vertical stripes.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The mintage for the 1797 Heraldic Eagle provided in most numismatic references is 10,940 coins, based on Walter Breen's assumption that production from the new Heraldic Eagle reverse dies began on June 7, 1797 with coins bearing that date continuing to be delivered through January 30, 1798. According to Mint records, 10,940 eagles were delivered during that period. Based

on a more exhaustive study of die states and emission sequences, as well as modern estimates on the number of coins extant, Dannreuther provides a broader range of 8,750 to 12,500 coins struck for the 1797 Heraldic Eagle.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 1,750 to 2,500 examples were coined from the 1797 BD-3 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 40 to 50 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is an overall sharply struck example with Liberty's hair curls and the eagle's wing feathers particularly well defined. Most other features are also sharp, although we do note a touch of softness to the eagle's breast in the center of the reverse, as well as along the right obverse border.

**Surfaces:** This vividly and originally toned beauty exhibits dominant olive-gold patina with splashes of reddish-rose iridescence around the peripheries and devices, especially on the reverse. Luster is full with a satin to modestly semi-reflective finish. A concentration of wispy handling marks in the left obverse field and a tiny carbon spot within Liberty's hair curls behind the earlobe are mentioned as identifying features.

**Commentary:** BD-3 is the rarest of the three known die marriages of the 1797 Heraldic Eagle ten, and is approximately twice as scarce as both BD-2 and BD-4. Taraszka was the first numismatic scholar to conclude that this variety was struck after both die marriages of the 1798/7 issue, an assessment with which Dannreuther concurs. Taraszka's finding was based on the fact that the reverse die state of all known 1797 BD-3 eagles is later than those of both the 1798/7 BD-1 and BD-2 varieties (all three were struck from the same reverse die). Most significantly, the 1797 BD-3 is the only one of these three varieties that displays reverse die lapping and the crack from the eagle's beak into the shield. Scarce in an absolute sense and rare from a condition standpoint, this lovely early eagle would be an excellent choice for an advanced type or variety set. It ranks high among the survivors of the issue certified by PCGS, and is one of the most desirable Heraldic Eagle tens of any date or die pairing that we have brought to auction. Outstanding! This coin is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference.

PCGS# 45718. NGC ID: 25ZY.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the issue): 4; 1 finer (MS-63+).

From our *(Stack's) Fixed Price List of 1994*, lot 114. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4012  
1797 Capped Bust Right. Heraldic Eagle. BD-4, Taraszka-12. Rarity-4+. MS-61 (PCGS).



Lovely Mint State 1797 BD-4 Eagle  
 Significant Long, Thick Neck Reverse Style  
 Unique in the Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle Series



4012

1797 Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. BD-4, Taraszka-12. Rarity-4+. MS-61 (PCGS).

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style II: Head of 1795 with 16 stars arranged 10 left, six right; Reverse of 1797C with 13 stars in the field below the clouds and a long, thick neck on the eagle. The head punch is attributed to a hub prepared by Robert Scot, while the eagle punch is attributed by some to a hub prepared by John Smith Gardner.

**Die Variety:** BD-4, Taraszka-12, Breen 2-C, HBCC-3179. Only one obverse die was used to strike all three die marriages of the 1797 Heraldic Eagle ten, and it is easily distinguished from the obverse die of the 1797 Small Eagle issue by the 10x6 star arrangement (as opposed to 12x4). The long, thick neck eagle is definitive for the reverse die of BD-4, Taraszka-12, which style does not appear on any other Capped Bust, Heraldic Eagle ten-dollar variety.

**Die State:** BD Die State d/a. This is the only known obverse die state of this variety, and the latest known for this workhorse die that was also used to strike the 1797 BD-2 and BD-3 eagles. In this die state, there are prominent die cracks through the second digit 7 in the date. The base of that digit is joined to the border by a single prominent crack, which has now developed into a small cud. There are two cracks within that digit, the left crack continuing only to the lower serif while the right crack, with die crumble evident, continues through the top of the 7 to the base of Liberty's bust. An additional die crack is present from the border through star 8, and the die has been lapped with the innermost points of several stars on the left noticeably truncated, especially star 10. The reverse die state is the earlier of two known for this variety, although it is slightly advanced from that described by Dannreuther. While the author reports this die state as having "no clashing, no lapping, no cracks," the present example reveals the earliest beginnings of a crack from the border down through the left side of the letter R in AMERICA. This crack would later expand and help to define Reverse Die State b of this variety.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The mintage for the 1797 Heraldic Eagle provided in most numismatic references is 10,940 coins, based on Walter Breen's assumption that production from the new Heraldic Eagle reverse dies began on June 7, 1797 with coins bearing that date continuing to be delivered through January 30, 1798. According to Mint records, 10,940 eagles were delivered during that period. Based on a more exhaustive study of die states and emission sequences, as well as modern estimates on the number of coins extant, Dannreuther provides a broader range of 8,750 to 12,500 coins struck for the 1797 Heraldic Eagle.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 3,500 to 5,000 examples were coined from the 1797 BD-4 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Ninety to 110 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a well produced example with most design elements boldly to sharply defined. There is a touch of softness along the upper left obverse border and minor lack of detail to stars 1 through 10 on that side is due to the aforementioned lapping.

**Surfaces:** Handsome deep gold patina with iridescent rose highlights evident around the peripheries. Both sides are satiny with strong luster for the assigned grade, especially on the reverse. There are no handling marks of note, and the appearance is quite nice for the MS-61 grade level.

**Commentary:** As related above in our description for the 1797 BD-3 eagle in this collection, Anthony Taraszka concluded that all known examples of that variety were struck after the two die marriages of the 1798/7 eagle (all three varieties share the same reverse). The only known reverse die state of 1797 BD-3 is later than the reverse die states of the 1798/7 BD-1 and BD-2 varieties. While BD-4 employs a different reverse die than those three varieties, it shares its obverse with 1797 BD-3. This is significant for the obverse die in the 1797 BD-4 pairing inherits the later state from the 1797 BD-3 marriage, confirming that the former variety was also struck after the 1798/7 BD-1 and BD-2 eagles. The 1797 BD-4 variety features a unique reverse style in the early ten-dollar gold series with a long, thick neck on the eagle. Dannreuther describes this as a "little known subvariety of the Large [sic] Eagle type" and a "transitional reverse between the tall and short neck reverses." The author believes that the long, thin neck eagle punch used for the 1797 BD-2 variety — the first Heraldic Eagle punch prepared by John Smith Gardner — was modified to create the long, thick neck style by the addition of extra detail to the eagle's breast. BD-4 is the most readily available die marriage of the 1797 Heraldic Eagle ten, just barely edging out BD-2 for this distinction. Of course, a variety with no more than 110 coins believed extant is scarce when viewed in the wider context of U.S. numismatics. Additionally, and due to unrelenting pressure from advanced gold type collectors, high quality examples of BD-4 are rare from a market availability standpoint. The second of two 1797 BD-4 eagles acquired by Mr. Taraszka, this coin was obviously added to his collection to illustrate the early reverse die state of the variety. Worthy of another specialized early gold variety set, this lovely example is equally well suited for advanced type purposes.

PCGS# 45719. NGC ID: 25ZY.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the issue): 19; 21 finer (MS-63+ finest).

From Heritage's ANA Signature Auction of August 2015, lot 4415.



Lot 4013

1797 Capped Bust Right. Heraldic Eagle. BD-4, Taraszka-12. Rarity-4+. MS-61 (PCGS).



## A Second 1797 BD-4 Heraldic Eagle Ten Late Reverse Die State



4013

**1797 Capped Bust Right. Heraldic Eagle. BD-4, Taraszka-12. Rarity-4+. MS-61 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style II: Head of 1795 with 16 stars arranged 10 left, six right; Reverse of 1797C with 13 stars in the field below the clouds and a long, thick neck on the eagle. The head punch is attributed to a hub prepared by Robert Scot, while the eagle punch is attributed by some scholars to a hub prepared by John Smith Gardner.

**Die Variety:** BD-4, Taraszka-12, Breen 2-C, HBCC-3179. Only one obverse die was used to strike all three die marriages of the 1797 Heraldic Eagle ten, and it is easily distinguished from the obverse die of the 1797 Small Eagle issue by the 10x6 star arrangement (as opposed to 12x4). The long, thick neck eagle is definitive for the reverse die of BD-4, Taraszka-12, which style does not appear on any other Capped Bust, Heraldic Eagle ten-dollar variety.

**Die State:** BD Die State d/b. This is the only known obverse die state of this variety, and the latest known for this workhorse die that was also used to strike the 1797 BD-2 and BD-3 eagles. In this die state, there are prominent die cracks through the second digit 7 in the date. The base of that digit is joined to the border by a single prominent crack, which has now developed into a small cud. There are two cracks within that digit, the left crack continuing only to the lower serif while the right crack, with die crumble evident, continues through the top of the 7 to the base of Liberty's bust. An additional die crack is present from the border through star 8, and the die has been lapped with the innermost points of several stars on the left noticeably truncated, especially that of star 10. The reverse die state is the later of two known for this variety. There is a crack from the border through the left side of the letter R in AMERICA to the leaf directly below the left foot of that letter. Another border crack bisects the letter C in AMERICA and terminates at the olive branch, and a third crack is evident from the border to the eagle's tail.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The mintage for the 1797 Heraldic Eagle provided in most numismatic references is 10,940 coins, based on Walter Breen's assumption that production from the new Heraldic

Eagle reverse dies began on June 7, 1797, with coins bearing that date continuing to be delivered through January 30, 1798. According to Mint records, 10,940 eagles were delivered during that period. Based on a more exhaustive study of die states and emission sequences, as well as modern estimates on the number of coins extant, Dannreuther provides a broader range of 8,750 to 12,500 coins struck for the 1797 Heraldic Eagle.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 3,500 to 5,000 examples were coined from the 1797 BD-4 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Ninety to 110 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is an overall boldly defined example with the borders uniformly denticulated around both sides, the individual strands of Liberty's hair boldly to sharply delineated, and the eagle's wing feathers full. A series of faint adjustment marks (as made) in the center of the reverse explain the softness of detail to the eagle's breast, head, the fifth cloud from the left, and the stars above the eagle's head. All other features are sharply rendered.

**Surfaces:** Both sides are semi- to fully prooflike with the reverse field, in particular, noticeably reflective when using direct lighting. Vivid golden-orange surfaces display only small, wispy handling marks explaining the MS-61 grade from PCGS. Close inspection with a loupe reveals a few extremely light planchet flaws (as made) on the reverse above the eagle's head that, to the unaided eye, blend seamlessly with the aforementioned adjustment marks in that area.

**Commentary:** The second of two 1797 BD-4 eagles in this collection, Mr. Taraszka undoubtedly retained this coin to illustrate the later reverse die state of the variety after he acquired the early reverse die state example offered above. It is a beautiful and rare Mint State example of the type, variety and die state, as well as the often overlooked long, thick neck eagle style seen only on this die marriage.

PCGS# 45719. NGC ID: 25ZY.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the issue): 19; 21 finer (MS-63+ finest).

Acquired from Mid-American Rare Coin Galleries at the Detroit ANA Convention, August 1994. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4014  
1798/7 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-9. Rarity-4+. Stars 9x4. AU-58 (PCGS).



## Impressive Choice AU 1798/7 BD-1 Eagle Unique Style Stars 9x4 Obverse



4014

**1798/7 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-9. Rarity-4+. Stars 9x4. AU-58 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style IV: Head of 1795 with 13 stars arranged nine left, four right; Reverse of 1797B with 13 stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thin neck on the eagle. The head punch is attributed to a hub prepared by Robert Scot, while the eagle punch is often attributed to a hub prepared by John Smith Gardner.

**Die Variety:** BD-1, Taraszka-9, Breen 1-A, HBCC-3180. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die in the Capped Bust Right eagle series, the 9x4 star arrangement definitive. The same reverse die was used to strike both varieties of the 1798/7 eagle, and it was later used by the Mint in the 1797 BD-3 pairing.

**Die State:** BD Die State b/b. This is the earliest obverse die state known for the 1798/7 BD-1 eagle, with only a single crack from the dentil above the L in LIBERTY, down through that letter and Liberty's cap before terminating in the hair curls below the lower edge of the cap. In Die State c this crack would continue into the field opposite stars 3 and 4, and additional cracks would appear, most notably from the border through the letter R in LIBERTY to the hair curl at Liberty's forehead. There is also only a single reverse die state currently known for this variety, and it is attributable by light cracks through the tops of the letters UN and TED in UNITED, seen faintly on the present example. Die State a/a coins, with no obverse or reverse cracks, are currently unknown for the 1798/7 BD-1 eagle and may not exist.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** Walter Breen asserts that 1,742 eagles were struck from 1798-dated dies, composed of the 900 coins delivered on February 17, 1798, and the 842 pieces delivered on February 28 of that year. Based on a more exhaustive study of die states and emission sequences, as well as modern estimates on the number of coins extant, Dannreuther provides a broader range of 1,500 to 2,442 coins struck for the 1798/7 eagle as an issue, a figure comprising *both* varieties of the overdate.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Numismatic tradition accepts a mintage of 900 coins for the 1798/7 Stars 9x4 eagle, based on Breen's assertion that the 900 eagles delivered on February 17, 1798, were the only examples produced from this die pairing. Since 80 to 100 coins are believed extant from this die marriage, however, Dannreuther asserts that the mintage of this variety was likely on the order of 1,200 to 1,600 coins, some of which were undoubtedly delivered on and/or after February 28, 1798.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Eighty to 100 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a boldly to sharply struck early eagle with only trivial lack of detail along the lower right obverse border, at star 4 on the same side, and over the highest elements of the design, the last due to light rubbing that explains the Choice AU grade assigned by PCGS.

**Surfaces:** Both sides offer handsome deep gold patina with intermingled reddish-rose highlights that are most pronounced around the peripheries. The fields are semi-reflective, especially on the reverse, and the surfaces exhibit only wispy handling marks under a light. A few extremely shallow planchet depressions in the right obverse field appear as milky spots to the unaided eye. For identification purposes, a moderate-size flan flaw is seen in the lower reverse field at the tip of the branch stem.

**Commentary:** Although the rarity of this date has been overstated in the past (Breen, for one, estimated that only 31 to 33 1798/7 eagles of both varieties were extant), this issue still ranks as the second scarcest in the early eagle series after the final year 1804 Crosslet 4. BD-1 is the more readily available of the two varieties of this issue. The 1798 as an issue is significant as the first in the early eagle series to feature overdate dies, both obverses having the digit 8 cut over a 7. It is also significant as the first in its series with 13 stars on the obverse, and clearly both obverse dies were prepared after the Mint abandoned the idea of adding a star for each new state that joined the Union. After Tennessee's admission brought the requisite number of stars under that plan to 16, overcrowding of the design clearly became a problem, leading to the decision to feature only 13 stars in honor of the original 13 states. Mint employees initially experimented with the arrangement of the 13 stars on the obverse dies of the eagle, with the two 1798/7 varieties displaying different arrangements of 9x4 and 7x6, respectively. In the end, neither of those arrangements were accepted for long term use, as the Mint instead decided on the 8x5 arrangement for all remaining Capped Bust Right eagles beginning with the 1799-dated coins. As such, the 1798/7 BD-1, with its 9x4 star arrangement, is unique in the early eagle series and represents a must-have variety for the serious gold type collector. This is one of the finest certified examples of the variety and is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" in the Taraszka early eagle reference. With an illustrious provenance, as well, this coin is sure to find its way into another world class early gold cabinet.

PCGS# 45720. NGC ID: BFYR.

PCGS Population: 4; 6 finer (MS-62+ finest).

*Ex Colonel E.H.R. Green; Stack's, 1945; our (Stack's) sale of the James A. Stack, Sr. Collection, March 1995, lot 556. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka.*

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4015  
1798/7 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-10. Rarity-6-. Stars 7x6. AU-58 (PCGS).



## Highly Elusive 1798/7 Stars 7x6 Eagle Unique Obverse Star Arrangement



4015

**1798/7 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-10. Rarity-6-. Stars 7x6. AU-58 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style V: Head of 1795 with 13 stars arranged seven left, six right; Reverse of 1797B with 13 stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thin neck on the eagle. The head punch is attributed to a hub prepared by Robert Scot, while the eagle punch is attributed by some researchers to a hub prepared by John Smith Gardner.

**Die Variety:** BD-2, Taraszka-10, Breen 2-A, HBCC-3181. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die in the Capped Bust Right eagle series, the 7x6 star arrangement definitive. The same reverse die was used to strike both varieties of the 1798/7 eagle, and it was later used by the Mint in the 1797 BD-3 pairing.

**Die State:** BD Die State b/b. Only a single obverse die state is currently known for this variety, Die State a coins with no clashing, lapping or cracks unconfirmed. Die State b, represented here, exhibits three particularly prominent cracks: from the border through the lowermost points of star 7 to the back of Liberty's cap; from the field behind the cap, through the cap, hair, split curl and cheek to the chin; and from the upper border through the upright of the letter E in LIBERTY to the top of the cap. All known examples of this variety also exhibit a small die break lump in the lower left obverse field before star 1. There is also only a single reverse die state currently known for this variety, and it is inherited from the 1798/7 BD-1 pairing with light cracks through the tops of the letters UN and TED in UNITED.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** Walter Breen asserts that 1,742 eagles were struck from 1798-dated dies, composed of the 900 coins delivered on February 17, 1798, and the 842 pieces delivered on February 28 of that year. Based on a more exhaustive study of die states and emission sequences, as well as modern estimates on the number of coins extant, Dannreuther provides a broader range of 1,500 to 2,442 coins struck for the 1798/7 eagle as an issue.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Numismatic tradition accepts a mintage of 842 coins for the 1798/7 Stars 7x6 eagle, based on Breen's assertion that the 842-piece delivery of February 28, 1798 was achieved using only this die pairing. Given the paucity of survivors in numismatic circles, however, Dannreuther provides an estimated mintage of 300 to 842 coins for this variety, many of the coins delivered on February 28 likely from the 1798/7 BD-1 Stars 9x4 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 20 to 30 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a well struck early eagle with fully and uniformly denticulated borders around bold to sharp design elements. Softness of detail is minor and largely confined to a few of the obverse stars and the highest points of Liberty's portrait and the eagle's breast and wings.

**Surfaces:** Originally toned in deep gold, both sides also exhibit pretty reddish-rose highlights around the peripheries. Ample semi-prooflike finish remains, the fields faintly mirrored when viewed with direct lighting. Free of all but wispy handling marks, thin obverse strikethroughs at the border outside the lowest point of star 3 and in the field inside star 6 are the most useful identifying features.

