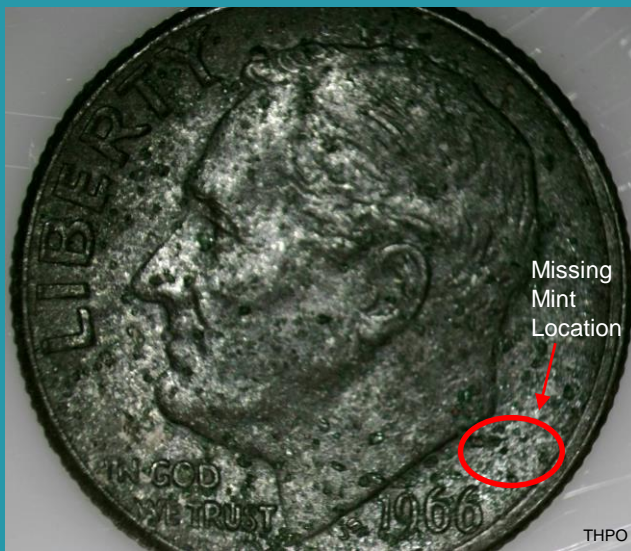


ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

October 2022



Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt all have one thing in common: they appear as the face of certain monetary notes and coins exclusive to the United States; some even appear on both forms of currency. Franklin Delano Roosevelt has been the face of the Dime since 1946, when it was unveiled on his birthday, after the discontinuation of the Mercury Dime due to the former President's efforts to raise funds to find a cure for polio and his "March of Dimes" (Marchofdimes.org). The dimes from 1946-1964 have the same look and feel, and are made of 90% silver but with the Coinage Act of 1965, and the increase in the value of silver, coins transitioned to a copper-nickel ratio (75%, 25%) over a pure copper core.



For the first two years of its existence, the new dime did not have a mark to indicate at which United States mint it had been manufactured (left middle). If you have a dime, look just above the date in the bottom right corner on the face side. There should be a letter stamped indicating the Mint location: "P" for Philadelphia, "D" for Denver, or "SF" for San Francisco (top left, red circle). This month's artifact features a 1966 Roosevelt Dime; a dime that can come with many different combinations of errors, making it more valuable to the right coin collector.



One common error that is visible on this artifact, found on the Hollywood Reservation, involves a misplaced die (bottom left). Coins are made using two dies to cast the images on either side of the metal (USMint.gov). In one printing run, the die was misaligned, which resulted in the appearance of the number "5" in the middle of Roosevelt's cheek. Other errors include missing letters in some of the phrases on the coin such as the "Y" in the word "LIBERTY" and "I" in the phrase "IN GOD WE TRUST" on the face of the coin (Atticcapital.com).

Coins.TheFunTimesGuide.com has a great explanation of what can happen to coins if the metal layers aren't applied correctly (clad coin) and you can comment and submit a photo of your own coins if you think they could be special!

Last month, we featured a canid tooth that we sent to the University of Georgia for radiocarbon testing. The results revealed that the tooth belonged to a canid that was alive around **1,210** years ago! If you're interested in learning more about how the University of Georgia processes animal bone for radiocarbon dating check out their YouTube video called "Radio Carbon Dating | UGA Experimental Archaeology" or type in this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_lbmEajLBs

