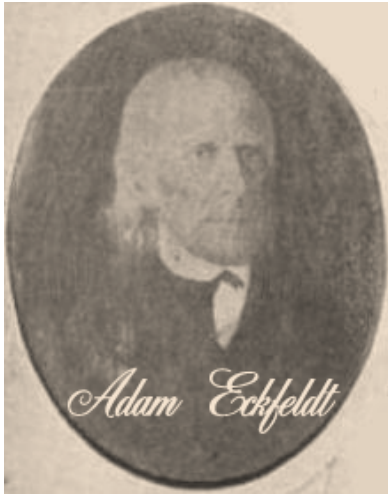

THE U.S. MINT'S "FIRST FAMILY" - THE ECKFELDTS

Adam Eckfeldt (1769–1852) 83 years old



Adam Eckfeldt was born in Philadelphia on June 15, 1769, the son of John Jacob Eckfeldt, a large-scale tool manufacturer.

Eckfeldt's father owned a large smithy, and involved himself in early attempts at American coinage, he had made dies for Robert Morris's coinage in 1783... Adam was his father's young apprentice, and was skilled in iron work and machinery.

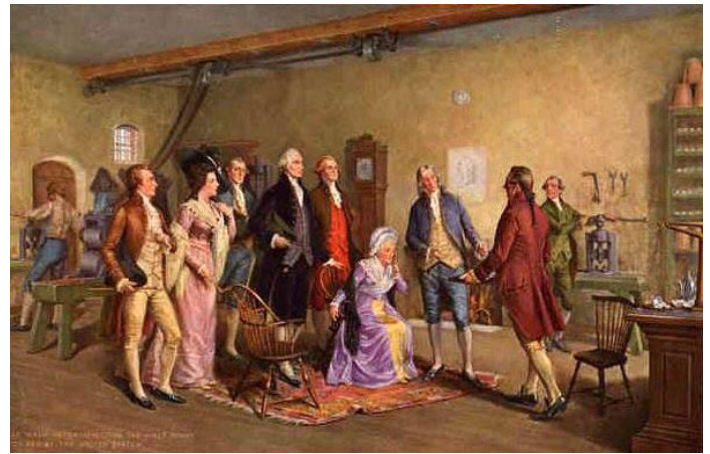
Adam Eckfeldt helped strike the Peter Getz and Robert Birch pattern coins, which served as a basis for the eventual Mint issues.

Adam Eckfeldt built first screw presses for the Mint, engraved some of its early dies, and was responsible for the designs of early American copper coinage.

Eckfeldt helped make the die from which the 1792 half disme was struck, which was the United States first "official" coin, struck in the basement of silversmith, John Harper, while the first Mint was under construction.

When the Mint was opened in 1792, Adam Eckfeldt was hired as a worker to help superintend the early coining process at the Mint.

Because of his machinist abilities, he worked on various projects from machine work on the presses, to forging and turning die stock, and heating and annealing the dies.



In the famous painting "Inspecting the First Coins" Adam Eckfeldt is seen just to the right of Martha, dressed in blue.

Eckfeldt's Specimen Coins

Working at the U.S. Mint since its beginnings in 1792, Eckfeldt was in the perfect position to be surrounded by the finest specimens of early coinage.

He began his personal collection early on, and often spent money on coins from his own funds to acquire special coins for the Mint.

At the time it was a practice to keep on hand representative samples of current and recent coinage, and these were incorporated his collection as well.

He would set aside the finest U.S. coins from each year, in hopes to someday establishing a conservatory of coins.

Eckfeldt put aside his "master coins" which he struck with extra care using new dies and polished planchets... These pieces became the foundation for the original Mint's Cabinet collection.

Eckfeldt's Mint Career



Eckfeldt grew his coining skills, and was directly responsible for the U.S. Mint's early coinage... He is mentioned on the October 1795 Mint payroll as a "Die Forger and Turner" at \$500 per year.

On January 1, 1796, Mint Director Elias Boudinot appointed him as Assistant Coiner to the Mint's first Chief Coiner Henry Voigt, with the consent of President George Washington.

His duties in that capacity were broad, and he excelled in every aspect of coining.

In 1806, Mint Director Robert Patterson requested a pay increase of \$200 for him, writing to President Thomas Jefferson that Eckfeldt had "the management of the whole coining department".

