



MINT LUSTER



The Official Publication of the
OKLAHOMA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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Editor's Notes



Brian Miller - Editor

Did all of you hear about the couple in northern California that found 10 million dollars worth of gold coins buried on their property? Over 1400 gold coins dated between 1847 and 1894 were found and all were in uncirculated condition. If you haven't, be sure to read up on it by doing a search online. It looks like the IRS will be taxing the couple on the find under the "Treasure Trove" provision of the Tax Code and will be getting up to 47% of the value!

I would like to thank Tim O'Keefe for his continuing contributions to this newsletter and I hope he continues to not only continue with his Magic Empire Coin Club Minutes but also with more articles like his "What We Collect" article in this issue.

Also in this issue I have included an article by Tyler Tyson. He has written about Hobo Nickels and the many deals that can be found in these artful coins. Tyler was also recently profiled in the January issue of ANA and the article, which he sent to me, is very informative and I wish I could have included a portion of the article in this issue, but space constraints prohibited its inclusion. I encourage everyone though to check out the January issue

of ANA and read up on Tyler Tyson. It is nice to see an Oklahoman featured in an ANA issue.

Be sure to check out the coin show guide in this issue and I hope to see some of you at the ONA show on May 3rd and 4th. I always buy something nice at the show, but this year I am uncertain as to what I am going to buy. I may get started on some large cents, but it also might be time to finish up my Buffalo Nickel collection. I think I will spend the majority of my time at the show going from table to table with my son as he has now expanded his penny collection to include Indian Head Cents. He has made up his list and he is ready to spend a big chunk of his allowance money on some coins. He still thinks he will be able to pick up a 1914D with the money he has saved but I am telling him to hold off until he can buy a nicer grade.

Hope you enjoy this issue and that you are able to attend a few shows, or come out to a local coin club meeting. Happy Collecting!!

Letter from the President



Clifford Cooper - President

A new year is here (in fact 3 months are already gone) and the precious metals area of the market is still on a roller coaster ride. We finished the Enid Coin Club Coin Show in March and had a great turnout from the public and there was a lot of action between dealers. The weather didn't cooperate with us and we actually closed the show Saturday evening and cancelled Sunday. Oklahoma weather can really play havoc on us at times - 70 degrees and sunny one day and 20 degrees the next with snow.

The ONA setup a display and handed out applications at the Enid Show (compliments of Gary Parsons) and it was well received. The Enid club also put on a display of wooden nickels handed out at previous shows. I think this is one of the most important parts of the show and hopefully more clubs will add displays to their shows in the future. Having displays and showing the new and curious collector some different areas that they may not be aware of may just be enough to get them more involved in a hobby that can also be an investment in the future for them. We have several shows coming up sponsored by clubs and I'm sure Gary Parsons would be happy to setup his display and help spread the word

about the ONA if a table is made available for him and his schedule allows it.

There has been some interest in having a coin show in the Alva/Woodward area and I'm thinking of sponsoring one sometime in July to see if it might bring in some more collectors and possibly restarting a club in the area. Gary Parsons has made several contacts in this part of the state and we would still like to get a club re-started in NW Oklahoma if possible. I remember having some fantastic shows in Woodward and have heard about some great shows in Alva. The shows in Alva were before I was fully involved and attending shows. Bob Reed stated that there was a great club and show in the Alva area.

It seems it is getting harder and harder to gain new and younger collectors that will attend club meetings and shows. We need to look and see if there is anything we can do to make it more fun and rewarding to attend the meetings and shows. Let us know what you are doing at your club meetings to get new collectors involved. We would like to

hear what is working and what is not. I know that the Enid club handed out business card sized cards at the coin show advertising the Clubs meeting times/place and the next meeting after the coin show, we didn't have any new members arrive. We are going to have to go outside the box to come up with new ideas to build new interest in keeping club members.

Thanks for being part of the ONA and happy collecting.



