

Lot # 1118 TX Historic Texas Tribute Piece by Ford

The Famous "Missing" Fantasy 1839 Texas Gold Coin

This choice unique coin will become an iconic study piece for the next century. Our friend Karl Moulton wrote about the issues surrounding this coin in "John J. Ford Jr. and the Franklin Hoard" (2012). It is part of a genre of Texas fantasies, of which little was known. With the publication of Moulton's book, we know so much more.

Description

The coin weighs 0.87 troy ounces. It is 30mm in diameter and 3mm thick, composed of a high fineness of gold (900 fine or better). It has a reeded edge. The description follows: OBV: REPUBLIC (dot) OF (dot) TEXAS (DOT) 1839 (dot) [Star of Texas with surrounding wreath at center] // Rev: HOUSTON Treas. Dept. / 16D. 8E. 21c [liberty cap with feathers at center]. The finish is proof-like, with hairlines from contact as well as in the die.

Synopsis

Moulton extensively researched the events surrounding the origin of several Texas gold pieces. Apparently, this coin and other Texas (counter-stamped) pieces showed up about 1956.

The story may start with the publication of an article in 1930 discussing a Texas quarter eagle. That coin was allegedly displayed by Fort Worth coin dealer B. Max Mehl in 1930 at the February Dallas Coin Club meeting (Numismatist, April 1930, p. 245). This created a long run of rumors about mythical Texas gold coins. These rumors led to fulfilling coin collector fantasies by the creation of false counter-stamped Mexican coins and the creation of a gold piece twenty five years later, in 1956, with what became known as John J. Ford's "Texas Promotion" in 1956.

The "Texas Promotion" that Ford planned may have involved collecting rare Mexico coins for a sales promotion program. Part of the program was collecting original pre-1839 Mexico silver and gold coins. These were the coins that circulated in Texas during the Republic of Texas period, the mid 1830's. Ford and partners had intended on counter-stamping these pieces with Republic of Texas punches. Ford stated, in his letter to FCC Boyd (July 29, 1956), that Franklin would create a certificate to go with each coin "which will spell out the whole deal."

Ford had experimented with counter-stamped Mexican coins as early as 1955, when Peter Rosa made a \$5 Shultz & Co. struck on an 1847 Mexican 8 Reales (Moulton, p. 268). Back then, in 1955, it was commonplace for many of the advanced collectors and dealers to make copies, electrotypes and fantasies to fool each other or made as "tribute" pieces. Unfortunately, over the years, these "jokes" turned into forgeries, either by innocent ignorance or through outright fraud.

This piece may have been part of the "Texas Promotion" that Ford disclosed in a letter to Franklin (April 16, 1956) shown in Moulton's book. Ford's letter to FCC Boyd (July 29, 1956) also acknowledged that coins from the Texas promotion were a fantasy, though it is unclear what coin or coins he was talking about. Ford felt it "is too good", so he probably never used the coin for its intended purpose, a "joke" to be played on or a tribute to one of his clients, Texas oilman John H. Murrell.

In a private communication, Ford was quoted as saying the gold Texas promotion pieces were targeted for John H. Murrell, a



wealthy Texas oil man, who collected rare coins and everything Texas. Doug Winter, in an article (July, 2014) about the history of the coin business, mentioned that Murrell was the owner of the "greatest unknown collection of U.S. gold coins ever assembled." Thus he was an easy target for Ford's Tom Foolery.

That private communication specifically involved this piece. Ford further jokingly stated that he intended to make the other copy of the coin into a bolo tie. Maybe he kept it, maybe he gave it to Morrell.

Moulton also heavily discusses the famous New York counterfeiter Peter Rosa (Becker Manufacturing Co.), who he suspects may have been involved with the Texas promotion. Is he the one who made these coins? Is he the probable source of the die and gold piece? Was the piece made in Italy, as were some other proof-like fakes?

Kenyon Painter, an Arizona numismatic collector and "promoter" was interviewed by Eric P. Newman, and was recounted in Moulton's book as saying that, "there are reportedly two Texas gold coins extant," neither of which was "genuine." These may have referred to two counter-stamped gold coins discussed between Ford and F.C.C. Boyd. But they could have been this coin too.

It is unclear from Ford's letters if Ford had Breen design the coin, or just the wording on it. "It seems that Walter Breen had been asked by Ford to create a contemporary text for the die that was going to be used (a star, surrounded by a wreath, dated 1839)." This appears to be a reference to this specific coin, but may also reference the proposed counter-stamp die.

While Moulton has unraveled much of the mystery, we may never know the entire extent of the Texas promotion, since most or all of the original players are deceased.

Summary

As a "real" gold coin, this could have stirred up the pot that might have resulted in this piece garnering obscene amounts of money in the 1960's to 1970's. As Ford stated, it was "too good" (7/29/56 letter), so the coins were withdrawn. Moulton unraveled the Texas fantasies in fair detail. This coin appears to be part of that Texas Promotion fantasy. As an official "antique" fantasy piece, it is a terrific addition to the Ford-Franklin era, at a time when the creation of fantasies was humorous. Unfortunately, over time, that humor turned to fraud and misconception.

This coin may be unique. If it was one of two, as the historical records indicate, the other copy of this coin may have been melted or made into a bolo tie by Ford. A must for any Texas collector!

Est. \$ 5,000 - 10,000 FHWAC # 19444



Lot # 1119
New Varieties of Coins and Bullion, Eckfeldt and Du Bois, 1850 w/ Original Gold Samples

Supremely rare Gold Rush era book. First edition. Contains original Gold Rush gold flake samples on pg. 45. New Varieties of Gold and Silver Coins, Counterfeit Coins, and Bullion; With Mint Values. By Jacob R. Eckfeldt and William E. Du Bois, Assayers of the Mint of the United States. Philadelphia: Published by the Authors, and for Sale by the Principal Booksellers; also at the Agencies of Adams & Co., at Panama and San Francisco, 1850. 60 pages. Table of contents on back cover. Engraved frontispiece, blue plate of California and Mormon coins in gold. Original red paper boards with gilt lettering and illustrations of coins in gold and silver. Spine is gilt-decorated, a.e.g. (rebacked, original spine preserved). Bookplate of Carrie Estelle Doheny on front free endpaper. Front pastedown with engraved bookplate of Edward Laurence Doheny with photograph of family surrounded by illustrations. Edward Laurence Doheny (1856 -1935) was a U.S. oil tycoon who drilled the first successful oil well in the Los Angeles City Oil Field in 1892, starting the petroleum boom in Southern California. Carrie Estelle Doheny was his wife. This book was an essential guide for bankers. Preserved in rose cloth slipcase with chemise. Condition: Small losses and light chipping to the binding and covers, most likely due to the delicate paper-over-boards binding. Foxing. Rarity: [i]
Est. \$ 5000 - 15000 FHWAC # 19274

Lot # 1120 New Varieties of Coins and Bullion, Eckfeldt and Du Bois, 1851 Eckfeldt, J. & DuBois; New Varieties of Gold and Silver Coins and Bullion; 1851; 72pp plus illustrations of coins and additions. Brown boards, gilt lettering, with the California Horseman \$10 on the cover. Corner wear. This is the follow-up to Eckfeldt's first tome on coins made for bankers, identifying privately issued gold coins, counterfeits etc. It does not contain the much valued original sample of California gold. This is a classic numismatic reference and contains many of the first published illustrations of privately issued gold coins of the period.
Est. \$ 1,000 - 2,000 FHWAC # 19311



Lot # 1122 CO, Denver Labor Exchange Fractional Note Scrip, 5/100, Denver, 1897 Labor Exchange Scrip for 5/100. #909. Branch No. 158, Denver, Colo., 1897. Red writing and vignette on front: "Labor Exchange"

curving around a globe with "REST" on the inside. Figure on left with "The day of Equity" written beneath. Signed by Persifor U. Books as president and J.R. Nogeboom as Acct. Reverse is green writing and vignette: locomotive "Progress" approaching broken archway that says "Progress, Stop! Legal Tender Toll Gate." Men lifting sack marked "GOLD" and "SILVER." Condition: soiling and rough right edge (torn out of book?). Measures 2.5 cm x 13.3 cm. Printed on bond paper.
Est. \$ 100 - 300 FHWAC # 19238

Lot # 1123 CO The Colorado Supply Company 10c Scrip April 1, 1901. Number 63946. Not to be used for cash, but can be used for any store of said company. Signed by treasurer. Black on light yellow underprint with numbers in red. Scarce Colorado scrip. **Est. \$ 100 - 300 FHWAC # 19368**



Lot # 1124 NV, Rhyolite Rhyolite Clearing House Certificate \$1.00 Scrip Series D, One dollar, printed on rust colored paper. Printed by Britton & Rey, San Francisco. Graded by PMG Choice About Uncirculated 58. Fabulous piece! **Est. \$ 600 - 1000 FHWAC # 8952**

Lot # 1125 KS, Leavenworth City Clark, Gruber & Co., Famous Coin Firm, Leavenworth City,

KS 1863 check Rare territorial check from a famous Denver coin firm. #102. Dated Leavenworth City, Oct. 8, 1863. Banking House of Clark, Gruber & Co. Pay to Slacy (?) \$25. Signed by Mallon & Co. Two cent revenue stamp attached and cancelled with Union Pacific stamp. Clark & Gruber set up a two-story bank building in Denver in 1860 to capitalize on the gold rush in Pikes Peak, Colorado. While they originally planned on shipping gold dust back East to be Federal mints, high transportation costs led them to build their own mint. They minted thousands of coins over the next two years. This facility was purchased by the U.S. government in 1862. Clark & Gruber went on to found the First National Bank of Denver in 1865. Condition: small tape repair; light toning and soiling. Slit and stamp cancelled.
Est. \$ 300 - 600 FHWAC # 19237



Scrip

Lot # 1121 CO Denver Labor Exchange 1/10 Scrip Beautiful scrip with pictorials of Equity lady, globe with industries, and train hurtling toward the land of plenty. (Notice the reference to silver and gold.) The so-called "gay nineties" was actually a period of economic hard times for American farmers and industrial workers. Employment shrank and credit became tight. Many turned to

cooperative ventures as a way to make ends meet. The 1/10 stands for 1/10 of a labor unit or 1/10 of a days work. This could be exchanged for product of same value or money. **Est. \$ 100 - 300 FHWAC # 19359**



Lot # 1126 KS, Leavenworth City Clark, Gruber & Co. Famous Coin Firm Check A second rare territorial check from the famous Denver coin firm. #80. Dated Leavenworth City, Sept. 18, 1863. Banking House of Clark, Gruber & Co. Pay ___ \$1,500. Signed by Dewey (?). Two cent revenue stamp attached and cancelled with Union Pacific stamp. Condition: very light toning and soiling. Slit and stamp cancelled. **Est. \$ 300 - 700 FHWAC # 19367**

Numismatics



Lot # 1127 MA, Boston California numismatic letter with cover from US Treasury Dept. This 1868 cover with letter was mailed from the United States Treasury in Boston to Mr. E. Neally, Collector of Customs, Bath, Maine. The letter informs Neally that \$25.00 in the coin of California can not be accepted!

