

Chopmarked “CC” Trade Dollars

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I have an interest in collecting both chopmarked and un-chopmarked Trade \$1s and wanted to learn more especially about chopmarked ones; but there is a lack of information about them. In order to get an understanding about chopmarked Trade \$1s you have to first have an understanding about un-chopmarked ones. A lot of collectors do not understand that they are related but some Trade \$1 collectors look down on chopmarked coins because they are not pure and unsullied. They ignore the fact that they performed their intended function overseas in trade with the Orient and China. Only a few men like John Willem, James V. Epps, and Frank Rose seemed to have recognized this.

They had a view that chopmarked coins were appealing and were men ahead of their time. Chopmarked Trade \$1s like the ones from Carson City have the irresistible combination of the Wild West and the mystical allure of China and the Orient, because they were tied to both worlds. Many of the other Carson City coins can't say that and chopmarks left tangible evidence that they were in China and the Orient, where “CC” gold coins didn't really show evidence that they spent time overseas in Europe after FDR's Gold Order suckered a lot of people out of gold under the guise of patriotism.

I started looking at U.S. Trade \$1s, both chopmarked and un-chopmarked, wondering about them and just how available they were. The only way to actually research them in detail is to get actual coins, particularly chopmarked ones. If you have the actual

coin people can't say it doesn't exist if you can produce proof in the flesh, so to speak. A lot of what I have found through my own research is not general numismatic knowledge. I have written other stuff pertaining to "CC" Trade \$1s in the Chopmark Collectors Club Newsletter.

What I have found only deepens the mystery of just what is available in Trade \$1s, particularly chopmarked ones. I would like to obtain more for research purposes, particularly "P" and "CC" Mint coins. There really isn't any dealer who specializes in chopmarked Trade \$1s (that I know of). I believe if somebody had a number of chopmarked "CC" Trade \$1s they would be snapped up if they were priced reasonably. Not rock-bottom bargain-basement prices but reasonable ones not at a discount from un-chopmarked coins. Any kind of chopmarked 1873-CC, 1876-CC, 1877-CC and 1878-CC is snapped up when they are on the market. So is an 1875-CC Ty 2 Rev. chopmarked Trade \$1.



(1877-CC chopmarked Trade dollar.)

I do have a fair sized Trade \$1 collection, but I have to have more coins for research purposes. Good examples in my own collection are chopmarked “CC Trade \$1s dated 1873 to 1878. Some people may feel that having between five and six dozen coins is a sufficient sampling. I want to have at least double that number eventually in my own collection. My eventual goal is to own 125 to 250 chopmarked “CC” Trade \$1s. It is going to take time, patience, opportunity, and luck to accomplish the goal. I believe it is imperative for meaningful research. Further writings on “CC” U.S. Trade \$1s and their relationship to chopmarked “CC” Trade \$1s will appear in future editions of *Curry’s Chronicle*.



(Images courtesy of Southgate Coins.)