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Why We Collect

As mentioned last quarter, we will be discussing one of my favorite coin series, Early Commemorative Coins of the United States. This series began in 1892 with the Columbian Exposition pieces and ended in 1954 with the Washington/Carver coins.

Our discussion will include the Silver pieces with 50 separate types and 144 issues. These coins have been out of favor for several years and have reached selling prices that are very compelling when you consider the rarity, beautiful classic designs, and the history and back stories that surround these coins. It's time to buy and enjoy a series that sold for three time's current levels 25 years ago.

Our discussion will begin with the only quarter dollar in the series, the Isabella, as we call it in the hobby. The Isabella was made for sale during the World's Columbian Exposition. The coin is dated 1893 and depicts Queen Isabella I of Spain who commissioned and financed Columbus's trips of exploration to the New World.



Gary Parsons - Vice President

This coin is a good one to begin our discussion because it has many of the qualities that make the Early Commemoratives fun to collect. The authorized mintage was only 40,000 pieces, but because many did not sell at the time and were melted, the reported net mintage in the Redbook is only 24,214.

Most of these pieces were sold to the public as mementos and have not survived in mint state condition. According to Swaitek, in the Encyclopedia of the Commemorative Coins of the United States, the combined mint state population figures from NGC and PCGS is about 6,700 pieces and these include those graded 60 and 61 and include an estimated 23% to 26% resubmissions. Therefore actual choice pieces are very rare.

The obverse design which shows the queen is one of mint engraver, Charles Barber's better

efforts, in my opinion. The reverse showing a kneeling female with distaff and spindle intended to be emblematic of women's industry, not so much. But over all the coin is very attractive in choice mint state condition.

This will be one of the more expensive types you will have to acquire to complete the series. Redbook shows prices of \$600 in MS-63 and \$2,750 in MS-65. If you aren't particular about grade, about uncirculated examples will cost about \$400. These prices are well off 1990 pricing.

The history and back story of the development and creation of this coin is fascinating but space

doesn't permit a discussion. The references mentioned above are the books I recommend you use if you decide to collect this series. The Swaitek Encyclopedia in particular is a 2012 addition to earlier books that contains many interesting stories about the creation of these interesting coins. Next quarter I will continue our discussion with the Lafayette Dollar, the only dollar in the Early Series. Another fascinating and rare coin!

IS THIS A GREAT HOBBY OR WHAT



What We Collect

By Tim O'Keefe

Ask any collector how they got started in numismatics, and each will have a unique story. My journey started in 1968 when my parents put together a 'starter' coin collection for me. This included a couple of Indian head cents, a handful of foreign coins my Mom had put aside years earlier, some 2x2's, and a book on how to collect (which I still have). Living in New England, I was able to start both US and Canadian collections, fueled by my daily paper route. Folks did not care what they paid me with, as long as the bothersome 10 year old on their stoop would go away.

I continued with my United States and Canadian endeavors periodically through the 1990s. By 1999, I had met most of my goals and was looking to expand into another realm. 1999 was also the year I was seriously injured at work, and I had a lot of down time to ponder my next moves on several fronts. I began concentrating on British Commonwealth pieces—mostly coins with some currency. This

led to a national scavenger hunt as I visited shops in various parts of the country trying to fill elusive holes. The monetary expense was not that bad, and I met a lot of informed and curious people as I put together collections from several countries. I found a lot of my prizes in junk boxes. Most of the dealers did not make a lot of money on me, but I did lighten their inventories. And with the expansion of the internet, I was able to locate a lot of pieces that would have been otherwise unobtainable.

By 2011, I had gone as far as I wanted to go with British Commonwealth and was looking for another direction. That year at the Tulsa Coin Show, I bumped into dealer Bob Jasperson from Iowa. I was noticing the currency displays he had brought, and a 1929 national bank note from St. Louis caught my eye. Mr. Jasperson explained what national notes were and said it would be a challenging and exciting collection to begin. He allowed me to borrow a copy of "Bank Note Reporter" and told me to return the next day. I spent that evening

reading through the periodical, and I did go back the next day and purchased the St. Louis note. I was hooked.