(Also 50c in counterfeit silver and 25c in silver with a punched hole!) Signed by W. H. Sergeant. Sergeant was a "Paying Secretary" of the Independent Treasury of Boston in 1870. Most of the US Department of the Treasury wax seal is intact on the back. **Est. \$ 100 - 200** FHWAC # 11135

Lot # 1128 NV, Carson City Mint of United States at Carson, Internal Calculations on an Ingot \$3.10 taken as sample from bar valued at \$1277.85. Cashier's Office letterhead. Initialed AGR. \$3.10 taken as sample from bar valued at \$1277.85. Cashier's Office letterhead. Initialed AGR. **Est. \$ 200 - 400** FHWAC # 2948



Lot # 1129 NV, Carson City Three Carson City Mint Documents
1) Memorandum of Gold Bullion, 1898. To Palmer Brothers. Signed by Cunningham. 2&3) Two 1890 letters. Signed by L. L. Elrod to R. P. Keating, superintendent of the Savage Mining Company. One for sacks sent and one for bullion received. 1) Memorandum of Gold Bullion, 1898.

To Palmer Brothers. Signed by Cunningham. 2&3) Two 1890 letters. Signed by L. L. Elrod to R. P. Keating, superintendent of the Savage Mining Company. One for sacks sent and one for bullion received. **Est. \$ 170 - 350** FHWAC # 11154

Lot # 1130 NV, Carson City U.S. Mint Bullion Memorandum and Cashier's Office Statement, Carson, NV c1880s Nice pair of documents from the famous Carson City Mint. 1) Statement on The Mint of the United States at Carson, Nevada, Cashier's Office letterhead. Dated Feby. 29th, 1888. Statement of fine silver bars manufactured in payment of Deposit #35. Four bars (82, 85, 86, 90) weighing a total of 4794.9 ounces .999 fine. Fold marks otherwise nice condition. 2) Memorandum of Silver Bullion Deposited at the Mint of the United States. No. 64. Dated at Carson, Nevada, March 21st, 1888. Deposited by E. Williams. Bars weighing 4694.50 oz. before melting. Total value of gold and silver \$10,296.49. Silver calculated @ \$1.00 per stand oz. Signed by William Garrard as superintendent. E. Williams (Evan Williams) was manager and superintendent of the Comstock Mill and Mining Company and manager of the Bullion and Exchange Bank in Carson. Several areas of soiling, pinholes, fold marks, and tears along left and right edges. **Est. \$ 300 - 500** FHWAC # 19132



Lot # 1131 Treasure Box (strong box) #1 Fireproof box, circa 1890-1900. Key lock, no manufacturer. Often known as a "floor safe", and placed beneath floor boards. The internal compartment is only 6 x 10", perfect for gold coin storage. **Est. \$ 300 - 600** FHWAC # 13027



Lot # 1132 Treasure Box (strong box) #2 Wall safe. With key. Circa 1870-1890's. Some Victorian paint still remained on the door front. These safes were placed inside a wall, often behind a painting or advertising. **Est. \$ 300 - 600** FHWAC # 13028



Lot # 1133 Treasure Box (strong box) #3 Floor safe. fireproof. repainted black circa 1870-1880's. Constructed for a pad lock on the top, not a key insert. **Est. \$ 300 - 600** FHWAC # 13029

These "Treasure Boxes" would be the perfect place to store your ingots!

INGOTS



Lot # 1134 AK Alaska Mint Silver Ingot 5.5Troy Oz. .999 fine. **Est. \$ 120 - 225** FHWAC # 28

Lot # 1135 AZ, Circle City Circle City Silver Ingot 1 5.05 troy oz. 999 fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400** FHWAC # 43



Lot # 1136 AZ, Circle City Circle City Silver Ingot 2 4.96 troy oz. 999 fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400** FHWAC # 362

Lot # 1137 AZ, Tombstone. Tombstone Silver Ingot 1 No. 00747. 5 troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400** FHWAC # 116

Lot # 1138 AZ, Tombstone. Tombstone Silver Ingot 2 No. 00748. 5 troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400** FHWAC # 395



Lot # 1139 AZ, Phoenix Phoenix Precious Metals Inc. Ingot 1 c1960 5 troy oz. .999 fine. We could not find

much information on this particular company. "No information on the company other than a listing of Phoenix Precious Metals Ltd. as a refiner that processed and sold bullion products." This one also appears to be the oldest ingot in the group. **Est. \$ 200 - 400** FHWAC # 92





Lot # 1140 AZ, Phoenix. Phoenix Precious Metals Inc. Ingot 2 c1960 5 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 363



Lot # 1141 AZ Phoenix Precious Metals Inc. Ingot 3 c1960 5 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 364



Lot # 1142 AZ Phoenix Precious Metals Inc. Ingot 4 c1960 5 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 365



Lot # 1143 AZ Phoenix Precious Metals Inc. Ingot 5 c1960 5 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 366



Lot # 1144 AZ Phoenix Precious Metals Inc. Ingot 6 c1960 5 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 367

Lot # 1145 AZ Phoenix Precious Metals Inc. Ingot 7 c1960 5 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 368



Lot # 1146 AZ Phoenix Precious Metals Inc. Ingot 8 c1960 5 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 369



Lot # 1147 AZ Phoenix Precious Metals Inc. Ingot 9 c1960 5 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 370



Lot # 1148 AZ Yellow Daisy Refining Co. Silver Ingot 1 5.550 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 250 - 500 FHWAC # 131



Lot # 1149 AZ Thorne Mining & Refining Co. Silver Ingot c1957 2.300 troy oz, .9998 fine. Much has been written on the Thorne pieces, especially by me (FH). While I did fanally see absolute documentary proof that this company existed, I still believe ther are of modern construction. After yers of discussion and study, inclusion in Moulton's Franklin-Ford book, we now believe these were made for Ford or Franklin in the late 1950's by a California minter. Est. \$ 800 - 1,550.00 FHWAC # 133



Lot # 1150 AZ Yellow Daisy Refining Co. Silver Ingot 2 6 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 300 - 500 FHWAC # 399



Lot # 1151 AZ Yellow Daisy Refining Co. Silver Ingot 3 6.070 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 300 - 500 FHWAC # 400



Lot # 1152 AZ Yellow Daisy Refining Co. Silver Ingot 4 6.310 troy oz, .999 fine Est. \$ 300 - 500 FHWAC # 401



Lot # 1153 CA, Anaheim Rarities Mint Silver Ingot 1 5.270 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 225 - 425 FHWAC # 97



Lot # 1154 CA, Anaheim Rarities Mint Silver Ingot 2 5.270 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 220 - 425 FHWAC # 402

Lot # 1155 CA, Berkeley Drew Refining Co. Silver Ingot 1970 5.080 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 150 - 275 FHWAC # 53



Choice Pair of Cerro Gordo Ingots

These rare ingots were a classic discovery about 40 years ago. A gentleman found about 11 Cerro Gordo ingots on the surface of Owens Lake after it first dried up, using a metal detector. There were about 4 different company names stamped into the bars using embossed moulds similar to ones in this section of the sale. The bars have since been disbursed to museums and collections.

Cerro Gordo is a mining camp tucked in the Inyo range at an elevation of about 8500 feet. In an article in the Mining and Scientific Press in 1874, the author described it thus: "Cerro Gordo is 8250 feet above the level of the sea. The winter has been very severe, not having thawed for eighty days. Shocks of earthquakes are very frequent but do little or no damage." The mining camp itself got its start in the late 1860's, after many prospectors had discovered silver ores there in the early 1860's. A number of the early mines were worked by Mexicans, and there is a good chance the property as a whole was discovered by Mexican miners before 1860.

Cerro Gordo was in full production by 1868 after an influx of cash by Mortimer Belshaw and Victor Beaudry, who both built large scale smelters at Cerro Gordo, completed in 1868. Belshaw was a successful assayer in Fiddletown, California in the heart of the Mother Lode Country. Beaudry was a prominent Los Angeles business man. Belshaw's furnace was the first completed.

It was announced that "On March 17 M. E. Belshaw and E. Jordan started the first lead-silver smelter on the Pacific Coast, running ever since." It was further reported that more than 10,000 tons of silver-lead had been shipped to Selby, the private precious metals smelter and refiner located on the east side of San Francisco Bay, about 20 miles north of Oakland.

The two new smelters were processing lead-silver ores from Cerro Gordo's largest mines, the Union and the Ignacio. Production was so large that the smelters couldn't keep up. A competitor company with a mine right next door to the Union built a new smelter at the foot of the mountains on the north shore of Owens Lake, a massive lake filling a fertile valley about twenty five miles long and ten miles wide. The competing company was the Owens Lake Silver Lead Company, formed in 1870 by New York capitalists. They built the new smelter at Swansea.

At one time, the base bullion produced by the various furnaces at Cerro Gordo and Swansea was about 12.5 tons per day per smelter for the three smelters. The bullion from the Union and San Ignacio was worth about \$115 in silver and \$90 in lead per ton. It was reported that the lead paid the cost of transportation to San Francisco, and the smelting and refining cost \$25 per ton leaving a profit of about \$90 per ton. The cost of mining was not included in the information.



Lot # 1156 CA, Cerro Gordo Cerro Gordo, VB, SW, 85 Pound Silver-Lead Ingot The 'V B' most assuredly belongs to Victor Beaudry, the co-owner of the Union and Swansea mines. By 1866, Victor Beaudry, a French Canadian and merchant at Fort Independence in Owens Valley, realized there were opportunities at the Cerro Gordo mining camp. He opened a general store on the mountain. He began acquiring mining properties by lending miners money and, when they couldn't pay, he would get their claim(s). By April of 1868 he had acquired some of the richest claims on the hill, the Union, the San Lucas, the San Felipe, etc. Cerro Gordo was in full production by 1868 after an influx of cash by Mortimer Belshaw and Victor Beaudry, who both built large scale smelters at Cerro Gordo, completed in 1868. Belshaw was a successful assayer in Fiddletown, California in the heart of the Mother Lode Country. Beaudry was a prominent Los Angeles businessman. Beaudry had arranged with Pierre Desormeaux to build an ore furnace to smelt the silver-lead ore. Although his furnace was less effective than the Belshaw furnace, there was more than enough ore to go around! The Swansea mine was in full production by 1873. That year, the average daily product of the smelters at Cerro Gordo was about 140 to 148 bars per day weighing 83 pounds each. That year, Beaudry's furnace had 12,000 bars waiting for shipment over and above what they could normally ship. In 1873 alone, Beaudry's furnace produced 4,530 bars in the month of May-June, a record for the district at the time. "Some 20,000 pigs are out waiting transportation" cited an article in the Mining and Scientific Press in April, 1873. The "pigs" consisted of "argentiferous galena, in bars." (The term "pig" was coined because of the style of bullion mould that allowed for the rendering of handles on each end of an approximate two foot long ingot. The handles were called "ears", and the pig nomenclature came because of the heavy weight.) The process of pouring the bullion was rather

crude. Large crucibles were used at the furnaces, and the impurities floating at the top of the molten metal were removed first. "When this scum is removed, the lead is dipped with an iron ladle and poured into iron moulds, forming pigs, 83 pounds in weight. This sized furnace ages 80 such pigs in 24 hours when the furnaces are running well." **Est. \$ 4,000.00 - 8,000.00 FHWAC # 2876**



