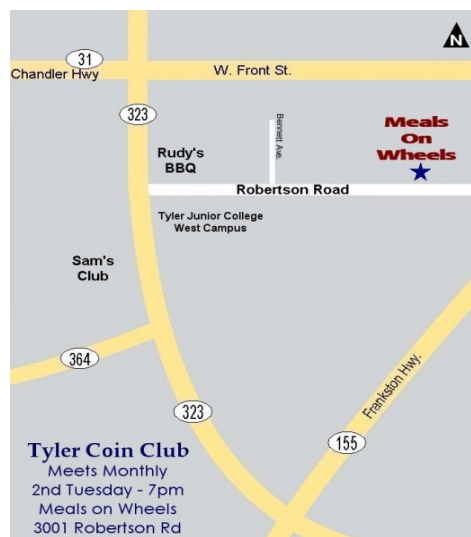


## Your Two Cents Worth for February, 2015



**(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. TCC's next meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 2015.



### **A Few Words from the Editor**

Your editor read with interest the plans for the April 19 to 25 **2015 National Coin Week**, which will focus on "World's Fairs and Expositions." In particular, the Panama-Pacific International Exposition's Centennial will be recognized along with a myriad of other such events of greater or lesser size. The news release carried in *Coin World* last week shares the following information: *"Educational activities will involve the many coins and medals honoring these spectacular events, along with the famous firsts . . . and famous structures they introduced. National Coin Week will highlight the influential ideas in architecture, science, and social progress that have been featured in World's Fairs, and the people responsible for these ideas."*

To get a head start on **National Coin Week 2015**, your editor has provided the token you see flanking our club logo above. It was produced by the "Re-elect Roosevelt" team, and features on one side the image of Franklin Roosevelt and VP Garner. On the other side is the south end of a northbound elephant — a commentary on the Republican candidate, Alf Landon, and his party's platform. This token was given away at the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition in Dallas.



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

As we continue our “Countdown to 100” collectors to join the club since its beginning, please join me in welcoming our two newest members, who joined at our February meeting: Gary Woodring and Terry Tosh. Welcome Gary and Terry!!! We are now just TWO, 2, DOS, II, shy of 100!!!! I hope you are as excited as I am.

As mentioned at our February meeting, the CBS TV affiliate in Tyler contacted me to ask if they could come and interview me for their weekly segment entitled “J.B.’s Journal.” J.B. Smith is the recently retired sheriff of Smith County, who travels and shares with viewers his adventures in East Texas, interviewing people who have interesting hobbies and/or activities that are a part of their lives.

This segment on coin/currency collecting will air Wednesday evening, Feb. 25, during the newscast between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. It will repeat twice: first, the following morning, Thursday, Feb. 26, during the newscast between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.; and second, the following Sunday morning, March 1, during the newscast between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. Also, the segment will say something about our club and our upcoming show in June. So tune in to CBS 19 (Cable Channel 11 or 111HD). Again, I hope you are as excited as I am. Great things are happening with our club... to God be the glory!

That’s it for this “portion” of “Sowle Food.” Until next time, remember: ***“Even as a coin attains its full value when it is spent, so life attains its supreme value when one knows how to forfeit it with grace when the time comes.”***---Felix Marti-Ibanez

God bless . . . Dwight



President Dwight will be representing the Tyler Coin Club as an interviewed guest on “J.B.’s Journal,” a local news special-interest news segment hosted by recently retired Smith County Sheriff J.B. Smith. See Dwight on CBS Channel 19, KYTX, at one of the following times:

- Wednesday, Feb. 25, between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 26, between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m.
- Sunday, March 1, between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. (as you’re getting ready for church, of course!!)

## **Why Do I Collect Coins?**

**Creative thoughts offered by Ronald B.**

Why do I collect coins?

The answer is simple, but complicated.

To write a story, a reporter asks questions:

WHO ?

WHAT?

WHEN?

WHERE?

WHY?

HOW?

I collect United States coins, so the answers will pertain to what I collect.

The WHAT, WHEN, and WHERE answers are on the coin with the date, mintmark, and denomination.

HOW the coin was made requires some research to find what type of press was used.

