

FIGURE 15 R49 VS R50 EAGLES

1 The polished out divot along with transitional devices on a Working Die
2 proves that Working Dies were used as "trial" Master Die surrogates. These
3 changes and others yet to be discussed were device modifications that, if found
4 acceptable, would be engraved into the evolving R50 Master Die.

5 ***DISTINGUISHING THE R49 OR THE R50 REVERSE.***
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7 At first glance, it may appear the two different reverses are just Hub or Die
8 wear and/or fatigue. However, some very prominent engraved "Tells" are
9 discernable using a low power loop and, with a little practice, the two "Types" can
10 be easily distinguish. At least five "Tells" on the 1950-1951 Franklin reverses can
11 act as significant markers to help determine whether the coin is a R49 or a R50
12 reverse. As will be discussed later, the "tells" are also the key to identifying the
13 hybrid or chimera combinations that resulted when the two different R49 and
14 R50 reverses were separately hubbed onto the **same** Working Die.

15 ***THE FIVE "TELLS"***

16 The following section delineate the five tells that differentiate the changes
17 from the original R49 Master Die and the re-engraved Master Die that created the
18 R50 reverse.

19 ***1. Modification to the Eagle***
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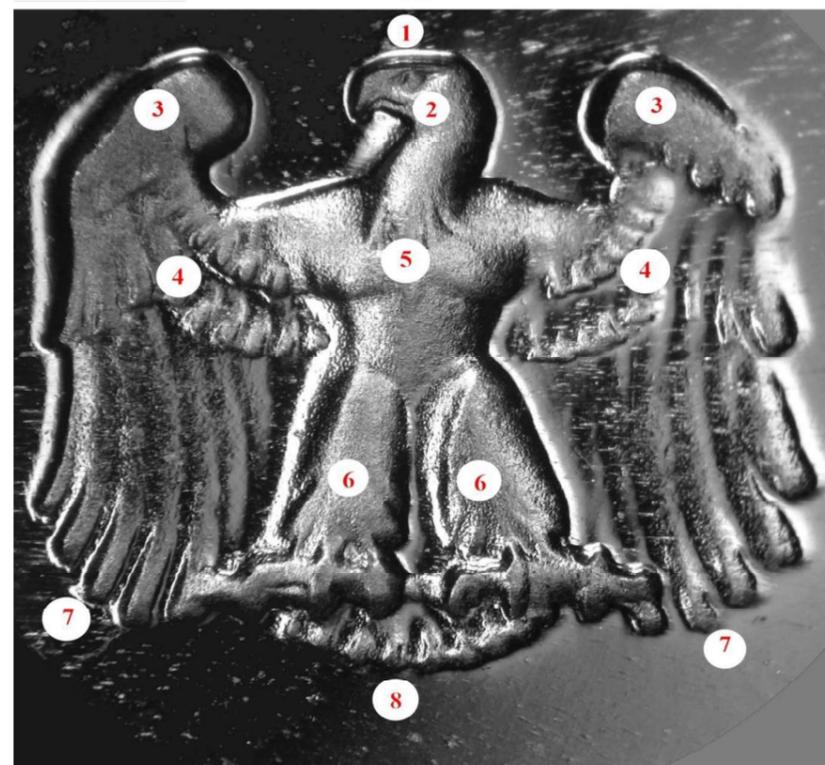
21 The new R50 Eagle displays several changes that modified the esthetic
22 detail and softened the overall image of the bird. These changes are referenced
23 to the viewer's left:

- 24 **(1) Clearly separated pupal and brow.**
- 25 **(2) Shorten and curved beak/mouth.**
- 26 **(3) Less defined engraving separation of the Eagle's upper left and right wrist**
27 **feathers.**
- 28 **(4) Soft, rounded engraving separation of the Eagle's mid-wing left and right**
29 **covert feathers.**
- 30 **(5) Softening of breast feather definition.**
- 31 **(6) Thicker less detail of feather separation on "shin" of both legs.**
- 32 **(7) Separated and rounded relief for both bottom left and right wing tip feathers.**
- 33 **(8) Modified symmetry of the tail feathers.**

Reverse Type RDV-001a



Reverse Type RDV-001b



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2. Modifications to upper and lower sets of bell lines to round peaks and edges.

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In comparison, the set of bell lines on R49 reverses are sharp. While strike characteristics deteriorate the entire set of bell lines over the die life, the R49 “sharp cut” effect can still be seen on worn sections of the lower set of R49 bell lines. Bell lines on the R50 reverse are visibly rounded and softer yet surprisingly well defined on fully struck FBL specimens. As mentioned, the bell lines on either Type reverse are the primary point of die fatigue over the life of a reverse Working Die. Bell lines have limited significance in determining reverse Type on poorly struck or worn circulated coins.

FIGURE 16 R49 VS R50 BELL LINES

RDV-001a bell line valleys are thin and sharp with “cut” edges and fields.



RDV-001b bell lines are softened with “rounded” valleys and fields.