**Commentary:** Like its identically dated BD-1 counterpart, the 1798/7 BD-2 eagle is unique for its obverse star arrangement in the Capped Bust Right ten-dollar gold series. Although this obverse die represents the only use of the 7x6 star arrangement, this actually seems like a more appropriate arrangement than the 8x5 style that replaced it beginning with the 1799-dated coins. The 7x6 arrangement allows better centering of the word LIBERTY along the upper border, while on all stars 8x5 obverse dies the word LIBERTY begins in front of the cap and continues far to the right to approximately the 2 o'clock position. The scarcity of this variety precludes many numismatists from ever seeing a 1798/7 Stars 7x6 eagle, let alone acquiring an example for their collection. Indeed, after only the 1795 BD-3 9 Leaves, this is the scarcest early eagle die variety produced up to that point in time. The elusiveness of survivors is certainly due to the fact that few coins were struck in the first place. The obverse die failed quickly and developed myriad cracks, as seen on all known examples. It was replaced by the workhorse die of the 1797 Heraldic Eagle issue which, when mated with the same reverse die of both 1798/7 varieties, went on to strike the 1797 BD-3 variety. It was then the turn of the reverse die to yield to a replacement, after which the 1797 BD-4 variety emerged from the press. With the number of coins believed extant suggesting more extensive mintages, both the 1797 BD-3 and BD-4 varieties were likely delivered after February 28, 1798. The 842 eagles delivered on that date probably comprised a small number of 1798/7 BD-2 coins and additional 1798/7 BD-1 examples. As with so many early eagle varieties, the rarity of the 1798/7 Stars 7x6 has been overstated in the past. Breen (1988) asserted that only 13 examples were known. The actual number of survivors is approximately twice that number, which is still small in an absolute sense and confirms this as a very scarce variety. The unique obverse star arrangement places increased variety collector pressure on the few known examples, further highlighting the bidding opportunity represented by the present offering. This coin is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference.

PCGS# 45721. NGC ID: BFYS.

PCGS Population: 4; 3 finer (MS-62 finest).

Ex "Colonel" E.H.R. Green; *Stack's, 1945; our (Stack's) sale of the James A. Stack, Sr. Collection, March 1995, lot 555. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka.*



Lot 4016

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-13. Rarity-7. Small Obverse Stars. AU-53 (PCGS). CAC.



## Highly Significant 1799 BD-1 Eagle

### One of Just Five Specimens Positively Confirmed to Exist

### The Second Rarest Die Variety in the Capped Bust Right Eagle Series



4016

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-13. Rarity-7. Small Obverse Stars. AU-53 (PCGS). CAC.**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VI: Head of 1795 with 13 small stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-1, Taraszka-13, Breen-Unlisted ("6"-A), HBCC-3182. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die in the Capped Bust Right eagle series and the first of four uses of this reverse die. The obverse is identifiable by a wide, evenly spaced date with one point of star 9 touching the letter Y in LIBERTY under the right serif, one point of star 13 close to the end of Liberty's bust, and repunching to star 12. On the reverse, the lowermost arrow head is under the extreme left edge of the letter N in UNITED, a leaf tip just touches the center of the letter I in UNITED, the lowermost berry is centered under the final letter A in AMERICA, a faint, jagged die line originates at the border above the right edge of the letter O in OF, bisects that letter and terminates at cloud 5, and there are small die rust lumps between the letters UN in UNITED and within the top of the N.

**Die State:** BD Die State b/b. This is the typically encountered die state of this variety, Die State a/a with no clashing, cracks or lapping on either the obverse or reverse currently unknown, and only one example known with an earlier state of the obverse (see below). On the obverse, prominent die cracks are evident from the border through star 8 into the field parallel to the back of the cap and from the border through the letter L in LIBERTY and the cap into Liberty's face behind the eye. The reverse is also cracked, albeit much less significantly with a noncontiguous rust-like crack or ridge within the letter C in AMERICA, through the adjacent A, the eagle's left talon, the stem end and into the tail feathers.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the

possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 250 to 750 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-1 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only five to seven coins are believed extant in all grades, per the estimate of John Dannreuther. We have positively confirmed the existence of only five different specimens (see below).

**Strike:** Both sides display a boldly executed strike, the reverse with particularly sharp detail throughout much of the eagle's plumage. The high points of Liberty's portrait reveal light rub that explains the AU-50 grade from PCGS, but the more recessed hair strands are crisply delineated. The borders are fully and uniformly denticulated around both sides, and all other features are boldly to sharply defined.

**Surfaces:** Handsome olive-gold patina is highlighted by some brighter golden-yellow as well as subtle pinkish-rose around the peripheries. Ample satin to semi-prooflike luster remains, the latter particularly pronounced in the reverse field. The appearance is quite smooth for the assigned grade, identifying features confined to a tiny nick in the right obverse field before Liberty's chin and an extremely faint pin scratch along the lower reverse border after the final letter A in AMERICA.

**Commentary:** After delivering 842 eagles on February 28, 1798, the Mint ceased production of this denomination until May 14, 1799. The first 1799-dated coins introduced several new features that would become standard through the end of the Capped Bust Right series in 1804. For the obverse, the Mint finally settled upon the 8x5 arrangement for the 13 stars. The reverse features the first use of Robert Scot's Heraldic Eagle hub, which differs from the various John Smith Gardner hubs in several key aspects. The stars are in a distinct and even arc pattern, there are four vertical lines in the six shield stripes, the eagle has a short, thick neck, and there are three as opposed to two rows of feathers in the eagle's tail. BD-1 is undoubtedly the first 1799-dated variety produced, for there is a unique copper die trial known. That coin, attributed as Judd-26 and Pollock-44, most recently appeared at auction in our (Bowers and Merena's) Salisbury

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



and Woods Collections sale, September 1994, lot 1023. It represents the Mint's initial test of the new Scot reverse, the chisel marks on the reverse probably added to prevent the coin from being gilt and passed in commercial channels as a gold striking. For many years, this copper die trial was the only known example from the BD-1 dies. The earliest known confirmation of the 1799 BD-1 dies in gold was made by Harry W. Bass, Jr. when he acquired his example from Lester Merkin's February 1972 sale. The cataloger erroneously attributed the coin as Breen 1-A, but was aware that the obverse die cracks were unpublished and, thereby, significant.

Today, as stated, we know of only five specimens that are positively confirmed to exist:

- 1) **AU-55.** Ex Superior's Pre-Long Beach Coin Sale of October 2001, lot 2874, unattributed.
- 2) **PCGS AU-53.** Ex Heritage's ANA Sale of July 1994, lot 5817, incorrectly attributed as Breen 1-A; Anthony J. Taraszka. *The present example.*
- 3) **EF or finer.** Ex Lester Merkin's sale of February 1972, lot 433, incorrectly attributed as Breen 1-A; Harry W. Bass Core Collection.
- 4) **NCS AU Details—Improperly Cleaned.** Ex Ira & Larry Goldbergs'

sale of the Benson Collection, Part III, February 2003, lot 2083; Heritage's Signature Coin Auction of March 2009, lot 3057. This coin is the earliest known die state of the variety, the obverse not perfect, but with only a single, short crack from the border to star 8. Either this coin is BD Die State a/a (i.e., no perfect obverse die state coins were ever produced) or it is an intermediate Obverse Die State a-b.

5) **AU, Scratched and Tooled.** Ex Ira & Larry Goldberg's Pre-Long Beach Sale of February 2006, lot 1232.

Discounting only the Proof 1804 BD-2 Plain 4, which is a special non-contemporary presentation issue struck circa 1834 to 1835, 1799 BD-1 is the rarest die variety in the Capped Bust Right eagle series. The elusiveness of examples is clearly due to the early break up of the obverse die, which resulted in a brief press run with very few examples struck. The reverse, as related above, remained in use for three subsequent die pairings. A leading highlight of the present collection, this presents an important opportunity for early gold variety specialists. This coin is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference.

PCGS# 45724. NGC ID: 2625.

*From Heritage's ANA Sale of July 1994, lot 5817. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka.*

# THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION

Starts 6:00 pm CT August 15, 2019



Directors of the United States Mint from 1792-1851.  
(From *Illustrated History of the United States Mint*, George G. Evans)

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4017

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-14. Rarity-5+. Small Obverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.



## Early Die State 1799 BD-2 Eagle



4017

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-14. Rarity-5+. Small Obverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VI: Head of 1795 with 13 small stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-2, Taraszka-14, Breen 2-A, HBCC-3183. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die in the Capped Bust Right eagle series and the second of four uses of this reverse die. The obverse is identifiable by a wide date spaced 179 9. Star 9 does not touch the letter Y in LIBERTY, and star 13 is also well away from the end of the bust. A loupe reveals numerous tiny rust pits on Liberty's cheek and neck, the most prominent of which are concentrated around the curl in front of the ear. On the reverse, the lowermost arrow head is under the extreme left edge of the letter N in UNITED, a leaf tip just touches the center of the letter I in UNITED, the lowermost berry is centered under the final letter A in AMERICA, a faint, jagged die line originates at the border above the right edge of the letter O in OF, bisects that letter and terminates at cloud 5, and there are small die rust lumps between the letters UN in UNITED and within the top of the N.

**Die State:** BD Die State a/b. This is the early, perfect state of this obverse die with no clashing, lapping or cracks. The reverse is in the state inherited from its use in the 1799 BD-1 pairing with a noncontiguous rust-like break within the letter C in AMERICA, through the adjacent A, the eagle's left talon, the stem end and into the tail feathers. On this particular example, the break is extremely faint and difficult to discern in all areas except at the letter A in AMERICA.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 1,500 to 2,000 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-2 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 35 to 45 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a generally sharp example with the central design elements near-fully defined. A concentration of light adjustment marks (as made) at the lower right obverse border explains the bluntness of detail to stars 12 and 13, as well as the eagle's left wing tip in the opposing area on the reverse. The eagle's right wing tip and the opposing star on the obverse (star 3) are also softly defined, as are the end of Liberty's bust and cloud 5. The dentils are uniformly bold around both sides.

**Surfaces:** Semi-prooflike in finish, both sides retain appreciable reflectivity in the fields. Deep orange-gold patina dominates, although we also note warm olive undertones and blushes of pale rose iridescence. Wispy hairlines and a touch of glossiness to the texture are noted for accuracy, but there are no sizable or singularly mentionable marks. Indeed, the appearance of this coin is quite smooth for a lightly circulated early eagle.

**Commentary:** BD-2 is the second variety of 1799 eagle produced, a sequence that we know with certainty because the two varieties share the same reverse die. The earliest die state of BD-2, represented here, inherited its reverse die state from the 1799 BD-1 marriage. This is the most readily available of the four varieties that use this reverse die, although survivors are still scarce in an absolute sense. As with BD-1, the early break up of the obverse die explains the elusiveness of BD-2. Relatively few coins were struck before the obverse die deteriorated to the point where it had to be replaced. Once again, however, the reverse die soldiered on and struck more coins with two additional obverse dies. Mr. Taraszka acquired two examples of the 1799 BD-2 variety, the early die state coin offered here and the late die state specimen in the following lot. Interestingly, Harry W. Bass, Jr. was able to acquire examples of all four die states of this variety, the coin retained in the core collection is in Die State a/b, as here.

PCGS# 45725. NGC ID: 2625.

From our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Rogers M. Fred, Jr. and Peter A. Ward, M.D. Collections, November 1995, lot 2103.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4018

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-14. Rarity-5+. Small Obverse Stars. MS-63 (PCGS).



## Late Die State 1799 BD-2 Eagle Impressive and Rare Choice Mint State Preservation



4018

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-14. Rarity-5+. Small Obverse Stars. MS-63 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VI: Head of 1795 with 13 small stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-2, Taraszka-14, Breen 2-A, HBCC-3183. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die in the Capped Bust Right eagle series and the second of four uses of this reverse die. The obverse is identifiable by a wide date spaced 179 9. Star 9 does not touch the letter Y in LIBERTY, and star 13 is also well away from the end of the bust. A loupe reveals numerous tiny rust pits on Liberty's cheek and neck, the most prominent of which are concentrated around the curl in front of the ear. On the reverse, the lowermost arrow head is under the extreme left edge of the letter N in UNITED, a leaf tip just touches the center of the letter I in UNITED, the lowermost berry is centered under the final letter A in AMERICA, a faint, jagged die line originates at the border above the right edge of the letter O in OF, bisects that letter and terminates at cloud 5, and there are small die rust lumps between the letters UN in UNITED and within the top of the N.

**Die State:** BD Die State d/c-d. This is the latest known die state of this variety. The obverse exhibits several cracks, the most prominent of which originates at the border above the letter L in LIBERTY, continues along the back of that letter and through Liberty's cap before terminating in the hair curls behind the ear. There is considerable crumbling associated with this crack, especially at and above the letter L in LIBERTY and within the cap, and a cud has formed along the back of that letter. A second, much lighter crack parallels this primary crack to its left before joining it within the cap, while a third crack starts at the border above the letter R in LIBERTY, joins the tops of the letters TY and terminates at the uppermost point of star 9. On the reverse, the noncontiguous rust-like break within the letter C in AMERICA, through the adjacent A, the eagle's left talon, the stem end and tail feathers inherited from the 1799 BD-1 pairing has now expanded and passes through the arrow butts to the edge. Another crack has formed from the right border, into the second feather below the top of the eagle's left wing tip and continuing in an irregular fashion through the vertical stripes in the shield. Additionally, this coin shows the beginning of cracks from the border to the upper left of the letter M in AMERICA and through the tops of the letters MER which would help define Die State d of this reverse, previously thought to exist only in the 1799 BD-3 and (possibly) BD-4 pairings.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated

dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 1,500 to 2,000 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-2 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 35 to 45 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** Sharply to fully struck over virtually all elements of the design, softness of detail is extremely minor and generally confined to stars 3 and 12 on the obverse, as well as the eagle's wing tips in the opposing areas on the reverse. The impression on both sides is ideally centered on the planchet with bold, uniform dentils encircling the design.

**Surfaces:** This is a well preserved early eagle with surfaces that are overall smooth, certainly much more so than one might expect for the assigned grade. Faint adjustment marks (as made) are seen in the areas of both of the eagle's wing tips on the reverse and explain the minor softness of detail noted above. Other, even more trivial adjustment marks are evident along the lower obverse border in date area and around star 1, as well as within Liberty's hair curls behind the ear. Splashes of reddish-rose peripheral iridescence enhance the dominant golden-orange patina. Free of significant handling marks, a shallow, curved strike through on Liberty's lower neck and another at the upper left point of star 9 are the most useful identifying features.

**Commentary:** The second of two 1799 BD-2 eagles acquired by Mr. Taraszka, this coin represents the latest known die state of the variety. The obverse is likely terminal, the extensive crack at the letter L in LIBERTY and the cap forcing the die's retirement from production. The reverse die state, bridging into that of the 1799 BD-3 variety, further confirms that this coin is almost certainly one of the final examples struck from the BD-2 pairing. This solid Choice Mint State coin undoubtedly ranks high in the census of survivors for this scarce variety, as no more than 45 coins are believed extant. This is a highly significant offering for early eagle variety collectors. It is also a beautiful and conditionally rare example of the type that would make a lovely addition to a collection where a single high grade Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle ten is required.

This coin is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference, where it is ranked #1.

PCGS# 45725. NGC ID: 2625.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the Small Obverse Stars variety): 14; 12 finer (MS-65 finest).

*From Superior's Premier Sale of January-February 1984, lot 1783; Superior's session of Auction '89, July 1989, lot 912; Superior's session of Auction '90, August 1990, lot 1344. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka.*

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4019

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-3, Taraszka-15. Rarity-6+. Small Obverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).



## Elusive 1799 BD-3 Eagle Impressive Near-Mint Preservation



4019

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-3, Taraszka-15. Rarity-6+. Small Obverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VI: Head of 1795 with 13 small stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-3, Taraszka-15, Breen 1-A, HBCC-3184. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die in the Capped Bust Right eagle series and the third of four uses of this reverse die. On the obverse, the date is wide with even spacing between the digits. Star 9 is close to, but does not touch the letter Y in LIBERTY, and star 13 is also close to the end of Liberty's bust. Star 1 presents two points to the lowermost hair curl, and close inspection with a loupe reveals a tiny die rust lump in the field to the right of the midpoint of the letter R in LIBERTY. On the reverse, the lowermost arrow head is under the extreme left edge of the letter N in UNITED, a leaf tip just touches the center of the letter I in UNITED, the lowermost berry is centered under the final letter A in AMERICA, and there are small die rust lumps between the letters UN in UNITED and within the top of the N. The faint, jagged die line that usually bisects the letter O in OF on coins struck from this reverse die is no longer present on this coin due to the late die state (see below).

**Die State:** BD Die State c/d-e. This is the latest known die state of this variety. The obverse exhibits three prominent cracks: from the border outside the letters IB in LIBERTY, through the lower left corner of the B and jaggedly through the field and the forehead curl; from the upper border along the left side of the letter L in LIBERTY, intermittently through the cap and into the middle hair curls at the back of the head; from the border past star 8, curving into the field area between that star and the back of the cap. The reverse exhibits the same cracks as seen on the 1799 BD-2 example in Die State d/c-d offered above, although the crack through the tops of the letters MER in AMERICA is now a bit bolder. Light lapping of the die has removed the faint die line through the letter O in OF and the crack from the border to the second feather from the top of the eagle's left wing tip, confirming that the reverse die had advanced fully from State c to State d at the time this coin was struck. This coin represents an intermediate reverse die state with additional faint cracks not reported by Dannreuther for the 1799 BD-3 pairing: from the border to the upper right corner of the letter U in UNITED; from the border to the top of the final letter A in AMERICA; and from the border through the letter I to the letter C in the same word. These cracks are bolder and more pronounced on the 1799 BD-4 eagle offered below, which we believe represents the full Die State e for this reverse.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 1,000 to 1,500 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-3 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 16 to 20 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** With virtually all design elements sharply to fully defined, this is an exceptionally well preserved early eagle that is nearly in the Mint State category.

**Surfaces:** Both sides exhibit medium gold patina with splashes of pale pinkish-rose in isolated peripheral areas. Wispy hairlines and a somewhat glossy texture are noted for the obverse, although there is little in the way of wear and much of the original satin to modestly semi-prooflike finish can be seen under a light. The reverse is essentially Mint State with full satin to modestly semi-prooflike luster and only a few wispy handling marks. The only provenance marker of note is a small, shallow planchet void in the obverse field at star 2.

