

AN 1833 BUST QUARTER REMARRIAGE (REVISITED)

karma (kär'me), *n.* **1.** *Hinduism, Buddhism.* action, seen as bringing upon oneself inevitable results....

In **John Reich Journal** Vol. 15/3, I wrote an article about the discovery of a die remarriage in the small diameter bust quarter series (see page 7). This article mentions that the discovered coin was only an EF and had been cleaned. I lamented that I hoped to find an even later die state and a higher-grade coin. Once again Karma stepped in to lend a helping hand.

While at the recent ANA show in Pittsburgh, I was cruising and perusing the bourse floor when a row of 2x2'ed busties caught my eye and stopped me in my tracks. I asked the dealer, who was nonchalantly standing behind the table, to see all the bust quarters in his case. As he piled them in front of me, I sat down and proceeded to warm up to some serious attributing (ala Phil Evans style!).

I started with the early draped bust and proceeded down through the years. First came a low grade 1806, darn, it's not the elusive B-8 I always hope for when deciphering the die characteristics of every 1806. Next was a well-worn 1807, now why can't I find one with all of the dentils?

Into the next generation of the large size capped busts, I passed on a fine 1818 B-2 cracked as always. Next, an 1825 B-2 with a nice original look, if only a lowly VF, was certainly worth making an offer on.

On to the small diameter capped bust, where most of the coins were in better collector grades of EF-AU. Finding nothing of interest in the 1831's, I skipped through the 1832's and 33's thinking there wasn't anything exciting in store for me because there weren't rare die marriages in those years. As I passed quickly over the 1833's I saw one that was certainly in a nice AU grade but very dark. I silently made a mental note to come back and look at it when I was through with the rest of the stack.

I jumped through the 1834's quickly checking for a combination of the B-2 reverse and B-3 or 4 obverse that would indicate an example of the Rare B-5 had been found, but alas as one would expect it didn't appear. Scanning the 1835 reverses for a crack through STATES produced no results and all three of the 1836's were of the B-2 and B-3 variety.

When I came to the 1837's, the first coin examined turned out to be a no problem EF of the scarce B-4. After pulling out my current example, I found that mine was just slightly better. Oh well, I guess if the price is right I can buy it to use as trade material.

At this point I had completely forgotten about my fleeting thought to return to the 1833. I proceeded to ask the patient dealer about the prices he wanted for the two coins I had picked out. As some will do, they were marked with a mysterious price code - decipherable only by the originator of the cipher. After checking his hieroglyphs, looking me over and deciding how deep my pockets might be, a price was uttered. Once a price was quoted, I of course offered a somewhat lower amount, and the battle was on! When I started out with my part of the haggling I was stymied by the response that the coins were not his to negotiate and the main dealer would "be right back". It would be he who would continue the duel.

With time on my hands and not wanting to leave, or coming back repeatedly to catch the elusive dealer, I opted to wait. Well... why not look at some more coins, I heard my self-say.

Then the thought crept back into my head...Oh yeah, I was going to look at that nice 1833! I asked to see the stack of quarters once more and dug my way down to the 1833. Holding the coin at hands length I thought it had a nice look to it even if it was a bit dark. Grabbing my trusty loop I began to pour over the obverse side. The first thing that popped out at me was all of the rust lumps (or spawling for those who agree with that theory) that encrusted the cap, the date, and several stars. Wow this is a late one! It had to be the late die state remarriage coin I had wished for. When turning it over, the reverse displayed just as much of the deteriorations as the obverse and showed me that it was certainly the B-1. (As many of you know, there are many things to differentiate the B-1 and B-2 reverse dies, but the primary difference is the number of vertical shield lines. The B-1 has the normal three lines whereas the B-2 has the experimental two. Please refer to the excellent article by John McCloskey in **John Reich Journal** Vol. 7/2 for a better look at this feature).

I had to have this coin! I was wrapped up in my own salivations as the dealer returned – now the struggle would begin! As we negotiated, there were parries and thrusts back and forth, until in the end, we came to common ground and a deal was consummated.

As I left the table with my new found treasure, all I could think about was showing my find to the other bust quarter hounds at the upcoming meeting that day. Then it dawned on me... the meeting was that morning at 11:00. I looked at my cell phone and saw what time it was... 11:45! I had missed the meeting! Well, acquiring more bust quarters is the best excuse I could come up with for not being there!



Now to the attributes contained within the new 1833 B-1 purchase. While the die state is very similar as to the amount of rust present, there are some minor differences. There is evidence of an attempt to eliminate some of the rust by lapping the die. While most of the rust damage is unaffected, the lapping has taken away much of the arrow shaft



detail on the reverse. All three-arrow shafts are now detached with the first two “floating” in mid air and the lower shaft is completely gone under the eagle’s claws. As to rarity, I would say that the remarriage is quite common and the earliest die state with no rust is the most difficult to find.

Karma... just put the thoughts out into the ethers and it may come back to you as well!

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