

CALIFORNIA SMALL DENOMINATION TERRITORIAL GOLD DEVIATING FROM "THE RULE OF 13 STARS"

BY

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In two earlier articles this author has presented analyses of both federal and non federal U.S. coin issues containing either less or more than 13 stars. 13 stars, the number representing the original 13 colonies, became the "generic" number of stars in 1796, when the admittance of Tennessee to the Union made adding stars for each additional state impractical on small diameter issues. The first article listed federal issues deviating from "the rule" and their significance, while the second analyzed high denomination territorial gold, Confederate half dollars and hard times tokens. This article presents the author's analysis of California "small denomination" gold coins of the 1853-1857 era. These comprise round and octagonal 25 cent pieces, half dollars and gold dollars. Walter Breen's "Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins" was used in this analysis. In the earlier articles this author identified six types of coins deviating from "the rule of 13 stars"

<u>TYPE A</u>	<u>THE STATES</u>	<u>IN THE</u>	<u>UNION</u>	<u>DURING</u>	<u>THE YEAR COIN STRUCK</u>
<u>TYPE B</u>	<u>A STATES</u>	<u>ORDER</u>	<u>IN</u>	<u>RATIFYING</u>	<u>THE CONSTITUTION</u>
<u>TYPE C</u>	<u>A STATES</u>	<u>ORDER</u>	<u>IN</u>	<u>JOINING UNION</u>	<u>AFTER CONSTITUTIONAL RATIFICATION</u>
<u>TYPE D</u>	<u>THE STATES</u>	<u>IN</u>	<u>UNION</u>	<u>AT START</u>	<u>OF LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION IN 1804</u>
<u>TYPE E</u>	<u>PROBABLY</u>	<u>ARTISTIC LICENSE</u>			
<u>TYPE F</u>	<u>PROBABLY</u>	<u>MINT</u>	<u>ERROR</u>	<u>IN STAR COUNT OR FILLED DYE</u>	

Analysis of the small denomination California series immediately indicated that several of these types were not found. No examples of types A through D were identified. Since these pieces were issued in the 1850's era, 31 states were in the Union, with the admittance of California in 1850. Therefore types A through C would require a large number of stars to be placed on such small diameter coins. No die engraver would relish the challenge of so many stars on such small coins! There was also no reason to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Expedition during this era, omitting type D. Many small denomination California Gold coins do indeed conform to "the rule of 13 stars". However those that do not primarily contain less than 13 stars, conforming to Type E, for the practical reasons mentioned above. Only two instances of greater than 13 stars were identified, 1854 round gold half dollars of M. DERIBERPE, which show 14 stars on the obverse. Whether these issues are Type E, "artistic license", or Type F "mint error" cannot be answered without documentation. The table below lists all identified "non 13 star" varieties in this series, together with the appropriate Gillio Numbers from the Breen-Gillio book on California fractional gold issues.

If anyone has further insight on the star numbers, additions to the list, or other errors, I would love to hear from you at jhm@ix.netcom.com.

<u>NON "13 STAR"</u>	<u>CA FRACTIONAL</u>	<u>GOLD COINS</u>	<u>AND GOLD</u>		
<u>DOLLARS</u>	<u>DEVIATING FROM</u>	<u>"THE RULE OF</u>	<u>13 STARS"</u>		
<u>ALL ARE</u>	<u>TYPES E OR POSSIBLY F</u>				
<u>TYPE E</u>	<u>PROBABLY</u>	<u>ARTISTIC</u>	<u>LICENSE</u>		
<u>TYPE F</u>	<u>PROBABLY</u>	<u>MINT</u>	<u>ERROR</u>		
<u>CA GOLD</u>	<u>QUARTER DOLLARS</u>	<u>OCTAGONAL</u>			
<u>BG NUMBER(S)</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>STARS</u>	<u>FACE</u>	<u>MAKER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
<u>101</u>	<u>1853</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>OBV</u>	<u>FRONTIER AND DEVIERY</u>	

102	1853	4	OBV	FRONTIER AND DEVIERYC	
103-4	1854	4	OBV	FRONTIER AND DEVIERYC	
105	1854	5	OBV	FRONTIER AND DEVIERYC	
106	1855/4	4	OBV	FRONTIER AND DEVIERYC	
107	1856	8	OBV	FRONTIER AND DEVIERYC	
108-9	1854	11	OBV	A.L. NOUZILLET	
110-11	1854-5	12	OBV	A.L. NOUZILLET	
CA GOLD	QUARTER DOLLARS	ROUND			
BG NUMBER(S)	DATES	STARS	FACE	MAKER	COMMENTS
203	N.D. 1852-3)	12	OBV	FRONTIER AND DEVIERYC	
204	N.D.(1852-3)	12	OBV	FRONTIER AND DEVIERYC	
		1	REV		
205	N.D.(1852-3)	12	OBV	FRONTIER AND DEVIERYC	
		2	REV		
206	N.D.(1853)	10	OBV	FRONTIER AND DEVIERYC	
		1	REV		
207	N.D.(1853)	10	OBV	FRONTIER AND DEVIERYC	
		2	REV		
208-9	1853	10	OBV	FRONTIER AND DEVIERYC	
210	1853	11	OBV	FRONTIER AND DEVIERYC	
221	N.D.(1852-4)	11	OBV	A.L. NOUZILLET	
		1	REV		
222-3	N.D.(1852-4)	12	OBV	A.L. NOUZILLET	
		1	REV		
224	N.D.(1852-4)	12	OBV	A.L. NOUZILLET	

