



MINT LUSTER



The Official Publication of the
OKLAHOMA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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Editor's Notes



Brian Miller - Editor

The summer months will soon be behind us and the cooler weather will be here before we know it. I have a friend whose parents live in Wisconsin. He knows that I am a coin nut, and he told his father to bring down his coins when he visits next. Well, this last weekend, I had the joy of going over this mans coin collection for him and explaining what all he had.

I always look forward to the chance when I have an opportunity to go through a collection of someones coins and they don't know exactly what they may have. I always think that maybe I will come across some extreme rarity that will make his day. But, this visit I was not able to find anything of value. His "pennies that look like dimes" turned out to be several 1943 lincoln pennies. He had 2 or 3 Morgan dollars

which were common dates, but then I found a Carson City dollar among his collection. It was an 1891-CC, probably in VG-Fine condition. I told him what it was worth and it made his day and I had a lot of fun.

This issue has an excellent article on Coin Show Security by Timothy O'Keefe and a short write-up on the Tulsa Coin show by Shane Cornell. I am glad to see some of you contributing to the articles in your newsletter. I hope you enjoy this issue.

New Members

Marvin Johnson converted to Life Member.

Edmond, OK

Letter from the President



Gary Parsons - President

Greetings collectors! The last quarter has been a great time to be involved in the hobby. ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs was outstanding as usual. You can't replace a week at Summer Seminar with any other experience in the hobby. August brought the ANA Worlds Fair of money in Rosemont (near Chicago), Illinois. Many call this the greatest show on earth and this year was no exception. Five Hundred dealers set up more than 1000 tables. A huge exhibit area had impressive displays from about 100 collectors and the ANA put on display many of their great rarities and others from the Smithsonian and other sources. The show also included Mint Row with national mints from all over the World, one or two auctions everyday during the week, and educational programs and presentations going on all day throughout the week. I had a great time at both events and acquired some nice coins, notes, and exonomia items. We had a great show in Tulsa last weekend, thanks to Shane and Magic Empire Coin Club volunteers. See more about the show later in the newsletter. It's truly a great time to be in the hobby!

Gold and Silver prices remain strong and near record levels. It appears we may be building a base for a move

higher later this fall. These strong prices are helping our dealers and collectors with revenue they might not have otherwise. Prices remain stable to higher for almost all collectible areas of the hobby. If you have been putting off a purchase looking for a better price, you might not see one anytime soon.

I will be making my visits to all affiliated clubs starting in the fall. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you! Let me know if you need a program or anything else from your association. Dealers planning to attend the ONA spring show next year who have not already sent me an application and deposit need to do so to guarantee your old table. New dealers need to contact me for an application. I will be sending applications soon to those dealers that my records show has not received an application at one our shows.

Hope you enjoy MINTLUSTER this quarter. We have some new contributors. This is your newsletter! Help us make it a great one!

Happy Hunting!

COIN SHOW

COMANCHE COUNTY COIN CLUB 50TH ANNUAL

SETUP: NOVEMBER 11,2011 1PM-6PM

SHOW DATES: NOVEMBER 12,2011 9-5 PM

NOVEMBER 13,2011 9:00-3:00 PM

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Why We Collect

A discussion of Civil War money would not be complete without including the Two Cent piece, which was produced by our mint in 1864 and was coined until 1873. All Two Cent pieces were coined at Philadelphia during a short span of ten (10) years. The Two Cent coin is one of the interesting and historic odd denomination pieces.

The first official Two Cent coin was made as result of the demand for small change from the public. Patterns for Two cent



Gary Parsons - President

pieces were made as early as 1836, but the idea for a Two Cent piece never really caught on until extreme coin shortages brought on by hoarding during the Civil War. The coin is historic in that it is our first coin to show our motto, "In God We Trust". Due to hardships and large loss of life during the War, this was a very religious period during our history. The story of the development of our motto is extremely interesting but too long for this article.

The initial mintage of 19,847,500, the largest, in 1864 diminished until 1872, when only 65,000 were minted. In 1873, only proofs were made



which are very rare and expensive. However, they are available and make this series relatively easy to collect, with only ten (10) coins needed for a year set. The major varieties including the 1864 small motto can be added at significant cost.

