



MINT LUSTER



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OKLAHOMA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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Editor's Notes



Brian Miller - Editor

This issue is a little different than prior issues as I have chosen to place a picture of the ONA coin show on the cover instead of a coin. The coin show was a huge success and I had the pleasure of working the front desk on both Saturday and Sunday mornings.

I was accompanied by my daughter on Saturday morning and she helped out by making sure everyone had name tags and that they all signed in. I think her favorite part though was the snack room that was filled with donuts and drinks. About every 15 minutes I saw her with a new donut in her hand so I had to cut her off after about an hour or so of working the front desk.

On Saturday, I was able to finish up my Walking Liberty half dollar collection by purchasing a 1921 and a 1921D Walking Liberty half. My daughter was able to purchase a 1924D Lincoln Cent and since the rest of her Lincolns were too expensive, she decided to begin a collection of Mercury Dimes. She bought 5 or 6 dimes along with a Whitman Classic Album. She is learning to grade her coins and it seems she is really enjoying the hobby.

On Sunday, I was accompanied by my son who had a rare day off from playing baseball tournaments. He was able to pick up some more Franklins and I had a little money left over so I thought I would get a little closer on my Indian Head collection. I picked up a 1909S Indian Head in VF. It is now one of my favorite coins and I can almost see the light at the end of the tunnel on that set. It was a great weekend and I can't wait until the next show.



Aubrey Miller picking donuts

Letter from the President



Russell Doughty - President

We didn't have much of a spring this year. It seems like we went from freezing temperatures to around 90 degrees every day, but at least we've gotten the spring rains. I don't mind – the warmer weather gives me an excuse to stay inside and work on my coin collection. But then again, I say that about the cooler weather, too!

The spring ONA show was a big hit this year. Gary has the specifics, but he said the gate was up and that we couldn't get all the dealers a table who wanted into the show. It is great to see so much action in the coin world, despite the relatively flat movement in gold and silver the past couple of years. I had planned to attend the show on Sunday, but the life of a PhD student is filled with late nights and early mornings.

Our website and Facebook page seem to be attracting attention, as I had several people reach out to me through the internet. They were asking me where the building was and what time the dealers set up. I've also added all ONA's coin club members to CoinZip.com. If you haven't visited that site, it is probably the most visited website for coin show and coin club information. The listing for the ONA spring show had over 7,300 views prior to the show! If any of you have additional suggestions on how we can promote our coin clubs and coin shows, then please let us know.



Magic Empire Coin Club Minutes

By Tim O'Keefe

The March meeting of Tulsa's Magic Empire Coin Club was opened at 7pm by President Chris Harrell who welcomed the nine members and one guest in attendance.

Old Business: President Harrell advised that the club business cards were almost ready. Members who attended the Enid Coin Show reported that the sales were brisk and the show was busy.

New Business: Guest Chris Casey joined the club, while long time member Charles Meyers has resigned.

Drawings: Won by S/T O'Keefe and President Harrell.

Show & Tell: John Sayco presented a complete collection of Roosevelt dimes. Ron Lawrence brought four Russian coins- 1921 ruble and 50 kopek, and 1924 ruble and 50 kopek. Tim O'Keefe brought five Series 1929 Arkansas national bank notes. Chris Harrell brought 3 unissued obsolete Rhode Island bank notes. Chris Casey showed his collection of foreign and US

coins, and explained his cataloguing system.

Auction: President Harrell acted as auctioneer. Silver Washington quarters, a Morgan dollar, and several foreign pieces changed hands. \$5 was contributed to the club for auction fees.

Next Meeting (Close): Vice President John Sands has volunteered for the Educational Presentation.

The April 2018 meeting of the Magic Empire Coin Club was opened at 7:00 PM by President Chris Harrell, who welcomed the thirteen members and one guest in attendance. Drawings were won by Art Roslewski and Sheryl Morgan.

Old Business: Dale Schaeffer advised that all is on schedule for the Tulsa Coin Show. Flyers will be distributed at the OKC Show in May.

Open Discussion: The club discussed the pros and cons of having more than one show in the Tulsa area during the calendar year.

