



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

It is hard to believe this is the last issue of the year already! The next time I assemble an issue of the Mint Luster it will be Christmas!

This issue has the usual contributions by Gary Parsons and Tim O'Keefe and we have our first article from our new president, Chris Harrell. I understand we will be working on some updates to the Mint Luster and I look forward to hearing some of the ideas. I have the ability to produce just about anything for the issues but the only barrier would be the cost of printing each issue. Color photographs would be nice, even if it is just on the cover. Maybe use a thicker glossy white paper for our cover. All of these are good ideas but it would come with additional costs. Either way, I look forward to some changes to our newsletter and am eager to hear what we can do.

I had a great time at the ONA Fall Coin Show this year. I was able to pick up my son from college and we were able to spend a whole Saturday together looking at coins. It was as if he were 10 or 11 years old again. I had a great time.

I had my list of coins I had wanted to purchase but did not realize how difficult the coins were going to be to find. I had wanted to get an 1885 and 1886 V nickel. They proved very hard to find

in the condition I had wanted but I was able to find them both eventually. I also wanted to pick up an error coin. I had always wanted a 42/41 mercury dime, a 55 double die, a 3 legged buffalo or a 1922 no D Lincoln. I began my search for one of those and found a 42/41 dime in VF condition that was affordable.

If we have an OKC show in the spring, I think I am going to finish my Barber Halves collection and then pick up another error coin. It will probably be a 3 legged buffalo.

My son picked up a couple nice Franklins and my daughter also bought a few Mercury dimes. I told them that every year at the coin show, they have to buy at least *something* to add to their collection. No matter what car they are saving up for or a special dress they are wanting to buy or what is going on in their lives or how busy they get in the future, they should always remember what was important to them when they were young. They agreed.

Letter from the President

Hello, fellow members. I am writing my first President's letter as your ONA President. We have had another year dealing with Covid-19. I hope everyone is remaining safe, and healthy during this difficult time.

The ONA Oklahoma City Show was canceled due to Covid-19. The only other state show was our Fall Tulsa Coin Show. I am pleased to report we sold more tables than ever before. All dealers reported a good show with some reporting this was their best show of the year. The staff and myself would like to thank everyone that setup or attended the show.

There have been some changes to the show chairman for the Oklahoma City ONA Coin Show. Gary Parsons, our longtime chairman, has decided to pass the torch. I want to give a huge thank you to Gary for his work and dedication to the ONA. For anyone wondering Gary is not going anywhere. He is still the ONA Vice President and will be setup at coin shows. Please stop at his



Chris Harrell - President

table and say hello.

I am pleased to announce that Robert Ranford has accepted the chairman position for the ONA Oklahoma City Show. He is working on forming his committee for the show. He has a vast amount of knowledge and contacts. I have had the privilege of knowing Robert for the past seven years and I know he will be a great chairman. Lets all provide the support he needs to run a great show. Robert thank you for stepping up to fill this position.

Since becoming President I have talked to a lot of dealers and collectors about the ONA. Many have asked what does the ONA do? I would like all members to think about your answer to this question. The most important mission of the ONA is to promote the hobby. The harder question is how. I have created ten areas that will help grow our association.

1. Get the ONA OKC Show back on track,
 2. Promote Membership,
 3. Youth Involvement,
 4. ONA Booth at all Oklahoma Coin Shows,
 5. Bus Trips to our State Shows,
 6. Loans for clubs to fund upfront costs during a coin show,
 7. Youth scholarship money for coin exhibits at shows,
 8. Promote coins in history with schools,
 9. Make the needed changes to the Mint Luster to be an award winner,
 10. Provide a page listing members coin companies and their expertise.
- Tomorrow's future depends on how we shape it today.
- Enjoy Collecting
- Chris Harrell



Magic Empire Coin Club Minutes

By Tim O'Keefe

The June meeting of the MECC was opened at 6:05pm by Vice president Todd Hourihan. He was conducting the meeting in the absence of President Chris Harrell. VP Hourihan welcomed the 15 members and one guest in attendance.

