

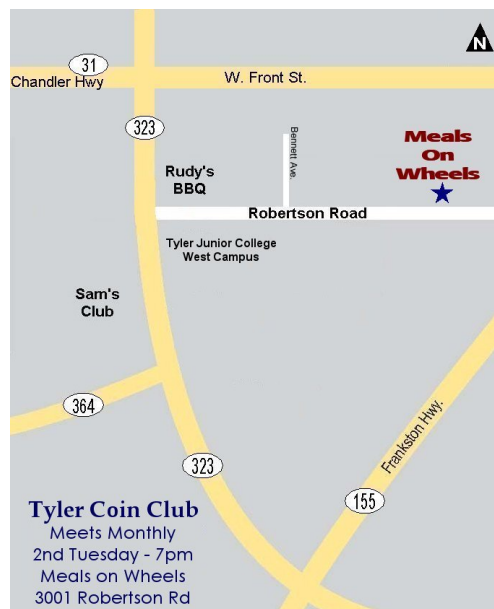
Tyler Coin Club

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(Newsletter of the Tyler Coin Club for February, 2014)

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 occasionally offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all. TCC's next meeting is Tuesday, March 11th, 2014.



A Few Words from the Editor

One of the most positive and joyful places in which I am involved is in the role of the volunteer responsible for the Coins for A's program of the Texas Numismatic Association. For those of you not familiar I'll share briefly. This program makes available to the children of Texas the chance to acquire collector coins, and related numismatic treasures, as an incentive to continue on the road to better grades. My own philosophy is that the incentive is the important thing so as long as there is at least one "A" on the copy of the report card I receive. It is a real joy to communicate with individuals from all over the State of Texas and to hear of their growing collector interest. Each one receives a personal letter from me containing words of encouragement and always the challenge not only to keep up the good work on grades, but also to take time to explore the coin sent and to learn from it. Finally I share information with each one concerning the coin clubs and shows in his / her area. I'm offering this to you all for two reasons; to share my joy, and to encourage you all to support Coins for A's and other opportunities for younger folk such as this. Thanks for your support and in all the ways we, as collectors, choose to support the next generation of numismatists.

“Sowle Food”

Thoughts from President Dwight



It's exciting to see the Tyler Coin Club (TCC) pick up right where it left off last year by welcoming five new members in our first meeting of the New Year. Then last month – February – we had to cancel our meeting due to the winter storm, and now we are anticipating, excitingly of course, for our March meeting where we can officially welcome our new members and carry on with business at hand. Here is what TCC has to look forward to during the first half of this year:

- ✚ Group Picture – this will be a group picture twice the size of our last group picture
- ✚ Designing and ordering new club shirts
- ✚ Public placement of our new logo
- ✚ **AND**, last but not least, our sixth coin show in five years

There is one thing that is very special about our New Year 2014; it marks the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy half dollar. Most of us, if not all of us, remember the day President Kennedy was assassinated as if it were yesterday. We all remember where we were and what we were doing that fateful day.

John F. Kennedy's 1961 inaugural address inspired us all to see the importance of our civic action and public services as Americans. His words are ever embedded on my heart and on the hearts of thousands of other Americans, ***“Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”*** That statement challenged us then, and should continue to challenge us today to contribute in some way to the public good. I see the TCC doing that very thing as we continue to contribute to our hobby and to the Tyler community. Hallelujah!!

That's it for this 'portion' of “Sowle Food.” Until next time, remember, ***“Life is like a boom-a-rang. The more good you throw out, the more you receive in return.”***---Unknown

God bless!
Dwight



(Kennedy Half Dollar now 50 years old.)

Getting to Know You

This month we are honored to have a few words from Debbie Williams President of the Texas Numismatic Association (TNA)

(Editor Note: Your editor recruited this submission from Debbie as a way to provide members of the Tyler Coin Club the privilege of meeting an important leader of our Texas collector community. Debbie is in her first year as President of the Texas Numismatic Association. As such it is important that we hear her numismatic story and the words of encouragement she offers on behalf of TNA. Thanks to Debbie for the direction in which she is leading our state numismatic organization. Our own Tom B., a TNA regional governor, has applications for the association. One motivation for membership is the opportunity to receive the TNA News which includes a world of useful information in every issue starting with a letter from Debbie.)



