



MINT LUSTER



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OKLAHOMA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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Editor's Notes



Brian Miller - Editor

This issue is a little larger than what we have had in the past. We have kept the color cover page and we also have an advertiser with a color ad. We received a lot of positive feedback over the new cover with color.

I updated the font size on the opposite page so the contacts are easier to read and I also updated the dealer list and coin show page. Let me know if there are any other changes that anyone would like to see.

I was able to attend the Broken Arrow show earlier this month and picked up a couple Standing Liberty Quarters and I also picked up a couple large cents. I think I will begin a collection of Large Cents. I have 20 or so to get me started so I am off to a pretty good start. Those

were more expensive than what I remember them being! I have always liked the look of the Standing Liberty Quarter so I am glad I am collecting those now as well. I only have a couple left now and they seem to be pretty expensive as well.

Since this is the last issue before Christmas, I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season and you get some numismatic gifts this year under the tree!!

New Members

David Dennis
Joanna Thompson
Canaan Chisham
Oliver Chisham
Jim Fowler

Jack Roller
Stephen Yocham
Rick Wellnitz
Rodney Klopfenstein

Letter from the President



Chris Harrell - President

Hello fellow members. The weather is still hot but not as hot as the ONA Fall Broken Arrow Coin Show. All dealers reported a good show. The attendance was our best show ever. If you missed the O.N.A., this year please mark your Calender for the first week-end after Labor Day 2023.

Our membership is also growing. We are gaining new members every month. I would like everyone to ask one person to join. You will be surprised sometimes all you need to do is ask.

You will notice we have added a dealer's directory. If you are a dealer and you are not listed, please let us know and we will be happy to add you to our free dealer directory listing. This is for dealers only. You need to be a vender at Coin Shows on a regu-

lar basis or have a bricks and mortar location to be included in our dealer directory.

There are some great Fall Coin Shows this quarter. Go to www.coinzip.com to find a show close to you. As the weather cools down enjoy a Scenic Fall Drive to your favorite show.

Finally, last month the end of an era has happened with the death of Queen Elizabeth II. I am sure this will create a lot of interest in coins from Great Britain and other countries that had her portrait. Just another reason to collect.



A Short Course in the Morgan Silver Dollar - GSA Hoard

By JJ Moroney

We have been told that a General Services Administration (GSA) audit once discovered bags containing 300,000 silver dollars in the US Treasury vaults. The story has been presented as if no one knew they were there. The year of the discovery, 1964, offers a different view. Let's recall a bit of history before pronouncing it a bureaucratic blunder.

The Bland-Allison Act of 1878 was an act of the United States Congress requiring the US Treasury to buy more than \$3 million worth of silver bullion each month at market prices and use it to mint silver dollars to back the silver certificates which were first printed that year. Until 1964, people in the US could redeem Silver Certificate paper money for the old silver dollars made at the nation's mints. In March of 1964, however, Congressional legislation declared that silver certificates could only be redeemed for their face value in cash. This meant the treasury was no longer required to hold quantities of silver dollars for paper currency redemption.

Faced with an unnecessary trove of coins remaining in treasury vaults, the government realized

they now had significant collectible value. Congress authorized their sale and enlisted the GSA to auction these pieces directly to the collecting public. The GSA used numismatists to guide a process that organized and sorted the coins into different categories. About 95% of the coins in this cache were from the Carson City Mint and most were uncirculated. The coins were then packaged into hard plastic (or soft plastic) holders, placed in cardboard boxes or envelopes, and made available to the public. Public notifications invited mail-in bids for the first of these coins in 1972. The minimum bid was \$30. It took seven sales to dispose of these treasures by 1980.

As the importance of a coin's quality began to grow in determining its value, many collectors submitted GSA specimens to NGC and other services for grading. Initially, that service would not grade coins in sealed containers and many coins were removed from the capsule. An allowance was finally made to grade these coins in their cases, however, when collectors complained that the coin was worth more to them in its original state than in a grading holder.

ONA News

By Tim O'Keefe

I want to start this column out by passing on sincere condolences to the family of Don E Kelly in Oxford, Ohio. Mr. Kelly has been a giant in the field of paper money and particularly national bank notes for several decades. He passed in June of 2022. Don and I corresponded frequently as I was tracking down notes from his website. I met him at the Kansas City International Paper Money Show in 2019 and had him autograph my copy of "National bank Notes 6th Edition". When he signed the cover page, he left off his middle initial "E" saying he was not feeling extremely important that day. I was a complete novice when I began my collection in 2012, and he treated me with respect and courtesy. He will be missed.

It was a busy summer for Oklahoma Numismatic Clubs. Mike McClendon and Sam Carter of the Indian Capitol Coin Club of Muskogee have seen increased attendance at their monthly meetings. Member JJ Moroney has been contributing articles to the Mint Luster. Having them back after the pandemic hiatus is encouraging. I was able to attend

the mini-coin show put on by the Oklahoma City Coin Club in August. Instead of a regular meeting, they sold tables and members brought their wares for sale and trade. I picked up some fillers for a Philippines collection I have been working on. And Tulsa's Magic Empire Coin Club is growing at a fast pace. We moved to a new location in August with room for 25 people, and we have already outgrown the facility.

