



131. Nye. Tonopah. **James Warren Nye Commemorative Medals.** Nine medals, all **unlisted in Andrews and King's book on Nevada Silver Rounds.** Story provided by request, misplaced during cataloging. James Warren Nye/ All For Our Country (pic-Nye)/ 1864// State of Nevada/ Battle Born (in banner)/ Star (NEVADA at each point)/ (pic-sage). Rd, silver, 37mm. BU. Est. \$75-120



132. **History of the United States Mint & American Coinage Ancient & Modern.** Published and written by Geo. Evans in 1890. 153 pages, hard bound, fully illustrated with photos, coin images, tables and glossary of mint terms. Green cover with gilt print. Vf, normal wear, binding a bit weak. Est. \$150-300



133. **\$1000 Coin Bag.** 3" x 7". Manufactured by A.H. Bruman & Co. of Rochester, NY. "\$1000" Stamped on either side. Tie at side. Est. \$15-30

134. **1857 San Francisco Branch Mint letter** signed by P. Lott, superintendent of the Mint. This one page letter printed on United States Branch Mint, San Francisco blue stationery is an introductory letter for Lott's principal clerk, Stephen L. Merchant, who was looking for "more lucrative employment". Folds, 7.75" x 10". Ex Rare. Est \$250-500

135. **San Francisco Mint Correspondence, March 1857 letter** from L. A. Birdsall to S. Merchant regarding a **loan given to a San Francisco Mint employee** and attempts to collect it written on stationery of the Garrison, Morgan, Fretz & Ralston stationery. For more information on this firm, please consult the index and see the very rare exchange from them in this sale. Est \$150-300



Partial.

Please see lot #614 for a Trade Dollar Advertising Piece.

CURRENCY & SCRIP

COLORADO



136. Arapahoe. Denver. **Western Trading & Supply Co \$2 Script.** #2300. No date. Signed by James Cannon Jr., president. Black border, vignette in black at left of standing, robed lady, small vignette portrait in green lower right corner. Printed by Gast, St. Louis. 3 x 7, Fine condition, yellowed paper with wrinkles, folds and creases. Although not dated, style of script indicates 1890's to early 1900's. Rare. Est. \$400-800

GEORGIA

137. **Bank of Atlanta \$50 Bank Note 1914.** F456756A, 6-F 1914 series. U.S. Grant on front, and an allegorical figure draped in an American flag, with two ships at either side in the distance on the reverse. Horizontal crease 3/4 of the way down, horizontal crease at center, and vertical crease at center, signed by U.S. Treasurer John Burke and Secretary of the Treasurer Carter Glass. 3" x 7 1/2". Xf, near mint. Est. \$500-1000



Reverse

NEVADA



138. **First National Bank of Reno Uncut Sheet of six \$5 National Currency Notes, 1929.** Serial No. A 012685 through A 012690. Brown seal. Sheet 7038. Slightly off center with the lower right edge and corner closer to the margin (1mm) than at top left (3.5mm). Centering from top to bottom is about perfect (2mm at the bottom and 2.7mm at the top.) No folds, no noticeable creases, or staple holes. Crisp colors, with the reverse particularly bright. There is some ink smudging in the upper left corner of the top note visible into the "5", possibly from the counting process. The story behind these notes has not been completely told. We will attempt to do so here, without mentioning specific names. About 15-20 years ago a number of these sheets surfaced (forty by some reports and less by others), all from the same source it was reported. But in reality, several sheets went out the door of a prominent bank with bank officers over the years. Our bank source cannot estimate the exact number, but thinks it may be less than guessed by others (less than 20 total of all denominations). About 1985, when auditors of the bank found the notes, they were mercilessly stapled together with "about 20 staples all through about 20 sheets of notes," which was never reported to the numismatic community. Thus half or more were severely damaged. We have been told that some of these sheets have been repaired. Neither of the two sheets in this sale are repaired, They are both original Gem Uncirculated, with one of them given to our client as a Christmas present from a bank officer. Most of the sheets were cut allowing for sale

of individual notes which brought a premium at the time. We are unaware of any of these sheets reaching auction in the past few years. Est. \$7000-10,000