On February 15th, 1814, the first Chief Coiner, Henry Voigt died, and Adam Eckfeldt was appointed as his successor by President James Madison, as Eckfeldt had been doing most of the work of the Chief Coiner by this time.

Adam Eckfeldt served as the U.S. Mint Chief Coiner in that capacity for a quarter century... When Chief Engraver Robert Scot passed away in November of 1823, William Kneass was hired to replace Scot on the strength of Eckfeldt's recommendation, such was the respect for his opinion.

In 1838, a year before he retired, Eckfeldt turned his personal collection of "First Strike Master Coins" and other precious pieces that he rescued from melting, over to the Mint... which was the birth of the Mint Cabinet Collection (now the Smithsonian National Numismatic Collection.)

Eckfeldt worked at the Mint for 47 years before he retired in 1839... The other officers of the Mint provided for a subscription in the amount of \$180, as a testimonial of their respect, to have a gold medal struck and given to Adam on his retirement.

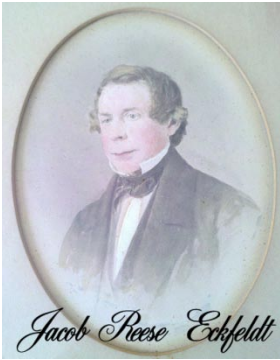
Bronze copies were struck for the other officers and two were struck in silver and were given to the President and the Secretary of the Treasury.

Eckfeldt continued to work at the Mint, without compensation... He continued to perform the functions of chief coiner without pay until a few days before his death on February 6, 1852.

After his death, his replacement as Chief Coiner, Franklin Peale, wrote a "frantic letter" to Mint Director George N. Eckert, seeking the appointment of an assistant... because he was incapable for handling all of the work that Adam Eckfeldt did so effortlessly.



The Eckfeldt Family



Adam Eckfeldt began the 137 year association the Eckfeldt family had with the United States Mint... Generations of Eckfeldts' have served the Mint in various capacities... They are considered the "First Family" of the U.S. Mint.

Adam's son, Jacob Reese Eckfeldt, and grandson, Jacob Bausch Eckfeldt... both worked for the Mint as Assayers.

Jacob R. Eckfeldt, (1803-1872) began employment at the Mint in the parting room under Joseph Cloud, the then current Melter and Refiner.

On April 30th, 1832 he appointed Assayer of the Mint at 29 years old, to replace the resigning John Richardson, in which JR Eckfeldt served in that capacity for forty years.

On October 19th, 1835, he married Emily M. Levering of Philadelphia, and 11 years later his son was born... to carry on the family tradition.

Jacob Bausch Eckfeldt (1846-1938), grew up in the family business, and went to work in the Mint under his father in 1865 at the age of 19 years old.

William E. DuBois married a daughter of Adam Eckfeldt... and both he and his son Patterson DuBois, served in the Mint Assay Department as well.

DuBois was the person appointed to oversee the Mint Cabinet Collection in 1838, when Adam Eckfeldt turned over his life coin collection before retiring.

In 1842, Jacob R. Eckfeldt and his good friend and now Brother-in-law, William E. DuBois, authored a book in titled "A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations, struck within the past century".

They would again collaborate again in 1850 on their book, "New Varieties of Gold and Silver Coins, Counterfeit Coins and Bullion, with Mint Values".

After 40 years in the position of the 4th Mint Assayer from 1832 to 1872, Jacob R. Eckfeldt passed away on August 9th, 1872... William E. DuBois was appointed to proceed him, and his son Jacob B. was appointed as assistant Assayer at the same time.

JB Eckfeldt served 64 years in the Mint from 1865 to 1929, 48 years of which were in the position of Chief Assayer of the U.S. Mint.

The resignation of Jacob B. Eckfeldt at age 83, as Chief Assayer of the Philadelphia Mint became effective December 31, 1929... Ending the Eckfeldt family's 137 consecutive years of tenure on the U.S. Mint's payroll, and service to the U.S. Mint.

The Eckfeldt family passion of U.S. Minting continued under 31 Presidential administrations, from George Washington in 1792 to Herbert Hoover in 1929.

Four Generations of Eckfeldts have been involved in American Numismatics, since Adam Eckfeldt's Father, John Jacob Eckfeldt, made dies for Robert Morris's coinage back in 1783... Until his Great Grandson, Jacob B. Eckfeldt Retired in 1929... almost 150 years of Numismatic dedication.

