

Addendum 3

This Addendum describes a new discovery – a third die marriage of the 1875-P twenty-cent piece, including a new obverse die.

This Addendum updates the section on the 1875-P, including the Summary, along with detailed revisions of all three known die marriages.

These pages may be printed and inserted into the Print Edition of the book, *Double Dimes – The United States Twenty-cent Piece*.

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1875-P

**Mintage:**

Circulation strikes: 36,910

Proof strikes: 2,790

Major Varieties: None

Overall Scarcity:

One of the two scarcer regular issue circulation strikes, this date can sometimes be a challenge to locate in all grades, although they can be found with some looking at larger coin shows. Most examples are in middle to higher circulated grades, with lower grade coins infrequently seen.

Some nice mint state coins were saved as well, and most of these can be obtained at auction, or occasionally on the bourse floor of a larger show.

The date is underrated because of its Philadelphia origin and perhaps the misconception that coins struck in Philadelphia are more common. Until recently, 1875-P coins were not much more frequently seen than the 1876-P coins, which have a much lower mintage. 1875-P appears more often than 1876-P now, but this is more due to the 1876-P coins drying up in the market than an increase in availability of the 1875-P coin. As more people collect this series, it is likely that the 1875-P coins will command a significantly higher price than at present.

Comments:

This coin is frequently found well struck and with pleasant surfaces, even with highly circulated pieces, so there is really little need to settle for an impaired or unattractive coin. Many circulation strikes are proof-like with reflectivity remaining even on moderately

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circulated examples. Occasionally a circulated proof can be found and some may even be offered as circulation strikes. Despite recent price gains, the 1875-P remains undervalued.

Die Marriages:

Three obverse and two reverse dies were used to strike all known coins, including a newly-discovered obverse that is very similar to the second obverse. One pair of dies accounts for the vast majority of both proof and circulation strikes.

	Reverse	Die lines	Die file marks
		A	B
Obverse			
Right Date	1	BF-1	
Left Date #1	2		BF-2
Left Date #2	3	BF-3*	

* BF-3 was almost certainly struck before BF-1

Die Marriage Grid for the 1875-P

Apparently, the newly-discovered Obverse 3 (Left Date #2) was paired with Reverse A and struck very few pieces (BF-3), and then was replaced with Obverse 1 (Right Date) to strike the majority of 1875-P coins (BF-1).

With the most frequently-seen die pairing (BF-1), there are two distinctly different *die states* and are distinguished by the presence or absence of die polish marks. It appears that at some point after striking a number of proof and circulation strikes, the obverse die received some vigorous re-polishing for striking additional proof examples. This die work left swirling die polish lines at the top of the obverse and to the right and left of Liberty's head. These die polish marks also appear on the subsequent circulation strikes that followed this second batch of proof strikes.

Finally, a different pair of dies (Obverse 2 and Reverse B) were employed to strike a modest number of coins (BF-2) at a later time to wrap up the year's issues.

Important note:

From an attribution perspective, the two "Left Date" obverses are almost identical, but this does not pose a difficulty for the collector, as the two different Left Date obverses are paired with different reverse dies. Therefore, a Left Date obverse paired with Reverse A is BF-3, and a Left Date obverse paired with Reverse B is BF-2. All Right Date coins seen thus far are the most common variety, BF-1.

1875-P BF-1

Obverse 1

The right side of the 1 in the date is right of the shield point.



Right date

There are some die file marks just to the right of the shield, and a small die line about halfway down the space between the 2nd and 3rd stripes on the shield.

Later die states will show curved lines from when the die was re-polished for striking additional proofs (photo below).



Later state die polish lines

In still later die states, some minor cracks appear within the denticles below the date.

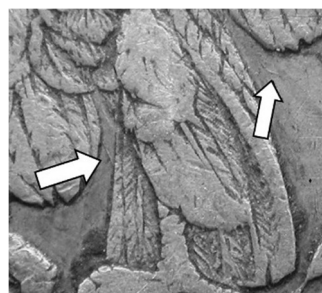
Date Position: M 3.5, 0.55 mm

Comments: This is the only use of this obverse die, and the second and final use of this reverse die.

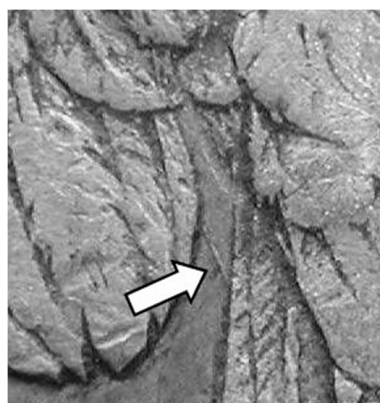
Scarcity: This die marriage represents the vast majority of both circulation and proof coins known. Rarity rating: R-1.