Guest: Jack Holderfield attended the meeting. He is a novice coin collector and brought several error and altered coins with him. He contacted the club earlier in the month about a Lincoln cent he discovered with a date of 2970 on it. The coin had lot of collateral damage also. A Facebook request picturing the coin came back with several hits, but no possible explanations. Dale Schaeffer surmised that the date was changed by machine on purpose.

Educational Presentation: Vice President John Sands gave a talk on United States gold coins, including comparisons of \$20 Liberty and \$20 St. Gaudens pieces. He explained that the new government in 1792 defined an Eagle as \$10, a standard that is still used today. He presented a few examples from his personal collection, including some incuse samples of designer Bela Pratt Lyon. This spurred some interesting and interactive conversation from the club.

Show & Tell: Dale Schaeffer showed an off-center 1983 Mexican 500 peso piece, an example of a counterfeit \$10 Liberty coin, an example of a counterfeit US Trade Dollar, and a small collection of Japanese coinage and memorabilia. Ron Lawrence brought several coins of The Netherlands, including a 1767

Gelderland Stiver Rider, a Golden 1681 piece of Holland, an 1674 six stiver piece of Holland, a 1762 silver Rider from Zeeland, and a Netherlands East Indies/Zeeland 10 stiver piece. Chris Casey showed a 50 centavo coin from 1935. Art Roslewski brought his collection of fractional paper money and expounded on the history of the notes from postage stamp money to US fractional currency. Tim O'Keefe showed a short collection of notes and coins from the former island country of Sarawak. Jack Holderfield showed his 2970 cent, a thinned out 1958 Lincoln cent, and a Washington quarter that had one side machine drilled to a smooth surface.

Close: The club enjoyed a batch of homemade cookies brought by Sheryl Morgan.

The May 2018 meeting of the MECC was opened at 7pm by President Chris Harrell. President Harrell asked for a reading of the April 2018 minutes. Secretary/Treasurer Tim O'Keefe read the minutes. There was a motion to accept the minutes as read by Dale Schaeffer, which was seconded by Ron Lawrence.

Telephone Report: Sheryl Morgan was unable to attend, but relayed that she had contacted all members.

Drawings: Won by Dale Schaeffer and Ron Lawrence.

Tulsa Coin Show Report: Look for Tulsa Coin Show advertising on CoinZip, and in the Numismatic News and Coin World.

New Business: The Club was encouraged to attend the International Paper Money Show in Kansas City during the second weekend in June. Dale Schaeffer donated several Whitman blue books to the club for use at future meetings.

Show & Tell: Ron Lawrence showed five coins, including a 1000 Krona piece from Iceland

dated 1974, and 1894 five reales piece from Iran, a proof 1900 five krona piece of Hungary, a 1695 Thaler featuring King Leopold, and an 1860 United States silver dollar. Tim O'Keefe brought a collection of South African coins, starting with coins of the 1890s featuring Paul Kruger, imperial coinage of British rule from the early 1900s to the 1950s and coins post-1960 when South Africa gained its independence.

Close: The next meeting of the MECC is set for June 28 at 7pm at Hardesty Library. Tonight's meeting was closed by acclamation at 7:40pm.



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Why We Collect

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he Hardtimes Period, as it was called in early America, was a period of economic recession. It has been mostly forgotten except by historians and coin collectors. The down turn started in about 1834 and resulted in privately made tokens being made to criticize President Andrew Jackson who many in the northeast blamed for the poor economy. These tokens, mostly the size and weight of large cents also circulated at one cent in value. Since that time, Hardtimes Tokens have been widely collected especially by early copper collectors. Today they are still popular and sell mostly for under \$50 in circulated grades. These large copper coins are historically interesting with many back stories and unusual designs that make you want to find out more about them and the Hardtimes period.

Early hobby researchers decided to include the period from 1832 to 1844 as the Hardtimes period. To this day that is the case. A few of the more popular types are listed in the Red Book, but the main references are those by Russell Rulau published over the last 35 years. His books are the principal source of information for this article.