(TNA website photo of President Debbie Williams)

Unlike most collectors that started collecting coins as a child, I did not discover the hobby until I was a young adult working as a bank teller in the early 1980's. The 40% and 90% Kennedy half-dollars first caught my attention but it was the seldom-found Franklin halves that really got me excited. I was soon visiting a local coin shop where the owner encouraged me to attend a local coin club meeting. I found that I really liked spending time with people that enjoyed talking and studying old coins as much as I did. The hobby soon became a very important part of my life and has continued so for over three decades now.

Once I completed a well-worn set of Franklins I was ready to find another interest. At the time, cameo proofs generally sold for the same prices as standard proof coins. I was amazed that I could purchase these beautiful proof cameos without paying a premium. I was soon spending a lot of time at coin shows searching for cameo Franklins and then on to cameos in general. I think this is when I first discovered how much I enjoyed seeking out odd and unusual items. Next, I developed an interest in collecting two-cent pieces then three-cent pieces followed by error coins.

I discovered a completely new collecting interest in 2000 after attending an ANA Summer Seminar class on "Civil War-Era Numismatics" taught by token specialist David Schenkman. This was my introduction into a new area of collecting – numismatic items related to money yet not coins or currency & collectively referred to as "exonumia". I continued studying Civil War era numismatic items and ended up collecting patriotic Civil War tokens. I have collected a variety of items in this specialty field including many types of tokens, medals, military payment certificates, so-called dollars, and old checks. I am currently concentrating on old checks – especially territorial checks – and the store card version of Civil War tokens.



(Issued in the name of Gustavus Lindenmueller of New York City the above item is one of the more common "Civil War Store Cards" one of the "exonumia" areas collected by Texas Numismatic Association President Debbie Williams)

I believe self-education has really helped me succeed in the hobby. Each time I discover a new collecting interest, I read books, take classes, and attend educational programs on the subject. This is why I am especially happy about the new educational programs the TNA has introduced and encourage Tyler Coin Club members to take full advantage of them.

Tyler Coin Club - TNA District 12

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 11, 2014

Owing to the projection of wintry weather, and nature's fulfillment of that promise, our Tyler Coin Club leadership team thought it best to cancel the February 11th meeting.

Members of the Tyler Coin Club are encouraged to be in attendance on Tuesday, March 11th.

(Editor's note: Thanks to our club officers for their wisdom and caring for our best interest.)

Numismatic Education - A Visit With Dr. Coyne

Questions for Dr. Coyne:

- 1.) Is this a Swiss coin or is it a medal?



- 2.) What U.S. coinage denomination has been issued in four different metallic compositions? Hint: think long term
- 3.) When was the most recent, and probably final, U.S. Note? (Red Seal) Hint: think Franklin
- 4.) What is the title of the standard reference on Mexican Cap and Rays 8 Reales coins?
- 5.) If a fake silver coin is the same weight and diameter as its genuine counterpart, how can I tell which one is made of real silver?

- 6.) What does a “denticle” do in a coin design?
- 7.) When did Canada begin having its own coins?

