Italy: 1000 Lire
Old Map vs. New Map varieties of 1997

Coins with the old map include the boarder between East and West Germany (highlighted here in red). The design was later updated to show a unified Germany.

United States: 2004-D Wisconsin quarters "Extra leaf low" and "Extra leaf high" varieties.

Extra leaf low

The Extra Leaf Low variety is the result of a die gouge below the left leaf on the ear of corn, a gouge that looks like an extra leaf. In this variety, the "extra leaf" is fairly horizontal.

Extra leaf high

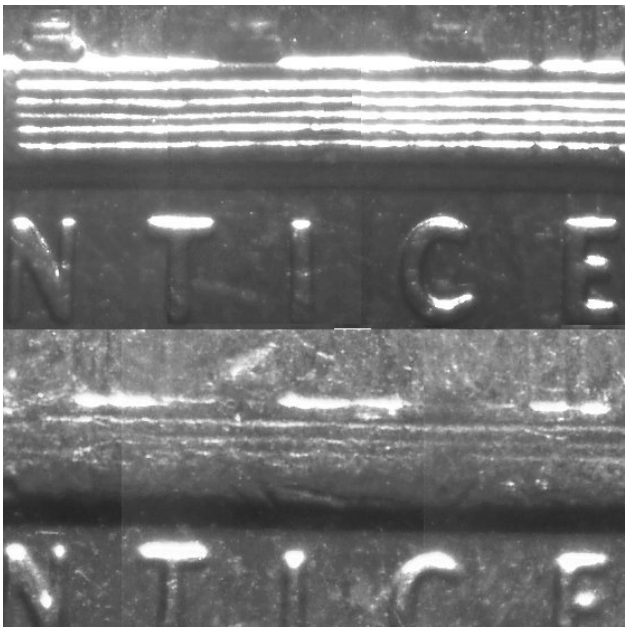
The Extra Leaf High variety also has a die gouge below the left leaf on the ear of corn. In this variety, the "extra leaf" is more vertical.

United States: 1960 Lincoln cent
Large date vs. small date varieties

The easiest way to determine whether a coin is the “small date” or “large date” variety is by looking at the top of 1 and 9. On the small date, the tops of these two digits are level . On the large date, the top of the nine is above the top of the 1.

In addition, the zero on the small date is more oval while the zero on the large date is perfectly round. And the top of the 6 is slightly longer on the large date variety.

United States: Jefferson nickels
Full Step grade modifier



The Full Steps grade modifier applies to Jefferson Nickels graded MS-60 or higher which exhibit exceptional strike quality. On soft strikes, the steps on Monticello are mushy. To qualify for the Full Steps designation, all five steps must be clearly defined from left to right, unbroken and not fused together.

United States: Wheat Cents

1909 VDB cent

The first Lincoln cents minted in 1909 included designer Victor David Brenner's initials promenently at the bottom of the reverse. The initials were removed fairly early in the production year so cents with the initials are scarcer than those without.

Starting in 1917, the designer's initials returned to the Lincoln cent; this time in very small letters on the truncation of Lincoln's bust.

1955 Doubled Die cent

The 1955 Doubled Die variety displays strong doubling on all of the obverse text. All coins of this variety have the same extensive doubling; beware of coins labeled "double die" which are just the result of die bounce that does not enhance the coin's value notably.

United States: Buffalo nickel
1913 varieties

A mid year design change to the Buffalo nickel lowered the field around the denomination to prevent the denomination from wearing off quickly as a high point in the design.

The “Raised ground” (a,k,a, Type 1) variety has a mound below the buffalo. On the “Recessed ground” (a.k.a. Type 2) variety, the field was lowered around the denomination.

United States: Buffalo Nickel
1938 D over S variety

The 1938 D over S buffalo nickel shows the remnants of the S mintmark in the center of the D.

Buffalo nickels were stuck only in Denver during 1938, the last year for this design. The mintmark was repunched on dies that had been prepared for San Francisco.

