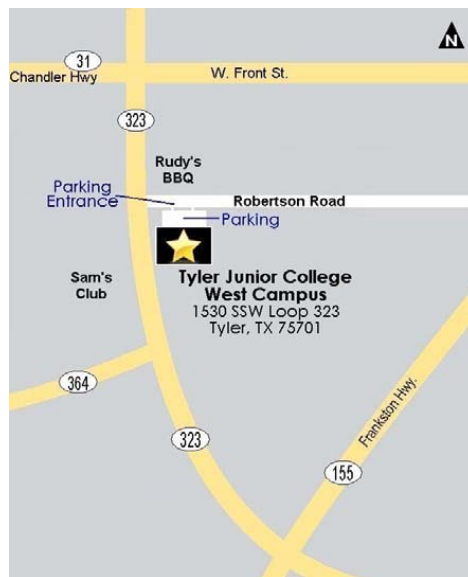




YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH
NEWSLETTER OF THE TYLER, TEXAS
COIN CLUB
FEBRUARY, 2011

The Tyler, Texas Coin Club Meets on the Second Tuesday of each month with meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. Location is the west campus of Tyler Junior College – 1530 SSW Loop 323. Club members and friends gather starting at 6:30 for fellowship and refreshments. Meeting agenda will always include business and the most spirited auction in Texas. Special presentations and programs are often offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all. (*Special note – March only the club will meet First Tuesday, March 1st owing to Spring Break at TJC*)



A Few Words from the Editor

Welcome to the February edition of the Tyler Coin Club newsletter. I'm sure by now you have noticed a great new change. This publication has a new name. President Dwight gave all club members and friends the opportunity to submit name possibilities. A club wide vote held at the meeting on February 8th chose a winner. One of our faithful club members suggested the following winning name; "YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH." His creativity was rewarded by the presentation of a gift certificate good toward any purchase at Texican Coins in Tyler. Congratulations!!

One more item: Owing to Spring Break our great location will not be available on March 8th, which is our usual meeting night. For this reason the **club will meet** in March on **Tuesday, March 1st**. Please mark your calendar now. See you then. God bless and happy collecting.

“Sowle Food”
Thoughts From President Dwight



Our first meeting of the New Year was exhilarating and very enjoyable. I went home feeling so good I couldn't go to sleep right away. A good time was enjoyed by everyone.

Welcome new member Bill Miller! Bill is our newest member who was with us along with his wife. Bill, we are happy to have you.

Thanks to all for taking part in changing the name of our Newsletter. “Your Two Cents Worth” received the most votes. Sort of has a nice ring to it – very appropriate. Our thanks to John H. for coming up with that name. We may want to consider changing the name of our Club...more on that at our next meeting. By the way, don't forget that our next meeting will be one week earlier – March 1. This is because TJC will be closed the week of the 8th due to Spring Break. So mark your calendar – Tuesday evening, March 1, 7:00 in room 104.

Don't forget National Coin Week (ANA) – April 17 – 23 – “Blue, Gray and Greenbacks” is this year's theme. Once again we plan to enter the Trivia Contest to see if we can take first place for the second year in a row. I even like the sound of a “three-peat!” Whadha ya say?

Mark your calendars for the annual TNA Coin Show in Fort Worth – May 20 - 22. This is always one of many highlights of the year for me.

That's it for this “portion” of Sowle Food. Until next time I leave you with this: “God, if I can't have what I want, let me want what I have.” God bless and happy collecting!

A Picture Worth More than a Thousand Word



Members of a growing coin club – great!!

And Two Pictures are Worth More than Two Thousand Words, right?



Our cheerful and attentive club leadership – thanks guys!!

Getting to Know You . . . Personal Numismatic Story

This month fellow collector Richard tells his story . . .

My collecting interests actually began in a most unexpected way. It was during the two years I was over in and around Bangor, Northern Ireland. Because of the age of the “house” in which we lived many “modern” touches were either non-existent or of a much later adaptation. The row of flats was constructed near the end of the reign of King George II, during the mid-18th century.

