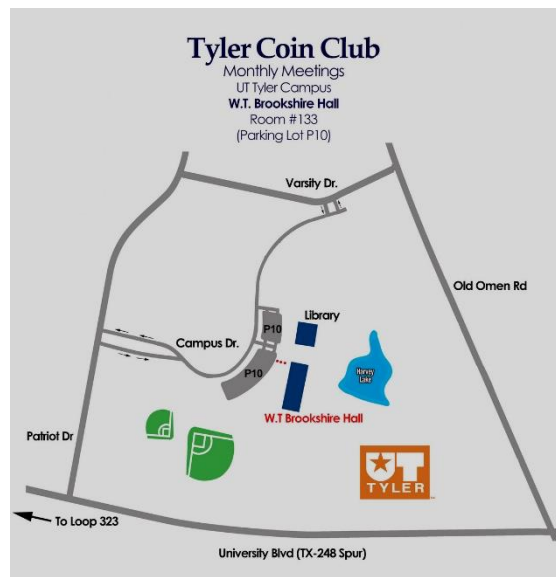


YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2019



(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

Your editor was traveling south on I-35 E a few days ago, heading off in the direction of Dallas proper from our newly adopted home town of Denton. This is an excursion I make several times a week and it is usually routine. Well, a couple of weeks ago I found reason to stop and make an impromptu visit. As I glanced at a shopping center near Swisher, I noted a sign which read: “Coin Shop,” being a new one in the area. I make a hasty exit, turned back and wandered in. It is indeed a new numismatic venture in my neighborhood. And to make things even more interesting it is owned by a young man in his 20’s. An all-around pleasant surprise. Good to see one so young taking on such an adventure. I wish him well and see in this hope for our future.



NUMISMATIC NOTES **Thoughts from Our President Lane B.**

Notes from the President

We had another wonderful club meeting in February with just shy of 50 people in attendance; 5 of those were guests! It's now fairly common for the attendance at our monthly club meetings to be over 40 members and it's been great to see so many guests join us and experience our camaraderie and shared love of numismatics.

Each month we have dozens and dozens of lots available for bidding and each meeting brings a strong mixture of coins, paper notes, exonomia, and ephemera. Richard G. continues to be a great auctioneer by injecting fun and humor while he helps find new homes for those numismatic treasures up for bid.

Thanks to those who share their knowledge and love of collecting with the membership. For example, last month Royce gave an informative presentation on the Effigy Mounds National Monument using the America the Beautiful quarter as the catalyst for his trip.

March is the month for the National Money Show. This year's event will be held in Pittsburgh (that's the one in Pennsylvania and not East Texas) on March 28-30. In addition to a large bourse, there will be educational exhibits and presentations.

Speaking of coin shows, our annual coin show is sold out ... and it's only March! Dave has again done a wonderful job organizing the show and this year's offering promises to be even better. Keep up the great work, Dave!

See y'all shortly at our March Club meeting!

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2019 MEETING **OF THE TYLER, TEXAS COIN CLUB**

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

Attendance: Members: 44 Guests: 5 New Members: 0 Total: 49

Discussion of Agenda Items (Lane)

- The club was led in prayer by Jim M.
- Please keep Tom, Kern, 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 February.
- Royce presented a brief Treasurer's report.

- David gave an update on preparations for the 2019 coin show (June 21-22, 2019). Dealer tables are sold out. Holiday Inn will be the host hotel with special rates. Don H. secured a prime location for show signage.
- Lane encouraged additional member participation with educational presentations and coin clinics (aka show & tell) at monthly meetings. A Photographing Coins workshop is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th. Additional information will be available soon.
- Lane discussed new membership levels including a family membership and lifetime membership. Members were encouraged to provide feedback.
- Next regular meeting is March 12, 2019 at W.T. Brookshire Hall (room #133) on the UT Tyler campus.