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3. **Modifications to thicken motto “EPU resulted in a concave bar of the “L”.**

This is an indelible modification and is less subject to strike characteristics. This marker is virtually “fool proof” in identifying a Type R49 or a R50 reverse. This “Tell” is a direct result of the thickening of the letters in the motto “E PLURIBUS UNUM” for the R50 reverse. This increase in girth caused the space between the “P” and the “L” in “PLURIBUS” to encroach on the left side of the vertical bar of the “L”. The result was a pronounced concaved cavity on the upper left side of the vertical bar of letter “L”. The images below provide a clear reference to the R49 and R50 “PL”.

FIGURE 17 R49 vs R50 EPU

RDV-001a Reverse

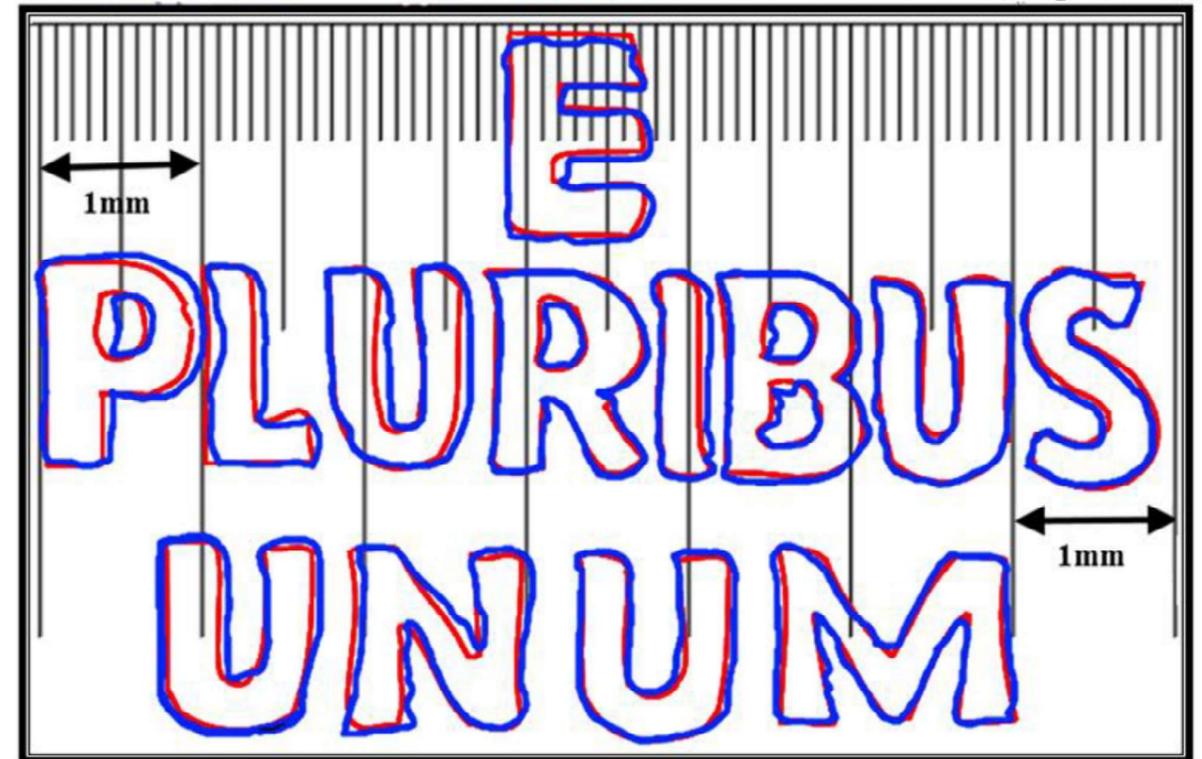
RDV-001b Reverse

PLURIBUS “PL” Straight left side “L” Vertical Bar

PLURIBUS “PL” Concave left side “L” Vertical Bar



EPU Re-Engraving Size Comparison
EPU RDV-001b over RDV-001a Outline 0° Offset Overlay & Ruler



1 **4. "Dot" above the perch to the (viewers) left of the last left talon of the Eagle.**
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3 This "Tell" is odd. Its esthetic value is a mystery but it is an absolute feature of
4 R49 Franklin reverses and existed on the original Franklin R49 (1948-49) Reverse
5 Master Hub/Die. On the Eagle's perch to the (viewers) left of the last left talon
6 between the feather separations, there is a raised bump. Sans over-polished or
7 fatigue, all R49 Working Die Franklin reverses from all three Mints exhibit this "dot"
8 marker. This dot is flattened or "muted" on R50 reverses.

9 The purpose or intention for this "dot" is enigmatic. It has no artistic value,
10 does not enhance the Eagle, and is incongruous with the overall design. Its origins
11 and ubiquity appear to suggest that it was an incused design element on the
12 original R49 Master Die from a relief "bump" in the reverse Master Hub. The
13 "dot" is universal to R49 reverses and suggests a design feature. This marker is
14 critical in determining the Type, varieties, and Reverse Doubled Dies of 1950-D
15 and 1951-P, D, and S Franklins.