However, for a nineteenth century series with relatively low mintages, the total cost of a nice collection is low. If the collector base for this series ever expands significantly the value for these historic coins could soar. Most collectors are satisfied with a nice uncirculated type coin from the series, which is readily available in the lower mint state grades for less than \$200. Be careful when seeking a nice example to look

for natural color, which can vary from golden through deep red. Look for full strikes and examples with few marks. Mint state 63, choice uncirculated, Red/Brown examples are very inexpensive for an uncirculated coin that is almost 150 years old. I believe these interesting copper coins will always hold value due to their unusual denomination and historic significance.

IS THIS A GREAT HOBBY OR WHAT!

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COIN SHOW SECURITY

By Timothy O'Keefe

I have been an avid coin collector since 1967, and an active police officer since 1982. For the past several years, I have had the privilege of working security at the Annual Tulsa Coin Show. Over the past several months, there has been an increasing national trend of thefts at coin shows, taking many forms. This is an issue that needs to be addressed.

First and foremost, be alert. As a dealer, you most certainly want to hold onto your own coins. Coin shows attract a vast variety of people, and "open to the public" means just that. We are not to the point of running checkpoints at the door, but it may eventually come to that.

A dealer's table is extremely vulnerable, particularly if there is a rush of folks to see what baubles are being displayed. One of the tenants of police work is to watch people's hands. Coins can disappear in a moments notice. Keep your glass cases locked as often as possible.

Most shows have some sort of security on site, which can range from an unarmed plainclothes

security guard to uniformed armed police. As a dealer, you should seek out the security person. Engage them in conversation, tell them your concerns, and invite them to check out your table. In an ideal situation, this person should be walking the floor during the show (rather than inhaling coffee in the corner away from the public). Building a rapport is important, especially if you need a restroom break and would like security to sit at or watch your table for the few minutes you will be away.

Video surveillance is a good thing to have, but is not always available at coin show venues. Security should be providing escorts back and forth to dealers vehicles. In addition, they should be patrolling the parking lots at irregular intervals to ward off possible vehicle break-ins. There have been several reports from around the country of dealers being followed from coin shows. At the next gas stop or dinner break, the dealer will park and leave his vehicle, only to return and find it burglarized and stripped of its contents. Be cognizant of traffic around you.

Keep your vehicle in sight when taking breaks on the road. If you suspect someone is following you, take a lap or two around a parking lot and check your rear-view mirror. And remember, we live in the electronic age. Thieves are known to attach GPS devices to cars. Check you wheel wells and bumpers. If you find something suspicious, contact the local law enforcement agency.

None of these measure are extraordinary or unreasonable, and most take advantage of existing resources. The coin show experience should be enjoyable and profitable only for the folks who are there to further the goals of the hobby. Take a few minutes to employ the tactics listed here to protect yourself and your inventory.



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When is a Coin Not a Coin?

I hope, that early in your thinking that the hobby of coin collecting was for you, and you learned the three things that defined what a coin was, namely, 'country of origin, date and value', (may apply to U.S. coins only). If any one of these was not on that metal object you had in mind, it was not a coin. It could be a medal, token, or fantasy piece.

Not without saying, there are tons of these fantasy pieces being offered to uninformed buyers from the first true coin minted, till the present time.

Copies, fakes, down right counterfeits, imaginary countries or denominations, or just plain scams, all abound, and the uninformed, keep buying them. The more they buy, the more the "Private" mints advertise, and produce.

I recently saw an article in a well known publication offering a proof silver, slabbed, "Masterpiece", for only \$99 (plus s&h). The ad inferred that this "American Coin" was proposed by a very well known United States Mint Designer.



Irv Brotman

My three rules for a coin, one that I would have liked in my collection, came to bear. 'Country' was there, 'date' was evident, but no 'denomination'. I checked my Pattern books, my other references, but could find no mention of it.

Out of pure curiosity, I could have been one of the uninformed buyers, had I not noticed that the size, or weight of this item was not mentioned. Being a frugal buyer, I passed on this one.

As stated earlier, this type of item has been offered by many organizations, countries and individuals, for many, many years. As a curiosity, or a metallic content purchase, it may be to your liking. But bear in mind, as a numismatic item, it is only a 'Medal'.

