

The Resolute Americana Collection of
1776
Continental Dollars

1776 BRASS 'CURRENCY' \$S1
CONTINENTAL, DOTTED RINGS

MS 63

Newman I-A ex: Brand
Donald G. Patrick Collection
2048718-001



NGC



NGC ANA Exhibit 2017



Continental Dollars

The Continental Dollars have fascinated collectors for generations, but little was known about them when Sylvester Crosby's monumental reference, *The Early Coins of America*, was published in 1875. Another 80 years would pass before a proper numismatic study was undertaken by America's greatest living numismatic scholar, Eric P. Newman.

His 1952 monograph published by Wayte Raymond was the first comprehensive article on the series.

Newman's August, 1959 article in *The Numismatist* was the first real attempt to name the parties behind this series' creation, and it was he who attributed the "EG FECIT" signature as almost certainly being that of New York City engraver Elisha Gallaudet.



Documentary evidence of this coin type's inception is sorely lacking, though some intriguing references may be cited. In its June 27, 1776, issue the *New-York Journal* spoke of a proposed "Continental Copper Coin" that was intended to replace the many badly worn or underweight copper pieces then circulating in the colonies. A week later, on July 3, 1776, *The Pennsylvania Gazette* reported a new "Continental copper coin, of a large size, twelve of which is to pass for an eighth part of a dollar..." Several months later, in December 1776, two English publications (*The London Chronicle* and *The Scots Magazine*) reported that "the Congress have established a mint at Philadelphia where they coin copper and silver pieces about the size of half a crown."

While the silver and copper pieces are cited in accounts from 1776, the pewter pieces do not appear to have been mentioned until November 1779. A poem published in New York's *Rivington's Royal Gazette* contained the following lines:

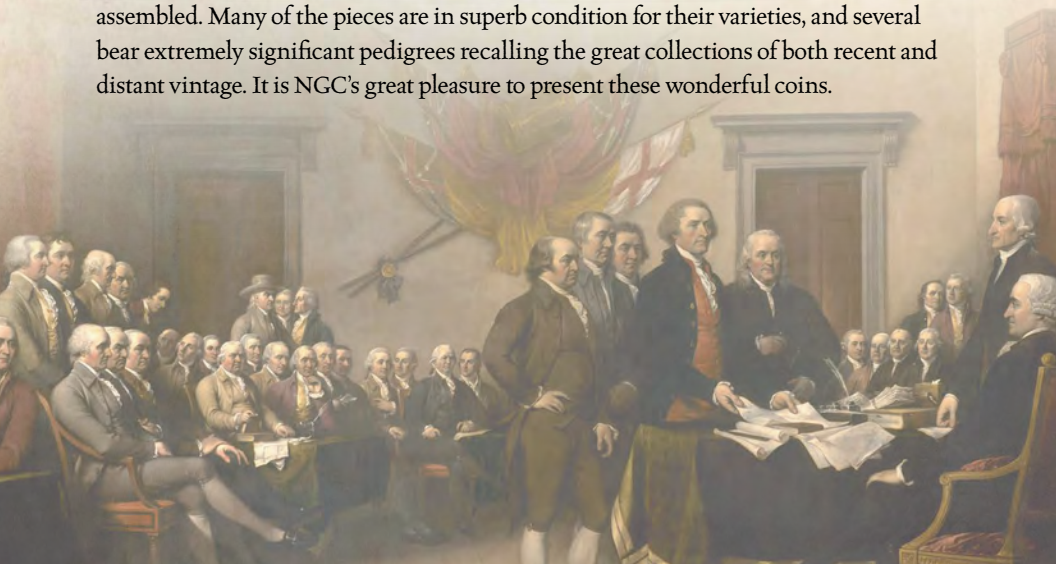
*Congress will nobly pay him for his pains,
Or pewter dollars what both hands can hold;
A thimble-full of plate, a mite of gold;*



Pointing to the validity of these coins as official issues of the government is that the paper notes authorized by the Continental Congress excluded the one dollar denomination. Indeed, the coins presented here are clearly inscribed “Continental Currency” (alternately “Curency” or “Currenecy”), the same title printed on the paper notes first issued in 1775. A number of examples, particularly the silver pieces, are found worn, suggesting actual circulation. Production most likely commenced in New York City sometime during the summer of 1776. That city fell to the British in September, and this provides numismatists with a concluding date for the initial series of coins comprising obverses 1 and 2.