The WHO and WHY questions require some research.

WHO determined our monetary system? Were other systems considered?

WHO determined what denominations would be minted?

HOW was the metal content determined? WHY that composition?

WHO designed the coin?

Once those questions have been answered, other questions arise.

WHY have some denominations been minted sporadically and some discontinued?

WHAT were the economic conditions that influenced mintages?

WHAT were the lives of our forefathers like?

Coins provide a means to find the answers to these questions.

Learning the history of this country and WHO and WHAT makes it great is in our coins.

Coins are history in your hands.

That is WHY I collect coins.

## **Minutes of the Feb. 10, 2015 Meeting of the Tyler Coin Club**

Meeting called to order by President Dwight Sowle with Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**Attendance:** Members: 42 New Members: 2 Guests: 2 Total: **48 (Ties Club Record)**

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

- The club was lead in prayer by Allen B.
- Please keep the families and friends of Barry, Dwight, Bruce, David, Sandra, John, and Ray in your thoughts and prayers.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of February.
- Members that have not yet picked up your new club shirt, they are ready. A few extra were also ordered and are available.
- Dwight was sporting a new club logo patch on his shirt; members were given details on how to acquire a logo patch for their club shirts.
- Dwight is to be featured on the local CBS affiliate in a news segment called JB's Journal. The segment hosted by former Smith County Sheriff J.B. Smith will include an interview with Dwight discussing numismatics and the Tyler Coin Club.
- Dwight reminded members about the donation box for Meals on Wheels for use of their facility.

- Richard is seeking additional participation for the “Getting to Know You” section of the newsletter along with submission of articles on any numismatic related subject, and thoughts devoted to “Why I Collect.”
- Meals on Wheels (MOW) donations for February - \$41.
- Next meeting is March 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Special Presentation (Richard L.)**

- Member, Allen B., gave an outstanding presentation on Collectible Bank Notes. Allen’s discussion was anchored by a well-designed PowerPoint presentation that included images of different type of collectible notes including printing errors, fancy serial numbers, and such. The presentation was very informative and well received by members.

### **Club Auction (Tom)**

- 52 auction items sold - \$1,259.75
- Includes 3 donated items - \$16.00
- 25 different buyers – Wow!

### **Door prize winners**

- Richard, Charles, Alex, Kenny

### **Refreshments**

- David and Sherry

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carl S.

## **Celebrating a Murder**

By Lane J. B.

There is little doubt that one of the most important people in Western history was Gaius Julius Caesar, born in Rome in 100 B.C. and murdered on March 15, 44 B.C. Few people have had as enduring an impact on the modern world as Julius Caesar. Whether for his social and governmental reforms, his overwhelming brilliance as a military leader, or the violence associated with his death, the life of Caesar has been intertwined with the greatness and demise of the Roman Republic. This connection was solidified centuries after Caesar’s death by William Shakespeare in his epic play, *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*.

Outside those who study ancient Roman numismatics, few people appreciate the role coinage played in Caesar’s death. The Roman Republic was a strong, vibrant and domineering state, and had been so for centuries. Rome was everywhere and everywhere was Rome. Near the end of the first century B.C., internal tensions were on the rise, and would eventually lead to a series of civil wars. Leaders and self-styled leaders were vying for power, and the sense of a great change was prominent.



(Obverse and Reverse of the “Elephant Denarius” dating from 49 to 48 B. C. As the reader can see this coin features the name “Caesar” in bold clear letters.)

Until that point, coinage of the Roman Republic did not depict real people, only allegories or personifications. Common images include the head of Roma on the obverse and biga, triga, or quadriga (2, 3, or 4 horses) on the reverse. Images of actual people on the coins reminded many of a king, which was the antithesis of what the Republic meant. Unlike modern coinage, Roman coins were used as a means to share news, proclaim victories, and exalt Republican principles. In other words, the images and legends on Roman coins were very important to citizens of the day, and every aspiring leader knew this well.

Caesar began accumulating power. Through military victory and astute politics, Caesar was becoming the singular leader in the Roman world. He was beloved by Roman citizens and worshiped by his troops. The Senate, on the other hand, was growing ever more fearful of his power, and with good reason.