At the Spring ONA Board meeting, the topic of ONA assets came up. Several of the items being stored in the trailer in Edmond were unusable. ONA Member Rich Wall recovered what table cloths he could and had them dry cleaned. I was directed at the Board Meeting to purchase some new display cases. After contacting All State Manufacturing in Ohio, two new cases were bought for \$527. At the Fall Tulsa Show, I was able to gather up another nine of the ONA cases. All cases have been photographed and renumbered. One is in need of a new lock and key. President Chris Harrell and I are planning a trip to Edmond to inspect the trailer and see if anything within is salvage-

able. For the moment all of the items are stored in a spare room at my residence where they are safe from the elements until we figure out a more permanent storage area. If you need some for a show or presentation, please contact me. I will be bringing four cases and some table cloths to the McAlester Show in October for Vice President Gary Parsons

The Fall Tulsa ONA Show held in Broken Arrow was a success. We are still waiting for some final bills to come in to determine what the profit will be. Over the course of three days we had over 500 attendees, a vivid increase over the 300 average of the last two years. There were 39 dealers manning 62 tables. Movement on the floor was steady throughout. We gained five new ONA members (their names are listed elsewhere in this issue). We had three participants for the Youth Exhibits competition. David Lisot of Coin TV interviewed dealers and collectors. You Tubers were also present, and we have one of their videos on the ONA website.

This past Spring, Tulsa's Magic Empire Club voted to have polo shirts produced and distributed to the membership. We had a large contingent of Club members volunteer at the Show, greeting dealers as they arrived, assisting with unloading, showing dealers to their tables, providing trash bags

at each table, filling in at the Welcome Desk as needed, and being professional ambassadors for the hobby during the entire event. Our blue shirts seemed to be everywhere (including some of our dealers), and they definitely caught the attention of the public. The dealers were extremely complimentary of our people. I feel that their contributions are what made the Show a success, and I cannot thank them enough.

One surprise participant at the Show was Butch Stephens of Missouri. Butch is ONA Life Member #36 and had not set up at a Show since 1986. He brought a wealth of Association knowledge with him as I picked his brain for ONA history. He also donated a box of assorted ONA bronze medals from the 1970s and 1980s. I was able to purchase the elusive 1979 set of Will Rogers commemoratives in silver and bronze from him.

If you forgot to pay your yearly dues in July (\$10), it is not too late. I will be sending out notices soon as reminders. We want to keep up the quality of both Mint Luster and of our equipment. Your support is vital for our continuation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at tfok1414@yahoo.com

Magic Empire Coin Club Minutes

By Tim O'Keefe

The June 2022 meeting of the MECC was opened at 6:06 pm by President Chris Harrell who welcomed the 8 members and 4 guests in attendance.

May 2022 Minutes: S/T Tim O'Keefe sent out electronic version of the May 2022 minutes to all members with emails. Hard copies were available at tonight's meeting for review. There was a motion by Vice President Todd Hourihan to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Ron Trekell.

Old Business: (1) James and Leanna Eklof took in the ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado. James attended several lectures, learned to grade V nickels, made several friends, and had dinner with ANA President Dr Ralph Ross. He is slated to make a full report on his trip at the July 2022 meeting. Check out our Facebook page for photos from his trip.

(2) The El Reno ONA Show in May was a success. Several members of Magic Empire either attended or set up dealer tables there. The ONA made a modest profit for a first-year show. The

Canadian County Expo Center is a new facility with plenty of room to expand. Several dealers have already reserved table space for 2023.

(3) The Magic Empire Facebook page is up to 578 likes.

Club Business: The floor was opened to discussion on purchasing shirts with the Club logo. President Harrell said that it was a good recruiting tool and will make us look more professional not only at the Tulsa Coin Show but at any ONA function we attend. Mark Kephart has been spearheading the effort and brought sample colors for the Club to look at. There was a motion for a floor vote by VP Hourihan seconded by Ron Trekell. The club voted to go with a royal blue polo with silver lettering (Magic Empire Coin Club). Discussion then began on how to make the purchase. The shirts with the lettering will cost \$26 apiece. VP Hourihan suggested that as a recruiting enticement, the Club should pay half of that total through November 2022. S/T O'Keefe said that existing funds will accommodate that

move. The half off price will assist in getting new members at the Fall Tulsa Coin Show. There was a call for a vote for the Club to pay \$13 and interested members to pay the other \$13. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Kephart will start collecting shirt sizes. Payment can be made by either cash or check starting at the July meeting. The shirts will be \$26 after the November 2022 meeting.

Drawings: Won by VP Hourihan and S/T O'Keefe.