Dr. Coyne Responds:

- 1.) This is a Swiss “shooting medal.” Medals of this type were issued in silver and in copper or bronze (along with a few in gold) mainly from 1860 – 1930 by a variety of towns in Switzerland who held shooting competitions. There are Swiss coins which look similar, but the coins have denominations on them and are generally not as big and heavy as the medals.
- 2.) It is the one dollar coin which has been issued in a greater variety of compositions than any other denomination. In 1794 it was authorized at .8924 silver, going to .900 silver in 1837. Gold dollars (.900 fine) were issued at the same time as silver dollars. (1849 – 1889) Susan B. Anthony “small dollars” were copper / nickel clad. There were issues of 40% silver / clad dollars for the Bicentennial and “brown box” and “blue envelope” Eisenhower dollars. The manganese brass “golden dollars” of Sacagawea and the Presidential series are of our time. The American Eagle bullion “coin” also carries the pseudo-denomination “one dollar” and it is pure silver.
- 3.) The last U.S. Note is the Benjamin Franklin \$100 Red Seal U.S. Note carrying identification as Series 1966. Not only was this the last U.S. Note it was also the only \$100 U.S. Note.

These came about because there was an odd government requirement in place until 1994 that a certain dollar amount of these “Legal Tender Notes” remain on the books of the Treasury Department. By 1966 the common U.S. Note denominations – namely the \$2 and \$5 – were no longer in production and were being withdrawn and there needed to be some means by which the government could obey the existing law. These \$100 notes essentially replace the \$2 and \$5 notes by absorbing their face value and translating it into another form. Most of these Red Seal \$100’s sat in the treasury vault. Those which were not previously released for circulation were destroyed in 1996.

Technically the last issued U.S. Note was from the Series of 1966a. It carries the signature combination of Dorothy Andrews Elson Kabis and David M. Kennedy. Kabis served as U.S. Treasurer from May 8, 1969 to July 3, 1971. Kennedy was Secretary of the Treasury from January 22, 1969 to February 10, 1971. This means the last U.S. Notes were approved and printed sometime between January of 1969 and February of 1971. U.S. Notes (including those \$100’s of the 1966a Series) were no longer released after January 21, 1971.



(The 1966a One Hundred Dollar bill pictured above is from the last Series of U.S. Notes.)

- 4.) The standard reference for Cap and Ray 8 Reales of Mexico is “*Resplandores*” by Dunigan and Parker. (1997) Each year’s issue from 1823 to 1897 is illustrated and given a rarity rating. The arrangement is by mint, of which 14 different mints were involved. Many over dates and other varieties are noted. Some collectors say these are the “Morgan Dollars” of Mexico.



- 5.) If a fake silver coin of lower grade silver has the same diameter and overall weight as a genuine high-purity silver coin, the fake has to be thicker than the genuine. Silver has a density above that of copper, tin or most other materials. A sophisticated specific gravity test can reveal the purity to a tolerance of about 1% (in binary alloys), but the quick visual test is sufficient to unmask most cast counterfeits that are seen.
- 6.) The denticles are the small tooth-like design elements that frame the obverse or reverse design. But beyond adding attractive decoration, they help in managing the metal flow during striking and help the lettering near the rims to strike up as well.
- 7.) The tricky question of when Canada began having its own coins depends upon how certain early copper tokens are classified. By 1823, there was a series of tokens (Thistle tokens for Nova Scotia) being imported from England with the intention to circulate them in eastern Canada. The British Royal Mint in London began making decimal coins for Canada in 1858. Canada did not get its own mint at Ottawa until 1908. Today that mint makes only collector and bullion “coins”. The main mint is in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Upcoming Collector Events

TEXPEX (Show of the Texas Philatelic [stamp collector] Association) – February 28th – March 2nd . . . Hilton DFW Hotel and Convention Center . . . 1800 Hwy. 26 E., Grapevine, Texas

Zonta Antique Show – February 28th – March 2nd . . . Maude Cobb Convention Center . . . 100 Grand Blvd., Longview, Texas

Fort Worth Coin Club Winter Coin Show – March 8th – 9th . . . Lockheed Martin Recreation Center . . . 3400 S. Bryant Irvin Rd., Fort Worth, Texas

Texas Coin Show – March 21st – 23rd . . . Grapevine Convention Center . . . 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas

Cowtown Coin Show – April 26th – 27th . . . Lockheed Martin Recreation Center . . . 3400 S. Bryant Irvin Rd., Fort Worth, Texas

