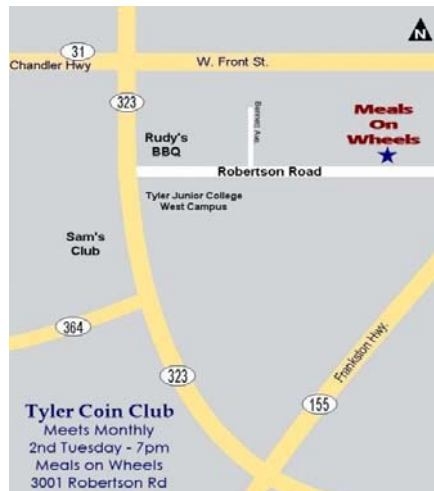


YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH: JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2016



(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. in 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 numismatic auction in Texas. Special presentations and programs are also offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all. TCC's next meeting is Tuesday, February 9, 2016.



A Few Words from the Editor

It was certainly a treat to be back in the groove of the Tyler Coin Club when we came together on January 12. Since my calling as a pastor / preacher is my primary objective there are moments of the year when there isn't time for the other areas which "give life's stew its flavor." Therefore, owing to the joys of the Christmas season, which are many during the month just past, I was unable to be in attendance for the dinner. I can tell from what I have heard that the event was a marvelous opportunity and well enjoyed. Isn't it great to have a club family with which to celebrate times such as Christmas?

As you all know, at our most recent club meeting President Dwight shared what he called the "State of the Club" address. I appreciated the way in which he led us through the years and then set before us vision for the future. It was good to see in the club agenda, as recorded from December minutes, that the club's existing officers are staying in place for another year. This is a good thing and we are blessed because of such great leadership. Congratulations Dwight, Howard, Carl and Barry.

In case there are some who missed the "State of the Club" presentation it can be found, in its entirety, as an attachment on the email upon which this document was included.

Your editor looks forward to seeing you all in February.

Sowle Food: Words of Greeting and Celebration from our President



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Earlier today I was reading the January 2016 issue of *The Numismatist*, and on page 21 there is a one-page article by Al Doyle entitled “COLLECTING RESOLUTIONS: Take time to evaluate your hobby habits and set numismatic goals for the new year.” It is a good read...I think I’ll make an attempt this year to set these goals. Here is the list of goals he suggests:

- Lose weight – divest yourself of parts of your collection which are no longer of interest
- Look outside the box – look for some new area to explore and collect
- Spend less (maybe) on coins and notes – invest in resources and tools for numismatic education
- Shop differently – for those who choose to build a collection on line . . . instead attend a show or visit a local dealer . . . enjoy the thrill of holding potential addition to your collection in your hand
- “New year, new attitude!” – learn about something new about the numismatic world

If you have an opportunity to get your hands on this issue, read what he has to say about these goals. Couldn’t hurt.

I’m looking forward to another year as your President. Our January meeting got off to a good start with The President’s State of the Club Address. It showed us where we have been, what we are doing, and what lies ahead. Representative David Simpson will be our special guest speaker at the March meeting. David is a Republican member of the Texas House of Representatives, District 7, Gregg and Upshur counties. Representative Simpson authored legislation (House Bill 78, Texas 83rd Legislature) proposing the elimination of sales tax on precious metal and numismatic coin purchases. Senator Kevin Eltife (R) was the primary sponsor for the bill. HB78 passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Rick Perry. David is currently working to earn the March 2016 Republican primary for Texas State Senate District 1. The club will offer an honorarium to David for his presentation. Members wishing to donate to David Simpson’s campaign may do so at their discretion. We have a “Show-‘n-Tell” by Ron B. scheduled for our February meeting, and Lane B. will make another educational presentation in our April meeting. The club will host its 8th coin show June 10th – 11th, and more club workshops are being planned. I look forward to seeing each of you at our meetings this year.