Lot # 1157 CA, Cerro Gordo Union Mine, Cerro Gordo, 85-Pound Silver-Lead Ingot This bar probably dates from the early to mid 1870's, and was found with the Victor Beaudry ingot. 24" x 4 1/1" x 3". Is about eighty Pounds. In excellent condition. The Union was the most important mine in Cerro Gordo. It began production early in the 1860's as one of the first discoveries in the district. Massive silver bearing galena was produced here for about 20 years until the ores began to run out. A smelter was built nearby at Swansea, but most of the ores produced in later years went to Selby Lead in the Bay area for refining. These bars were probably headed for Selby and produced from the later period, as they carry only a small amount of silver, typical of deeper mining at Cerro Gordo. Holabird Western Americana had an assay of a similar ingot in a previous auction completed by bullion analysis. Bullion analyses are the only acceptable method of assay of ingots in the mining and metallurgy businesses. These special assays measure specific amounts of separated metals in a specific sample size allowing very specific calculations of metal content. Settlements between mining companies and the smelter and refiners are only made with bullion analyses. That ingot carries 0.001% gold, 0.578% silver, 97.78% lead, 1.17% copper. The remainder was probably zinc, for which no analyses was done. Zinc is the usual accessory metal in silver-lead deposits. The silver contained within that ingot was about 7 troy ounces. The gold was negligible, but

present. The presence of gold, copper and probable zinc shows that ingot to be a classic mine silver-lead ore bar, an ingot poured at the mine. The analysis was made by drilling eleven holes in the back of the ingot. This is a classic Inyo ingot, remnant of a very famous mining camp. **Est. \$ 4,000.00 - 8,000.00 FHWAC # 2875**

Lot # 1158 CA, Chico California Crown Mint Silver Ingot Michael A Graham. MG no. 21081. 5 troy oz, .999 + fine. **Est. \$ 100 - 200 FHWAC # 40**



Lot # 1159 CA, Chico Franklin Bros., F.B. Silver Ingot 5.070 troy

oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 350 - 450 FHWAC # 57**



Lot # 1166 CA, Mojave Alexander Westerfall Smelters & Refiners Ingot 1980 5.290 Troy oz, 999 fine. **Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 29**



Lot # 1160 CA, Marina Bojuka Ryu Inc. Silver Ingot 1 1970 This is the only Bojuka Ryu Inc. ingot in this sale that has the hand stamp of the company. The hand

stamp is located on the reverse. 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. According to the consignor, Bojuka Ryu was founded in the 1970 in Marina, CA. It was located close to local karate club and later changed its name Bojuka Ryu in 1974. The name is a combination of the disciplines that were taught at the club. **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 36**

Lot # 1161 CA, Marina Bojuka Ryu Inc. Silver Ingot 2 1970 5.17 troy oz. .999+ fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 353**



Lot # 1162 CA, Marina Bojuka Ryu Inc. Silver Ingot 3 5.00 troy oz. .999+ fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 354**

Lot # 1163 CA, Marina Bojuka Ryu Inc. Silver Ingot 4 5.00 troy oz. .999+ fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 355**



Lot # 1164 CA, Modesto Great Western Coin & Bullion Co. Silver Ingot 1 4.430 troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 61**



Lot # 1165 CA, Modesto Great Western Coin & Bullion Co. Silver Ingot 2 4.79 troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 373**



Lot # 1167 CA, San Francisco Consolidated Mines & Metals Ingot c1980 No. 712228. 5.240 Troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 350 - 450 FHWAC # 45**



Lot # 1168 CA, San Francisco David C. Davis Co. Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. **Est. \$ 550 - 900 FHWAC # 49**

**Consign YOUR
Ingots with us
Today!**

Gould-Tylor Gold Ingot, Downieville, California, c1900



Lot # 1169 CA Gould-Tylor Gold Ingot c1900

By Fred N. Holabird

Introduction

This small gold Ingot was recently discovered. It reads "To F. H. Gould, S.F. Cal. Complts of Clair H. Tylor Salvage Mine Cal." From the data, it appears this small, approximate 1.2 ounce gold ingot is a gift from Mr. Tylor to Mr. Gould, who was probably acting as his attorney. The recipient is Frank H. Gould, from Clair H. Taylor, and the "Salvage Mine". The names are significant, as there is a story behind each. While the piece is undated, the piece appears to date to about 1900.

The Principals

There is only one record of C.H. Tylor in American census data, and that for a surface miner (placer) in Downieville in 1870 (specifically noted as "mines above ground".) Mr. Tylor was thus not only a miner, but a placer miner. Mr. Tylor, with his uniquely spelled surname, does not appear in any other census that I could find, thus he may have been a miner most or all of his life, living in various California mining camps, and did not participate in census gathering, not uncommon at the time.

Mr. Frank Horace Gould was born in Iowa in August 1856, as reported in all of his various biographies. He came overland to California in 1862. In 1879, he married his first wife, Hester A. Farnsworth. They had two girls. In 1880, he was living in Santa Clara, working as a teacher. He graduated from the Alabama State University of Law in 1887. By 1890, he was working in Merced as a lawyer, moving to Stockton shortly after. He was elected to the state legislature in 1893. About 1897 he moved to San Francisco, where his law practice and political career blossomed. There is much information on his life in California as a prominent attorney from 1893 until his death in 1918. [Ref: Men of the State of California, 1902, page 141; Who's who in California, 1913; Herringshaw's Blue Book of American Biography; various voter registration list]

Gould married a second time about 1894 and sued for divorce in 1899, finding his wife was a bit crazy (the suit is published online). Gould had a strong political presence, becoming the state Assemblyman in 1893, a member of the State Bar, Commissioner of the Building and Loan Assn., a U.S. Attorney, and a surveyor General of California. He died in 1918 of a heart attack at his office, subject to a divorce decree upon

his death, leaving his estate to his first wife and their two daughters. Curiously, a conflict in his birth data exists in Census records. In the 1900 Census, the census taker listed Gould's place of birth as Missouri, in August 1854, with both parents born in Missouri. But no other census records exist for him with these attributes. No census records were found for Francis, F.H., Frank H. or any permutations thereof. No census records were found for his wife, as listed in the 1918 Court proceedings as "E.B. Gould, and daughters A.N. Gould and Gladys V. Gould." A second conflict arose regarding the marriage date of Gould and his second wife, as either 1894 or 1897. Gould and a Courtroom Fistfight

In a well known incident in California jurisprudence, Gould was in a San Francisco courtroom in 1899, when he got into a fistfight with a disbarred lawyer, Mr. George Howe. Howe made flagrant statements to Gould, whereupon Gould hit Howe in the nose with a strong fist, sending Howe to the floor. The Judge fined both \$25. Howe was admonished by Judge Kerrigan for starting the fight. The mine name also invited investigation. For a closer look, I looked through various publications of the California Mining Bureau, and did not find a Salvage or Savage mine (I assumed "Salvage" was a misspelling of "Savage", after the famous Comstock mine of this name) in the following annual reports for all of California: 1888, 1890, 1893, 1894-6. I then proceeded to go back to Mr. Tylor's time, and looked into the 1870-77 series Mineral Resources West of the Rocky Mountains (Ross Raymond), and found no such named mines in California. But after moving forward into Horatio Burchard's Reports of the Director of the Mint, starting in 1880, I hit the jackpot in the 1882 volume (1881 data), page 98, listing the Savage Placer mine, which was, importantly, near Downieville, the same site as our Mr. Tylor. The mine was located ten miles southeast of Downieville, and at such an isolated locale, it was no wonder Mr. Tylor was not found in the 1880 census. In all likelihood, Mr. Gould acted as Mr. Tylor's attorney regarding mining matters after his arrival in San Francisco. It may this be a small melted product of one of Mr. Tylor's placer mines in Downieville, from the circa 1897-1910 period. The ingot itself is 1" round and about 1/8th inch thick. In the mining business, we call these "buttons". This one may be the product of a metal detector find, as it retains foreign material on parts of the surface **Est. \$ 5,000 - 7,000 FHWAC # 30000**



Lot # 1170 CO, Cripple Creek
Cripple Creek Colorado Silver Ingot 1 5.17 troy oz, .999 fine.
 The consignor notes that while the location of the operation is noted on the ingot, information on the company is absent.
Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 46



Lot # 1178 CO
Rocky Mountain Mint Silver Ingot 4.700 troy oz, .999 fine.
Est. \$ 170 - 275 FHWAC # 100

Lot # 1171 CO Cripple Creek
Colorado Silver Ingot 2 4.94 troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 374**



Lot # 1172 CO, Denver C & S
Incorporated Silver Ingot 1 Ingot no. 5-278. 5.21 troy oz. .999 fine
Est. \$ 300 - 600 FHWAC # 39

Lot # 1173 CO, Denver C & S
Incorporated Silver Ingot 2 Ingot no. 5-152. 5.38 troy oz. .999 fine **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 378**



Lot # 1174 CO, Fort Collins
Prospector's Gold & Gems Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999 fine 1998.
Est. \$ 150 - 200 FHWAC # 95

Lot # 1175 CO, Golden
Golden Analytical & Refining Co. Silver Ingot 1 No. LB78, 5 troy oz, .999 fine.
Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 59



Lot # 1176 CO, Golden
Golden Analytical & Refining Co. Silver Ingot 2 No. LB79, 5 troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 376**

Lot # 1177 CO, Golden
Golden Analytical & Refining Co. Silver Ingot 3 No. LB80, 5 troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 377**





A Colorado Silver Spike, 1881

Lot # 1179 CO, Rosita Rosita Silver Spike 1881

This important silver spike is an historic ingot of gargantuan proportion. One of the few surviving last or first spikes for a western railroad, it may be the second of only two silver spikes still known in existence in private hands, the other being the Tonopah and Goldfield RR spike held by a private party.

The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad began as a narrow gauge (rail distance 3') in Denver, with the goal of connecting to Salt Lake City. The backers of the road wanted access to both coal and metal mines. As important silver discoveries were made, the road began construction to important silver camps. They got into a legal battle in 1880, and paid \$1.4 million for the track through the Royal Gorge along the Arkansas River, key access to Leadville, which was quickly developing into one of the world's most important silver camps.

When Jay Gould came into control, he changed the focus on the road, and the construction of the branch to Rosita was terminated about 8 miles west near Silver Cliff, just one mile west in a new development known as Westcliffe. The entire business section of Rosita burned to the ground in March, 1881 during final construction, and this may have led to the decision to shorten the rail line to Westcliffe.

Regardless, the Custer County miners and merchants were ecstatic at the news that the rail was completed to Westcliffe. As reported in the Leadville Democrat May 27, 1881: "

SILVER CLIFF. A day long to be remembered by residents of Custer Co.

