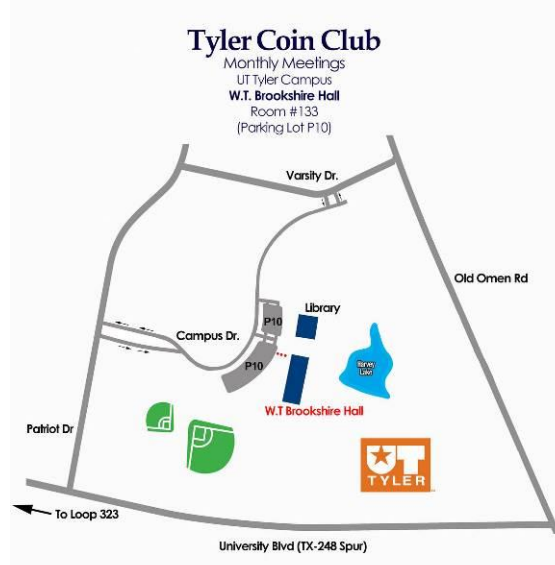


YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH FOR FEBRUARY / MARCH, 2018



(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 future focused business session, and the most spirited coin auction to be found. The TCC meets on the campus of the University of Texas Tyler in room 133 of the W. T. Brookshire Building. Enter the campus from the east side off of University Boulevard. Turn north on Patriot Dr., enter campus on Campus Drive and proceed to Parking Lot P10. (See map below) The W. T. Brookshire Building is in full view when facing west from the parking lot.



THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

Friends . . . we all know that there are a variety of collector shows to be found in our area. For example, right off here, our own *Tyler Club Show* is scheduled for June 22 and 23. I look forward to sharing in that experience with Tyler Coin Club members, friends, and supporters from Northeast Texas who avail themselves of this great show. The time to invite folks is now.

I also commend to your attention an opportunity which is just around the corner, this coming Thursday to Saturday, aka March 8 to 10. I'm talking about the *American Numismatic Association's National Money Show*. This is a rare occasion when the strength of the ANA is present in our near neighborhood. Even though the show's location is at the Irving Convention Center, the two and a half to three-hour trip will be worth your time investment in order to see the best numismatics has to offer. Take your spouse to the Metroplex! Go out for dinner!!

Thirdly; another edition of the *Texas Numismatic Association's Show* is coming to the Arlington Convention Center from Friday to Sunday, June 1 – 3. This show is always a great experience; the largest in Texas with exhibits, educational opportunities, and "fellowshipping."

See you on Tuesday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m., the next time the Tyler Coin Club gathers.



NUMISMATIC NOTES

Thoughts from Our President Lane B.

Another month has passed and we can reflect on an excellent Tyler Coin Club meeting in February. In addition to the always fun auction, we had a great presentation from Larry V. on Buffalo nickels. Despite the gremlins in the audio-visual system, Larry presented some great images and shared some marvelous tips for collecting this quintessential American coin. We also welcomed several new Club members to our collecting family.

In just a few months our Club's coin show will be held in the Harvey Hall Convention Center. The show is the Club's annual event when we bring collectors and dealers together for two days of numismatic bliss. The annual coin show has been a marvelous event for the Club for many years due to the dedication and hard work of our members. One member in particular was acknowledged at our last Club meeting for his years and years of tenacity and creativity in organizing and executing the Tyler Coin Show. That member, of course, is Barry C. This year, Barry has passed the torch to David H. who has not let grass grow under his feet. David shared some exciting updates about this year's coin show, including some clever ideas to increase attendance and ensure the show will be lots of fun.

Thinking of coin shows, the American Numismatic Association's National Money Show will be held March 8 – 10 in Irving, TX. In addition to the bourse, there are presentations, seminars, exhibits, and a live auction. Admission is free if you are an ANA member!

See you shortly for our March Club meeting. Be safe and don't take any wooden nickels ... unless you collect them!



TYLER COIN CLUB MEMBER OF THE MONTH: Richard L.