National bank notes originated in 1863. Under the National Banking Act of 1863, the government was authorized to charter individual banks. Those banks could then issue notes equal to 90% of the par value of US government bonds that the banks had deposited as security for the notes issued. Between 1863 and 1934, there were over 14,000 banks chartered. They started out as large notes. The 1929 series is small notes only, and are divided by Type 1 and Type II. These notes are similar to what circulates today, though the notes display the charter number and the name of the individual issuing bank. The

Type II's have the charter number listed in two additional places.

Mr. Jasperson passed on information about the late Ray Hickman, who did the first comprehensive inventory of reported national bank notes. Serial numbers make tracking these notes very interesting. Mr. Hickman was the impetus behind the William R. Higgins Jr. Foundation Museum and Library in Okoboji, Iowa. This led me to contact the current expert on the subject, Don C. Kelly of Oxford, Ohio. Mr. Kelly has produced a CD with an inventory of known notes, and has written the definitive book on the subject, "National Bank Notes". He also has an internet store with an extensive inventory of not only national notes, but



currency of all kinds. We correspond frequently. Mr. Kelly's book is a must in order to check the accuracy of purchases, to verify if a particular note and serial number actually exist, and to read the history of banking in this country.

There are several ways to collect national notes. With the 1929 series, I am working on obtaining notes from the 48 states (Alaska and Hawaii were not US states, but did issue notes that having starting prices in the upper hemisphere). I currently have 42 states represented. It can be done by charter number, by city, by serial number, and by signatures (to name a few ways). With over 14,000 banks, I seriously doubt that I will ever have a complete collection, but I have located and

purchased notes from Derby, CT (my birthplace), South Bend, IN (one of my college towns), and Boston, MA (where most of my family hails from). Mr. Kelly no longer maintains his census of notes, but there is the National Bank Note Census (NBNC) which currently collects information on reported and unreported notes. There are still plenty of notes out there in sock drawers, safety deposit boxes, and private collections that have not seen the light of day in many years.

I still dabble in US, Canadian, and British Commonwealth coins. National notes are my current interest, but that can always change. Find something you love and collect the heck out of it.



OKC COIN CLUB

NEWS

By Brian Miller

In our January meeting, we had a presentation on the Hogge Money of Sommer Island. There was also a video on the subject after the lecture and everyone in attendance was fascinated with the subject.

Our February meeting was held on February 4th and after the usual show and tell, Bob Donohoo gave a presentation on Bitcoins. This "currency" is being

used all across the world but only exists on computers. It was a very informative presentation.

We are all looking forward to the semi-annual coin auction in April. It will be held on April 1st. Everyone is limited on auctioning off seven lots and the auction is set to begin at 6:30. Be sure to plan on attending and bring some extra money to bid on some nice coins.

The OKC Coin Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at St. Lukes United Methodist Church at 222 NW 15th Street in Oklahoma City.

NEW MEMBERS

Ed McGill to Life Member

Don Britton

Den Coates

Israel Brumback

Chris Van Horn

David Cleveland

I. Thomas Budd

James O. Pentecost Life Member

Comanche, OK

Weatherford, OK

Edmond, OK

Edmond, OK

Norman, OK

Bartlesville, OK

Norman, OK

Pauls Valley

Magic Empire Coin Club Minutes

By Tim O'Keefe

The MECC met at the Tulsa Red Lobster on December 13th for their annual holiday dinner. Nine members were able to attend on a night of very inclement weather. The food was great and the conversation was even better. A photo of the group in attendance at the Christmas dinner is included on the next page.

The first meeting of the MECC was held on January 23, 2014. President Ron Hass welcomed the seven attending members. The annual board meeting was held at the same time and all officers retained their positions for the next year as were the five sitting board members.

Member Shane Cornell advised that preparations have begun for the Tulsa Coin Show in September.

The show and tell portion of the meeting began after some discussion over the show and tell items, we adjourned at 8pm.

