



MINT LUSTER



The Official Publication of the
OKLAHOMA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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The *Mint Luster* is the official publication of the Oklahoma Numismatic Association. It is published quarterly in July, October, January, and April. The *Mint Luster* is mailed to all current dues paying members of the ONA which includes all ONA lifetime members. This Publication is dedicated to improving the communication among ONA members. To correct any subscription problems, please contact the Secretary as there may be an incorrect address in the ONA database or your dues may have expired.

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Editor's Notes



Brian Miller - Editor

I had a great time at the coin show in Broken Arrow. It was great to get back out there and enjoy coin collecting again after such a long layoff without any coin shows or even local coin meetings. I look forward to the Spring ONA Coin Show each year and was extremely disappointed when it was cancelled this year. It was a long wait until the Fall show this year!

I was able to finish off several of my collections. I first finished off my Mercury Dime collection by picking up a 1916-D Mercury dime. I was wanting one in G-6 or possibly even a VG-8 condition but I guess these really are rare as I could only find about 4 or 5 for sale. They were all really low grades and there was one that was extremely expensive and a high grade. I found in G-4 condition but the coin itself could very easily be a G-6. I picked up at a good price and even had some money left over to finish off another collection.

I then used some left over money to pick up a 1932-S Washington quarter. This was the last quarter I needed to finish off the set. I then went ahead and get 5 or 6 common date Standing Liberty quarters to just get me going in that set.

So now, when the spring show comes around, I will be wanting to finish off

my V-Nickel collection. I am beginning to get an interest in some of the error coins I always wanted when I was a young collector. Would love to pick up a three legged Buffalo, a 42/41 Mercury dime, and even a 1922 no D Lincoln cent. Those are the three big ones I always loved. The 55 Double Die Lincoln would be nice but those are getting up there in price. I guess I will have to wait and see what they have at the show in May.

It is hard to believe that this is the last issue before Christmas. The next issue will be the first one for 2021. I will once again be getting a lot of numismatic gifts for my family and friends. They now just roll their eyes when they get a Franklin Half or something for Christmas, but it is now a tradition and I can't stop now.

It is also hard to believe that this is my 40th issue of the Mintluster. My first issue was the January 2011 issue. I hope all of you have enjoyed the Mintluster for the last 10 years. I am hoping to continue for another 10... at least!

Letter from the President



Gary Parsons - President

The ONA/Magic Empire Coin Club Fall Show in Broken Arrow was great! The President of the American Numismatic Association, Colonel Steven Ellsworth was in attendance throughout the show. Other dealers and collectors from around the country as well as our Oklahoma and regional regulars were in attendance. Everyone needs to thank Chris Harrell, Show Chairmen, and all of his helpers for putting on a Great show!

Tim O'Keefe, Northeast Regional Officer with ONA, received an ANA Presidential Award from Colonel Ellsworth in a ceremony at the show. Needless to say the show was a great success!

The ONA Officers and members at the show had a brief meeting, and approved the funding for two (2) ANA Summer Seminar Scholarships for 2021. Those eligible must be members of ONA and ANA. Interested members will need to send me a letter by January, 2021 expressing interest, what course of study they want to take and why, and any reasons that might make them stand out

from other applicants. Applicants will need to agree to write a brief article about their experience for the Mintluster. You can call me with questions. These scholarships are worth about \$1200 each.

The hobby seems to be alive and well in spite of the Pandemic. Bullion prices have been increasing, collectible coin and currency values increasing, and attendance at shows when they occur surging. Clubs are reopening so check in with your club leaders. With everything shut down for so long there seems to be a lot of pent up demand from hobbyist. So try to get active while being safe! It's great to have our hobby during these difficult times!

It's time to pay your annual dues for those that pay annually. Enclosed is a return envelope. Please contact me or Shane with questions or concerns. Enjoy the articles in this issue there are some good ones!



Gary Parsons and Steve Ellsworth presenting Tim O'Keefe with an award.