That’s it for this ‘portion’ of “Sowle Food.” Until next time, remember: “Every side of a coin has another side.” Myron Scholes

God bless!! . . . Dwight

Getting to Know You

This Month Tyler Coin Club Member Curtis S. Tells His Numismatic Story

My name is Curtis. I've been collecting foreign and domestic currency since I was a young boy. My father was killed three weeks before I was born in a Texas Company refinery explosion in Port Arthur, Texas. One day while I was visiting my grandmother she brought out a sack of coins and currency that my father had brought back from World War II. Most of them were foreign but a few domestic. I was fascinated by the size and shape of the coins, and their neat pictures. Some were silver and some light aluminum. I was hooked.

I took the coins and currency home and showed my mother. She could see how excited I was. Mother left the room and came back with three Peace Dollars and gave them to me. They were given to me on the day of my birth. The first was wrapped in a piece of paper held on by a hair pin. The paper said "first money from your granddaddy." The second piece was from the man standing by my father when the explosion that killed him happened. The third was from the next door neighbor.

My favorite coins to collect are the Morgan Dollars and Indian Head Cents. Another favorite coin is the Austrian Maria Theresa Thaler. These are big, beautiful silver coins. The date of 1780 has never been changed. These are still produced today. My coin is from the 1930's to 1940's. There is no way to know other than the fact that my father brought the coin I own back from somewhere over seas and it does have some wear.

I joined the Tyler Coin Club back in October of 2014. I love this club! Everybody is so nice and helpful, glad to share information and knowledge. Being part of a patriotic and Christian group makes it even better. I appreciate our leadership and my fellow collectors.



(Collector Curtis notes as a favorite coin the 1780 dated Maria Theresa Thaler)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Tyler Coin Club, December 8, 2015

Respectfully Submitted by Carl S., Tyler Coin Club Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Dwight S. with pledge to the flag

Attendance: Members, Spouses and Guests total **40**

Discussion of Agenda Items (Dwight)

- The club lead in prayer by Dwight
- Introduction / recognition of spouses and guests
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in the month of December
- Christmas Dinner Served
- Officer Elections:

- President: Dwight Sowle
- Vice President: Howard Westbrook
- Treasurer: Barry Carter
- Secretary: Carl Shotts
- (Note Change) David Simpson will be the special guest speaker at the **March, 2016** meeting. David is a Republican member of the Texas House of Representatives for the 7th District based in Gregg and Upshur counties. Representative Simpson authored legislation, later signed into law, which eliminated sales tax assessed on precious metal and numismatic coin purchases
- Christmas Fun – Dwight presented members and guests with a lively game of Christmas trivia
- Door prize drawings for guests and members
- Meals on Wheels (MOW) donations for 2015 totaled \$468.00

Salvation Army Angel Tree Fundraiser (David and Sherry)

- David and Sherry updated members on the Salvation Army Angel Tree fundraiser. Over \$1,700 was raised through club auctions and donations. Sherry and David shopped and purchased an amazing assortment of clothing and gifts for **10 children!** This is the fourth year David and Sherry have organized the Angel Tree efforts on behalf of the club. Continuing their tradition, Sherry and David presented a beautiful Angel Tree display board with photos of the gifts purchased for all ten Angel recipients. Dwight expressed his sincere appreciation to club members for their generous donations and to David and Sherry for their dedication and commitment leading this effort. Angel Tree is the largest fundraising event for the club each year.

Guest prize winners

- Beth, Carolyn, Deborah, Deedee, Janet, Jeff, Ray

Club member prize winners

- Curtis, David H., Dudley, Randy M., Tracy

Christmas Dinner

- Catered by “Traditions”

Minutes of the Meeting of the Tyler Coin Club, January 12, 2016

Respectfully Submitted by Carl S., Tyler Coin Club Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Dwight S. with pledge to the flag

Attendance Members: 34 New Members: 0 Guests: 0 **Total: 34**

Discussion of Agenda Items (Dwight)

- The club was lead in prayer by Curtis S.
- Please keep Tommy and his family as well as the Springer family in your thoughts and prayers
- Introduction / recognition of guests, visitors, and new members
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of January
- Dwight delivered a “State of the Club” address; only his second such address during his eight years of service to the club as president. He covered a variety of topics including short-range and long-range goals. Dwight also highlighted the many accomplishments

the club has achieved, and thanked club members and officers for their commitment and support of the club.

