

Part 3

THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH AND SALT LAKE CITY GOLD COINS



The Discovery of Gold in California

James Marshall, a Mormon, discovered gold at Sutter's Mill on January 24, 1848. As he went for an early walk on a clear January morning his eye was caught by a glint in the stream. The first piece of gold retrieved from the stream was about the size of a pea. He immediately noticed another pellet of gold and collected it as well. To make sure that what he had found was in fact gold, he took one of the pieces and smashed it between two rocks. If it was pyrite it would shatter, but instead it was soft and was smashed. From that moment on, California and the West would never be the same.



James Marshall immediately brought his discovery to the attention of John Sutter, and they attempted to devise a plan by which they could keep the discovery secret. News in 1848 didn't travel rapidly and the discovery was subdued for some time. However, it was inevitable that news of the discovery of gold would travel. It wasn't until early May that Sam Brannan²⁷ rode thru the streets of San Francisco waving a flask of gold dust shouting "Gold! Gold! Gold from the American River!"

By early summer 1848 the majority of the male population of San Francisco had left for the gold fields. This left many businesses closed and boarded up. Shortly thereafter, the news of gold spread worldwide and people were flocking to California by any means they could find. By the middle of 1849 San Francisco Bay

was congested with dozens of ships whose crews had abandoned them to go and find their fortune. This they did even under the possibility of severe fines and imprisonment in jail if caught and convicted.

Details of the gold discovery didn't reach the east coast until the autumn of 1848. The first gold from California reached the mint in Philadelphia in December of 1848. Many people aware of the discovery of gold wanted souvenirs so the U.S. mint in Philadelphia struck 1,389 gold \$2 ½



Fig. #19 1848 "CAL" Quarter Eagle minted at the Philadelphia mint from the first shipment of California gold to be shipped to the east.

dollar "quarter eagles" from this first shipment of California gold. To identify the gold's origin, the letters "CAL" were counter-stamped above the eagle on the reverse.²⁸ This was essentially the first U.S. minted commemorative coin. The striking of the Mormon \$10 coin in December of 1848 preceded the creation of this "CAL" coin issued by the U.S. Mint by several days. Thus, the first coinage of California gold was accomplished by the Mormons.

Initially gold was so plentiful that early miners could easily make \$20 a day simply working the stream beds. If they were lucky enough to stake a claim at a lucrative location, it was not unheard of to retrieve \$100 or more in a day. There were substantiated reports of early miners pulling out 20-30 pounds of gold from the streams in as little as a month.

Although gold is still being mined in California, the heyday of individual panning and working the streams ended around 1854-55.²⁹ After that, gold mining became the business of companies and corporations. The surface gold had, for the most part, been removed, and now the recovery of gold required huge operations and significant equipment.

The Mormon Battalion

Closely intertwined with the beginnings of coinage in Deseret⁴¹ is the formation of the Mormon Battalion.³⁰ The United States declared war on Mexico on May 13, 1846. One of the assignments of the Mormon Battalion was to build a wagon road to California for the purpose of transporting supplies to the army stationed in California. On July 7th, 1846 Brigham Young addressed this issue and an initial group of 66 men volunteered.³¹ In less than a month the quota was filled, and on July 16, 1846 the volunteers enlisted into service for a period of 12 months. There were approximately 500 male volunteers who were joined by 35 women and many children.

The battalion was to be part of the regular army with pay as follows:

\$7.00 Month (a little less than 25 cents per day)

\$3.50 Month for clothing allowance (or \$42.00 per year)

The battalion drew its full year clothing allowance at the beginning of the march and sent it back to their destitute families at Council Bluffs, Iowa.³² They left with the same clothes and shoes they had worn when were forced out of Nauvoo. As a group they sent back more than \$20,000. The Mormon Battalion began its march of 2,100 miles from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas on August 1, 1846.

The march from Forth Leavenworth to San Diego was perhaps one of the longest infantry marches in history. The paymaster was amazed that the battalion men, unlike most soldiers, could sign their names. In fact, the several detailed journals kept by the Battalion members made this one of the best documented military marches in history.³³ Excerpts from their original journals relay the following stories:

While marching along the San Pedro River on Dec. 11, 1846 the battalion engaged in its only fight, a battle with wild bulls which gored several mules to death. One journal stated, "The bulls became even more ferocious when wounded. Dr. William Spencer shot one animal five times: twice through the lungs, twice through the heart, and once through the head, yet the culprit would alternately rise and rush upon the doctor until it was shot a sixth time directly between the eyes."

On Dec. 16, 1846 the Battalion arrived in Tucson, Arizona. They were greatly worried about a confrontation with the Mexicans there. However upon arrival they found that the Mexican soldiers had abandoned the town. There they were finally able to re-supply themselves, which was sorely needed.