Fall Tulsa Show: President Harrell passed around a sign-up sheet for those members who want to put up posters and signage for the Fall Tulsa Show at Stoney Creek in Broken Arrow,

Membership: Guests Colson Wallis and Greg Shoaf joined the Club. Our guests tonight indicated that they heard about Magic Empire from the Facebook page.

Show & Tell: S/T O'Keefe presented a silver token produced by the Tulsa Coin Club in 1939. He also found a detailed article on the internet that covered the disappearance of Jack Hazelwood in 1969. Hazelwood was a coin dealer in both Wichita and Tulsa. His partner was Oscar Bell of Tulsa. Hazelwood's car was found abandoned behind his shop in Wichita. His office had been ransacked and

a large shipment of coins was missing. His body was never found, and he was declared dead in 1977. The case remains open. The article covers several theories and facts about the incident.

Gary Harris showed a slabbed 1803 PCGS ten cent piece graded VF

Spencer Cochrane showed a 1787 Fugio cent designed by Ben Franklin featuring the motto "Mind Your Business" and an NGC certified 13- star half cent of 1828

Ron Lawrence showed an encased copy of a Continental dollar

Auction: Six items went up for bid and \$10 was added to the Auction Fund.

The July 2022 meeting of the MECC was called to order by President Chris Harrell at 6:03 pm. He welcomed the 17 members and 3 guests in attendance.

New Business: Vice President Todd Hourihan made a motion to open up the floor to discussion on dues. He felt that to keep up with expenses we should increase individual yearly dues to \$15, and the family annual membership to \$20. After several minutes of discussion, President Harrell called for a vote. With a show of hands, the vote was 13 in favor and 4 against.

The new dues change will go into effect starting in January 2023.

General Discussion: VP Hourihan advised that theft at coin shows is up. He said everyone should be alert for suspicious activity on the bourse floor and in the parking lots of coin shows. 1st Line Security will again be providing on-site officers for the Fall Show, and S/T O'Keefe will be in uniform for part of the event. President Harrell has flyers for the Show and would like Club members to post them in public places.

Show & Tell: Ron Lawrence presented some German coins, including an 1814 Hanover 2/3 thaler and an 1856 Brunswick Wofenbittel 2 thaler piece. Bill Bickerstaff showed a 1907 'no motto' gold piece. James Eklof presented a 1939 Washington quarter, a 1945 Washington quarter, a 1937-S Buffalo nickel, and a George V six pence from England.

S/T O'Keefe spoke with former ONAs President Paul Miller and was able to obtain some items from the inactive Tulsa Coin Club, including 4 elongated coins issued by the Club 1988-1991, a blank Club membership card, and a flyer advertising the Club.

Membership: James Swartwood along with Tammy and Danny Bell joined the Club. The Magic

Empire Coin Club Facebook Page is up to 645 likes.

Drawings: Won by Greg Shoaf and James Swartwood.

Educational Presentation: James Eklof spent most of June 2022 in Colorado Springs, Colorado attending the ANA's Summer Seminars. The ONA provided a scholarship for him and his mother, Leanna, to attend, with Magic Empire providing gas money from the bi-monthly auction proceeds. James put together a diorama of pictures from his trip. He said the Coin Grading class he attended was the most interesting part of the adventure. His group learned about identifying grades for Liberty Nickels, Mercury Dimes, Walking Liberty Half Dollars, and some gold pieces. He added that halogen light is the best light for determining the grade of a coin. He was also able to have dinner with ANA President Dr. Ralph Ross as well as touring the ANA's "Mini-Mint" in the Money Museum. James made many new friends and said he was excited to discuss coin collecting with people his own age. He plans on doing this same presentation at the Fall Tulsa Show to get other area youth involved in the hobby. James is also a two-time winner of the Fall Tulsa Show Youth Numismatic Competition and plans to enter

again this year. He spent the rest of his presentation fielding questions from the membership.

Opening: The August 2022 meeting of the MECC was opened up at the new location, 9726 East 42 Street Suite 105 in the Tech Ridge Business Park at 6:01 PM by President Chris Harrell who welcomed the 19 members and 1 guest in attendance. He then had the group stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Previous minutes: The minutes for the July 2022 meeting were sent out electronically to all members with email addresses by S/T Tim O'Keefe. Hard copies were available at the door of tonight's meeting. There were no additions or corrections. There was a motion by Ron Trezell to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Greg Shoaf.

Telephone Report: Sheryle Morgan could not attend tonight. She contacted S/T O'Keefe saying she had texted 26 members and talked to one by phone.

Treasurer's Report: S/T O'Keefe paid the PO Box fee for the year, which came out to \$198.

Drawing: Ron Lawrence was unable to attend tonight. As he has the drawing the prizes, this activity was deferred to the September 2022 meeting.

Old Business:1) The Facebook page for the Club is up to 700 likes worldwide.

2) Mark Kephart brought in the first batch of polo shirts and distributed them. Members are encouraged to wear their shirts at the Fall Tulsa Show next month. S/T O'Keefe has the shirts for the members who could not attend. New orders were taken for Ron and Mary Haas. The Club will pay half (\$13) through November of this year on the shirts.