**Commentary:** The Mint continued to have difficulty with early die breakage in its striking of 1799-dated eagles. The obverse of the BD-3 pairing, like those of the 1799 BD-1 and BD-2 varieties, was withdrawn from production after relatively few coins were struck. It is little wonder, therefore, that survivors from the 1799 BD-3 die marriage are highly elusive in today's market.

This is an upper end example for the assigned grade that, with no discernible wear and nearly full luster, is virtually in the Mint State category. It is a find for both high grade type collectors and advanced early gold variety enthusiasts. This coin is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference, where it is ranked #1.

PCGS# 45726. NGC ID: 2625.

*From our (Stack's) sale of March 1982, lot 1211; our (Stack's) William W. Moore Collection sale, March 1992, lot 2086; Heritage's Museum of Connecticut History Sale, June 1995, lot 6897. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.*

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4020

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-4, Taraszka-16. Rarity-7. Small Obverse Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).



## Rare 1799 BD-4 Eagle Only Eight to 12 Examples Known



4020

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-4, Taraszka-16. Rarity-7. Small Obverse Stars. AU-55 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VI: Head of 1795 with 13 small stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-4, Taraszka-16, Breen 3-A, HBCC-3185. This variety represents the first of three uses of this obverse die, and the fourth and final use of this reverse die. On the obverse, the digits 17 in the date are close and the second 9 is slightly higher than the first. Stars 2, 3 and 4 are lightly repunched, star 8 presents two points to the back of Liberty's cap, star 9 lightly touches the letter Y in LIBERTY below the right serif, and star 13 is relatively distant from the end of Liberty's bust. On the reverse, the lowermost arrow head is under the extreme left edge of the letter N in UNITED, a leaf tip just touches the center of the letter I in UNITED, the lowermost berry is centered under the final letter A in AMERICA, and there are small die rust lumps between the letters UN in UNITED and within the top of the N. The faint, jagged die line that bisects the letter O in OF on coins struck from earlier states of this reverse is no longer present in the BD-4 pairing.

**Die State:** BD Die State b/e. This is the only confirmed die state of this variety. The obverse exhibits several light to moderate cracks: from the border through the top two points of star 8; an erratic rust-like crack from the field above the top of Liberty's cap to the field between the letters LI in LIBERTY; from the border above the right edge of the letter L through the top of the letters IBERTY; from the border above the letter E to the right edge of its upright; between stars 9, 10 and 11. The reverse exhibits the same cracks as seen on the 1799 BD-3 example in Die State c/d-e offered above, although several are now more extensive. The crack through the shield is bolder, as are those from the border to the upper right corner of the letter U in UNITED, from the border to the top of the final letter A in AMERICA, and from the border through the letter I to the letter C in the same word. The expansion of these cracks confirms that the reverse had progressed fully from Die State d to e at the time this coin was struck. Light lapping of the die during the 1799 BD-3 press run has removed the faint die line through the letter O in OF and the crack from the border to the second feather from the top of the eagle's left wing tip.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the

possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 500 to 1,000 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-4 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only eight to 12 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is an overall boldly struck example with particularly sharp detail evident throughout much of the eagle's plumage and Liberty's hair. The borders are fully and uniformly dentillated from a well centered impression. Stars 1 to 3 and 12 on the obverse are a bit blunt, the eagle's right wing tip a bit less so. A concentration of light adjustment marks (as made) on the reverse over and below the letters ATES and O in the legend explains the minor softness of detail in that area, especially at several of the clouds.

**Surfaces:** The obverse exhibits deep olive-gold with more vivid pinkish-rose overtones to Liberty's portrait and in the surrounding field area. The reverse is somewhat lighter, with faint pale silver haziness to medium gold patina. A somewhat glossy texture and wispy hairlines are noted for accuracy, but the fields offer some semi-prooflike reflectivity, especially in the more protected areas around the design elements. An extremely shallow scuff that has resulted in a circular area of lighter color at the junction of Liberty's neck and bust is the most useful identifying feature.

**Commentary:** After producing more than 5,250 coins (per Dannreuther) while paired with four different obverses, the reverse die of 1799 BD-4 was finally withdrawn from production after this marriage. The terminal state of this die arose early in the 1799 BD-4 press run, explaining the small number of examples struck and, consequently, the rarity of this variety. Whether this reverse suffered some kind of catastrophic failure that would be attributed as Die State f, or whether Mint employees considered the expanding cracks of Die State e sufficient to force the abandonment of this die, is unknown. To date, the only reverse die state known for the 1799 BD-4 variety is e, offered here. Additionally, there are no perfect obverse coins (Die State a) known. This is not surprising given the elusiveness of examples. Perfect obverse and/or terminal reverse examples may simply no longer exist, if they were struck in the first place.

This is a handsome Choice AU example of this challenging early gold type and exceedingly rare die pairing. As such, it is a coin that holds tremendous appeal for advance type collectors as well as early gold variety enthusiasts. This coin is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference.

PCGS# 45727. NGC ID: 2625.

*From our (Stack's) sale of the James A. Stack, Sr. Collection, March 1995, lot 557. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka.*



Lot 4021

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-5, Taraszka-17. Rarity-6. Small Obverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).



## Lovely Near-Mint 1799 Eagle Scarce BD-5 Die Pairing



4021

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-5, Taraszka-17. Rarity-6. Small Obverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VI: Head of 1795 with 13 small stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-5, Taraszka-17, Breen 3-C, HBCC-3186. This variety represents the second of three uses of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die. On the obverse, the digits 17 in the date are close and the second 9 is slightly higher than the first. Stars 2, 3 and 4 are lightly repunched, star 8 presents two points to the back of Liberty's cap, star 9 lightly touches the letter Y in LIBERTY below the right serif, and star 13 is relatively distant from the end of Liberty's bust. The reverse die is most readily attributable by the presence of a sizable rust lump or break at the bottom of the third clear stripe from the right, directly above the right edge of the eagle's tail. Additionally, star 1 is lightly repunched, stars 9 and 10 are more closely spaced than any other adjacent pairs, and the letter O in OF is centered above a space between two clouds.

**Die State:** BD Die State c/a. This is the only known die state of this variety. The obverse exhibits several cracks inherited from its use in the 1799 BD-4 pairing (Die State b): from the border through the top two points of star 8; an erratic rust-like crack from the field above the top of Liberty's cap to the field between the letters LI in LIBERTY; from the border above the right edge of the letter L through the top of the letters IBERTY; from the border above the letter E to the right edge of its upright; between stars 9, 10 and 11. In this later die state, the cracks through star 8 and along the top of the letters ERTY are heavier with the crack through star 8 now extending into the back of Liberty's cap. There are also new cracks: lightly from star 7 to the scarf below the back of the cap; from star 3 through Liberty's lower hair curls into the back of the bust above the digits 17 in the date. The reverse die state is perfect with no clashing or lapping. The aforementioned die rust lump or break within the shield at the lower right is present on all known examples.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in

Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 1,250 to 1,750 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-5 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 22 to 30 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** Virtually all design elements are sharply to fully rendered on both sides of this well struck early eagle. We do, however, note softness of detail to stars 1, 2, 3 and 12 on the obverse, at both of the eagle's wing tips on the reverse, at the second cloud from the right on the same side, and at the two uppermost stars in the field above the eagle's head. This same pattern of strike is seen on virtually all other 1799 BD-5 eagles with which we are aware, including the Harry Bass Core Collection specimen.

**Surfaces:** Handsome deep olive and orange-gold blends nicely over both sides. Subtle pinkish-red and powder blue highlights can be seen, especially on the reverse. The surfaces have a soft satin texture with only wispy handling marks that are easily overlooked. Equally faint are a few trivial adjustment marks on the reverse at the shield. A concentration of small, light marks in the lower obverse field before the date is mentioned solely for identification purposes.

**Commentary:** As with all but two of the 10 known die marriages of the 1799 eagle, BD-5 is elusive and difficult to find under normal market conditions. Only a single die state is currently known, as related above, which is perhaps not surprising given the paucity of survivors. Since this reverse die was not used in any other pairing, some sort of terminal damage must have occurred to compel the Mint to retire the die. The most likely culprit is an expansion of the die break in the lower right portion of the shield, although this is just speculation. Perhaps terminal die state examples of this variety have all been lost since striking, or perhaps an example or two may remain unattributed in tightly held collections.

This is only the fourth example of the 1799 BD-5 eagle that we have offered in recent years, a list that includes another AU-58, an AU-55 and an AU Details coin with a spot removed. All of those coins were also certified by PCGS at the time of our offering. The present example is attractive in all regards and would serve with distinction in any advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 45728. NGC ID: 2625.

Acquired from Anthony Terranova, December 2000. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4022

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-6, Taraszka-18. Rarity-5. Small Obverse Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).



## Mint State 1799 Small Obverse Stars Eagle Elusive BD-6 Variety



4022

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-6, Taraszka-18. Rarity-5. Small Obverse Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VI: Head of 1795 with 13 small stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-6, Taraszka-18, Breen 3-B, HBCC-3187. This variety represents the third and final use of this obverse die and the first of two uses of this reverse die. On the obverse, the digits 17 in the date are close and the second 9 is slightly higher than the first. Stars 2, 3 and 4 are lightly repunched, star 8 presents two points to the back of Liberty's cap, star 9 lightly touches the letter Y in LIBERTY below the right serif, and star 13 is relatively distant from the end of Liberty's bust. The reverse exhibits several small, shallow rust lumps in the field before and within the letter U in UNITED, a diagonal die line between the upright and right serif of the letter T in the same word, and a short spine from the upper edge of the third feather from the top of the eagle's left wing tip. Star 1 is clear of the eagle's beak.

**Die State:** BD Die State e/b. This is the later of two die states known for this variety. The obverse exhibits numerous cracks inherited from its use in the 1799 BD-5 pairing (Die State c): from the border through the top two points of star 8 into the back of Liberty's cap; an erratic rust-like crack from the field above the top of Liberty's cap to the field between the letters LI in LIBERTY; from the border above the right edge of the letter L through the top of the letters IBERTY; from the border above the letter E to the right edge of its upright; between stars 9, 10 and 11; from star 7 to the scarf below the back of the cap; from star 3 through Liberty's lower hair curls into the back of the bust above the digits 17 in the date. In this later die state, the crack through star 8 is much heavier with considerable crumbling, and there is also now crumbling associated with the crack along the tops of the letters ERTY in LIBERTY. The cracks from star 7 to the scarf and from star 3 into Liberty's hair and bust are more pronounced, there is a new crack along the outside of stars 3 through 8, and there is crumbling in the dentils outside star 1 and below the digits 17 and the first 9 in the date. The reverse exhibits no cracks or clashing, but it has been lapped with the tops of the first four clouds incomplete.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 1,500 to 2,000 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-6 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 35 to 45 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a sharply struck example with the only mentionable softness of detail confined to star 10 on the obverse and the opposing design feature on the reverse, i.e. the tip of the eagle's left wing. The dentils are uniformly full around both sides, the strike ideally centered on the planchet.

**Surfaces:** Lustrous satin surfaces are warmly toned in deep golden-orange. A touch of glossiness to the texture and wispy handling marks are noted for accuracy, but the appearance is smooth and appealing. There is a tiny, shallow planchet flaw in the reverse field at the left edge of the shield.

**Commentary:** We believe that only a single reverse die state of this variety is known, identifiable by lapping that has effaced the top of the first four clouds. Dannreuther notes lapping as the diagnostic feature of Reverse Die State b of the 1799 BD-6 eagle, and he states that the Bass III:562 coin is an example of the earlier die state (a) with no lapping. That coin, however, also has incomplete clouds and, since we can find no other evidence of lapping on the present example, we believe that the lapping which defines Die State b has effaced the top of the clouds. Additionally, all other 1799 BD-6 eagles with which we are aware show incomplete clouds; Taraszka even includes this feature among the diagnostics of this reverse die ("top of first four clouds incomplete"). Since we are confident that Reverse Die State a of this variety is currently unknown, either the die was lapped before it was put into production or no perfect reverse die state coins have survived.

BD-6 represents the final use of this obverse die, which was earlier used in the 1799 BD-4 and BD-5 marriages. The reason why the Mint finally retired this die is readily evident on the present example: the crack through star 8 into the back of Liberty's cap had expanded to the point where the die was no longer viable. The reverse die, however, remained in use with a new obverse die to produce more than 10,000 examples of the relatively common 1799 BD-7 variety.

BD-6 vies with BD-2 as the most readily obtainable of the first six die varieties of the 1799 eagle, although we stress that all are scarce to rare. As one of no more than 45 examples believed extant, this impressive Mint State coin is a highlight of the Taraszka Collection and is sure to see spirited bidding among early gold enthusiasts. This coin is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference.

PCGS# 45729. NGC ID: 2625.

*From our (Bowers and Merena's) Massachusetts Historical Society Sale, November 1994, lot 2419. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka.*

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4023

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-7, Taraszka-19. Rarity-3. Small Obverse Stars. AU-50 (PCGS).



## Early Die State 1799 BD-7 Eagle



4023

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-7, Taraszka-19. Rarity-3. Small Obverse Stars. AU-50 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VI: Head of 1795 with 13 small stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-7, Taraszka-19, Breen 4-E/B, HBCC-3188. This variety represents the first of two uses of this obverse die and the second of two uses of this reverse die. The obverse exhibits a pronounced slant to the right for the digits 17 in the date, the final digit 9 is close to the bust, and star 9 nearly touches the letter Y in LIBERTY below its right serif. The reverse exhibits several small, shallow rust lumps in the field before and within the letter U in UNITED, a diagonal die line between the upright and right serif of the letter T in the same word, and a short spine from the upper edge of the third feather from the top of the eagle's left wing tip. Star 1 is clear of the eagle's beak.

**Die State:** BD Die State b/b. This is the earliest known die state of this variety. The obverse is perfect with the exception of minor crumbling within the denticils outside stars 1 and 2. The reverse exhibits no cracks or clashing, but it has been lapped with the tops of the first four clouds incomplete. The reverse die state has been inherited from the 1799 BD-6 variety, the only one that we have positively confirmed to exist for that pairing.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated

dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 10,000 to 15,000 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-7 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Two hundred and fifty to 350 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This expertly produced early eagle is sharply to full struck within uniformly denticulated borders.

**Surfaces:** Lustrous satin to softly frosted surfaces have the appearance of at least a Choice AU grade. Both sides are primarily medium gold with blushes of pale rose iridescence evident under a light. A few moderate handling marks over Liberty's portrait and in the obverse field areas are noted, but the reverse is smoother. The appearance is original and highly attractive.

**Commentary:** BD-7 is the most available die marriage of the 1799 Small Obverse Stars *Guide Book* variety of the 1799 eagle, and the second most plentiful of the issue as a whole after BD-10 (Large Obverse Stars). The present example is sure to be of particular interest to high quality gold type collectors. The first of two 1799 BD-7 eagles in this collection, our consignor acquired this coin to represent the earliest known die state of the variety struck from a virtually perfect obverse.

PCGS# 45730. NGC ID: 2625.

Acquired from Paul Nugget, May 1997.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4024

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-7, Taraszka-19. Rarity-3. Small Obverse Stars. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.



## Second 1799 BD-7 Eagle Remarriage Struck After the 1799 BD-8 Variety



4024

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-7, Taraszka-19. Rarity-3. Small Obverse Stars. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VI: Head of 1795 with 13 small stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-7, Taraszka-19, Breen 4-E/B, HBCC-3188. This variety represents the first of two uses of this obverse die and the second of two uses of this reverse die. The obverse exhibits a pronounced slant to the right for the digits 17 in the date, the final digit 9 is close to the bust, and star 9 nearly touches the letter Y in LIBERTY below its right serif. The reverse exhibits several small, shallow rust lumps in the field before and within the letter U in UNITED, a diagonal die line between the upright and right serif of the letter T in the same word, and a short spine from the upper edge of the third feather from the top of the eagle's left wing tip. Star 1 is clear of the eagle's beak.

**Die State:** BD Die State f/d. This is the latest known die state of this variety, and it is a remarriage struck after all known examples of the 1799 BD-8 eagle (see below). The obverse exhibits crumbling within the dentils outside stars 1 and 2, as seen on the Die State b/b example from this die pairing offered above, as well as on the 1799 BD-8 coin offered below. In this latest known die state of the 1799 BD-7 remarriage, there are now several additional cracks: through stars 1 to 8 and branching into two cracks as it continues to the border past star 8; a second crack between stars 4 and 5; from the upper border through the letter E in LIBERTY to the top of the curl at Liberty's forehead; through the letters TY and stars 9 to 13. There is additional crumbling within the dentils outside stars 7 and 8, as well as a short crumbling crack at the border outside star 12. The die is lightly clashed at the base of Liberty's bust above the final digit 9 in the date. The reverse die cracked shortly after being put back into production, and in State d it exhibits a short break from the border to the tip of the third feather from the top in the eagle's right wing.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 10,000 to 15,000 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-7 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Two hundred and fifty to 350 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a sharply struck example with virtually all design elements fully rendered. Most of the eagle's feathers are crisply delineated, and most of the strands in Liberty's hair are fully separated. The borders are boldly and uniformly denticulated, the strike expertly centered on the planchet. There is extremely minor softness of detail to star 11 on the obverse and at both of the eagle's wing tips on the reverse.

**Surfaces:** Delightful golden yellow surfaces are fully lustrous with a satin to softly frosted texture. Both sides are very appealing with a strong claim to an even higher Mint State rating. A concentration of tiny, shallow marks in Liberty's hair behind the eye should serve as an identifying feature.

**Commentary:** One of the most interesting coins in the Taraszka Collection from the standpoint of die state, the advanced state of the obverse confirms that this is one of the 1799 BD-7 eagles struck after the 1799 BD-8 press run. Due to their extensive study of die varieties and states in this series, both Harry W. Bass, Jr. and Anthony J. Taraszka were aware of the remarriage of the 1799 BD-7 dies, the latter noting: "Most specimens [of this variety] are a die remarriage struck after the 1799 [Taraszka-20]." We find it interesting that Mint personnel made the initial decision to retire this die for it seems to have suffered no early injury apart from that which may have been effaced through the lapping that also removed portions of the first four clouds. Even so, the die remained in use for a period of time after this lapping, as evidenced by the existence of the 1799 BD-7 coin in Die State b/b offered above.

Nevertheless, the Mint initially replaced this reverse die with that of the 1799 BD-8 variety, although that die failed early due to the development of numerous peripheral cracks (see below in our description for the 1799 BD-8 eagle). The coiners then retrieved the perfectly functional reverse of the 1799 BD-7 pairing and went on to strike more coins from that die remarriage. In fact, if Taraszka's statement above is correct then most of the 10,000 to 15,000 coins struck from this die pairing were delivered from the remarriage, suggesting that the reverse still had plenty of life left in it when it was initially withdrawn from production.