Completion of the D&RG Road and the celebration in consequence thereof."

A band was in attendance at the depot when the ceremony of driving a silver spike was presented by the citizens of Rosita and made from the silver of the Rosita mines. On arriving at the Powell House an address of welcome was made by Col. B.F. Montgomery of the Silver Cliff Prospect. This was followed by Gov Pitkin, ex-Gov Gilpin, Carl Wulaten and honorable H.A. Riley, solicitor of the D & RG 's road. The silver spike was then formally presented to the railroad company on behalf of which Mr. Riley made an appropriate speech of acceptance."

The spike remained in Riley's family until sold to an antique dealer more than a decade ago, then to a major Colorado collector. A note from the family originally accompanied the spike.

The silver spike weighs 6.57 troy ounces, and is about 4" long, engraved on all four sides of the spike and on the top as well.

"Rosita" on the top of the spike. "The Citizens of Rosita, Greeting//May, 1881//From the Silver mines near Rosita// In Commemoration of the Completion of the/ D&RG RR to Custer County, Colorado"

The silver spike shows impact on the head where struck.

Est. \$ 15,000 - 35,000 FHWAC # 314



Lot # 1180 CO Unique 19th Century Silver Mining Ingot This small silver ingot, dressed with gold and silver nuggets and 14kt gold mining tools is a classic American Victorian watch chain ingot. The ingot measures about 1" x 7/8" x 1/8" thick, and weighs 0.79 troy ounces. The silver ingot itself has ornate hand engraved mountain scenes on both sides. The nature of the mountains, accompanied on the ingot by gold nuggets (one on each side) and a silver nugget indicate that the ingot may be from one of the Colorado mining families. The piece is set into a 14kt side mounted swivel, such that the ingot can rotate and both sides can be seen. While this was a very expensive custom piece for a mining man, unfortunately his name is not recorded on the face or edges of the ingot. The construction and appearance appear consistent with the late 1860's to circa 1880 period. The only information known to us is that it came from a collection in Denver, but the historic origin is unknown.
Est. \$ 3,500 - 8,000 FHWAC # 344

Lot # 1181 ID, Kellogg Bunker Hill Co. Ingot 5.75 troy oz. No. 64, .9995 fine. According to the consignor "the Bunker Hill mine was discovered in 1885 and flourished into the only mining operation with the ability to mine, smelt and refine the ore on site. Bunker Hill is full of rich mining history riddled with labor disputes and operational catastrophes. Bunker Hill Company ingots are all rare and almost never seen in the 5 oz class." **Est. \$ 250 - 500 FHWAC # 38**



Lot # 1182 ID Intermountain Precious Metals Silver Ingot 5.04 troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 70**

Lot # 1183 IL, Chicago Simmons Refining Co. Silver Ingot .999, 5.870 troy oz **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 109**



Lot # 1184 IL, Plainfield Pro Built LLC Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, 9995 fine. 1996. **Est. \$ 170 - 250 FHWAC # 94**

Lot # 1185 IN, Winchester Silvertowne Mint Silver Ingot No. 13019. 5 troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 107**



1



Lot # 1186 IN, Winchester Silvertowne Mint Silver Ingot 2 No. 0269. 5 troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 393**



Lot # 1187 ME Medallica Art Company Silver Ingots Group 1 1970 Lot of 2. Maine Sesquicent, No. 577. 7.070 troy oz, .999+ fine. 2) No. 121, .999+ fine 7.070 troy oz. These pieces come with their own custom holder! **Est. \$ 600 - 1,000.00 FHWAC # 83**

Lot # 1188 ME Metallic Art Company Silver Ingots Group 2 1970 Maine Sesquicent, 6.49 troy oz, .999+ fine. **Est. \$ 250 - 500 FHWAC # 404**



Lot # 1189 MO, Marshfield Dugan & Helterbrand Co. Inc. Silver Ingot 5.540 troy oz, .999 fine. 1970. **Est. \$ 120 - 250 FHWAC # 54**

Lot # 1190 MO, St. Louis The Boatmens National Bank Ingot 1847 .999+ 2 oz. Serial #0751 **Est. \$ 400 - 800 FHWAC # 311**



Numismatics

Lot # 1191 MT, Bear Paw 1st American Co-Op Silver Ingot c1920 4.95 Troy oz, .999+ fine. According to the consignor, "1st American CO-OP is a successor to the Bear Paw Mining Company ingots produced in the early 1900's....one paper I have read timelines it as follows; Bear Paw Mining company in business from 1895 to 1903; inactive for 17 years and reopened in 1920 as 1st American CO-OP; then CS Consolidated Silver late 1920's." **Est. \$ 400 - 500** FHWAC # 24



Lot # 1198 NV, Las Vegas M & B Mining Inc. Silver Ingot 2 5 troy oz. and .999+ fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400** FHWAC # 403



Lot # 1199 NV, Las Vegas Nevada Coin Mart Silver Ingot 1960. 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. **Est. \$ 100 - 200** FHWAC # 89



Lot # 1192 MT, Helena Chovanak Silver Ingot 5 troy oz. **Est. \$ 300 - 500** FHWAC # 42

Lot # 1200 NV, Las Vegas Silver State Bullion Silver Ingot 5.060 troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 150 - 300** FHWAC # 106



Lot # 1193 NM, Albuquerque Academy Corporation Silver Ingot 5.5 troy oz, .999+ fine. According to the consignor, "Academy silver bars were produced for over 30 years by the Academy Group, in Albuquerque, NM until being bought by Brush Engineered Materials in 2010." **Est. \$ 100 - 250** FHWAC # 25



Lot # 1201 NV, Rawhide Nevada Silver Mining Co. Silver Ingot 1 c1957 4.200 troy oz, .999 fine. Much has been written on these ingots. The company did exist at a time when there was the beginning of silver bullion production. But all of us have wondered about these, because they are made in the same manner as the Thorne, Star mining, Hoard, Eagle Mining



Lot # 1194 NV Carson City Mint Ingot 1 This ingot made by Don Schmitz .64 troy oz. and .999 silver. **Est. \$ 100 - 200** FHWAC # 510

ingots with rounded corners, flat backs, no assay chips. In June, we learned from a California minter that he made them for Franklin. **Est. \$ 375 - 675** FHWAC # 136

Lot # 1195 NV Carson City Mint Ingot 2 This ingot made by Don Schmitz .63 troy oz. and .999 silver. **Est. \$ 100 - 200** FHWAC # 511



Lot # 1202 NV, Rawhide Nevada Silver Mining Co. Silver Ingot 2 1957 5.100 troy oz, .999 fine. **Est. \$ 375 - 675** FHWAC # 390



Lot # 1196 NV, Carson City Nevada City Mint Coin c1896 Circular ingot with a modern over stamp on a Mexican 8 Reales silver coin dated 1896. .86 troy oz..999 silver. **Est. \$ 100 - 200** FHWAC # 512



Lot # 1203 NV, Reno Metalrex Silver Ingot 1 5.250 troy oz, .999 fine **Est. \$ 200 - 400** FHWAC # 85

Lot # 1197 NV, Las Vegas M & B Mining Inc. Silver Ingot 1 5 troy oz. and .999+ fine. **Est. \$ 200 - 400** FHWAC # 79



Lot # 1204 NV, Reno Metalrex Silver Ingot 2 5.05 troy oz, .999 fine **Est. \$ 200 - 400** FHWAC # 381



A Choice Comstock Mine Ingot



Gould & Curry Silver Mining Co. Silver Ingot, c1904

Lot # 1205 NV, Virginia City Gould & Curry Ingot

by Fred Holabird

Description

"14.85 ozs, .0285 fine gold, value \$8.74; 963 fine silver, value \$18.58, \$27.82" "No. 2" Measures 3 3/8" x 1 9/16" x 1/2". The reverse and sides are all unmarked. The G & C bullion punch matches the style of the punch held by the Keck (Mackay) Museum in Reno, given them by the descendents of the Con Virginia MC, probably prior to 1940 (Fulton collected much material from key Comstockers before 1929). No assay chip, but there is a drill hole in the upper right corner of the reverse where an assay was taken.

The rounded corners of this ingot, and its general style of manufacture have always led me to believe the ingot is a product of post-bonanza production, certainly post-1890, and may possibly date to the 1900-1910 period, which was a period of massive rebirth of the western mining industry, and was during a new age of transportation and availability of the general public to western mines.

After much research, it is believed that the ingot was produced in 1904, in conjunction with a major new mining effort and a reincorporation of the company in San Francisco, California, where its head office was located. The ratio of gold to silver was typical of Comstock mines.

Provenance

This Gould & Curry Silver Mining Co. silver ingot is x-Ford, Part XXI, lot 3514 (\$27,600). The original documentation of Ford, complete with letters, comes with the ingot.

Ford purchased the ingot from the family of William L. Warren, Curator, Old Sturbridge Village Museum, Sturbridge, Massachusetts in 1966. The letter states that Warren's father was given the ingots from his cousin Edwin Tomlinson of Quaker Farms, Connecticut. Tomlinson was an active mining investor, prospector, and traveler. His biography states "he (made) a fortune in the mining and oil business between 1874 and 1897." The letter mentions another ingot and gold nuggets, the whereabouts of which are unknown today.

Background - 1860's History

The Gould & Curry is unarguably one of the most important mines on the Comstock, and also unarguably is solely responsible for the huge gains in Comstock mine stock prices in 1863 that made millionaires overnight of many mining men (stock quoted in July, 1863 at \$6,300 per foot). George Hearst was one of the men who helped consolidate the Alva Gould and Abe Curry (First Superintendent of the Carson City Mint) claims into the Gould & Curry. He and partners John Earl and William Lent and others went on to incorporate the G&C, ultimately making them millions. Those huge stock prices in 1863 later caused a massive market crash, because investors couldn't tell the legitimate mines from the promotions and development efforts from the outright frauds (ex: Fly By Night Gold and Silver MC). G&C stock fell to \$900 per foot by July, 1864. The Gould & Curry built the

largest mill in America in 1863, only to nearly run out of ore within a year. The superintendent, Charles Strong, ultimately committed suicide after all of his mining investments failed.

The mine produced just under \$16 million before 1889. It is entirely possible that half of this came before 1864, though records are poor. As a visual reference, a significant portion of the men listed in Kelly's 1863 Territorial Directory were employed by the G&C MC.

Post-1885 History

Much is written on the Comstock from the discovery through the Hale & Norcross Bonanza of the mid-1880's. But little summary work has ever been published on the post-1885 period, particularly post-1890. With production during that period at nearly nine million ounces of gold and 220 million ounces of silver, it is no wonder it has been generally left out of the modern historical record. However, a careful search of the Mining and Scientific Press and Engineering and Mining Journal, accompanied by the Mines Handbook, gives us a much better picture of the "new era" of mining on the Comstock.

