

# Beginner's Corner

## Class VII Doubled Dies

By **John A. Wexler, NLG**

### Modified Hub Doubling

Class VII doubled die varieties get their name “modified hub doubling” due to the fact that the doubling results from some sort of a modification to a part of the coin design on one or more of the working hubs. As such, this is a very difficult class to verify. In fact, there may be no currently proven examples of this type of doubled die.

For the suspected examples falling into this class, the modification came in the form of a partial design being ground off of a working hub. The reason this would occur would be that only a small part of the design would be troublesome and be easy to remove. Removing this portion of the design would allow an otherwise good hub to remain in use. The theory is that this modified hub which is missing part of the design would be used to make the initial impressions in the working die. The final impression or impressions would be made with a hub containing the new complete design.

Doubling would result if the part of the design that was ground off of the one hub would not be ground off completely enough. Traces of the design would remain and be imparted to any working dies hubbed by that particular hub. When subsequent hubbings are made with the hub bearing the completed design, doubling will occur as a result of the differences in the design.

A characteristic of this type of doubled die would be a very weak doubled image due to the fact that the design was nearly obliterated on the one hub while being full and complete on the other hub. Also, only a very small portion of the design would be affected.

One suspected example of this appears on

some 1970 Lincoln Cents. Cents from all three Mints can be found with doubling of the 7 or the 70 of the date. It has been believed that when the Mint switched from the Small Date to the Large Date in 1970, the 70 (or possibly even the entire date) was ground off of the working hub being used to make the Small Date working dies. The discovery that the 1970-S proof obverse doubled die variety listed as WDDO-003 is actually a Small/Large Date, rather than a Class VI variety as originally thought, tends to suggest that the entire date was ground off of the Small Date hub. The Small/Large Date variety mentioned shows doubling of the 19 which is not found on the suspected Class VII varieties for this date.

On the 1970 varieties believed to be Class VII doubled dies, traces of the 7 or the 7 and 0 can be found just above the normal 70 in the date. An interesting aspect, however, is that they do not appear in exactly the same location above the 70 on all the varieties. The weaker 70 is much higher on some than on others. On a few examples, the weaker 70 can actually be seen below the normal 70. If these are indeed Class VII doubled dies, it would tend to indicate that there was also a pivoting action involved between hubbings. This would certainly be possible as there could be a minor difference in the lug location between the Small Date and the Large Date hubs. This could allow for some “play” between the hub and the die and thus the pivoting action to account for

the observed differences.

Another variety believed to be a Class VII doubled die variety is the 1958 and 1958-D cents which have what appears to be an 8/7 in the date. When the suspected overdate was reported many years ago, the Mint indicated that the master hub became unusable after making the 1957 master die. Rather than engrave a new master hub from the galvano for 1958, they took a working hub for 1957, ground off the 7 and used it to make a master die for 1958. The 8 was then punched into the master die to complete it. This

was done as the Mint was likely to be changing the galvano and thus the master hub again in 1959 with the coming of the new Lincoln Memorial Cents.

Unfortunately, since the modified hub was used to make a new master die, the remnants can be seen on all working dies for 1958. Later die states may not show it as the evidence has eroded away. As all coins of this date were affected, there should be no extra value for them. We do, however, occasionally see specimens being offered for sale at a premium.



*On this 1958-D cent, we see what appears to be remnants of a 7 with the 8 superimposed over the image of the 7. The strongest evidence appears as the upper right corner of the 7 protruding from the upper right side of the 8. Part of the diagonal bar of the 7 shows inside the upper loop of the 8.*



*This 1970-D 1c, listed as WDDO-018, shows the typical doubling of the 70 in the date on these suspected Class VII doubled die varieties. The fact that several different working dies from all three Mints were affected to some degree indicates an abnormality in a working hub.*



*Here we see 1970 1c WDDO-005 which shows the doubling of the 70 below the main 70. Similar varieties exist on the D-Mint and S-Mint cents for this date.*