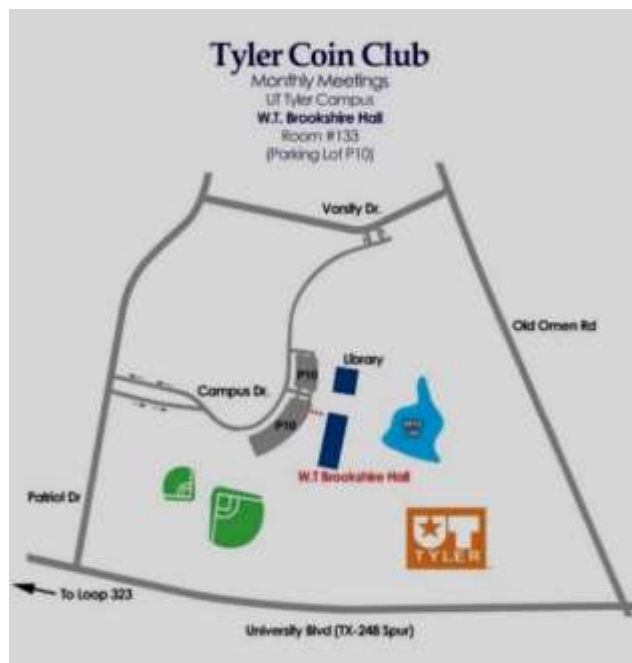


# YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH AUGUST 2021



(Visit the Tyler, Texas Coin Club in person and on the internet at: [tylercoinclub.org](http://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 below) 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 B.

August is an exciting time for the Tyler Coin Club as it's the month we hold our annual Tyler Coin Show. This year the show will be on August 13 and 14 in the Ornelas Activity Center near the UT Tyler campus. This show will be our 13<sup>th</sup> annual show, and although it may be a little smaller, the enthusiasm for the show is excellent, and we expect a large turnout. David and Steve, again, have done a remarkable job pulling together another superb show.

We will also have educational exhibits as they have been really popular at prior shows with collectors and the general public. A special thanks goes out to Larry for taking the lead with the exhibits and keeping us enthused along the way. Add to this the free door prizes, our grand raffle, and free admission, and we should have one heckuva show.

Let's hope we can engage the public visitors and help them learn about the fun of numismatics and how you don't have to spend lots of money to enjoy the hobby. And maybe we can even have some of those new folks join us at our monthly meetings. As David often says, and I fully agree, it's about collecting people as much as collecting coins. So be safe, and I'll see you soon.

## MINUTES OF THE July 13, 2021 MEETING OF THE TYLER COIN CLUB

by Carl S.

Meeting called to order by President Lane Brunner with Pledge to the Flag

New

**Attendance** Members: 30 Members: 1 Guests: 2 Total: 33

### **Discussion of Agenda Items (Lane)**

- The club was lead in prayer by Richard G.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of July.
- Royce presented a brief Treasurer's report.
- David gave an update on preparations for the 2021 coin show (August 13-14). New location is Ornelas Activity Center. Dealer tables are sold out with waiting list. The show is being advertised in a multitude of formats including digital billboards, local mail out, and a four state targeted mail out to ANA members. Concession this year will include a BBQ food truck. Show volunteers are needed; please contact David.

- Larry V. discussed Educational Exhibits for the upcoming show.
- Larry V. gave a presentation on ancient coins highlighting Divus Antoninus Pius Silver Denarius Consecratio Eagle.
- Next regular meeting is August 10, 2021 at W.T. Brookshire Hall (room #133) on the UT Tyler campus.

**Club Auction (Richard G.)**

- 29 items sold

**Door Prize Winners**

- Chuck, Randy, Russell and William

**A VISIT WITH DR. COYNE**

**Questions for Dr. Coyne**

1. What characteristics help distinguish genuine 1914-D cents from spurious ones?



2. What coin in the whole history of the U.S. mint since 1793 has the highest mintage?  
Give date and mint.

3. When was the last 1964 silver quarter struck?

4. What is this coin? Is it a U.S. pattern?



Hint: it is about the size of a modern half dollar.