Chris Harrell, James Eklof and Gary Parsons.

Magic Empire Coin Club Minutes

By Tim O'Keefe

The June 2020 meeting of Tulsa's Magic Empire Coin Club was opened at 6:07pm by President Chris Harrell, who welcomed the eight members and one guest to the proceedings.

May Minutes: S/T Tim O'Keefe put out an electronic form of the May 2020 minutes to all members with e-mail addresses. Hard copies were provided at the door. There was a motion by Dale Schaffer seconded by Shane Cornell to accept the minutes as presented.

Telephone Report: President Harrell advised that Sheryl Morgan was unexpectedly out of town this week and did not have her contact list with her. As such, the calls were not made this month. S/T O'Keefe did put out the meeting announcement on Facebook.

Treasurer's Report: The ONA membership for the year has been paid, and Connie Gilcrift joined the club.

Drawings: Were won by James Eklof and Tim O'Keefe.

New Business: Junior Member James Eklof joined the ONA and Jason Carter is now working for Stacks Bowers.

Tulsa Show: As of tonight, the show is still on schedule for September. President Harrell is going to meet with Stony Creek this week to see where we stand on show protocols. Dale Schaffer and Shane Cornell are going to join him. The Token Association has advised that they are pulling out because of medical concerns. The flyers for the show should be out soon. 30 tables have been sold so far.

President Harrell felt that we should have some competitive displays at the show. S/T O'Keefe has been tasked with coming up with some parameters by the next meeting.

Show & Tell - President Harrell showed a gold 2016 US half dollar and a silver New Zealand Scooby Doo dollar. Dale Schaffer showed a series of fake/counterfeit coins as an educational example. Shane Cornell brought several higher grade Buffalo nickels. James Eklof showed his blossom-

ing foreign coin collection. Ron Lawrence brought three Russian coins: (1) 1778-EM five kopecks piece of Catherina (2) 1763 Rouble, and (3) a 1734 Rouble of Anna. Tim O'Keefe showed a 1959 Franklin Half Dollar that had been transformed into a men's ring.

Educational Presentation: Tim O'Keefe gave a brief history of coins and currency of Ireland. He showed several Conder and store tokens from the early 1800s, some British issues dating from the 1680s to 1824, LSD coinage of the Irish Free State 1928-1969, Irish decimal coinage 1969-2000, Irish euros 2002 to 2018, and Irish paper money examples 1952-1999. He gave background on some of the items, and also added in some anecdotes about his two visits to the Emerald Isle in 1992 and 2019.

Close: The next meeting of the MECC is set for 6pm on Thursday July 23 at Tulsa FOP Lodge 93, 12412 East 21 Street in Tulsa. Our second auction of the year is planned. There was a motion by Shane Cornell seconded by Ron Lawrence to close tonight's meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

The FOP Lodge 93 was closed again for the month of July due to another COVID outbreak. As the Tulsa Coin Show is still on sched-

ule for September 11, 2020, an Executive Board meeting was called to handle show business. The meeting was held at Hideaway Pizza in Broken Arrow at 6pm on July 23. In attendance were President Chris Harrell, Vice President Todd Hourihan, S/T Tim O'Keefe, ONA Treasurer Shane Cornell, and Magic Empire Board Members Mark Kephart and Ron Lawrence.

President Harrell: He has been in contact with Stoney Creek Hotel. They still wish to host. Unless there is a lockdown mandated by the State of Oklahoma, the City of Broken Arrow, or by the hotel itself, we are still a go for September 11-13. Masks will be mandated and the room will be limited to 350 at a time. There will be a hospitality room for dealers and security.

Secretary/Treasurer O'Keefe: He will be contacting Broken Arrow PD to set up security again. The club is soliciting exhibits from young numismatics for the show. Each participant will have one display case with a particular theme. The Club will be furnishing prizes. The deadline is September 1 so we will know how many cases Gary Parsons needs to bring. The rules are on the Club's Facebook page.

