



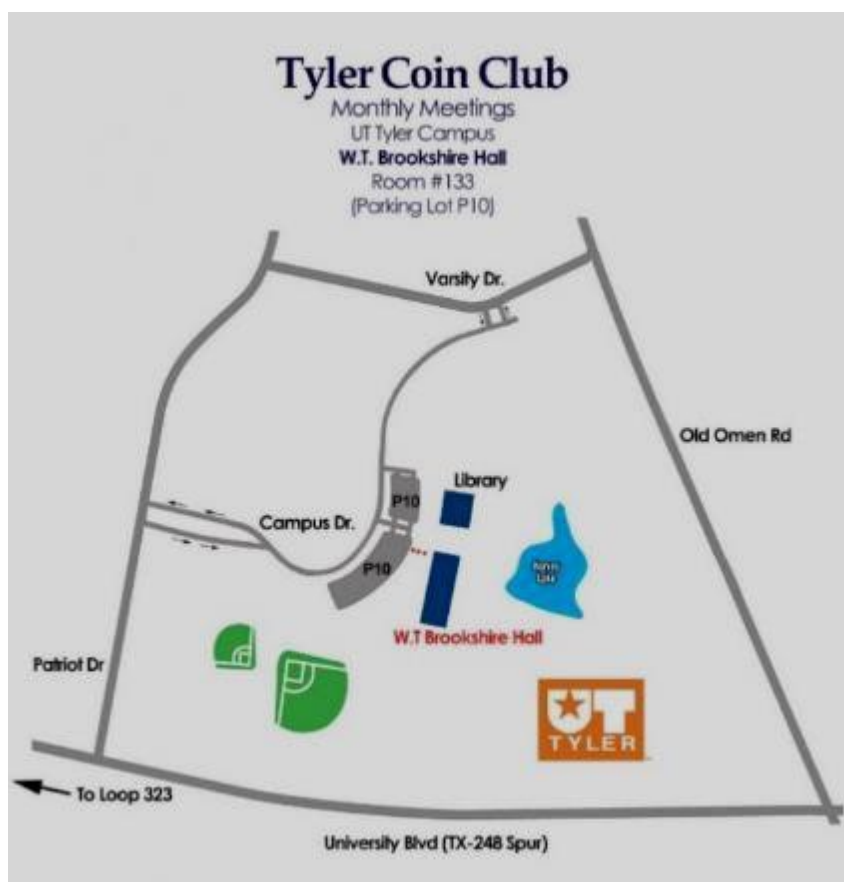
YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH



JANUARY 2020

VISIT THE TYLER, TEXAS COIN CLUB
IN PERSON AND ON THE INTERNET AT:
TYLERCOINCLUB.ORG

The Tyler, Texas Coin Club (TCC) meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Please consider yourself welcome. Meetings include great fellowship, numismatic education, a brief business session, and a spirited numismatic auction. The TCC meets on the campus of the University of Texas Tyler in room 133 of the W. T. Brookshire Building. Enter the campus via the identified “west entrance” off University Boulevard. Turn toward campus onto Patriot Dr. Enter campus and proceed on Campus Dr. to Parking Lot P10. (See map) The W. T. Brookshire Building is in full view from the parking lot just to the right of the library.



Numismatic Notes

Thoughts from Our President

Lane E.



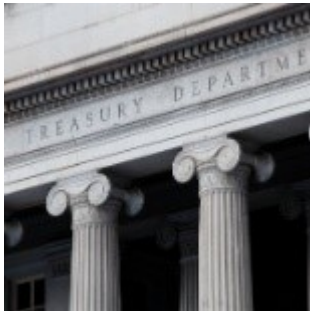
Welcome to the New Year! It's the start
Last year was

of another fun year for the Tyler Coin Club.

wonderful and I anticipate this year will be the same. I am really looking forward to more members sharing their numismatic knowledge and learning as much as I can from the collective wisdom of our current members and the new members who will join this year. And maybe, just maybe, we'll break the 70 mark in attendance at one of our 2020 meetings!

One of the topics we lightly discussed in the past was to offer a scholarship for a Club member to attend the American Numismatic Association's Summer Seminar. It's a great numismatic educational event of two separate one-week sessions currently offered the third and fourth week in June. You can learn just about anything you want about numismatics from some of the leading authorities in the hobby. Give it some thought and I would like to have a conversation about the opportunity at an upcoming club meeting.