However, a recent ad I received from the United States Mint, announced the release of a new silver medal. The design of this

one was very much like the "coin" mentioned above, but it was advertised as a "medal", and with only one of the three basic rules applied. There was a date, but no country or value, and the theme was barely recognizable.

Minted as a 'Commemorative Medal', the lack of a country of origin, in my mind, put it in the same category as the "American Coin". Paper advertisements have a tendency to disappear, and the reason for the purchase

of these items, in the future, will be lost. Regardless of the fact that one came from a 'Private Mint', and the other from a 'Government Mint', has no

bearing. As a collector, you purchase an item that appeals to you, one that will enhance your collection, and may, in the future add to it's value.

After all, 'Medals', no mater their content or design, are classified as Numismatic Collectibles.

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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 - Ron LaSpisa
Secretary - Candace Howard
Treasurer - Van Nakagawara
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 - Robert Gregg
Vice Pres - Keith Boltz
Secretary - Ronald Forshee
813 W Maine
Enid, OK. 73701

Indian Territory Coin Club

Meets 2nd Monday each month -
6:30pm
Angels Diner, 1402 S. George Nigh
Expressway, McAlester
President - HL Dollens
Vice Pres - Jeff Cecil
Sec/Treas - Gary Parsons
1232 S Main St.
McAlester, OK. 74501
(918) 423-9044

Magic Empire Coin Club

ONA Life Member CC 241
Meets 4th Thursday monthly at
7pm.
Yale Avenue Christian Church
3616 S. Yale
President - John Sands
Vice Pres - Ron Lawrence
Sec/Treas - Joe Anne Sloan
PO Box 580055
Tulsa, OK. 74158

Comanche County Coin Club

ONA Life Member 14
Meets 1st Thursday of each month -
7pm
Lawton Public Library Room 2
President - Sam Feeback
Vice Pres - Ed McGill
Secretary - Patrick Payne
Treasurer - Larry E. Campbell
PO Box 6555, Lawton, OK. 73506

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 - JT Whatley
Vice Pres - Rex Ross
Secretary - Joy Woods
Treasurer - Larry E Campbell
(580)470-8799
Box 635
Duncan, OK. 73533

Indian Capitol Coin Club

ONA Member CC 185
Meets 3rd Monday of each month -
7:00pm
Kiwanis Senior Citizens Center
119 Spaulding Blvd.
Muskogee, OK. 74403
President - John Vaughn
Vice Pres - Sam Carter
Secretary/Treas. - Robin Holloway
1500 W. Okmulgee
Muskogee, OK. 74401



COIN SHOW GUIDE

Fort Worth Coin Show

November 5 & 6
Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-3
Lockheed Recreational Center
3400 S Bryant Irvin Rd
FT. Worth, TX.
Contact Ron Suprenant at
682-227-0700

Comanche County Coin Club

Setup
Nov. 11, 1-6PM
Show Dates
Nov. 12, 9-5 PM
Nov. 13, 9-3 PM
Comanche County Fairgrounds
920 SW Sheridan Rd.
Lawton, OK.
See page 3 for Contact
Information

OKC COIN CLUB

NEWS

By Gary Parsons

The August OKC coin club meeting was our annual Jeopardy game and this year the topic was paper currency. We had our three contestants and at the end of final-jeopardy, Brian Miller had the most points and he was awarded a Morgan Dollar in mint state condition for his knowledge of paper money. Everyone had a great time and we will look forward to the next game next year.

Allan Ramsey did the program at the OKC coin club September meeting. The topic was Money of our Ancestors. Allan showed the club examples of colonial and early U.S. money as well as foreign produced coins that circulated in Early America. Allan did his usual good job and the presentation was well received by about 30 members. Next month will be our Fall auction. You need to plan to attend!

TULSA COIN SHOW

By Shane Cornell

The ONA Fall Coin Show in Tulsa on September 10-11 was, by most dealers and customers opinion, a great success. There were a number of new dealers and most indicated they would be back next year. Customers at the show were happy to be able to fill slots in their collections. There was a large interest in Foreign Coins

again this year. The trend is certainly up for foreign. Saturday had large crowds, especially in the morning. Sunday was typical for Tulsa. The Elks Lodge was very helpful, including selling burger baskets at noon on Saturday. Thanks to the Magic Empire Coin Club for hosting the event by manning the registration desk and also for helping in setting up and breaking down after the show.

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