Presentations

- Larry V. gave a short presentation on the benefits of club membership. Larry also briefly discussed a Slovakia 100 Halierov coin with an image of Krivan Mountain.
- Royce J. gave a presentation with photos from a trip to Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa. The mounds preserved there are considered sacred by many Americans. There are over 200 American Indian mounds representing 20 American Indian tribes. In 2017, the U.S. Mint depicted Effigy Mounds National Monument as part of the American the Beautiful Quarters.

Club Auction (Richard G.)

- 43 items sold - \$916.00

Door prize winners

- Carolyn, David, Larry, Randy M., and Randy W.

Refreshments

- A big Thank You to David & Sherry for providing refreshments!

NUMISMATIC EDUCATION **A VISIT WITH DR. COYNE**

Questions for Dr. Coyne:

- 1.) What are two easy ways to unmask a purported 1943 copper cent fake
- 2.) What is a novodel?
- 3.) Are Red Seal U.S. two dollar bills rare and valuable?
- 4.) What is a brockage piece?
- 5.) What is the meaning of the wings on the head of Liberty on a “Mercury” dime?



- 6.) What is the most recent all-aluminum coin struck at the U.S. mint?
- 7.) What is an electrotype piece?

Dr. Coyne Responds:

1.) The two best ways to unmask a purported 1943 copper cent are: test for magnetic attraction and examine the shape of the digits in the date. A genuine 1943 bronze cent (very rare) will have no attraction to a magnet. A copper plated steel one will be strongly attracted to a magnet. Any household magnet will work as a test device. The date on the genuine 1943 has a '3' with a long lower loop. A metal-chased 1948 will have a different form.

2.) The term 'novodel' has been applied to a type of 'fantasy' coin in which the general style follows a genuine mint product, but for which there were no originals made. The dies are generally mint-made, though sometimes long after the date on the coin. The first examples which come to mind are the proof silver dollars of 1801, 1802, and 1803. These are 'cousins' of the famous 1804 dollars, which are now known to have been made in 1834 and later. While there are original dollars of 1801-1803, there are no proofs, and the novodels are of a die style of decades later.

A more complete answer was provided by DCB's editing of an old E-Sylum treatment of the question: "There is a subtle difference between a novodel and a restrike. A restrike is a subset of the term novodel. The critical point between a novodel and a restrike is that a restrike is a strict reproduction using the same dies and methods to try to replicate the exact same coin design that was minted in the past. Whereas, a novodel does not necessarily have to be done so and allows some "modifications".

An excellent example would be the Siberian Kopeks. In the past, the original Siberian Kopeks were crudely struck with bad edging. However, with the novodels, well defined planchets [flans] with a completely different edging were created. To call these a restrike is not appropriate, as the edging, quality of strike, and planchet quality differs vastly."

3.) Red seal \$2 bills are U.S. notes of series 1928, 1953, and 1963. They are a type that precedes the current green-seal Federal Reserve Note \$2 issues. Some of the earlier red-seal \$2 are fine collector issues, but the usually seen series 1953 and 1963 with Monticello on the reverse have hardly any premium over face value if in used condition.



("Red Seal" United States Note Two Dollar bills. On the left a high-grade example of the 1928 series design. On the right a "star note" from the design of 1953 and 1963. The value in specific lies in the grade, the centering, and in the fact that the note on the right is a "star note," which gives it a bit of a premium.)

4.) A 'brockage' coin is a type of mint error. It results from a failure of the ejection mechanism to remove a normally struck coin from the coining chamber, together with the insertion of a new blank into the chamber. In the resulting strike with two pieces in the chamber at the same time, the design from the already-struck coin is incused into one face of the blank. If both coins are then ejected, the first piece may look almost normal. The second piece (the brockage) will have two obverses or two reverses, and one of them will be a mirror image incuse of the normal design. Its opposite side is likely to appear especially well-struck but otherwise normal. The good striking on the 'normal' side is due to the added pressure of what amounts to a double-thickness planchet in the press. This is a rare type of error in modern, machine-struck coinage.

