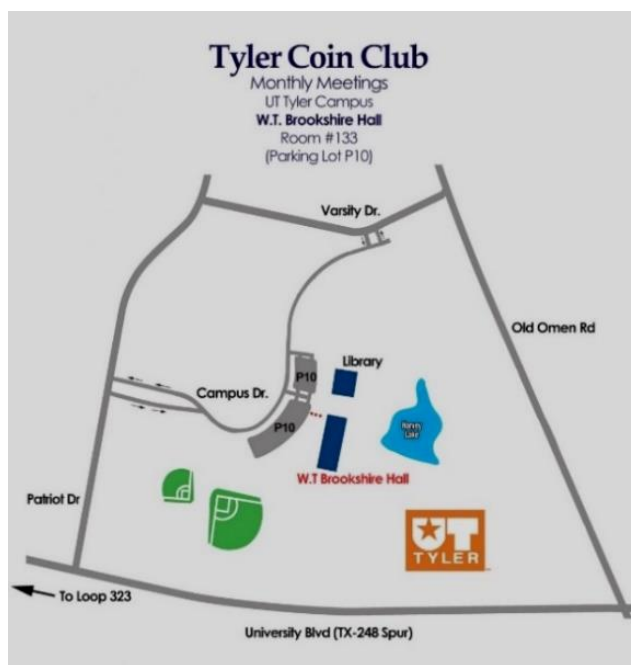


YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH SEPTEMBER 2022



(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 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

Richard G.

Hello fellow coin enthusiast,

It is with bittersweet emotions that I greet you.

First the sweet. The Tyler coin show had all the ear marks of being an extreme success and I am glad to report that it was not a disappointment! As a matter of fact I have heard nothing but good comments about our club, about the show itself, and about the many volunteers that represented our club!! Tyler Coin Club, you are amazing!!!

On the other side of my emotions is the situation that is happening with Lane Bruner. He has helped me personally so many times and has been a great asset to so many people in our club. The medical team taking care of him has moved him to hospice and we need a miracle if he is to pull out of this medical situation. I have asked Allen Brown to keep us updated and informed on any changes, as well as provide an update at our next meeting. Please be in prayer for Lane *now*. He and his family need it very much.

My hope to all of you is that we value the time that God allows us to spend with each other as we pursue our great hobby.

May God bless you and keep you until we meet again.

Richard

REQUEST FROM THE EDITOR

Do you notice the rerun of some older articles in your newsletter? How about helping improve the situation. Please consider contributing articles that can be included in our monthly newsletter. Talk to me at the club meetings about suggestions or simply mail them to me at:

larry_vann@hotmail.com

Thanks,
Larry Vann

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2022 MEETING

by Carl S.

Meeting called to order at 7pm by President Richard Graham with Pledge to the Flag

New

Attendance Members: 38 Members: 2 Guests: 1 Total: **41**

Discussion of Agenda Items (Richard)

- The club was lead in prayer by Larry.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of August.
- Royce presented a brief Treasurer's report including show expenses.
- David gave an update on the upcoming Tyler Coin Show (August 12-13) including progress of advertising. David also recognized several members for their contributions preparing for the show. Carl gave an update on status of Facebook advertising.
- Royce announced that Chick-Fil-A entrees would be used for concession along with club purchased drinks and snacks. He also contacted the three local news stations for possible show coverage and confirmed a date for the 2023 show with UT Tyler.
- Larry gave an update on the educational exhibits planned for the Tyler Show.
- Allen gave a short presentation on identifying where U.S. currency is printed (Ft. Worth or Washington D.C.) based on the face-plate number.
- The next regular club meeting is September 13, 2022 at W.T. Brookshire Hall (room #133) on the UT Tyler campus.
- Meeting adjourned.