The MECC met again on February 27 at 7PM at Yale Avenue Christian Church. President Ron Hass welcomed

the 9 members in attendance. There were two prize drawings made. Member Sherrie Perdue won the first, and Vice president Ron Lawrence won the second.

The club is now alternating months for Educational Presentations and Expanded Show & Tell. The five presenters for the year will be given a choice of a silver coin upon completion of a program. In 2015, the club will be issuing more expensive coins for the presenters.

The club's annual dues for the American Numismatic Association were sent in at the end of January. The ANA gives discounts on renewals for every ANA member on the rolls. Magic Empire Coin Club is current through 2016, which will also be our 50th year in the ANA.

President Hass had the bi-monthly Educational Presentation, which he titled "The Odd, The Weird, and the Strange". He showed some double struck coins from Europe, he presented an 1847 Ecuador 2 reale piece that is very similar to a US \$10 piece, and he discussed his love of colo-

nial coins and some history of coins and paper currency in the United States. He also pointed out some fun facts, such as coinage for the Virginia colony was actually minted in London, even though Great Britain was having troubles in North America, and that Spanish coinage was accepted as legal tender in the United States through 1859. (This was originally for 1857, but the government granted a two year extension as the coins were phased out .)

Show & Tell had six contributors. Vice President Ron Lawrence showed a 1953 Great Britain proof set featuring Queen Elizabeth II, a 1935 British crown featuring King George V, a 1903 Japanese yen, an 1826 Bern 5 batz

piece from Switzerland, and a 1900 German 5 mark piece from Wurttemberg. Brian O'Keefe passed around a 2012-S US proof set, while John Sands had a 2013-S US proof set. Charles Meyers presented an 1861 Mexican coin. Steve Langgin showed a 1916-D Mercury dime. Secretary Tim O'Keefe showed a 1936 Bridgeport, Connecticut centennial piece which featured PT Barnum.

The MECC's next meeting is at 7PM on March 27, 2014 at 3600 S Yale Avenue. The public is always welcome.



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 - Shane Gray
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 - 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 - 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.
Yale Avenue Christian Church
3616 S. Yale
President - Ron Hass
Vice Pres - Ron Lawrence
Sec/Treas - Tim O'Keefe
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 - Erwin Wheeler
Secretary - Joy Woods
Treasurer - Ed McGill
(580)470-8799
Box 635
Duncan, OK. 73533

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

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 - Mike McClendon
Vice Pres - Sam Carter
Secretary/Treas. - Robin Holloway
1500 W. Okmulgee
Muskogee, OK. 74401



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HOBO NICKEL RENAISSANCE

By Tyler Tyson

Even before the 1913 Buffalo Nickel was released, carving was often seen on coinage. The “Potty Dollars” often come to mind and can be found as early as the 18th century. When the Buffalo Nickel was released, it presented a great cameo for carvers to sink their tools into. The “Indian” head covered roughly 83% of the obverse, and the buffalo reverse also allowed a great variance of designs. Either side of this coin presented a large image to work with, and the depth of nickels design made it a fantastic piece to carve.

In recent years, online activity between carvers and collectors has created a modern day renaissance in the hobo nickel society. Facebook pages dedicated to carvers showcasing their work, engraving forums with in-depth discussion of tools and equipment, you tube videos showing tips on sharpening gravers and achieving varying effects, and even an EBay category directly for listing hobo nickels. All of these together have created an environment of sharing ideas, techniques, styles and an outlet to sell these pieces of art.

Many great carvers have blossomed in this arena. Carvings has went far beyond the classic style hobo with a derby, to skulls, breathtaking scenery, and even carvings that are inlaid with precious metals and gemstones. Thought the buffalo nickel is still the primary canvas carvers’ work upon, it’s not always the case. Modern clad coinage is commonly used; this allows the carver to take the engraving down to the core material, typically copper on many currently produced U.S. coins. A deep carving on this type of coin shows the surface metal and also the inner core for a brilliant effect. Other coins besides clad, and the typical nickel are; encased coins, silver, and even gold coins are frequently seen produced by carvers.