Andrew Jackson was elected President in 1828. As a non-traditional politician,



Gary Parsons - Vice President

he started to attack the status quo in Washington. He had run on a platform to attack the banking and financial elites by reducing their influence on the government and economy, and promised to not renew the charter of the 2nd Bank of the United States. He caused government funds to be withdrawn from the Bank and moved to small regional and local banks. More significantly, he tried to stop the speculative bubble that had developed over the purchase of western land with borrowed money. He made payment for government land to be made in gold. Whether these actions caused the recession can be debated. The country had been in an extended period of expansion for a number of years and a pull back may have been over due. Eastern Banking and commercial interest had mostly benefited at the expense of rural interest. Jackson was from Tennessee.

These fascinating coins from our early history are available at most shows. If you need a new challenge, you will enjoy collecting these old Coppers!!

What We Collect

By Tim O'Keefe

By no means do I consider myself to be a numismatic expert. I have been involved with the hobby since 1968. I have been to numerous coin shows and coin shops, I have met with many learned coin dealers around the country, and I have read many books and magazine articles in the subject. While I have amassed a vast array of knowledge, I do not feel qualified to advertise myself as a master in the field. I adhere to the old adage "a little knowledge can be dangerous."

However, when folks discover that I am a coin collector, they tend to assume that I have some super power as to grading and evaluating coins. While I take that as a compliment, I always give people the caveat that there are those with much more experience and education out there than myself, and always refer them to the local coin shops for a more reliable assessment of their wares.

I worked for the Tulsa Police Department for 36 years, and in that time, my peers knew of my

collecting passion. There were several times at the jail where I was asked to check the money a prisoner had brought in during processing to see if it was collectible, valuable, or just street change. This was important because the County would cut the prisoner a check upon release from jail instead of returning the actual cash. Being arrested doesn't mean you should have to give up an heirloom or expensive coin, and doing this kept those items separate so they could rightfully be returned to the person upon release. And remember, not everyone who gets arrested is a bad person.

About 10 years ago, I was contacted by our Property Room about an upcoming auction. In order to make space in our overloaded facilities, the Department has to hold two auctions a year to clear out unclaimed property. Policemen turn in all sorts of stuff all of the time, and our property buildings look like flea markets gone wild. Many of the items turned in cannot be connected to a particular person or crime, and end up on the auction

block. This particular year there were several stashes of coins turned in, and I was asked to look over the inventory before it was released to the public. The supervisor wanted to make sure we did not have a 1913 Liberty nickel or St. Gaudens gold piece being sold for pennies. This accumulation included many unremarkable foreign coins and several common US pieces. I was flattered that they asked for my opinion.

The hardest part of inspecting a friend's coins is telling them that what they have is fairly worthless. One officer came into my office years ago. She was very excited. She told me that her mother was cleaning a house and found an 1804 silver dollar (the grand daddy of all silver dollars). She read on-line how valuable the coin was and could not wait for me to confirm its authenticity. I asked her if she had it with her. She pulled it out of her pocket and handed it to me. The first thing that caught my eye were the large four letters on the reverse, stamped "COPY". I pointed that out. She asked "Doesn't that mean they made a lot of them?" I informed her that they probably did make a lot of them, and all were worth about 50 cents in base metal. She walked away with her hopes dashed against the rocks.

Not all encounters end with bad outcomes. One of my supervisors had a death in the family. As he went through the relative's house, he found hoards of old coins stashed in walls and under floorboards. He started calling me on an hourly basis to ask about coins he had found. I finally had to encourage him to get a Red Book, as I could not give him any estimate or opinion without actually seeing the coins.

He did as he was told and purchased the book. About a week later, he came by my office. With him, he carried three Whitman blue books of Morgan silver dollars. He said he was grateful for my help, and offered the books to me for \$100. Curiously I opened them up. With the exception of the 1895 proof, it was a complete collection, including the 1893-S. My mouth hit the floor, and for a nanosecond I considered giving him the \$100. However, my ethics kicked in immediately. I thanked him for the offer, and sent him to see Richard McPheeters at Tulsa Coin. He argued with me for a few minutes fearing I was sending him someplace to get ripped off.

