The ENGLISH EFFECT

BY BILL ENGLISH - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED!

How can an extremely large clip have no depressed markings opposite the clip? One of the sure indications of a Mint clipped coin is the depressed areas opposite the clip. This is caused when in the upsetting process (squeezing a thicker rim on the type 1 blank - thus making a type 2 blank) cannot apply equal pressure to all sides of the coin. The result is a weak type 2 rim directly opposite the clip or even a type 1 edge for a very short space on the edge of the blank.

This, of course, results in a weak milling (teething or beating) on a struck coin directly opposite the clip or sometimes multiple clips.

In examining some very large clips I found that where you would expect to find a large depressed effect on the opposite side there was none. This puzzled me for quite some time until upon examining several clipped coins in my irregularity collection, the reason finally evolved.

The only way to have a clip with a completely upset blank would be to have a complete blank to start with. A clip would result if a portion of the coin separated after the upsetting and striking of the coin. This sounds reasonable but how could such a thing occur?

It does occur, but very seldom, by my observation. The illustrations of two Canadian 50¢ pieces, both dated 1962, show exactly what has happened. A malfunction of the blank punching operation has produced a planchet with a large clip which was not completely severed from the full blank.

The process of upsetting and placing the blank in a collar, tends to hold these pieces together and thus a full coin is struck.

If and when these two pieces separate two Irregularities result. One (the smaller piece) is an elliptical clip and the other a regular crescent clip.

Upon examination of the crescent clip you immediately suspect that it is a manufactured irregularity. There is no depressed effect where you expect it to be. On closer examination the clip appears to have a normal sheared edge as on a regular clip but the weakness in the opposite area is not evident. One side is not flattened, indicating that it was cut after being struck. The final clincher to the clip is the fact that unlike a regular clip another coin will fit into the crescent clip area due to no extra expansion could take place. The elliptical clip will appear the same.

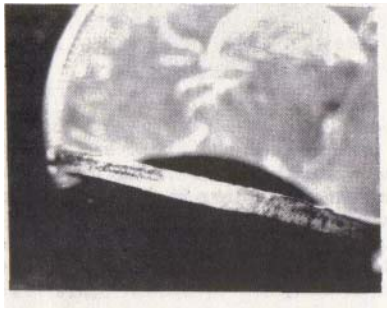
This will make identification of some clips more difficult to determine, but it will also solve some of the dilemma that bothered me on some large clips. These looked authentic but for some reason I was not able to prove that they were, from the information available to me at the time.

If other collectors have one of these doubtful clips, they may now look at it in a different light and determine if it is part of a double irregularity, or if it is a manufactured piece.

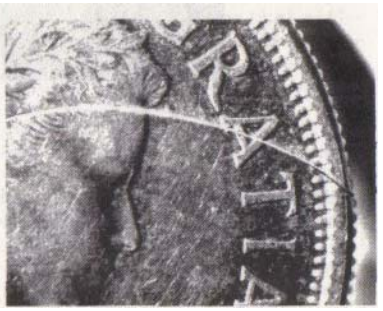
Photographs by Bill English

Obverse separated

Reverse separated



Side-edge View



Light shining through