In summary, the mines of the middle and north end of the Comstock were generally flooded below the Sutro Tunnel Level since about 1880-1885. Mining on the Comstock was basically dead during the depression of the 1890's, a great part of the reason was the flooding of the deep levels. Thus annual production during that decade was at an all time low of under \$1,000,000 per year (1895-1910).

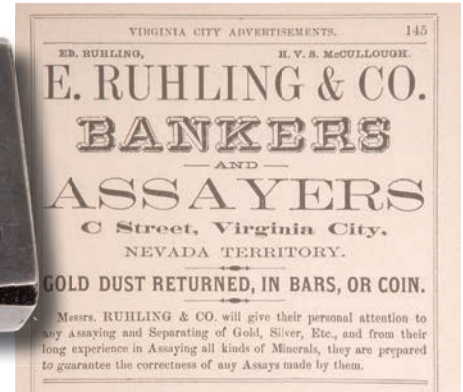
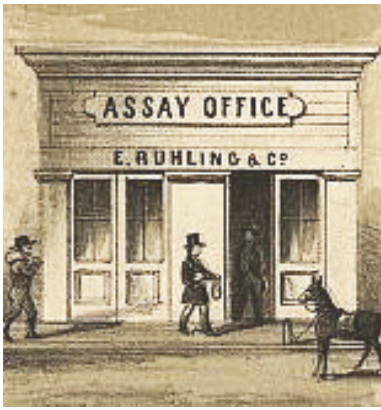
In 1897, the G&C had begun to experiment with low grade ore, averaging about \$12 per ton. By November of that year, reports had confirmed the grade. The experiment was for 1000 tons. But it was unsuccessful, and by the end of 1899, the company only had \$468 in the bank and owed another \$4,000. Many of the mines were in a similar position. The group of northern and middle mines got together in about 1902 and put together a plan to pump the lower levels to access what they thought would be more ore. The plan included revamping the Ward Shaft and accessing all of the mines of these groups through the Ward Shaft. The shaft, which was caved, a mess and inoperative in 1902, was completely revamped by 1904. By April, it was pumping full force. Additionally, with renewed interest and access to ores not accessible in 25 years, the Butters Mill was reopened as were several other mills.

The G&C SMC, taking advantage of the new operations, reincorporated in 1904 to sell more stock to pay for their portion of the Ward, and for exploration activity. It represented a new day for the G&C. It was at this time, I believe, that the ingot was issued and used as a marketing tool in San Francisco, or at a shareholder meeting in December, 1904. The serial number of #2 is very indicative of a new beginning, and very typical of ingot numbering.

It ultimately took years for the mines of the north and middle ends to get going. The pumping was slow, as was mine cleanup, sampling and drilling. After 1915, production on the Comstock again rose to over \$1 million per year.

This ingot is a choice example of a Comstock mine ingot.

Est. \$ 20,000- 40,000 FHWAC # 501

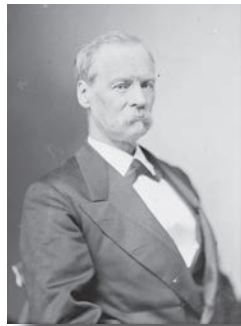


Assayer Edward Ruhling's Presentation Ingot to William Sharon, c1869

Lot # 1206 NV, Virginia City William Sharon Presentation Ingot, E. Ruhling & Co. c. 1869 Assayer Ruhling's Presentation Ingot to William Sharon, circa 1869

Introduction

This important silver ingot was first illustrated in the book, *The Anatomy of an Ingot* (Franklin, 2012, p. 12). It is ornately engraved "Presented to William Sharon, Esq. by E. Ruhling & Co., Virginia City, Nevada." It measures 2 1/4" x 1 3/16" and weighs 4.90 troy ozs. The ingot is perfectly rectangular, with the top and bottom corner edges beveled at the edges. It is blank on the reverse, highly polished throughout, indicative of its importance at the time.



William Sharon

This unique and significant silver ingot was made by Edward Ruhling and engraved by Nye & Co. of Virginia City in 1869, for William Sharon, the Infamous King of the Comstock and commensurate with the creation of the silver spike for the Central Pacific Railroad and the silver hammer for the Virginia & Truckee Railroad. (See biography of William Sharon by Michael J. Makley, 2006)

Edward Ruhling Background

Friedrich Wilhelm Eduard Ruhling was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1832 and arrived at San Francisco in 1850. Little is known about his early life in California which, like so many other pioneers, may have been spent in the goldfields.

Ruhling may have been assayer for the prestigious assay firm Wass, Molitor & Co., a well-known pioneer gold coiner, which later evolved into Wass, Uznay & Co. in 1856. It is documented that he was working at the California Metallurgical Works owned by Wass, Uznay & Warwick by 1858. Ruhling probably worked with and perhaps was trained by the famed assayer and metallurgist, Guido Kustel who was employed during the same period by this firm. By 1859 he was an experienced assayer with Harris, Marchand & Co. in Sacramento, one of the companies represented in the SS Central America gold ingot discovery. While working for Harris, Ruhling was among the first to report (October 1859) on the richness of the Comstock ore, analyzing specimens of "Washoe silver ore" assaying some \$4000 per ton.

Grass Valley assayer Melville Atwood was the first to report on the Comstock high grade silver and gold ore on June 27th, 1859. Nevada City assayer J.J. Ott became the second a few days later. Ruhling, at Harris's Sacramento branch assay office, became the third assayer to report on the rich ore helping set off the great rush to the Comstock silver and gold deposits. Ruhling quickly left Harris to

set up his own assay office in Virginia City in mid-1860 with Joseph Trench. Harvey Harris soon followed his former employee, Ruhling to the Comstock and eventually set up three assay offices in Nevada Territory.

The western assay business involved a variety of precious metals trading transactions. Dore, the melted product of the reduction of ores at a mill, mainly a mixture of gold and silver, was brought to the assayer for valuation. He, in turn, would pay the client in gold coin, return new ingots to the client, or ship the dore to a bank, smelter, or Branch Mint per the owners instructions. Being involved in converting ingots to cash, essentially a banking function, the western assayer was at the center of commerce during these early days. Entering the banking business was a logical next step for Ruhling.

With his partner H. V. S. McCullough, he established one of the early Comstock banks in 1862 associated with their assaying business. Over time, Ruhling expanded his business interests setting up branch assay offices in Gold Hill and Hamilton, Nevada. In 1871 he sold out to his partner McCullough and returned to San Francisco working as an assayer and joined the Assay Department at the San Francisco Mint by 1878. Ruhling died in San Francisco at the age of 66 in 1898.

Ruhling on the Comstock

As one of the pioneer assay firms on the Comstock, Ruhling quickly took control of a significant portion of the assay business after he opened his office at Virginia City in 1860. When the Bank of California opened their doors in that location with William Sharon at the helm in 1864, the bank required precise information on the mining interests to which they were loaning money. Ruhling was the "go-to" assayer for Sharon, keeping him abreast of the values of the mines and production, allowing him to make informed decisions on high risk ventures. Over the years, the two became close friends, according to several sources.

Sharon had envisioned a railroad link from the Comstock to the Carson River ore mills, ultimately connecting with the Central Pacific Railroad (CPRR) at Reno. The Virginia & Truckee Railroad (V&T RR) became the main artery from the Comstock to the mills and the CRR, with Sharon leading the venture. Sharon and William Ralston (Bank of California president) controlled the mills through their privately owned Union Mill and Mining Co. When the first link of the V&T RR to the Carson River mills was completed in November, 1869, a special silver hammer was made for driving the last spike: "At Nye & Co.'s jewelry store, Virginia, this morning, we saw the hammer being finished there with which the last spike of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad is to be driven, in about ten days from now when the final celebration will take place. This hammer is of solid silver bullion, weighing 43 ounces, cast by Ruhling & Co., they furnishing the bullion,

in which each mine on the Comstock is represented. It was forged by Haskins & Co., blacksmiths, and is being polished off and appropriately engraved by Nye & Co." (Gold Hill News 11/13/1869) Thus the Ruhling & Co., Sharon and Bank of California enterprises were closely woven, forming a unique bond. By 1871 Sharon and Ralston controlled most of the mines and mills on the Comstock making them the two most powerful financial figures in the West.

This ingot, most likely was engraved by the same Nye & Co. Jewelers as the Ruhling silver hammer, has been in the same family collection for more than 50 years. Other important Sharon personal artifacts left the family over time, including his personal gold quartz engraved walking cane now at the Bank of California Museum in San Francisco, and the Sharon document archive, now thoroughly distributed, which included deeds, checks and other documents.

Dating the Ingot

The Ruhling-Sharon ingot probably dates to the 1869 period, at a time when Ruhling also made the ceremonial silver hammer for the opening of the V & T RR and the silver spike for the CPRR. Ruhling was asked to produce the silver spike for the CPRR completion presentation at Promontory Point, Utah taking place on May 10, 1869. The "Nevada silver spike" was made at the request of Nevada Railroad Commissioner Fred A. Tritle, containing 25 ounces of silver. It assayed 942 fine silver and 050 fine gold. A leftover piece was given to the editor of the Territorial Enterprise, Mr. Goodman, the man who hired the famous Sam Clemens (aka Mark Twain) to write for that paper, etching his name in history. Another piece was given to Alf Doten, Editor of the Gold Hill News, who wrote in his Journal on May 7: "After I got back from the Hill I went to Ruhling & Cos office, Virginia, B Street, & got a little piece of the "last spike" – the silver spike of Nevada, that finishes the great railroad – the spike was made at Va and sent to the front yesterday – the spike was 4 or 5 inches too long - & this was part of what was cut off – got about a half ounce of it – David Sampson, the young assayer at Wiegand's assay office gave me a small, brick of silver bullion this PM, worth about \$6." The Nevada Silver Spike today is owned by the Museum of the City of New York (see Tents of the Golden Spike, by our friend Bob Spude.) The Virginia & Truckee Railroad silver hammer was given by the Yerington family to the Mackay Museum in Reno in 1929. Its whereabouts today is unknown.

Sharon gave two important speeches in Virginia City and Gold Hill in early October, 1869 pressing the importance of the new railroad. On November 12, as the railroad neared final completion, he and Senator Jones made speeches of the upcoming successes for miners with the completion of the Railroad. That day, he wrote in his journal: "...Gold Hill – 1PM the track layers finished the railroad to Crown Point Ravine, & at 5PM in presence of big crowd the two construction trains passed over the big trestle bridge – brass band playing on first locomotive – flags flying everywhere – big gun at Ft Homestead firing, whistles all blowing, people cheering, and hell of a noise generally – After both trains passed over, speeches were made by JP Jones and Sharon and lots of cheers were given for RR & its successful projectors and all the most prominent persons connected with it – Then there was a huge lot of champagne, lager, etc. drank..." This would have been the time that Ruhling presented the ingot to Sharon in recognition of his great feat, the completion of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad.

Summary

This choice presentation ingot was made by Edward Ruhling, an assayer at two of the great California gold rush assay firms and a key Nevada assayer, for presentation to one of the West's most powerful men upon completion of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad. This is the first public appearance at auction for this very significant Ruhling-Sharon ingot.