139. Lander. Austin. Manhattan SMC Scrip Set signed and dated by C. C. Clarke. This is the only known signed set. \$1, \$3, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 notes all in Uncirculated condition. This set of scrip was first known to us about 3 years ago, coming from an old New York area collection. This specific set had been known to other researchers, but the initials of the signature were interpreted as "A. A." instead of "C. C." rendering identification of the individual impossible. At the time we researched the Clarke name and could not find anything, so the owner decided to keep the set of scrip. After complete exhaustion of the historical record in Nevada, there remained the possibility that the piece was signed by an agent in New York. The only agent who would have been authorized to sign in the west was Allen Curtis, the manager of the company in Austin, and the town's primary banker. If it was signed by an agent of the company in New York, the company's headquarters and source of funding, it would have to be signed by their treasurer or financial agent. Unfortunately, the only part of the company's records (1871) preserved in Nevada are only a letter book with letters signed by the Company president Taylor or secretary Morgan Ogden, as might be expected. As time passed, I kept an open mind, hoping for some break in research. It came in the form of a bond signed by Clarke with an exact matching signature. It should have come as no surprise that the bond was from a large New York Railroad, and Clarke was the treasurer. Another two sets of scrip from the MSMC were previously known with a cancellation date of August 4, 1872 from the Paxton & Curtis Bank in Austin. One partial set was found about 13 years ago, and the other since then.

Charles Cameron Clarke was born in 1823 in New York. He started working for railroad companies in 1854 as auditor of the Hudson River Railroad. From 1868-1871 he was treasurer of the Hudson River Railroad, then from 1871-1883 was treasurer of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad. He rose to the Vice presidency of the company after that. The signature on the bond of the NYC and HRRR match exactly with that of the Manhattan SMC scrip.

In 1871, Clarke knew that the Hudson River Railroad was going to be sold or merged. He may have sought a job with other well known financiers in case he didn't make it through the merger or acquisition process. The Manhattan Silver Mining Co. was a good opportunity because it was a good producing mining company based in New York. At the same time, another Nevada Mining company was trying the scrip idea, the Buttercup Silver MC out of Eureka. The timing is more than coincidental. When the scrip was attempted to be issued, it became a debacle. It got strong resistance from the start, even though it worked well in Michigan at the copper mines, and undoubtedly Clarke's financial colleagues thought the practice might work in the west. After all, the Michigan scrip was also controlled, printed and issued by New York based companies. About the date of the issue of these certificates in July, 1871, the Manhattan SMC bought the holdings of the Reese River Consol. MC, giving them a monopoly of the producing mines in Austin. It came at a time when local miners had become fed up with the New York management tactics designed to keep wages low. They changed the entire system of the mining business in Austin to force lower wages, which resulted in an attempt in 1871 to unionize. Thus when the scrip was discussed in the open, probably only in New York or by telegram with Curtis in Austin, it met with immediate strong resistance. The Buttercup issue had failed miserably, so Clarke and Curtis were forced to shelve the New York printed scrip for a later date. One of the primary reasons for the failure of

scrip was the lack of hard coin. Coin was the miner's currency. Doug McDonald, in an outstanding article entitled *Nevada's Manhattan Mining Co. Scrip*, published in the *Las Vegas Review Journal* on Nov. 19, 1989, shed further light on the subject: "Privately issued currency, such as was common in the eastern states...was shunned outright in the far west. A few attempts were made to issue private scrip in California in the 1850's, but all failed..." More specifically, the Nevada State Constitution "specifically prohibited its use, reported McDonald. "No bank-notes or paper of any kind shall ever be permitted to circulate as money in this state, except Federal currency" and other notes authorized by Congress. The Manhattan SMC's lawyers must have recognized the potential of illegality they were facing, plus the outright



opposition of the miners. Clarke, for his part, was probably gone as treasurer after the merger of the railroads. He was back in his seat as a major railroad company treasurer, soon to be promoted to vice president by railroad magnate Chauncy Depew. By the time 1872 came around, Curtis may have tried the waters again, this time facing a potential riot because of many unstable conditions in Austin mostly precipitated by the management of the Manhattan SMC which was orchestrated out of New York. Company officials probably had no mining experience, and were undoubtedly listening to English mining "experts" trying to convince management to run the company like an English venture. It was a time when many English companies were becoming involved with the great mines of Nevada, particularly in Treasure Hill (White Pine) and Eureka. The idea backfired.