On Jan 27, 1847 the Mormon Battalion sighted the Pacific Ocean, and on Jan. 29th the march ended. After being discharged, many of the Battalion men quickly left to travel towards the Salt Lake Valley. A small contingent went to San Francisco late in the summer of 1847.³⁴ The Salt Lake Valley was barren, and food very scarce that first winter, so Brigham Young told the Battalion that after reaching the coast they could stay and work there if they wished. However, he also informed them that the new Temple³⁵ would be built in the Rocky Mountains and they would have to travel there to receive their Endowments.³⁶ The portion of the Battalion that proceeded onto northern California were some of the original participants in the discovery of gold and the beginning of the gold rush. These Mormon pioneers brought the first gold into the Salt Lake Valley.

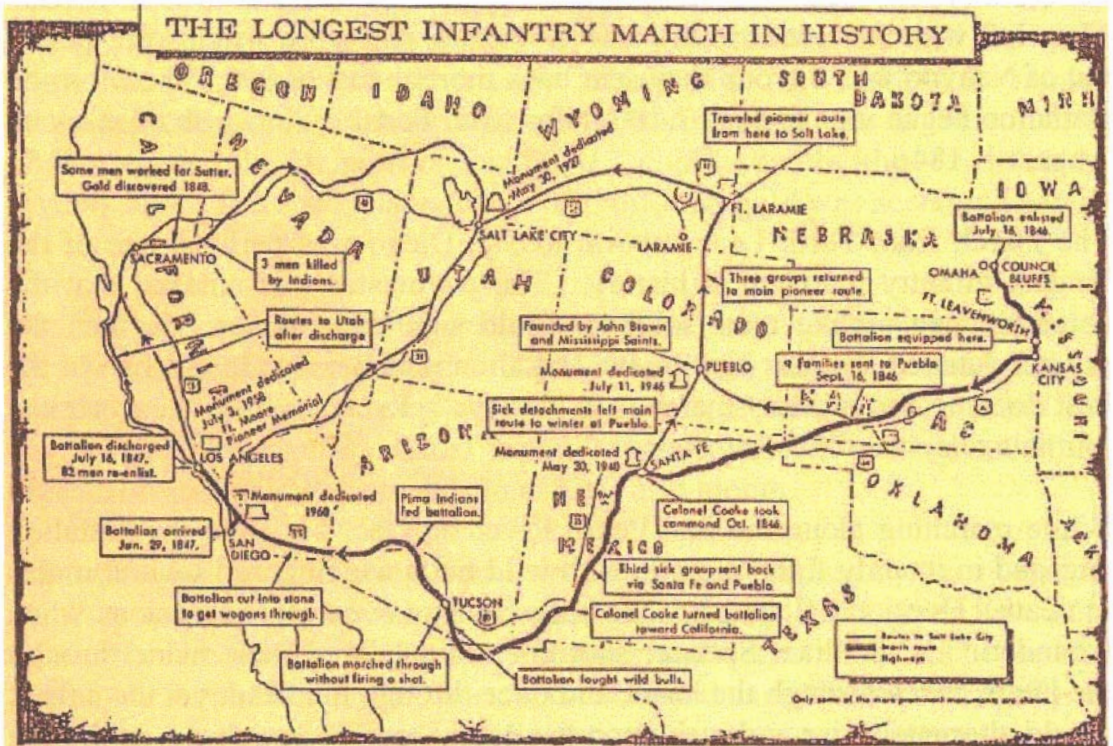


Fig. #20 Above is a map of the "Longest Infantry March in History" of the Mormon Battalion

Commerce in Deseret⁴¹ circa 1849

Brigham Young led the first group of pioneers numbering 138 into the Salt Lake Valley in July of 1847. They brought with them approximately \$50 in coin. On a subsequent trip Brigham Young returned with \$80 in coin.³⁷ Initially coinage to conduct business was not needed. However as more Saints began arriving the barter system needed to be augmented by some other means in order to conduct business. The \$130 provided by Brigham Young from the east was the majority of coinage initially utilized in the Salt Lake Valley. At this time, coinage from many foreign countries also circulated in the U.S. including that from Asia, Central America, and European countries. No doubt that some foreign coins were also in daily use.