As one of the most attractive Mint State coins in the Taraszka Collection, this lustrous and vivid example is sure to please even the most discerning early gold enthusiast.

PCGS# 45730. NGC ID: 2625.

*From our (Stack's) January Sale of 1995, lot 1369. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.*



Lot 4025

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-8, Taraszka-20. Rarity-5. Small Obverse Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).



## Scarce and Interesting 1799 BD-8 Eagle Struck Between Die States of the 1799 BD-7 Variety



4025

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-8, Taraszka-20. Rarity-5. Small Obverse Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VI: Head of 1795 with 13 small stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-8, Taraszka-20, Breen 4-D, HBCC-3189. This variety represents the second of two uses of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die. The obverse exhibits a pronounced slant to the right for the digits 17 in the date, the final digit 9 is close to the bust, and star 9 nearly touches the letter Y in LIBERTY below its right serif. On the reverse, stars 1 and 2 are repunched, one point of star 12 is joined to the tip of the eagle's upper beak, star 13 touches the ribbon above the second letter U in UNUM, and the lowest arrow head is under the right half of the letter U in UNITED.

**Die State:** BD Die State c/b. This is the only die state currently known for this variety, its scarcity making it unlikely that additional die states will be discovered. In fact, we know that the obverse only exists in State c in the 1799 BD-8 marriage, which was struck between die states of the 1799 BD-7 variety. There is crumbling within the denticles outside stars 1 and 2, as inherited from the 1799 BD-7 pairing, the die now developing cracks through stars 1 to 8 and through the letters TY in LIBERTY and stars 9 and 10. The fact that the latter crack does not extend through stars 11 to 13 suggests that this coin is one of the earlier impressions from the 1799 BD-8 pairing.

Although only a single reverse die state is recognized for this variety, there are multiple stages of the break up of this die. On the present example, cracks are evident through the letters TATE in STATES, through the letters MER in AMERICA to the tip of the leaf below the letter I, through the letters ICA to the eagle's talon, through the letter IC to the tip of the leaf below the corner of the A, from the border after the word AMERICA to the eagle's tail, and from the border through the letter O in OF to a cloud. Additionally, there are jagged die breaks at the base of the letter D in UNITED and within the letter C in AMERICA. Die clash has resulted in damage to many of the horizontal lines in the shield. Wider damage from this clashing eventually resulted in additional cracks (not evident here) that would develop before the Mint retired this die, such as at the letter F in OF and involving stars 4, 9 and the eagle's head.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 2,500 to 3,500 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-8 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 45 to 55 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This impressive early eagle is sharply to fully defined from a well centered strike.

**Surfaces:** Here is a beautifully toned and wonderfully original example, with both sides exhibiting subtle pale rose peripheral highlights on otherwise bright medium gold surfaces. The luster is full and decidedly semi-prooflike, as evidenced by modest, yet appreciable reflectivity in the fields. Minimally marked and pleasingly smooth, this coin seems conservatively graded at the assigned level. A tiny, shallow planchet void on the eagle's breast below the letter N in UNUM serves as a provenance marker.

**Commentary:** As related above, all known examples of the 1799 BD-8 eagle were struck between die states of the 1799 BD-7 variety. For unknown reasons the Mint initially replaced the reverse die of the 1799 BD-7 pairing with the reverse die represented here, only to have that die break up and fail quickly, resulting in the BD-7 remarriage. The fact that the obverse of the present example is in a somewhat earlier state strongly suggests that the reverse die developed numerous extensive cracks early in the BD-8 press run. The early break up of this reverse die resulted in relatively few coins being struck, which in turn explains the scarcity of the 1799 BD-8 variety. A significant bidding opportunity for early gold variety specialists, this premium quality MS-61 example would also make a fine addition to an advanced type set.

PCGS# 45731. NGC ID: 2625.

Acquired from Jim McGuigan, March 1996. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.



Lot 4026

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-9, Taraszka-21. Rarity-6+. Large Obverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.



## 1799 BD-9 Eagle Rarity

### Only 14 to 18 Coins Believed Extant



4026

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-9, Taraszka-21. Rarity-6+. Large Obverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS). CAC.**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-9, Taraszka-21, Breen 5-F, HBCC-3190. This variety represents the first of two uses of this obverse die and the only use of this reverse die. The large size of the stars is definitive for this obverse die, the only one of the 1799 Large Obverse Stars *Guide Book* variety. Closer inspection also reveals repunching to the second digit 9 in the date. On the reverse, the tip of a leaf in the olive branch points to the space between the letters IC in AMERICA and the lowest berry in the branch is past the final letter A.

**Die State:** BD Die State a/b. This is the only confirmed die state of this variety, although a perfect state of the reverse likely exists. The obverse is perfect with no clashing, lapping or cracks. The reverse is lightly lapped with a series of die lines arcing through the top of the recessed stripes in the shield. These are curious since lapping lines on early eagles are usually straight and vertical. The arcing lines on examples of this variety may represent an experimental type of lapping.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 750 to 1,250 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-9 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 14 to 18 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a generally bold example with the central design elements sharply to fully defined. Denticulation is full around both sides, but we do note softness of detail to isolated peripheral features, including stars 1 to 3 on the obverse, the bottom of Liberty's portrait, stars 2 to 4 and the adjacent clouds on the reverse, and the eagle's tail and wing tips.

**Surfaces:** Both sides are fully reflective in the fields with a prooflike finish. Pretty light golden yellow color is seen throughout, and the surfaces are free of all but a few trivial handling marks that are consistent with the assigned grade. Four tiny obverse carbon spots at the upright of the letter R in LIBERTY, below the right foot of the same letter, below the letter Y, and inside star 9 are the most useful identifying features.

**Commentary:** BD-9 and BD-10 are the only two varieties of the 1799 eagle that display large stars on the obverse, and they were struck from the same obverse die. We know that these varieties were the last produced with the 1799 date because the Large Obverse Stars style continues through the end of the circulation strike Capped Bust Right series in 1804. Apparently the small obverse star punch broke during production of one of the earlier 1799-dated obverses, and was replaced by a device punch for a large, thick star. Interestingly, this large, thick star punch was itself replaced with a large, thin star punch beginning with the obverse die of the 1801 BD-2 variety, although the 1804 BD-1 Crosslet 4 obverse was also created using the large, thick star punch (see below, in our description for the 1804 eagle).

As with so many scarce to rare early eagle varieties, the elusiveness of 1799 BD-9 is due to some unknown damage befalling one of the dies, in this case the reverse. Since there are no known examples of this variety struck from a terminal state of the reverse, whatever caused that die to fail must have happened so suddenly that Mint employees retired the die before it struck more than a few additional coins, if any at all. The damage certainly occurred early in the press run, for no more than 1,250 coins are believed to have been struck from this pairing (per Dannreuther), explaining the scarcity of survivors. The obverse die remained perfect, however, for that is the earliest state known in the 1799 BD-10 marriage.

With fewer than 20 coins believed extant (perhaps fewer than 15), 1799 BD-9 represents a significant find for the specialist whenever an example appears on the market. One of numerous highlights in the Taraszka Collection, and sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

This coin is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference.

PCGS# 45722. NGC ID: 2625.

*From our (Stack's) S.S. Forrest, Jr. Collection sale, September 1972, lot 403; Superior's ANA Sale of August 1975, lot 1535; our (Bowers and Merens's) sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part III, May 2000, lot 564.*

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4027

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-10, Taraszka-22. Rarity-3. Large Obverse Stars. AU-58+ (PCGS). CAC.



## Early Die State 1799 BD-10 Eagle



4027

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-10, Taraszka-22. Rarity-3. Large Obverse Stars. AU-58+ (PCGS). CAC.**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-10, Taraszka-22, Breen 5-G, HBCC-3191. This variety represents the second and final use of this obverse die and the first of three uses of this reverse die. The large size of the stars is definitive for this obverse die, the only one of the 1799 Large Obverse Stars *Guide Book* variety. Closer inspection also reveals repunching to the second digit 9 in the date. On the reverse, the tip of a leaf in the olive branch is joined to the right foot of the letter I in AMERICA and the lowest berry in the branch is under the right foot of the final letter A.

**Die State:** BD Die State a/a. This is the earlier of only two confirmed die states of this variety. The obverse is perfect, as inherited from the 1799 BD-9 pairing, with no clashing, lapping or cracks. The reverse is also perfect with no clashing, lapping or cracks.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 12,500 to 17,500 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-10 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Three hundred to 400 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** Most design elements are boldly to sharply defined, the strike nicely centered on both sides with the borders fully and uniformly denticulated. A few isolated features are softly struck, however, including stars 3, 12 and 13 on the obverse, the bottom of Liberty's bust, stars 3 and 4 and the adjacent clouds on the reverse, and the eagle's wing tips.

**Surfaces:** Beautifully toned surfaces exhibit vivid reddish-rose overtones that are boldest around the peripheries. Deep orange-gold patina is noted for both sides, as are ample remnants of soft satin luster. Wispy handling marks are commensurate with the assigned grade. A tiny planchet void in the reverse field at the left edge of the shield is the most useful identifying feature.

**Commentary:** Along with 1799 BD-7, 1800 BD-1 and 1801 BD-2, 1799 BD-10 is one of the most readily available die marriages in the Capped Bust Right eagle series. This variety shares its obverse die with the scarce 1799 BD-9, the reverse die a replacement for that of the previous variety which failed early in the BD-9 press run. Given that several hundred coins are extant, 12,500 to 17,500 coins are believed to have been struck from the 1799 BD-10 marriage, indicating that both the obverse and reverse dies were quite well made by the standards of the early eagle series. Further evidence for the durability of these particular dies comes from the fact that neither of the two die states known for this variety display evidence of extensive cracks or other significant damage.

A popular early eagle for gold type set purposes, BD-10 is also significant as the only realistically obtainable die marriage of the 1799 Large Obverse Stars *Guide Book* variety (the other, BD-9, is a significant rarity). This vividly toned Choice AU would certainly make a lovely addition to an advanced gold cabinet.

PCGS# 45723. NGC ID: 2625.

*From our (Stack's) sale of the James A. Stack, Sr. Collection, March 1995, lot 558. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka.*



Lot 4028

1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-10, Taraszka-22. Rarity-3. Large Obverse Stars. AU-53 (PCGS).



## Second 1799 BD-10 Eagle Late Die State



4028

**1799 Capped Bust Right. BD-10, Taraszka-22. Rarity-3. Large Obverse Stars. AU-53 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-10, Taraszka-22, Breen 5-G, HBCC-3191. This variety represents the second and final use of this obverse die and the first of three uses of this reverse die. The large size of the stars is definitive for this obverse die, the only one of the 1799 Large Obverse Stars *Guide Book* variety. Closer inspection also reveals repunching to the second digit 9 in the date. On the reverse, the tip of a leaf in the olive branch is joined to the right foot of the letter I in AMERICA and the lowest berry in the branch is under the right foot of the final letter A.

**Die State:** BD Die State b/b. This is the later of only two confirmed die states of this variety. The obverse exhibits prominent cracks at stars 6 and 7. One of these starts at the border and extends into star 6. The other starts at the border outside stars 7 and 8 and curves down through the outermost points of star 7, where it divides into two cracks, then merges back into one crack before joining the aforementioned crack within star 6. There is also light crumbling within the dentils outside stars 12 and 13, as well as a tiny die chip at the border past star 8. In this later die state, the reverse has been lightly lapped with some of the detail now missing from the clouds below the letters STAT in STATES.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The conventionally accepted mintage has been 37,449 coins for the 1799 Capped Bust Right eagle issue, based on Walter Breen's assumption that all of the coins delivered

between May 14, 1799, and September 4, 1800, were from 1799-dated dies. After careful study, Dannreuther provides a revised range of 31,750 to 46,250 pieces produced, the lower estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1797 BD-3 and/or BD-4 coins were included in Breen's 37,499-piece mintage, and the upper estimate allowing for the possibility that some 1799-dated eagles were also included in later deliveries.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 12,500 to 17,500 examples were coined from the 1799 BD-10 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Three hundred to 400 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a sharply struck early eagle, with both sides displaying nearly full definition despite the presence of light high point rub. The impression is expertly centered on both sides with uniformly denticulated borders.

**Surfaces:** Both sides are richly toned in deep olive-gold, with more vivid lilac and reddish-rose peripheral highlights that are more extensive on the obverse. Wispy handling marks are inconspicuous; two tiny nicks within the top of Liberty's cap are the only useful provenance markers.

**Commentary:** Mr. Taraszka acquired two 1799 BD-10 eagles to represent both of the known die states for this relatively available variety. The present example illustrates the later of these two die states, and is a coin that would do equally well in an advanced type set or specialized early gold variety collection.

PCGS# 45723. NGC ID: 2625.

Acquired September 1996. Formerly in B. Max Mehl's sale of the Jerome Kern Collection, May 1950.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4029

1800 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-23, the only known dies. Rarity-3+. MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.



## Handsome Choice Mint State 1800 Eagle A Remarriage Struck After the 1801 BD-1 Variety



4029

**1800 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-23, the only known dies. Rarity-3+. MS-63 (PCGS). CAC.**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-1, Taraszka-23, Breen 1-A, HBCC-3192. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die and the second of three uses of this reverse die. Star 7 on the obverse is dramatically repunched, the letter L in LIBERTY is very close to the top of the cap, and star 9 is very close to the letter Y. On the reverse, the tip of a leaf in the olive branch is joined to the right foot of the letter I in AMERICA and the lowest berry in the branch is under the right foot of the final letter A.

**Die State:** BD Die State c/e. This is the latest die state of this issue known to Dannreuther, although we are aware of at least two different sub-states (see below in our offering of a second 1800 eagle). The obverse is cracked through the top of the letters in the word LIBERTY, with considerable crumbling between several of the letters. The crack splits into two at the right top of the letter B, and branches from the main crack extend to the border between the letters LI and BE. The main crack extends faintly to the left of the L, where it joins a nearly vertical crack that extends from the border through Liberty's cap into the hair behind the ear. The reverse exhibits dentil clash along the top of the letters STAT in STATES, damage that occurred during this die's use in the 1801 BD-1 pairing. The clash marks are faint in Die State e due to lapping of the die during its remarriage with the 1800-dated obverse. A die crack originates in the field below the letter R in AMERICA and extends through the leaves below the letters ICA, the eagle's left talon, the tip of the stem and the eagle's tail to the border below the arrow butts. A second crack goes from the tail through the arrow butts and arrows to the letter U in UNITED, a third crack extends through the bottom of the letters UNI, and a fourth and final crack originates from the border above the first letter A in AMERICA and extends along the top of the letters ME.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** Most numismatic references provide a mintage of 5,999 pieces for this issue, which is based on Walter Breen's assumption that the only 1800-dated eagles produced were those delivered from November 18 to 25 of that year (5,999 coins). Dannreuther provides a much broader range of 5,999 to 12,500 pieces produced in deference to the fact that many, if not most 1800 eagles were struck from a remarriage of these dies after the Mint's delivery of the 1801 BD-1 variety. As such, many 1800 eagles were almost certainly struck during calendar year 1801.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Since there is only a single die variety known for the 1800 eagle, the estimated mintage for the variety is the same as that for the issue.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Two hundred to 300 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** The strike is bold with many of Liberty's hair strands and most of the eagle's feathers fully delineated. The borders are uniformly denticulated around both sides, although the left and right obverse peripheries are a bit softly defined due to the presence of faint adjustment marks (as made) in those areas. Stars 1 to 5 and 10 to 12 are also a bit soft, as are the eagle's wing tips, right talon and the cloud below the letter O in OF on the reverse.

**Surfaces:** Richly original, deep olive-orange surfaces exhibit splashes of rose-russet iridescence around the word LIBERTY on the obverse and on the reverse at and around the eagle's left talon. Soft satin luster is seen throughout, with only small, wispy handling marks that are largely confined to the obverse. A few tiny nicks along the base of the bust above the digits 00 in the date should serve as useful identifying features.

**Commentary:** Along with 1799 BD-7, 1799 BD-10 and 1801 BD-2, 1800 BD-1 is one of the most available early eagles in today's market, making it popular with advanced gold type collectors. Most survivors, however, are circulated to one degree or another, and many are also impaired due to cleaning or other mishandling. The present example, fully Choice Mint State with wonderfully original surfaces, represents a find for astute bidders.

The 1800 eagle is also popular with early gold variety enthusiasts due to the existence of a remarriage of the issue's only known die pairing. The workhorse die of the 1799 BD-10 variety remained in use when the Mint changed to the 1800-dated obverse die. A number of 1800 eagles were struck (the 5,999 examples delivered November 18 to 25, 1800?) before Mint personnel replaced the obverse die yet again with that of the 1801 BD-1 marriage. That obverse die failed quickly, however, prompting the Mint to return the 1800-dated obverse to production. Based on the fact that most 1800 eagles extant are in some stage of Die State c/e with dentil clash on the reverse along the top of the letters STAT in STATES, we believe that most 1800-dated eagles were struck in 1801 from the remarriage of these dies.

Both of the 1800 eagles in the Taraszka Collection are in Die State c/e, although of the three examples of this date owned by Harry W. Bass, Jr., two were early die states struck before the 1801 BD-1 variety.

PCGS# 45732. NGC ID: BFYT.

PCGS Population: 11; 5 finer (MS-65 finest).

Acquired from Mid-American Rare Coin Galleries at the Detroit ANA Convention, August 1994. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4030

1800 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-23, the only known dies. Rarity-3+. AU-58 (PCGS).



## Second Late Die State 1800 Eagle Struck After the 1801 BD-1 Variety



4030

**1800 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-23, the only known dies. Rarity-3+. AU-58 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-1, Taraszka-23, Breen 1-A, HBCC-3192. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die and the second of three uses of this reverse die. Star 7 on the obverse is dramatically repunched, the letter L in LIBERTY is very close to the top of the cap, and star 9 is very close to the letter Y. On the reverse, the tip of a leaf in the olive branch is joined to the right foot of the letter I in AMERICA and the lowest berry in the branch is under the right foot of the final letter A.

**Die State:** BD Die State c/e. This coin is in the same general die state as the other 1800 eagle in the Taraszka Collection (offered above). The obverse is cracked through the top of the letters in the word LIBERTY with considerable crumbling between several of the letters. The crack splits into two at the right top of the letter B, and branches from the main crack extend to the border between the letters LI and BE. The main crack extends faintly to the left of the L, where it joins a nearly vertical crack that extends from the border through Liberty's cap into the hair behind the ear.