In May of 1875, Curtis again brought the scrip issue to the surface. The notes had been kept locked up for four years, unusable by law, and unusable in the western mining system by custom. Curtis proposed paying the miners with "a little silver brick," since there was insufficient coin available from western mints to meet payroll demands. The miners saw this as another attempt to reduce their wages, the primary reason behind the unrest in 1871-2. A miner's union was immediately formed to quell the new payment scheme. Curtis tried another approach, the issue of checks in June, 1875. "The checks he proposed to issue in lieu of coin would pass at par for all purposes of trade." These checks were the scrip at hand. The miners Union would have nothing to do with paper currency, and permanently killed the idea.

From the historical record, it appears that no set of scrip was ever fully issued, and that the discussion of the issuance of this scrip took place over a period of at least four years from 1871 to 1875, culminating in the failure of public acceptance in June, 1875. The scrip then sat on the shelf of the bank until the building collapsed sometime in the mid twentieth century (circa 1950's), when a collector found the notes and took them home. **No other sets of scrip have ever been seen signed.** This set must have come from a company official's personal archives, not that found in Austin. Each of the sets seen with cancellation marks or signed are otherwise completely blank, perhaps the ultimate sign that none of the issue were ever fully issued and used by the public. There was simply too much resistance to the company and its ideas, in which the issue of scrip might have precipitated civil unrest. [Busby, T. A., *Biographical Directory of Railway Officials of America*, 1901, p101; Abbe, *Austin and the Reese River Mining District*, 1985; MSMC records on file at the Nevada Historical Society, Reno; McDonald, as quoted, 1989] Est. \$1500-3000

MICHIGAN

140. Michigan. Eagle Harbor. **Central Mining Co \$5 Scrip, 1869.** Eagle Harbor, Mich at upper right. Vignette of a robed woman at left edge. At the center is a vignette of the Michigan State Seal. This vignette has a hole punch. "Five" is printed in green near bottom. This a \$5 scrip from the Central Mining Co. The Central Mining Co operated mines on the Central fissure. The fissure was located in 1854 and was first opened by the Central Mine in 1855. The mine produced until 1898. Wilson & Dyl (1992) report, "The Central Mining Co operated five shafts along the mile long fissure. Total production exceeded 51 million pounds of copper and 14,000 ounces of silver, and dividends of \$2.5 million were paid out to investors, making the Central, along with the Cliff and Minnesota, one of the three profitable fissure mines in the district." Wrinkled. Fine condition. Est. \$100-200



TEXAS



141. Texas. General. **Texas \$3 Treasury Note.** "THREE" at left edge. Government of Texas with a vignette underneath of a seated woman with a shield that has a star at middle. At the bottom are the signatures of Henry Smith and **Sam Houston**. However, Houston did not sign this bill himself. We were informed that Sam Houston had a person that he authorized to sign for him and had perfected imitating Houston's signature. The note is in poor condition with chips, folds and wrinkles. The bill was dated but is now illegible. Extremely Rare. Est. \$200-400

USA

142. **\$1 Silver Certificates, 1935 H & 1957.** Lot of 2 different pcs. The seal at left is blue. 1934 H Serial #D99654158 J. 1957 Serial #U 64346457 A. Washington's head is discolored to a yellow as if it has been colored. The rest of both bank notes are Gem Uncirculated condition. Est. \$25-50



FOREIGN

143. Foreign. General. **Foreign Token and Paper Money Collection.** Lot of approximately 35 pieces. Canadian, Chinese, British, and other misc. U.S. and foreign. Vf-Unc. Est. \$20-40

MILITARY

144. Military. WWII. **WWII Paper Currency, c.1940-50.** Lot of 28 different pcs. The lot includes 28 items that are mostly WWII inflation currency. (1) Central Bank of the Philippines, two 20 Centavos Notes. (2) Reichsbanknote, 5 Reichsmark. (3) Banque Du Canada, 1 Dollar note. (4) Emis En France, 2 Franc note. (5) Three Arabic Notes. (6) Banco De Mexico, 1 Peso note. (7) Banca D'Italia, four notes, two are 100 Lire, the other two are 10 Lire. (8) Banque Nationale de Belgique, one 50 Francs, two 20 Francs, one 10 Francs, two different 5 Francs bills. (9) Japanese Government issued Peso and Cenatavo notes, various sizes and denominations. All fine. Est. \$25-50