New Business: President Harrell attended the Tyler, Texas Coin Show earlier this month. He said that yard signs brought in most of their business, with almost 1200 people attending the weekend show.

Show & Tell: Ron Trezell brought in two very nice certified three cent pieces- an 1883 3 cent graded at Proof 65 and an 1884 3 cent graded at Proof 66. Rick Wellnitz showed a 2022 West Pont silver dollar. Ron Haas presented a 1794 large cent. S/T O'Keefe showed his 1929 small series national notes of Oklahoma.

Auction: President Harrell was auctioneer for the evening. 10 items were sold and \$10 was added to the Clubs Charitable Donation Fund.

Why We Collect

Last issue you found out about Sutler Tokens from the U.S. Civil War in this Column. This quarter you will find out about another unusual coin that came my way.

How many of you know about Leshler Dollars? This unusual coin came my way from a coin club meeting at the fitness center in Oklahoma City. A lady brought the coin to the meeting to find out more about it.

These Trade Tokens were made in 1900 and 1901 by Joseph Leshler, a business man, to be used in trade in the Mining towns in the Pikes Peak area near Colorado Springs. They are large octagonal coins containing a full ounce of silver.

How did a coin like this get to Oklahoma? I found out from the lady that had it that the coin came from an accumulation she had inherited from her mother, whose family lived in the this area of Colorado. I believe the coin is authentic because her story makes sense, and the coin



Gary Parsons

weighs and look correct. These coins are rare and very collectible. It is believed that slightly more than 3,000 were produced in 11 different varieties. The lady's piece is the most common variety, which were made for a merchant, A. B. Bumstead, who did business in Victor, Colorado. It is believed that 1,000 of this variety were produced.

The ladies coin is circulated but in nice condition, likely a very fine plus and would be valued in the \$1,000 to \$1500 range. What a nice surprise for her! The coin is listed in the reference book "100 Greatest American Medals And Tokens", by Katherine Jaeger and Q. David Bowers, as number 18, which was my primary reference for this article. This why I keep looking! You never know what you might find!

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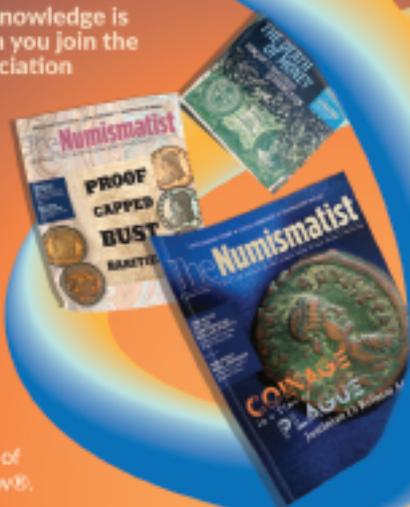
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ONA

Fall Board Meeting

Date and Time: September 10, 2022 at 8:10 AM

Location: Wood Room, Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 200 W Albany, Broken Arrow, OK

Members Present: President Chris Harrell, Vice President Gary Parsons, S/T Tim O'Keefe, District Representative Todd Hourihan, Members Butch Stephens, Rich Wall, Stephen Gipson, Richard McPheeters, Mike McClendon, Craig Tubb, and Dale Schaffer. There were enough current and former ONA officers present to have a quorum.

Prelude: Per the bylaws, items to be voted upon changing ONA business were printed in writing on the ONA website 30 days prior to this meeting.

Opening: President Harrell called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

First Order of Business: Increase the District Representatives from 4 to 6 and give them voting rights. The current representatives are Northeast- Todd Hourihan, Southeast- Gary Parsons,

Northwest- Clifford Cooper, and Southwest- Ed McGill. The proposal is to create two additional District Representatives for Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The six reps would be nominated in the December 2022 Mint Luster with elections being held in conjunction with Association Officers in the April 2023 Mint Luster. As of this writing, we have interest from Richard McPheeters to cover Northeast, Mike McClendon to cover Southeast, and Todd Hourihan to cover Tulsa. Clifford Copper and Ed McGill have not been contacted yet, and we would need a nomination from Oklahoma City (preferably from their Club) to cover the new position. This would give the ONA nine voting members and avoid the possibility of a tie on some matters. There was also discussion of making future representatives in Arkansas (we have two clubs there) and Texas (we have multiple members based there).