5. Is this Mexican piece a rare coin?



6. What is “specific gravity” and how can it be used in coin authentication?

7. What is the only design difference on the U.S. \$20 coin when comparing 1909-1911 issues to those after 1912?

### **Dr. Coyne responds:**

1. While whole-coin counterfeits of 1914-D are known, most of the bogus pieces seen in the market are alterations made from genuine Lincoln cents of other dates or mints. Since the issue of 1914-D was fairly small at 1.2 million, there were only a few working dies employed. Collectors should look first at the date characters (particularly the “14” and the shape, style, and positioning of the mintmark). The genuine “D” has a well formed symmetrical opening in the D and two prominent, square serifs. Shysters adding a “D” will usually not get the right size and form of the D. The commonly seen alteration from 1944-D will show uneven spacing of the date digits. Additionally, alterations made from cents struck in 1918 and later will have in incuse VDB at the shoulder (or evidence of its removal). More subtly, alterations made from cents after about 1939 will show lower relief and growth of the devices toward the edge of the coin as the master die deteriorated with use in the decades following 1914. This issue is definitely a candidate for a trip to a leading third-party grading/authentication service. The top-tier companies have an enviable reputation at spotting bogus 1914-D cents.

2. The U.S. coin with the greatest original mintage is the 2000 D Lincoln Cent. Over 8.7 billion were struck. In fact, the Lincoln Cent obverse is the world’s most-reproduced piece of artwork. Mintages in recent years have been so astonishing that it is rumored that the total production of Lincoln Cents in the last 22 years exceeds the total cumulative output of coins of all nations from the beginning of coinage through 1999. Sounds reasonable to Dr. Coyne, but this assertion is untested.

3. The last silver quarter bearing the date 1964 was struck at Denver in the summer of 1965. Readers may recall that the 1965-dated coins were of clad base metal. But the initial run of these was struck alongside continuing production of the 1964-style quarters

as a coin shortage was in full swing. The season for 1964 quarters was thus 18 months long. These coins are not rare today, though the issue of 1964 probably led the parade into the melting pots when spot silver prices briefly approached \$50 per ounce in 1980.

4. This is a pattern for a U.S. one dollar coin. It is an example of a “Metric” Dollar struck as part of a demonstration of what a line of coins would look like if struck in a “goloid” composition including gold, silver, and copper and sized to have intrinsic value similar to popular European gold coins of the time. At the time this pattern (Judd 1617) was struck, the U.S. was officially on a bimetallic gold AND silver standard.

5. This is an example of a “hookneck eagle” Mexican 8 Reales. Hooknecks were coined only in three mints (Mexico City, Durango, and Guanajuato), and only for three years (1823-1825). The 1997 book by Hubbard and O’Harrow is the standard reference for this short series. Pieces from all mints and all years are available in the market, but pressure from type collectors and the interesting artistry on these coins have made them rather expensive in recent years. A “Hookneck” type coin in the 8 Reales size is scarce but not rare –market value might be over \$1000 for a piece like the one illustrated.

6. The term ‘specific gravity’ is a numerical description of the weight of a solid object to the weight of the same volume of a standard substance. For example the weight (mass, to be technical) of a cube of iron that is one foot on each side is about 963 pounds. The weight of one cubic foot of water is 62.4 pounds. So the ratio of the weight of the iron to the weight of the water (963/62.4) is 13.5. The specific gravity of iron is 13.5. In coin authentication, we use the measured specific gravity of the coin as an indication of its alloy. If pure silver has a specific gravity of 10.49 and pure copper has a specific gravity of 8.92, we would expect that a 50/50 mixture of the two metals would have a specific gravity of 9.72 (half way between the pure metals). Similarly, we would expect that a coin of 90% silver would have a specific gravity of 10.34. Note that the reading for specific gravity is dimensionless. The matter of obtaining the necessary dry scale weight and ‘wet’ scale weight will be left for another time. It can be done at home with sufficient accuracy to unmask low-silver counterfeits and distinguish them from genuine, struck pieces.