Many thanks to Mark for carrying on the newsletter tradition for the Club. This is Mark's first issue as editor and I am looking forward to seeing what Mark's imagination will do with our publication.



Treasurer's Notes

Royce J.

Region's Bank Balance as of January 7, 2020 is	7346.38	
Bank balance as of December 1, 2019		8,426.42
Check #2680 to Salvation Army		
Angel Tree donation	-1,256.00	7,170.42
Check #2681 for door prizes,		
Christmas party, greysheet	- 454.04	6,716.38
Deposit		
Christmas Dinner (41 attendances)	+ 410.00	
2020 Dues collected (11 members)	+ 220.00	7,346.38

NEWS ALERT !!!!! REMEMBER CLUB DUES ARE DUE THIS MONTH !!!!!

EDITOR'S NOTES

I would like to thank Richard for all of his hard work over the years.

Compiling and editing your newsletter is a time consuming job.

Richard did this task for the love of his hobby and his compassion for his fellow collectors and club member friends. In assuming this task I hope I can do as well as he did and help our members and soon to be members to realize just how much fun coin collecting is, and the rewards that come with it in meeting great new folks and finding new treasures. Most of us all have different goals in collecting and this is what makes our group so great. We all can offer learning opportunities and help those new to this hobby to sort out their ambitions and maybe help them get started in a direction that will keep them from making some of the mistakes we have in the past. If you have an idea for this newsletter, just email me and we will try to make it happen. Lets have a great NEW YEAR !!!! See you at the MEETINGS !!!!

Mark P.

What's So Special About the 1943 Copper Penny?

According to the American Numismatic Association, the 1943 copper-alloy cent is one of the most idealized and potentially one of the most sought-after items in American numismatics. Nearly all circulating pennies at that time were struck in zinc-coated steel because copper and nickel were needed for the Allied war effort.

Approximately 40 1943 copper-alloy cents are known to remain in existence. Coin experts speculate that they were struck by accident when copper-alloy 1-cent blanks remained in the press hopper when production began on the new steel pennies.

A 1943 copper cent was first offered for sale in 1958, bringing more than \$40,000. A subsequent piece sold for \$10,000 at an ANA convention in 1981. The highest amount paid for a 1943 copper cent was \$82,500 in 1996.

Because of its collector value, the 1943 copper cent has been counterfeited by coating steel cents with copper or by altering the dates of 1945, 1948, and 1949 pennies.

The easiest way to determine if a 1943 cent is made of steel, and not copper, is to use a magnet. If it sticks to the magnet, it is not copper. If it does not stick, the coin might be of copper and should be authenticated by an expert.

A VISIT TO “THE COIN CABINET”

by Larry V.

It just so happened I purchased some medieval looking coins that I was unfamiliar with during our November coin show. I was expecting to recoup the money spent in the enjoyment of identifying them and learning about the history of the periods they represent. I have begun this effort and have not been disappointed with the results. Let me explain with one example:

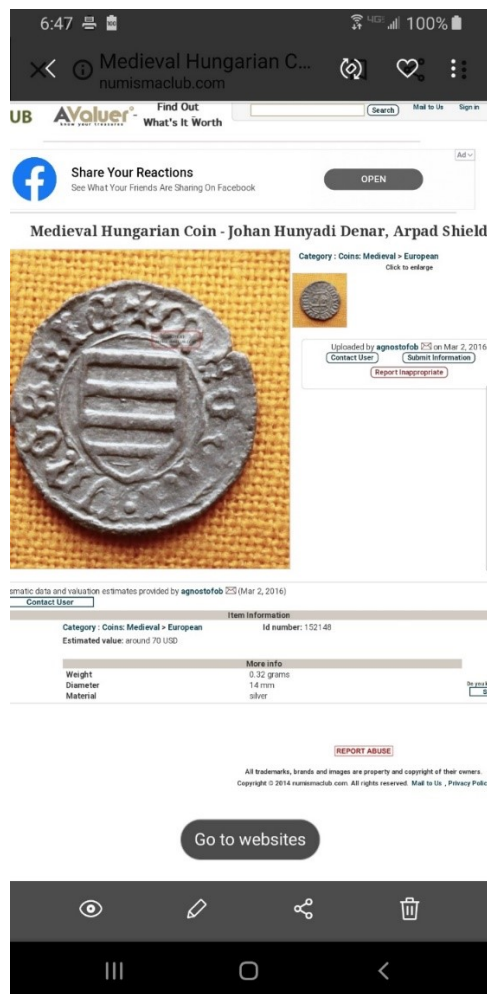
Note the coin pictured, front and back. It is obviously crude, but some of the markings are distinguishable and so can be researched. I determined it was a Medieval Hungarian Denar from the 15th century. How did I do it?



