

\$ M A L L N O T E \$

\$10 New York Late-Finished Face 169 Varieties

By Jamie Yakes

Small-size collector Randy Vogel has discovered a spectacular Series of 1934A \$10 Federal Reserve Note changeover pair on New York with late-finished face 169 (Fig. 1). The particulars are B04288284D-position L-face 169 and B04288285D-position G-face 389. Coupled with finds from collector Robert Calderman, we now have a complete set of possible varieties with face 169: B-C and B-D block notes, a star note, and a changeover pair (Fig. 2).



Figure 1. \$10 1934A New York changeover pair with late-finished face plate 169. (Courtesy Randy Vogel).

Ten-dollar New York face 169 is one of four new late-finished plates announced to the collecting community in 2017.¹ The other were \$5 New York 58, \$5 Philadelphia 39, and \$5 San Francisco 52. Each plate originally was a 1934 \$10 FRN master plate that in 1938 the BEP altered to a 1934A master plate, and then in 1944 finished as a production plates and used for sheet printings.

Face 169 started life as \$10 New York Series of 1934 plate 9 in August 1934, when the BEP prepared eight \$10 steel intaglio plates for New York at the onset of Series of 1934 production. They designated plate 1 as the master and lifted from it four electrolytic altos in September. They started making electrolytic bassos in October, beginning with plates 9 and 10 on October 3. They made plate 9 a master, and for the next three years altos from plate 1 and 9 would spawn all the \$10 1934 New York production plates, ending with plate 168 in June 1937.²

In January 1938, the BEP began etching macro serial numbers on finished plates,³ and designated those FRN faces the Series of 1934A. Series of 1934 faces had micro plate serials; otherwise 1934 and 1934A faces had identical designs. Because of this on February 8 the BEP simply altered plate 9 to a 1934A by etching an "A" after each "SERIES OF 1934" located on all 12 subjects. They reassigned it plate serial 169, which was the first serial for \$10 New York faces, and designated it the 1934A master.⁴

Over the next six years, the BEP lifted 10 altos from 169, which directly and indirectly spawned all the 1934A production plates made through April 1945 inclusive of serials 170 to 478. The indirect plates were a small batch made in March 1944 from altos lifted from face 418, which itself was derived from 169 on February 22, 1944. The BEP had designated 418 the new master for \$10 1934A New York faces, and finished face 169 as a production plate on March 15.⁵

Face 169 became part of the large rotation of \$10 faces the BEP had been sending to press since the late 1930s. They initially sent it to press on March 21, and used it for six press runs until November 21, 1944.⁶ They

canceled it the next day. Face 169 sheets moved through the numbering division to receive serial numbers from the high B-C and low B-D blocks. The reported range currently is B87540284C to B21570316D.⁷

The companion note to 169 in the changeover pair is from plate 389. Plate 389 was a progeny of 169, started in June 1943 and certified on July 13. It endured nine press runs from September 28 to December 2, 1944. Five of those runs overlapped runs for 169, so at some point those two plates straddled the same press, possibly numerous times.⁸

Two other plates would have occupied the other two spots on the four-plate press with 169 and 389. It is impossible to know which ones, though they'll have serials between 377 and 449, inclusively.⁹ This is important because as the pressman's assistant lifted sheets from all four plates and stacked them, sheets from 169 became sandwiched between sheets from 389 and one of those two other faces. Vogel's L-position 169 is the sixth note from the half-sheet. The first note from position G with serial B04288277D was part of another changeover pair with the L-position note from a different sheet. Does that pair exist, or was it long ago separated?



Figure 2. Three \$10 1934A New York late-finished face plate 169 varieties: B-C block (top), B-D block (middle), and star note (bottom). (Courtesy Heritage Auction Galleries [top]; Robert Calderman [middle and bottom].)

Sources Cited

1. Yakes, Jamie. "Altered 1934A \$5 and \$10 Federal Reserve Note Master Plates." *Paper Money* 56, no. 1 (2017, Jan/Feb): 54-56.
2. Record Group 318-Bureau of Engraving and Printing: Entry P1, "Ledgers Pertaining to Plates, Rolls and Dies, 1870s-1960s," Container 147. National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.
3. Huntoon, Peter. "Origin of macro plate numbers laid to Secret Service." *Paper Money* 51, no. 4 (2012, Jul/Aug): 294, 296, 316.
4. Container 147.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Author's observations.
8. Container 147.
9. Ibid.