United States: Draped bust half dollar
1805 5 over 4 variety

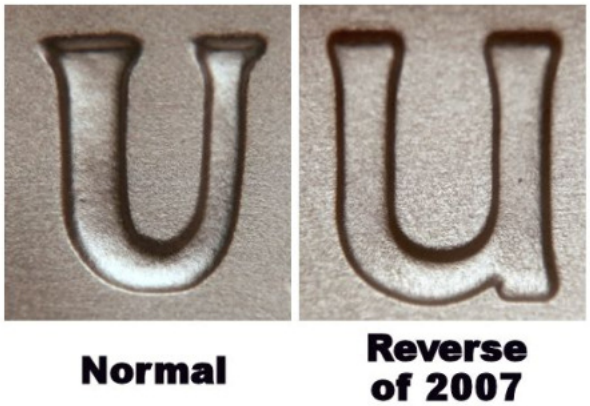
On the 1805 5 over 4 variety, the crossbar of the underlying 4 is clearly visible to the right of the 5. No half dollars were produced in 1804.

United States: Anthony dollar
Narrow Rim and Wide Rim varieties of 1979

The Wide Rim variety (also know as “Near date”) has a wider rim, so the date appears very near the rim. On the Narrow Rim variety (the more common variety) there is a greater gap between the date and the rim.

The wide rim variety applies only to some 1979 Anthony dollars minted in Philadelphia.

United States: $1 Silver Eagle
2008-W Reverse of 2007 variety



In 2008 the mint modified the Silver Eagle reverse but some coins minted at the West Point facility utilized the old design. The “U” in “United is significantly different between the two designs.

United States: Morgan Dollar
1878 die varieties

8 Feathers 7 Feathers

After striking 749,500 dollars of the new Morgan design, the design was revised because it showed 8 tail feathers while a bald eagle has only seven feathers. This resulted in both 8 and 7 tail feather varieties for 1878 as well as the "7 over 8 feathers" variety which resulted when existing dies were repunched with the revised design.

1878 Reverse 1879 Reverse

The easiest way to identify the 1878 reverse from the 1879 reverse is by looking at the topmost feather in the eagle's right claw. On the 1878 reverse, the edges of this feather are parallel with the rest of the feathers. On the 1879 reverse, the topmost feather is triangular in shape.

Nepal: 5 Mohru
1951 varieties

Type 1

Type 2

The script at the top-center of the front differs between the type 1 and type 2 notes. On type 1 notes, there is a tail that extends above the text which is not present on the type 2 notes.

Equatorial Guinea paper money
1975 varieties

Type 1 shows the name Macias Ngeuma Biyogo under the portrait.

Type 2 shows the name Maise Nguema Biyogo Negue Ndong under the portrait.

Recent Popes

Clement XI	23 November 1700 – 19 March 1721 (20 years, 116 days)
Innocent XIII	8 May 1721 – 7 March 1724 (2 years, 304 days)
Benedict XIII	29 May 1724 – 21 February 1730 (5 years, 268 days)
Clement XII	12 July 1730 – 6 February 1740 (9 years, 209 days)
Benedict XIV	17 August 1740 – 3 May 1758 (17 years, 259 days)
Clement XIII	6 July 1758 – 2 February 1769 (10 years, 211 days)
Clement XIV	19 May 1769 – 22 September 1774 (5 years, 126 days)
Pius VI	15 February 1775 – 29 August 1799 (24 years, 195 days)
Pius VII	14 March 1800 – 20 August 1823 (23 years, 159 days)
Leo XII	28 September 1823 – 10 February 1829 (5 years, 135 days)
Pius VIII	31 March 1829 – 30 November 1830 (1 year, 244 days)
Gregory XVI	2 February 1831 – 1 June 1846 (15 years, 119 days)
Pius IX	16 June 1846 – 7 February 1878 (31 years, 236 days)
Leo XIII	20 February 1878 – 20 July 1903 (25 years, 150 days)
Pius X	4 August 1903 – 20 August 1914 (11 years, 16 days)
Benedict XV	3 September 1914 – 22 January 1922 (7 years, 141 days)
Pius XI	6 February 1922 – 10 February 1939 (17 years, 4 days)
Pius XII	2 March 1939 – 9 October 1958 (19 years, 221 days)
John XXIII	28 October 1958 – 3 June 1963 (4 years, 218 days)
Paul VI	21 June 1963 – 6 August 1978 (15 years, 46 days)
John Paul I	26 August 1978 – 28 September 1978 (33 days)
John Paul II	16 October 1978 – 2 April 2005 (26 years, 168 days)
Benedict XVI	19 April 2005 – 28 February 2013 (7 years, 315 days)
Francis	13 March 2013 – present