Personal History: Fifth Generation Houstonian who is proud NOT to be in Houston. Moved to Northeast Texas just shy of eight years ago and haven't looked back. One spouse, which is plenty. Four grandchildren. A handful of children in the middle but, when you have grandchildren, those the middle generation aren't so significant.

Collecting History: Started at age nine when my grandfather gave me nine real "silver" silver dollars. I've been a collector, sometimes more and sometimes less depending on the circumstances of my life and the amount of discretionary funds to be found, since that time.

Favorites: For the last couple of decades I have focused on paper money. Great history to hold in the hand.

Personal Experience: Collecting what you like is the best plan. Some of the passion in collecting is lost when one becomes an “investor” over being a “collector.”

Minutes of the Meeting of the Tyler Coin Club **February 13, 2018**

Respectfully Submitted by: Carl S., TCC Secretary

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

Attendance: Members: 31 Guests: 0 New Members: 1 **Total: 32**

Discussion of Agenda Items (Lane)

- The club was lead in prayer.
- Please keep John, Dudley, Tommy and their friends/families in your thoughts and prayers.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of February.
- Royce presented a brief Treasurer’s report and reminder that 2018 membership dues are due.
- David H. updated members on coin show preparations (see details below).
- Lane presented Barry C. with a plaque honoring his 9 years of service as a club officer. The plaque was inscribed: *With Our Greatest Appreciation ◦ We Hereby Honor ◦ Barry Carter ◦ For Your Unconditional Commitment and Dedicated Service as Treasurer & Bourse Chair of the Tyler Coin Club ◦ Thank You!*
- Lane continued discussion of a member buyer’s page on the club website.
- Lane addressed educational presentations and coin clinics (aka show & tell) encouraging member participation at monthly meetings.
- Next meeting is March 13th at W.T. Brookshire Hall (room #133) on the UT Tyler campus.

Tyler Coin Show Update (June 22-23, 2018)

- David H. updated members on coin show progress including sales and major expenses, venue, security, and advertising. A mail out is planned for the 75702 zip code which will reach over 11,000 Tyler residents. Five exhibits are confirmed with others under consideration. In addition to door prizes, a raffle will be held. Members were encouraged to bring donations for raffle at their earliest convenience.
- There will also be a gold/silver drawing based on 500 member/guest invitations. Members invite a guest to the show using a specially marked, club-supplied printed invitation. All guests bringing the special invitation to the show will be entered into a drawing to win a 1/10th oz Gold Eagle (member will win 1oz Silver Eagle).

Presentation – Collecting Buffalo Nickels (Larry V.)

- Larry gave a wonderful presentation on Buffalo Nickels which included different ways one might collect the series, aspects of grading, and understanding strike quality especially when negotiating a purchase. Larry stated the Buffalo Nickel is one of only a few series of coins that looks really good in the grade of Fine/Very Fine. And that was a determining factor as he assembled his Buffalo set. Larry also displayed a grading board

he built which covers Buffalo Nickels from the grade of About Good to mint state. A quick discussion on issue coins, including acid dipped, pitting and planchet flaking, rounded out the presentation. Thank you Larry for an outstanding presentation!

Club Auction (Tom)

- 21 auction lots sold totaling \$726.00

Door prize winners

- John, Randy, Ray, and Todd



(Club President Lane presenting Barry with a sign of our appreciation as Barry “retires” from his good work as club treasurer and chair of the Tyler Coin Club’s annual *Super Show*. Thanks for your dedication to the Tyler Coin Club.)

Grading for the Rest of Us **Originality, Part 1** **By Lane B.**

A casual glance at a dealer’s offerings on the bourse floor or a perusal through the offerings on eBay and one fact is self-evident; sellers love hyperbolic adjectives. Whether describing a Buffalo nickel as having a *hammered* strike, the proof-like fields of a Morgan dollar as being a *mile* deep, or the *monster* toning of a proof Washington silver quarter, sellers have an affinity for embellishing the descriptions of the coins they have for sale. It seems as if they don’t tell you how magnificently spectacular their coin is you will forever be unfulfilled numismatically.