One of the more difficult modernizations was the gas for use in the kitchen. The gas line came in through the front wall, ran along inside the outside wall in the approximate direction of the kitchen which was situated in the very back of the house. In order to use the gas one had to place a few coins in the meter, enough pence to keep the flow of gas on long enough for dinner preparation. I remember on a couple of occasions having to acquire coins from guests in order to dinner to be prepared. It was an antiquated system but it worked, many such “modern” adaptations in those old houses didn’t.

It was on one of those gas seeking expeditions I held in my hand a coin I’d received in change earlier in the day. It was a well used, almost slick, six pence from 1836. This piece, which I still have, drew my attention to the small change of my days. The old pence were at that moment in history being replaced by the “New P(ence)” Older coins, which had circulated freely for decades, even for centuries, were disappearing quickly.

Even though I have long since moved on to other areas of collecting, I am still entertained by the memories and enjoy an occasional viewing of the old U.K. pieces I acquired way back then. I even added to the hoard after our return home at some local coin shows and off of the bid board at Johns’ Coin Shop in Houston. (Chris Johns, whom some of you probably knew, used to say “bid, bid, bid” and entertain us with her unique style of singing as the last bids of the week were being placed – I miss those days.)

Back a couple of decades ago I changed my collector focus a bit. Since then and even today I pursue mostly currency with emphasis on Texas and Confederate era items.

See you all soon. God bless you all. I’ll leave the gas on for you. Provided I can borrow a few coins.



Upcoming Collector Events

Denton Coin Show – Saturday, February 19th – VFW Post 2205 – 909 Sunset Dr. – Denton, TX

Texoma Coin Show – Saturday, February 26th – Days Inn – 3605 Hwy. 75 S. – Sherman, TX

Fort Worth Coin Club Spring Coin Show – Saturday and Sunday, March 5th and 6th – Lockheed – Martin Recreation Center – 3400 S. Bryant – Fort Worth

National Coin Week (ANA) – April 17 – 23 – “Blue, Gray and Greenbacks” – Our club will be involved in a big way – check the ANA web site for more details (money.org) How about preparing an educational exhibit somewhere in your community?

Texas Numismatic Association Convention – and annual show will be held May 20th to 22nd at the Amon G. Carter Center in the Will Rogers Complex located at 3401 W. Lancaster in Fort Worth

Numismatic Education – from Dr. Coyne

Questions:

1) Why were the rays removed from the design on Shield Nickels of 1867 to 1883? Nickel shown is dated 1866.



2) Why does this silver dollar of 1795 have edge lettering (not reeded edge)?



3) What are repeating depressions and how can you tell them from bag marks?

4) Who was Charles Barber and what did he do in Philadelphia?

5) What do you think about the collectability of 19th century die-struck copies of coins never made by the United States Mint? Legitimate?



6) A collector seeking to form a set of Jefferson Nickels will have the most difficulty locating which dates?

Dr. Coyne responds:

1) The rays were removed part way through the second year's production (1867) of the Shield Nickel in an attempt to improve the striking quality. The alloy (75% copper / 25% nickel) was new to the mint in the mid-1860s and proved difficult to adequately strike up due to the hardness of the metal. Even with the rays gone, the mint still had to use a high striking pressure, and this resulted in short die life and evidence of stress in the form of lots of die cracks. It is more common to see Shield Nickels of all years with die cracks than without them.

2) The 1795 silver dollar has a lettered edge reading: "HUNDRED CENTS ONE DOLLAR OR UNIT" to help introduce the citizenry to the new series of decimal coins. For all the silver denominations less than a half dollar, the planchet was too thin to accommodate edge lettering, so traditional reeding was employed. None of the silver coins had any indication of denomination or value on the obverse or the reverse, though the copper half cents and cents had BOTH edge lettering and a prominent indication of value as part of the reverse design. The half dollars of 1796-97 (a difficult type coin!) were an anomaly, showing the denomination 1/2 under the wreath on the reverse. Other than this very small issue, the first silver US Mint issues to have a denomination as part of the obverse or reverse design was the capped bust series (beginning with the half dollars of 1807). This was an era when all coins had nearly full intrinsic value.