There was a motion by Todd Hourihan to accept the proposal, seconded by Gary Parsons. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Second Order of Business: This covers the creation of a Media Relations position. This person would be responsible for coordinating all internet, media, news print, and announcements for the ONA, as well as reviewing Mint Luster each quarter. Todd Hourihan suggested that the position be called ONA Public Affairs Officer. The group felt at this time that voting rights would not be attached to the position, but that could change in the future. Nominations for the position will be accepted through December 2022. There was a motion by President Harrell to accept the proposal, seconded by Gary Parsons. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Nominations for these two Orders of Business should go to Secretary/Treasurer Tim O'Keefe at tfok1414@yahoo.com or Brian Miller (Mint Luster editor) at briamiller3732@att.com

Third Order of Business: At the May Board meeting, S/T O'Keefe was authorized to purchase some new display cases. 2 were ordered from All State Manufacturing in Ohio for \$527 and both arrived in time to be used at the Tulsa Show. Nine other cases were brought to the show. There are reportedly two more in the trailer in Edmond. President Harrell and S/T O'Keefe are planning a trip there to inspect the trailer and

determine if further action is needed. Rich Wall salvaged several table cloths and had them dry cleaned. He was reimbursed \$100 by S/T O'Keefe for his efforts. All items are currently with S/T O'Keefe until better arrangements can be made.

Fourth Order of Business: The electrical drops used to run extension cords and outlets under the tables for lamps are several decades old, extremely clunky, unreliable, probably a fire hazard, and heavy to haul around. S/T O'Keefe was authorized to purchase more modern equipment from the proceeds of the Tulsa Show.

Fifth Order of Business: The May ONA Show in El Reno is already getting applications and will proceed as planned. Whether it will be an ONA show or a show run by Rich Wall with ONA sponsorship has not been decided yet. To get an early start and to keep our dates, you may see advertisements promoting the latter. This discussion was tabled pending a future meeting with ONA officers.

Close: With no further business, President Harrell closed the meeting at 8:50 AM.

What We Collect

I am often asked why the club in Tulsa is named “The Magic Empire Coin Club” and not “The Tulsa Coin Club”. The answer to that question is easy. When Magic Empire incorporated in 1966, there was already a Tulsa Coin Club operating in the City. The name “Magic Empire” refers back to the early 1920s when oil was discovered in the “Glen Pools” south of Tulsa and major industry began to grow in the area. Magic Empire is a part of the American Numismatic Association (Club # C-1057105) and the Oklahoma Numismatic Association (Life Member # LM-264). But what about the Tulsa Coin Club? The records that I inherited from the prior ONA Secretary/Treasurer, the late Shane Cornell, made no mention of a Tulsa Coin Club. Mr. Cornell kept most of the information in his head, and the paper records I have took some time to sort out and organize, though they are incomplete. The financial records his wife supplied me go back to only 2012. I love a good mystery, though this was not so much as a



By Tim O'Keefe

“who dunnit?” as it was a “who were they and where did they go?” An investigation was called for.

About a year or so back I found a 1991 elongated Lincoln cent on ebay. The engraving on the coin was celebrating the Tulsa Coin Club being a member of the ANA since 1941. I featured this coin in the Spring 2022 issue of *The Mint Luster*. The Club’s logo was a male Native American wearing a head dress. I made the purchase then tried to do some research on the Club.

An internet search did not provide much of anything. I found a 2016 obituary for Jerry Zelinska out of Naples, Florida which indicated he was a past president of the Tulsa Coin Club. There was an additional obituary for Club member, James Ray Leroy Metzger of Owasso, who passed in 2014. That was the extent of the super information highway’s entries. So now it was time for some gumshoe detective work.

I made the drive up to Claremore, Oklahoma and spoke with Richard McPheeters (ONA Charter Member C-61, LM-37). He is one of the senior members of the ONA and a past president of Magic Empire. As well as being a seasoned coin dealer and show promoter he is also a wealth of knowledge. Richard said it had been years since he had even thought about this topic. He recalled attending a meeting or two of the Tulsa Coin Club in the 1960s. They met at a bank somewhere on East 31 Street in Tulsa. He remembered a few names of people who might have been members (Fred Kretsmar , Bob Sloan, and Oscar Bell). He did say that in 1939 the club produced a small silver medal promoting the club. Richard was bourse chairman for a few of their local shows in the 1970s and 1980s, but he had little to do with the Club. That was about all that he could relate.

Ron Lawrence (ONA # 1508), a long time Board Member of Magic Empire, did not have much information either. He recalled that Professor Charles Weber was a member of both Clubs. Weber taught on the Tulsa University campus and had both an extensive knowledge of coins as well as an impressive collection.

Sometimes the universe sways things in your favor. (Every detective case needs a lucky break). Just after my article appeared in Mint Luster, Paul Miller (ONA LM-46) sent me a letter. Enclosed was a photocopy of an announcement in The Numismatic News from 1988 celebrating 50 years of the Tulsa Coin Club. The Club was selling elongated coins featuring the Native American logo, the dates of 1938-1988, and the inscription of "Parva Ne Pereant", which translates to "Let not the little things perish". Mr. Miller was heading up the sales drive at the

NUMISMATICS 7/828 November 22, 1988



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Tulsa club marks 50 years
 The Tulsa Coin Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary. To commemorate the event, the club has issued an elongated bearing the design used on the club's medal issued in 1938.
 The elongated is priced at \$9.99, plus a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Orders should be addressed to Paul Miller, 31 W. 44th St., Sand Springs, OK 74062.