Est. \$ 35,000 - 50,000 FHWAC # 19164

Lot # 1207 NV, Gold Hill A "Mistake" Harvey Harris Ingot, Gold Hill, NT 1 x 2", Internal Revenue Tax punch at top center, Three stars above. 3.30 ozs/ G976/ S021/ \$5.59/ FINE. Irregular wavy line pattern around obverse and reverse. Blank reverse. High polish.



This silver ingot was made to be a presentation ingot. It is very highly polished on both sides prior to punching, as well as fancily engraved along the edges front and back prior to punching. It dates from the period 1863 to about 1868, based upon the federal Tax Stamp (punch). But there is much to learn from this ingot, which I don't believe has seen public record. First, the engravings along the outside edges of both sides are indicative of Assayer Harvey Harris, though at least one Weigand ingot has similar traits. Second, the ingot engraving was never completed. There is a reason: Comstock ingots are usually reported with the higher value first, which is silver. Thus the value reported would have been silver, then gold. Here, the assayer marking the ingot made a mistake, and put "G" for gold on top, with the attendant silver fineness of 976. If this were indeed 976 fine gold, the color of the ingot would be gold. It is clearly silver color, thus the number placement is reversed. The "S" for silver under the gold fineness is 021 fine, which matches very closely the average Comstock gold content for these little silver ingots. Thus the fineness is reversed. This is verified by the total dollar value of the ingot (\$5.59), which only matches a silver fineness of 976. Once this mistake was realized, the maker had to start over, and would have discarded this ingot. One could speculate that the ingot was made in 1863, and that assayer Harris got confused after having worked on gold so much at his Marysville office, and perhaps was just back to Gold Hill after a trip to his Marysville office. Est. \$ 2,500 - 5,000 FHWAC # 121



Lot # 1208 NV, Virginia City Virginia City Ingot "Comstock Mines" 5.025 troy oz, .999 fine. 1980. Est. \$ 650 - 850 FHWAC # 88

Lot # 1209
NV 19th
Century
Lead-silver

ingot, from "Central Nevada" 19th

Century Lead-silver ingot, from "Central Nevada." This unique and special ingot is 4" x 8" x 2", the exact size of a brick. There are no punch marks of any kind, other than two small imprints from square nails. While the surface is lead gray, the ingot must have a very interesting history. We have not yet had it assayed. Here are the interesting attributes: 1. There are classic 19th century assay chips taken from opposing corners. 2. There are two places on the ingot where there are apparent gold "fragments". These are not separated gold, as occurs from high concentrations of gold in a dore bar, where the gold starts to part from the mix. My conclusion from this is that the ingot may be made of floor scrapings, dust and debris from an assay office or large scale mine operation 3. The long sides of the "brick" show paint residue, leading to the conclusion that this ingot was used, or placed in a wall as "brick". 4. The "brick" was found in Fallon, Nevada. The obvious near-source locale for lead is Eureka, where the Richmond and Eureka Consolidated mines operated. Both were major silver-lead producers in Nevada's history. Other mines nearby carried significant amounts of gold (viz: the Windfall mine). Austin is another possible source. 5. The "brick" shape is non-standard for a lead-silver mine, and is thus potentially home made by the melter or assayer, specifically to hide in a wall. Whatever the real story is behind this fascinating ingot, it is sure to be a story-teller today. Est. \$ 500 - 1,000 FHWAC # 506





Mathey, Kustel & Riotte Silver Ingot, c1880

Lot # 1210 NY Mathey, Kustel & Riotte Silver Ingot, 1880.

Summary

This ingot stands out from all others in terms of the amount of documented information, provenance and history available surrounding the assayers whose names are on it. It is unique. No other example of an ingot from this firm has surfaced from other collections to date.

The backgrounds of these mining men, their businesses and the timing of the production of this ingot render it an irreplaceable ingot of great significance. These men formed a partnership with an office in New York to take advantage of the Wall Street financing of western mines, particularly those in Leadville, one of the largest silver discoveries in the history of the world.

Description

The ingot carries the Mathey, Kustel & Riotte logo punch, which, with this ingot, is unique. It carries a value of \$6.42 and weighs 4.97 ozs. "999 fine" is punched on one side, and the serial number "No. 121" is punched on the opposing side. The reverse of the ingot is blank. There are no assay chips, which is a typical attribute of refined silver (and gold).

Provenance

Waldo C. Newcomer Collection; B. Max Mehl (1931); Art Kagin; John J. Ford (1957); current owner, John J. Ford Jr. Part XXI sale, 2007, lot 3524. Realized \$43,125.

This important and unique assayer ingot is the subject of a recent book, "The Anatomy of an Ingot", by Paul Franklin (2012). Franklin examined all of the businesses and competitors surrounding the manufacture of this ingot, as well as the history of the men who made the ingot. The three principals are all experienced mining men, with each individually important in his own right. All had extensive experience in and with western precious metal mines. A signed copy is included with the ingot.

Guido Kustel

Guido Kustel was one of the most important mining engineers of his time, spanning the California Gold Rush, early silver mining days of Arizona and the subsequent silver boom on the Comstock in Nevada.

He was born in 1817 in Hungary in a region presently straddling the border between [Poland](#) and [Ukraine](#). Kustel attended the prestigious Freiberg School of Mines, where intense training left graduates as assayers, metallurgists and mining engineers.

Kustel came to California, in 1852. Here he leveraged his

Hungarian roots practicing his craft as an assayer and metallurgist with firms founded by his fellow countrymen such as Wass Molitor, Wass, Uznay & Co., Haraszthy, Uznay & Co. and their permutations. Haraszthy had been the first supervisor of assaying and refining at the new San Francisco Mint in 1854 and set up a competing firm, the Eureka Gold and Silver Refinery where Kustel was a key player. While employed under Wass, Kustel assisted one of their customers, the Sonora Exploring and Mining Company, in setting up silver refining and assaying operations in the untamed Arizona Territory frontier. Part of his responsibilities involved the famous Heintzelman Silver Mine south of Tucson. In the early fifties, both Wass and John L. Moffat were busy consulting on various mines. Both men spent significant time near Mariposa, California separately investigating both placer and lode deposits for various companies.

Kustel returned to San Francisco in 1860 after Indian hostilities broke out, teaming up with Joseph Mosheimer, a German assayer and metallurgist. At first they refined the rich Comstock ore in San Francisco. Realizing it was far cheaper and expedient to construct mills near the operating mines, Kustel went to the Comstock and built his own. Kustel later returned to San Francisco and set up a series of assay offices finally partnering with Eugene Riotte, another important assayer in Nevada.

Guido Kustel's experience in Arizona and on the Comstock led him to write a series of books and articles about ores and metallurgical processes that were landmark efforts. His first book (1863) "Processes of Silver and Gold Extraction, for General Use and for the Mining Public of California and Nevada, with Full Explanations and Directions for All Metallurgical Operations Connected with Silver and Gold from a Preliminary Examination of the Ore to the Final Casting of the Ingot" was a masterpiece. It quickly became one of the standard references for mining and mill men, of particular importance to Comstock interests. He wrote a second book on the treatment of refractory gold and silver ores containing hard to remove sulphides mixed with complex compounds of antimony, arsenic and copper typical of many of Nevada's mining districts. A third volume was published on roasting complex silver ores and extracting gold without the use of quicksilver. His work on these new methods were a prelude to more modern cyanide based extraction techniques. Kustel died on August 16th, 1882 leaving his son to continue on with the assaying business in San Francisco until 1892.

Eugene Riotte

Eugene N. Riotte was born in Prussia 1843. The family came to the United States in 1848. His father Charles became an important American diplomat to Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Riotte attended the

Freiberg mining school, and was hired by past-Freiberg graduates Dr. Adelberg and Rossiter W. Raymond in New York. He accompanied Dr. Adelberg on one of his trips to Nevada in 1865 examining various mining prospects.

Prior to 1865, funding Western mining ventures passed through San Francisco, the financial center of the West. In a way, the Western mining men kept the game "to themselves", not allowing outsiders "in on" the investments. But by 1865, the New York capital market had "woken up", and eastern capitalists began to invest in Nevada (and Colorado) mines, especially in The Reese River District. This pair was thus able to garner a lot of work on Nevada properties from New York capitalists. The mining frontier of Nevada impressed Riotte so much he decided to stay, joining H. W. Theall in Austin. Theall was an important assayer having branch offices in Virginia City, NV and Marysville, CA. Theall sold out his Austin office to Boalt & Stetefeldt, ultimately taken over by Riotte who had stayed on through the transition. Riotte assisted Stetefeldt in developing his famous furnace used throughout the West for roasting ore and took over the Auburn Mill near Reno, NV. Meanwhile, Kustel was carefully monitoring the successes of the Stetefeldt Furnace that Riotte had played a pivotal role in and wrote a review for the Mining & Scientific Press.

Riotte moved on to San Francisco to join with well-known assayer Caesar Luckhardt and later ventured into the mining stock brokerage business before teaming up with Kustel in 1879. Kustel and Riotte recognized that there was a strong need to establish an office in America's financial center, New York. They needed an experienced partner. That man was Henry Mathey, a French mining engineer. Riotte continued as an assayer and mining engineer headquartered at the New York Metallurgical Works until he died in an accident in 1891 at a North Carolina gold property.

Henry Mathey

Mathey was a mining engineer born around 1835 in France. He emigrated from French Guiana, South America where rich gold deposits were discovered in 1854 that are still mined today. He came to the United States in 1872 and became a naturalized citizen in San Francisco in 1874. He took part in the mining boom at Panamint near Death Valley, and in the Coso Mining District near the mining camp of Darwin, CA. From there he joined Riotte and travelled to New York City in the spring of 1880 to open a branch office known as the New York Metallurgical Works - Mathey, Kustel & Riotte. It was here that this silver ingot was made probably in late 1880 or early 1881.

Mathey and the New York Metallurgical Works

The trio were particularly good at solving metallurgical problems associated with complex sulfide ores that necessitated roasting. The New York office appears to have been set up to take advantage of the financing of Colorado mines by New York interests. At the time, there was an explosion in exploration in Leadville and in the San Juan Mountains. Prospecting in Colorado was at a record level, and the New York financial market that had missed the California gold rush and the massive Comstock production was eager to jump on board the Colorado mining frenzy.

The lab undoubtedly ran hundreds to thousands of samples from mines financed by New Yorkers. The underwriters of prospecting ventures (also known as grub-staking) were eager to see what the sample results were, and needed a competent "home town" assay lab to manage them.

Guido Kustel died a short while after his partnership with the New York Metallurgical Works ceased to exist. Riotte continued to run the business in New York for almost another decade until his untimely death.

Mathey left the New York Metallurgical Works in late 1884. He had become enthralled with cement, and realized its potential. He became one of the city's business elite and was a board member of Thomas Edison's Edison Electric Illuminating Company. Here he met a co-founder of Edison's company, Jose F.