Club Auction (Kern)

- 21 auction items sold - \$571

Door Prize Winners

- Chuck, Don, Howard, and Paul

QUESTIONS FOR DR. COYNE

1. What is the most recent year that the U.S. five cent piece has departed from the current cupronickel alloy?
2. The 1853 Coinage Act led to an addition of a design feature on the obverse of half dimes, quarters, and half dollars. What was it?
3. What currently active numismatic firm claims to be the world's oldest?
4. Mexico's illustrious numismatic heritage exceeds that of any nation in the New World. Were coins struck at Mexico City before there were Pillar Dollars?
5. When did the longest vacancy occur at the post of Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint?
6. What does this medal have to do with U.S. numismatics? Hint: 1925



DR. COYNE RESPONDS

1. The five cent coins of 1945 were the most recent to depart from the 75/25 copper/nickel alloy which has been used for all "nickels" of 1866 to 2013 except the "war nickels" of 1942-1945. They contained manganese, copper, and 35% silver as nickel was being conserved for war material.
2. The silver issues of 1853 (and continuing through 1855) had arrows at the date denoting a small reduction in the weight of contained silver. This change made them into "subsidiary" coins and made them less attractive for melting and export. The face value exceeded the intrinsic value. The program was successful until the Civil War when most federal-issue coins of all kinds were driven into hiding.

3. Spink & Son, Ltd of London claims to be the world's longest serving coin firm. They trace their founding to 1666 and were for a long time located in King St. at St. James. In our time, they have incorporated the businesses of Seaby's and Smythe and moved to modern facilities in Bloomsbury.

4. The Spanish Colonial mint at Mexico City, the first in the New World, began coining in 1536. Early products included the hammered 1, 2, 3, and 4 reales issued in the names of Carlos and Johanna. The early pieces are of the "no waves" variety. Milled Pillar "Dollars" of 8 Reales came later, beginning in 1732.



5. For two centuries beginning in 1793 the post of Chief Engraver was held by a series of talented artists and skilled engravers who proposed and executed new designs for the nation's coins and medals. But at the end of Elizabeth Jones' term in 1991, no one was appointed. Outside artists were used. By 1974, John Mercanti was already on staff at the US Mint, but was not appointed Chief engraver until 2006. The engraver's post has again been vacant at times since 2011 when Mercanti went on to private employment.

[Elizabeth Jones](#) (1981 to 1991) Vacant (1991 to 2006)

[John Mercanti](#) (2006 to 2010) Vacant (2010 to 2019)

[Joseph Menna](#) (Feb 2019 to present)

6. This is a Norse commemorative. These attractive octagonal pieces were coined on the same Philadelphia Mint presses used normally for half dollars. The two varieties of the Norse medal (thick and thin) are often collected with the classic commemorative series of half dollars (46 types).

FUN SHEET

by Larry Vann

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Numismatics

B D Z A A S T O T Y M M R A Y
C A U T I R E V E R S E M O N
F O O R P T S F X R G Q I P E
R I M O X A R E A G L E L P N
A B T M U N C D R L R M S O I
N Y A V E A W L K E E I K C F
K C O J Q M X I A H T G O O D
L I R A L L O D N U R O R P I
I D B E R Z L R A X A L J P M
N A U D Y D I M E L U D U E E
R E L Y T E N F L T Q H T R I
A B C E U Q C O A N I C O I N
N I C K E L O S T A Z V N U A
B I L L S I I V E R T E E A S
Y E N O M I N T M O S A D I L

TYLER

TEXARKANA

COIN

PROOF

FINE

GOOD

METAL

CLUB

TNA

MINT

RIM

FRANKLIN

EAGLE

GOLD

LIRA

COPPER

NICKEL

DIME

QUARTER

DOLLAR

REVERSE

ANA

MONEY

BILL

TONED

WHAT TO COLLECT by Stuart Mosher (March, 1948)

– edited and condensed by LV

Contrary to the suggestion of what the title of this article might convey, I will not advise you what to collect. Rather I will tell about the various coins in which many collectors specialize so that you may decide for yourself. It would seem that all humans have the instinct to collect things, That coins should be the objective of a certain proportion of the population is not unusual. At one time or another most persons have formed what might be called a coin collection. They begin by saving different dates or mint marks of coins that they find in circulation. Perhaps they get a hundred or so different pieces. This is a start but usually our novice collector takes his “collection” and returns it to circulation. If he should pass beyond this stage he invariably becomes a confirmed collector of coins.

A seemingly natural inclination is for a collector to want a coin from each different country. At this stage he is well on the way to becoming a general collector. But before he completes such a collection he will undoubtedly become side-tracked. As his collection grows he will become particularly interested in certain kinds of coins. Perhaps it will be coins bearing portraits of famous persons, historical coins, or coins showing famous buildings, animals, coats of arms or innumerable other types that may catch his fancy. Such possibilities for expansion in various fields will both delight and appall him, for after all the average man has just so much time and money to spend on his hobby.

