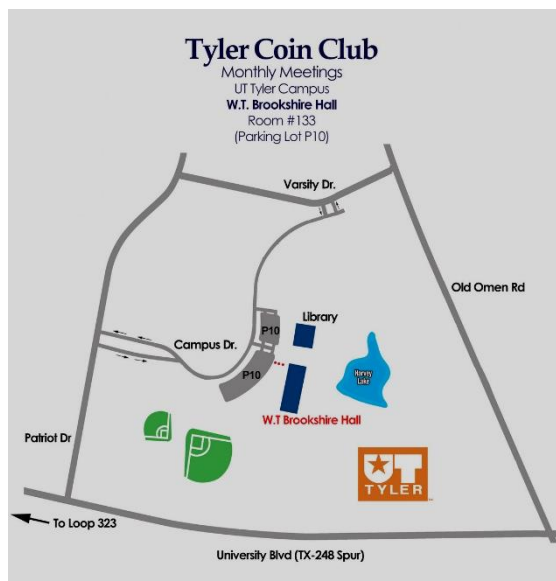


YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH FOR JANUARY / FEBRUARY, 2019



**(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.



A FEW WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Friends . . . I find myself grasping with the use of another new digit on the date scale, a “9” instead of an “8,” and at the same time wonder just how quickly time moves on. For example, I was reading just the other day it has been now fifty years since the Beatles LAST concert. Seems like yesterday. One of the truths of our living is that we have the gift of time along with the challenge of what to do with it. I pray that in 2019 your days are filled with joy and purpose. That you are able to face the challenges and to move forward. I know that, for all of us, the enjoyment of the time involves some sort of numismatic exploration. It’ll be great to hear your stories. I leave you with a quote used at the end of every article written by the president of the Bellaire Coin Club (Houston area.) “If it’s ‘coins’ it has to be fun



NUMISMATIC NOTES

Thoughts from Our President Lane B.

The Tyler Coin Club had another wonderful year in 2018. We welcomed many new members, had a remarkably successful annual coin show, and many meetings with warm fellowship and numismatic offerings. I am betting that 2019 will follow suit.

Something else we saw in 2018 was a nice increase in member-presented educational presentation and short stories about numismatics. This is great! Our club members have a vast amount of knowledge and sharing what we know with each other makes a coin club vibrant and alive. I learn from each numismatic conversation I have with members and much more from our presentations. The most fun is to learn about each other's collecting interests.

I would like to thank Larry V. for his passion for educational exhibits. His energy and willingness to help others create informative and meaningful exhibits is inspiring. I know we will see some great exhibits at our annual coin show, and these will inspire attendees to learn more about numismatics. And maybe, they will want to learn more and join our Club!

One request, please ... be sure to check and make sure your membership dues are paid. See you shortly for our February Club meeting.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2019 MEETING OF THE TYLER, TEXAS COIN CLUB

Meeting called to order by TCC President Lane B. with pledge to the flag

Attendance: Members: 41 Guests: 3 New Members: 1 Total: 45

Discussion of Agenda Items (Lane)

- The club was lead in prayer by Tommy L.
- Please keep Tom, Allen, Ken, John & Sandra and their families in your thoughts and prayers.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of January.
- Royce presented a brief Treasurer's report and circulated the 2019 refreshment and prayer signup sheet.
- David gave an update on preparations for the 2019 coin show (June 21-22, 2019).
- Lane encouraged additional member participation with educational presentations and coin clinics (aka show & tell) at monthly meetings. Workshops/presentations are being planned for photographing coins as well as grading coins.
- Next regular meeting is February 12, 2019 at W.T. Brookshire Hall (room #133) on the UT Tyler campus.

Presentations

- Don H. gave a short presentation on the 1937-D 3-Legged Buffalo Nickel. A mint employee used an emery stick to polish off evidence of a die clash. Details of the bison's right front leg were accidentally removed due to over-polishing. Don had a beautiful AU-50 example for members to view.
- Larry V. gave a presentation on How to Build an Educational Exhibit. The key to creating a great exhibit is by telling a story based on one's interest. Larry covered some good points including using high quality paper, enlarged photos, and an iterative approach in reaching the final version. Over the years, Larry has built educational exhibits including Exonumia, War Money, Large Cent varieties, Bust Halves, Loupes and Eye Pieces, as well as Twentieth Century Type Coins.

Club Auction (Richard G.)