One of the subtler of these fancy adjectives is *original*. It’s a word used commonly to describe the packaging that accompanied the coin when issued in “old time” dealer’s envelopes and flip inserts, and even a coin that just looks nice. It’s the latter example that is slightly afoul of what *originality* means. Originality does not necessarily mean attractive eye appeal. Originality means the coin does not have the *appearance* of being cleaned or manipulated in any way as to alter its surface. While defining originality may be somewhat easy, describing it is not. Trying to provide an all-purpose definition reminds me of the 1964 quote attributed to Justice Potter Stewart when describing obscenity, “I know it when I see it.”

To best appreciate originality in coins, it takes viewing a lot of coins with identifiable problems and a lot of coins that are *suspected* not to have any easily discernable problems. While viewing images of coins may be convenient, examining the coins in-hand is far better and provides the ability to view the coins at multiple angles and under different intensities of light. The best approach is to view the coins with a dealer or fellow collector who has the requisite expertise. In other words, view the coins with your numismatic coach.

The two Seated Liberty quarters below illustrate a challenge with interpreting the originality of 19th century coins. Both coins have about uncirculated details, yet distinctly different appearances. The first quarter (s/n 34475985) has a homogenous medium gray color that many collectors find attractive. This coin, however, has been cleaned and resides in a Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS) “Genuine” holder. One indicator that the coin has been cleaned and is thus not original, is the uniformity of the gray color around the devices, such as the stars, date, rays, and lettering to that of the fields and on top of the devices. For example, the gray color between the rays on the reverse would be a different shade of gray than the fields and tops of the letters on a coin with such little wear.



The second quarter below (s/n 82938845) is graded by PCGS as AU-50. Thus, the coin is “market acceptable,” but is the coin *original*? Unlike the above quarter, the coin’s surface does not have a uniform color across the fields and devices. In fact, the quarter below has toning of various colors with uneven borders across the surface of the coin. Such toning often results from placing a coin that has been lightly cleaned into a paper envelope or storage in some other source of sulfur. Had the coin been heavily cleaned, PCGS would have placed the coin in a “Genuine” holder. The coin in its current PCGS holder was submitted to the Certified Acceptance Corporation (CAC) and it was not approved (i.e. the coin did not receive a green or gold CAC sticker). The rejection of the coin when submitted to CAC supports the position that the coin is not original, even though it may be market acceptable and viewed as attractive by many collectors.



Sometimes, original coins are not very attractive. Even though nothing has been done to the coin to improve its surface, the coin may be unsightly and not one a collector may readily wish to add to his or her collection. In the next installment, we will look at some original coins that many would view as unattractive.

NUMISMATIC EDUCATION

A Visit With Dr. Coyne

Questions for Dr. Coyne

- 1) Where are the “dentils” located on a coin (on a coin that has dentils)
- 2) Has there been a year since 1793 in which the U.S. Mints coined no silver?
- 3) Before 1970, how many pennies were there in a British Pound?



(Here is an example of the last penny of the old financial system in Great Britain. The reverse design, as featured above, in one form or another, graced the coin for nearly two hundred years. The 1970 coins of all denominations were not issued for everyday use but only in proof sets.)

- 4) What is the most common type and denomination of U.S. Fractional Currency?
- 5) Do Third Party Grading Companies encapsulate counterfeits and label them as such?
- 6) What is a “Mule” coin?
- 7) Is the piece a U.S. coin?



Dr. Coyne Responds

1) The dentils are the decoration, usually dots or elongated pellets or triangles, which form the “frame” around the rim of the obverse or reverse. They have also been called “dentilations.” They are the outermost feature of the obverse or reverse die. They are not part of any edge die or collar die.