The beginning researchable clue was the coat of arms shield. I was familiar with a shield of Hungary that was broken into 4 quadrants (see below) and knew these quadrants represented the territories ruled by the monarch who owned the coat of arms. Thus I did a Google search of the images of old Hungarian coats of arms – and found one with the shield bearing the bars only.



An alternative to recognizing the coat of arms would be to use the computer app *Coinoscope* – downloadable to a smartphone. You use the *Coinoscope* app to take a picture of your coin and it makes suggestions of what you have. It doesn't always get you there, but I have found it very helpful a significant portion of the time I have used it to know where to start. In the case of my medieval coin, it turns out the “bars only” shield was of an earlier Hungarian time period, and is referred to as an Arpad Shield. I looked at the few examples of images of the coins with this shield looking for a reverse that had a double cross piece and found the Johan Hunyadi Denar coin which fit the bill close enough.



Not only the designs, but the size, weight, and silver make-up matched as well. Because the condition of the research reference coin was in better condition than mine, I will use it to check and verify all the design parts I could not make out on mine. I will study these if and when I try to nail the coin down in more detail.

Further research provided additional information about the time period the coin was produced and the meaning of the design. The stripes in the shield represent the heraldic symbol of the *Arpads* during the 13th century, first used in the coat of arms in 1202. The double cross first appears on coins minted under Bela III (c. 1190).

John Hunyadi was Regent-Governor of the kingdom of Hungary. He was born in 1406 and died in 1456, thus giving us a time period for our coin. More information about him may be found on Wikipedia.

Regent-Governor of the Kingdom of Hungary
Voivode of Transylvania



John Hunyadi depicted in the 15th-century **Thuróczi**
chronicles

Accordingly, I am willing to give the coin an approximate date of being during the lifetime of John Hunyadi (probably the later part – say 1450) and, based on ebay prices for similar pieces, a retail price range of \$35 to \$65.

Questions for Dr. Coyne:

1. What is this piece? It is a bit bigger than a Morgan Dollar. It seems to be made of bronze, and perhaps “antiqued” at the time of its manufacture. It bears the date 1935. Is it a pattern for a U.S. coin or U.S. commemorative?



2. Does anything trouble you about the appearance of this 1893-S Dollar??



3. What coin is regarded now as being the first U.S. commemorative coin?

4. What is the date on the earliest one cent piece struck for circulation at a U.S. branch mint?

5. What is the series date on Hawaii overprint Currency in the \$1, \$5, \$10, and \$20 denominations?

6. A collector seeking the most economical purchase of a U.S. gold coin should look to what issues?

7. What is this item?



[If you feel Dr. Coyne has slipped up on any of the responses on the following page, please tell Mark]

Dr. Coyne's Answers

1. This is a privately issued medal. It was struck and issued as part of the efforts to raise funds to complete the "Pioneer Memorial" statue and build a suitable display platform for the work of Elgin, Illinois artist Trygve Rovelstad. The obverse of the medal (shown) is almost the same as the obverse motif on the "Elgin" commemorative half dollar of 1936. Unfortunately, the fund-raising efforts fell short, and the unfinished statue languished in the artist's warehouse for decades. The city of Elgin donated suitable parkspace and a new effort finally saw the statue mounted by the Fox River in 2004.

2. The 1893-S dollar is a prime example of a coin which should be bought in top-tier third party grading "slab" in today's market. There are too many "raw" counterfeit or altered pieces circulating in today's market. The genuine specimen, even if worn down to VG should still show the die line (scratch on the die) in the letter T in the headband. The alignment of the date with the adjacent denticles is also different on 1893-S and 1893 Philadelphia. It was not until 1909 that all U.S. mint regular issues began having the date as part of the master hub, so until 1909, the date placement can be subtly different on each working die. This coin was graded by a top-tier service; the cleaning notwithstanding.