Texas Coin Show – May 9th – 11th . . . Grapevine Convention Center . . . 1209 s. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also July 11th – 13th, September 19th – 21st, November 14th – 16th)

Texas Numismatic Association Annual Convention – May 16th – 18th . . . Arlington Convention Center . . . 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, Texas

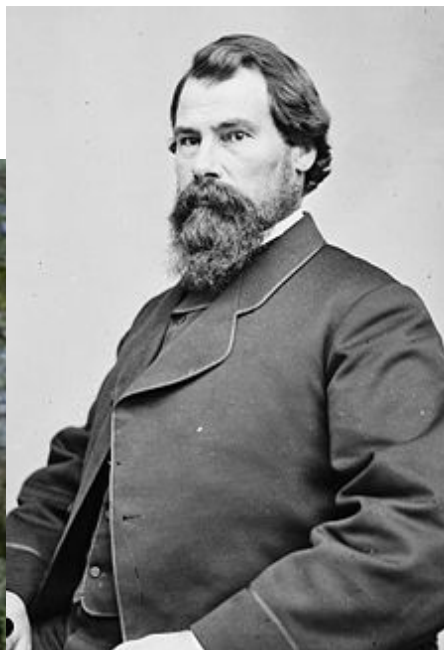
Five State Coin & Currency Super Show @ Tyler – June 13th – 14th . . . Lone Star Event Center . . .
4036 Kilgore Hwy, Tyler, Texas (Our signature show!! Thanks Barry!!!)
Memphis International Paper Money Show – June 13th – 15th . . . Cook Convention Center. . .
255 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee

Next Time Together

The Greater Tyler Coin Club will meet again on **Tuesday, March 11th 2014**. See you at **7:00 p.m.**
Come enjoy a positive numismatic experience, good fellowship, and the most spirited coin auction in Texas. Mark your calendar now. You are also encouraged to plan on gathering at around 5:00 for dinner at Rudy's BBQ just prior to the meeting. See you then. Bring a friend.

Numismatic History From Your Editor's "Coin Cabinet"

John H. Reagan 1818 – 1905 Confederate – Texan



(Left: John Henninger Reagan memorial statue by Pompeo Luigi Copini located in the Reagan Park, Palestine, Texas
Center: Original photograph of John H. Reagan as a younger man
Right: Reagan's grave marker in East Hill Cemetery, Palestine, Texas)

Your editor first "met" John H. Reagan in a university level history class some years back. Through the years I have continued to study Mr. Reagan's life and find him to have been a person of quality. Certain definitive terms come to mind such as: honor, integrity, dedication to duty, insight, natural leadership ability, perseverance, selfless service, and a host of others. My attention was once again turned to him last month when I was able to cross another "want" off of my collector list, something I'll share below.

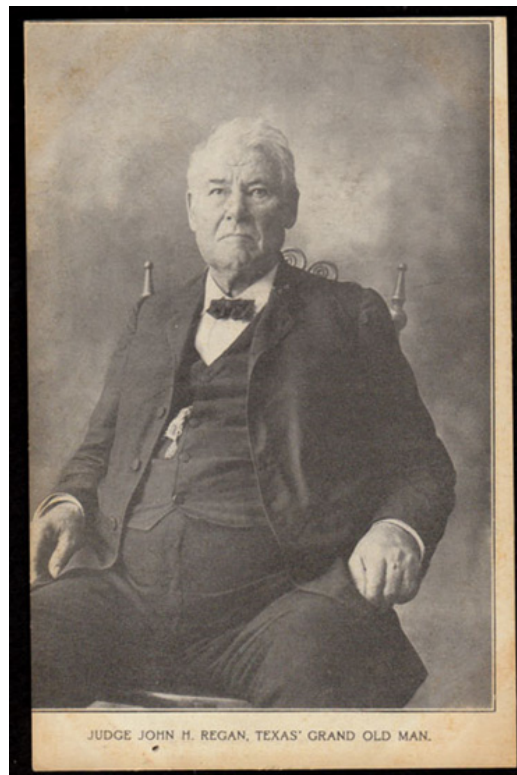
John H. Reagan's biography is best studied in some length but for now your editor chooses to share only the basic details with limited commentary, leaving that to the reader's choice and time. John Reagan was born in Gatlinburg, Tennessee in 1818. He was one of those folks who wasn't born in Texas but got here as soon as he could; choosing to migrate to Texas at the age of 19. During his eight decades