In 49-48 B.C., the world saw the first coinage inspired by Caesar's victories, both on and off the battlefield. Known as the "elephant denarius," the coin depicts an elephant trampling a serpent on the obverse, and priestly implements on the reverse. What was so remarkable was Caesar's name on the coin. To a Roman citizen, the vision was of a strong leader who was stomping out evil and who was favored by the gods. And there was no doubt in their minds who this leader was — his name was on the coin!

Caesar went on adding his name to coins struck under his authority. Such moves continued to scare the Senate, and in their collective mind something had to be done. Sometime in February or March of 44 B.C., Caesar declared himself *Dictatum Perpetuo* (Dictator for Life). This was punctuated with his name *and image* appearing on a coin. Such was the purview of kings! Opponents of Caesar, fearing that Caesar's victory over the Parthians would give him unrestricted power over the Senate, were resolute to stop him when he returned to Rome. On March 15, 44 B.C., Caesar was killed in an annex of the Theater of Pompey. About 60 Republican senators, led by Marcus Junius Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus, conspired to commit the murder. Following that brutal act, in the minds of the perpetrators, it was time to celebrate.

Brutus saw himself as a Republican champion and understood the murder to be a selfless act for Rome. Prior to his death by suicide, Brutus commissioned a coin to be struck that would forever tell the world how great he was and how he had saved Rome — or believed he had. The coin he struck came to be known as the *Eid Mar* (Ides of March) *Denarius* and is one of the most sought-after coins in the world.

The Eid Mar Denarius is also one of the few coins mentioned in antiquity. In the 3rd century A.D., Dio Cassius wrote, "*Brutus stamped upon the coins which were being minted his own likeness and a cap and two daggers, indicating by this and by the inscription that he and Cassius had liberated the fatherland.*"



(Left: Obverse of the Eid Mar Denarius. BRVT signifies Barcus Junius Brutus and IMP represents his title as commander. L PLAET CEST is the moneyer, Lucius PlaetoriusCestianus.)

(Right: On the reverse, the twin daggers represent Brutus and Cassius, the two main conspirators. In the center is a freed slave's cap, known as a pileus. Below is Eid Mar (*Eidibus Martiis*), which is March 15. To a Roman citizen, the coin states that on the Ides of March, Brutus and Cassius freed Rome from the Tyranny of Caesar through a violent act.)

## **NUMISMATIC EDUCATION: A Visit From Dr. Coyne**

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

- 1) What is that strange lettering under the Indian's chin?



- 2) What is the term for the style of engraving on this 1926 quarter eagle?



- 3) How many different sub-types complete a set of Jefferson Nickels?
- 4) Which Kennedy Half Dollar has the largest mintage?
- 5) What is a "Saddle Blanket" note?
- 6) What is a "qualified or details" slab grade?
- 7) Is the item pictured below a U.S. coin?



### **Dr. Coyne Responds**

- 1) The "whiskers" under the chin of the Indian are evidence of a clashed die. They are remnants, upside-down and backward-reading, of part of the motto from the reverse die. This damage to the 1914 obverse die occurred when the feeding mechanism failed to provide a new

planchet and the dies came together without a planchet in the coining chamber. The impact transferred a part of each die's details to the other die, where they would show on all coins subsequently struck from that die.

2) Bela Lyon Pratt's ground-breaking design for the Indian Quarter Eagles and Half Eagles, starting in 1908, is called "incuse relief." The main devices are actually in normal relief on the coin, but they start from a plane that is lower than the field of the coin. The letters of the legends are incuse and start from the plane of the fields and extend down into the coin.

3) The Jefferson nickel series probably presents the best opportunity today for an aspiring collector to form a complete set (back to 1938) of any coin in circulation. But if only "types" are to be considered, the collector will want: Original type 1938-1942 and 1946-1965 of the 75% copper/25% nickel; the "War Nickel" of 35% silver; the copper/nickel 1966-2003 with designer's initials added; the four Westward Journey nickels of 2004-2005; and the 2006-2014 "new portrait" version, for a total of eight types.

