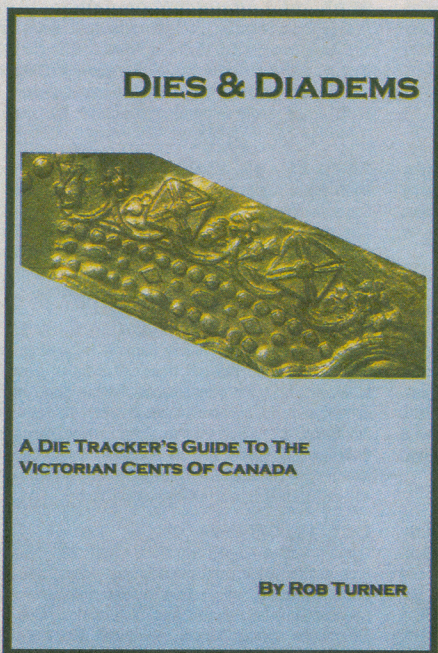




Book REVIEWS

By Bret Evans



Rob Turner's flair for research makes this book a good read.

DIES AND DIADEMS

Rob Turner's latest effort, *Dies and Diadems, a Die Tracker's Guide to the Victorian Cents of Canada*, lives up to the author's established record of producing outstanding specialist references.

Turner started off with a reference on the 1858 large cents, the most detailed study of that denomination and year ever undertaken.

In preparing that reference, Turner discovered that there was very little published on the matrices, punches, and dies used to mint Victorian cents.

Most researchers had put their effort into documenting the varieties, some of which had become popular with collectors, but little research had been done on how and why varieties occurred.

This reference attempts to address the relationships between various dies and matrices, with an eye to providing "an organizational framework and numbering system needed to catalogue the entire Victorian cent series."

That is a pretty ambitious goal, and Turner is quick to admit that his system may be subject to expansion or amendment based on new discoveries.

The timing of this reference is ideal. The popularity of Victor-

ian cents is higher now than it has been for years, and many collectors have started looking at either newly discovered, or long-forgotten varieties. Turner's work, and the republication of Jack Griffin's groundbreaking book published by Charlton Press, should take some of the credit for the renewed vigour in this part of the hobby.

As with Turner's other works, this book is a pleasure to read. The information is well organized, and is again presented in a format that is readable for both the general and the specialist collector.

Detailed information is organized in tables and diagrams, which is the best way to explain such complex matters as matrix-punch-die relationships.

Again, the photographs are outstanding, with large, clear, colour images and arrows that direct the eye to salient points.

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