

An 1877/6-CC Seated Liberty Dime Over-Date Discovery

By Tom DeFina

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In *Coin World's* April 26, 2010 edition, an article by Paul Gilkes describes how Florida coin dealer Rick DeSanctis discovered the first true over-date in the Seated Liberty dime series. DeSanctis discovered the 1877/6-CC over-date in March 2010 in a group of coins he purchased. Gilkes noted the obverse die, now identified as having an 1877/6 over-date, is a known die used for two, long-cataloged die marriages, but it was not previously identified as having an over-date.

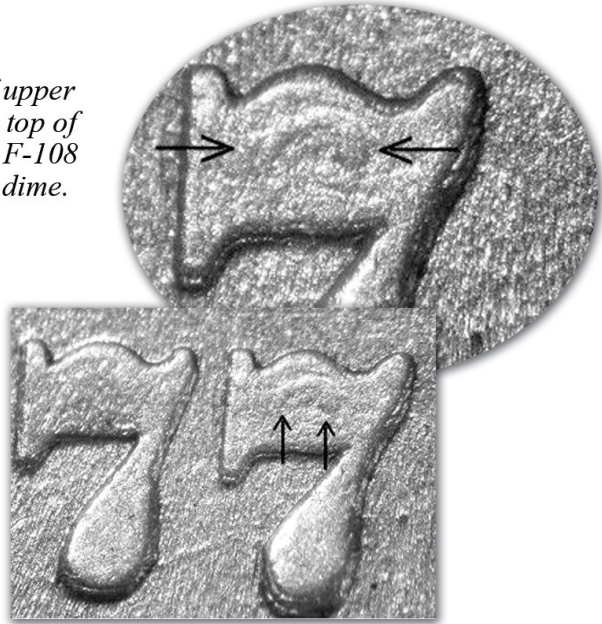
DeSanctis had Seated dime specialist Gerry Fortin confirm his find. Fortin examined DeSanctis's coin with a 16X loupe. Indeed, the faint upper loop and knob of a 6 were visible on the second 7's crossbar when rotating the dime through a light source. Fortin then noted that the top source of the second 7 crossbar was imaged when he placed the dime on a Mylar wedge to properly adjust the lighting angle to capture the over-date anomaly. The anomaly shows the similarity of the top loop and small knob of a 6. Fortin has since posted images on his website with diagnostic information. It is listed under the new variety discoveries link on www.seateddimevarieties.com/.

Fortin calls the obverse die the first true over-date in the Seated dime series and notes DeSanctis's coin is an example of the Fortin-108 variety. It has been noted that few Mint State F-108 examples are known and that Mint State or AU+ examples are required to see the remnant of the 6 (DeSanctis's example is graded MS-62 by ICG). A few different diagnostic details can help identify the over-date even if no remnant of the 6 on the date is visible.

While searching through the "CC" Seated dimes in my collection, I located an ICG XF-40-graded 1877-CC dime, with a significant die scratch visible on the obverse shield below "LIBE" in LIBERTY that matches DeSanctis's coin. (The scratch is the easiest diagnostic to see without a loupe.)

Another diagnostic, very visible on my coin in comparison to DeSanctis's discovery coin, is evidence of re-punching that can be seen on both feet of the numeral 1 in the date. Three other diagnostics visible on DeSanctis's coin, but not clear on my lower-graded example, are visible re-punching on both 7s in the date, triple-punching visible at the base of the second 7, and remnants of the top of a 6. (The key diagnostic for the 1877/6-CC Seated Liberty dime over-date can be seen on the crossbar of the second 7.)

Close-up of upper loop of 6 on top of second 7 on F-108 1877/6-CC dime.



An F-108 1877/6-CC dime, with overdate on crossbar of second 7.

The Fortin-108 variety shares the obverse die No. 6 for the date and mint with the Fortin-107 variety, but the two varieties have different reverses. Diagnostics for the reverse dies used in the two marriages are described at Fortin's website as well. DeSanctis said, "It was the right coin at the right time, and I had the right knowledge, it shows there are still neat things to be found!" Fortin has also stated F-107 Mint State examples, with an early die state obverse No. 6, should be the best candidates for inspection of the new 7/6 over-date variety.