It seemed to occur more often in the long-ago large cent era than it has on modern coins. There are many examples of a brockage in ancient and medieval hand-made coinage.

5.) The “Mercury” dime does not show the mythical Mercury at all. The real Mercury has wings on his feet. The wings on the head on Weinman’s dime of 1916 are supposed to signify freedom of thought. The design on 1916 and early 1917 dimes is truer to the artist’s original conception than the treatment on late-1917 and pieces from the rest of the series when Mint Engraver Charles Barber lowered the relief and removed the textured fields.

6.) The most recent all-aluminum coin struck at the U.S. mint would be the pattern cents of 1974. But almost all of these were recovered by mint authorities. The U.S. mint has done several all-aluminum coins for other countries, including Mexico, but has done no contract coinage for foreign powers in recent years. There is again talk of a lower-cost cent for the U.S., now that production cost is above face value even on our copper coated zinc cents. But no patterns have been publicly seen.

7.) An electrotype is a type of copy of a real coin. In this process, a thin shell is made separately of the obverse and the reverse by an electroplating process. The shells are then trimmed, joined, and usually filled by a heavy, low-melting- temperature metal. While they are still made, they are not as popular as they once were. A hundred years ago, museums often showed an electrotype instead of a real example when they did not have the real piece, or when they just didn’t want to expose it to loss from a display. Collectors can usually distinguish an electrotype from a real, struck piece by looking for evidence of a seam on the edge or near either the obverse or reverse rim of the suspect piece. Additionally, most electrotypes will not ‘ring’ like a real, struck piece when tapped with a pencil on the edge.

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

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)

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

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, March 12, 2019. Our meetings officially begin at 7:00, 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"



Friends . . . this visit to your editor's Coin Cabinet this month is a bit of a no brainer from the numismatic perspective. It is evident from the picture pasted just above that my focus is a medal known by the simple title "Norse American."

The medal itself came to be back in 1925 to mark a major immigration thrust of individuals from Norway who choose (legally) to settle in the United States. At the point of the traveler's centennial a Minnesota congressman named Ole Juulson Kvale (can't make that one up) presented a bill before the House of Representatives for the creation of a commemorative coin. When his vision was turned down, he instead accepted the idea of a medal. The finished product, an example of which is pictured above, was struck at the Philadelphia mint. The "Norse American" medal exists in four different forms: gold (47 struck), silver "thin" (6,000), silver "thick" (most common with 33,250), and bronze (no more than 75 pieces.) Both examples of the silver (thick and thin) are readily available in the marketplace. There is a noticeable premium for the thin over the thick.

It was back during my years as an active member of the Greater Houston Coin Club that I came to appreciate importance of educational presentations. I vividly remember a program offered by Rollie Finner then of Iola, Wisconsin. Rollie, a numismatist of the highest order, brought along his collection of "Norse Americans" and gave a remarkable talk on the subject. At some point in the evening Rollie asked how many in the crowd had at least one. I raised my hand being sure that I wasn't stretching the truth.

It has been a number of years since. Rollie passed away in 2009, so we are talking at least that long. This also means there have been two moves in my life since the night we focused intently upon, and experienced a top flight offering of, Norse American Medals.

From that point until just the other day, I began to question the choice to raise my hand during Rollie's time with us in Houston back in the day. From before then, until just last week I wondered if I, in fact, really did own an example. Then, with no particular thought or expectation, I opened a box a handful of days ago that has been hiding in several different closets for some time. There, along with a few other items, was my medal. It is good to know that it is present and accounted for.

The Norse American Medal is one of those interesting side lights to our hobby. It is counted, by some as a must have when dealing with U.S. commemoratives. I can't say for sure, but I am aware that the medal type has a strong history. I thank Rollie, all these years since, for taking time to come to Houston in order to share a few thoughts which remain with me after all these years.

As I have said before, it is great to be in association with people who know so much more than I and who are willing to take time to open doors of insight and education.