I convinced him to go, and he then reluctantly drove directly there. He called me an hour later, jumping up and down and not containing his excitement as he told me how rich he was now. He

sold the books to McPheeters for much more than \$100, and had the 1893-S sent off for grading. It came back as a Good, and he kept it. I hate those darned ethics.

Since I retired last year, I have been receiving multiple requests to evaluate collections from officers who have recently deceased relatives. While not the best of circumstances, I have been kept busy pouring through boxes, jars, and coffee cans of old coins and currency. It seems that everyone has a pile of post-1972 Kennedy half dollars, and I have steered all of these folks to their local banks to cash them in. Nearly every accumulation has several wrinkled silver certificates that are worth \$1.25 on a good day And almost all notes and bills tend to be wadded up and wrapped in elastic bands (Why people? Why?).

But the chance of finding some treasure keeps the hunt fresh. Recently, I had one collection that turned up a British gold half sovereign of George V. Another afternoon I came across ten 1922-D Lincoln cents in VG-F condition. One of our dispatchers had an eccentric relative who kept loose change in five large jars.

The first four jars netted one contemporary Canadian nickel, one wheat cent, a bobby pin, two guitar picks, some pocket lint, and several used tissues that common coins were wrapped in (I hate to think what the tissues were used for first, as this woman reused everything). My friend was very disheartened until we opened the fifth jar. The first coin discovered within was an 1880-O Morgan dollar that rated about Fine. From there we found several silver dimes and half dollars, not to mention a bevy of wheat cents. She ended up with about \$100 in silver, and she was happy that I had not wasted my time sorting through all of that change.

I do not charge my friends for my assessments, though one supervisor did buy me lunch. I enjoy helping out my former co-workers, and I like the opportunity to see material that has been squirreled away for years. And I will always leave professional grading to the professionals. Remember, find something you like and collect the heck out of it.

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 - Blake Gibb
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
518 W. Broadway Ave.
Enid, OK. 73701

Indian Territory Coin Club

Meets 2nd Monday each month -
6:30pm
Sizzlin Sirloin, S. George Nigh
Expressway, McAlester
President - HL Dollens
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 4th Thursday monthly at
7pm.
The Hardesty Library
8316 East 93 Street, in Tulsa
President - Chris Harrell
Vice Pres - John Sands
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 - Bill Nelson
Secretary - Mark Yarbrough, Jr.
Treasurer - Daniel Yarbrough
214-232-2410.



COIN SHOW GUIDE

Mustang Coin Show

Saturday, July 7, 2018

Town Center, Great Room

1201 N Mustang Road.

Hours 9:30 AM to 5 PM

Contact Rich Wall at 405-795-3128
for info.

Duncan's Annual Coin Show

Sept. 14 & 15

Fri. 10AM - 5PM, Sat. 9AM - 5PM,

Stephen's County Fair Grounds

1618 S. 13th St., Duncan, OK.

call Ed McGill for info
at 580-475-4570.

3rd ANNUAL NWA COIN SHOW

July 6, 7 & 8

Public hours: Fri. 1-5 pm, Sat. 9am-
5pm, Sun. 9am-4pm

Free Admission

John Q. Hammons Center

3303 S Pinnacle Hills, Rogers, AR.

Call Bill Nelson for info
at 214-232-2410.

Oklahoma's Unique Coin Show

6th Annual McAlester Show

Oct. 19-20

Public hours Fri. 12 Noon - 5 PM

Sat. 9 AM - 6 PM

Southeast Oklahoma Expo Center

4500 West Hwy. 270, McAlester, OK.

1 mile east of Indian Nation Turnpike

call Gary Parsons for info
at 405-426-9044.

ONA Fall Show September 7-9, 2018

Saturday, 9-5

Sunday, 9-2

Tulsa Elks Lodge

5335 S. Harvard,

2 blocks south of I-44

Contact Dale Schaffer at 918-496-
3008 or email at
dale.schaffer@cox.net



**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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