

DIVA 18, 1971-S SB, S/S RPM, FS-501

ESTIMATED MINTAGE - Unknown. We may have found a second nearly identical 71-S SB S/S RPM (but with a different marker that may eventually be folded into “1971-S SF-510”, not our decision to make), so for now **50,000 to 100,000**, depending. **For now we'll write only about the original FS-501.**

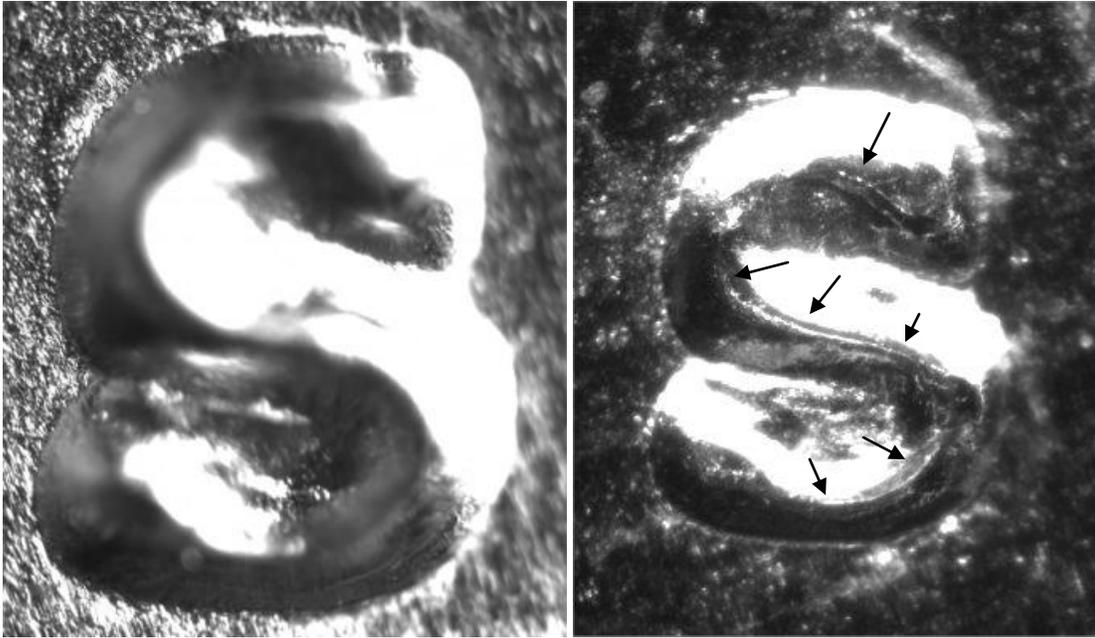
PICK-UP FEATURES - The “Original” S/S RPM has two marker die gouges. The RPM S/S is a very subtle ghost-like, partial secondary S image just to the north-west of the primary mint mark

THE ORIGINAL S/S RPM, FS-501



BLACK ARROWS SHOW THE SECONDARY “S” – WHITE ARROWS THE RPM’S “HIGH LINE”.

However seemingly trivial, the separated secondary partial “S” and high-line are diagnostic.

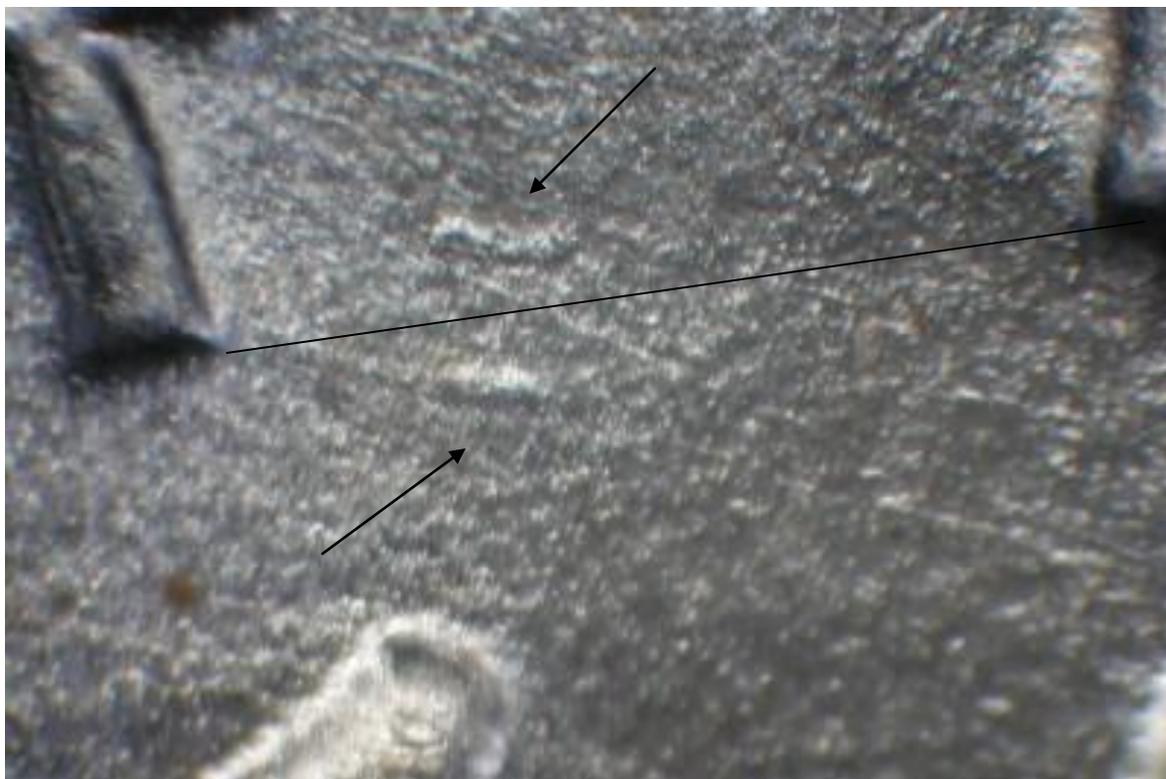


THESE TWO PHOTOS OF THE “ORIGINAL” S/S RPM FS-501 ARE FROM AAROM MILLER.
LEFT: FOCUSED ON FIELD RIGHT: FOCUSED ON TOP OF S