The reverse exhibits dentil clash along the top of the letters STAT in STATES, which happened during this die's use in the 1801 BD-1 pairing. The clash marks are faint in Die State e due to lapping of the die during its remarriage with the 1800-dated obverse. A die crack originates in the field below the letter R in AMERICA and extends through the leaves below the letters ICA, the eagle's left talon, the tip of the stem and the eagle's tail to the border below the arrow butts. A second crack goes from the tail through the arrow butts and arrows to the letter U in UNITED, a third crack extends through the bottom of the letters UNI, and a fourth crack originates from the border above the first letter A in AMERICA and extends along the top of the letters ME.

Unlike the other 1800 eagle in the Taraszka Collection offered above, this coin exhibits two additional reverse cracks: from the lower border up through the end of the branch stem to the shield at the base of stripe

5; from the border above the center of the letter N in UNITED through the top of the letters NIT. Additionally, the main obverse crack along the top of the letters in the word LIBERTY now extends prominently through stars 9 and 10. We believe that this coin represents the latest die state of the issue known to researchers.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** Most numismatic references provide a mintage of 5,999 pieces for this issue, which is based on Walter Breen's assumption that the only 1800-dated eagles produced were those delivered from November 18 to 25 of that year (5,999 coins). Dannreuther provides a much broader range of 5,999 to 12,500 pieces produced in deference to the fact that many, if not most 1800 eagles were struck from a remarriage of these dies after the Mint's delivery of the 1801 BD-1 variety. As such, many 1800 eagles were almost certainly struck during calendar year 1801.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Since there is only a single die variety known for the 1800 eagle, the estimated mintage for the variety is the same as that for the issue.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Two hundred to 300 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** Fully to sharply defined features exhibit just a touch of softness to stars 3 and 4 on the obverse, the end of Liberty's bust, the eagle's right talon and wing tip, and the cloud below the letter O in OF.

**Surfaces:** Bright golden-yellow surfaces retain ample evidence of a semi-prooflike finish in the fields. Remarkably smooth for a lightly circulated early eagle, we note only small, wispy handling marks that are inconspicuous to the unaided eye. A tiny, shallow planchet void in the lower obverse field before star 1 should serve as a useful identifying feature.

**Commentary:** Mr. Taraszka's second 1800 eagle, offered here, represents the latest state of this workhorse die known to us. It is clearly one of the final 1800-dated eagles struck, almost certainly in 1801, and definitely after all examples of the 1801 BD-1 variety due to the presence of dentil clash on the reverse along the top of the letters STAT in the word STATES. This lovely, semi-prooflike Choice AU will do equally well in an advanced gold type set or specialized variety collection.

PCGS# 45732. NGC ID: BFYT.

From Superior's sale of September 1997, lot 2971.



Lot 4031  
1801 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-24. Rarity-5. AU-55 (PCGS).



## Elusive 1801 BD-1 Eagle Rare Early Die State



4031

**1801 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-24. Rarity-5. AU-55 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-1, Taraszka-24, Breen 1-A, HBCC-3193. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die and the third and final use of this reverse die. The large, thick obverse stars identical to those on examples of the 1799 BD-9, 1799 BD-10, and 1800 BD-1 varieties are diagnostic of this die marriage of the 1801 eagle; the BD-2 pairing of this issue displays large, thin stars. Additional features of the 1801 BD-1 obverse die are star 8 away from Liberty's cap and star 13 away from the end of the bust. On the reverse, the tip of a leaf in the olive branch is joined to the right foot of the letter I in AMERICA and the lowest berry in the branch is under the right foot of the final letter A.

**Die State:** BD Die State a/d. This is the rare early die state of this scarce variety, the obverse perfect with no clashing, lapping or cracks. The reverse die was previously used in the 1799 BD-10 and the initial 1800 BD-1 pairing, and it inherited several cracks from Die State c of the latter marriage. A die crack originates in the field below the letter R in AMERICA and extends through the leaves below the letters ICA, the eagle's left talon, the tip of the stem and the eagle's tail to the border below the arrow butts. A second crack lightly joins the tail to the arrow butts, a third crack extends through the bottom of the letters UNI, and a fourth crack originates from the border above the first letter A in AMERICA and extends along the top of the letters ME. In the 1801 BD-1 marriage, the reverse now exhibits dentil clash along the top of the letters STAT in the word STATES. This is the only known reverse die state of this variety.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** According to numismatic tradition, the mintage for the 1801 eagle is 44,344 coins, 15,090 pieces of which were struck in 1802 from 1801-dated dies. This figure is per Walter Breen. Dannreuther, however, provides a range of 32,500 to 44,000 eagles struck from 1801-dated dies, the lower estimate likely closer to reality since many of the examples delivered during calendar year 1801 were coined from the remarriage of the 1800 BD-1 variety. It is also possible that some 1799-dated eagles were struck as late as 1801.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 2,500 to 4,000 examples were coined from the 1801 BD-1 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Forty to 50 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a boldly to sharply struck example, with virtually all of the obverse stars showing full centrils. The individual strands in Liberty's hair are clear, and the eagle's plumage is crisply delineated throughout. Boldly and uniformly denticulated borders surround both sides. Any softness of detail is minor and confined to star 6 on the obverse and the eagle's right talon on the reverse.

**Surfaces:** Vivid golden yellow patina is seen on both sides of this lovely example. There is ample evidence of a semi-prooflike finish and the fields on both sides are brightly reflective. Handling marks are generally small and inconspicuous, although we do note a short obverse scuff at the junction of Liberty's neck and bust that will serve as a useful provenance marker.

**Commentary:** This is the first of the two die pairings produced for the 1801-dated Capped Bust Right eagle, a fact that we know for two reasons. First, it shares its reverse die with the 1800-dated issue, examples of which were struck both before and after the 1801 BD-1 coins. Second, 1801 BD-1 is the penultimate die variety in this series whose obverse was prepared using a large, thick star device punch. Beginning with 1801 BD-2, and excluding only 1804 BD-1, all other die varieties produced through the end of this series feature large, thin obverse stars.

Although the rarity of this variety has been overstated in the past, 1801 BD-1 is genuinely scarce with examples seldom appearing on the open market. The progression of reverse die states confirms that all examples of this elusive variety were struck between the earliest 1800 coins and the remarriage of that issue. The early break up of the obverse explains the scarcity of 1801 BD-1. The example offered here is significant due to the perfect state of that die. A find for early eagle variety enthusiasts, this coin would also be a good choice for an advanced type set of United States Mint gold coinage.

PCGS# 45733. NGC ID: 2627.

From our (Stack's) 63rd Anniversary Sale, October 1998, lot 1597.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4032  
1801 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-24. Rarity-5. MS-61 (PCGS).



## Remarkable Second 1801 BD-1 Eagle Terminal Obverse Die State for this Scarce Variety



4032

**1801 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-24. Rarity-5. MS-61 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-1, Taraszka-24, Breen 1-A, HBCC-3193. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die and the third and final use of this reverse die. The large, thick obverse stars identical to those on examples of the 1799 BD-9, 1799 BD-10, and 1800 BD-1 varieties are diagnostic of this die marriage of the 1801 eagle, as the BD-2 pairing of this issue displays large, thin stars. Additional features of the 1801 BD-1 obverse die are star 8 away from Liberty's cap and star 13 away from the end of the bust. On the reverse, the tip of a leaf in the olive branch is joined to the right foot of the letter I in AMERICA and the lowest berry in the branch is under the right foot of the final letter A.

**Die State:** BD Die State c/d. This is the terminal die state of this scarce variety, the obverse with numerous cracks and breaks that soon rendered it untenable for continued production. The most prominent break vertically bisects the digits 01 in the date, joining the lower border to the bottom of Liberty's bust. Another crack arcs from star 13 through Liberty's neck and the hair below the ear before terminating in the field behind the head, while a third crack joins the second crack below the ear and extends up through the hair, cap, and letter L in LIBERTY before terminating at the upper border. The reverse die was previously used in the 1799 BD-10 and the initial 1800 BD-1 pairing, and it inherited several cracks from Die State c of the latter marriage. A die crack originates in the field below the letter R in AMERICA and extends through the leaves below the letters ICA, the eagle's left talon, the tip of the stem and the eagle's tail to the border below the arrow butts. A second crack lightly joins the tail to the arrow butts, a third crack extends through the bottom of the letters UNI, and a fourth crack originates from the border above the first letter A in

AMERICA and extends along the top of the letters ME. In the 1801 BD-1 marriage, the reverse now exhibits dentil clash along the top of the letters STAT in the word STATES. This is the only known reverse die state of this variety.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** According to numismatic tradition, the mintage for the 1801 eagle is 44,344 coins, 15,090 pieces of which were struck in 1802 from 1801-dated dies. This figure is per Walter Breen. Dannreuther, however, provides a range of 32,500 to 44,000 eagles struck from 1801-dated dies, the lower estimate likely closer to reality since many of the examples delivered during calendar year 1801 were coined from the remarriage of the 1800 BD-1 variety. It is also possible that some 1799-dated eagles were struck as late as 1801.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 2,500 to 4,000 examples were coined from the 1801 BD-1 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Forty to 50 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This expertly produced early eagle exhibits sharp to full detail throughout the design with bold, uniformly denticulated borders encircling both sides.

**Surfaces:** Satiny, near-fully lustrous surfaces exhibit splashes of reddish-rose iridescence on dominant deep orange patina. Wispy handling marks are easily overlooked, closer inspection with a loupe revealing a tiny nick on Liberty's cheek behind the mouth that we mention solely as a provenance marker.

**Commentary:** This is the second of two 1801 BD-1 eagles in the Taraszka Collection, a remarkable offering given the elusiveness of this variety. Mr. Taraszka acquired the present example from our (Bowers and Merena's) Bass II Sale to represent the terminal obverse die state, the early demise of that die explaining the scarcity of this variety. Wonderfully original with strong technical quality and eye appeal, this coin is sure to find its way into another advanced early gold cabinet.

PCGS# 45733. NGC ID: 2627.

From our (Bowers and Merena's) sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, Part II, October 1999, lot 1312. Bass acquired the coin from Ed Janis on February 9, 1970.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4033  
1801 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-25. Rarity-2. AU-55 (PCGS).



## Perennially Popular 1801 BD-2 Eagle Ideal for Type Purposes



4033

**1801 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-25. Rarity-2. AU-55 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-2, Taraszka-25, Breen 2-B, HBCC-3194. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die and the first of two uses of this reverse die. The large, thin obverse stars are diagnostic of this die marriage of the 1801 eagle, the BD-1 pairing of this issue has large, thick stars. Additional features of the 1801 BD-2 obverse die are star 8 with two points close to Liberty's cap and star 13 near the end of the bust. On the reverse, the right edge of the letter E in STATES is centered over a space between two clouds and the end of the branch stem is long and curves down.

**Die State:** BD Die State b/b. This is the later of two known die states for this variety. The obverse exhibits prominent clash marks in the cap from the vertical stripes in the reverse shield. The reverse is lightly lapped, but with no clashing or cracks.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** According to numismatic tradition, the mintage for the 1801 eagle is 44,344 coins, 15,090 pieces of which were struck in 1802 from 1801-dated dies. This figure is per Walter Breen. Dannreuther, however, provides a range of 32,500 to 44,000 eagles struck from 1801-dated dies, the lower estimate likely closer to reality since many of the examples delivered during calendar year 1801 were coined from the remarriage of the 1800 BD-1 variety. It is also possible that some 1799-dated eagles were struck as late as 1801.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 30,000 to 40,000 examples were coined from the 1801 BD-2 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Six hundred to 800 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** The central design elements are sharply to fully defined, although we do note minor softness of detail to some of the peripheral features such as the obverse stars and the eagle's wing tips. The strike is ideally centered with bold, uniformly denticulated borders encircling both sides.

**Surfaces:** This handsome coin exhibits vivid pinkish-rose overtones to a base of warmer olive-orange patina. Traces of semi-prooflike reflectivity can be seen in the fields, especially in the more protected areas around the devices. Free of distracting handling marks, with tiny identifying nicks behind Liberty's eye and in the lower right reverse field after the word AMERICA.

**Commentary:** With 600 to 800 coins believed extant, 1801 BD-2 is the most available die marriage in the Capped Bust Right eagle series, including both Small Eagle and Heraldic Eagle issues. As such it is immensely popular for advanced gold type purposes. Variety enthusiasts should take note that this is the earliest die pairing in the series with large, thin stars on the obverse. The large, thick star device punch introduced with the obverse die of the 1799 BD-9 variety obviously broke before preparation of this die, which was completed using a large, thin star replacement punch.

The obverse and reverse dies of this variety proved unusually hardy by the standards of the early eagle series, both striking 30,000 to 40,000 coins in this pairing and the reverse going on to produce an additional 7,500 to 10,000 coins in the 1803 BD-3 marriage. Since neither die suffered any extensive damage of which numismatic scholars are aware, the reasons for their eventual withdrawal from production remain a mystery. This is a lovely Choice About Uncirculated early eagle that is sure to catch the eye of gold enthusiasts.

PCGS# 45734. NGC ID: 2627.

*Acquired from Mid-American Rare Coin Galleries at the Detroit ANA Convention, August 1994. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka.*



Lot 4034

1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-26. Rarity-5+. Small Reverse Stars. MS-62 (PCGS).



## Gorgeous Mint State 1803 BD-1 Eagle Among the Finest Known for this Scarce Variety



4034

**1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-26. Rarity-5+. Small Reverse Stars. MS-62 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-1, Taraszka-26, Breen 1-D, HBCC-3195. This variety represents the first of six uses of this obverse die, the only one of the 1803-dated issue, and the only use of this reverse die. The reverse is easily identifiable since one of the arrow heads extends almost to the right edge of the upright of the letter I in UNITED. Other diagnostics of this reverse include a star pointing to the outside of the eagle's upper beak, a die gouge between the letters TA in STATES and considerable evidence of rust around the letters ME in AMERICA.

**Die State:** BD Die State a/a. This is the only die state known for the 1803 BD-1 variety, both the obverse and reverse free of clashing, lapping and cracks.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** According to Walter Breen, the mintage for the 1803-dated eagle is 15,017 coins, divided into 8,979 pieces for the Small Reverse Stars *Guide Book* variety and 6,038 coins for the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star die pairing. Most numismatic references, including the *Guide Book*, have long accepted this figure for the 1803 eagle. The author further divides the Small Reverse Stars mintage into 4,816 coins delivered on August 19, 1803, and 4,163 coins delivered on November 19, 1803. Breen attributes the 6,038 eagles delivered from June 1 to December 11, 1804, to the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star variety. Dannreuther, however, provides a range of 13,850 to 20,450 eagles struck from 1803-dated dies, the higher estimate likely closer to reality since we know that the 1803 BD-6 is a backdated variety struck after the 1804 BD-1 and, hence, is not included in Breen's estimate given above.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 1,500 to 2,500 examples were coined from the 1803 BD-1 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 30 to 40 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a sharply struck coin, the overall detail virtually full by early U.S. Mint standards. In fact, the only mentionable softness — and it is extremely minor — is confined to the hair strands immediately behind Liberty's ear, the obverse dentils outside the letters ERTY in LIBERTY, the eagle's right talon, the inside of the eagle's left wing, and the cloud below the letter O in OF. The final two design elements are

affected by a few faint adjustment marks (as made) whose presence explains their softness of detail.

**Surfaces:** A wonderfully original and nicely preserved coin, the appearance is strongly suggestive of a Choice Mint State grade. Both sides display full deep gold patina, with the obverse enhanced by vivid reddish-rose iridescence. Satiny luster is full and lively. A slanting graze over the vertical stripes in the reverse shield and a couple of light scuffs in the obverse field behind Liberty's cap are the only notable provenance markers.

**Commentary:** BD-1 is the first variety of 1803 eagle produced, a conclusion reached by early eagle variety specialists Anthony J. Taraszka and Harry W. Bass, Jr. based on the obverse die state. This die is only found in its perfect state in this pairing, the same state seen in the next pairing for this issue (BD-2). The fact that the reverse is also found perfect on all known examples of the 1803 BD-1 eagle is curious since this die must have suffered some kind of significant damage which prompted Mint personnel to withdraw it from production after a limited press run, thereby explaining the scarcity of this variety. With so few coins extant, it is unlikely that a terminal reverse die state example of the 1803 BD-1 eagle will ever be discovered, a familiar scenario for many of the elusive varieties in this challenging early gold series.

Of the six known die marriages of the 1803-dated eagle, only two (BD-3 and BD-5) are relatively obtainable by early eagle standards. Two (BD-2 and BD-6) are exceedingly rare while the other two (BD-1, represented here, and BD-4) are scarce. This is the first 1803 BD-1 eagle that we have had brought to auction since 2010, and it is also one of only three examples of the variety that we have offered since the turn of the 21st century. The other two examples were also Mint State, but the June 2010 Baltimore:3731 specimen was certified Unc Details—Improperly Cleaned, Obverse Damage by NGC and our (Stack's) March 2009 sale of the Entlich, White Oak, Gross and St. Andre collections included a cleaned and tooled example as lot 5984. As one of the finest known survivors from this elusive die marriage the beautiful, original and premium quality MS-62 example offered here represents a significant find for advanced early gold enthusiasts.

This coin is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference.

PCGS# 45735. NGC ID: 2629.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the Small Reverse Stars variety): 15; 23 finer (MS-65 finest).

Ex "Colonel" E.H.R. Green; our (Stack's) James A. Stack, Sr. Collection sale, March 1995, lot 561. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4035

1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-27. Rarity-7. Small Reverse Stars. AU-53 (PCGS). CAC.



## Highly Elusive 1803 BD-2 Eagle Tied for Rarest Die Variety of the Issue



4035

**1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-2, Taraszka-27. Rarity-7. Small Reverse Stars. AU-53 (PCGS). CAC.**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-2, Taraszka-27, Breen 1-C, HBCC-3196. This variety represents the second of six uses of this obverse die, the only one of the 1803-dated issue, and the only use of this reverse die. On this reverse die, the arrow heads do not extend past the letter N in UNITED, the eagle's beak is joined to a star point-to-point, and the right foot of the letter E in STATES is over a cloud.

