

UNIDENTIFIED PLANCHET USED TO STRIKE SACAGAWEA \$1 COIN

American Numismatic Association (ANA) Authenticator Brian Silliman has verified that a 2000 Sacagawea \$1 coin, struck on a hollow-center planchet that was most likely produced at the Royal Canadian Mint, is genuine.

"This is one of the most interesting specimens I have inspected all year," Silliman says. "Because of its unique usage and qualities, this error piece probably is worth up to \$10,000." He believes that the hollow-center planchet originally was intended for the outer ring of a bimetallic coin.

The ANA Authentication Bureau received the piece from Robert Goss of Bryantown, Maryland, who discovered it in one of two mint rolls of Sacagawea dollars he purchased for his grandchildren. An amateur collector, Goss thought the planchet was intended for a bimetallic Canadian \$1 coin, but, after measuring it against a Loon \$1, he realized there was a significant difference in the coin's density. He sent the specimen to a coin dealer, who urged him to forward it to the ANA for authentication.

According to some reports, the Royal Canadian Mint and its Winnipeg, Alberta, circulating coin production facility have helped the United States prepare planchets for the golden Sacagawea \$1 coin. Canadian minters were asked to help meet the demand for strike-ready \$1 blanks to be struck at the Philadelphia and Denver Mints.

Silliman believes that because Canada handles the circulating coinage production needs for a number of countries, there is a strong possibility that Goss' Sacagawea error piece was struck on a world coin planchet from the Royal Canadian Mint. The blank probably was mixed in with regulation golden dollar planchets and sent to the United States, where it was struck and placed into circulation.

The Denver Mint already has reported striking several 2000-D Sacagawea dollars on outer rings intended for Canadian \$2 coins. This piece is one of only a handful known to exist.

Goss, who began collecting silver coins and Indian Head cents many years ago, never thought he would come across such a unique numismatic item. The piece has been sent to Numismatic Guaranty Corporation, the ANA's official grading service, for encapsulation, after which Goss intends to put the piece on the market.

The American Numismatic Association is a congressionally chartered nonprofit educational organization dedicated to encouraging people to study and collect money and related items. The ANA helps its 28,000 members and the public discover and explore the world of money through its vast array of education and outreach programs, as well as its museum,

library, publications, conventions and seminars. For more information, call 719-632-2646 or go to www.money.org.