Starting a Collection

There is no “best way” to start a coin collection. But there are certain pitfalls to avoid and if you succeed in detouring those mentioned here you will not go far wrong.

We will suppose that you have decided to specialize in one or more series of coins, or even that you are going to collect all kinds of coins. Before you spend your hard earned money resolve never to buy a coin unless you know exactly what it is, it’s approximate market value and the reliability of the person who is selling it. Secondly, don’t buy a coin just because it appears to be a bargain. In all probability it isn’t a bargain anyway and unless it fits into your collection it is of no use to you.

Cataloging Your Collection

As each coin is added to your collection it is recorded in a ledger according to chronological date of purchase. It can be given a number and it is well to record the source, purchase price, and a brief description of the coin such as country, date denomination, metal condition and pedigree, providing of course, the latter is obtainable. Such a record will be invaluable if any or all of your coins are lost or stolen, if your collection is disposed of or, if it is necessary to have it appraised

for purposes of taxation. It also may prove useful if the genuineness of any of your coins become a matter of doubt or if their true ownership is questioned.

The Condition of a Coin

There are certain coins that are unobtainable in perfect condition, yet because of their historical importance they are always in demand and worthy of a place in any collection. This is especially true of coins struck during medieval times and even as late as the beginning of the 19th century. The fault with many such coins would seem to be in the preparation of the dies and planchets and in the striking. Many early English and American pieces will be found weakly struck on irregular planchets and yet they are highly desirable.

Style and Striking of a Coin

The “style” refers to the artistic merits of the design. The “striking” to the mechanical accuracy with which it is struck. Fine-style and careful striking are not necessarily associated. In fact, it is a peculiar circumstance that we often find coins of the finest style poorly struck and coins of the most bland style struck with meticulous care. Fine-style may refer to the output of a skilled artist as distinguished from the work of his less skilled contemporaries or to coins struck during a time when artistic coins were the rule and not the exception. Coins of the latter class are correctly referred to as the “finest period” rather than as the “finest style.”

A coin having a design that is well-centered and showing sharp, even impressions of the dies may be considered well-struck. But the term well-struck must be used cautiously. A worn-out die might produce a nicely centered design but not a well-struck one.

The Color of a Coin

A copper or bronze coin rarely retains its original mint color for any long period of time. The surface of ancient coins acquires a film or incrustation known as patina. This patina may vary in color being either black, brown, red, blue, green or a combination of such colors. Patina is caused by oxidation and the color depends upon the chemical nature of the soil, air, or moisture with which the coin came in contact.

Silver coins may vary in color from their original brilliance to a heavy dull tarnish. Until recent years collectors preferred silver coins having what can best be described as a light steel-blue tone. A few of the old-timers still prefer it but generally new collectors insist that the coins they buy have “original brilliance.”

ARTICLE BY RICHARD LASTER – TNA PRESIDENT



(Obverse design of a famous Texas Centennial Half Dollar from the series minted starting in 1934 and ending in 1938. Designed by renowned Italian born / “who got here as soon as I could” Texan sculptor Pompeo Coppini)

Of all the coins, coin types, international and domestic, gold, silver, or lesser metals, my all time favorite remains the Texas Commemorative Half Dollar. Maybe it is that patriotic “Texan” experience which has been part of my family history for at least four generations prior to my time in Texas history. Or it could be the Texas Half has unique eye appeal and is able to answer the question, **“just how much can you get on the field of a half dollar?”** Whatever the case, the image shared above is for me a significant presence.

It was therefore with a bit of restrained giddiness that I placed a bid on a less intense derivative of the familiar design. I was scrolling through eBay and there it was, a bronze medal from 1978. After a few days of tracking the piece, I found myself the winner with a more than satisfying bid. The only thing I needed to figure out was the reason why my treasure existed. After a bit of virtual “diving” I discerned that the purpose was to honor the members of the Old Timers Assay Commission Society (OTACS) on the occasion of their 14th reunion and social gathering held in conjunction with the American Numismatic Association’s annual meeting and convention in my hometown of Houston.

Following this discovery I was able to find an interesting article on the subject which was penned by David Ganz, a famous “numismatic” attorney and former president (1993 to 1995) of the ANA. The article which drew my attention appeared in the *Numismatic News* back on July 24, 2012. In this Ganz shared some interesting history along with a note of sadness regarding the Old Timers Assay Commission Society.