**Die State:** BD Die State a/b. This is the only obverse die state known for the 1803 BD-2 variety, inherited from its use in the BD-1 pairing. The obverse is free of lapping, clashing and cracks. This is the later of only two known die states for the 1803 BD-2 variety, attributable by a light crack from the lower border to the eagle's tail.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** According to Walter Breen, the mintage for the 1803-dated eagle is 15,017 coins, divided into 8,979 pieces for the Small Reverse Stars *Guide Book* variety and 6,038 coins for the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star die pairing. Most numismatic references, including the *Guide Book*, have long accepted this figure for the 1803 eagle. The author further divides the Small Reverse Stars mintage into 4,816 coins delivered on August 19, 1803, and 4,163 coins delivered on November 19, 1803. Breen attributes the 6,038 eagles delivered from June 1 to December 11, 1804, to the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star variety. Dannreuther, however, provides a range of 13,850 to 20,450 eagles struck from 1803-dated dies, the higher estimate likely closer to reality since we know that the 1803 BD-6 is a backdated variety struck after the 1804 BD-1 and, hence, is not included in Breen's estimate given above.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that just 300 to 600 examples were coined from the 1803 BD-2 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only six to 10 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a boldly to sharply defined example, with light high point rub commensurate with the assigned grade. The impression is nicely centered on both sides, the borders are fully and uniformly dentilled.

**Surfaces:** Handsome deep honey-orange patina is seen on both sides of this handsomely original example, with vivid reddish-rose highlights

also evident under a light. Ample satin to modestly semi-prooflike finish remains, especially in the protected areas around the devices. We note only wispy handling marks, none of which are significant for the assigned grade. For provenance purposes there are three tiny nicks in the upper left obverse field between the back of Liberty's cap and stars 7 and 8.

**Commentary:** This variety vies with BD-6 as the rarest of the 1803-dated issue. With so few examples confirmed, and given that this die is unknown in any other pairing, the reverse must have failed early in the press run. If terminal die state coins were struck, they must have been lost through the mass meltings that claimed most pre-1834 U.S. Mint gold coins. In addition to its rarity, the 1803 BD-2 variety is significant as the only one in the early eagle series with 130 reeds around the edge. This fact was reported by Anthony J. Taraszka in his early eagle reference and expounded upon by Dannreuther in 2006: "As noted by eagle researcher Anthony Taraszka, this is the only early eagle that has 130 reeds, indicating that the segmented collar used for this variety also likely failed."

One of the rarest and most significant offerings in the fabulous Taraszka Collection, this may be the only opportunity in a lifetime for the advanced early eagle variety specialist to acquire an 1803 BD-2 eagle.

This coin is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference. When that book was published, the author knew of only four examples of this variety:

- 1) **Mint State.** Ex Pine Tree's Breen II Sale, June 1975, lot 212; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Core Collection.
- 2) **Mint State.** Ex New Netherlands' 54th Sale, April 1960, lot 689.
- 3) **PCGS AU-53.** Ex our (Bowers and Merena's) Rarities Sale of August 1998, lot 349; Anthony J. Taraszka. *The present example.*
- 4) **About Uncirculated.** Ex our (Stack's) sale of the Nicholson Family Collection, June 1967, lot 196.

Since publication of the Taraszka reference, we are aware of positive confirmation for only one other 1803 BD-2 eagle:

- 5) **NGC AU-50.** Ex Heritage's FUN Signature Sale of January 2001, lot 8264 (as PCGS EF-40); our sale of the Brandywine Collection, November 2011, lot 9672.

PCGS# 45736. NGC ID: 2629.

*From our (Bowers and Merena's) Rarities Sale of August 1998, lot 349. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka.*



Lot 4036

1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-3, Taraszka-28. Rarity-4. Small Reverse Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).



## Lovely Mint State 1803 BD-3 Eagle



4036

**1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-3, Taraszka-28. Rarity-4. Small Reverse Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-3, Taraszka-28, Breen 1-A, HBCC-3197. This variety represents the third of six uses of this obverse die, the only one of the 1803-dated issue, and the second of two uses of this reverse die. On the reverse, which was first used in the 1801 BD-2 marriage, the right edge of the letter E in STATES is centered over a space between two clouds and the end of the branch stem is long and curves down.

**Die State:** BD Die State c/d. This is the later of only two known die states for this variety, although theoretically a terminal state of the reverse should exist since the 1803 BD-3 represents its only use. The obverse was inherited perfect from its previous uses in the 1803 BD-1 and BD-2 pairings, but in this later state light clash marks from the horizontal stripes in the reverse shield are evident within the strands of Liberty's hair around the ear. The reverse was inherited from the 1801 BD-2 marriage, as above, but in its earlier state in the 1803 BD-3 pairing (Die State c) light cracks are now evident through the top of the letters IT in UNITED and from the ribbon past the latter M in UNUM to star 6. In this later Die State d, the reverse was relapped to efface clash marks from Die State c and has clashed again with particularly prominent clash marks around star 1, the eagle's head, the upper left corner of the shield, between the eagle's right wing and the arrow heads, and between the eagle's left wing and the olive branch. Lapping has effaced part of the cloud below the letter A in STATES and truncated many of the dentils around the border.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** According to Walter Breen, the mintage for the 1803-dated eagle is 15,017 coins, divided into 8,979 pieces for the Small Reverse Stars *Guide Book* variety and 6,038 coins for the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star die pairing. Most numismatic references, including the *Guide Book*, have long accepted this figure for the 1803 eagle. The author further divides the Small Reverse Stars mintage into 4,816 coins delivered on August 19, 1803 and 4,163 coins delivered on November 19, 1803. Breen attributes the 6,038 eagles delivered from June 1 to December 11, 1804 to the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star variety. Dannreuther, however, provides a range of 13,850 to 20,450 eagles struck from 1803-dated dies, the higher estimate likely closer to reality since we know that the 1803 BD-6 is a backdated variety struck after the 1804 BD-1 and, hence, is not included in Breen's estimate given above.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 7,500 to 10,000 examples were coined from the 1803 BD-3 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** One hundred fifty to 200 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This appealing early eagle exhibits sharp to full central striking detail that softens in isolated areas toward the borders. The individual strands of Liberty's hair and the eagle's breast, tail and most of the wing feathers are particularly noteworthy for crispness of detail. Around the peripheries, we note softness of detail to all stars on the obverse except for 9, 10 and 11, both of the eagle's wing tips, some of the letters in the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, the clouds below the word OF, and the eagle's right talon. A few prominent adjustment marks (as made) through the eagle's wing tips help to explain the softness of detail in those areas. The strike, however, is well centered with fully and uniformly denticulated borders framing both sides.

**Surfaces:** Beautiful bright gold surfaces are semi-prooflike in finish with appreciable reflectivity in the fields. The appearance is quite smooth for the assigned grade with only light, wispy hairlines that are easily overlooked. The most useful identifying feature is a tiny, shallow planchet void in the lower left reverse field before the letter U in UNITED.

**Commentary:** With up to 200 coins believed extant, BD-3 handily outdistances BD-5 to rank as the most available of the six known die marriages of the 1803 eagle. Given the extant population it is surprising that a terminal reverse die state coin has not been found, leaving us to wonder about the exact nature of the damage that retired this otherwise hardy die. (This reverse had previously struck 30,000 to 40,000 coins in the 1801 BD-2 pairing, followed by 7,500 to 10,000 coins in the 1803 BD-3 marriage represented here — an unusually large number of coins for an early eagle die.) The obverse die, of course, was nearly as hardy, being used for all six varieties of the 1803-dated issue.

Given its relative availability, the 1803 BD-3 is one of the more popular type varieties in the Capped Bust Right Eagle series, often selected to represent the Heraldic Eagle reverse design. Of course, no pre-1834 U.S. Mint gold issues or varieties can rightly be called common in an absolute sense. All are scarce, and many are downright rare. The 1803 BD-3 eagle falls into the former category in terms of total number of coins extant, the present Mint State survivor rare from a condition standpoint and worthy of inclusion in an advanced collection.

PCGS# 45737. NGC ID: 2629.

PCGS Population (all die marriages of the Small Reverse Stars variety): 12; 38 finer (MS-65 finest).

Acquired from Mid-American Rare Coin Galleries at the Detroit ANA Convention, August 1994. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.



Lot 4037  
1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-4, Taraszka-29. Rarity-6.  
Small Reverse Stars—Misaligned Obverse Die—AU-55 (PCGS).



## Fascinating 1803 BD-4 Ten Struck from a Misaligned Obverse Die on a Flawed Planchet A Rare Major Mint Error on a Scarce Early Eagle Die Variety



4037

**1803 Capped Bust Right, BD-4, Taraszka-29. Rarity-6. Small Reverse Stars—Misaligned Obverse Die—AU-55 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-4, Taraszka-29, Breen 1-B, HBCC-Missing. This variety represents the fourth of six uses of this obverse die, the only one of the 1803-dated issue, and the only use of this reverse die. The reverse die is easily attributable since it is the only one of the Small Reverse Stars *Guide Book* variety on which the right upright of the letter E in STATES is centered over a space between two clouds.

**Die State:** BD Die State c-d/b. Struck from an earlier die state of this pairing, the obverse represents an intermediate state with no evidence of additional clashing (Die State c), although a light crack is evident along the top of the letters BERTY in LIBERTY (Die State d). Light clash marks from the horizontal stripes in the reverse shield within the strands of Liberty's hair around the ear were inherited from the later state of the 1803 BD-3 marriage. For the reverse we note only light cracks between the letters RI and IC in AMERICA and from the eagle's right talon to the base of the letter U in UNITED.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** According to Walter Breen, the mintage for the 1803-dated eagle is 15,017 coins, divided into 8,979 pieces for the Small Reverse Stars *Guide Book* variety and 6,038 coins for the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star die pairing. Most numismatic references, including the *Guide Book*, have long accepted this figure for the 1803 eagle. The author further divides the Small Reverse Stars mintage into 4,816 coins delivered on August 19, 1803, and 4,163 coins delivered on November 19, 1803. Breen attributes the 6,038 eagles delivered from June 1 to December 11, 1804, to the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star variety. Dannreuther, however, provides a range of 13,850 to 20,450 eagles struck from 1803-dated dies, the higher estimate likely closer to reality since we know that the 1803 BD-6 is a backdated variety struck after the 1804 BD-1 and, hence, is not included in Breen's estimate given above.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 1,250 to 1,750 examples were coined from the 1803 BD-4 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 25 to 30 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This intriguing piece represents a major Mint error on an early U.S. gold coin. This eagle was struck from a misaligned obverse die on a flawed planchet. The obverse impression is off center approximately five percent to 11 o'clock. There is scant denticulation along the upper left border, uncommonly broad, if somewhat soft denticulation along the lower right border. The error has resulted in blunt detail to the bottom of Liberty's portrait and most of the stars, especially stars 1 to 5. Additionally, there is considerable roughness from the original planchet texture remaining around the periphery, most notably in the date area. The reverse is flawed and rough along the upper border, affecting the top of the letters in the words STATES and OF. Additionally, the tips of both of the eagle's wings are blunt, as is the letter D in UNITED and several of the clouds above the star field. The best struck features are confined to the centers, where many of Liberty's hair strands are bold and much of the eagle's plumage is crisp. All major design elements are discernible despite the error, and the entire design is fully appreciable.

**Surfaces:** Brilliant and attractive, both sides retain considerable semi-prooflike reflectivity in the protected areas around the stars, letters, date and other design elements. There are no post-production blemishes apart from wispy handling marks that are easily overlooked.

**Commentary:** This is one of the most fascinating and significant coins in the Taraszka Collection. Major Mint errors on pre-1834 United States gold coins are exceedingly rare and seldom seen. The fact that this piece was struck from the scarce 1803 BD-4 dies enhances its appeal to advanced early gold variety specialists and Mint error enthusiasts. Sure to see spirited bidding at auction.

PCGS# E45738. NGC ID: 2629.

From our (Bowers and Merena's) Herbert D. Spencer Collection sale, June 1996, lot 1377. Plated in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4038

1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-4, Taraszka-29. Rarity-6. Small Reverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).



## Scarce 1803 BD-4 Eagle Late Die State



4038

**1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-4, Taraszka-29. Rarity-6. Small Reverse Stars. AU-58 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 small stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-4, Taraszka-29, Breen 1-B, HBCC-Missing. This variety represents the fourth of six uses of this obverse die, the only one of the 1803-dated issue, and the only use of this reverse die. The reverse die is easily attributable since it is the only one of the Small Reverse Stars *Guide Book* variety on which the right upright of the letter E in STATES is centered over a space between two clouds.

**Die State:** BD Die State e/d. This is the penultimate of five known die states for this die marriage. The obverse was inherited from the 1803 BD-3 pairing with light clash marks within the strands of Liberty's hair around the ear. By the time it progressed to Die State e, represented here, two additional clashing had occurred, resulting in prominent clash marks from the eagle's tail and the adjacent dentils at the top of Liberty's cap and around stars 7, 8 and the letters LI in LIBERTY. A light die crack is also evident along the top of the letters BERTY in LIBERTY. Although it was a new die when placed into use in the 1803 BD-4 pairing, the reverse deteriorated quickly due to multiple clashing and cracks. In Die State d, represented here, prominent clash marks include the top of Liberty's cap and stars 7 and 8 from the obverse around the arrows and the letters UNI in UNITED, as well as the letters LIB in LIBERTY around and to the right of the eagle's tail. Spindly die cracks are evident from the base of the letter E in STATES, from star 6 through the eagle's left wing joining the aforementioned crack below the end of the scroll, through the base of the letters TATES in STATES, through the letters ER and RI in AMERICA, from the eagle's right talon nearly to the base of the letter U in UNITED, within and around the cloud below the letter F in OF, and between several of the stars within the field above the eagle. These and other clash marks and cracks would eventually cause Mint personnel to retire this reverse die after a fairly short press run. Close inspection with a loupe reveals additional damage to the die in this advanced state in the form of a row of short spikes within the horizontal stripes at the upper left of the shield.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** According to Walter Breen, the mintage for the 1803-dated eagle is 15,017 coins, divided into 8,979 pieces for the Small Reverse Stars *Guide Book* variety and 6,038 coins for the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star die pairing. Most

numismatic references, including the *Guide Book*, have long accepted this figure for the 1803 eagle. The author further divides the Small Reverse Stars mintage into 4,816 coins delivered on August 19, 1803, and 4,163 coins delivered on November 19, 1803. Breen attributes the 6,038 eagles delivered from June 1 to December 11, 1804, to the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star variety. Dannreuther, however, provides a range of 13,850 to 20,450 eagles struck from 1803-dated dies, the higher estimate likely closer to reality since we know that the 1803 BD-6 is a backdated variety struck after the 1804 BD-1 and, hence, is not included in Breen's estimate given above.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 1,250 to 1,750 examples were coined from the 1803 BD-4 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Only 25 to 30 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** Otherwise sharp to full striking detail softens at stars 1, 2, 3 and 12 on the obverse, as well as along the top of the eagle's left wing and at the clouds below the word OF on the reverse. Light, wispy adjustment marks (as made) around the eagle's left wing tip affect only the detail to the first letter A in AMERICA. Both sides are nicely centered on the planchet with fully and near-uniformly denticulated borders.

**Surfaces:** A semi-prooflike beauty, both sides exhibit pronounced reflectivity in the fields when viewed with a strong light. The vivid medium gold surfaces display only wispy handling marks and a trace of light rub to explain the Choice AU grade from PCGS. A thin, light planchet drift mark (as struck) on the reverse at the junction of vertical stripe 6 and the horizontal stripes in the shield is useful for provenance purposes.

**Commentary:** While not in the same rarity league as BD-2 and BD-6, BD-4 is a very scarce die marriage that is among the more challenging to acquire for the 1803 eagle. It is rarer than BD-1, and far rarer than BD-3 and BD-5. This is one of only two die varieties in the early eagle series that is not represented in the Harry Bass Core Collection, although Bass did own an example of BD-4 that was sold in error as lot 1313 in our (Bowers and Merena's) Bass II Sale. As related above, the scarcity of this variety results from the early demise of the reverse die due to clashing and cracks. A lovely near-Mint early eagle irrespective of date or die pairing, this coin would be perfect for a high quality type or variety set.

PCGS# 45738. NGC ID: 2629.

Acquired July 1994. Earlier from B. Max Mehl's sale of the Jerome Kern Collection, May 1950. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



Lot 4039

1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-5, Taraszka-30. Rarity-4+. Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.



## Perennially Popular 1803 BD-5 Eagle

### Rare Mint State Quality Example of the Extra Reverse Star Variety



4039

**1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-5, Taraszka-30. Rarity-4+. Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star. MS-62 (PCGS). CAC.**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 large stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-5, Taraszka-30, Breen 1-E, HBCC-3199. This variety represents the fifth of six uses of this obverse die, the only one of the 1803-dated issue, and the only use of this reverse die. The reverse die is easily attributable due to the presence of a tiny extra star within the final cloud. This feature is fully discernible on the present example. On some coins, however, the star is faint to absent due to striking deficiencies and/or wear. On such pieces, the space between the eagle's left talon and the final letter A in AMERICA confirms the Extra Star reverse and, by extension, the BD-5 attribution. On the only other Large Reverse Stars variety of the 1803 eagle, BD-6, the eagle's left talon is joined to that letter.

**Die State:** BD Die State g/a. This is the earlier of only two known die states for this die marriage. When Mint personnel retired the extensively clashed and badly cracked reverse die of the 1803 BD-4 pairing, they also relapped the obverse die to remove all but the barest trace of clashing between the top of Liberty's cap and the letter L in LIBERTY. This is the only known die state for the 1803 BD-5 variety. The reverse is in its early state with no clashing, lapping or cracks. In its later state (Die State b), this reverse would develop a crack from the lower edge across the eagle's tail and along the outside of the shield to the center of the wing. Presumably this crack eventually resulted in the failure of this reverse die and its retirement.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** According to Walter Breen, the mintage for the 1803-dated eagle is 15,017 coins, divided into 8,979 pieces for the Small Reverse Stars *Guide Book* variety and 6,038 coins for the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star die pairing. Most numismatic references, including the *Guide Book*, have long accepted this figure for the 1803 eagle. The author further divides the Small Reverse Stars mintage into 4,816 coins delivered on August 19, 1803, and 4,163 coins delivered on November 19, 1803. Breen attributes the 6,038 eagles delivered from June 1 to December 11, 1804, to the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star variety. Dannreuther, however, provides a range of 13,850 to 20,450 eagles struck from 1803-dated dies, the higher estimate likely closer to reality since we know that the 1803 BD-6 is a backdated variety struck after the 1804 BD-1 and, hence, is not included in Breen's estimate given above.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that 3,000 to 5,000 examples were coined from the 1803 BD-5 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Ninety to 110 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** On this impressive coin, the strike is sharp to full over virtually all elements of the design. Additionally, the impression is ideally centered on both sides, the borders fully and uniformly denticulated. Softness of detail is minor and generally confined to the eagle's right talon and the stars above the eagle, the latter typical of most survivors from the 1803 BD-5 dies that we have handled. Several light adjustment marks (as made) over the top of Liberty's portrait did not strike out, although the detail to the cap and hair strands remains full.