February Guest Speaker: Texas House of Representative David Simpson

- Representative David Simpson will be our special guest speaker at the March meeting. David is a Republican member of the Texas House of Representatives, for District 7 which includes Gregg and Upshur counties. Representative Simpson authored legislation (House bill 78, Texas 83rd Legislature) proposing the elimination of sales tax on precious metal and numismatic coin purchases. Senator Kevin Eltife (Republican) was the primary sponsor of the bill. HB78 passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Rick Perry. David is currently working to earn the March 2016 Republican primary nomination for Texas State Senate District 1. The club will offer an honorarium to David for his presentation. Members wishing to donate to David Simpson's campaign may do so at their discretion.

Club Auction (Tom B.)

- 39 auction items sold for a total of \$1,254.50
- Includes 1 item donated to the club which sold for \$1.00

Door Prize Winners

- Allen, Horst, Howard, and Randy
- Bruce, John D., and Kenny C. each won an American Numismatic Association One Year Gold membership

Refreshments

- **Todd K.**

Grading for the Rest of Us offered by Lane B. **A Grading Goal for the Year**



At the start of each new year, Americans have a tradition. We make resolutions to improve our lives. We promise to go to the gym, eat healthier, or repair whatever bad habit is our vice at the time. In addition to promises to make our lives better, we can do something similar for our numismatic hobby.

Rather than make a resolution to undo some bad habit, let's instead set a goal for ourselves. One such goal is to improve our comfort with grading by **creating a grading reference set of our favorite series**. This grading set can serve as a reminder of the subtleties of grading while reinforcing the skills we have spent years acquiring. In addition, assembling a grading reference is fun and a great learning experience.

It doesn't matter if you decide to build a grading reference set of coins in slabs or coins not entombed in plastic. What is important is your reference set is developed to meet the appropriate grading guidelines for your series of choice. If selecting to build a reference set of raw coins, then the first step is to make sure you have a current book on grading coins. There are several good books in print, such as *the Official American Numismatic Association Grading Standards for United States Coins* or *Grading Coins by Photographs* edited by Q. David Bowers. You can also choose a book with specific reference to your series, such as Standing Liberty Quarters or Large Cents. Your book can serve as your guide and help you select the appropriate raw coins for your set.

If you choose to use certified coins, it may make your choices a bit easier since the coins are already graded for you. Just be sure ... and this is important ... the certified coins are graded properly. As you know, grading is an opinion based on the qualities of the coin and the amount of wear. As such, grading is subjective and two experienced collectors can disagree on a coin's grade and either can be right or wrong. Professional certification from the same company provides consistency when examining a coin series across the grades from 1 to 70. If you choose to use certified coins, then you should stick with the same grading company so that there is a greater chance the variability within a grade will be minimal.

For the coins in your reference set, choose examples with similar characteristics so the only meaningful difference between them is the grade. Recall that not all coins within a series are struck the same, have the same luster characteristics, or wear the same. Some coins are weakly struck and may appear to have the details of a coin with significant wear even though the coin has never circulated. Other coins have dull luster when struck and have surfaces that are less reflective than some coins that grade about uncirculated. These "grading exception" coins are great as examples of the variances found in a coin series, but often confound collectors when graded in comparison with "normal" coins of the series. So it's best to look for "average" coins in the series to complete your reference set.

A fun addition to the reference grading set is to choose a particular grade for your coin series and see how variable the grade can be. This is particularly interesting with coins graded by third party companies. For example, choose coins in your series all graded VF-20 by the Numismatic Guaranty Company (NGC) around the same time. The way to assure the coins were graded around the same time is to look for coins with the same style of label on the holder. Find examples that are graded exactly as your grading reference states. Then find examples that appear to be under-graded and examples that appear to be over-graded. The more "off the mark" the grades of the coins are the more fun the exercise can be.

When you are done, you will have an interesting and educational set that can be shared with others and used to educate your fellow collectors at your local coin club meeting. Along the way, you will sharpen your grading skills. Now, isn't that a more enjoyable New Year's promise than swearing off French fries?