16 This "dot" appears, in varying detail, in virtually every DDR 1950-D or 1951-P,
17 D, and S in any permutation of R49 and/or R50 doubled Working Die irrespective
18 of Working Hub press sequence (Appendix C). In fact, the presence of a defined
19 dot on any Franklin reverse, minted before 1952, means that a Working Hub or
20 Working Die receive at least one press from a R49 parent. For all intent and
21 purpose, the "Dot" is equivalent to a DNA marker and defines lineage.

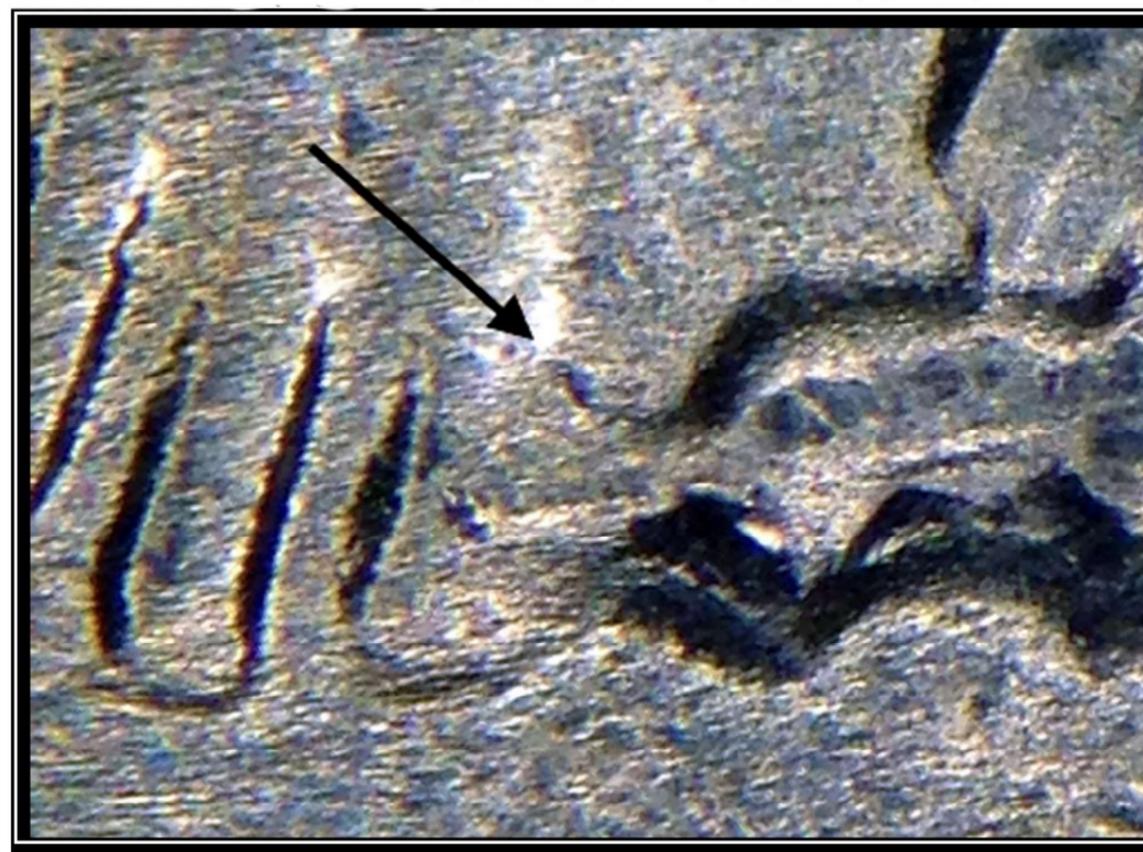
22 Multiple hubbings with R49 and R50 reverses can never be perfectly aligned.
23 However, a few DDR varieties are virtually impossible to determine doubling
24 without the dot. Class III doubling for transitional reverse Franklins is discernable
25 because of the disparity between the R49 and R50 device alignment but the
26 prominence of the dot confirms the variety. The obvious caveat is the dot is
27 susceptible to Working Die ware and Working Hub polishing. The "dot" is virtually
28 as dependable in determining variety, as the "PL" tell in the EPU Motto

29 **FIGURE 18 R49 vs R50 "DOT" TELLS**

RDV-001a Defined Dot "Tell"



RDV-001b Shallow Muted Dot "Tell"



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1 **5. Examine the interior of the "O" in the Reverse Legend word "Dollar".**

2 There is a distinctive anomaly only found in a R50 reverse. **This "Tell" is**
3 **never found in any Type R49 reverses.** In many R50 reverses, the "O" in Dollar
4 contains a "gouge" at @6:30. This gouge can be conditional to varying degrees of
5 polish and die "Tweaking". Over the span of time, it is apparent this imperfection
6 was an anathema to the Mint Die Room staff. Despite many attempts to polish

7 the Working Hubs, the anomaly continued to be propagated for several years in
8 many Working Hubs. The "O" anomaly is found on Proof strikes up until early
9 1956 when the R50 Proof reverse was intentionally replaced with the "Type 2"
10 three-feathers-Eagle Proof reverse. The gouge can be found on all years (1950+)
11 R50 Reverses up to and including 1963-P & D circulation reverses.

12 **FIGURE 19 "O" GOUGE ANOMALY VARIATIONS**