- 28 items sold - \$1,095.00

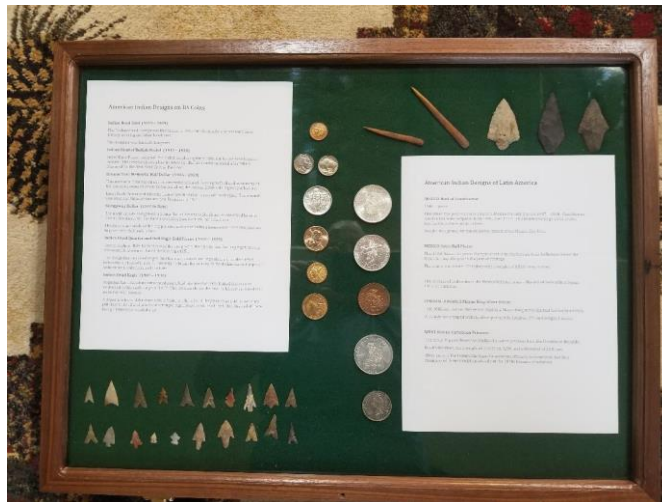
Door prize winners

- A.J., Al, Don, John, and Randy

Refreshments

- A big Thank You to Royce J. for providing refreshments!

A CALL FOR EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS DISPLAYS FOR THE 2019 TYLER COIN CLUB SHOW OFFERED BY LARRY V.



It won't be that long before we will be having another coin show. A major objective of our Coin Club is to educate. It is possible to do this in a way that provides us additional means of enjoying our hobby – creating an educational display.

I made a presentation at the January club meeting that showed how to create a fun display, that you can be proud of. The expense is minimal, as is the time involved – depending primarily on how much time you wish to spend perusing those items in your collection you have accumulated.

Here is a review of my thoughts shared on January 9 via my presentation notes:

The Display:

- A. Consider your collection – reviewing its content.
 - 1. Why were items selected?
 - 2. What ideas for displays come to mind?
- B. Sort and bag up items which seem promising for making a display with written descriptions of what they are and how they relate to a topic.
- C. Consider the display case size and pare down your bagged items to “the critical few” necessary to tell the story you wish to tell. (Note: I will be bringing to our club meetings a few cases that can be purchased, at my cost, for those who promise to put together a display for our next show. They cases can then be kept by yourself for additional opportunities to display your collected items to other audiences. I have found having these cases on hand helps enormously in making the assembly of a display easy and fun.)
- D. Trial displays with printed information explaining the items and ideas you select.
 - 1. Use high quality paper (photo paper or card stock).
 - 2. Consider accompanying pieces/items that will enhance the display.
- E. Set the display aside with the plan of coming back later to evaluate it. Obtain input from your spouse, child, a friend, or pet as to what they think – with the intent to improve it. Evaluate and ask yourself: “Is it good?” “Are there any changes or enhancements?”
- F. Consider security of your case. Are keys enough? I add screws to my case frames to supplement the key locking mechanism.
- G. Carry your display to the show assembled if possible. This just makes things easier and increases security by having the case opened at the show the minimal amount of time. Assume the display and/or the table will be bumped, so have items as securely set as you can manage.
- H. Don’t forget to pick up your display at the end of the show.

(Note: Larry is coordinating exhibits at our next show, June 20 – 21. Please visit with him at any TCC club meetings for details and the opportunity to place your insight before those who are in attendance at our first class show in June.)

FINDING A SQUARE DEAL **OFFERED BY LANE B.**

Sometimes coins are just neat. Today there are a tremendous number of interesting coins with novelties such moveable parts, holograms, and encased rare liquor. These *non-circulating legal tender* coins are quite popular. But a few decades ago, such pieces were quite rare and often such neat numismatic pieces came from artists outside mainstream coinage.

In the early 1970s, New York artist Andor Orand created a film dealing with the relationship between time and money. He thought that money and time appeared analogous to the circle and square representing the abstract and concrete of human events. This inspired him to create rubber representation of the Washington quarter and then stretch it into a square. Around 1980, he decided to try and create a square coin that matched his ‘stretched’ Washington quarter. Around the same time, computer technology was advancing and becoming more available outside industry and academic settings. Having a background in technology, Mr. Orand decided to use a computer to create his Squared Quarter.

Two different methods were used to create the final design. The obverse was designed by Manfred Mohr who took a circle design and approximating it to a square shape by equalizing the surface areas of both shapes. The reverse was designed by Bill Kinsinger who placed a circle design snugly inside a square and stretching the circle’s image to the corners of the square. The method used for the distortion on the reverse gave a more uniform result.

The designs were taken to sculptor Harvey Citron who created 8" x 8" plaster models. The models were taken to the Medallic Art Company where dies were produced, and the pieces were struck. Despite the technical challenges with striking square pieces with reeded edges, the Squared Quarters were offered to the public in late 1982.