Reverse A

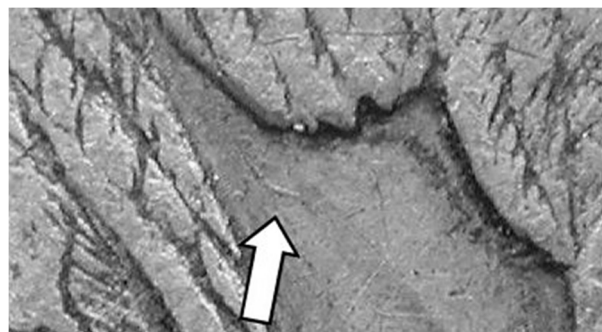
There are two die markers on the reverse, located by the arrows below. See the two additional detailed close-up photos below.



One die line runs diagonal down and to the right, just left of the eagle's tail feathers (photo below).



The other is a line underneath the eagle's left (right facing) wing, to the right of its tail feathers (photo below). This line can be difficult to see in low-grade examples.



1875-P BF-1



Obverse 1



Reverse A

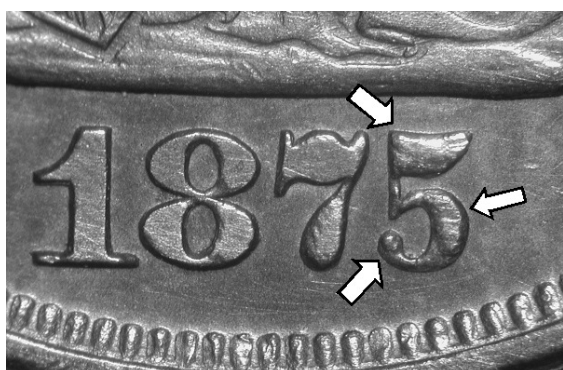
1875-P BF-2

Obverse 2

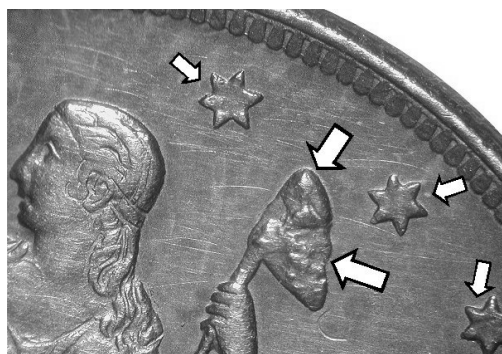
This die has a different date position than on BF-1. The right side of 1 is under the shield point. The 1 also shows slight repunching under the flag and at the right of the base. There is also a thin gouge or die line to the right of one of the denticles below the 1 as shown in the image at right.

Repunched 1 and die line ▶

In late die states, the date and cap area is damaged, resulting in deformities on the 75 of the date, as well as the cap and stars.



Left date, late state deformities on 75



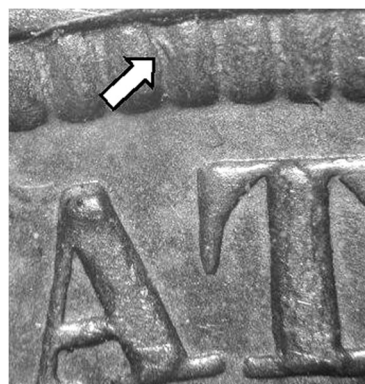
Die deformities at cap, and stars

Date Position: M 1, 0.45 mm

Reverse B

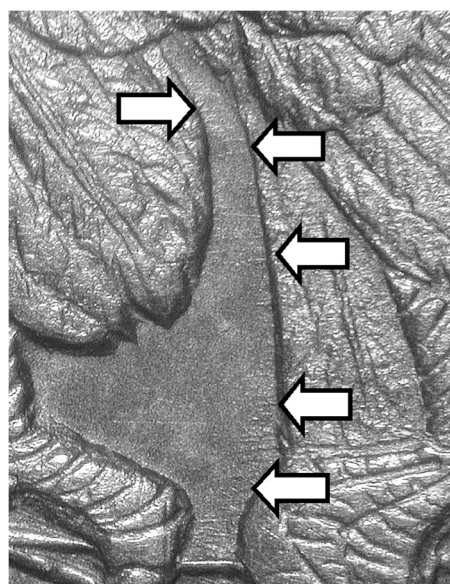
The two die lines found on Reverse A of BF-1 are absent from this die.

There is a diagonal gouge left of the denticle next to the second T in STATES.



Diagonal die gouge left of denticle

Horizontal die file lines are found just to the left of the claw and tail feathers. They may be harder to see on lower-grade specimens.