Club Activities

To commemorate its 50th anniversary in 1988, Oklahoma's Tulsa Coin Club (C-61) has issued an elongated coin featuring an Indian head similar to the design on its first club medal, issued in 1938. Priced at \$9.99, the 200-milligram brass coin bears the Latin inscription PARVA NE PEREANT, which translates "Let not the little things perish."
 Orders should be sent with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Paul Miller, 31 W. 44th St., Sand Springs, OK 74062.



An elongated coin bearing the 1938 Indian head design issued on the Tulsa Coin Club's first medal issued 50 years earlier—commemorates the group's golden anniversary.



time and the coins were selling for 50 cents apiece. He also very graciously sent me one of the pressed nickels (1 of only 10 produced). In turn, I sent him one of our most recent Magic Empire wooden nickels along with an invitation to attend our next club meeting.

Shortly thereafter, the fates were with me again. On the bi-weekly Bid Board at Tulsa Gold & Silver, one of the silver 1939 medals showed up. I was the sole bidder and was able to take the gem home. And with a little more digging I found out that Mr. Miller was the seller.

I contacted the ANA's Club and Directory Services in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Club's ANA number was C-8474, and that was the extent of the information they could provide.

My search was starting to run out of steam. Thankfully one of my part time jobs is at Tulsa Community College on their

West Campus. There is a fully functional library on site, so where better to do some research? I stopped in one afternoon and spoke with Liz Binger, who is the Reference & Instruction Librarian. Liz also likes a good hunt. I presented her with the scant infor-

mation that I had. Her computer searches did not provide much else. However, she noted that the Tulsa City-County Library downtown has a third floor dedicated to Oklahoma history. So that was my next stop.

The main branch of the Tulsa County-City Library is located on the southwest corner of West 4th Street and South Denver Avenue. I spoke to the two curators of their Vertical Stacks section and presented them with what little facts I had accumulated. Their data base had nothing under "Tulsa Coin Club". However, while checking under 'numismatics', they located a few yellowed newspaper articles in some old legal sized folders. An undated piece from one of the Tulsa papers announced that former Tulsa Coin Club president, William S Bailey, had made a \$125 contribution to the library to begin construction on a coin or hobby room. He suggested that the room be called The William Hudson Elliott Room, in honor of

the founder of the Club. The money was accepted by then-President Jerry Zelinska. A further article from June 1964 indicated that there were at least four clubs operating in the Tulsa area (the other three were not identified) with possibly as many as 3,000 coin collectors living in the metro area. I was able to discover that the Tulsa Coin Club actually met at the main branch of the library for years, but those records have been lost to the ages. And all of the articles I found were pre-1970, so there was nothing on whatever became of the Club in the 1990s.

After my trip to the library, it occurred to me that the Newman Numismatic Portal might have some information. Eric Newman was a pre-eminent hobbyist and author on American coins and currency. He began publishing in 1941 and amassed an impressive collection of numismatics during his 106 years of life. The Portal shares a virtual cornucopia of hobby-related paraphernalia and is free to access. In fact, the ONA has been asked to provide back issues of *The Mint Luster* for posting on the site.

I accessed the Portal and plugged in "Tulsa Coin Club". Three pages worth of "The Numismatist" references came back starting in 1941 and going all the way to the mid-1990s. The

site is extremely user-friendly. By entering "Tulsa Coin Club", one is taken directly to the pages that include those words. The earliest entry I came across was from January 1941. The Club was scheduled to meet at The Hotel Tulsa on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, according to then-Secretary Kenneth Slough. Most of the news on the Club in the periodical announced meeting times and places, and getting together twice a month was quite commonplace for most clubs. The March 1950 meeting was held at a private residence near 31st & Madison in Tulsa. The group spent the evening discussing a book from the Bureau of Engraving & Printing that featured vignettes and portraits used on various forms of paper currency. The April 1950 meeting was slated for a residence in Okmulgee. The January 1954 meeting was held in a courtroom of the Tulsa County Courthouse. Judge Eben Taylor was a member and used his chambers to hold the get-together. In the late 1950s the Club met regularly on the TU campus, which leads to the Charles Weber connection.

The Tulsa Coin Club also held coin shows. Ms. Binger located an ad from an Ardmore, Ok newspaper from late June 1964 advertising a show at the Tulsa Assembly Center slated for July of that year. From one article in 1981 I found

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an advertisement for that year's show which featured Club wooden nickels and contact information for Mr. McPheeters. In the March 1991 "The Numismatist", the aforementioned Paul Miller was spot lighted. This is where I discovered he had been a past president of The Tulsa Coin Club as well as being the editor of The Mint Luster. Mr. Miller was honored by the ONA that year with our "Okie Award", which I presume was an annual recognition of an ONA member's contribution to the hobby. (And this may be something we should start doing again). The January 1993 issue featured an article on Jason Carter (ONA LM-242) who

worked as an intern at ANA headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado, that summer and paid his own way there. Mr. Carter is one of the most respected numismatists in the hobby and works for Stack's Bowers Galleries as executive vice president.