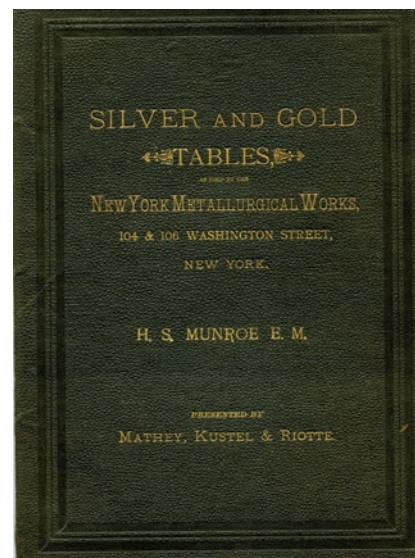
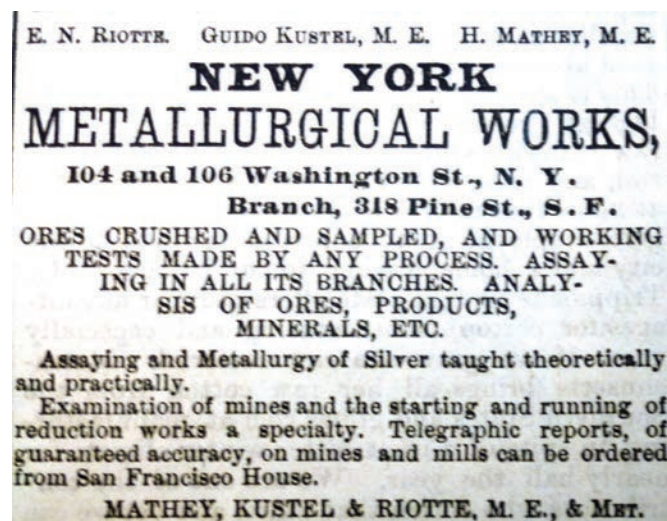
Navarro, a successful industrialist who was impressed with Mathey's results in manufacturing Portland Cement. He quickly bought the Mathey Cement Company along with all the patent rights. Navarro, a close friend of J. P. Morgan and the principal in Edison's company, built up the company which eventually supplied the cement for the construction of the Panama Canal. Becoming the Atlas Cement Company, the largest in the world, it would later merge with the United States Steel Corporation which evolved from J.P. Morgan's buying out Andrew Carnegie at the turn of the century. U. S. Steel was the first corporation in the world with a market capitalization over \$1 billion.

Mathey meanwhile went back to his mining roots and developed one of the first producing tin mines, the Temescal Tin Mining Co. in southern California as well as some additional mining ventures in California and Nevada. He is not related to Johnson Matthey & Co. of England.

Summary

This ingot is one of the most important American "assayer" ingots because it represents a part of the business where three of the most experienced professionals branched out to take advantage of a market for their product outside the mining regions, which was a market within the financial center of America, New York.

Est. \$ 25,000- 50,000 FHWAC # 19254



Numismatics



Lot # 1211 NY American Smelting & Refining Co. Silver 1971 Ingot 1 1971 4.84 troy oz. .999 fine. There is a NYH hand stamp on the center of the ingot. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 34



Lot # 1212 NY American Smelting & Refining Co. Silver 1971 Ingot 2 1971 5.73 troy oz. .999 fine. It does not have a hand stamp. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 352



Lot # 1213 NY American Smelting & Refining Co. Silver 1971 Ingot 3 1971 5.24 troy oz. .999 fine. It has a NYH hand stamp on the right side of the ingot. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 351



Lot # 1214 NY American Smelting & Refining Co. Silver 1982 Ingot 1 1982 4.15 troy oz. .999 fine. ASARCO is the survivor of the great Guggenheim companies, a major player in world mining. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 33



Lot # 1215 NY American Smelting & Refining Co. Silver 1982 Ingot 2 6.62 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 300 - 500 FHWAC # 358



Lot # 1216 NY American Smelting & Refining Co. Silver 1982 Ingot 3 6.00 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 250 - 450 FHWAC # 359



Lot # 1217 NY American Smelting & Refining Co. Silver 1982 Ingot 4 5.51 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 360

Corporation Silver Ingot 1 5 troy oz and .999 fine Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 93



Lot # 1218 NY, New York City Phoenix Refining



Lot # 1219 NY, New York City Phoenix Refining Corporation Silver Ingot 2 5 troy oz and .999 fine Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 380

Lot # 1220 NY Handy & Harmon 4.27 troy ozs. .999+ fine. One of the world leaders in precious metal processing. Est. \$ 225 - 375 FHWAC # 64



Lot # 1221 OH, Cincinnati States Smelt & Refinery Silver Ingot 4.610 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 550 - 750 FHWAC # 111



Lot # 1222 OH, Jackson Cincinnati Gold & Silver Refining Co. Silver Ingot No. J 302. 4.990 troy oz. .999+ fine. Est. \$ 300 - 500 FHWAC # 48



Lot # 1223 OH, Lima Jackson Precious Metals Silver Ingot 5 troy oz. Est. \$ 100 - 175 FHWAC # 73



Lot # 1224 OK, Shawnee Brown Materials Co. Ingot 5 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 150 - 300 FHWAC # 37



Lot # 1225 SD, Lead Homestake Mining Co. Silver Ingot 1 1978 2-110 (Prototype 2) .95799 fine, 4.960 troy oz. Est. \$ 250 - 450 FHWAC # 67



Lot # 1226 SD, Lead Homestake Mining Co. Silver Ingot 2 1976 2-111 (Prototype 2) .95799 fine, 5.050 troy oz. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 406



Lot # 1227 SD, Lead Homestake Mining Co. Silver Ingot 3 1976 2-129 (Prototype 2) .97624 fine, 4.960 troy oz. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 407



Lot # 1228 SD, Lead Homestake Mining Co. Silver Ingot 4 1976 1133, .999 fine, 2.190 troy oz. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 408





Lot # 1229 SD, Lead Homestake Mining Co. Silver Ingot 5 1979 1134, .999 fine. 2.060 troy oz. Est. \$ 150 - 300 FHWAC # 409



Lot # 1230 SD, Lead Homestake Mining Co. Silver Ingot 6 1979

1135, .999 fine, 2.040 troy oz. Est. \$ 150 - 300 FHWAC # 410



Lot # 1231 SD, Lead Homestake Mining Co. Silver Ingot 7 1977 3550, .9775 fine, 5.950 troy oz. Est. \$ 100 - 200 FHWAC # 411

Lot # 1232 SD, Lead Homestake Mining Co. Silver Ingot 8 1977 1055, .999 fine, 2.190

troy oz. Est. \$ 100 - 200 FHWAC # 412



Lot # 1233 SD, Lead Homestake Mining Co. Silver Ingot 9 1977 1056, .999 fine. 2.880 troy oz. Est. \$ 100 - 200 FHWAC # 413



Lot # 1234 TX, Houston Don Casey Co. Inc. Silver Ingot 5.100 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 51



Lot # 1235 TX, Morton Chaunceys Silver Ingot .999, 5 troy oz. Est. \$ 150 - 300 FHWAC # 41



Lot # 1236 TX, Morton Liberty Smelting

& Refining Silver Ingot 1 5.06 troy oz and .999 fine. Est. \$ 100 - 200 FHWAC # 76



Lot # 1237 TX Liberty Smelting & Refining Silver Ingot 2 1839 5 troy oz and .999 fine. Est. \$ 200.00 - 400.00 FHWAC # 372



Lot # 1238 TX, Morton Texas Territorial Mint Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 100 - 200 FHWAC # 115



Lot # 1239 VA, Richmond Delta Smelting & Refining Co. Silver Ingot 5. troy oz, .9995+ fine. Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 50



Lot # 1240 VA, Richmond Hoover and Strong Inc. Ingot 1 1981 Hoover and Strong Inc. Refiners and Manufacturers 1981 Silver Sales Award RPP. 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 250 - 400 FHWAC # 68



Lot # 1241 VA, Richmond Hoover and Strong Inc. Ingot 2 1982 Hoover and Strong Inc. Refiners and Manufacturers 1982 Silver Sales Award RPP. 5.04 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 250 - 400 FHWAC # 371

Lot # 1242 WA, Seattle Hallmark Precious Metals Inc. Silver Ingot 5.090 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 170 - 275 FHWAC # 63



Lot # 1243 WA, Seattle Premier Nickel Babbitt ingot 1, Seattle Washington 3 1/2 pounds. N-F Metals. Nickel Babbitt is

88-90% tin, 7-8% antimony, and smaller percentages of other metal like copper, silver, nickel, arsenic, and lead. Established in 1951, Non-Ferrous Metals, Inc. is a third generation, family owned foundry i n Seattle, WA, and specializes in Lead Casting, Lead Alloying and Lead Recycling. According to the consignor, ingot was salvaged from Bunker Hill Mine , Idaho after it shut down. Est. \$ 100 - 200 FHWAC # 2967

Lot # 1244 WA, Seattle Premier Nickel Babbitt ingot 2, Seattle Washington 3 1/2 pounds. N-F Metals. Nickel Babbitt is 88-90% tin,

7-8% antimony, and smaller percentages of other metal like copper, silver, nickel, arsenic, and lead. Established in 1951, Non-Ferrous Metals, Inc. is a third generation, family owned foundry i n Seattle, WA, and specializes in Lead Casting, Lead Alloying and Lead Recycling. According to the consignor, ingot was salvaged from Bunker Hill Mine , Idaho after it shut down. Est. \$ 100 - 200 FHWAC # 2968



Numismatics



Lot# 1245 WA, Walla Walla Foster Mint Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 350 - 500 FHWAC # 56



Lot # 1255 Blache Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 137

Lot # 1256 Coin Shack Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 150 - 375 FHWAC # 44



Lot# 1246 1st Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Highly polished bar (milled surfaces), slightly beveled edges. Est. \$ 350 - 450 FHWAC # 23



Lot# 1247 AG Refining Company Silver Ingot 1970 5.5 Troy Oz, .999 fine Est. \$ 100 - 200 FHWAC # 27



Lot # 1248 AGB Silver Ingot 1980 5

Troy Oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 150 - 225 FHWAC # 26



Lot # 1249 American Credit Bar Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 31



Lot # 1250 American

Flag 4.80 troy oz, .999 fine. No maker. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 392



Lot # 1251 American Precious Metals Silver Ingot 1 5 troy oz, .999 fine+ Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 32



Lot # 1252 American Precious Metals Silver Ingot 2 5 troy oz, .999 fine+ Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 356



Lot # 1253 American Silver Ingot 5.160 troy oz, .999 fine. "American" in oval punch. Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 30



Lot # 1254 Anglo American Metals Ingot 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Anglo American Metals was founded in 1917 by German born Sir Ernest Oppenheimer. AAM is still in operation with mines all over the world. Est. \$ 250 - 375 FHWAC # 35



Lot # 1257 Crown Metals Silver Ingot 5.200 troy oz, 999+ fine Est. \$ 200 - 350 FHWAC # 47

Lot # 1258 Dennis England Silver Ingot 1 2009 Continental Coins & Currency, 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 55



Lot # 1259 Dennis England Silver Ingot 2 2009 Diamond Depot, 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 414

Lot # 1260 Dennis England Silver Ingot 3 2009 Diamond Depot, 5 troy oz, .999 fine.

Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 415



Lot # 1261 Doyle's Mint Silver Ingot 1 5 troy oz, and .999+ fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 52

Lot # 1262 Doyle's Mint Silver Ingot 2 5 troy oz, and .999+ fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 375



Lot # 1263 Franklin Mint Silver Ingots Lot of 10 ingots for various mines of the Sunshine Mining Co. This lot comes complete with it's own custom box. Each ingot is 4.160 troy oz, and .999 fine. 1) Bulldog Mine. 2) Bunker Hill Mine. 3) Burgin Mine. 4) Butte Mine. 5) Copper Queen Mine. 6) Crescent Mine. 7) Galena Mine. 8) Lucky Friday Mine. 9) Sunshine Mine. 10) Utah Mine. Est. \$ 1,750 - 2,750 FHWAC # 138

Lot # 1264 G & S Silver Ingot 5.150 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 175 - 275 FHWAC # 58



Lot # 1274 Burma Irrawaddy Counting House at Rangon Silver Ingot 2 c1960 Type II (anchors) 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 397



Lot # 1275 Burma Irrawaddy Counting House at Rangon Silver Ingot 3 c1960 Type I (stars) 5.210 troy oz, .925 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 398

Lot # 1266 Great American Silver Co. Silver Ingot 2 5.01 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 361



Lot # 1276 Canada Johnson Matthey Canada Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999 fine+ Est. \$ 170 - 275 FHWAC # 135



Lot # 1277 Canada Johnson Matthey Silver Ingot 1 5 troy oz and .999+ fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 134

Lot # 1268 Heraimy Silver Ingot 4.750 troy oz, .9995 fine. Est. \$ 250 - 375 FHWAC # 65



Lot # 1267 H&M Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 175 - 275 FHWAC # 62

Lot # 1278 Canada Johnson Matthey Silver Ingot 2 5 troy oz and .999+ fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 396



Lot # 1270 ICI Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 175 - 250 FHWAC # 69



Lot # 1279 Keiffer Silver Ingot 1 4.87 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 400 - 800 FHWAC # 74

Lot # 1280 Keiffer Silver Ingot 2 4.72 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 357



Lot # 1272 International Vaults Refining Silver Ingot 5.150 troy oz, .999 fine. 1960. Est. \$ 200 - 300 FHWAC # 72



Lot # 1281 Kingsmen Silver Ingot 5.110 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 170 - 225 FHWAC # 75



Lot # 1282 Lone Star Silver Ingot 6.600 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 225 - 325 FHWAC # 77

Lot # 1273 Burma Irrawaddy Counting House at Rangon Silver Ingot 1 c1960 Type I (stars) 5.050 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 132



Lot # 1283 Lyman Silver Ingot 3.520 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 75 - 150 FHWAC # 78

Numismatics

Lot # 1284 M2 Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 175 - 275 FHWAC # 80



Lot # 1285 Mastiff Metals Silver Ingot 1 5.020 troy oz, .999 fine Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 81



Lot # 1295 Rio Grande Silver Ingot 1 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 98

Lot # 1296 Rio Grande Silver Ingot 2 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 389



Lot # 1286 Mastiff Metals Silver Ingot 2 5.070 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 382



Lot # 1297 Riverside Gold & Coin Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. 1960 Est. \$ 120 - 225 FHWAC # 99



Lot # 1287 MCR Silver Ingot 1 4.86 troy oz, and .999 fine. MCR was a division of Greb; Mehlos Refinery Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 86

Lot # 1298 Rosario Resources Corporation Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999 fine. 1973. Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 101



Lot # 1288 MCR Silver Ingot 2 4.5 troy oz, and .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 379

Lot # 1299 Sandoval Jewelers & Refiners Silver Ingot 1 5 troy oz and .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 102



Lot # 1300 Sandoval Jewelers & Refiners Silver Ingot 2 5 troy oz and .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 405



Lot # 1289 MEE Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 175 - 275 FHWAC # 82

Lot # 1290 Mehlos Refinery Silver Ingot

4.960 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 250 - 350 FHWAC # 84



Lot # 1301 Seven Silver Rounds and Medals Lot of 7. 1) 1972 St. Patrick's Day Commemorative Medal and Cachet (.999 fine Irish silver). 2) J. Edgar Hoover medal

(high relief) (sterling). 3) 1973 American Revolution Bicentennial Commemorative medal (sterling). 4) A Nevada Treasure Morrill Hall University of Nevada Centennial (.999 fine). 5) Limited proof edition Mayflower 1620-1970. Minted in England. (sterling) 6) Nevada Centennial Silver Medal 1864-1964. No. 496. (.999 fine) 7) 100th anniversary Reno Masonic silver round (.999 fine). From the Gordon Harris estate. Est. \$ 140 - 170 FHWAC # 19106



Lot # 1291 MSR Silver Ingot No hallmark, 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 100 - 200 FHWAC # 87



Lot # 1292 Noble Metals Silver Ingot .999, 5.69 troy oz. Est. \$ 150 - 300 FHWAC # 90



Lot # 1293 Peace Arch Refining Corp Silver Ingot No. 1273081. 5 troy oz, 999.9 fine. Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 91

Lot # 1302 Silver Diamond Corporation Silver Ingot No. 237. 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 400 - 600 FHWAC # 103



Lot # 1294 Primo & Stellar Refining Co. Silver Ingot 5.080 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 175 - 275 FHWAC # 96



Lot # 1303 Silver Metals International Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 300 FHWAC # 104

Lot # 1304 Silver Refining Corp. Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 150 - 300 FHWAC # 105



Lot # 1317 U.S. Silver Corp Silver Ingot Silver Valley, ID. 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 122



Lot # 1305 Silvermat Silver Ingot 1 5.26 troy oz. .999 fine. This is the only Silvermat ingot we have that has a "Silvermat" mark on the front of the ingot. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 108

Lot # 1318 Unclassified Silver Ingot 1 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Trapezoidal. Crude finish, filed surfaces to reduce the weight to 5 oz. Looks "home made", not traditional markings. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 118



Lot # 1306 Silvermat Silver Ingot 2 5.41 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 383



Lot # 1319 Unclassified Silver Ingot 2 5.43 troy oz, .999 fine. Trapezoidal. Product of multiple pours. No maker. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 391



Lot # 1307 Silvermat Silver Ingot 3 4.76 troy oz. .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 384

Lot # 1320 Universal Refiners Inc. Silver Ingot 1 1980 No. 8112. 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 119



Lot # 1308 Star Metals Silver Ingot 1 5.510 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 225 - 475 FHWAC # 110



Lot # 1321 Universal Refiners Inc. Silver Ingot 2 1980 No number. 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 394



Lot # 1309 Star Metals Silver Ingot 2 5.46 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 386



Lot # 1322 URI Silver Ingot No. C-2A. 5 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 150 - 300 FHWAC # 120



Lot # 1310 Star Metals Silver Ingot 3 5.36 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 387

Lot # 1311 Star Metals Silver Ingot 4 5.26 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 388



Lot # 1323 VW Silver Ingot 1980 This ingot comes with it's own custom pouch and certificate. 2.000 troy oz, .999 fine. 1980 Est. \$ 225 - 325 FHWAC # 123



Lot # 1312 Strickland Silver Ingot 1 5 troy oz and .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 112

Lot # 1313 Strickland Silver Ingot 2 5 troy oz and .999 fine. Est. \$ 200 - 400 FHWAC # 385

Lot # 1324 VVV Silver Ingot 5.360 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 124



Lot # 1314 T & T Refiners Silver Ingot 5.140 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 113



Lot # 1325 West Coast Refining Incorporated Silver Ingot 5.190 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 125



Lot # 1315 Tennessee- Texas Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 170 - 225 FHWAC # 114

Lot # 1326 Western States Refining Fontana, CA. 5.080 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 150 - 250 FHWAC # 126



Lot # 1316 Tri State Refining Corp. Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 100 - 200 FHWAC # 117



Numismatics

Lot # 1327 Windmill Mines Silver Ingots Lot of 2. 1) 5.570 troy oz, .999+ fine. 2) 5.003 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 375 - 475 FHWAC # 127



Lot # 1328 World Mint Corp. Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999+ fine. Est. \$ 250 - 350 FHWAC # 129



Lot # 1329 World Mint-Yonkers Coin Exchange Silver Ingot 5 troy oz, .999 fine Est. \$ 175 - 275 FHWAC # 128



Lot # 1330 Yardney Electric Refining Co. Silver Ingot Series A No. 00577. 4 troy oz, .999 fine. Est. \$ 100 - 175 FHWAC # 130



Lot # 1331 Danbury Mint Nixon 1972 Silver Peace Medal 1972 1972. Danbury Mint. Richard M. Nixon Journey for Peace medal. .999 fine silver. Limited edition of 15000. Front: high relief portrait of Nixon with text "Richard M. Nixon A Journey for Peace 1972" wrapping around the top. Reverse is relief of two hands releasing dove. Medal designed by Paul Calle and sculpted by Joseph DiLorenzo. Comes in box with stand. From the Gordon Harris estate. Est. \$ 100 - 150 FHWAC # 19111



Lot # 1332 Great Patriots Medals Collection plus four others Lot of 3. 1) Danbury Mint. Great Patriots of the United States. Set of 48 sterling silver proofs. Series I and II. Each medal measures 39mm in diameter. Depicts historical figures like Lewis and Clark, Patton, Washington, etc. Some of the rounds have toning and other wear. Half of them have been removed from original folders since folders were falling apart. Case has Gordon Barne Harris in gold lettering. Nice historical set. 2) Danbury Mint.

Democracy in Action: a commemoration of the orderly transition of Presidential power of August 8-9, 1974. Three sterling rounds: U.S. Constitution, Gerald R. Ford, and Richard M. Nixon. Comes in attractive blue binder with a copy of the U.S. constitution. 3) 1974. Franklin Mint. The Official First Continental Congress Bicentennial Medal and Cachet. One sterling silver proof in cachet cover addressed to Gordon Harris. Nice blue presentation binder. From the Gordon Harris estate.

Est. \$ 1,000- 1,200 FHWAC # 19114

Lot # 1333 Virgin Islands and Bahamas Proof Silver Medal Sets Lot of 4.

1) 1973. Franklin Mint. Republic of Panama. 20 balboas. 2000 grains sterling silver proof. Honoring Latin American liberator Simon Bolivar. Comes w/ box. 2) 1974. Franklin Mint. British Virgin Islands Proof set. Six-piece in box. 3) 1972. Franklin Mint. Commonwealth of the Bahamas Islands Proof Set. 9-piece in box. 4) 1973. Franklin Mint. Six proof coins in covers addressed to Gordon Harris. First official coins ever issued by the British Virgin Islands. Beautiful set in blue presentation binder. All from the estate of Reno banker Gordon Harris. Est. \$ 350 - 500 FHWAC # 19108



Don't forget to check out Day 3 for a variety of **TOKENS:** AZ, CA, NV, Fraternal, Saloon and more!!