3. Discussions are still open on which is the first legitimate U.S. commemorative coin. Some would say the 1892 Columbian Exposition half dollar. But Dr. Coyne thinks that a claim can be made on behalf of the 1848 quarter eagles with "CAL." over the eagle. The gold (a total of 230 ounces) for this issue was specially shipped from the new discoveries in California, and about 1400 specimens were made at the Philadelphia mint. The letters (incuse on the coin) allegedly were stamped while the coins were still in the die.

Dr. Coyne's Answers Continued

4. The first one cent coins struck at a branch United States mint were the Indian Cents of 1908, in San Francisco. The "S" mintmark appears under the wreath at the bottom of the reverse. The 1908 Philadelphia cents are about 30 times more common than the San Francisco ones today. Denver did not begin striking Lincoln Cents until 1911. Cents have also been struck at West Point, but these do not bear a mintmark and look just like the ones from Philadelphia. The other four U.S. branch mints never made cents.

5. Collectors of U.S. currency (denominations \$1 - \$20) in the small (current) size will find the Hawaii overprint in brown on \$1 silver certificates of series 1935-A. The notes, issued after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, are Federal Reserve Notes on \$5, \$10, and \$20 denominations. Thank goodness that it never became necessary to demonetize these, as was planned if the Hawaiian islands had been overrun by the Japanese in the 1940's.

6. While an advancing gold price in recent years has run up the market value of many less-expensive U.S. gold coins, the best bargains remain the \$5 Half Eagles and \$2.50 Quarter Eagles of the Liberty series. Such pieces, especially from 1880 to 1907 usually are available in still-attractive EF condition for only a modest premium over the contained gold value. This puts the Half Eagle (at about $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce) at around \$440 in the current market. The tiny gold dollars go for lower prices in circulated grades, but they do not show the designs as well, and their cost per ounce of gold is higher.

7. The illustrated item is an enlargement of the date area on an 1802 U.S. Half Cent. In this rather scarce year, all the half cents in collectors' hands show a bold "0" under the "2", and this coin is often listed as 1802/0. Specialists say that this is the product of an unfinished die, not used for coinage in 1800, but redated for use in 1802 by punching over the final digit of the date. Since all dies of this era required substantial hand work and were thus valuable, it made no sense for the mint to arbitrarily discard dies which were still serviceable just because the calendar had turned over to a new year.

"KIDS CORNER"

**Lets not forget how some of us got our interests started in collecting coins.
The U.S. Mint comes out with several ways to help get them started.
Below is just one of them. Go to [usmint.gov](https://www.usmint.gov) to see these.**



The 2019 United States Mint Explore and Discover Coin Set™ contains a coin folder and activity book in one outer sleeve. It is the second of three new youth-oriented products the United States Mint is offering in 2019 featuring the new Mighty Minters™ characters—Kendra, Timothy, Sophie, Lina, Alex, Eli, and Layla. These are fun, diverse, and relatable ambassadors to children, parents, and gift-givers. Each character projects its own style while introducing a variety of new Mint products to kids. The coin folder contains six coins from the San Francisco and Denver Mints and a penny planchet (coin blank). The set also includes a Mighty Minter magnifying glass to help kids see the distinctive design elements on each coin. The set includes these 2019-dated coins:

One quarter from the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program honoring Lowell National Historical Park in Massachusetts. The reverse (tails) design depicts a mill girl working at a power loom with its prominent circular bobbin battery. A view of Lowell, including the Boott Mill clock tower is seen through the window. Inscriptions include "LOWELL," "MASSACHUSETTS," "2019," and "E PLURIBUS UNUM."

- **One Native American \$1 Coin**
- **One Kennedy half dollar**
- **One Roosevelt dime**
- **One Jefferson nickel**
- **One Lincoln penny**

The folder has four quarter-sized openings for kids to collect the other four America the Beautiful Quarters released in 2019. The three proof coins (quarter, dollar, half dollar) are encapsulated, and both sides of the coins are visible in the packaging. The three uncirculated coins (penny, nickel, dime) and penny planchet are removable from the packaging and can be re-inserted multiple times so kids can closely view, examine, and handle them.

The activity book has games such as a maze and word scramble, fun facts about coins, bios of the Mighty Minters, and a step-by-step graphic of how coins are manufactured.