

A MOST UNUSUAL COUNTERSTAMP

by Bill Groom

While the below-pictured Liberty Seated Dime illustrates aspects of a love token, it was clearly created with individual letter punches, this, as opposed to having been engraved. In this respect, it's akin to the Civil War soldier identification disks as regards personal recognition for participation. It, too, is holed for wearing and dated during the war years.... a Civil War token, this?

The legend reads: **ELLEN M. MORSE /**
AUGUST / 1864 / EUCHRE.

Obviously, the owner-recipient was
a lady. Likely, there was some
jovial intent attached to this
probable gift from a card-playing
friend(s). Perhaps, Ellen was then
a tournament winner?



This unique counterstamp was unknown to Brunk or Rulau. This collector has yet to identify Ellen M. Morse, the subject. Given the style of this piece, might its maker have been a sutler? Note that Ellen's name appears to have been professionally, neatly applied so as to conform to the coin's perimeter; this, just like the sutler-made ID's which also often illustrated misaligned central lettering. Of course, these questions may never be answered, yet pondering them can be as much fun for an old numismatist as say, playing euchre....

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