During the time of the gold rush, commerce in the West was predominately transacted without the benefit of coins or currency. In fact, paper currency was illegal for a time in California.³⁸ The only coins in common use were Spanish doubloons, pillar dollars³⁹ from Mexico and the occasional U.S. coin that had worked its way to the west by gold seekers and travelers from the east. Gold nuggets, and more commonly gold dust, were often used to transact business. There were obvious inherent problems with this, as one can imagine. The inability to properly weigh the gold, and the purity or fineness⁴⁰ of the gold (even if properly weighed), could vary. Transactions were often conducted by a pinch or pinches of gold dust. In San Francisco tavern owners often hired large men with big hands in order to be able to pinch more gold dust than someone smaller. Mormons returning to Salt Lake from California often had only pouches of gold dust. They needed a way not only to transact business in Deseret⁴¹ (the name in common use for Utah at the time), but as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints they needed to pay their tithing.⁴² Brigham Young immediately understood the problem and the need for a circulating medium. The Salt Lake valley would grow from less than 2,000 inhabitants in 1848 to over 12,000 in 1850. Salt Lake City had also become an important overland stop for travelers from the east to the gold fields of California. There were virtually no circulating coins or hard currency available. The barter system generally worked well for the local Mormons, however, people passing through the valley required something tangible to take with them after doing business in Deseret.⁴¹

An additional type of coinage not associated with the Mormons, but tied to the gold rush, was the minting and use of fractional gold coins. These were referred to as fractional because they were coined in the denominations of $\frac{1}{4}$ dollar, $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar, and 1 dollar. It's hard to imagine today that gold coins valued at 25 cents actually circulated! These small gold coins were minted and circulated in San Francisco from 1852-1857. There were later strikings continuing on to 1882 but these were commonly referred to as tokens. They probably didn't actually circulate, but rather were created as novelties and souvenirs. Many of these fractional gold coins were manufactured by jewelers. The original need for these low denomination gold coins was the acute shortage of small coins available for daily commerce in San Francisco. How widely they were circulated is not known today, but reports of these fractional gold coins turning up as far away as New Orleans are documented. It is most certain that some of them made their way to the Salt Lake Valley and were used in commerce there. Below are several examples enlarged to show their detail. Most were, by today's standards (and even the standards of the time) quite crudely made.



Fig. #21 Shown enlarged is a $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, and \$1 denomination of "Fractional California Gold." The above pieces were actually minted in the 1850's and probably saw actual circulation. As stated many later pieces dated into the 1870's were created only as novelties and souvenirs.

For comparison, shown is a $\frac{1}{4}$ coin next to a modern quarter. (9.6mm – 24.3mm)

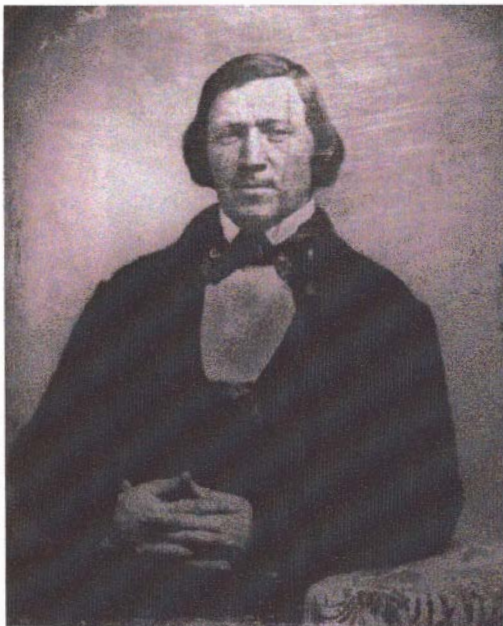
Of the three denominations there are literally hundreds of different designs and varieties available. All denominations were coined round and hexagonal. Some are relatively common, while others are extreme rarities.

Copies and variations of these coins are still being made today. In fact, it is very likely that, if your grandfather had one in his drawer, it would not be an original. The modern tokens are not made of gold, but usually brass or gold plated brass instead.

Dec. 1848	First striking of gold coins.
Dec. 1848	Crucibles for melting gold for coins broke. Coinage stopped
Jan. 1849	Issuance of "White Notes" ⁷⁵ Handwritten & Typeset, and re-issuance of counter-signed Kirtland currency as substitute currency until minting of gold could resume.
Sept. 1849	Striking of gold coins resumes.
Sept. 1849	Redemption and destruction of Kirtland currency and White Notes as gold coin once again became available.
March 1850	Striking of 1850 dated \$5 gold coin.
1860	Coinage of 1860 dated \$5 gold coin.
1862	End of Mormon coins as a medium of exchange in general circulation.

Table #2 Mormon Coinage Timeline

The Beginnings of Mormon Coinage



Brigham Young

In November, 1848 initial preparations were made by Brigham Young to coin the gold from California. According to church history and Brigham Young's journal entries, the first time the idea of "Mormon" gold coinage was discussed was by Brigham and John Taylor⁴³ on Nov. 25, 1848.