Horizontal die file lines

Comments: This die marriage is easier to find as a proof than as a circulation strike. This is the only use of this obverse die, and only use of this reverse die in 1875. This reverse was reused in 1876 on the 1876 BF-3 coins.

Scarcity: This very scarce die pair forms a minority of proofs and a much smaller minority of circulation strikes, perhaps 10% of proofs and 3% of circulation strikes. Rarity rating: R-4.

1875-P BF-2



Obverse 2



Reverse B

1875-P BF-3

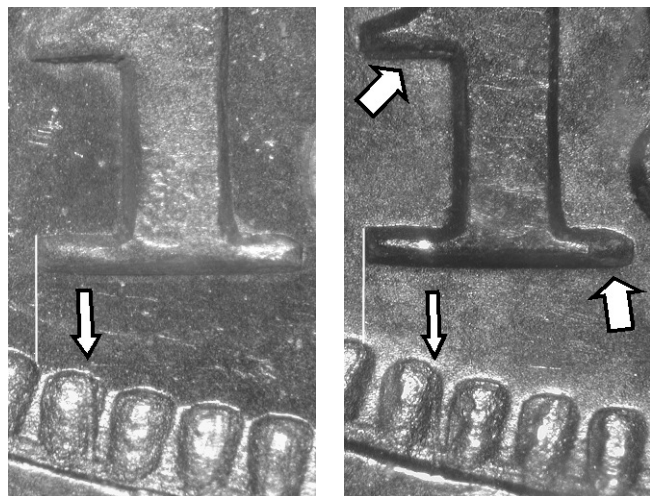
Obverse 3



Left date #2

This new obverse die is almost identical to Obverse 2 found on BF-2. Like that die, the right side of the 1 in the date is under the shield point, although careful examination shows it is ever so slightly right of the date position of Obverse 2. This new obverse shows no repunching of the 1.

Oddly enough, there is a similar thin gouge or die line next to the same denticle below the 1, but it is minutely left of the one on Obverse 2! The top of this die line actually intrudes into the denticle itself. See comparison photos below for date and denticle die line placement.

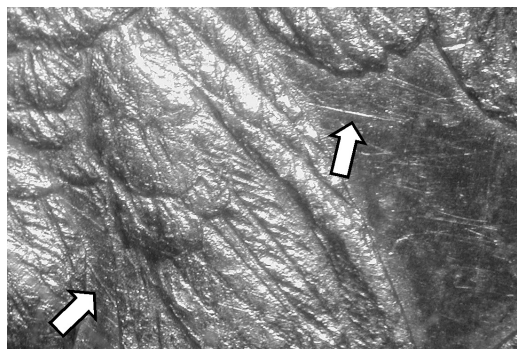


Obverse 3, not recut (left) vs. Obverse 2 (right)

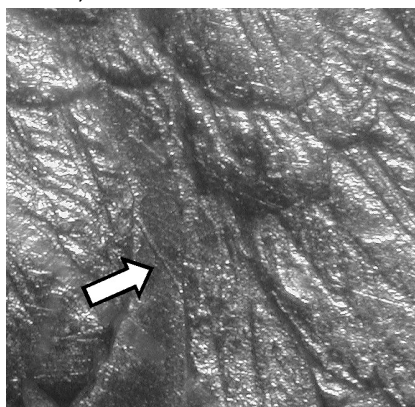
Date Position: M 1.5, 0.45 mm

Reverse A

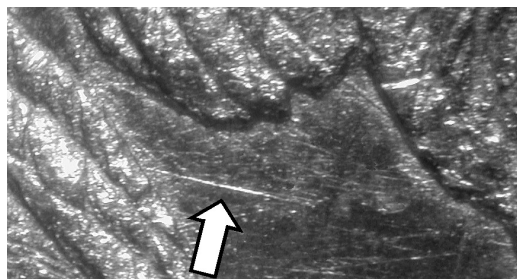
There are two die markers on the reverse, located by the arrows below. See the two additional detailed close-up photos below.



One die line runs diagonal down and to the right, just left of the eagle's tail feathers (photo below).



The other is a line underneath the eagle's left (right facing) wing, to the right of its tail feathers (photo below). This line can be difficult to see in low-grade examples.



Comments: This die marriage was discovered by the authors in May 2017 when the owner of the discovery coin had originally misattributed it as BF-2 because of the left date position. This is the only use of this obverse die, and the first use of the reverse die.

Scarcity: This is a very rare die marriage as it has eluded us for so many years, and its true rarity is still an estimate. There must be a few out there to be found. Rarity rating: R-6.

1875-P BF-3



Obverse 3



Reverse A