Mark Kephart: He has volun-

teered to track down some masks for the show.

The August meeting of Tulsa's Magic Empire Coin Club was opened at 6:05pm by President Chris Harrell who welcomed the 15 members and one guest in attendance. Former Club President Richard McPheeters was recognized.

July Minutes: S/T Tim O'Keefe sent out an electronic form of the minutes to members with e-mail, and hard copies were provided at the start of tonight's meeting. The July meeting was an Executive Board meeting to deal with Show matters, held at Hideaway Pizza in Broken Arrow, as the FOP Lodge was closed due to COVID. There was a motion by Shane Cornell to accept the minutes as presented, which was seconded by Dale Schaffer.

Telephone Report: Sheryl Morgan left 14 messages and spoke with several others.

Drawings: Won by Richard McPheeters and Rick Launchner.

New Business: Vice President Todd Hourihan made a motion to discuss adjustments to the Clubs bi-monthly auction. He wants to set a fee for purchased items to be paid to the Club, and he wants us to pick a local charity to donate

the proceeds to. Seconded by Bo Hurt, this discussion will take place at the September 2020 meeting.

Auction: Keith Morgan acted as auctioneer as 19 items went up for bid. 9 items were sold.

Tulsa Show: The duration of the meeting was spent discussing logistics for the Tulsa Coin Show set for September 11-13 at Stoney Creek Hotel in Broken Arrow.

Close: The meeting was closed by acclamation at 7:30 PM. The next meeting is set for 6pm on Thursday September 24, 2020 at Tulsa FOP Lodge 93, 12512 East 21 Street. An Educational Presentation and Show & Tell are on the agenda.



2020 Fall Tulsa Coin Show

Broken Arrow officials and the Stoney Creek Hotel gave Tulsa's Magic Empire Coin Club the go-ahead to run the 2020 Fall Tulsa Coin Show. With some basic guidelines in place, the show went on as planned. All 80 tables sold out and the bourse floor was full all three days.

This was the first show in which we had competitive youth exhibits. This year's winner was Magic Empire's James Eklof. He prepared a presentation on the history of Buffalo nickels. He showed off his related collection of coins and prepared a fold out informational board showing more research on the coin. He put a lot of work into this and did an outstanding job.

Col. Steve Ellsworth, President of the American Numismatic Association, flew in from Nashville to set up at the show. He also presented two ANA Presidential awards. One went to former ANA Governor John Highfill for his literary contributions to the hobby. Mr. Highfill was unable to attend the event and Col. Ellsworth met with him at his home after the show closed. The other went to Magic Empire's

Tim O'Keefe. He was nominated by Oklahoma Numismatic Association Vice President Chris Harrell, recognizing him for his work with the Tulsa club, for in-kind contributions to the ONA, and for articles and research provided for the State's newsletter, Mintluster.

This was an overall great weekend. The attendance proved there is a firm interest in numismatics in the State of Oklahoma. The hope is that we can get back on track and hold shows regularly again in the future.



Why We Collect

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any Collectors including myself are interested in the history behind our coinage. Did you ever wonder why our Lincoln cents are 19 mm in diameter. Well now you are going to find out.

The small cent as it was called then was created by our Mint in 1856. The first small cents made for circulation hit the streets in 1857 replacing the Large cent (27.5mm) that had been in use since the beginning in 1793. The large cent had become undesirable to the public because of the weight and tendency to pick up grime or worse. Copper prices had been rising making it less profitable for the mint. So the decision was made to try to sell the small cent to the Congress and public.

Small cents had been under consideration by Mint officials since 1837 when Dr. Lewis Feuchtwanger promoted a 18.5 mm diameter cent. Ultimately his idea was rejected because the alloy for the coin was basically copper, nickel, and zinc. It was difficult to work into bars, and then into planchets, and would



Gary Parsons

have cost more to produce than face value.