Previous Minutes: S/T Tim O'Keefe sent out the May 2021 minutes electronically and had hard copies available at the door for tonight's meeting. There was a motion by John Sayko to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Sheryle Morgan.

Telephone Report; Sheryle Morgan advised that she spoke with 14 members and left 7 messages.

Drawings: Won by John Sayko and James Eklof.

Membership: Ron Lawrence had a box of Magic Empire wooden nickels used to advertise Club shows in the 1970s and 1980s. Examples were offered to the membership at tonight's meeting.

Show & Tell:

Dale Schaffer presented a 2013 series of Canada Duck coins with presentation box and a specially made duck call. Gary Harris showed a series of older US coins. Richard McPheeters told the story of a token that started out in Higgins, Texas, ending up in the hands of Will Rogers who worked there, then making its way back to him in Claremore. Ron Lawrence showed a 1900 5 kroner piece from Hungary, a Hungarian thaler from 1675, and a coin from Nuremberg. Tim O'Keefe presented a series of Magic Empire wooden nickels 1972-2016, an elongated Lincoln cent produced by the defunct Tulsa Coin Club in 1992 commemorating 50 years of membership with the ANA, and a uniface pendant that read "Tulsa's Magic Empire-International Event". Richard McPheeters surmised that the piece was from the IPE Building in Tulsa from the 1960s or 1970s and is not related to the coin club.

Charity: Dale Schaffer donated two totes worth of numismatic books and literature from Shane Cornell's estate. The books were offered for sale to Club members.



\$5 for hardcovers, \$4 for reference books, and \$3 for pamphlets and flyers. \$100 was brought in from the sale. The remainder of the books go into the Club's library. The charitable account is at \$275 for the year.

Educational Presentation: The scheduled guest speaker had to cancel at the last minute. Tim O'Keefe gave a brief presentation on the life of James Longacre, US Mint Engraver 1844-1869. Examples of Flying Eagle cents and a collection of Indian Head cents were presented to the Club for viewing. Longacre was responsible for designing the Two Cent piece which was the first coin to have the motto "In God We Trust". He also designed the silver three cent trime, the three cent nickel piece, the Shield Nickel, and the gold double eagle, among others. The legend is that he used his daughter,

Sarah, as the model for the Indian Head cent. He refuted this, saying the inspiration was from a statue of Venus that had been on loan from the Vatican to the City of Philadelphia.

The August 2021 meeting of the Magic Empire Coin Club was opened at 6:04 PM by President Chris Harrell who welcomed the 13 members and one guest to the proceedings.

Previous Minutes: President Harrell asked S/T Tim O'Keefe to read the previous minutes. There was not a meeting in July due to a COVID quarantine. Copies of the June 2021 minutes were sent out to those members with internet access. O'Keefe read an abbreviated version of the minutes. There was motion by Richard McPheeters to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by John Sayko.

Telephone Report: President Harrell asked for the Telephone Report. Sheryle Morgan said that she spoke with 8 members, left messages for 10, and received no answer from 2.

New Business: Discussion was initiated on the selling of retail coins during club meetings. The question came up as to whether a violation of the Club bylaws had occurred. S/T O'Keefe did not have the bylaws available at this time. He will have them posted with the next e-mail batch.

Discussion was also initiated on the Club's ability to make charitable donations and how those donations should be directed. Keith Morgan made a motion to create a committee to investigate these two issues. The motion was seconded by Vice President Todd Hourihan. The Committee will consist of Keith Morgan, Todd Hourihan, Dale Schaffer, Mark Kephart, and Tim O'Keefe. They will meet during the weekend of the Tulsa Coin Show (Sept 10-12) at Stoney Creek Hotel.

Drawings: Won by John Sayko and Ron Lawrence.