3) Depressions are marks in the surface of a coin. Repeating depressions are the same mark(s) in the same place on two or more coins. They are useful in detecting counterfeits, whether cast or die struck. On a single coin in isolation, it is sometimes hard to distinguish a legitimate bag mark or circulation hit from a similar-looking depression on a counterfeit. On the copy, the depression came from a bag mark or circulation hit which was on the original coin from which the copy was made. One clue, however, is that bag marks or micro-cuts from circulation on the real coin will appear brighter or fresher than the surrounding surface of the coin. The depressions on the counterfeit will show no luster and will be the same color and texture as the rest of the surface of the counterfeit. Repeating depressions on the undated side of series coins such as one dollar or three dollar gold pieces have led to the unmasking of many counterfeits in these series as the makers tried to economize by pairing different dated sides with a single undated side to generate different coins to sell.

4) Charles E. Barber was the Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint from 1879 until his death in 1917. Among his best known works are the Liberty Nickel of 1883-1912 and the dime, quarter, and half dollar series of 1892 to 1916. He had a famous feud with Augustus Saint-Gaudens over the design and "coinability" of that famous artist's proposals for new \$10 and \$20 gold pieces in 1907. Barber was also not on good terms with other artists as he "simplified" their designs and lowered the relief on the Mercury Dime and the Walking Liberty Half soon after their introduction. Charles Barber followed his father William Barber as Chief Engraver; some say that George Morgan, who was already on the scene in 1879 should have gotten the job; Mr. Morgan (who had done the Bland Dollar in 1878) was still available in 1917 and was appointed then.



5) The Red Book and other sources tell us of the existence of many coins which are copies of non-US Mint issues which circulated as money. Illustrated is the "New Haven Restrike" of the Fugio Copper of 1787. This "restrike" (not really a restrike) was coined from copy dies made about 1860.

Coins of this class have a strong following and are legitimate collectibles. Most of those with the highest market prices were made 100+ years ago. But lesser ones, such as copies of 1776 Continental Currency Dollars, continued to be made up until only a few decades ago. Lower quality copies are even made today. In many

cases, museums would acquire and display pieces of this type. They sometimes preferred them to showing valuable originals (if they had them), or electrotypes made from originals. These Red Book-listed copies are NOT at all the same as the modern Chinese copies of the most recent few years. The early copies are all from hand-made copy dies, and they are easily distinguishable from the genuine pieces by students of the series.

6) The collector of Jefferson Nickels will have the most trouble finding regular circulation issues of 1939-D and 1950-D. The mintages on both issues are much smaller than average, and in the case of 1950-D, an inordinate fraction went directly to coin speculators and never entered circulation. In five decades of trying, Dr. Coyne has found perhaps 20 specimens of 1939-D in circulation, but has never come across a single 1950-D.

Next Time Together

The Greater Tyler Coin Club will gather again on Tuesday, March 1th. See you at 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend. Come enjoy a positive experience, good fellowship, and the most spirited coin auction in Texas. Mark your calendar now with this one time only change in schedule.

Until then . . . a Piece of History for your Consideration And Edification

Save your Confederate money boys for the South shall rise again!!
2011 is the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War aka the “War of Northern Aggression.”



Trivia Question: What is the “historic” link between the above note and our own part of East Texas?

Hint: Marshall, Texas personality

Details in the next issue of **YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH**

YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH is a publication of the Greater Tyler, Texas Coin Club. Please submit all items of interest, including articles, to the editor either at any club meeting or through email at pastorlaster@etex.net.