By 1856, sentiment at the mint had changed because of rising copper prices and the public dislike of the large cent. Mint employees remembered Feuchtwanger's idea, but changed the alloy to 12% nickel and 88% copper. Because the size of the coin was much smaller, it would result in a nice profit for the mint. All that remained was getting congressional approval.

Mint Director James Snowden and Treasury Secretary James Guthrie went right to work ordering Mint Engraver James Longacre to create a design and dies. Longacre came up with the Flying Eagle design for the obverse, which he admired, from a previous design for the Gobrecht Dollar in the 1830's. Because of time concerns, he also copied the reverse design from his reverse for the \$3 Gold Piece

he had created a few years earlier. He quickly made the dies, and the mint made several hundred pattern pieces in proof at different times in 1856 to check out the appearance of the design and determine any striking problems.

It is believed that in excess of 1000 pieces were struck in the proof format. Everything went well. It appears that Secretary Guthrie ordered more coins struck to be used as samples to be given to government officials and politicians to help sell the coin. Therefore another 1000 or so were made in a regular circulation strike run. Therefore about 2,000 to 3,000 proof and circulation strike coins were produced in 1856. The law to authorize the coin passed in February, 1857. Many of the 1856 dated coins were saved and still exist today.

This coin was our first small cent. The size of our cent has not changed since that time. Collectors with deep pockets can acquire an 1856 example for about \$10,000 and up to go with their Flying Eagle/Indian Cent collection.

Now you know the rest of the story! Is this a great hobby or what!!

Note: Many of the facts for this article came from books and articles by Rick Snow, our hobby authority on Flying Eagle and Indian Cents.



What We Collect

Time utilization. Those have been key words since this virus crisis struck back in March 2020. Stay home. Avoid people. Social distance at all times. Wear a mask. These have all become mantras in everyday life for the past few months. My social life outside of my part time job was not very active, but the coin collecting hobby was filling the void. And then the virus hit numismatics. Coin shops were closed. Coin shows were being cancelled all over the place. Coin clubs were discouraged from meeting. Coin magazines became thinner and thinner as there was less news to report. The June 2020 issue of *The Numismatist* devoted 10 pages to expense warrants of the US Mint from 1806-1809. The only time that I ever wanted or needed to read a product expense account at my previous two jobs was when there was a pending audit, and it sure was not for entertainment purposes.

So what to do with all of this new found free time? After giving it



By Tim O'Keefe

some thought, I went ahead and began a project that all of us hobbyists should be doing. I started a detailed inventory of my collection. I had actually started such a task about 20 years ago when I purchased my first home computer. I worked on my list diligently for about 3 weeks straight. Then one night while putting the finishing touches on the excel spreadsheet, it disappeared. Poof! Gone! Popped right off the screen, to be forever lost in the ether that is the internet. I spent a day or so trying to recover the program, but it was never located. Totally discouraged, I told myself I would restart the process again one day. That one day occurred this spring.

I had a few advantages this time. When I started collecting United States national bank notes in 2012, I fell into the routine of logging all of the new specimens in alphabetical order of state, going from the lower denominations (\$5s) to the larger (\$50s), recording all of the serial numbers, and

marking whom I had made the purchase from. I was motivated a few years back and documented all of my other US paper money in the same way. As for my US coinage, I have a Red Book handy with yellow highlights to indicate which coins I have. That just left my foreign collection. It is broken down into two categories—(1) Great Britain and related Commonwealth countries, and (2) all other foreign. My daughter, who has no interest in the hobby, said that while the items I have are interesting to look at, she would have no idea what was valuable and what was not if something happened to me and she were forced to sell. And I could not disagree with her. As my notebooks of 2x2s have stacked up the years, my descriptions had not.

