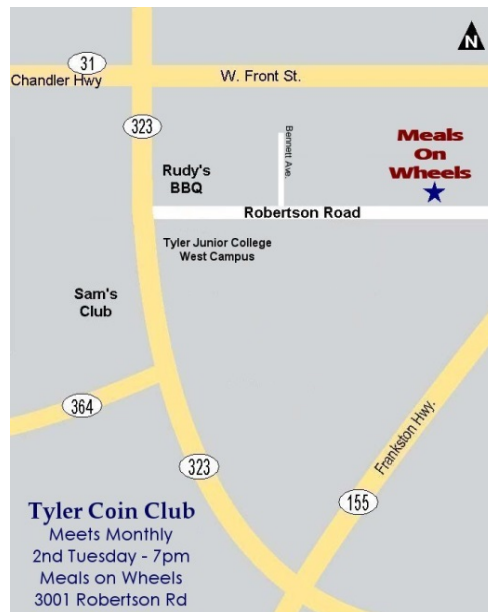


## Your Two Cents Worth for January, 2015



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

The Tyler, Texas Coin Club meets on the Second Tuesday of each month with meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. Location is the community room of the Meals on Wheels Building located at 3001 Robertson Road. (Two blocks behind Rudy's BBQ) Club members and friends gather starting at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship. Meeting agenda will always include business and the most spirited auction in Texas. Special presentations and programs are also offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all. Next meeting is Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>



### A Few Words from the Editor

It is your editor's privilege to enter the fifth year since coming to this place in my life. Editing your newsletter is a joy, which at first challenged my comfort zone. Thanks you for your kind words over these last four years. I appreciate the material you have submitted. In particular I am grateful to our club officers for their timely additions including a monthly article from President Dwight and minutes from Secretary Carl. I'm also indebted to my friend John, Dr. Coyne, Barber for his creative work and permission to reproduce his quality column in this publication. I look forward to working with you and solicit your thoughts along with articles and other forms of material for publication.

## **Sowle Food: Words of Encouragement from President Dwight**



HAPPY NEW YEAR TCC!! As we begin this New Year, we begin with a countdown to 100! Since 1962 the Tyler Coin Club has had 96 members to join the organization. We are 4 members away from hitting the century mark. My plan is to discuss with the other officers the idea of celebrating this history making event when the 100<sup>th</sup> member joins. Your suggestions are solicited.

Barry has our 2015 show all planned out. In sharing it with me it proves to be another spectacular, successful event. Once again I commend all of you for the prayers and hard work you put in to helping make our shows the success they are. I truly believe we have a special club whose members join together in making our shows special for the hobby we love, and to the numismatic community. We have a club we can be proud of...a club that gives the glory of its success to God. What an awesome feeling that is.

I always look forward to being with you every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. I feel 2015 is going to be spectacular for the Tyler Coin Club.

That's it for this 'portion' of "Sowle Food." Until next time, remember: *"Coin collecting is the only hobby where you can spend all your money and still have some left."* (Unattributed)

God Bless . . . Dwight

### **A Numismatic Gift for Valentine's Day** **"Tokens of Love" – by Lane B.**

Engraved numismatic items can be a distinctive and fun addition to a collection. Whether commemorating a birthday, anniversary, or special accomplishment, engravings on coins create a personal connection and are treasured by those for whom the engraving has meaning. And many years later, they can become a coveted heirloom for distant relatives. Over the years, these engraved expressions of thought and caring have acquired the charming name, "love tokens."

With their genesis in the United States at about the time of the Civil War, love tokens gained greatly in popularity and were quite fashionable by the time the young country celebrated its centennial birthday in 1876. Across the ocean, love tokens had already been popular in England for a couple of centuries.

A love token has two general requirements. First, the engraving must be on an authentic coin. Second, the engraving must be done by hand. While an engraving on one side of the love token helps greatly with identification of the host coin, engravings on

both sides offer a greater challenge. Reeding helps determine a host coin's diameter that, in turn, provides another clue as to its type. Cut-down host coins or those reshaped into hearts, diamonds, shamrocks, and the like, can provide for hours of endless sleuthing.

The style of engraving varies with the country of origin. In England, love tokens (the English prefer to call them "engraved coins" and not "love tokens") generally are created to commemorate events and often contain intricate engravings. These pieces provide a rich avenue into the past and offer a solid connection to history. In America, love tokens usually are engraved with initials and occasionally have dates or pictorial engravings. As such, once the love token loses its connection with original recipient, it is often quite difficult to connect the pieces with its past.



(A pin-back love token engraved on a United States twenty-cent host coin.)

The lore is that love tokens were special gifts from a young suitor to woo his girl. However, love tokens were commonly exchanged between friends and family members. Evidence of such gifts can be seen with love token jewelry and even more so with bracelets and necklaces with tokens engraved with the initials and birthdates of children and grandchildren.