Most surviving specimens were coined in brass or pewter, yet all but two examples have an ornate edge device similar to that seen on Spanish eight-reales pieces, the “Spanish Milled Dollars” which comprised the bulk of America’s silver currency at the time. Such an edge device was applied to prevent clipping, the removal of metal from a coin’s edge, and this is further proof that the Continental Dollars were intended for circulation.

The amazing Resolute Americana Collection of 1776 Continental Dollars brings together all known varieties and is therefore the most complete gathering ever assembled. Many of the pieces are in superb condition for their varieties, and several bear extremely significant pedigrees recalling the great collections of both recent and distant vintage. It is NGC’s great pleasure to present these wonderful coins.



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BRASS - "CURRENCY"

NEWMAN 1-A

NGC MS 63

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Newman 1-A was the first variety of Continental Dollar minted. While spelling of the English language was still subject to slight variations in 1776, it may be concluded that the single letter R was seen as an error even at that time, providing Obverse 1 with a unique charm. Its mate, Reverse A, is distinguished by the names of the colonies framed within circles of beads, which must have been quite a chore for the engraver. This lovely specimen is the finest of just three known for the variety. It is pedigreed to the famed Virgil Brand Collection, subsequently gracing the landmark collections of Eric P. Newman and Donald G. Partrick.

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BRASS - "CURENCY"
NEWMAN 1-A
NGC AU 50

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The Resolute Collection is privileged to include a second attractive brass specimen of this first Continental Dollar variety. It shares with the first a peculiar rotation of the dies, being off about 40 degrees clockwise when flipped in medal alignment (along the vertical axis). It displays the dark, reddish brown coloration which has led to brass specimens being labeled as copper in the past. This rare coin is one of only three confirmed for the variety and served as the reverse plate coin in Eric P. Newman's 1952 monograph. It is pedigreed to that colorful collector of nearly everything, "Colonel" E. H. R. Green, from whose estate it was purchased by Newman and then sold with portions of his collection in recent years.

★★★★★★

PEWTER - "CURRENCY"
NEWMAN 1-A (PLAIN EDGE)
NGC VF DETAILS



Historically, the die marriage Newman 1-A was known to numismatists only in brass, and this exceedingly rare pewter example was only recently discovered as a variety and is just the second Continental Dollar known to have a plain edge. It is now certified by NGC as the Discovery Coin. This piece features the same dies as brass 1-A examples, and it also shares their odd mis-rotation of dies, pointing to a date of striking at or very near to that of the brass pieces. Though the very soft pewter alloy permitted this coin to suffer a number of small dents from apparent circulation, it is nevertheless one of the great prizes of the Resolute Collection.

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BRASS - "CURENCY"
NEWMAN 1-B
NGC MS 62

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In its catalog for the Eric P. Newman Collection, Part V, Heritage Auctions was able to enumerate an even dozen examples of this die marriage in brass, of which the present coin from the Resolute Collection is the second finest by just a single grade point. Like the pewter specimen described previously, it was coined in medal alignment, with its reverse being off in relation to the obverse by just a few degrees when turned along its vertical axis. It is lustrous and fully struck, with a natural yellow brass color and fine lines visible in places from rolling of the planchet strip. Ex Eric P. Newman, this dollar is a wonderful illustration of these dies. It is among the finest of just a dozen pieces known.

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**BRASS - "CURENCY"
NEWMAN 1-B (THICK)
NGC AU DETAILS**



For reasons unknown, this specimen was coined from a planchet strip that was noticeably thicker than on most examples of Newman 1-B, with a resulting higher weight (264.7 grains). This may have contributed to its particularly bold strike. Assuming that the dies were set at the same distance for both thin and thick pieces, the thicker ones would certainly experience greater compression. A lovely, deep chocolate brown in the fields, with light highpoints, this attractive coin possesses superb contrast. Interestingly, its composition is 89% copper, as opposed to the usual copper figure below 80%. It's for this reason that such coins have been described erroneously as copper by some catalogers, while current thought is that all should be labeled as brass.

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PEWTER - "CURENCY"
NEWMAN 1-B
NGC MS 64

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Coined shortly after the Newman 1-A coins, this specimen features the same die marriage but with an amendment to Reverse A. The engraver cut lines over the circles of dots, leaving the latter still partially visible, while making it easier to focus on the names of the colonies. A mere seven examples are believed to exist of this variety in pewter, of which this one is certainly the finest. It is pedigreed to Jon Hanson and, more recently, to the amazing collection of early United States coins assembled by Donald G. Partrick.