7. The design difference on the late Double Eagles (\$20) from the early ones is a small one: there are 48 stars after 1911, reflecting admission of New Mexico and Arizona to the union.



## EDUCATIONAL BLASTS FROM THE PAST

### **Experiment with Aluminum for Coins**

The late experiments at the mint in Philadelphia to improve our smaller coins have not proved very satisfactory as far as aluminum is concerned. This metal in its pure state is found to be too soft, and, in the opinion of the officials in charge, altogether too light for the purpose desired. – The Numismatist, December, 1896.

## UPCOMING COLLECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

Tyler Coin Club Show – August 13-14 ... Ornelas Activity Center – 3401 Old Omen Rd., Tyler Texas

Texarkana Coin Club Show – November 19-20 ... Texarkana Convention Center, 4610 Cowhorn Creek Road, Texarkana, Texas

## NUMISMATIC EDUCATION

### **Grading Circulated Buffalo Nickels**

Buffalo nickels are made out of 75% copper and 25% nickel. Nickel is a tough metal that is hard and does not easily produce a nicely struck coin. Therefore, the highest points of the coin are often flat and lacking detail due to an incomplete strike.



**Buffalo Nickel Design High Points**



## Good-4 (G4)



The devices, lettering, legends and date are readable but may have some faintness in a few areas. The fundamental details of the Indian's head (feathers and hair) are present. The date is clearly readable without any strenuous effort. On poorly struck examples, the letters of "LIBERTY" may be merged with the rim. The top of the buffalo's head is flat and devoid of details. The legends are clear, but may be touching the rim in a few spots.

## Fine-12 (F12)



The major design elements are bold and all lettering, legends and date are clear and readable. Three-quarters of the details in the Indian's hair and braid are visible. The hairline near the cheek and forehead is discernible. Major details in the buffalo's shoulder and rear flank are visible. Approximately half the buffalo's horn shows and the tuft of hair on the top of the head is more distinct. All lettering is bold and clear.

## Extra Fine-40 (EF40, XF40)



Details are sharp and design elements are well defined. The Indian's hair, braid and feathers are lightly worn but the overall design details are bold. Minimal wear is visible on the ribbon lines in the hair braid. The buffalo's horn is virtually complete and the details in the buffalo's hair are bold. Only minor flatness exists on the buffalo's shoulder and rear flank.

## A VISIT TO “THE COIN CABINET”

In going through my small pile of foreign “junk silver” coins, I ran across a Chilean peso. It was instantaneously recognized as a Chilean coin by the familiar Andean condor.

The peso is a crown sized coin having a composition of 0.8350 parts silver and an ASW of 0.5369 troy ounces. This particular coin is of a design minted from 1895 to 1897. Since I like designating the side of the coin with the date as the obverse, that is how we’ll proceed.



The obverse depicts the denomination of UN PESO within a wreath. An S mintmark for Santiago is positioned above the denomination and the date of 1895 just below. There were just over 6 million pieces of these pesos minted that year. Santiago was founded by the Spanish in 1541 and the Chilean mint, in Santiago, was founded in 1743. While the Santiago mint first produced coins when Chile was still a Spanish colony, it has since that time produced coins and currency for the Republic of Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Venezuela, Paraguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, and others.

One of the more interesting aspects of the coin is the use of the “Hammer and Sickle” motif interwoven in the base of the wreath. It is utilized here over 20 years before being adopted as the communist symbol of the Soviet Union.



The reverse of the peso consists of a defiant condor, sitting on a mountain outcrop, facing left (his/her right). The condor is surrounded by the inscription REPUBLICA DE CHILE. The Andean condor is a South American bird and is the largest flying bird in the world by combined measurement of weight and wingspan (just under 11 ft).