The final entries for The Tulsa Coin Club were some passing mentions in the 1995 issues of "The Numismatist". The trail went cold from there. My next step was to contact Jason Carter, who is still based out of Tulsa. Jason very cordially replied to my e-mail. He stated he was attending the Club meetings reg-

ularly from the late 1980s up until 1993 or so. He mentioned that with Mr. Miller's encouragement he won a scholarship to the ANA Summer Seminar in 1988. He left Tulsa in 1993 to work for Heritage in Dallas, Texas. When he returned to the Tulsa area in 1996, the Tulsa Coin Club was meeting less and less and sort of faded away.

My final step in this process was to contact Mr. Miller directly. I sent him a letter with my contact information and in early July he answered my query. I met him at his residence. He was very welcoming and helpful. He kept meticulous records on not only the Tulsa Coin Club, but of the ANA, the ONA, and to my sur-

prise, the Magic Empire Coin Club. Mr. Miller allowed me to peruse the file folders which were orderly and marked. Even though the Tulsa Coin Club was founded in 1938, the Club did not incorporate with the State of Oklahoma until 1959, and that certificate was in the files. He had Club flyers and membership cards. Paul also gave me a few more of the elongated coins the Club had made over 30 years ago. The Club contracted out to Frank Brazzell Engraving in Terre Haute, Indiana to have the coins pressed and engraved. (Mr. Brazzell has since passed on). Amongst the ONA records was the Tulsa Coin Club's Life Membership gold card. Shane Cornell purged records as people

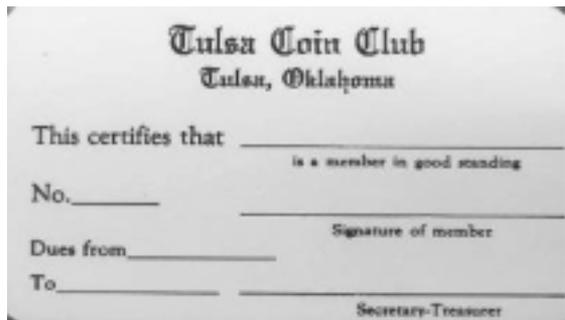


and clubs ceased accepting mail for various reasons, which has made accountability and accuracy with the current records somewhat of a challenge. The Tulsa Coin Club held ONA Charter # C-133 and Lifetime Membership # 85. Paul also had pamphlets defining and explaining the 12 ONA Medals that were issued from 1979 to 1990, and he passed some along to me. Mr. Miller was also an area representative for the ANA, so he was quite busy in expounding on the virtues of the hobby in the Tulsa area.

By the early 1990's real life began to intrude on Mr. Miller, as grandkids and great grand kids started to enter his life. He stepped back from his numismatic activities and turned the reigns of the Tulsa Coin Club over to other parties. Alas, his passion and drive did not carry over, and by 1995 the Club unfortunately faded away. Paul had rosters of the membership through the years, and several of the names I have listed in this article were the rolls- Fred Kretsmar, Charles Weber, Bob and Jo Ann Sloane, to name a few. After Bob Sloane passed, Jo Ann became the Secretary and Treasurer for Magic Empire, and I inher-

ited my position from her. I thanked Mr. Miller for his time and generosity and promised to keep in contact.

My main purpose for this piece was to get as many available facts gathered in one place on the Tulsa Coin Club. I am an avid student of history, and I believe in the adage that you cannot know where you are going if you don't know where you have been. This was the first coin club in Tulsa and as pioneers they laid the framework for the clubs that followed. "Let not the little things perish" resonated in my head while tracking down information on the group. I hope this article provides some answers and gives some insight as to what coin clubs have to offer. As always, find something you like and collect the heck out of it. And remember where they came from.



Youth Exhibitors Competition Greater Tulsa Show

1st place: Cash Steuver \$50

Topic: The Use of Silver Coins in the United States

2nd place: Easton Olenberger \$25

Topic: History of Silver Coins Passed down from his grandfather

3rd place: James Eklof \$10

Topic: Coins minted for other countries by third parties



Dealer List

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All coins and currency - Always
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PO Box 551
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Chanute, KS

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El Reno Coin

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tcp.services@yahoo.com
411 Sunset Drive
El Reno, Ok 73036

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**OKLAHOMA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 277
JENKS, OK 74037-0277**

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I hereby make application for membership in the Oklahoma Numismatic Association, subject to the Bylaws of said Association. I also agree to abide by the Code of Ethics adopted by the Association.

I want a () Regular(\$10), ()
() Club(\$11), () Life(\$150), membership. My check is attached.

Name (Please Print and use First Name and Initial.)

Street or PO Box

City and State

ZIP + 4

ONA Bylaws require applicants name to be published in the Mint Luster. Addresses will not be published.