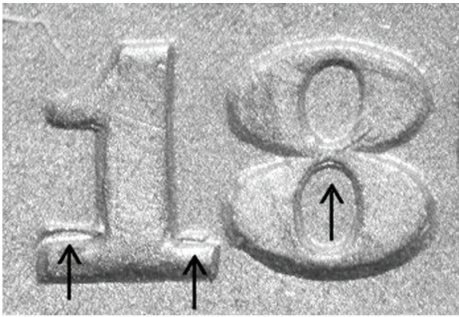
To look into this over-date a bit further, I was able to contact Rick DeSanctis, who normally has a table at a few monthly local coin shows in my area. I was able to meet Rick recently to compare my XF-40 F-108 example with his discovery piece (also F-108). It would have been interesting if my example, showing two of the four main diagnostics, had been an F-107 instead. Since that time I have been examining every 1877-CC dime that comes my way. I have yet to see another example with any similar diagnostics of the over-date.

Back in May 2010, I put some information about this over-date on the CCCCOPA discussion board and asked members to post any findings on their 77-CC dimes. One interesting response said,

Is it just me, or is this scenario highly unlikely? I don't see how it is possible for a 7 punched over a 6 to show remnants of the 6 on top of the 7. Maybe someone here can explain it? I am looking at pictures of other over-dates and I don't see anything like that. Look at the pictures of the 1880-CC over-dates in the Morgan dollar section, for example—here are two photos of the 1887/6 Morgan, one with the 7 superimposed over the 6. There is no remnant of the 6 visible on the 7 in this instance (only to the right in the field).

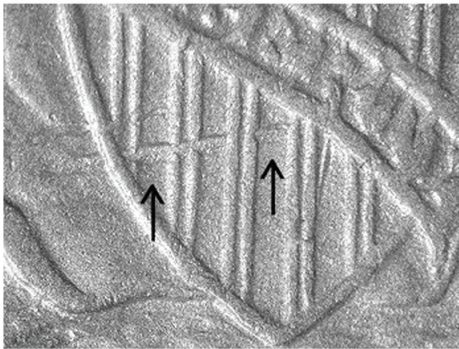
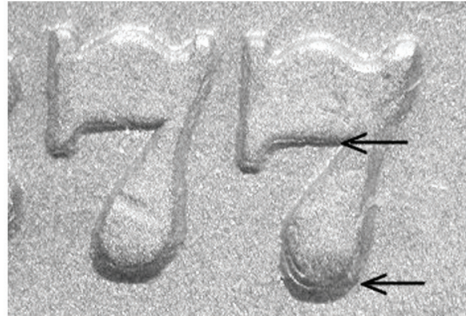
After reading these comments, I posed these same questions to Gerry Fortin and Rick DeSanctis. I believe both of their responses are quite interesting. DeSanctis said,

I noticed your inquirer's message noted the pictures of the 1887/6 dollar on Vamworld.com, so you may want him to check out the 1880-P VAM 23, also on Vamworld.com, for the 1880-P, O, and S will show other varieties with similar but lesser surface over-date features. As well, refer him to the excellent picture of the 1877/6 Liberty Seated half dollar in the *Cherrypickers*



The date on the F-107 variety of an 1877-CC dime, showing repunching in the 1 and the 8.

Repunching on the 77 in the date on an F-107 variety of an 1877-CC dime.



Long, diagonal die scratch in shield on an F-107 1877-CC dime.

Obverse diagnostics for an F-107 variety 1877-CC dime.

Guide, 4th Edition, Volume 2. This example shows in the top part of the 7 there are traces of the top part of the numeral 6.

Fortin's response noted that he does not study Morgans but believes the images of the 1877/6-CC over-date speak for themselves, and having the dime in hand will confirm it. He also said, "Providing a definitive

explanation of the physical mechanism that allowed the upper loop of the 6 to remain on the die after some die lapping and subsequent punching of 1877 digits would take experimentation.”

While thinking about what Fortin said, “having the dime in hand will confirm,” I decided to ask DeSanctis if I could have the “discovery coin” on loan to bring to the annual CCCCOA meeting in August at the old Carson City Mint. DeSanctis was glad to grant this privilege, so members of the C4OA would have the opportunity to examine the coin for themselves up close, and “in hand.” It will be very interesting to learn if other C4OA members have any 1877/6-CC over-date examples hidden away in their collections. Imagine the treasure of “CC” discoveries that are still out there just waiting for us to find!

(Images courtesy of Gerry Fortin at www.seateddimevarieties.com)



Curry's Chronicle Wins More Awards

The Numismatic Literary Guild (NLG) honored *Curry's Chronicle* with its 2010 Best Issue in Small Publications for Clubs category. The NLG bestowed this same award on our popular journal in 2007 and 2008. Last year (2009), *Curry's Chronicle* received NLG's Extraordinary Merit award in this category. The American Numismatic Association (ANA) awarded our journal with Third Place honors in its Specialty Numismatic Publication category. *Curry's* snagged this same honor from the ANA in 2008. These awards give us much cause for pride, especially since our club is only five and a half years old.