Show & Tell: Todd Hourihan explained that he has sent in an 1878 CC gold piece for certification. If it grades as expected, it may be the highest graded one known. Hourihan will ask the

owner if he can show it to the Club before moving it on. Todd was also able to purchase a Fair Grade 1916 Liberty Standing quarter. Dale Schaffer he showed a \$250 silver Canadian piece dated 2011 that contains about 1000 ounces of silver. Ron Lawrence presented a 1901 Russian 5 mark piece, an 1890 German-Prussian 2 thaler piece, and a 1989 silver mint set commemorating the Discovery of America. Richard McPheeters he passed around two high quality large size national bank notes. One was on the First National Bank of Tulsa, Charter 5171, the other on The Producers National Bank of Tulsa, Charter 12042. Tim O'Keefe he showed a collection of 1929 Series national bank notes from Rhode Island. The State had only 12 small size issuers, and he has examples from all of them.

Auction: Keith Morgan acted as auctioneer. 9 items changed hands and \$7 was added to the Clubs charity fund.



NEW MEMBERS OF ONA
RICK LAUCHNER,
STACY J STRACHAN AND
TED WILLIAMS.

Why We Collect

My column this issue will about the life of Adolph Weinman, designer of the Walking Liberty Half and Winged Liberty (Mercury) Dime.

Two of the most popular and widely collected coins ever produced by this country are the Walking Liberty Half and Winged Liberty Dime, as Weinman referred to it, better known today in the vernacular as Mercury Dime. His depiction of wings on Miss Liberty's head was meant to depict freedom of thought. I always enjoy the back stories on our coinage so here is a brief history of Weinman's life and the development of these two beautiful coins.

Weinman was born in Germany in 1870 and emigrated to America at the age of ten, apparently alone, to live with relatives in the New York City area. He was already showing talent in drawing and modeling in wood and hard substances. At age 15, he entered into an apprenticeship with an experienced wood and ivory carver which lasted 5 years. During this period, he enrolled



Gary Parsons

and attended school at New York's famous Cooper Union School and Studied Drawing. At age 20, he finished his apprenticeship and joined the Studio of medalist Phillip Martiny.

Weinman eventually moved to the Studio of Augustus Saint Gaudens in 1896, but Saint Gaudens decided to go to Paris in 1898, so Weinman joined the Studio of Charles Neihaus and stayed about 5 years. Along the way he was refining his skills in producing Medals and Sculpture. In 1903 he went into partnership with Daniel Chester French, another of our famous Sculpture/Medalist. The partnership lasted about two years at which time Weinman opened his own Studio.

In the mean time Saint Gaudens had returned from Europe and was developing a friendship with Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt was not happy with

our coinage from an Artistic standpoint and wanted to develop new designs. We know the story of the development of the beautiful double eagle by Saint Gaudens that started the renaissance of United States coinage that lasted into the early 1920's. The design of every U.S. coin was changed during this period with designs by outside the mint designers and engravers. By 1905 Saint Gaudens had developed cancer which eventually led to his death in 1907. Roosevelt commissioned Saint Gaudens to design and produce his 1904 Inaugural Medal. Saint Gaudens developed the design but being in declining health he engaged Weinman, with Roosevelt's permission to engrave the dies. This put Weinman in direct contact with the U.S. mint staff, which may have helped him later when a competition developed for the redesign of our silver coinage in 1915.

In 1915 the Mint decided to come up with new designs for the Half Dollar, Quarter, and Dime. Only experienced and in the eyes of mint staff, qualified outside artists were allowed to enter the competition. Three artists submitted designs and Weinman's designs for the half dollar and dime won, and Herman McNeals design came out on top for the Quarter. Working with mint staff dies were developed and after

many trials and tribulations working with the mints Chief Engraver, Charles Barber, whose designs for these coins were being replaced, the new coins came out in 1916. They were immediately praised by almost everyone and are now considered classics and have been widely copied on our bullion coins.

Weinman went on to do many large sculptures for States and local governments. He produced the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition participation medal and the Saltus Award Medal for the American Numismatic Society, which is considered the top award for recognition of excellence in Medallic Art. He later received the Award and the Medal he designed. Weinman died in 1952 after a long and illustrious career.

Now you know the rest of the story! My primary reference for this article is, NUMISMATIC ART IN AMERICA, by Cornelius Vermeule, 2ND Edition.