Brigham Young was very concerned that many of the saints just arriving in Salt Lake would join the gold rush and travel to California. He admonished them to stay and promised that they would be blessed by the Lord.⁴⁴

As previously noted the first form of currency available in Salt Lake City was in the form of small packages of gold dust from California. Dr. Willard Richards⁴⁵ of the Church's First Presidency weighed the gold dust from returning Mormon Battalion members and others who had worked the gold fields. He packaged the gold dust in varying amounts in small sealed packages with their value noted on the outside. To ensure their value, these packages were sealed and signed by both Brigham Young and Dr. Richards. They were subsequently used for transactions in Salt Lake until coin became available.

Inscriptions and design elements of what was to appear on the coins were decided upon, and work began to prepare the dies from which the coins would be struck. The obverse of the coinage had a "three-pointed Phrygian Crown" above an all-seeing eye. This was the emblem of the "Holy Priesthood." Inscribed around this priesthood emblem were the words, "Holiness To The Lord." (Exodus 28:36). "And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold and engrave upon it, like the engravings of a signet Holiness To The Lord." On the reverse side, the denomination was inscribed below a pair of clasped hands in the center. Above the hands were the words "Pure Gold." On the other 1849 denominations the words "Pure Gold" were replaced with G.S.L.C.P.G., which is the abbreviation for "Great Salt Lake City Pure Gold."⁴⁶



Fig. #22 Above is an example of a rare Mormon \$10 gold coin.
Courtesy of the Church Archives, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



Fig. #24 Above is a photograph of the reverse side of the original \$10 Gold coin die.
Courtesy of the Church Archives, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The dies and tools pictured here and on the preceding page are currently owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They are on display at the Church historical museum in downtown Salt Lake City. However these dies and tools were once privately owned. The Church took advantage of the opportunity to purchase them in 1909.



Deseret Mint Building, circa 1849.

It is interesting to note that this was the first time that a religious motto, "Holiness To The Lord," was used on a circulating coin in the United States. It wouldn't be until 15 years later, at the end of the Civil War, that the United States would authorize the now familiar motto "In God We Trust" on circulating U.S. coins. This was the result of a general public movement toward religion, brought about by sentiments during the Civil War. Pictured below is an example of the U.S. 2-cent coin bearing this motto. This coin was the first coin to incorporate the motto "In God We Trust." The 2-cent coin was short-lived and they were minted only during the years 1864-1873. During subsequent years the motto "In God We Trust" was added to all denominations of U.S. coinage, and is now law that it be part of all U.S. coins. Prior to the adoption of "In God We Trust" several variations were proposed. These included "God Our Trust," and "God And Our Country."



Fig. #25 U.S. 2-Cent coin bearing the motto "In God We Trust"

On the following page is a Mormon \$5 gold coin. Notice the date and the almost unreadable numeral 8. This is not due to wear, but a problem encountered in striking the coin. The tools used to manufacture the Mormon gold coins and the manual labor to physically strike the coins, often resulted in incomplete devices and inscriptions on the coins themselves. The \$2 ½ coins suffered problems as the obverse die became bulged or warped. This resulted in many poor quality strikes.



Figure #26 Example of Mormon \$5 coin issued in late 1849.

In December, 1848 the first gold was deposited in the Church offices, and the dies with which to strike the coins were complete. The building which was used as the mint was located on the northeast corner of Brigham Street, now South Temple and Main. This is roughly where the parking garage for the old Hotel Utah is located. In 1848 the rate at which gold traded was \$16.00 an ounce. On December 12, 1848 the first 25 \$10 Mormon gold coins were minted.⁴⁷ These were dated 1849 as were all the other denominations which were actually minted later in 1849. A few days later, additional \$10 pieces were minted, bringing the estimated total to 46 pieces. Today the Mormon \$10 gold piece is extremely rare, with only 9-10 pieces known to exist. Two of the known \$10 coins are currently held by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. If you desire to own one of these you can expect to pay over \$150,000. The other denominations were minted the following year. These consist of \$2.50, \$5.00 and \$20.00 denominations. Again, the \$10 coin was unique in that it had "Pure Gold" spelled out while all subsequent 1849 dated denominations used the abbreviation of "G.S.L.C.P.G."

