

This is one of the comparatively few silver dollar size counters in the American series, as well as being one of the most attractive U.S. counters. Called rare by all previous writers, it is not quite so scarce as had been thought. We can rate it only Rarity 7.

(3) GOLD MINES COUNTER

Cgm-1. Two rampant bears embracing as in a dance CALIFORNIA GOLD MINES above, A.D. 1850 below. Tiny letter L in right foreground. Rev: American eagle on a sheaf of grain. MINE! CALIFORNIA GOLD and five stars above, 1850 below. Reeded edge. 35mm. (Kurth 13) R-8



The initial L is for Lauer of Nuremberg.

(4) "SOW" COUNTERS

Although there is no indication of California on these pieces, they were made for and used exclusively in California about 1850. The counters were imported from Germany originally by the gamblers of Columbia, California, but achieved limited usage elsewhere in the state. These tokens are all well made.

We are indebted to Prof. Charles V. Kappen of San Jose for data on this series.

A family residing in California owned 50 pieces of different types and variations of these sow counter with the same reverse; a series of same revers with SPIEL MARKE in smaller letters; animal on both sides; human figures on the obverse with words SPIEL MARKE, and with objects other than humans and animals. A family member stated they were from his grandfather who had them in his possession over 75 years.

A series of tokens with numerals only also was received by this family. How they were used is not stated. Some of these pieces are identified as having been used in England but most are of German manufacture. Until more information is obtained the counters other than the sow types will not be listed as American counters.

- Fig-1A. As 1, but Brass. Slightly thicker flan. Plain edge. 38mm. (Kurth 9A) R-7
- Fig-1B. As 1A, but reeded edge. Brass 38mm. R-7
- Fig-2. Copy of 1847 Eagle abverse (Liberty head). Rev: American flag displayed right, no Liberty cap on pole. The flag bears 24 stars and 13 stripes. CALIFORNIA above, COUNTER below, two stars at each side. Reeded edge. 27mm. (Kurth 10) R-5



- Fig-3. Copy of Eagle reverse (eagle and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA), but four stars replace denomination. Rev: Same as 2. Reeded edge. 27mm. (Kurth 10A) R-5
- Fig-4. Copy of Double Eagle of 1852. Upright of L of LIBERTY directly under first bead at top of caranet. Date is tall and numeral 1 nearly touches bust. Rev: Similar to reverse of 2, but three stars at each side. Reeded edge. 34mm. (Kurth 11) R-6



- Fig-4A. Similar to 4, the upright of L of LIBERTY under second bead at top of caranet. Date smaller and farther from bust. Rev: As 4. Reeded edge. 34mm. (Kurth 11A) R-6
- Fig-5. Copy of Double Eagle reverse (eagle and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA), but seven stars replace denomination. Rev: Similar to 4. Reeded edge. 34mm. (Kurth 12) R-6



- Saw-1. A saw riating right on a small patch of ground. The field is plain. Rev: SPIEL MARKE in two lines in a well-executed wreath. Copper. Plain edge. 16mm. R-
- Saw-2. Similar to 1. Brass. Plain edge. 19mm. R-
- Saw-2A. As 2, but Copper. Plain edge. 19mm. R-