

THE MINT'S ENAMELED FLASHER COLOR VARIETIES



THE FLASHER (TM-58EN) minted by THE MINT (Duane Spellman) was minted in proof and enamel. These are listed on page 254 of Indexed Guide Book to Silver Art Bars, Fifth Edition. The proof TM-58V is listed with a mintage 1000 non serial numbered and the enamel TM-58EN has a total mintage of 200. On a side note, before I continue, Archie Kidd informed me that the actual mintage was 100 and not 1000 on the TM-58V as there were four misprints on page 54 where an extra zero was added to the end of four mintages. (TM-56V, TM-58V, TM-60V and TM-61V). The mintage 200 enamel Flasher (TM-58EN) contained at least five color varieties and most likely six from the color schemes known.

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Most mints nowadays have different color varieties and special edition color varieties which are considered different mintages. With most of the vintage enamels the mintage was one combined overall mintage. This often consisted of minor differences in color schemes or most of the time a different background color or sometimes both. The Mint, Crown Mint, Madison Mint and Vintage SilverTowne are examples of some mints that regularly produced color varieties of enameled pieces within the same mintage. Some examples are The Mint's Chicago Bears Super Bowl enamel which has background colors red, green and blue also the Louisville Cardinals basketball, Ferdinand and spend a buck with color varieties. And of course, THE FLASHER with five known color varieties. Variety one has a DARK BLUE background with the woman's dress, purse and shoes GREEN. Color variety two has a TEAL background with the woman's dress, purse and shoes GREEN. Color variety three has a DARK BLUE background with the woman's dress, purse and shoes RED. Color variety four has a TEAL background with the woman's dress, purse and shoes RED. Color variety five has a TEAL background with the woman's dress, purse and shoes being ORANGE.

It also appears that on the green outfit varieties that the woman is a red head, on the red outfit variety she is a blond and she is a brunette on the orange dress variety. It also appears that on the orange outfit variety that the man's coat may be red instead of orange like on the green and red outfit pieces.

Based on the five color combinations it makes me think that most likely there will be a sixth found one day. It would seem reasonable that there would be a variety with a DARK BLUE background and with the woman's dress, shoes and purse ORANGE in color. My friend Frank has the five known color varieties of the Flasher and we have been keeping an eye out just in case the sixth is discovered or tucked away in a collection. So, open your albums and check your Flasher to see what color variety you have it may very well be the missing link

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