All of these extraordinary carvings on various mediums has raised the question; “Are these still classified as a hobo nickel”, “Hobo style coin”, or even some a variation of a “Love token”? or are we entering into something entirely different? Within the hobo nickel society carvers and collectors are actively discussing which way this art form is going and how to classify it.

Why is all of this important to note? It is the fact that hobo collecting is in a tremendous upswing right now and since it's important to sell on a high, it might be beneficial for those that have an old classic in your collection collecting dust to pull it out and think about selling on the high point when collectors are actively seeking these coins. The

older classic carvings demand a much higher price, even though the quality might seem less. Even the mass produced Brazzell and Dorusa pieces bring a premium right now. Also, if collecting these great custom coins catch your interest, many great deals can be found.



COIN SHOW GUIDE

2014 ONA Annual Coin Show

May 3-4

Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-3

Oklahoma State Fairgrounds,
Gate 3. (Approximately 800 block
of North May in OKC), Hobbies,
Arts and Crafts Bldg.

FREE Parking & Admission as
well educational seminars.

Early bird tickets, \$50, May 2,
Friday noon-6. Dealer Setup is
May 2, 10-6.

Contact Gary Parsons
phone: 405 426 9044,
email: olegar@cox.net

48th Annual Wichita Falls Coin and Stamp Show

Fri. May 30, 1-6 pm,

Sat. May 31, 9 am - 5 pm

Multi-Purpose Events Center
1000 5th Street, Wichita Falls, TX.
Free Parking, \$2 admission, chil-
dren under 12 free with an adult.

Hourly door prizes, raffle for
gold and silver coins, armed
security. Sponsored by the
Wichita Falls Coin Club.

Contact: Connolly Obrien at
940-631-0817 or 940-704-4776.

Email: conrobrus@aol.com
Dealer tables: \$125 single, \$100
each additional table,
Dealer setup is Friday May 30,
9 am - 1 pm.

Enid's Fall Coin Show

August 1-3,

Friday 12-6, Saturday 9-5,

Sunday 9-3

Garfield Fairgrounds

Pavillion Building

111 West Purdue, Enid, OK.

FREE Parking & Admission
Sponsored by Enid Coin Club.

For Dealer Tables and other
information, contact Clifford
Cooper

phone: 580 233-0007 or

580 478-5709,

email: ccoins@att.net

ONA Fall Show

Sponsored by the Magic Empire
Coin Club

Sept 6-7

Sat 9-5, Sun 9-2

Tulsa Elks Lodge

5335 S Harvard

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Contact Shane Cornell

phone: 918-629-0208

email: smcornell@cox.net

Coin & Stamp Show

April 4-5, 2014

Salina, Kansas



- Friday-3 to 8 p.m.
- Saturday-9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Free Admission
- Food • Free Parking
- Security Provided

No children under 12 unless accompanied by parent or guardian.

BUY-SELL-TRADE-SHOW

Reservation Deadline: March 28, 2014

First 8' table \$70. (\$60 IF PAID BY 3-1-14). Each additional table is \$50. Back up tables included. Forty (40) tables available. Dealer set up Friday, April 4 after noon. Salina Coin Club and VFW are not responsible for thefts or accidents. Dealers will be required to keep tables uncovered and open for selling during show hours. Reservations must be accompanied by payment or minimum deposit of \$35.

VFW-1108 W. Crawford
Sponsored by the Salina Coin Club

Send check with reservations to:

Salina Coin Club
Box 1111
Salina, KS 67402-1111
785-827-9766
Email: sp-coin@vfwbel.net
If no answer, call:
785-827-2024

RESERVATION FORM

Number of tables: _____ Amount enclosed \$: _____
Items to be sold: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone number: (____) _____

**Oklahoma Numismatic Association
PO Box 277
Jenks, OK. 74037-0277**