225-9	1855-6	10	OBV	A.L. NOUZILLET	
230	1856	12	OBV	A.L. NOUZILLET	
CA GOLD	HALF DOLLARS	OCTAGONAL			
BG NUMBER(S)	DATES	STARS	FACE	MAKER	COMMENTS
303	1853	10	OBV	FRONTIER & DEVIERCY	
304	1853	10	OBV	FRONTIER & DEVIERCY	
		2	REV		
305	1854	9	OBV	FRONTIER & DEVIERCY	
		2	REV		
306	1854	10	OBV	FRONTIER & DEVIERCY	
		2	REV		
307	1856	1	REV	FRONTIER & DEVIERCY	
308	1854	1	REV	A.L. NOUZILLET	
CA GOLD	HALF DOLLARS	ROUND			
BG NUMBER(S)	DATES	STARS	FACE	MAKER	COMMENTS
405-6	1855	12	OBV	FRONTIER & DEVIERCY	STAR COUNT NOT NOTED IN BREEN
415-16	1853	12	OBV	M. DERIBERPE	STAR COUNT NOT NOTED IN BREEN
417-19	1853	12	OBV	M. DERIBERPE	STAR COUNT NOT NOTED IN BREEN
420-1	1853	11	OBV	M. DERIBERPE	STAR COUNT NOT NOTED IN BREEN
					"D" REPLACES STAR IN 417-19?
422-3	1853-4	11	OBV	M. DERIBERPE	STAR COUNT NOT NOTED IN BREEN
		1	REV		"D" REPLACES STAR IN 417-19?
424	1854	14	OBV	M. DERIBERPE	ONLY > 13 STAR VARIETIES
		1	REV		IDENTIFIED, TYPE F?
425	1854	14	OBV	M. DERIBERPE	ONLY > 13 STAR VARIETIES

						IDENTIFIED, TYPE F?
428-30	1853	1	REV	A.L. NOUZILLET		
431	1854	11	OBV	A.L. NOUZILLET		
		1	REV			
432-3	1855	1	REV	A.L. NOUZILLET		
434	1856	12	OBV	A.L. NOUZILLET		STAR COUNT NOT NOTED IN BREEN
<u>CA GOLD</u>	<u>DOLLARS</u>	<u>OCTAGONAL</u>				
<u>BG NUMBER(S)</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>STARS</u>	<u>FACE</u>	<u>MAKER</u>		<u>COMMENTS</u>
504	1854	2	REV			FRONTIER & DEVIERCY
505	1853	10	OBV	FRONTIER & DEVIERCY		
		3	REV			
506-7	1854	10	OBV	FRONTIER & DEVIERCY		
		4	REV			
508-9	1854	10	OBV	FRONTIER & DEVIERCY		
		2	REV			
510-11	1854-55/4	10	OBV	FRONTIER & DEVIERCY		
		1	REV			
512	1856	10	OBV	FRONTIER & DEVIERCY		
		2	REV			
513	1854	5	REV	UNCERTAIN		
514-15	1853	8	OBV	M. DERIBERPE		STAR COUNT NOT NOTED IN BREEN
516-17	1853	8	OBV	M. DERIBERPE		OBV STAR COUNT NOT NOTED IN BREEN
		2	REV			
518-24	1853	8	OBV	M. DERIBERPE		OBV STAR COUNT NOT NOTED IN BREEN
		2	REV			
525-6	1853	8	OBV	M. DERIBERPE		OBV STAR COUNT NOT NOTED IN BREEN
		2	REV			

527-9	1854	8	OBV	M. DERIBERPE	OBV STAR COUNT NOT NOTED IN BREEN
		2	REV		
530-1	1853	2	REV	A.L. NOUZILLET	
534	1854	2	REV	UNKNOWN	
<u>CA GOLD</u>	<u>DOLLARS</u>	<u>ROUND</u>			
<u>BG NUMBER(S)</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>STARS</u>	<u>FACE</u>	<u>MAKER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
605	1854	4	REV	UNKNOWN	