The most common host for American love tokens is the Seated Liberty dime with dates in the 1870s and 1880s. Dimes were ideal for the aspiring sweetheart. Small, plentiful, and made of silver (which is easy to engrave), with a dip into the pocket and trip to the jeweler, a young man had an expression of his love for his newest girl. Love tokens on quarters are also common. However, love tokens on other denominations can be quite scarce. As you might imagine, a gold coin rarely served as the host for a love token, although they can be found with some searching.

Love tokens provide a nice way to enhance your coin collection by adding some artistry and pizzazz. Also, a love token gift helps you remind that someone special what they mean to you and how much you appreciate them for indulging your numismatic passion.



(A bracelet of family love tokens engraved on United States Seated Liberty dimes with a twenty-cent engraved love token a centerpiece.)

## Minutes of the January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Meeting of the Tyler Coin Club

Meeting called to order by President Dwight with Pledge to the Flag

Attendance: Members 35 - New Members 0 - Guests 1 - Total 36

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

- The club was lead in prayer by John D.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of January.
- Dwight will bring his club shirt to next meeting with patch attached showing the club's new logo.
- Bruce B. read an article to the club from the *Tyler Morning Telegraph* concerning the Salvation Army's Christmas Red Kettle Results which included many rare and valuable coins.
- Barry C. presented the new club dues process, and presented a financial report for year ending December 31, 2014.
- Betty W. passed around sign-up sheets for prayer leaders, speakers, and refreshments for 2015.
- Next meeting is Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

### **Club Auction Benefiting Salvation Army Angel Tree**

- 24 auction items sold - \$670.75

### **Door prize winners**

- Barry C., Richard L., Larry V., Ernest H.

### **Refreshments**

- Lee & Betty W.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Dwight S.

## Numismatic Education: A Visit with Dr. Coyne

### **Questions for Dr. Coyne:**

1. What was this red OPA token used for?



2. What does the term "brockage" mean?
3. How many different types complete a set of Lincoln Cents?
4. What regular issue Franklin Half Dollar has the smallest mintage?
5. What is a "Broken Bank" note?

6. What is a “crossover” slab grade?
7. Is this piece a coin, a token, or a medal?



8. What is “luster” on a coin?

**Dr. Coyne Responds:**

1. The *Office of Price Administration* (OPA) issued two series of fiber tokens from 1942 to 1945 to help allocate food items. Users would present a qualifying token plus cash to the retail merchant. It seems the combinations of letters (two per token) are random and do not imply any timing or location of issue. Red tokens were presented for meat items and blue tokens for dairy and processed food items. Some sources say the tokens marked “MW” for red and “WW” for blue are the scarcest ones in their respective color series.

2. A “brockage” is a kind of error coin produced when a normally-struck coin fails to eject from the coinage chamber and a blank planchet enters the coinage chamber and the press then strikes both pieces at once. The first coin will show an unusually well struck image on the side which faced the coinage die in both events and a somewhat weakened image on the side which was normal after its first strike but which was flattened by facing the blank planchet on its second strike. The second coin (brockage) will show a reversed, incuse image on one side (the side against the first coin) and a normal image on the side which faced the coinage die. At first glance, the brockage will appear to have two obverses or two reverses, but one is incuse and reversed and the other normal. Brockages are a fairly rare item in coins released by the modern mint. (Question brought to Dr. Coyne’s attention by one of the Young Numismatists of the Greater Houston Coin Club.)

3. Collectors identify several types of Lincoln Cents during the coin’s long history. They begin with the 1909 coins with the designer’s initials (VDB) on the reverse and proceed to the current “shield reverse.” Intermediate types include 1909 – 1917 without VDB, the 1918 forward with small VDB on the neck truncation, the 1943 steel version, the 1945– 1946 “shell case” version, the Memorial Reverse running from 1959 to 2008, the change to copper plated zinc in 1982, the four phases of Lincoln’s life in 2009, and finally the current shield reverse, beginning in 2010. Total seems to be a dozen types.

4. According to *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, aka the “Red Book,” the Franklin Half Dollar with the smallest mintage is the 1955 Philadelphia with 2.5 million struck. It is this issue and the somewhat scarce issues of 1949-S and 1952-S which are the only coins in the series that command a premium over melt value in circulated condition. There is a variety of 1955 with the colorful name “Bugs Bunny” in which



Franklin's front teeth appear to extend as fangs over his lower lip, but this is only a case of unfortunately placed die clash marks.