What We Collect

As I get older I am discovering that what we collect is probably not as important as whom we collect it with. The past few months have been a rollercoaster as I was kind of thrust into my new role as Secretary and Treasurer for the ONA. My biggest challenge has been putting faces to names. As I have poured over Shane Cornell's records I have discovered that our membership actually stretches from coast to coast. Did you know we have a celebrity or two in the Association? Clifford Mishler is a Life Member of the ONA. We have a solid core of hobbyists and dealers contributing to our cause. So as a duly elected (and thanks to all of those who voted for me) office holder, I figured it was my duty to get out and start meeting the membership.

In April I took the drive over to Rogers, Arkansas for the Northwest Arkansas Coin Club meeting. As I drove east on Highway 412 it occurred to me that this was my first venture out



By Tim O'Keefe

of Oklahoma since the pandemic shut us down in March 2020. I had not announced that I was going to the meeting, and I forgot that the Club had moved their meeting place to the Embassy Suites. I called Robert Hall for some last minutes directions, and he was gracious enough to (a) answer the phone and (b) guide me in. I arrived about 30 minutes late and the meeting was in full swing. And I was pleasantly surprised when President Ed Wheeler very generously stopped the proceedings and allowed me to expound on the importance of the ONA for both Arkansas and Oklahoma for about 10 minutes. My off-the-cuff recruiting speech must have worked, because Daniel Rechtsfertig and Andrew Girard immediately signed up for ONA membership. Once I was done, they began one of the most impressive club auctions I have ever seen. The event lasted two hours and a steady stream of quality numismatic items went across the auctioneer's gavel. I

enjoyed the evening and it gave me more motivation to drive back over in May for the Club's annual coin show at the same venue.

In June I reversed directions and went west to the monthly Oklahoma City Coin Club meeting. I met up with ONA Vice President Gary Parsons and he began introducing me to the membership. OKC President Terry Gust runs a very organized meeting and he deftly worked around the technical issues they had with their projector at the start of the proceedings. It is always good to see Mint Luster Editor Brian Miller as we converse frequently but rarely in person. I was able to meet the legendary Ben Swagerty who gave the evenings Educational Presentation. Ron LaSpisa was extremely cordial and welcoming. And the infamous Johnny Satterlee and I did a little friendly verbal sparring. I had Parsons look over a Series 1929 Oklahoma bank note I purchased from William Litt in California. The Producers National Bank of Tulsa, Charter 12042, has very few specimens floating around. Mr. Litt gave me a good price on the note. Parsons, who deals with national notes, said he had never seen one. I had a productive evening and was encouraged to attend the Club's July pot luck barbeque at the same location. In

early July I made the trek down the Turner Turnpike with a container of cole slaw by my side. I met up with ONA President Chris Harrell. We spent the night networking, visiting, and renewing friendships. The food was great. I met with several fellow members of the Society of Paper Money Collectors (we "rag" collectors have to stick together). Johnny Satterlee brought his wife, Susan. There is never any doubt as to which part of the room she is sitting in. The night was relaxing and stress-free.

My own club is Tulsa's Magic Empire. Founded in 1966, it is the only Club operating in the Tulsa metro area. "Magic Empire" refers to the oil boom of the 1920s, as Tulsa and Glenpool were becoming major players in that industry. Our longest serving members are Richard McPheeters (who was also president of the club at one time) and Ronald Lawrence (still serving as a Board Member). We were recognized for 50 years of service by the ANA in 2016. Magic Empire helps to run the Annual Tulsa Fall Coin Show every September. I joined in 2011 and became Secretary/Treasurer in 2013. The cross-section of numismatic expertise in the club is amazing, as just about every aspect of coin collecting has a following. And you do not have to join to attend our meetings.

As my work schedule allows, I plan on attending more Club meetings around the State and getting to introduce myself to as many of you as I can. Several of you I know from the shows in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Texas. We have an abundance of expertise within the Association and I always look forward to new encounters and knowledge. If you have not attended a club meeting in your area in some time, please make the time to go back. If you do not belong to a club, go join one. The

fellowship alone is worth the investment in your time. We want to show you what we collect, and we want to see what you collect. And do not be surprised if I show up at the meeting. Meanwhile, find something you like and collect the heck out of it.