NUMISMATIC EDUCATION

A Visit With Dr. Coyne

Questions for Dr. Coyne

- 1) Why are 1851 – 1853 three cent pieces made of .750 silver instead of coin silver (.900 fine)?
- 2) Did the United States Mint ever strike coins with no date on the obverse and no date on the reverse?
- 3) What is the difference between the "edge" and the "rim"?

- 4) Why would someone seek a “Crossover Grade” for the Third Party Graded coin?
- 5) What is the first coin struck in a branch mint (i.e. non-Philadelphia?)
- 6) What does olive oil do to clean ancient coins?
- 7) Is this piece a United States colonial coin?



Dr. Coyne Responds

- 1) The 1851 to 1853 issues of the three cent piece (also called a “trime”) were made from .750 fine silver instead of the usual .900 fine silver to deliberately lower the intrinsic value of the pieces. This was in an effort to keep them in circulation rather than have them hoarded, exported, or melted as happened from time to time with the larger denominations in .900 fine silver. The composition was raised to the .900 fine in 1854 and the trimes continued to be minted until 1873.
- 2) The United States Mint issued Presidential Dollar and Sacagawea Dollar coins in the “golden” manganese bronze composition with the date in incuse inscription on the edge of the coin beginning in 2009. In the 19th Century there are a few dateless pattern coins, but none for circulation.
- 3) The “rim” of a coin is the outermost part of the obverse or reverse. It is usually in higher relief than the central portions of the design so that the rim can protect the design from wear in circulation. The “edge” of the coin is oriented at 90 degrees from the face of the coin. The edge is sometimes reeded, sometimes smooth, sometimes lettered, and sometimes bearing some sort of design.
- 4) A collector might seek to have his coin moved from the holder of one third party grading firm to the holder of a different third party grading firm (“crossed over”) in order to get his set into matching holders. Or he might believe the market is stronger for one particular brand of holder. Or he may wish to compete in PCGS’s “Registry Set” competition, where PCGS will only accept their own brand of holders.
- 5) The earliest coin struck in a branch mint would seem to be the 1838 - O half dollar. The law establishing the branch mints at New Orleans, Charlotte, and Dahlonega resulted in simultaneous construction of these facilities, but New Orleans was first to get into production. The 1838 – O half dollars are significant rarities (with at least ten of them actually coined at the Philadelphia mint) but the similar 1839 – O coins are more available. As the reader can see on the 1839 dated coin below the “O” mint mark is on the obverse of the coin just above the date.

After 1839, the mintmark on half dollars is to be found on the coin's reverse, with the exception of the 1916 issues and part of the issues of 1917, and more recently on the Kennedy Half Dollars.



(The first coin minted in a mint in the United States outside of Philadelphia was the 1838 half dollar from the New Orleans mint. Dr. Coyne notes that the first location of a mint mark on a U.S. coin was on the obverse. Check out the “O” just above the date on this 1839 half. For more than a century and a quarter following 1839 the mint mark was on the reverse of the half dollar with only one two year exception.

The mint mark stayed on the reverse until fairly recent times rotating to the front on the 1968 half dollar.)

6) Soaking in olive oil is the time – honored treatment for ancient bronze coins which have been dug from the earth and show a dark encrustation. The olive oil helps soften the encrustation and permit its removal. It is said that “extra virgin” olive oil works best. Some report that weeks or months of soaking is normal.

7) The piece illustrated above is not a United States commemorative coin. It is a silver denarius of Julia Domna issued in Rome in the third century. She was among the most important women in government at the time and was the second wife of Roman emperor Septimius. She died in 217 A.D., having issued a dozen or more denarius designs.