- The Original FS-501 S/S RPM is well defined by **two distinct and reflective die gouges** that make this coin a naked-eye cherry for many of us and a loupe pick-up for all of us who know what to look for. The two die gouges, in relief on the coin, are stacked over the first 1 of the date and on either side of an imaginary line from the bottom of the second T OF TRUST to the lower left corner of the bust:



“ORIGINAL” 71-S SB FS-501 S/S RPM SHOWING MARKER NAKED-EYE DIE GOUGES



These two gouges are moderately reflective and thus easily seen if you know roughly where to look.

VALUATION:	MS	63	64	65	66	67	68
			\$150	\$300	\$380	\$940	US GNP

When this Ike was added to the PCGS Ike Registry Sets, it was very scarce, no wonder, and valuations soared. Since 2008-2009 about 130 have been certified by PCGS. As supply met demand, pricing has leveled off at about a third of early-on asking price. The above valuations are current as of August 2010 and should stay reasonably steady since rising demand would inevitably lead more of us to hunt and find more examples.

TYPICAL APPEARANCE AND CONDITION

No different than any other 71-S SB Ike, very scarce in higher MS grades so even MS66 is elusive. The Original FS-501 is a clashed die Ike with the two stacked marker gouges (and some cool abrasions) on obverse and abrasions on reverse.

COMMENTS

- PCGS drove up the 71-S SB FS-501 price and valuation when they decided to add this and the few other CPG Ike Varieties to their Ike Registry Sets. At first, many of us scoffed at this RPM's secondary S, with its barely visible extra few molecules of silver, *especially* since PCGS still refused to add the dramatic 71-D FEV to its Registry Sets. But now this Variety is settling into the mainstream of collectible Ikes, hence its inclusion in this book.
- There may be additional 71-S SB S/S RPM die(s), a work in process. Meanwhile, cherry any 71-S SB with a similar "ghost-like" secondary image to the north-west but do not confuse the RPM features shown in this chapter with the very common shelf-like additions one finds on many 71-S S Mintmarks. Such shelves are snug up against the mintmark in any one direction. If you think "MDD" (Machine

Doubling Damage) or “strike doubling” you’ll have the picture even though most of these afflicted mintmarks are likely damaged by an off-center second strike (we’re calling it “Displaced Second Strike Doubling” or “DSSD” for short). Whether a given S-mintmark shelf is due to MDD or DSSD, however, you will not find the traces of a high-line that winds down the higher relief of the S that you can see in each of the photos of the S/S RPM in this chapter.

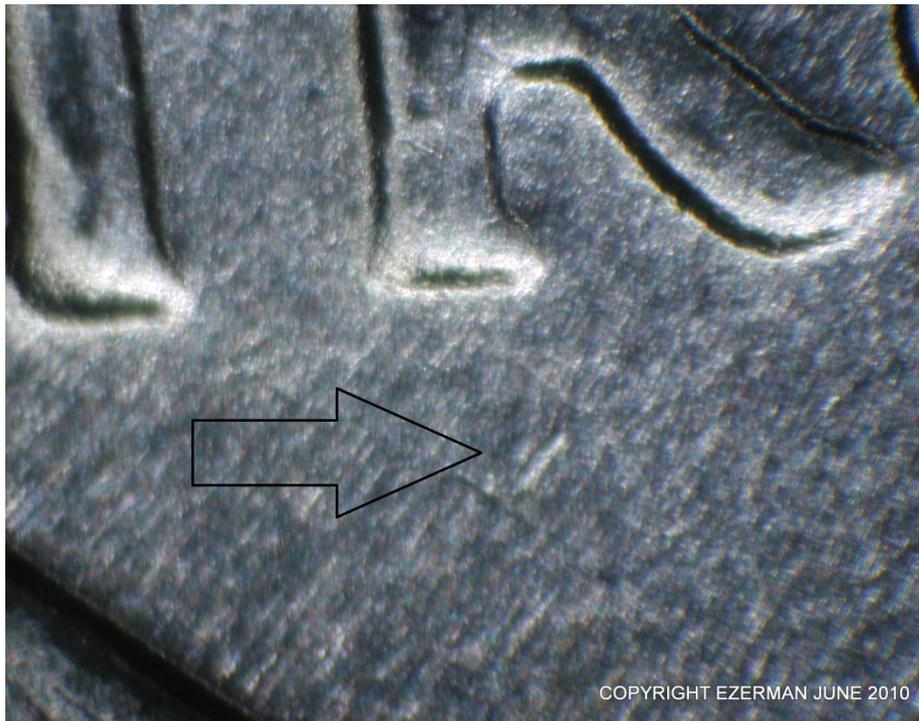
- OK, OK, here are photos of another candidate 71-S SB S/S RPM with its marker: we have two examples, both in PCGS holders, one certified “FS-501”, the other had that certification refused.



- **PCGS CERTIFIED “FS-501”**



- **“FS-501” CERTIFICATION TURNED DOWN**



ARROW POINTS TO LINEAR, RADIAL DIE GOUGE MARKER FOR THIS DIE

Both PCGS holders have been sent to RPM expert John Bordner for his opinion. Stay tuned . . .