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PEWTER - "CURRENCY"
NEWMAN 1-C
NGC MS 65

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The original reverse die featuring circles of dots (Reverse A), that was subsequently revised to become Reverse B, was given a complete makeover to become Reverse C. The underlying dots are all but invisible, quite well hidden under the reinforced circular lines. This is the most often seen variety of Continental Dollar and the only one that an advanced collector may reasonably aspire to own in Mint State. The specimen presented here is among the very finest known. It displays a bold, complete strike and bright surfaces having just light toning. This coin is pedigreed to both Ted L. Craige and Donald G. Patrick. As a point of interest, its composition is 91% tin, 4% lead and 3% antimony.

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PEWTER - "CURENCY"
NEWMAN 1-C
NGC MS 62



The Resolute Collection is blessed by a second example of Newman 1-C, and this one served as the obverse plate coin for Eric P. Newman's monograph, published as the July-August 1952 issue of Wayte Raymond's periodical, *The Coin Collector's Journal*. This specimen is sharply struck and a bit more toned than the previous example. It's composition is slightly different, too: 85% tin, 11% lead and 2% antimony. The reverse is rotated 90 degrees clockwise when the coin is turned along its vertical axis, a rather curious twist (pardon the pun). This handsome dollar is pedigreed to the Eric P. Newman Collection.

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PEWTER - “CURRENCY”
NEWMAN 1-C (PLAIN EDGE)
NGC MS 63



Among the most intriguing pieces within the Resolute Collection, this example of the relatively common 1-C die marriage is absolutely unique in several respects. It is broadstruck, being larger in diameter than most, and its planchet is a bit irregularly shaped. In addition, it is one of only two Continental Dollars known to have a plain edge, rather than the ornate edge device of paired laurel leaves that is typical of this issue in all compositions. These features point toward a pattern or trial piece, though a die break at letters GI of FUGIO demonstrate that its coining did not precede that of the normal strikes. A well struck coin, it affords an opportunity to study the beaded border that is often not visible on examples of conventional diameter. This unique rarity is pedigreed to, among others, Jon Hanson and Donald G. Partrick.

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SILVER - "CURENCY"
NEWMAN 1-C
NGC XF 40

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This die marriage in silver is exceedingly rare, with just two examples known. Both were coined during Die State C, featuring the internal break atop letters GI of FUGIO that is also seen on the plain edge specimen. Thus, they were coined later than at least some of the pewter pieces. This wonderful rarity became the first silver Continental Dollar known to numismatists when it was sold as part of the Dr. Charles Clay Collection by W. H. Strobridge in December 1871. It was eventually added to the immense Garrett Collection, willed to Johns Hopkins University in 1942. Auctioned nearly 40 years later, these pieces launched a great revival of interest in Early American coins that continues to the present day. Much more recently, this prize was part of the magnificent Donald G. Partrick Collection. Moderately worn, this specimen evidently circulated as a dollar, the original (if frustrated) hope of the Continental Congress. Its composition is 93% silver and 7% copper.



PEWTER - "CURRENCY"
NEWMAN 2-C
NGC MS 64



With the debut of Newman's Obverse 2, the curious spelling CURENCY was finally amended. That old workhorse die, Reverse A-B-C, was herein used one last time. Variety 2-C is fairly "common" within the generally rare series of Continental Dollars, though it is less often seen than 1-C. This delightful specimen is among the finer examples known. Well struck and nicely centered, it possesses a brightness not often found on pewter coins. As with so many of these coins, its die rotation is a bit off, in this instance being about 30 degrees counterclockwise from upright when turned on its vertical axis. This very nice piece of numismatic Americana was formerly a part of the famed Eric P. Newman Collection.

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PEWTER - “EG FECIT”
NEWMAN 3-D
NGC MS 66



Numismatists have divided the varieties of Continental Dollars into two groups, based on variations in engraving style and letter / numeral punches that hint at different engravers for each. Group I comprises Obverses 1 and 2, as well as Reverses A, B and C. The debuts of Obverse 3 and Reverse D mark the onset of Group II, all of which are known only in pewter or silver. It's almost certain that these coins were struck after New York City fell to the British. They were probably coined in or near Philadelphia, the new Continental capital. This variety is highly desired for its engraver's signature "EG FECIT" (E. G. made it). A superb gem, this lovely dollar is among the very finest certified. It is pedigreed to the Charles I. Bushnel and Eric P. Newman Collections and served as the plate coin for variety 3-D in Newman's landmark 1952 monograph.

