

OCEAN COUNTY COIN CLUB, INC.

JUNIOR NUMISMATIC NEWSLETTER (JNN) * 4

Our program is moving along and now it's time to insure you have the "right tools for the job." The job, of course is numismatics, THE TOOLS ARE THE BOOKS you need to answer many of your questions and satisfy your curiosity.

To begin with, for U.S. Coins, you need only two books. The most important one is called the "RED BOOK." It is "A guide book of U.S. Coins" and is published every year, usually in July or August. The book currently sells for \$11.95 in retail coin & book stores, however, club members can purchase them for nearly half the price from the club until our supply is exhausted. The book is well worth the price with over 300 pages of all U.S. Coins listing a price guide, grading data and much, much more. Collectors usually buy one every year and begin a library of "red books."

The other recommended book for your coin library is the "PHOTOGRADE." It is an official photographic grading guide for U.S. Coins. The guide has over 1,000 actual coin photographs that will give you practice in grading all your circulated coins. It is a very useful tool for all collectors of U.S. Coins. The book price is \$9.95. The club could get them for less if you order one.

Following is your monthly article & quiz:

***** U.S. Mints and the Production Process *****

The United States Mint has four facilities that strike coins for us. The PHILADELPHIA MINT in Pennsylvania and the DENVER MINT in Colorado both manufacture coins for circulation. The SAN FRANCISCO MINT in California manufactures regular and silver proof sets, silver bullion coins, prestige proof sets and commemorative coins. The fourth facility, WEST POINT MINT in New York, manufactures silver bullion, gold coins, proof gold bullion coins and commemorative coins. In addition, the four mints have additional responsibilities for packaging & shipping. Individual mints also engrave medals, process mutilated coins, store gold and silver, etc. Each Mint has its own set of functions that they are responsible for. Gold Bullion & assets of other agencies are protected at the facility at FORT KNOX in Kentucky. The U.S. Mint also provides for a CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER located in Lanham, Maryland. They process orders and assist the general public with their questions and problems. The U.S. MINT HEADQUARTERS is in Washington, D.C. This is where the office of the Director of the U.S. Mint is located. The Director and his staff are responsible for formulating policy, managing programs, conducting research and development and marketing operation for the nation's coinage at the lowest production cost.

On page 2, you will see a "Production Process chart." This provides you with the making of coins from beginning (Blanks) to end (Shipping). As you can see, there are a number of steps that have to be followed to make the coins you have. Step 1 is using a BLANKING PRESS. After the round discs are punched out, they are heated (step 2) in an ANNEALING FURNACE (annealing means to burn or heat). They then are washed and dried and sorted (step 3) on a RIDDLER. The riddler discards the blanks that are the wrong size or shape. To get the rim around the coins edges, they then go through an UPSETTING MILL (step 4).

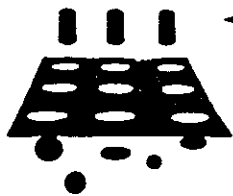
(page 1 of 2)

FOUNDED IN 1970 AT LAKEHURST, NJ

National Coin Week Show/Exhibit in April --- Annual Show/Exhibit in September

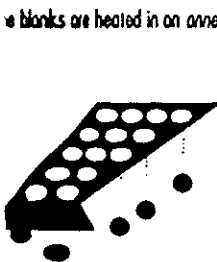
Now that the blanks have a rim, they go to the COINING PRESS (step 5). This is the major step because the DESIGNS & INSCRIPTIONS are struck on the blanks and they then become genuine United States coins. After striking, the coins are INSPECTED (step 6) by a PRESS OPERATOR and at the same time go through a COIN SIZER, again to eliminate coins that are dented or not round. The coins are then counted and bagged (step 7) and shipped (step 8) to the Federal Reserve Banks, who in turn, ship the coins to banks in your local area.

The Production Process



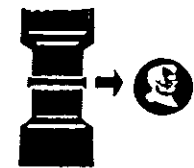
← Blanking

The U.S. Mint buys strips of metal about 13 inches wide and 1,500 feet long. The strips come rolled in a coil. Each coil is fed through a blanking press which punches out round discs called blanks. The leftover strip, called webbing, is shredded and recycled. (Sometimes the Mint buys ready-made blanks.)



← Riddling

The shiny blanks are sorted on a riddler to screen out any that are the wrong size or shape.



← Striking

Finally the blanks go to the coining press. Here they are stamped with the designs and inscriptions which make them genuine United States coins.

A press operator uses a magnifying glass to spot-check each batch of new coins. Then all the coins go through a coin sizer to remove any misshapen or dented ones.

→ Inspecting



← Counting and Bagging

An automatic counting machine counts the coins and drops them into large canvas bags. The bags are sewn shut, loaded on pallets, and taken by forklifts to be stored in vaults.

New coins are shipped by truck to Federal Reserve Banks. From there the coins go to your local bank!

→ Shipping



FOR YOUR FREE COINS,
MATCH ANSWER IN COLUMN
"B" TO COLUMN "A"

COLUMN A

- (1) ___ CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER LOCATION
- (2) ___ SAN FRANCISCO MINT
- (3) ___ FORT KNOX
- (4) ___ MINT HEADQUARTERS LOCATION
- (5) ___ ANNEALING
- (6) ___ UPSETTING
- (7) ___ COINING PRESS
- (8) ___ RIDDLER
- (9) ___ WEST POINT MINT LOCATION
- (10) ___ PRESS OPERATOR

COLUMN B

- (A) WASHINGTON, D.C.
- (B) SCREENS OUT BAD COINS
- (C) NEW YORK
- (D) INSPECTS COINS
- (E) LANHAM, MARYLAND
- (F) GOLD BULLION STORED
- (G) MANUFACTURES PROOF SETS
- (H) DESIGNS & INSCRIPTIONS STRUCK
- (I) PLACES RIM AROUND EDGES
- (J) TO FIRE, HEAT

FOR YOUR BONUS COIN, NAME THREE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE U.S. MINT DIRECTOR & HER/HIS STAFF:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(date)

(Your name - please print)

(age)

(pg 2 of 2)