2) There was a fire at the mint in Philadelphia in January 1816 which heavily damaged the middle (of three) main buildings, resulting in the loss of the roof and much of the machinery. Rebuilding took almost a year, but the opportunity was taken to install a new and more robust rolling mill, including the first steam engine in the mint. No silver coins were struck until 1817. Cents were made in 1816, but they were made from purchased ready-to-strike planchets.

- 3) The long reign of the pounds/shillings/pence system in Great Britain ended with decimalization in 1970. In the LSD system, there were 12 pence in a shilling, and it took 20 shillings to equal a pound sterling; thus there were 240 pennies to a pound.
- 4) The most common U.S. Fractional note in collector hands today would appear to be the 5th issue (1874) Ten Cents with Meredith portrait (also known as the “grumpy” note, from his appearance). Close runner up would be the 25 cent note (shown) from the same 5th series with Walker portrait.



- 5) The Third Party Grading (TPG) companies have built an enviable record of detecting counterfeit and altered coins when they are submitted and refusing to encapsulate them. That is why for many key dates, just a “genuine” label, but with the coin in a TPG slab, is a worthwhile proposition for coins with cleaning, environmental damage, or other problems which prevent them from being in a straight-grade slab. There are a few “counterfeit” coins which were created a long time ago as “circulating counterfeits” to pass at face value (and not to fool collectors) that are seen in slabs. An example would be the Machins Mills coppers of the 1780’s. The most notable more modern TPG encapsulation came in the case of the Micro-O Morgan Dollars which were finally shown to be counterfeits only about ten years ago. Some of these are still in TPG slabs.
- 6) A mule coin is a coin made from obverse and reverse dies which were not intended to be used together. Coins, tokens, and medals have all been muled. Sometimes it is accidental, but usually it is done on purpose, sometimes with intent to sell a “manufactured” delicacy to collectors long after the original dies had been created. Private mints are more likely to do it than national mints. This has led to an elaborate range of collectible issues in the Conder and Civil War token series. Mules are also known for paper money, but there of course it is mismatched printing plates front to back rather than dies which were used.
- 7) The illustrated piece is not a U.S. coin. It may bear passing resemblance to some one-cent U.S. pattern pieces of around 1890. It is a regular issue piece of One Centavo from Mexico, minted at the Mexico City mint.

Upcoming Collector Opportunities

- American Numismatic Association’s National Money Show** – March 8 – 10 . . . Irving Convention Center – 500 Las Colinas Blvd W., Irving, Texas (Worth the trip to the Metroplex)
- Texarkana Coin Show** – March 30 – 31 . . . Texarkana Convention Center – 4610 Cowhorn Creek Dr., Texarkana, Texas
- Cowtown Coin Chow** – April 6 – 7 . . . Forest Hill Civil and Convention Center – 6910 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas (Also June 29 – 30)
- Texas Coin Show** – April 20 – 22 . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also July 20 – 22, September 28 – 30, November 16 – 18, December 14 – 16)
- Texas Numismatic Association Convention and Show** – June 1 – 3 . . . Arlington Convention Center – 1500 Convention Center Drive, Arlington, Texas

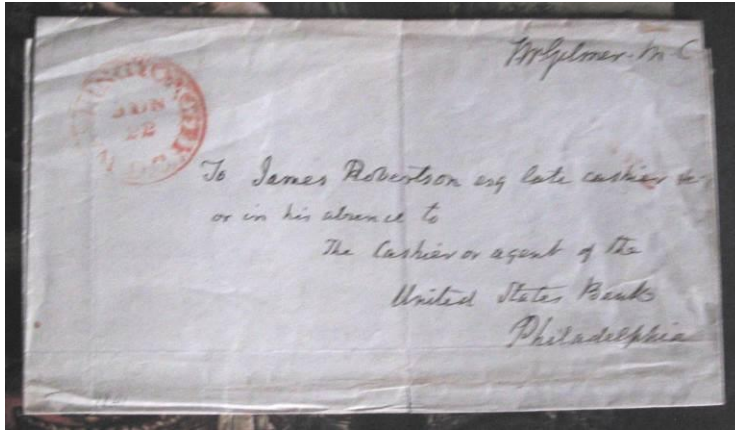
Tyler Coin Club Show – June 22 – 23 . . . Harvey Convention Center – 2000 West Front Street, Tyler, Texas (Yes our show – thanks to Barry for many great shows – welcome David as new director)