**Token Wanted:
The Fair Store
General Mdse
Medford, Oklahoma**

**CONTACT: Joe Foley
bonesdc@aol.com
540-798-3819 cell**

ONA News

By Tim O'Keefe

The news is good these days as far as numismatics go. The Annual Fall Tulsa Coin Show was held at the Stoney Creek Hotel Conference Center in Broken Arrow over the weekend of September 10-12. Crowds were steady and all dealers I talked with said the show was a success. KOTV in Tulsa and KFOR in Oklahoma City ran advertisements on their daily bulletin boards, and David Lisot of CoinTV did another walkabout. His videos of the show should be on youtube in the coming weeks.

The ONA held an annual meeting on September 11, which was attended by President Chris Harrell, Vice President Gary Parsons, S/T Tim O'Keefe, Eastern Oklahoma Ambassador Todd Hourihan, and ONA member Robert Gilmore. There were several topics covered:

- 1) The group wants to expand the ONA membership and encourages shows in Oklahoma to promote the ONA at the door.
- 2) The group is actively seeking ideas on how to attract more younger collectors. President Harrell offered the idea of having a bus in Oklahoma City transport

collectors to the Tulsa Show and reciprocating for the OKC show. This would not be limited to youngsters as many of our older members may not wish to make the drive down the turnpike.

- 3) The group is still actively looking for someone to run an OKC Show.

- 4) Discussion centered around ways to improve Mint Luster. Brian Miller does an excellent job of getting the newsletter out each quarter. We talked about possibly getting a corporate sponsor to go to a magazine format. President Harrell also suggested a page in each issue listing dealers and their specialties to assist collectors.

Longtime ONA member John Highfill was recognized by the Central States Numismatic Society with their third annual Q David Bowers Award. The award recognizes unselfish devotion, scholarly contributions and investments in time and resources made by a numismatic professional. As a collector, author, and coin dealer, Mr. Highfill represents all of these qualities. The ONA congratulates him on his accomplishment.

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 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

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 - Todd Hourihan
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 DeFrance
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.
622 C Avenue, Lawton
President - Jon Wozniak
Vice Pres - Glenn Stebleton
Secretary - Lisa K. Ewing
Treasurer - Erwin Wheeler
130 S. Hillside Rd, Apache, OK.
73006
580-583-0873

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
PO Box 5751
Bella Vista, AR 72714



COIN SHOW GUIDE

Indian Territory Coin Show

October 15 & 16
Southeast Oklahoma Expo
Center
4500 W. Hwy. 270
McAlester, OK
Fri. Noon - 5PM
Sat. 9AM-5PM

Contact Gary Parsons 405 426 9044
olegar@cox.net for info.

Glenn Stebleton Stamp, Coin, Baseball Card Show

Free admission, tables are 35.00
each with one back up table.
Castle Inn & Suites, 2202 N Hwy
277, Lawton, OK 73507
Hotel reservations phone num-
bers are (405)406-5599 or
(580)959-0310.
Oct 22, 9-6pm and 23, 9-4pm
Contact Glen Stebleton at
(580)699-3682 or (580)678-8323.
Applications can be sent by call-
ing Lisa Kay Ewing, at (580)583-
0873.

Mustang Coin Show

Sat. Nov. 6
Town Center Great Room
1201 N. Mustang Road
9:30AM - 4PM
Contact Rich Wall at 405-795-5128

Black Friday Coin Show

Glenpool Conference Center,
12205 S. Yukon Ave., Glenpool,
OK, Nov. 26 & 27;
Fri. Noon - 5PM
Sat. 9AM - 4PM
Contact Robert at 918 521 1679

Garfield County Coin Show

Garfield County Fairgrounds,
Hoover Bldg, 318 E Oxford St,
Enid, OK
March 11: Noon to 6 PM
March 12: 9 AM to 5 PM
March 13: 9 AM to 3 PM
Contact: Fred Pepe (580) 747-8661
(leave message)



**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**