Date	Denomination	Est. Mintage	Est. Known	Current Value*
1849	\$2.50	3,560	40-50	\$18,000 +
1849	\$5.00	5,340	80-90	\$12,000 +
1849	\$10.00	46	9-10	\$150,000 +
1849	\$20.00	1,808	25-30	\$80,000 +
1850	\$5.00	3,560	50-60	\$15,000 +
1860	\$5.00	789	35-45	\$25,000 +

* Based upon very fine or better condition with no problems

Table #3 Estimated Mintage figures and current 2003 value of Mormon gold coins. Most were melted in the mass melting's of territorial gold in 1852.⁴⁸

The interesting “first” concerning the \$20.00 coin (as mentioned at the beginning of this book) is that it preceded the minting by the United States of the regular issue \$20.00 coin or “double eagle” by about 6 months. Prior to 1849, the largest coin which saw circulation in the U.S. was the \$10.00 gold coin or “eagle.”⁴⁹

Because of the California gold rush, very large quantities of gold were flooding into the vaults and treasuries in the west. Congress saw a need for a large value coin in order to consume this volume of raw gold. Initially only 2 patterns were struck bearing the date 1849. Regular circulation strikes began in 1850 with over a million pieces.⁵⁰ Only one piece can be traced today, which is the specimen located at the Smithsonian Institute. As an interesting note, years later plans were also discussed regarding the minting of a \$50 gold coin or “Union” but this never proceeded beyond several patterns being prepared.⁵¹ In addition to the Deseret mint, which struck the Mormon gold coins, there were dozens of private mints⁵² in California striking gold coins. The other “first” noted is that Brigham Young and the Deseret mint preceded all of the California mints in producing coins from native California gold.⁵³ Some of these mints did later produce circulating \$50 coins which were commonly called “slugs.”⁵⁴ Fifty dollars had enormous purchasing power in 1855. There was hyper-inflation for goods due to the excessive demand by the workers in the gold fields for everything from provisions to mining supplies. There were reports that a barrel of flour sold for \$100, doctors were charging \$50-100 for a visit, and cooks were making as much as \$25 a day! It is difficult to



Fig. #28 This is a picture of the pattern 1849 Double Eagle or \$20 gold coin housed at the Smithsonian Institute.

imagine just how much actual gold was in everyday life in San Francisco, and to a lesser extent in Salt Lake City, during the middle of the 19th century. Some early miners reported finding a pound of gold a day for weeks!

A story related by Sheridan McGarry, in his 1950 book “Mormon Money” tells of Father Rhoads and his famous 60 pound sack of gold.⁵⁵ In 1848 Father Rhoads arrived in Salt Lake City with several sacks of gold, the largest being 60 pounds. This was the largest amount of gold ever brought into Salt Lake. Father Rhoads turned the 60 pounds of gold over to Brigham Young, who in return had a home built for him. This story was talked about for quite some time in the “Valley.” No doubt that this gold was very soon turned into coin.

Other Mormon coin denominations of 1849

The coins dated 1849 all carried essentially the same design on both the obverse and reverse. The only significant variation was the value. This was true for all minted denominations of \$2.5, \$5, \$10 and \$20 pieces. In 1850 there were additional \$5 gold coins minted, but they carried a modified design from previous 1849 coins.



Fig. #29 Example of Mormon \$2.50 gold coin issued in late 1849.



The Mormon gold coins, or “Valley Coin”⁵⁶ as they were locally referred to, almost immediately came under scrutiny from outside interests. Brigham Young intended these “Valley Coins” to alleviate the immediate shortage of hard currency in Deseret. However due to their intrinsic gold value, they, like most hard currency, began to circulate outside of the Salt Lake area. Within a year they were encountered east of the Mississippi where they were tested for fineness and value. Immediately they were found to contain much less than their face value of gold. Coinage produced at the U.S. mints in the 19th century was such that the coin contained the same amount of precious metal (gold or silver) as the stated value of the coin.⁵⁷ Word of the undervalued Mormon gold coins spread rapidly, and they were immediately

accepted only at a discount - and in some cases, refused altogether. There were newspaper accounts that labeled the Mormon coins as “vile falsehoods” and worse.⁵⁸ It is doubtful that Brigham Young intended this to be the case and, even if it had been known that this would happen, it



Fig. #30 Mormon \$20 Gold Coin.

probably couldn't have been avoided. There was no one in Salt Lake who was experienced in the skills of assaying, and the precise equipment to perform exact assaying was unavailable in Salt Lake at the time. These facts most likely account for the extremely low survival rate of Mormon gold coins today. Most territorial gold coins were later melted. But the fact that the Mormon coins were discounted below even their light gold weight (or refused) gave even more reason to melt them and utilize the gold in some other coin or transaction.

Denomination	Date	Minimum Gold Content
\$2.50	1849	\$2.25
\$5	1849 / 1850	\$4.30
\$10	1849	\$7.86
\$20	1849	\$16.90
\$5	1860	\$5.00*

*The 1860 coins were minted from Colorado gold which was higher in purity than California gold. Thus the 1860 coins were full value.

Table #4 Actual minimum gold content of Mormon Gold coins.