My British Commonwealth collecting took off around 2000 when I was injured at work and had a lot of down time between surgeries. Junk boxes were aplenty in the Tulsa area, and the prices were on the cheap. I was able to put together sets from several government entities, from various countries, and from a few obscure places. I was also able to track down some more expensive coins to complete some runs. I have a little bit of gold, a lot of silver, a whole lot of copper-nickel, and a ton of brass. And I thought most of it was in

order, but as I scanned my books, I found items out of place or just placed haphazardly because I was probably in a rush to put them up.

Doing an inventory was a smart and useful utilization of my time. I discovered items I had forgotten I had purchased and I found some holes in some runs I had started years ago. Not only am I a collector, but I am a completist. If something is affordable, obtainable, and interesting, I like to get a complete set, or as close as possible. My Irish pre-decimal collection is only missing one high dollar and rare coin. I have a complete set of Canadian cents 1858-1912 including the varieties. I am a single ten euro cent piece short of a San Marino 8-coin type set, as the smaller Eurozone governments are difficult to find in full sets.

There were also some surprises in store. I came across an 1808-B French silver 2 franc piece with Napoleon on the obverse that I had forgotten all about. There was a 5 Bolivar silver piece of 1906 from Venezuela that I don't recall purchasing that books for about \$20. I had a lot more silver than I realized. With coin shops basically shut down for the moment, I ended up on ebay to fill some of the holes I came across. I had also not remembered how fairly inexpensive for-

eign coins were, so my pocket-book was left in good shape. I also came across some duplicates, which will come in handy at the next coin club auction. The experience was like revisiting old friends. The entire endeavor took about 4 weeks to complete and I finally have everything stashed away on a flash drive in an orderly fashion. Four excel spreadsheets now have over 12,000 entries. I highly recommend tak-

ing the time to compile a list of your wares. This task gave me some piece of mind, will help out my family down the road, and rekindled a love of the hobby. Find something you like and collect the heck out of it. And remember to write it down.

IT'S DUES TIME

Enclosed are return envelopes for those who owe dues.

Dues are \$10/year. You may pay for multiple years.

Life Membership is \$150.

NEW MEMBERS

James Eklof
Michael J Garofalo
Jeff Nolan

Broken Arrow, OK
Norman, OK
Grapevine, TX



OKLAHOMA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Oklahoma Numismatic Association Meeting, September 13, 2020

The meeting was brought to order at 8:20 by acting President Gary Parsons.

Old Business:

The ONA-OKC show was cancelled due to the virus.

The Saunders Fund was liquidated and \$2279.63 was transferred to the general account.

Treasurers Report:

Current status of all accounts. Due to the way income and expenses play out, there is no "final" accounting. A snapshot of the accounts are as follows.

Life Member CD	\$32,000.00
Checking Account	\$47,774.31

A more accurate of the status will be after all show expenses have been paid.

New Business:

The ONA Fall show, hosted by the Magic Empire Coin Club at the Storey Creek Conference Center in Broken Arrow, a suburb of Tulsa, was considered a great success. Even with the virus, 80 tables were sold. Over 300 people registered and attended the show.

It was decided to hold next years show at the same venue.

There was much discussion about scholarships and the ANA Summer Seminar. If candidates can be found we will sponsor 2 scholarships.

We will build an Email list to advertise future shows to reduce the cost of advertising.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shane M. Cornell
Secretary/Treasurer

ONA COIN CLUBS

All ONA member clubs may have their information listed at no charge. Send any changes or corrections to the Mint Luster Editor.

