

## 1875-CC Very Wide CC Die Discovered by Joe Kirchgessner, LSCC #1560



1875-CC Wide CC Mintmark Trade Dollar , Discovery Coin

Over the last five years, I have been working to write a book on Trade Dollar rarities and varieties. As I have been writing and collecting information, a group of fellow Trade Dollar collectors/specialists has emerged that have significantly advanced the understanding and the breadth of varieties within the series. This group has provided invaluable assistance in identifying and discussing Trade Dollars as well as keeping an eye open for new varieties. However, even with this broadened collective effort, it not often that something notable or “new” is identified.

For those that collect the series, there is a “Very Wide” mintmark Carson City die that was used in the production 1873-CC, 1874-CC, and 1876-CC coins. All of these dates used the same reverse die as evidenced by several specific die attributes. The primary distinguishing characteristic, as the name implies, is the amount of separation between CCs, 1.2mm and the Cs are .9mm tall. These coins are all quite rare with the 1874-CC being the rarest. The

*Gobrecht Journal* has noted the discovery of these varieties, starting with the 1876-CC (attribution unknown), followed by the 1874-CC (Issue #71 in 1998<sup>1</sup>) and finally the 1873-CC (Issue #73 in 1998<sup>2</sup>). (Please note that a second 1873-CC Wide CC variety die was attributed in Issue #69<sup>3</sup> in 1997. The separation of the CCs is 1.0 mm.)

The curiosity of this reverse die has been two-fold. First, the same die was reused over a period of three years of production and was not retired until sometime in 1876. That means that this die was used and shelved over fairly long period. Second, why wasn't this die used in 1875? Was it simply on the “back shelf” during 1875 and found and used again in 1876? Several of us within the Trade Dollar collecting community have always suspected the existence of the die usage in 1875 but in years of searching, no one has been able to identify its existence.

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<sup>1</sup>Bert Schlosser. “An 1874-CC Trade Dollar With a Wide CC Mintmark.” *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #71, March 1998, 28.

<sup>2</sup>Joe Kirchgessner. “A Second Wide CC Variety for the 1873-CC Trade Dollar.” *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #73, November 1998, 25.

<sup>3</sup>Joe Kirchgessner. “The Wide CC Mintmark on the 1873-CC Trade Dollar.” *Gobrecht Journal* Issue #69, July 1997, 34.

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We now have an update to the both of these connected questions. In May of 2016, Daniel Tsai, an astute Trade Dollar collector, acquired an 1875-CC Very Wide CC variety on eBay. This coin is PCGS graded as XF Details with a minor rim bump. Images of the obverse and reverse of the coin is provided at the beginning of this article.

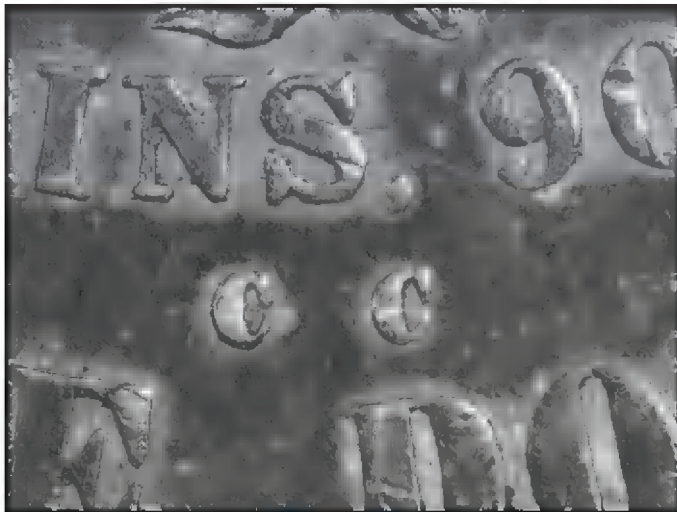
This was confirmed has being the Very Wide die variety by identification of the two key attributes; the space between the CCs is 1.2 mm, and a die scratch in the denticles above the second S in "STATES." Images of both of these attributes are provided below. There are several other minor identifiers but the two stated (see Images 1 and 2) are enough make a solid identification.

In the "when it rains, it pours" category, one month after this discovery, a second example of this variety was identified and purchased by another astute collector, Dan Huntsinger, and now resides in John Coyle's CC Collection. This second example was graded XF Details Cleaned. There are now two ex-

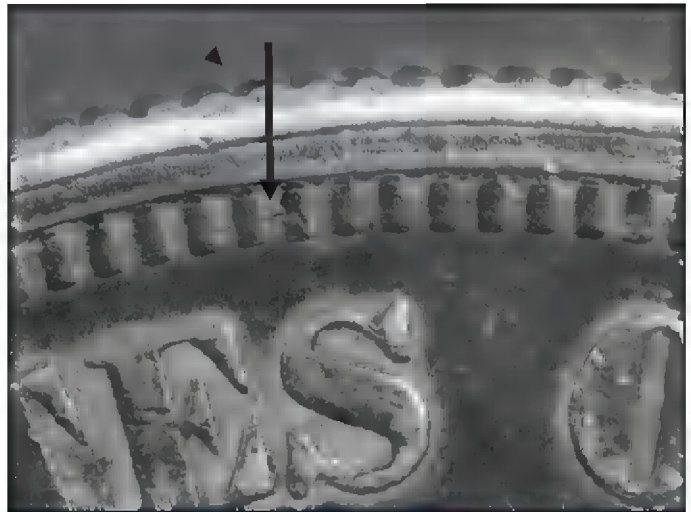
amples known but as with most "discoveries," I would expect additional coins to be identified.

John Coyle noted that all of these coins have some degree raised rim above "STATES" extending further around the northern periphery on the reverse. (One can see that in the image above.) Whether this is a consistent misalignment, a die feature or an under-sized die in this area are possibility and bears further discussion and analysis.

It is a very rare variety and I estimate rarity to be in the R6 range in all grades. For reference, I estimate that the rarity ratio for all four years to be 2:1.5:1:5 for 1873-CC, 1874-CC, 1875-CC and 1876-CC respectively. Stated another way, I estimate that the 1876-CC Very Wide CC is 5 times more available than the 1875-CC. These are simply estimates and based upon the number of examples that I am aware of. I would not place a high degree of accuracy on these numbers due the few examples that exist for all of these dates.



**Image 1:**  
CCs are .9 mm tall and separated by 1.2 mm



**Image 2:** Die Scratch in denticles above second S in "STATES"