5. "Broken Bank" notes come primarily from the 1820 – 1862 era before federal government issued notes. Since banking was not well regulated in those days, there were problems with poorly managed or fraudulent banks as well as periodic economic panics when even better banks were forced to close. When a bank closed and could not issue its already-printed currency, the bank was said to have gone "broke", and its notes were "broken bank notes". Many "remainder" notes feature interesting and splendidly engraved scenes, but they are not signed and issued. The Mechanics Bank obsolete note shown below appears to have been issued and slightly circulated. These notes are available in the full range of condition, and well-circulated specimens are affordable.



6. A "crossover" slab is the product of a third party grading company in which the coin was submitted in the slab of a different company, with request that the coin be evaluated and re-holdered in the slab of the new company. For example: Dr. Coyne might be building a set of Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) coins for registry competition and has an existing coin in the collection holdered by Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC.) Since PCGS only accepts their own brand for registry sets, the opportunity to "crossover" an existing holdered coin to the PCGS brand might represent a better deal than cracking it out and submitting it out of holder.

7. The piece is a medal produced in 1935. It commemorates the seventy fifth anniversary of the establishment of the short-lived Pony Express mail system. The Pony Express featured horse delivered mail on a route starting in St. Joseph, Missouri and ending in Sacramento, California. Even though the Pony Express is etched in American lore, the system existed for only a few months, beginning in April of 1860 and making its final run in October of 1861. This medal is half-dollar sized, made of white metal, and is privately struck in New York. If it was a coin or a token it would have some form of financial exchange stated such as "good for five cents" or "good for a cup of coffee."

8. Andrew Lustig says it best. Lustig is a New York based numismatic professional with nearly forty years of service. He specializes in U.S. Patterns, Pioneer Gold, and "rarities of all series."

Lustig writes:

*Luster is all about optics and reflectivity.*

*If the surfaces of a coin are smooth as glass, parallel rays of light coming at the coin will remain parallel when they bounce off the coin, and will not lose much intensity by the time they hit your eye. That's a full lustrous, proof-like coin.*

*If the surfaces are roughed up and worn from circulation the reflected rays of light bounce off in many random directions and the coin does not have the much reflective flash. That's a circulated coin with no luster.*

*Now consider "cartwheel luster," which is what you see on a mint state coin that is not "smooth as glass," but instead has many "radial flow lines." (Radial flow lines are microscopic ridges of metal that flow outwards from the center of the coin, and are the result of the outward expansion of metal filling in a pattern of wear on a used die.) Although the coin is not smooth, you'll get a lot of light reflected back at certain angles, because the flow lines are aligned with each other, and more or less reflect light in the same way, at the same angles. That is a fully lustrous non-PL coin.*

*Naturally, a coin that has seen little wear may still have traces of the original luster remaining, because some of the original surface remains intact.*



(Your editor remembers fondly being impressed with the coin above which shows better Proof Like surface than the picture allows. It is an 1881-S Morgan Dollar which is available for reasonable money, even today, in such a condition. Your editor bought this while a junior member of the Bellaire Coin Club and paid an outrageous price for it: Two Bucks!! This coin shows, as stated above, smooth surfaces and the light does bounce off, especially on the reverse which is pictured above. A good example of "luster" on coins minted for circulation.)

### **Upcoming Collector Events**

**Cowtown January Coin Show** – January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup> . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas (Fort Worth area)

**Texas Coin Shows** – February 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also March 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, and July 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)

**Greenville Coin Show** – February 21<sup>st</sup> . . . In Historic Downtown Greenville – 2806 Lee St., Greenville, Texas

**Texarkana Coin Show** – February 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> . . . Texarkana Convention Center – 4610 Cowhorn Creek Rd., Texarkana, Texas

**TEXPEX 2015 – Stamp Show of the Texas Philatelic Association** – February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup> . . . Hilton DFW Lakes – 1800 Hwy. 26 East, Grapevine, Texas

**Fort Worth Coin Club Fall Show** – March 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas (Fort Worth area)

**Cowtown Coin Show** – April 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas (Fort Worth area)

**Texas Numismatic Association's 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention** – May 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> . . . Arlington Convention Center – 1500 Convention Center Dr., Arlington, Texas

**Tyler Coin Club's Five State Coin and Currency Super Show** – June 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> . . . Lone Star Event Center – 4036 FM, Tyler, Texas (Mark your calendar now for a great show then!!)

**Memphis International Paper Money Show** – June 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> . . . Cook Convention Center – 255 N. Main, Memphis, Tennessee (200 tables of paper money)

**Shreveport Coin, Stamp, and Card Show** – July 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> . . . Bossier City Convention Center – 620 Benton, Bossier City, Louisiana

## Next Time Together

The Greater Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. See you at 7:00 p.m. Come enjoy a positive numismatic experience, along with great fellowship and the most spirited numismatic auction in Texas.

## A Visit to Your Editor's "Coin Cabinet"



(Yes, I know this image is strange but please read on. Thanks!!)