Our Next Time Together

The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, March 13. See you at 7:00 p.m. See 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 COLLECTOR CABINET

Thomas Walker Gilmer



Every now and then your editor pulls something out of his “collector cabinet”, or in the case of today’s exploration, offers a particular something of historical note which has just found its way into said collector cabinet. On occasion what is presented is not directly numismatic in context. This is true of the two pictures above that are offered in order to give some sight value to the brief story below.

On the left is a “free frank” this meaning an envelope which passed through the postal system without postage owing to the fact that the signature at the top right denotes the sender is a government official, in this case a member of the U.S. Congress. The image on the right is a period sketch of Thomas Walker Gilmer. Even though Mr. Gilmer was originally from Virginia, we in Texas owe him a debt of gratitude, which we’ll talk about later.

Your editor picked up this historically significant document for a simple reason; the community I call home is named in memory of Thomas Walker Gilmer. As stated before, Gilmer was a Virginia native. After serving some years in his home state, including being the 28th Governor of Virginia, he made his way onto the national field as a member of the House of Representatives. In February of 1844 Thomas Walker Gilmer was appointed Secretary of the Navy by then President John Tyler. Unfortunately, Gilmer’s tenure in the Navy office was slight. He died just ten days after he came to the Secretary of Navy responsibility when a powerful “gun” he was inspecting on the USS Princeton exploded. A fellow Virginian, Secretary of the Navy, Abel Upshur, also met his demise in the same tragic event.

In 1846 when a new county was being formed in beautiful Northeast Texas, and at the same time a county seat was chosen, those with authority decided to name the county Upshur, in honor of Abel Upshur and designate the county seat as Gilmer, in honor of the gentleman whose signature is on the free frank above.

So back to where I began; how does Gilmer figure in Texas history? Gilmer was a member of the President John Tyler era House of Representatives when discussion of the annexation of Texas was a topic of challenge. Gilmer took the lead in formulating and later

selling the notion of Texas as an important next step in our national development. Because of Gilmer's efforts Texas not only found a friend in the legislature, but also one with influence whose vision tipped the scale in the favor of our great state. (Anybody want to sing "Texas Our Texas" with me right now?)

Today Thomas Walker Gilmer's legacy exists in several places with, as far as your editor is concerned, his advocacy for Texas, as his crowning glory.

As a citizen of "his" city and living the county named for fellow cabinet member Abel Upshur, it is my privilege to have a genuine, signed, free frank featuring the signature of Thomas Walker Gilmer. It was my plan to display this along with the free frank I already own with the inscription of Upshur upon it. Sadly, in the midst of all the crazy early packing, I have placed the Upshur inscribed envelope somewhere "safe." Maybe I'll find it after we relocate, or maybe not.

For those who are interested, from the standpoint of a collector, signed documents from government officials are sought after. For whatever reason, and we collectors know these things don't always make a lot of sense, the Gilmer autograph on cover is worth about twice that of the Upshur. Maybe in his longer time in government office Upshur signed a quantity of documents which are survivors on the market today. Your editor will note that these two free franks combined (One signed by Gilmer and one signed up Upshur) are not worth but a small percentage of the discerned value of a crumpled Dixie cup used by Elvis back in the 1950's. The eBay auction for the cup **supposedly** used by Elvis in 1956 concluded on January 21st with a "winning" bid of \$3,300. More than I got for the autographed picture of Jesus your editor bought in Juarez twenty-five years ago. (Seriously!!)



(A \$3,300 winning bid on eBay secure this crumpled Dixie cup, which was supposedly used and then abandoned by Elvis Presley back in '56. Thanks ya' very much!!)