Russian civil war
Federation of Socialist Republics of Transcaucasia

Right twist

Left twist

On notes of type S611 through S622, the border design in the upper left corner of the note's back twists to the right. The border twists in the same direction as the border on the right side of the note.

On notes of type S623 through S631, the border in the upper left corner twists opposite the direction that the right border twists. Notice that half-way down on the left side border, the twist changes direction while the earlier notes have the same twist all the way down the left side.

The boarder on the back of these notes is highlighted here in red for identification purposes but is far more discrete on the actual notes.

United States: Grant Memorial half
Star and no star varieties

On some Grant Memorial halves there is a small, incuse star just above Grant's name. The star has no particular significance; it was a sales gimmick to create a variety as sales began to slow. The "with star" variety is the less common of the two varieties.

Uzbekistan
1 Tiyin coin of 1994

The one Tiyin coin issued by Uzbekistan has the distinction of being the world's least valuable coin with a purchasing power equivalent of 199,900 to the U.S. Dollar. With a weight of 1.75 grams, you would need more that 700 pounds (more than 318 Kilograms) of these coins to have a purchasing power equivalent to one U.S. Dollar. This makes the coin literally "cheaper than dirt".

Canada: All denominations
“Shoulder strap” and “No shoulder strap” varieties

“No shoulder strap” variety

Because the high relief of the original design, the coins didn’t strike up well; two folds on the Queen’s shoulders are missing from the “No shoulder strap” variety. The relief was lowered in the middle of 1953, creating design that showed the shoulder folds and thus two varieties for that date.

The missing design detail is two folds in the fabric but the term “shoulder strap” was adopted because the lines are parallel to each other and therefore look like a shoulder strap.

The original (“no shoulder strap”) design was also used in some 1954 proof-like sets and a small quantity of 1955 circulation cents.

“Shoulder strap” variety

Vneshposyltorg
(Foreign Mail Order Trade Association)

Vneshposyltorg issued Foreign Exchange Certificates which could be acquired only by exchanging hard currency. They could be used in special Beriozka ("little birch tree") stores to acquire goods that were not available to most Soviet citizens.

Soviet citizens with hard currency, and with permission to use this parallel monetary system, could exchange foreign currency for valuta-certificates. Some notes have a yellow or blue band across the front; this indicates the source of the hard currency being exchanged and therefore the restrictions on its use as follows...

Without a band: Sold for freely convertible hard currency. A tourist purchasing valuta-checks with U.S. dollars would receive notes without a band. Only notes without bands could be converted back to hard currency.

With a yellow Band: Sold for soft currency with limited convertibility, mainly of the developing countries

With a blue band: Sold for currencies of the socialist countries.

Russian Mint Marks
(Deciphering Cyrillic Logos)

Modern Russian coinage uses two logo's which consist of stylized Cyrillic characters. The logos consist of either M for Moscow or СП for Saint Petersburg plus МД, an acronym for Монетный Дворъ or Monetnyy Dvor, which translates to "Monetary Yard".

Moscow Mint
Cyrillic: ММД Western: MMD
Listed in Exact Change as: **ММД logo (m)**

Saint Petersburg Mint
Cyrillic: СПМД Western: SPMD
Listed in Exact Change as: **СПМД logo (sp)**