

1972 One Centavo Overdate

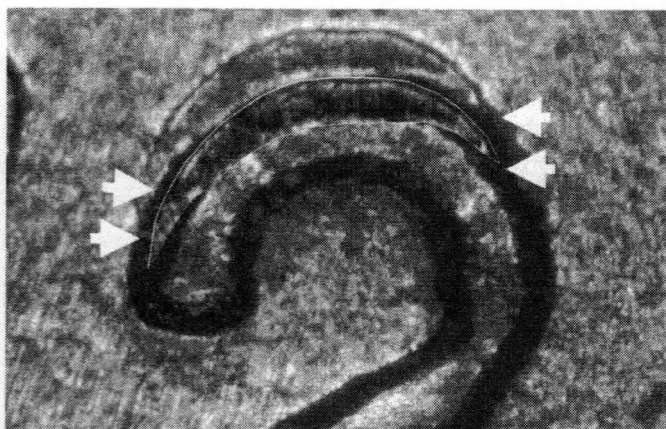
By Thomas Jasek C-33

The small brass 1972-dated Centavo (KM418) can be found in two varieties, the normal date and an overdate or recut date. Over time, this variety has been listed as both a 2/0 (overdate) and a 2/2 (recut date). Currently, catalogs typically list this variety as the recut date, that is, a 2/2.

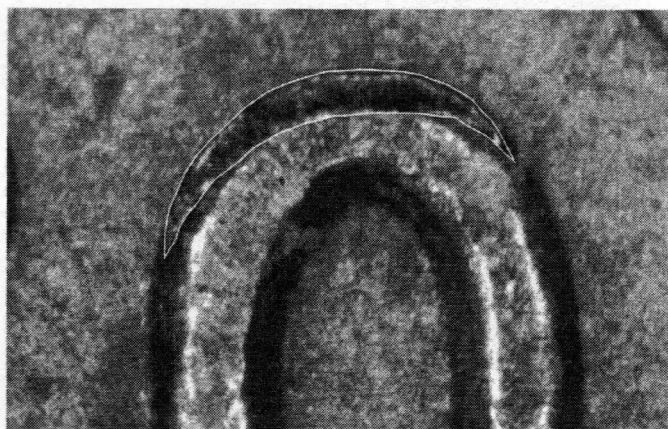
A pictorial study was undertaken to establish if this variety is an overdate or a recut date. The 1972 variety and a normal date 1970 Centavo were photographed via a microscope at the same magnification. The curvature of the underlying digit was then examined and compared, by overlaying, to a 0 from the 1970-dated Centavo and the 2 of the 1972-dated Centavo. The photomicrographs are presented below.



1972 2/0
Centavo



Overlay of underlying digit curvature on the 2 in the 1972 date



Overlay of underlying digit curvature on the 0 in the 1970 date

Using Photoshop, the exposed part of the underlying digit was carefully selected. A thin, white border was added over the selection edge. The selection was then copied and pasted over the two digits, the 2 of the original coin and the 0 of a 1970-dated Centavo.

Based on the fit of overlays, the curvature of the underlying digit does not match the curvature of the 2 in the 1972 date. However, there is a very close match of the curvature

of the underlying digit with that of the 0 in the 1970 date. Therefore, the author believes that the 1972 Centavo variety is truly an overdate, and specifically a 2/0 overdate.

The author is familiar with two other 1972 2/0 coins, and, in both cases, these have this same underlying digit curvature. While it is acknowledged that other specimens of this variety may display a differently shaped underlying digit or that there is a yet un-reported 1972 variety that has a 2 with a different curvature than the coin examined, it is believed that this evidence is conclusive in establishing that the 1972 variety is actually an overdate. Perhaps as members examine their collections for this variety, new specimens will show that different varieties, and specifically, the 2/2 variety, do exist as reported in the literature. However, unless these other possibilities are established, the 1972 variety should now be considered an actual overdate.

The author is very interested in any comments or the reports of other specimens of 1972 2/0 coins, especially if are different from the variety discussed in this article. The author can be contacted via email at: silverfox@grandecom.net.