Applicant's signature and date

Signature of Proposer

ONA number

Make Checks payable to the Oklahoma Numismatic Association. Mail the check and this application to the ONA Secretary, Tim O'Keefe, P. O. BOX 277, Jenks, OK 74037-0277.

**CODE OF ETHICS OF THE OKLAHOMA NUMISMATIC
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Membership in the Oklahoma Numismatic Association is a privilege extended to those persons and organizations deemed worthy thereof and is not a matter of right. Such membership can be maintained only until the Board of Directors determines that the conduct of a member has been such that in the best interest of the Association, such membership should be terminated.

For the guidance of its members, this Code of Ethics has been duly adopted by the Board of Directors under the authority vested in it by the Oklahoma Numismatic Association Bylaws. A breach thereof by any member reflects, directly or indirectly, upon all members. Such a breach shall be considered conduct prejudicial to the welfare of the Association and cause for action by the Board of Directors.

As a Member of the Oklahoma Numismatic Association:

I agree to support and be governed by the Oklahoma Numismatic Association Bylaws and such rules, policies and regulations as may be in force from time to time;

I agree to conduct myself so as to bring no reproach or discredit to the Association, or impair the prestige of membership therein;

I agree to base all of my dealings on the highest plane of justice, fairness and morality;

I agree to neither buy nor sell numismatic items of which the ownership is questionable,

I agree to conform to the accepted standards of dignified advertising,

I agree to immediate steps to correct any error I may make in any transaction;

I agree not to sell, exhibit, produce nor advertise counterfeits, copies, restrikes and/or reproductions of any numismatic items if their nature is not clearly indicated by the word "counterfeit", "copy", "restrike", "reproduction" incused in the metal or printed on the paper thereof, with the exception of items generally accepted by numismatists and not in any way misrepresented as genuine,

I agree to represent a numismatic item to be genuine only when, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is authentic;

I agree to fulfill all contracts made by me, either orally or written, to make prompt payments upon delivery, and to return immediately any item that is not satisfactory,

I agree to give aid to members in their quest for numismatic knowledge.

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

Enid Coin Club

ONA Life Member 67
Meets 2nd Tuesday monthly at 6pm
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

Magic Empire Coin Club

ONA Life Member CC 241
Meets monthly on 3rd Tuesday at 6pm.
Tech Ridge Office Park
9726 East 42 Street, Suite 105
Tulsa, OK
President - Chris Harrell
Vice Pres - Todd Hourihan
Sec/Treas - Tim O'Keefe
PO Box 580055
Tulsa, OK. 74158
918-697-8348

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

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

Comanche County Coin Club

ONA Life Member 14
Meets 1st Monday of each month 6pm.
5108 W. Gore Blvd, Lawton, OK
President - Jon Wozniak
Vice Pres - Erwin Wheeler
Secretary - Julie Montoya
Treasurer - Erwin Wheeler
130 S. Hillside Rd, Apache, OK.
73006
580-583-0873 (Lisa Kay Ewing)

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 - Wayne Hatcher
Vice Pres - Richard Glenn
Secretary - Carol Sessums
Treasurer - Dan Fletcher
(580)656-3628
Box 635
Duncan, OK. 73534

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; NWACC College Campus,
National Child Advocacy Training
Center Building, Corner of Eagle
Way and NWACC Blvd.
Bentonville, AR.
President - Ed Wheeler
edwheeler@bentonvillear.com
479-621-3277
Secretary - John Maes
weepinglion@hotmail.com
479-981-1701
PO Box 7401
Springdale, AR 72766-7401
www.nwacoinclub.com
info@nwacoinclub.com



COIN SHOW GUIDE

Norman Coin Show

October 29 and 30
Thurman J White Forum
Building,
1704 Asp Ave, Norman
9-4 both days
Contact Raven at
raven@ravenhawkcoins.com.

Mustang Show

November 4
Town Center, Great Room,
1201 N. Mustang Rd.,
9:30AM to 4PM,
contact Raven at
raven@ravenhawkcoins.com for
info.

Indian Territory Coin Show

October 14 & 15
Southeast Oklahoma Expo
Center, 4500 W. Hwy. 270,
McAlester, OK
FRI. Noon - 5PM,
SAT. 9AM - 5PM
contact Gary Parsons
405 426 9044 or
olegar@cox.net for info.

Black Friday Coin Show

Glenpool Conference Center,
12205 S. Yukon Ave., Glenpool,
OK, Nov. 25 & 26;
Fri. Noon - 5PM
Sat. 9AM - 4PM
Contact Robert at 918 521 1679

Enid Coin Club's 46th Annual 2023 Coin, Token and Paper Money Show

Garfield County Fairgrounds
Hoover Bldg
318 E Oxford St
Enid, OK 73701
Friday, March 10, 12 noon - 6PM
Saturday March 11, 9AM - 5PM
Sunday March 12, 9AM - 3PM
Contact Frederick Pepe
(580) 747-8661 or
DLRMORGN@AOL.COM.



**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!**

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