in Texas, which in complete duration included life under three of our six flags, he worked as a surveyor, a farmer, and as a self-taught lawyer. His political life began in 1847 when he became probate justice in Henderson County. Following this, he served one term in the Texas legislature then being elected district judge in Palestine serving from 1852 to 1857.

Washington D.C. was Reagan's next step, the first of two national capitols in which he focused his leadership skills. From 1857 until 1861 he was once again U.S. Representative from the First Congressional District of Texas. He resigned in 1861 in order to represent Texas in the Confederate Congress. President Jefferson Davis, recognizing Reagan's talent, chose him for the CSA cabinet as Postmaster General. As such he took up residence in the Confederate capitol city of Richmond, Virginia.

In the office of Confederate Postmaster General Reagan proved himself to be an able administrator. Various sources your editor has read affirmed the fact that his was the only department in the entire government which ran smoothly and even made a profit, something which is obviously a scarcity in the life of the post office today.

At the war's end Reagan, along with Jefferson Davis and several others, was captured by Union forces. He served prison time in Boston, including 22 weeks in solitary confinement. Following release in December, 1865, John Reagan returned to "Fort Houston" his home in Palestine. It is important to note that while in federal prison he wrote a letter home to Texas urging the state's leadership to cooperate fully with the United States government. His reason was born out of his love for Texas. He knew not to do so would cause harsh military rule. Reagan's popularity in Texas waned following the publication of the letter. Unfortunately Reagan's insight became true and "Reconstruction" was particularly lengthy and harsh for Texas.