OKC Coin Club

ONA Life Member 40
Meets 1st Tuesday monthly at 7pm
St. Lukes Methodist Church
222 NW 15th St
President - Terry Gust
Vice Pres - Brian Miller
Secretary - Tyler Tyson
Treasurer - John Ogilbee
Historian - Allan Ramsey
Box 21022
OKC, OK. 73156-1022

Border Town Coin Club

ONA LM-234
Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month
Bancorp South - East Branch
7000 Rogers Ave
Fort Smith, AR
President - Phil Rosar
Vice Pres - Richard Bartlett
Sec/Treas - Dale White
PO Box 931
Fort Smith, AR. 72902
479-783-5881

Enid Coin Club

ONA Life Member 67
Meets 1st Tuesday monthly at 7pm
Oklahoma Highway Patrol Station
5725 W Owen K Garriott Rd.
President - Frederick Pepe
Vice Pres - Larry Bennett
Secretary - Kim Pepe
PO Box 1901
Enid, OK 73701

Indian Territory Coin Club

Meets 2nd Monday each month -
6:30pm
Taco Bobs, S. Main, McAlester
President - Steve DeFrangé
Vice Pres - Dale Ennis
Sec/Treas - Gary Parsons
1232 S Main St.
McAlester, OK. 74501
(918) 423-9044

Magic Empire Coin Club

ONA Life Member CC 241
Meets monthly on 4th Thursday at
6pm.
12512 East 21 Street,
FOP Lodge 93 in Tulsa
President - Chris Harrell
Vice Pres - Todd Hourihan
Sec/Treas - Tim O'Keefe
PO Box 580055
Tulsa, OK. 74158
918-697-8348

Comanche County Coin Club

ONA Life Member 14
Meets 1st Wednesday of each month
- 630pm
Chateau of Lawton
6302 SW Lee Blvd.
President - Sam Feeback
Vice Pres - James White
Secretary - Lisa Kay Ewing
Treasurer - Erwin Wheeler
130 S. Hillside Rd, Apache, OK.
73006

Stephens County Coin Club

ONA Life Member 17
Meets 4th Monday of each month -
6:30pm
Red River Technology Center
3300 W Bois D'Arc, Duncan, OK.
President - Erwin Wheeler
Vice Pres - Robert Meyer
Secretary - Sam Feedback
Treasurer - Dan Fletcher
(580)470-8799
Box 635
Duncan, OK. 73533

Indian Capitol Coin Club

ONA Member CC 185
Meets 3rd Monday of each month -
6:30pm
Muskogee Library
8th & Okmulgee
President - Mike McClendon
Vice Pres - Sam Carter
Secretary/Treas. - Robin Holloway
PO Box 2521
Muskogee, OK. 74402

Custer County Coin Club

Meets 3rd Monday of each month -
7:00pm
217 N. Illinois ST. (in the back)
Weatherford, OK 73096
President - Trent Boesen
Vice President - David Tautfest
Sec/Treasurer - Kim Arganbright
405-222-8718

Northwest Arkansas Coin Club

Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month -
6PM; Embassy Suites Hotel,
Rogers, AR. at Exit 83.
President - Ed Wheeler
Secretary - Mark Yarbrough, Jr.
Treasurer - Steve Weeks
479-621-3277



COIN SHOW GUIDE

INDIAN TERRITORY COIN CLUB SHOW

Oct. 16 & 17
Southeast Oklahoma Expo
Center, Rm 103
4500 W. Hwy 270, McAlester, OK;
Fri. 12 Noon - 5PM, Sat.
9AM - 6PM; contact Gary
Parsons 405-426-9044 or
olegar@cox.net for info.

BLACK FRIDAY COIN SHOW

Friday, Nov. 27, Noon - 5PM
Saturday, Nov. 28, 9AM-4PM
Glenpool Conference Center,
12205 S. Yukon Ave.,
Glenpool, OK, Admission is free,
contact Robert at 918-521-1679
for information.

MUSTANG COIN SHOW

Sat. November 7th
Town Center, Great Room
1201 N. Mustang Rd.
9:30AM to 4PM, contact Rich
Wall at 405-795-3128 for info.





**Do you have an idea for an article
for the Mint Luster?**

**Email your article to Brian Miller
at brianmiller3732@att.net**

**Any pictures, please send as sepa-
rate attachments!**

**I will put your article in an
upcoming issue!**

**Oklahoma Numismatic Association
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Jenks, OK. 74037-0277**