**Surfaces:** This is a beautiful coin, offering premium quality for the assigned grade and not all that far from Choice Mint State. Both sides display vivid golden-orange patina and intense satin luster. Overall smooth and visually appealing, there are a couple of tiny planchet voids in the obverse field before Liberty's neck and a few faint drift marks on the reverse at the letters IT in UNITED and the eagle's right wing. These features are as made.

**Commentary:** The 1803 BD-5 is one of the most readily attributable and eagerly sought varieties in the entire Capped Bust Right eagle series of 1795 to 1804. Although

this die marriage had been confirmed prior to that time, Harry W. Bass, Jr. appears to have been the first numismatist to notice the extra star feature on the reverse when he acquired an example in 1966. This discovery was the catalyst that launched Harry into his career of die studies of gold coins from 1796 to 1834. The extra star is much smaller than those used in the primary obverse and reverse designs, so it seems likely to some observers that it was added to the reverse intentionally by a Mint employee as a way to identify this die. This is only a theory, however, and as Dannreuther so eloquently puts it, "This is another early gold mystery that defies explanation."

With 90 to 110 coins believed extant, BD-5 ranks behind only BD-3 as the second most frequently encountered die marriage of the 1803 eagle. As a perusal of our past sales makes clear, however, the finest examples typically offered in today's market are certified AU-58. As a solidly graded and aesthetically pleasing Mint State survivor, the coin offered here is rare from a condition standpoint and would serve as a highlight in the finest type or variety set.

PCGS# 45739. NGC ID: 262A.

PCGS Population (both die marriages of the Large Reverse Stars variety): 9; 7 finer (MS-65 finest).

Acquired from Mid-American Rare Coin Galleries at the Detroit ANA Convention, August 1994. The plate coin for the die variety in the book *United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804* by Anthony J. Taraszka.



Lot 4040

1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-6, Taraszka-32. Rarity-7. Large Reverse Stars, 13 Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).



## Historically Significant and Exceedingly Rare 1803 BD-6 Eagle The Final Early Eagle Variety Struck for Circulation Missing from the Bass Collection



4040

**1803 Capped Bust Right. BD-6, Taraszka-32. Rarity-7. Large Reverse Stars, 13 Stars. MS-61 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 large stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-6, Taraszka-32, Breen 1-F, HBCC-Missing. This variety represents the final of six uses of this obverse die, the only one of the 1803-dated issue, and the second of two uses of this reverse die. The reverse die, previously used to strike the 1804 BD-1 variety, is readily identifiable as the only Large Reverse Stars die of the 1803-dated issue with only 13 stars. The other Large Reverse Stars variety of the issue is the Extra Star BD-5 variety with a tiny additional star within the final cloud. The BD-6 variety is also attributable by repunching to the base of the first letter T in STATES, a berry positioned below the left center of the final letter A in AMERICA, a leaf point in the olive branch pointing between the letters RI in AMERICA, and the presence of a tiny die rust lump within the top of the space between vertical stripes 4 and 5 in the shield.

**Die State:** BD Die State h/c. This is the only known die state of this highly elusive variety. The obverse inherited the single clash mark at the letter L in LIBERTY from Die State g of the 1803 BD-5 variety. In the 1803 pairing there is now also a spindly crack from the border through the two lower points of star 5. The reverse die state is significant, for it confirms that all known examples of the 1803 BD-6 variety were struck after the 1804 BD-1 variety, making this a backdated variety. In Die State c, the reverse inherited two cracks from the 1804 BD-1 pairing: through the letters UNITE in the word UNITED and from the letter U in the same word through the bottom of the eagle's tail to the final letter A in AMERICA. In the 1803 BD-6 pairing, additional cracks are evident from the lower border through the arrow feathers to the eagle's right leg, from the left border through the letter D in UNITED to the top of the scroll at the letter E in the Latin motto E PLURIBUS UNUM, and branching from the second crack down through the edge of the scroll into the field before turning to the right to cross the bottom of the eagle's right wing feathers to terminate at the shield border.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** According to Walter Breen, the mintage for the 1803-dated eagle is 15,017 coins, divided into 8,979 pieces for the Small Reverse Stars *Guide Book* variety and 6,038 coins for the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star die pairing. Most numismatic references, including the *Guide Book*, have long accepted this figure for the 1803 eagle. The author further divides the Small

Reverse Stars mintage into 4,816 coins delivered on August 19, 1803, and 4,163 coins delivered on November 19, 1803. Breen attributes the 6,038 eagles delivered from June 1 to December 11, 1804, to the BD-5 Large Reverse Stars, Extra Star variety. Dannreuther, however, provides a range of 13,850 to 20,450 eagles struck from 1803-dated dies, the higher estimate likely closer to reality since we know that the 1803 BD-6 is a backdated variety struck after the 1804 BD-1 and, hence, is not included in Breen's estimate given above.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Dannreuther estimates that only 300 to 600 examples were coined from the 1803 BD-6 dies.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Just six to 10 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** This is a boldly to sharply struck example overall with minor softness of detail confined to the bottom of Liberty's portrait, star 1 on the obverse, the eagle's wing tips, and several of the clouds and stars on the reverse. Both sides are expertly centered on the planchet with fully denticulated borders framing the design.

**Surfaces:** Gorgeous deep gold surfaces exhibit a tinge of pale olive. Otherwise satiny, there is a hint of semi-prooflike reflectivity in the obverse field. Very smooth for the assigned grade with strong visual appeal. A tiny vertical nick in the upper left obverse field is the most useful identifier.

**Commentary:** BD-6 vies with BD-2 as the rarest die marriage of the 1803 eagle. The desirability of this variety is enhanced by a number of other factors. First, this is a backdated variety. As related above, the progression of reverse die states confirms that the 1803 BD-6 eagle was struck after the 1804 BD-1 variety. As such, the mintage for the 1803 BD-6 die pairing is almost certainly included in the Mint's delivery of 3,757 eagles from December 28 to 31, 1804 (see below in our description of the 1804 BD-1 eagle). Second, the fact that this variety was struck after the 1804 BD-1 confirms it as the final eagle struck for circulation before President Thomas Jefferson suspended production of this denomination on December 31, 1804. Finally, *this is the only early eagle die variety that Harry W. Bass, Jr. was never able to acquire for his collection.* Although two early eagle varieties are missing from the Harry Bass Core Collection, an example of the 1803 BD-4 was originally part of the collection but was sold in error.

We have been able to positively confirm the existence of only seven 1803 BD-6 eagles, all but two of which are included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference. We have updated the provenances and added to the author's census to account for later auction appearances, as follows:

# THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION

of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles



1) **PCGS MS-61.** Ex our (Bowers and Merena's) Harry Einstein Collection sale, June 1986, lot 444; Heritage's Portland ANA Auction of August 1998, lot 7744; Anthony J. Taraszka. **The present example.**

2) **NGC MS-62.** Ex our (Stack's) sale of September 1977, lot 1531; Heritage's Summer FUN Signature Coin Auction of June 2008, lot 2106.

3) **NGC AU-53.** Ex our Chicago ANA Sale of August 2014, lot 13240.

4) **NGC AU-53.** Ex Superior's sale of the Miguel Munoz Collection, Part III, June 1981, lot 362; Heritage's FUN Auction of January 2009, lot 4112; Heritage's Fort Worth ANA Signature Auction of March 2010, lot 2400; Heritage's Summer FUN Signature Auction of July 2010, lot 4718; our sale of the Dr. James A. Ferrendelli Collection, August 2014 ANA, lot 11116; our Rarities Sale, February 2016, lot 224.

5) **AU-55.** Ex Superior's session of Auction '84, July 1984, lot 410; our (Bowers and Merena's) Estates of Philip M. Mann, Jr. and Glenn B. Smedley sale, September 1988, lot 538.

6) **PCGS EF-45.** Ex Heritage's sale of the R.M. Phillips Limited Partnership Collection, August 2009, lot 1297.

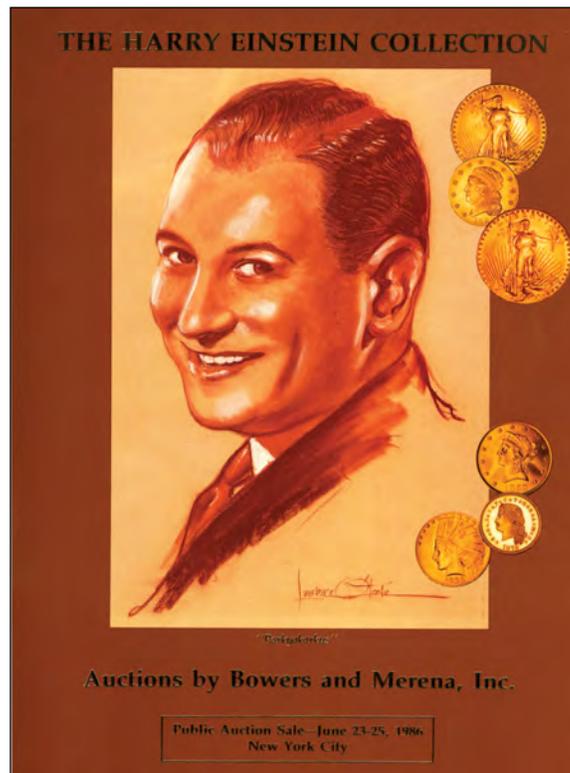
7) **NGC VG Details—Mount Removed.** Ex Heritage's Charlotte ANA National Money Signature Sale of 2003, lot 6347; our Philadelphia Americana Sale of September 2011, lot 5967.

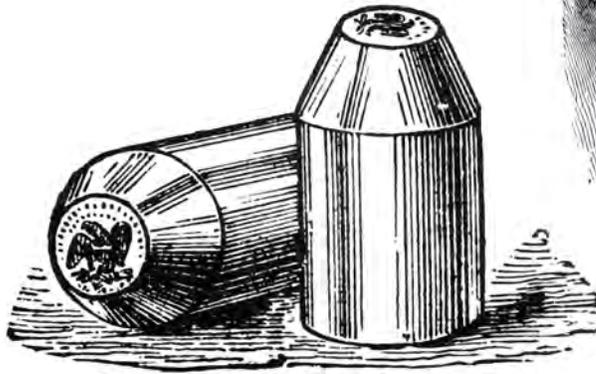
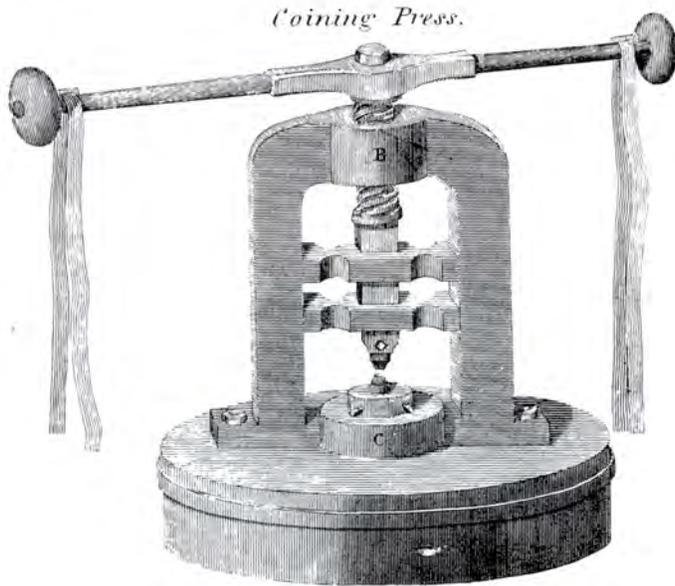
Our offering of the Taraszka specimen in this sale presents the advanced early gold variety specialist with an opportunity to do something that Harry W. Bass, Jr. was never able to do — acquire an example of the rare and historic 1803 BD-6 eagle. Interested parties are urged to bid strongly and expect intense competition for the honor of securing this important coin.

PCGS# 45740. NGC ID: 2629.

PCGS Population (both die marriages of the Large Reverse Stars variety): 5; 16 finer (MS-65 finest).

*From our (Bowers and Merena's) Harry Einstein Collection sale, June 1986, lot 444; Heritage's Portland ANA Auction of August 1998, lot 7744. The plate coin for the die variety in the book United States Ten Dollar Gold Eagles: 1795-1804 by Anthony J. Taraszka.*





Machinery and devices relating to late eighteenth and early nineteenth century coin production.  
From top: An early hand-operated coining press of the type used at the first Philadelphia Mint beginning in 1792, rolling machine for the preparation of planchet strips, steel dies.



Lot 4041  
1804 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-31. Rarity-4+. Crosslet 4. MS-61 (PCGS)



## Key Date 1804 Crosslet 4 Eagle Rare and Desirable Mint State Quality



4041

**1804 Capped Bust Right. BD-1, Taraszka-31. Rarity-4+. Crosslet 4. MS-61 (PCGS).**

**Type and Style:** Type II: Capped Bust Right, Heraldic Eagle. Style VII: Head of 1795 with 13 large stars arranged eight left, five right; Reverse of 1799 with 13 large stars in the field below the clouds and a short, thick neck on the eagle. The head and eagle punches are attributed to hubs prepared by Robert Scot.

**Die Variety:** BD-1, Taraszka-31, Breen 1-A, HBCC-3201. This variety represents the only use of this obverse die and the first of two uses of this reverse die. The obverse exhibits a crosslet 4 in the date, easily distinguishing this circulation strike variety of the 1804 eagle from its Proof counterpart (BD-2) from a die made in 1834 with a plain 4 in the 1804 date. A concentration of die polish lines is evident between the end of Liberty's bust and the border, and there are several small die rust lumps around the letters ER in LIBERTY. Additionally, the die is slightly buckled in the field areas behind the Liberty cap and around the upper right of Liberty's portrait below the letters BER in LIBERTY. On the reverse, the first letter T in STATES is repunched at its base, there is a berry below the left center of the final letter A in AMERICA, a leaf point in the olive branch points between the letters RI in AMERICA, and there is a tiny die rust lump within the top of the space between vertical stripes 4 and 5 in the shield. This die was later used in the extremely rare 1803 BD-6 pairing, a backdated variety.

**Die State:** BD Die State b/b. This is the later of only two known die states of this variety. The obverse is lightly cracked through the digits 180 and stars 1 and 2 with additional light cracks from the border to star 11 and from the end of Liberty's bust to star 13. The reverse is also lightly cracked in two places: through the letters UNITE in the word UNITED and from the letter U in the same word through the bottom of the eagle's tail to the final letter A in AMERICA.

**Estimated Mintage for the Issue:** The *Guide Book* and other numismatic references have long provided a mintage figure of 3,757 coins for the circulation strike 1804 eagle. This total is based on Walter Breen's assertion that all 3,757 eagles that the Mint delivered from December 28 through 31, 1804, were examples of this issue. Based on reverse die state progression, however, we now know that the 1803 BD-6 variety was struck after the 1804 BD-1, so Breen's figure of 3,757 coins must include some examples of the backdated 1803 variety. Accordingly, Dannreuther provides a range of 2,500 to 3,757 coins struck for the circulation strike 1804 eagle.

**Estimated Mintage for the Variety:** Since there is only a single die variety known for the circulation strike 1804 eagle, the estimated mintage for the variety is the same as that for the issue.

**Estimated Surviving Population for the Variety:** Eighty to 100 coins are believed extant in all grades (per Dannreuther).

**Strike:** Virtually all known circulation strike 1804 eagles are softly defined to one degree or another. The present example is nicely centered on the planchet with full denticulation around both sides. Overall detail to the devices is soft, however, with stars 3 and 12 on the obverse and the eagle's left shoulder and right talon on the reverse particularly blunt. The sharpest design elements are many of the obverse stars, most of the individual strands in Liberty's hair, the cap and, on the reverse, the arrow heads, olive branch and many of the eagle's wing feathers. Numerous light adjustment marks (as made) on the reverse slant down to the right through the shield and the eagle's left shoulder, helping to explain the lack of detail for those features.

**Surfaces:** This is an exceptionally well preserved and visually appealing circulation strike 1804 eagle. Both sides exhibit full satin luster with modest semi-reflectivity in the fields. Both sides display beautiful bright medium gold patina, and the reverse has a few swirls of reddish-russet at the eagle's breast, below the wings, and within the star field. Very pleasing for the assigned grade; for provenance purposes we mention a tiny two-reed reeding mark in the upper right obverse field in front of Liberty's forehead.

**Commentary:** By order of President Thomas Jefferson, the Mint halted \$10 gold eagle production on December 31, 1804. Rising bullion prices, which also affected the silver dollar, resulted in most newly minted eagles being exported and melted for their precious metal content. No more circulation strikes of this denomination were produced before 1838, in which year eagle coinage resumed using Christian Gobrecht's Liberty Head design. There would, however, be one final Capped Bust Right eagle issue, the Proof novodel 1804 Plain 4 (BD-2) struck during the 1830s for inclusion in special presentation coinage sets.

Interestingly, the 1804 BD-1 is not the last variety of circulation strike Capped Bust Right eagle produced. That honor goes to the 1803 BD-6 variety, as above, although the entire mintage of the 1804 BD-1 is still included in the Mint's final delivery of 3,757 coins for this denomination from December 28 to 31, 1804. Exactly what forced Mint employees to retire the 1804-dated obverse die and briefly reinstate its 1803-dated counterpart remains a mystery since there are no terminal obverse die state coins known for the 1804 BD-1 variety.

Long heralded as a key date issue in its series, the 1804 is one of the most eagerly sought circulation strike Capped Bust Right eagles. This is the only die pairing of the issue, which means that as a date the circulation strike 1804 is considerably rarer than other multi-variety issues in this series such as the 1799 and 1803.

At the Mint State level of preservation, as here, the 1804 is a noteworthy rarity from a condition standpoint. More so than many other dates of this type, the 1804 is usually encountered damaged, cleaned or otherwise significantly impaired.