To be fair, there were several private mints in California which also had similar problems with underweight gold coins. According to some reports, most of the private mints issued underweight coins. This was due to a built-in profit margin that the private territorial mints incorporated.⁵⁹ Normally it was only a few cents (4 or 5 cents) which seemingly didn't matter at the time. However, when the difference became greater, problems arose. Only the largest and best equipped operations, along with the U.S. Assay Office in San Francisco⁶⁰ (which preceded the U.S. Mint),⁶¹ were able to avoid the problem of underweight coins.

The 1850 \$5 Mormon Gold Coin



Fig. #31 Modified design used in 1850 for the \$5 gold coin.

It is not completely clear why the design change was made. The design had slight modifications to both the eye and Phrygian cap on the obverse and the clasped hands on the reverse. There is also the addition of 9 stars circling the eye and cap on the obverse. The number 9 signifies judgment, and thus the intended message would translate to the "Judgment of Jehovah."⁶² The design change was also possibly just an attempt to create a coin with an improved design. The 1849 design was simpler, and the \$5 denomination was the most common coin, with over 5,000 being struck. Dies did have a finite life and the 1849 die would definitely have been worn. In any event, this new 1850 dated \$5 coin was created and minted.

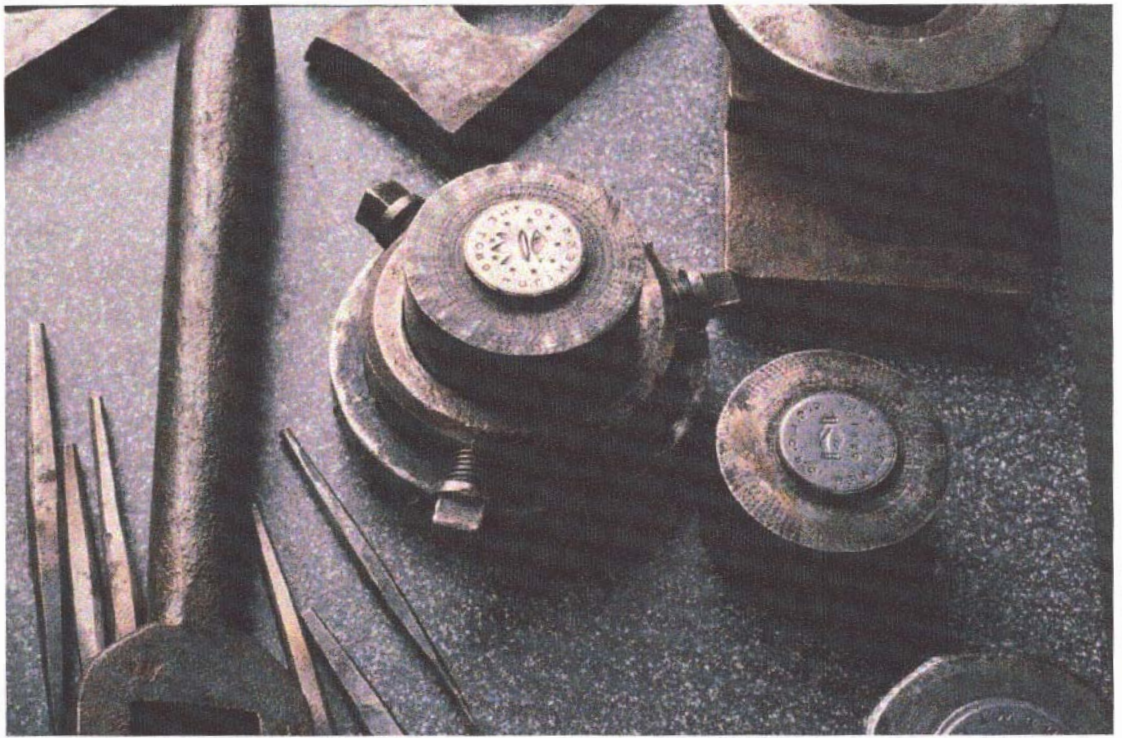


Fig. #32 Above are the actual dies used to strike the 1850 gold coin along with some original tools.
Courtesy of the Church Archives, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The 1850 dated coin was the last coinage struck until the 1860 \$5 coin. Minting of the 1850 coin continued thru June, 1851.⁶³ Additional coins of this type were struck in 1852-53, but were immediately redeemed and melted.⁶⁴ They were coined from even poorer gold from Carson City, Nevada,⁶⁵ and were extremely underweight. It is doubtful that any of these coins were ever released for use in commerce. The most obvious reason for the discontinuance of Mormon gold coinage was likely due to the fact that the coins were underweight, and, as stated, discounted and sometimes refused.