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SILVER - "EG FECIT"
NEWMAN 3-D
NGC MS 62



Just two examples are known of this die marriage coined in silver, the Resolute Collection specimen presented here being just a single grade point lesser than the Eric P. Newman specimen. This delightful dollar is well struck overall, with just slight incompleteness on and around the sundial. Its surfaces are bright, with a blend of natural silver and iridescent toning. A die crack connects several of the rings, as seen on most pieces from this reverse. Also visible are faint lines from the planchet adjustment process performed to bring its weight to the desired figure. This very handsome dollar was first exhibited at the 1911 ANA convention in Chicago. It was formerly part of the legendary collections of H. O. Granberg, "Colonel" E. H. R. Green, F. C. C. Boyd and John J. Ford, Jr. More recently, it graced the equally memorable collection of Donald G. Partrick.



PEWTER - "CURRENCEY"
NEWMAN 4-D
NGC MS 63



Yet another variation of the word CURRENCEY identifies Newman's Obverse 4, and it is here paired with Reverse D used previously with Obverse 3. This awkward spelling was copied from the February 17, 1776 issue of Continental Currency notes. The coin's date seems to have been wedged into its small space almost as an afterthought. The first numeral was accidentally punched in as a 7 and then crudely altered in the die to resemble a 1 by gouging out parts of it at the crossbar and the bottom. This beautiful coin is the finest of just four known and the only one to survive unworn. It is in near perfect coin rotation, with the reverse just about 10 degrees clockwise from level when turned on the horizontal axis. It bears a particularly illustrious pedigree chain: Waldo Newcomer, "Colonel" E. H. R. Green and Eric P. Newman.



PEWTER - "CURRENCY"
NEWMAN 5-D (FLORIATED CROSS)
NGC AU 58



The final twist in the Continental Dollar die chain came when the mistaken spelling CURRENCEY was corrected in the existing Obverse 4, the die thereafter becoming Obverse 5. This was achieved by effacing as much of the offending E as possible and then overpunching it with a Y. The now redundant, original Y was hidden underneath an ornamental cross that has been described by some catalogers as “floriated,” a reference to the triple leaves extending from each arm. Just three examples are known today, and the Resolute Collection specimen is easily the finest. It is just faintly worn and reveals only a few contact marks. The die crack through the reverse rings typical of Reverse D has progressed further, but a study of die states revealed that this die was subsequently used to strike additional examples of 3-D. This rare and attractive coin is pedigreed to the important collection of Ambassador and Mrs. R. Henry Norweb, followed by that of Donald G. Partrick.



1783 TREATY OF PARIS MEDAL
PEWTER, BETTS-614
NGC AU 55



This intriguing medal celebrates the signing of a peace treaty between Britain and the United States ending America's War of Independence. The obverse's central figures are an Indian, symbolic of the USA, and Britannia. Above them flies the dove of peace bearing an olive branch, while London's St. Paul's Cathedral appears to the left. The date September 4, 1783, is within an exergue at the bottom. This medal's reverse is in imitation of the Continental Dollars, though it is not one of the dies used for that series. Instead, it is a later die modeled after Newman's Reverse C. This superb example is among the finest of just over a dozen pieces traced, and it is pedigreed to the collection of Ambassador and Mrs. R. Henry Norweb, followed by that of Donald G. Partrick. This medal's composition is 93% tin, 2% antimony and 1% lead, with trace elements.

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**1787 FUGIO CENT
NEWMAN 11-B
NGC MS 66 RB**



The series name for this coin type comes from the Latin word “fugio” (I fly), a reference to the measuring of time by the central device of a sundial. This imagery has been attributed to Benjamin Franklin, adding to the great desirability of Fugio Cents. Before the United States had its own mint, Congress contracted with James Jarvis to coin copper pieces the size of the many existing halfpennies and state coppers already circulating. The dies were forged and engraved by Abel Buell of New Haven, and Newman 11-B is one of the varieties preserved for posterity through the Bank of New York Hoard. It features four cinquefoils serving as legend stops, and letters AR in ARE in the reverse are boldly recut. This wonderful specimen is among the very finest survivors and retains much of its mint red color. The dies are boldly clashed, with the reverse rings appearing distinctly on its obverse.

CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

View the Resolute
Americana Collection of
1776 Continental Dollars
at NGCcoin.com/Resolute

Jean Hancock
John Hancock
John Hancock