THE ANTHONY J. TARASZKA COLLECTION  
of 1795 to 1804 \$10 Gold Eagles

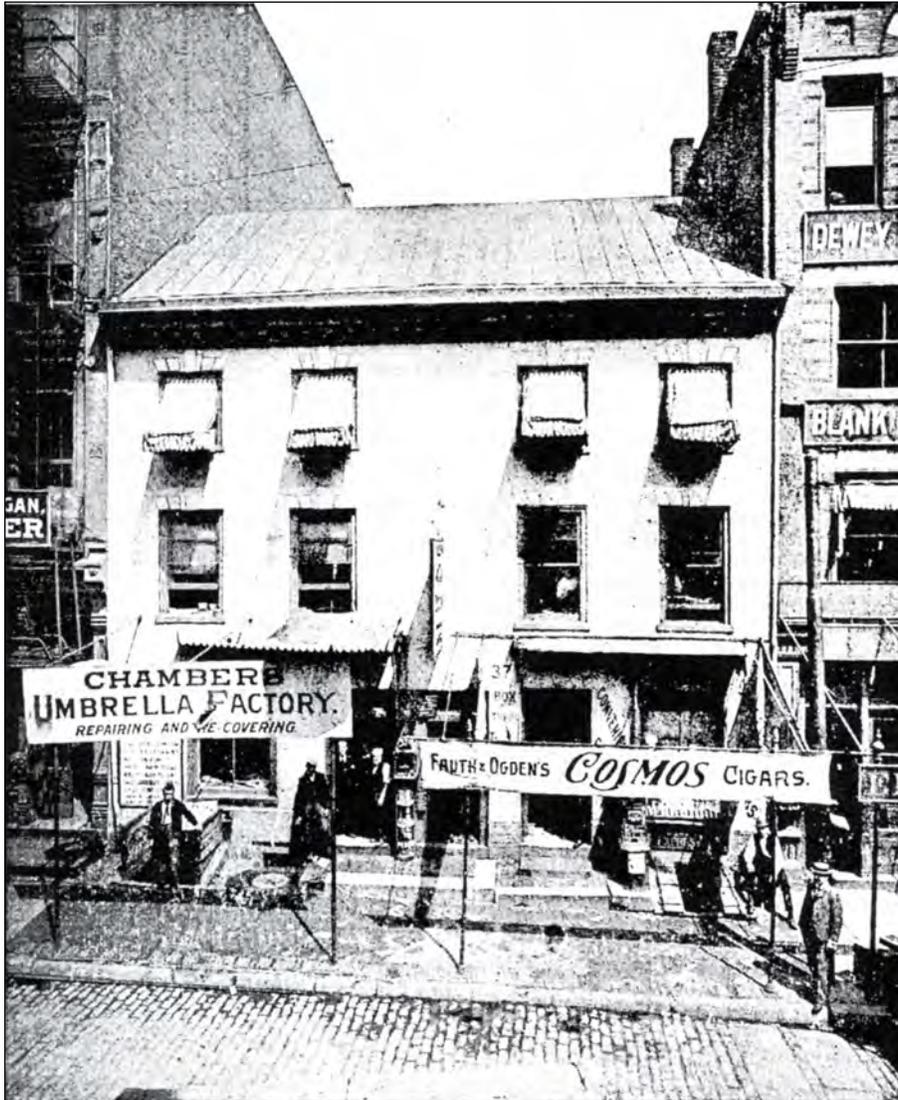


Associated by date with the famous Proof 1804 Class I Draped Bust silver dollar and Proof 1804 Plain 4 eagle struck in 1834 - two of the classic rarities in U.S. numismatics - and a scarce variety in its own right, the inclusion of an 1804 BD-1 eagle has long been the mark of a significant collection. As one of the finest certified survivors, this

lovely Mint State example would serve as a highlight in the most advanced cabinet.

This coin is included in the list of "Significant Specimens" for the variety in the Taraszka early eagle reference.

PCGS# 45741. NGC ID: BFYU.



The old mint building in a photograph circa 1903, at which time it housed an umbrella factory and a cigar dispensary.

# Bidding Increments

Bid	Bid Increment
\$0-\$99	\$5.00
\$100-\$199	\$10.00
\$200-\$499	\$20.00
\$500-\$999	\$50.00
\$1,000-\$1,999	\$100.00
\$2,000-\$4,999	\$200.00
\$5,000-\$9,999	\$500.00
\$10,000-\$19,999	\$1,000.00
\$20,000-\$49,999	\$2,000.00
\$50,000-\$99,999	\$5,000.00
\$100,000-\$199,999	\$10,000.00
\$200,000-\$499,999	\$20,000.00
\$500,000-\$999,999	\$50,000.00
\$1,000,000-\$1,999,999	\$100,000.00
\$2,000,000+	\$200,000.00

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Address: 75 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103

Account Number: 1311011385

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International Swift Code: OWBKUS6L

Account Name: Stacks Bowers Numismatics LLC

Address: 75 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103

Account Number: 1311011385

\*Bank wires sent from a foreign bank are subject to an international bank wire fee of \$35. If an international order will be settled using a different form of payment, please contact us by phone or email to have the wire fee removed. If the wire will be sent in any currency other than USD, Stack's Bowers Galleries needs to be contacted prior to the transfer in order to arrange for an intermediary bank.



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7. **Sales Tax.** Buyers will be charged all applicable sales tax unless a valid Resale Certificate has been provided to the Auctioneer prior to the auction. Should state sales tax become applicable in the delivery state prior to delivery of the property on the invoice, the Buyer agrees to pay all applicable state sales tax as required by the delivery state as of the shipping date. In the event any applicable sales tax is not paid by Buyer that should have been paid, even if not such tax was not charged or collected by Stack's Bowers by mistake, error, negligence or gross negligence, Buyer nonetheless acknowledges responsibility to pay such sales tax and remains fully liable for and agrees to promptly pay such taxes on demand, together with any interest or penalty that may be assessed by the taxing authority and agrees to indemnify and hold Auctioneer harmless from any applicable sales tax, interest or penalties due. Lots from different Auctions may not be aggregated for sales tax purposes.

8. **Financial Responsibility.** In the event any applicable conditions of these Terms of Sale herein are not complied with by a Buyer or if the Buyer fails to make payment in full by the Default Date, Stack's Bowers reserves the right, in its sole discretion, in addition to all other remedies which it may have at law or in equity to rescind the sale of that lot or any other lot or lots sold to the defaulting Buyer, retaining all payments made by Buyer as liquidated damages, it being recognized that actual damages may be speculative or difficult to compute, and resell a portion or all of the lots held by Stack's Bowers, in a commercially reasonable manner, which may include a public or private sale, in a quantity sufficient in the opinion of Stack's Bowers to satisfy the indebtedness, plus all accrued charges, and Stack's Bowers may charge a seller's commission that is commercially reasonable. More than one such sale may take place at the option of Stack's Bowers. If Stack's Bowers resells the lots, Buyer agrees to pay for the reasonable cost of such sale, together with any incidental costs of sale, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, cataloging and any other reasonable charges. Notice of the sale shall be by U.S.P.S. Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to the address utilized on the Bid Sheet, Auction Consignment and Security Agreement or other last known address by Stack's Bowers. The proceeds shall be applied first to the satisfaction of any damages occasioned by Buyer's breach, then to any other indebtedness owed to Stack's Bowers, including without limitation, commissions, handling charges, carrying charges, the expenses of both sales, seller's fees, reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, collection agency fees and costs and any other costs or expenses incurred. Buyer shall also be liable to Stack's Bowers for any deficiency if the proceeds of such sale or sales are insufficient to cover such amounts.

Buyer grants to Stack's Bowers, its affiliates and assignees, the right to offset any sums due, or found to be due to Stack's Bowers, and to make such offset from any past, current, or future consignment, or purchases that are in the possession or control of Stack's Bowers; or from any sums due to Buyer by Stack's Bowers, its affiliates and assignees. In addition, defaulting Buyers will be deemed to have granted to Stack's Bowers, its affiliates and assignees, a security interest in: (x) the purchased lots and their proceeds, and (y) such sums or other items and their proceeds, in the possession of Stack's Bowers, its affiliates or assignees, to secure all indebtedness due to Stack's Bowers and its affiliated companies, plus all accrued expenses, carrying charges, seller's fees, attorney fees, and costs, until the indebtedness is paid in full. Buyer grants Stack's Bowers the right to file a UCC-1 financing statement for such items, and to assign such interest to any affiliated or related company or any third party deemed appropriate by Stack's Bowers. If the auction invoice is not paid for in full by the Default Date, a carrying charge of one-and-one-half percent (1-1/2%) per month may be imposed on the unpaid amount until it is paid in full. In the event this interest rate exceeds the interest

permitted by law, the same shall be adjusted to the maximum rate permitted by law, and any amount paid in excess thereof shall be allocated to principal. Buyer agrees to pay all reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and other collection costs incurred by Stack's Bowers or any affiliated or related company to collect past due invoices or to interpret or enforce the terms hereof or in any action or proceeding arising out of or related to the Auction Sale. Stack's Bowers reserves the right to assign its interest to any third party. To the extent that the Buyer for any lot consists of more than one person or entity, each such person or entity is jointly and severally liable for all obligations of the Buyer, regardless of the title or capacity of such person or entity. Stack's Bowers shall have all the rights of a secured creditor under Article 9 of the California Commercial Code and all rights of the consignor to collect amounts due from the Buyer, whether at law or equity.

9. **Shipping.** It is the Buyer's responsibility to contact Stack's Bowers after the sale to make shipping and packaging arrangements. Due to the fragile nature of some lots, Stack's Bowers may elect not to assume responsibility for shipping or packing, or may charge additional shipping and handling. Lots indicated as being "framed" or that are specifically identified in the catalog are shipped at Buyer's risk. All taxes, postage, shipping, if applicable, handling, insurance costs, the Buyer's Premium, and any other fees required by law to be charged or collected will be added to the invoice for any lots invoiced to Buyer. All lots shipped to foreign countries will be billed an additional one-half percent (1/2%) for insurance (minimum of \$10). For any lots delivered outside the United States, the declaration value shall be the item(s) hammer price plus its buyer's premium. Auctioneer shall not be liable for any loss caused or resulting from seizure or destruction under quarantine or customs regulation or confiscation by order of any government or public authority. Buyer shall be responsible for paying all applicable taxes, duties and customs charges for all lots delivered outside the United States. All lots will be shipped FOB Destination, freight prepaid and charged back. Title and risk of loss pass to the Buyer at the destination upon tender of delivery. Acceptance of delivery constitutes acceptance of the purchased lots. Inspection of the purchased lots is not required for acceptance. Any and all claims based upon Buyer's failure to receive a purchased lot, Buyer's receipt of a lot in damaged condition, or otherwise related to delivery, must be received in writing by Stack's Bowers no later than the earlier of thirty (30) days after payment, or the date of the Auction Sale (the "Outside Claim Date"). As Buyers may not receive notification of shipment, it is Buyer's responsibility to keep track of the Outside Claim Date and make timely notification of any such claim. The failure to make a timely claim, time being of the essence, shall constitute a waiver of any such claim. Orders paid by credit card will only be shipped to the verified address on file with the credit card merchant.

10. **DISCLAIMER AND WARRANTIES.** NO WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE IS MADE OR IMPLIED ON ANY LOT. NO WARRANTY, WHETHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, IS MADE WITH RESPECT TO ANY LOT EXCEPT FOR WARRANTY OF TITLE, AND IN THE CASE OF TITLE, AUCTIONEER IS SELLING ONLY THAT RIGHT OR TITLE TO THE LOT THAT THE CONSIGNOR MAY HAVE AS OF THE AUCTION SALE DATE. ALL LOTS ARE SOLD "AS IS" AND WITH ALL FAULTS. PURCHASER HEREBY ASSUMES ALL RISKS CONCERNING AND RELATED TO THE GRADING, QUALITY, DESCRIPTION, CONDITION, AUTHENTICITY, AND PROVENANCE OF A LOT.

a. COINS AND CURRENCY LISTED IN THIS CATALOG GRADED BY PCGS, NGC, ANACS, ICG, PCGS CURRENCY, PMG, PCGS BANKNOTE GRADING, CMC OR ANY OTHER THIRD PARTY GRADING SERVICE OR EXAMINED BY THE BUYER PRIOR TO THE AUCTION SALE MAY NOT BE RETURNED FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER BY ANY BUYER, EXCEPT FOR CLAIMS RELATED TO AUTHENTICITY.

b. For non-certified coins and currency that have not been examined by the Buyer prior to the Auction Sale: if it is determined in a review by Stack's Bowers that there is a material error in the catalog description of a non-certified coin or currency or the coin or currency is not authentic, such lot may be returned, provided written notice is received by Stack's Bowers no later than seventy-two (72) hours of delivery of the lots in question, and such lots are returned and received by Stack's Bowers, in their original, sealed containers, no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after delivery, in the same condition the lot(s) were delivered to the Buyer, time being of the essence.

## Terms & Conditions (cont.)

c. If an item or items are returned pursuant to the terms herein, they must be housed in their original, sealed and unopened container.

d. Late remittance or removal of any item from its original container, or altering a coin constitutes just cause for revocation of all return privileges.

e. Grading or condition of rare coins and currency may have a material effect on the value of the item(s) purchased, and the opinion of others (including independent grading services) may differ with the independent grading services opinion or interpretation of Stack's Bowers. Stack's Bowers shall not be bound by any prior, or subsequent opinion, determination or certification by any independent grading service.

f. Questions regarding the minting of a coin as a "proof" or as a "business strike" relate to the method of manufacture and not to authenticity.

g. All oral and written statements made by Stack's Bowers and its employees or agents (including affiliated and related companies) are statements of opinion only, and are not warranties or representations of any kind, unless stated as a specific written warranty, and no employee or agent of Stack's Bowers has authority to vary or alter these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale. Stack's Bowers reserves the right to vary or alter the Terms of Sale, either generally or with respect to specific persons or circumstances, in its sole discretion. Any variation or alteration shall be effective only if in writing and signed by an officer of Stack's Bowers authorized to do so.

h. Stack's Bowers is acting as an auctioneer. Title to the lots purchased passes directly from the Consignor to the Buyer. Accordingly, Stack's Bowers is not making, and disclaims, any warranty of title.

i. Bidders shall have no recourse against the Consignor for any reason whatsoever.

j. Bidder acknowledges that the numismatic market is speculative, unregulated and volatile, and that coin prices may rise or fall over time. Stack's Bowers does not guarantee or represent that any customer buying for investment purposes will be able to sell for a profit in the future.

k. Bidder acknowledges and agrees that neither Stack's Bowers, nor its employees, affiliates, agents, third-party providers or consignors warrant that auctions will be unimpaired, uninterrupted or error free and accordingly shall not be liable for such events.

11. Waiver and Release. Bidder, for himself, his heirs, agents, successors and assignees, generally and specifically waives and releases, and forever discharges Stack's Bowers, and its respective affiliates, parents, officers, directors, shareholders, agents, subsidiaries, employees, managers and members and each of them, and their respective successors and assignees from any and all claims, rights, demands and causes of actions and suits, of whatever kind or nature, including but not limited to claims based upon Auctioneer's negligence, whether in law or equity, tort or otherwise, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected (a "Claim"), which Bidder may assert with respect to and/or arising out of, or in connection with any challenge to the title to or authenticity of any goods purchased, the sale itself, any lot bid upon or consigned, and/or the auction, except where such Claim is otherwise expressly authorized in these Terms of Sale. It is the intention of Bidder that this waiver and release shall be effective as a bar to each and every Claim that may arise hereunder or be related to the Auction Sale, and Bidder hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives any and all rights and benefits otherwise conferred upon him by the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads in full as follows:

"A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR."

12. Disputes. If a dispute arises concerning ownership of a lot or concerning proceeds of any sale, Stack's Bowers reserves the right to commence a statutory inter-pleader proceeding at the expense of the Consignor and Buyer and any other applicable party, and in such event shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. Stack's Bowers reserves the right to cancel or postpone the Auction Sale or any session thereof for any reason whatsoever. No Bidder shall have any claim as a result thereof, including for incidental or consequential damages. Neither Stack's Bowers nor any

affiliated or related company shall be responsible for incidental or consequential damages arising out of any failure of the Terms of Sale, the auction or the conduct thereof and in no event shall such liability exceed the purchase price, premium, or fees paid. Rights granted to Bidders under the within Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale are personal and apply only to the Bidder who initially purchases the lot(s) from Stack's Bowers. The rights may not be assigned or transferred to any other person or entity, whether by sale of the lot(s), operation of law or otherwise. Any attempt 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 Auction Sale.

Any dispute arising out of or related to these Terms of Sale, the Auction Sale or any lot, with the sole exception of actions by Stack's Bowers to collect amounts owed to it and other damages, shall be submitted to binding arbitration pursuant to the commercial arbitration rules of the American Arbitration Association, with any arbitration hearing to occur in Orange County, California. Absent an agreement of the parties, the arbitrator shall limit discovery to that which is necessary to enable the hearing to proceed efficiently. The arbitrator shall not have the power to award punitive or consequential damages, nor alter, amend modify any of the terms of this Agreement. The award by the arbitrator, if any, may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Each party shall pay one-half the costs of the arbitration. Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the competent courts of the State of California shall have exclusive in personam jurisdiction, subject to the requirement to arbitrate, over any dispute(s) arising hereunder, regardless of any party's current or future residence or domicile. Bidder further agrees that venue of the arbitration proceeding shall be in Orange County, California; and any court proceeding shall be in the Orange County Superior Court, in the State of California, and in each case waive any claim of Forum Non Conveniens. Bidder agrees that any arbitration or legal action with respect to this Auction Sale is barred unless commenced within one (1) year of the date of this Auction Sale. AUCTION PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSLY WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY.

13. General Terms. These Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale and the auction shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of California, regardless of the location of the Auction Sale. These Terms of Sale and the information on the Stack's Bowers' website constitute the entire agreement between the parties hereto on the subject matter hereof and supersede all other agreements, understandings, warranties and representations concerning the subject matter hereof. If any section of these Terms of Auction Sale or any term or provision of any section is held to be invalid, void, or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections or terms and provisions of a section shall continue in full force and effect without being impaired or invalidated in any way. Stack's Bowers may at its sole and absolute discretion, make loans or advances to Consignors and/or Bidders.

14. Chinese Translation. The Chinese translations are provided as a matter of convenience. In the event of a conflict, all English Terms and Conditions and lot descriptions take precedence and are binding.

Bidding in this auction sale constitutes unconditional acceptance by the Bidder of the foregoing terms of sale.

Please note: Transparent holders in which the auction lots are stored are to facilitate viewing and inspection of the lots and ARE NOT for long-term storage.

PCGS and NGC numbers provided are for bidder convenience only, we do not guarantee their accuracy. An incorrect PCGS or NGC number is not grounds to return a lot.

For PRICES REALIZED after the sale, call 1-800-458-4646. Preliminary prices realized will also be posted on the Internet soon after the session closes.

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