“White Notes” and re-issued Kirtland currency⁶⁶ were soon issued, which helped fill the need for a circulating medium. The combinations of these were referred to in Salt Lake City as “Valley Notes.” The majority of the currency was redeemed and destroyed by 1853. The U.S. Government had established a mint in San Francisco which began operations in 1854.⁶⁷ Additionally, dozens of territorial mints in California had been and continued to mint gold coin of full value (or much closer to full value than the Deseret Mint) which were widely accepted. A few of these private mints

operated for a time after the San Francisco mint opened, but those left in 1862⁶⁸ ceased operation due to the law passed by Congress outlawing the private minting of coin.



Fig. # 33 Territorial Gold minted in San Francisco, California by Baldwin & Company.



Design

Symbolic Message

Eye	Symbolizing the all-seeing eye of Jehovah.
Phrygian Crown or Bishops Mitre Hat ⁶⁹	Signifying the Emblem of the Holy Priesthood. Anciently this hat was worn by freed slaves in Rome.
9 Stars (1850)	Indicating Judgment. i.e. – Surrounding the eye would indicate the judgment of God.
Inscription	Holiness to the Lord – Taken from Exodus 28:36.
Beehive (1860)	Symbol of industry, used as a symbol for the State of Deseret, which later became Utah.
Clasped Hands	Friendship / Strength in Unity.
Lion	Lion of Judah. ⁷⁰
Great Salt Lake City Pure Gold	This inscription abbreviated G.S.L.C.P.G. Salt Lake City was originally named Great Salt Lake City. The word “Great” was later dropped by a vote taken in 1868. ⁷¹
Three Mountains	The presence of the three mountains on the 1860 original obverse die represents the three members of the Godhead.

Table #5 Symbolic description of design elements on Mormon Gold coins.

23. The "Times & Seasons" office was the location in Nauvoo where various publications were printed. This included the Mormon newspaper and all stock and scrip produced in Nauvoo.
24. See Rust; (1984) pg. 26.
25. Carthage jail is located in Illinois a short distance from Nauvoo.
26. The Nauvoo Temple was burned shortly after the forced departure of the Mormons from Nauvoo. Virtually all of the Mormon property was abandoned or destroyed. See Arrington; (1966) pg. 18.
27. See "California Gold Rush History" Bowers; (2002) pg. 49.
28. See "More Adventures with Rare Coins" Bowers; (2002) pg. 193.
29. See "California Gold Rush History" Bowers; (2002) pg.
30. See Arrington; (1966) pg. 21.
31. See Arrington; (1966) pg. 21.
32. Council Bluffs, formerly Kaneshville, was the location of one of several camps established by the Mormons on their trek west after being forced out of Nauvoo. See Arrington; (1966) pg. 20
33. See Arrington; (1966) pg. 21.
34. See Arrington; (1966) pg. 21.
35. The "Temple in the Rocky Mountains" refers to the planned building of a temple in Deseret. Previous temples in Kirtland, Ohio, and Nauvoo, Illinois were either destroyed or abandoned by the Saints during their forced exodus.
36. "Endowments" referred to sacred ordinances performed in the Temple.
37. Brigham Young brought \$50 in coin to Salt Lake City on his first trip in 1847 and another \$84 in coin during a return trip in 1848. See Kagin, Ph.D.; (1981) pg. 179.
38. Prior to 1862 when the US Government issued the forerunners of today's modern paper currency, the only currency in general circulation was issued by state chartered banks. In California, the issuance of private scrip was specifically prohibited in the "California State Constitution" of 1840. Hard coin therefore was the only legal (and available) circulating medium until California attained statehood. See Kagin, Ph.D.; (1981) pg. 7.

39. Gold doubloons from Mexico were valued at \$16 each. They were the standard gold coin in use in California prior to the gold rush. The Spanish Pillar Dollar was the largest silver coin with roughly the same value as a silver dollar. See Bowers "California Gold Rush History;" (2002) pg. 293.
40. Purity and fineness for gold is based on a .000 to 1.000 scale. Modern gold bullion is usually .999 or .9999 fine which indicates 99.9% or 99.99% pure gold with virtually no impurities. Gold recovered during the California Gold Rush from the streams and mines varied usually between .800 and .900 with some ore being lower and a small amount higher. The remaining percentage of impurities in the gold was often comprised mainly of silver.
41. The first name given to the Mormon Territory was the "State of Deseret". Deseret also means "honey bee". See Yeoman; (2003) pg. 300.
42. Tithing is the principal of returning to God one-tenth of ones annual increase.
43. John Taylor was ordained an Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1838.
44. See Arrington; (1966) pg. 65.
45. Dr. Willard Richards was ordained an Apostle in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1840.
46. G.S.L.C.P.G. was the inscription on the gold coins of 1849 and 1850. Originally, the name for Salt Lake City was Great Salt Lake City. Pure Gold was spelled out on the \$10 coin, but abbreviated on all other coins. Even though "Pure Gold" was indicated, did not mean that the alloy used was 100% gold - just that the coins were fabricated from the gold as it was recovered from various mining processes.
47. See "Kagin, Ph.D.; (1981) pg. 183.
48. See Breen; (1988) pg. 655.
49. After the U.S. Government established the first mint in Philadelphia in 1793, and after coinage began, the names of our coins developed. Gold coins were first minted in 1795 with the following naming conventions for their various values: 1) \$2.50 – Quarter Eagle 2) \$5.00 – Half Eagle 3) \$10.00 – Eagle. Later (in 1850) with the introduction of the \$20.00 coin, it was appropriately named the Double Eagle. Plans for a \$50.00 coin never were realized, but if it had come to be, its name was planned to be a "Union."
50. See Pollock; (1994), pg 51.