Y'all ever have one of those moments when you look back at a decision and say to yourself something more or less like: "Dang!! What was I thinking?" As you may have already surmised your editor had one of those "dang" experiences just the other day. It resulted from an honest matter of "supply and demand." Unfortunately it was someone else who had the "supply" and your editor had what proved to be unchecked "demand." This balance translated into getting caught up in a feeding frenzy over a unique auction item.

Now in defense of my actions I will say that on my "collector want list" there "is," or better there "was" until fairly recently, one item I wanted which I expected I would never locate. Then, when I wasn't looking nor anticipating it to materialize, I noted a listing and followed up upon it until the the auctioneer's hammer fell and I found myself a winner. The result is I'll be cutting back on my hobby discretionary spending for a few months. But I will also admit that the experience, no matter how I sound in describing the details, is still satisfactory, and after a few weeks since I have only minimal regrets.

Let me explain my thinking here: Your editor made the decision back in early 2010 to move from Houston to the community of Gilmer which sits north of Tyler at the point where highways 155 and 271 rejoin. Gilmer is home to the nearly world famous "Yamboree" and also serves as the county seat of Upshur County.



(Picture Above: The Upshur County Courthouse in what your editor calls "beautiful downtown Gilmer.")

Gilmer has been your editor's home since May of 2010 when we chose to relocate from Houston. One thing to note on the picture: Just at the bottom corner on the right side of the photo a historical marker stands which tells the story of how, back in early 1861, Sam Houston, then governor of Texas, was run out of town after making a "pro Union" speech on that very spot.)



As you all may remember from the October club meeting your editor has found particular joy in collecting paper money from Texas. One of my specific areas of interest lies in persuing pieces of Texas County Scrip from the Civil War era. Basically these are fiscal papers, issued in lieu of coinage, carrying value based on the good standing of local government. My collection of County Scrip is not precise. Basically I buy what I can, where I can, at a price I can afford. The only specific target area is my desire to have at least one piece of county scrip from each of the counties in which I have lived in Texas. Up until this point; so far so good. Over the decades I have lived in the counties of Dallas, Brazoria, Cherokee, Jefferson, Harris, Falls, and Waller. Because Waller County didn't exist until the 1870's I elected to acquire a note from Grimes County, which was the county in which Hempstead, the Waller County seat, was located during the Civil War.

Then we moved, in late May of 2010, to Upshur County. For the last four and a half years I've been looking for such paper signs of the county's fiscal presence dating from the American Civil War. Up until a few weeks ago I had no sighting of any piece of County Scrip from Upshur County.

The item pictured just below is the result of some agonizing bidding and a bit of a loosening of my usually tight hold on my "wallet." When the whole semi-ardeous event was over and done with I will say I have completed, at least to date, representative scrip from the Texas counties in which I have lived. I'm assuming my next, and probably final stop, will be in Denton County where our retirement home is situated in the community of Argyle. Guess I'll start looking.

I am thinking that my find is more than likely one of a kind, perhaps one of only a handful of any exisiting Upshur County scrip of any denomination at the most. I have made unflattering comments about the cost however, on today's market, the price and value of these is on the rise and judging by a comparative rarity faction my investment might be considered a good deal in short order. And, as "they" say; "these aren't being made any more."

What I find most interesting is the image shown "front and center." This is futher evidence that during the Civil War folks simply "made do." The typesetter who was given the responsible to produce pieces such as this had to dig deep to find something of interest in his drawer in order to give the note he was creating some character. "But" . . . I ask myself: "A water buffalo?"



(An unlisted and more than likely unique, piece of Texas County Scrip issued in behalf of Upshur County, Texas. Note the water buffalo along with other details from the printer's drawer. It is dated from Gilmer, Texas November 1, 1862. Printer company is stated as "South-Western Print.")



(A bit better detail of the important data concerning this piece of paper money's issue date and printer.)

Editor's Note: Interesting thing . . . just after putting this together your editor noted another note, just like the one above, which has been placed on eBay. I will say that mine is in better shape. This means there are at least *two* of these out there. I'll still go with "scarce" but can't claim "one of a kind." In the world of coins and United States paper money having only two of something around is dang scarce. This is a good example again of "supply and demand." Sadly I'm giving thought to following, and perhaps even placing a bid on, the second piece or maybe not.

***Your Two Cents Worth*** is the newsletter of the Tyler, Texas Coin Club. For comments and to submit articles to the publication please contact the editor at: [pastorlaster@etex.net](mailto:pastorlaster@etex.net)  
Be sure and visit the Tyler Coin Club on the first Tuesday of each month  
and on line at: [tylercoinclub.org](http://tylercoinclub.org)  
The Tyler Coin Club is the sponsor of the **Five State Coin and Currency Show**  
Show date for 2015: June 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>