Upcoming Collector Opportunities

Denton County Coin Show – February 6 . . . VFW Post # 2205 – 909 Sunset Dr., Denton, Texas

Fort Worth Coin Show – February 26 – 28 . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas

Texpex – February 26 – 28 . . . Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center – 1800 Highway 26 East, Grapevine, Texas . . . (The major stamp show in Texas. Sponsored annually by the Texas Philatelic Association)

National Money Show – March 3 – 5 . . . Dallas Convention Center – 150 South Griffin St., Dallas, Texas (Sponsored by the American Numismatic Association)

Red River Coin Show – April 9 . . . Lamar Avenue Church of Christ – 3535 Lamar Avenue, Paris, Texas

Cowtown Coin Show – April 15 – 17 . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas (Fort Worth area)

Texas Coin Show – April 22 – 24 . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also June 17 – 19)

Texas Numismatic Association Show and Convention – May 20 – 22 . . . Arlington Convention Center – 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, Texas

Memphis International Paper Money Show – June 3 – 5 . . . Cook Convention Center, 225 N. Main, Memphis, Tennessee (The event for “rag pickers” aka paper money collectors)

Five State Coin and Currency Super Show – June 10 – 11 . . . Smith’s Lone Star Event Center – 4036 FM 2767, Tyler, Texas (Yep our show)

Ark-La-Tex Coin, Stamp and Card Show – July 30 – 31 . . . Bossier Civil Center, 620 Benton, Bossier City, Louisiana

Houston Money Show – December 1 – 3 . . . George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall E – 1101 Avenida de Las Americas

Our Next Time Together

The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, February 9, 2016. 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. Members and friends of the club are encouraged to gather at 5:00 p.m. on the evenings of the meeting to enjoy a dinner together at Rudy's BBQ.

A Visit to Your Editor's Coin Cabinet



(Remainder note printed for the Missouri Confederate government)

A few weeks ago your editor was responsible for coordinating a training / leadership event for the people of the United Methodist churches in our part of beautiful Northeast Texas. The location for this opportunity was to be as geographically central as possible and the city of Marshall fit the need relatively well. Owing to the fact that I had never been beyond the worship center in the First United Methodist Church Marshall facility I made the trek over from Gilmer one afternoon to discern best use of space. Well, actually, my plan was twofold. My primary reason was to explore and detail for the upcoming mission and educational afternoon. The second purpose was something I've thought about doing for quite a while; taking part of my collection "back home" to the Methodist Church in Marshall for a reunion picture.

Here is the back story: During the American Civil War there were two states which were on the border of succession, both literally and politically. These two were Kentucky and Missouri. This explains why on at least one of the Confederate flags there are thirteen stars when only eleven states are, historically speaking, generally counted.

Your editor isn't familiar with the situation in Kentucky but has gleaned a few details about Civil War era Missouri. Essentially Missouri existed with two governments. The governmental structure true to the Union maintained itself comfortable within the boundary of the state. The government representing Confederate sympathizers found itself in exile. Interestingly, again without going into great detail, this body found its way to the seat of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department, in Marshall, Texas.



(Historic worship facility built by the Methodists of Marshall, Texas in 1860)

Coincidentally, during the same period of history, the Methodists of Marshall had just finished work on their new place of worship, the sanctuary which stands today one hundred and fifty five years later. I had heard rumors and was able through the local historical association and from church officials who know the story, to find that this structure was home to the before mentioned Missouri Confederate government in exile. According to my friend Rodger Garbs, current pastor at the church, the basement of the facility was used for a variety of official purposes and the Missouri Confederate legislature met right in the pews on the floor above. This brings me to the “second” reason I mentioned earlier in these thoughts.

Some years ago your editor purchased a sheet of Confederate era Missouri scrip. On this sheet are four remainder notes, which means none of the pieces of paper money printed for distribution were ever numbered, signed, nor issued. The sheet has three one dollar notes and one three dollar note, an example of one of the one dollar bills is pictured at the beginning of this article.

I figured that back during the time of its creation the collectible in my possession must have passed through or at least had some connection with the building still in use for Christian worship and education over in Marshall. The idea of having a photo of the sheet in what logically must have been its original home caught my attention. So, when I journeyed to Marshall in order to do some planning I took the sheet with me and convinced Rodger to allow me to photograph the two of them together. He also took my picture with the sheet of Missouri Confederate era notes but Rodger is far more photogenic than I.

Thanks for reading this far. The experience of the Missouri Confederate government is an interesting story which is also part of our own regional history.

Regards and God Bless . . . Richard



(Rodger Garbs, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Marshall, Texas. Rodger is in the historic 1860 sanctuary of the Marshall church holding your editor's uncut sheet of Civil War Missouri Scrip. See story for details.)