Four variations of the Squared Quarter are known, all dated 1984. The most common is the piece struck on a 1/4 oz 0.999 fine silver blank, but with only 1310 struck it's not really all that common. The 1/2 oz 0.999 fine silver piece was limited to 602 examples. Rarely seen are any of the 330 pieces struck in German silver (60% copper, 20% nickel, 20% zinc) as promotional samples. The rarest are the 12 pieces struck in 24K (0.999 fine) gold and weighing 0.3056 oz.



(1984 Squared Quarter 1/2 oz 0.999 silver. Dimensions are 1" x 1." Struck by the Medallic Art Company and sold by Square Deal Productions out of New York. It's the first 'coin' designed with the aid of a computer and first die struck square 'coin' with reeded edges.)

The issue price for the 1/4 oz silver piece was \$37 and the 1/2 oz silver piece was \$47. The gold pieces were not offered to the general public and thus did not have an issue price. Current values can be found in the *Unusual World Coins* catalog published by Krause Publications.

NUMISMATIC EDUCATION A VISIT WITH DR. COYNE

Questions for Dr. Coyne:

- 1.) Which 19th and 20th century silver U.S. coins have been struck for circulation with a plain edge (not reeded, not lettered)?
- 2.) Do the branch U.S. Mint make their own dies for current coins?
- 3.) Have U.S. proof coins been made from the earliest days of the mint?
- 4.) When were sets of U.S. Mint uncirculated coins packaged by the mint first made available to collectors?
- 5.) Is Heritage a Third Party Grading firm?
- 6.) What U.S. coin currently minted is smaller in diameter than the dime but weighs more than the dime?
- 7.) Is the piece on top of the page following a U.S. coin?



Dr. Coyne Responds:

1.) The plain edge silver coins struck include the silver three cent pieces (1851-1873), the twenty cent pieces (1875-1878), and the silver dollars (Gobrecht Dollars) of 1836 only. The later Gobrecht dollars had reeded edges. Some would also include the Jefferson War Nickels of 1942 – 1945, though these were a temporary expedient and only 35% silver.

2.) Until 1996, all the dies for American coinage were made at the Philadelphia mint. The master hubs, master dies, and special presses for making working dies were all at Philadelphia. Working dies for everyday coinage for all mints came from Philadelphia, usually with the appropriate branch mint mark already impressed. In 1996, the Denver die shop opened, and since then working dies have also been made there.

3.) The U.S. Mint has issued proof coins in sets for collectors at a price in excess of face value since 1858. Until the temporary end of proof coin sales in 1916, sets of “minor coins”, “silver coins”, and “gold coins” could be purchased by mail or in person at the Philadelphia mint, delivered in tissue wrapping, perhaps with an outer box or envelope. Before 1858, terminology was inconsistent, with the mint producing “Specimen Coins” for dignitaries and other purposes. These “Master Coins” were clearly made with more care than standard circulation issues, but the process was not always as rigorous as that employed after 1858. To Dr. Coyne’s eye, the proofs of the later Barber era (1890-1900s) have, on average, the best quality that was available before the modern era of 1968 to today.



4.) The mint began offering packaged sets of circulation strike coins (U.S. Mint Sets) to collectors in 1947, and they have continued to offer them with only a few years exception down to today. The early sets are now called “Double Sets”, as they were composed of two coins from each mint for the one cent to fifty cent pieces then being struck. This could be up to 30 coins. The cardboard holders could show only one side of each coin. The paper seems to be of high sulfur content which contributed to the attractive toning which formed on particularly the silver coins over decades of storage. Later sets (after 1967) were single sets and had the coins in heat sealed pliofilm inside usually white envelopes.

5.) Heritage is not a Third Party Grading Company, though they are doubtlessly a major customer of TPGs, PCGS, and NGC. Back in 1986, Heritage did have a captive grading company, Numismatic Certification Institute (NCI), and a Heritage principal, Jim Halperin, published a book through the company’s Ivy Press, which told of the NCI process and standards employed. But by the mid – 1990’s NCI graded coins had not gained an important market share, and in fact their product came to have the reputation of employing “losers” or more liberal grading standards than the market leaders, and NCI ceased operation. Their slabs are still occasionally seen in the market today.

- 6.) The American Eagle tenth-ounce gold bullion is the smallest U.S. coin in diameter currently minted. The coin's diameter is 16.5 millimeters, which is slightly smaller than the dime's. The gold coin weighs 3.393 grams (0.11 ounce), which is heavier than both the cent and dime.
- 7.) The illustrated piece is indeed a federal U.S. coin, and represents the first year of issue of the \$2.50 denomination. Mint reports the striking of 963 of these Quarter Eagles. Since they are of "old tenor" weight, even this small issue was depleted by melting done by speculators to capture the excess value of the weight of contained gold over the face value. Today, this issue, a one-year type coin, is the most difficult regular issue U.S. type coin for collectors to obtain. Current scholarship puts the surviving population in the range of 125 pieces.