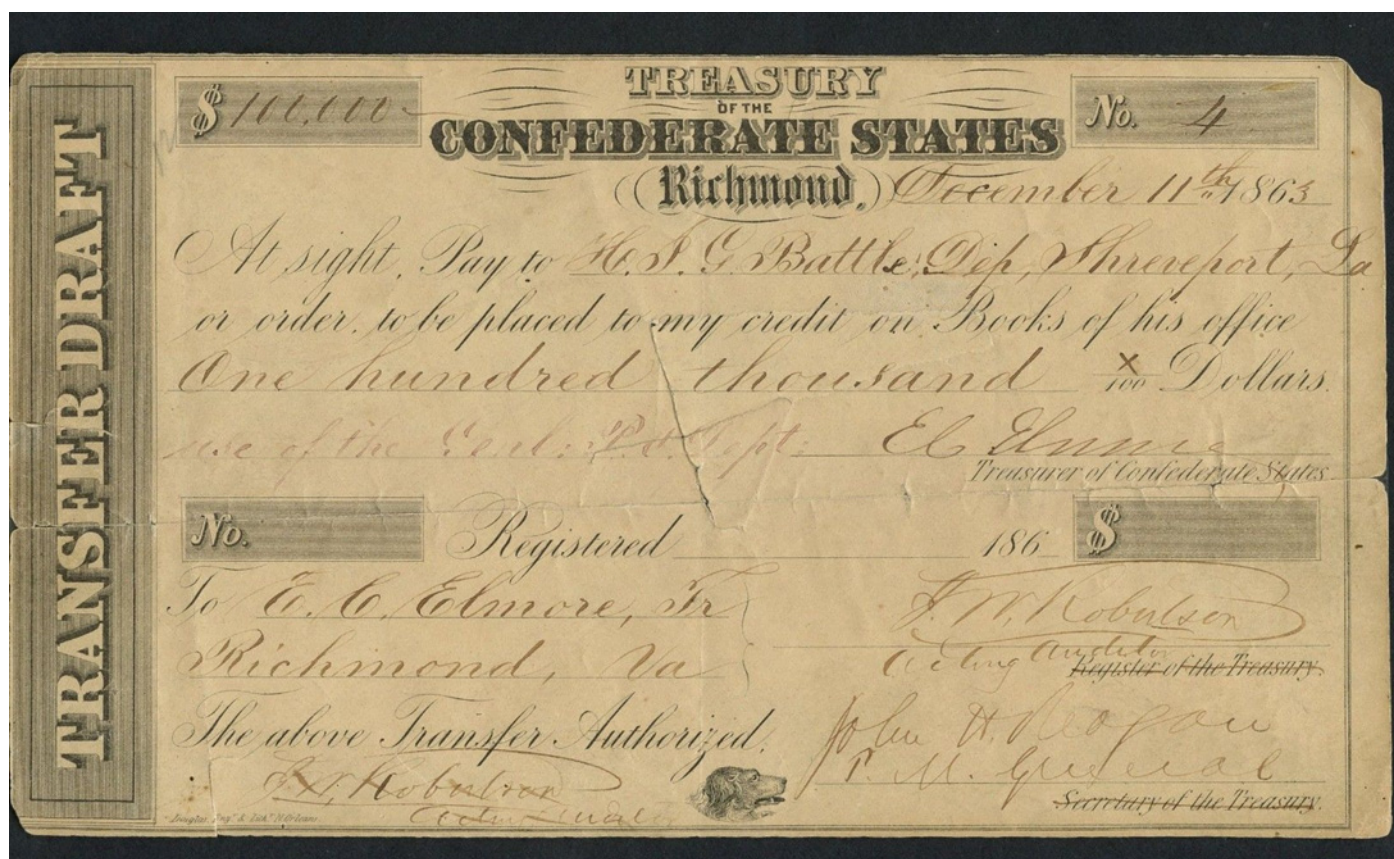
(Reduced size copy of an original 1903 post card owned by your editor that proclaims Judge John H. Reagan to be "Texas' grand old man." Reagan was born in Tennessee in 1818, moved to Texas at age 19, and died in Palestine, Texas in 1905. John Henninger Reagan was the last surviving Confederate government leader.)

Fortunately Reagan's favor in the eyes of the people of Texas was restored. He was elected once again to represent the First Congressional District starting in 1875. Eight years later he was elected to the United States Senate and continued in that office until 1891 when he was appointed the first chair of the Texas Railroad Commission, a position he held until 1903 when he was well up into his eighties.

This brief biography doesn't come close to doing justice to Mr. Reagan and your editor does encourage further study.

Your editor got motivated to share these details in this issue because of a very recent purchase, another item to cross off of his "collector want list." The photo below is the before mentioned acquisition; a Confederate Treasury Transfer Draft. As can be seen it is for a fairly large amount of money; \$100,000. The transfer was sent to Shreveport, Louisiana to be used by the Confederate Post Office department. The reason your editor chose to invest in this particular document is because of the John H. Reagan signature at the bottom right corner. Simply put: this draft fulfills your editor's interest and desire to have an original "Reagan piece" which contains a direct tie to his work as a Confederate Cabinet member in general and as Confederate Postmaster General in specific.

There is a museum in Palestine, Anderson County, which has many Reagan items on display including the original appointment document signed by Jefferson Davis which names Reagan to the chief post office leadership assignment. Reagan's portrait appears on several Confederate bonds. A number of quality written sources exist to tell his story the most important of which is a biographical book titled *Not Without Honor* by Ben Procter. (University of Texas Press, 1971)



(Confederate Treasury Transfer Draft for \$100,000 dated December 11, 1863. This piece, with designation that the funds were to be used by the Confederate Post Office Department, is authorized and signed in the lower right corner by Postmaster General John H. Reagan of Texas. Reagan is one of your editor's favorite historical figures. The paper disturbance in the middle is a "cut cancel" showing that the document has served its purpose)