51. Almost from the beginning of the U.S. Mint, proposed design changes to the then circulating coinage were tested by the creation of patterns or trial pieces. In the mid-eighteenth century there was a great proliferation of these patterns, most of which never made it further than a few dozen, at most, being struck.
52. See Adams; (1913)
53. Reference to "Native California Gold" refers to gold generally as it was panned or mined. Crude attempts were made to remove visible impurities from the gold but the fineness of the remaining gold was usually not determined unless taken to a professional assayer.
54. Several territorial mints in the mid 1850's struck \$50 gold coins. These usually were stamped with the fineness of the gold and were round or octagonal in shape. They were created by only the larger, more professional mints, as assaying and equipment needed to manufacture them was costly. At the time they were often referred to as "slugs."
55. See McGarry; (1962) pg. 10.
56. "Valley Coin" was the name given to the gold coins minted by the Church in Salt Lake City.
57. During the period of the gold rush coins issued by the U.S. Government at Philadelphia, and operating branch mints, contained sufficient precious metal equal to the stated value of the coin.
58. See "Kagin, Ph.D.; (1981) pg. 189.
59. Profit by private mints from territorial gold was usually accomplished by two different means. First, the mint usually charged a percentage to the person submitting the gold for assaying and refining it. Second, if coin was requested as payment, the actual gold value in the coin was usually 2 or 3 cents less than the face value. This was an accepted practice however some mints, either by accident, or planned deception, struck coins with significantly less (i.e. 10-20% or more) than problems arose with the acceptance of their coins in commerce.
60. As noted the U.S. Assay office in San Francisco preceded the opening of the mint. It ceased operation on Dec. 14, 1853. The US mint opened on April 3, 1854. See Kagin, Ph.D.; (1981) pg. 163.

61. The U.S. branch mint was opened in San Francisco in 1854. Its initial production of coins that year consisted of 246 Quarter Eagles, 268 Half Eagles, 123,826 Eagles and 141,486 Double Eagles. Silver coinage began a year later in 1855, which also saw a dramatic increase in gold coinage.
62. The meaning of “9” stars: The judgments of God, as given in the book of Haggai, are enumerated in nine particulars: drought upon the land, mountains, corn, new wine, oil, produce of the earth, men, cattle, and the labors of all hands (Haggai 1:11). This is a grand example of judgments being poured out. Jesus healed ten lepers, but only one came back to acknowledge and thank Him. Then asked Jesus, "Where are the nine?" (Luke 17:17). The numerology suggests they will be judged for their ingratitude.
63. See Kagin, Ph.D.; (1981) pg. 190.
64. See Breen; (1988) pg. 655.
65. In 1852 and 1853 Enoch and John Reese brought gold from Carson City, Nevada to the Deseret Mint for coinage. Initially coins were struck with this gold, but they were found to be vastly underweight due to the fineness of the gold being only about .600. They were immediately called back and redeemed. See Rust; (1984) pg. 46.
66. See Rust; (1984) pg. 54
67. The San Francisco mint began with only gold coinage on a limited scale during its first year of operation in 1854. Silver coinage began in 1855. Quantities of coin minted increased over the next few years.
68. On June 8th, 1864 Congress enacted a law outlawing the private coinage of gold. See Rust; (1984) pg. 89.
69. Mitre Hat origins can be traced back to the ancient Romans. They were worn by freed slaves as a symbol of their freedom.
70. The Lion of Judah is a reference to Christ (see Revelation 5:5).
71. See McGarry. (1962) pg 28.
72. See Rust. (1984) pg. 60.
73. This according to Gaylan Rust, of “Rust Rare Coins” in Salt Lake City, UT.
74. See Rust; (1984) pg. 60.
75. “White Notes” was the slang name given to the handwritten and typeset notes which were printed on plain white paper.

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