UPCOMING COLLECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

Texas Coin Show – March 22 – 24 ... Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also May 3 – 5, July 19 – 21, September 27 – 29, November 15 – 17)

Texarkana Coin Show – March 29 – 30 ... Texarkana Convention Center – 4610 Cowhorn Creek Rd., Texarkana, Texas

Paris Coin Club Show – April 6 ... Lamar Avenue Church of Christ – 3535 Lamar Avenue, Paris, Texas

Cowtown Coin Show – March 29 - 30 ... White Settlement Event Center – 8905 Clifford St., White Settlement, Texas (Also May 10 – 11, September 7 – 8, October 25 – 26, December 6 – 7) (Dang!!)

Texas Numismatic Association Show – May 31 – June 2 ... Arlington Convention Center – 1200 Ballpark way, Arlington, Texas

Tyler Coin Show – June 21 – 22 ... Harvey Hal Convention Center – 2000 W. Front, Tyler, Texas

Ark – La – Tex Coin, Stamp, and Card Expo – July 28 – 29 ... Bossier Civic Center – 620 Benton, Bossier City, Louisiana

August 9 – 11 – Fort Worth Coin Show – White Settlement Event Center – 8905 Clifford. Fort Worth, Texas

OUR NEXT TIME TOGETHER

The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, February 12, 2019. Our meetings officially begin at 7:30, however the doors are open by 6:30 for those who choose to come early for a time to visit and smile. See you then. Check out basic information on the first page for a map to the meeting location on the University of Texas at Tyler campus.

A VISIT TO YOUR EDITOR'S "COIN CABINET" **SMALL TOWN SOUVENIR**

Over these last eight years of putting *Your Two Cents Worth* together, and in your editor's presentations regarding things numismatic, I have never made any claim to being a "regular" coin collector. My choice for pieces of interest is not based on any thing that can be called "key" or even "semi – key." I lean more toward a gathering of the non-traditional, off beat, even odd. Yet, with all that said, I do on occasion acquire something for my "cabinet" which appears to be a regular U.S. coin, even though such an item might have an out of the ordinary application.

Not so long ago I came across, and invested a few dollars in, the silver dollar just below. It is the most common of the “Peace Dollar” series being a 1922 date minted in Philadelphia. Condition wise there isn’t much to brag about. Even though the features on the obverse are relatively strong, there are a series of little markings, indentations, rim nicks, and even a touch of dirt on the field. This is a common, not out of the ordinary U.S. coin, for sure. Numismatically speaking it is a lower grade item, nothing special, at least until we consider what is attached to the reverse.



The studied collector will note that the reverse side of the coin suffers from the same abuse as the obverse. In some ways it is even more so with pronounced scratches, small digs, and the like. What sold me on this piece isn’t necessarily related to its “coinness” but to an older alteration made to the back side. When my new acquisition came along I checked it out not in the usual places, such as Yoeman’s classic work, but in a sprawling speciality book by a Texas Numismatic Association member, Jerry Adams of Keller. The book is a compilation of listings regarding Texas Trade Tokens from details published in various token collector magazines from years past. He stresses that the reference catalogue is a not for profit venture. Adam’s book, a copy of which is on my shelf, is titled simply *Texas Trade Tokens* with a self printing date of 2010. It is an essential source for collectors of such specialized numismatic material.

As I scrolled through the vast series of listings I found the section related to medals and tokens from Perry, Texas. Perry is a very small, nearly non existent, community in Falls County, Texas. At some point in history, probably just following prohibition, a “bar keep” in Perry chose to advertise his business by claiming a specific type of U.S. coin and making adjustments to the reverse as you can see just below.

Somewhere down in history Mike Decorte had a liquor store in Perry, Falls County, Texas which he chose to name after an icon of American pocket change. Even though Mr. Decorte’s establishment is long gone, testimony to his *Silver Dollar Liquor Store* is now in my collection.

I can’t speak to value or scarcity. It must be less common and makes for a far more interesting item than the host coin would be wont to produce. It is an interesting piece of our Texas history which, as you know, is a strong factor in my area of overall interest. At the least this is something which isn’t seen often. Rare, scarce, valuable, whatever, is secondary to the fact that I like it. And, when all factors are considered, isn’t “likeability” a key factor in the collecting of anything?