Here are the basic details worth noting. Back when the first mint in Philadelphia was founded, one of the items of business was the establishment of an “Assay Commission” created to review weight, maintain standards, double check the products of the mint, along with the general order of quality, of testing and visually sampling our government’s coinage output. To ensure the highest quality both possible and true. The original Assay Commission was created by law on April 2, 1792. Ganz shared that a reaffirmation occurred eighty years later as part of the famous Coinage Act of 1873.

Members of the original Assay Commission were generally political or politically attached. There were twenty five members who served without pay for a one year stay. A new group was appointed

by the President of the United States each year. Over time the focus of the Commission shifted with a number of high profile numismatists taking on the role of assayers. Ganz was a member, appointed by President Nixon, in 1974. Others of note are Eric Newman (1967), John J. Pittman (1947), and Adna Wilde (1975). I could not find an exhaustive list of former members and imagine there will be a few from our own great state involved.

All of this shared before brings me to 1964 when the OTACS was founded. The call was for a fellowship of former members, veterans of the assay task. Considering the number of people appointed each year I am sure, at that point forward, the potential for a large number of followers at the annual celebration was staggering. This was a time to remember, to brag a bit, to share stories, essentially a single focused social fellowship.

When David Ganz's article was published, back eight years ago in 2012, he shared a few sad details. After nearly two centuries of existence, the need for an official Assay Commission was no longer pressing. There were no more silver nor gold coins to assess. Modern technology could perform the task more quickly and with greater efficiency. So, in 1977, when the time came to make appointments to the Assay Commission, then president Jimmy Carter said "no." And chose not to continue the practice. This was followed in 1980 by an official Act to end the Commission. Also under consideration was the cost of maintaining a part of the government practice which was not efficient nor necessary. (An almost unheard of concept, right?)

So, let's move forward into 2012. According to Ganz this was to be the last meeting of the Old Timers Assay Commissioners Society. Ganz shares the challenge that the group's demise was inevitable because "death and infirmity claimed" the members. I'm sure it was a good and fun run with lots of fellowship, blessings and memories.

Putting all of this together ... my newly found treasure is testimony to one of the gatherings of the OTACS. It is a medal, with ribbon, from their 14th annual meeting held at the same time and same place as the ANA convention in Houston in 1978. I thank the organizers for creating a souvenir featuring my favorite commemorative half design. It fits my Texas based collection nicely, and aided me in learning something new about our "hobby of kings." (And we common folk, too.)

Y'all stay healthy and safe ... Regards and God Bless ...Richard



BARBERS

by Larry Vann

When you think of Barber coins, what do you think of? As for me, the only thing that always came to mind are the United States dimes, quarters, and halves that were produced between 1892 and 1915. However, finding a 20 year old article from THE NUMISMATIST, by Scott Gray, has got me thinking differently, as it had a story which included the Liberty Head nickel as being designed by Charles Barber.

In researching the background of my new found knowledge, I looked in my copy of The Expert's Guide to Collecting & Investing in Rare Coins, by Q. David Bowers, and found that he gave credit for the design of the Liberty Head nickel to William Barber, Charles Barber's dad. The Red Book gives credit to Charles Barber.

We all know the 7th chief engraver at the United States mint designed the Barber dimes, quarters, and halves mentioned above. His name was Charles E. Barber. It just so happens that he succeeded to that position from his father, William Barber, who was the 6th chief engraver. We know that these two men, together, are responsible for designs on about fifteen United States commemorative and public coins issued by the mint.

William Barber is noted for being involved in the designs on the 20 cent piece and the United States Trade Dollar. He was born in London England on May 2, 1807.



After moving to America Williams skills were noticed by the chief engraver of the mint at that time, a Mr. Longacre, who hired him as an assistant in 1865. He was appointed chief engraver following the death of Mr. Longacre in 1869. William fell ill and died at home in Philadelphia in 1879.

Charles E. Barber, the son of William Barber, was then appointed as the sixth chief engraver of the United States Mint following the death of his father. He had a long career spanning from 1879

until his death in 1917 and was involved in the design of most of the coins produced at the mint during this time period.



He designed a number of commemorative coins in partnership with George T. Morgan such that one would design the obverse and the other the reverse of the piece.

With the dates of the death of William and the beginning of Charles' career, the Liberty Nickel appears to be a transitional piece that they may share the credit for, depending on who we believe. What an interesting thought.