4) According to the Red Book, the Kennedy Half with the largest mintage is the 1971-D (302 million). These were accompanied in the same year by 155 million Philadelphia coins. It was the first year of non-silver half dollar production, and silver halves were already being withdrawn from circulation by astute collectors. After 1974, mintages never again broke 100 million, as the denomination seemed to lose favor in circulation. It continues to be made today, but only for collectors.

5) The term "Saddle Blanket" for U.S. currency is generally taken to mean "Large Size," or the size in popular use 1862 – 1928. Large size notes in circulation before 1929 measured 3.125 inches by 7.4218 inches. The most available types are the \$1 silver certificates of Series 1923, and the "Black Eagle" of Series 1899.



(Proportionate size difference between the "Saddle Blanket" or "Large Size" note compared to the "Small Size" note that replaced it starting with Series 1928)

6) A "qualified or details" slab is the product of a third party grading company in which the coin was determined to be genuine, but with problems that preclude it from being graded as an unimpaired coin would be. The usual difficulty is visible hairlines from improper cleaning. Seen

less often, but other reasons for no-grade, would include environmental damage from improper storage, rim problems, deep scratches, or bends. Some grading services give a “sharpness grade” denoting how much detail remains, despite the defect mandating the no-grade opinion. Coins in “details” or “genuine” slabs have market values sharply less than similar coins in straight-graded slabs.

7) The 1898 restrike peso is a coin from Mexican dies made in Mexico City or San Francisco for use in paying troops in Taiwan, China, in 1949. Production of this fascinating piece was a joint project of U.S., Mexican, and Chinese Nationalist governments, but came too late to prevent ouster from the Chinese mainland by the Communist Chinese. The coins are easily distinguished from original 1898 Pesos.

### **Upcoming Collector Events**

**Texarkana Coin Show** – February 27– 28 . . . Texarkana Convention Center – 4610 Cowhorn Creek Rd., Texarkana, Texas

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

**Fort Worth Coin Club Spring Show** – March 6 – 8 . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas (Fort Worth area)

**Texas Coin Shows** – March 20 – 22 . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas

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

**Texas Coin Shows** – May 8 – 10 . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also July 10 – 12)

**Texas Numismatic Association’s 57th Annual Convention** – May 29 – 31 . . . Arlington Convention Center – 1500 Convention Center Dr., Arlington, Texas

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

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

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

### **Our Next Time Together**

The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, March 10, 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. 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”**

As mentioned in my opening comments on page one of this publication, the theme of the American Numismatic Association’s National Coin Week is “*World’s Fairs and Expositions.*” Included, I’m sure, will be the major high-profile productions. But I trust that those considered to be regional will qualify for some study as well.

In your editor’s humble opinion, one of the finest and most significant regional events took place in Texas in 1936. The Texas Centennial Celebration was a themed event that gave birth to local community excitement in every corner of the state. It was also the time when

Texas appeared “on the map,” at least as far as historians of our day observe. (Texas and Texans had already been part of a world-wide cultural understanding since our beginning some four hundred years previously.)

The biggest and best component of our state-wide Centennial took place as the *Texas Centennial Exposition*, held on the State Fair Grounds in Dallas. The gates opened on June 6 and closed officially on November 29. During that period of nearly six months, close to seven million people came to visit the fair. Over 10,000 jobs were created during the time of preparation and following. The cost of creating the event was right at \$25 million, but three times that much came home to Dallas and to Texas as a result of our hospitality to the international community. The Texas Centennial Exposition was well publicized and those who attended experienced an exciting celebration. My own grandfather, who passed away in 1995 at age 102, shared the experience with me in such vivid terms that I still feel as though I had been in attendance myself.

Artifacts of that year still stand, including several facilities at the Fair Grounds that were original to the 1936 Exposition. Souvenirs abounded and many have survived. Your editor took a peek at eBay just before this writing and found nearly one thousand under a general word search for “Texas Centennial.”

My own numismatic collection maintains a small grouping of exnumia related to the Centennial Exposition. One of my favorites is pictured at the beginning of our newsletter. The “south end of a northbound elephant” must have been really effective. Landon carried only two states and had, if memory serves me correctly, eight electoral votes back in ’36. It is interesting to note that Landon didn’t even carry his own home state of Kansas!

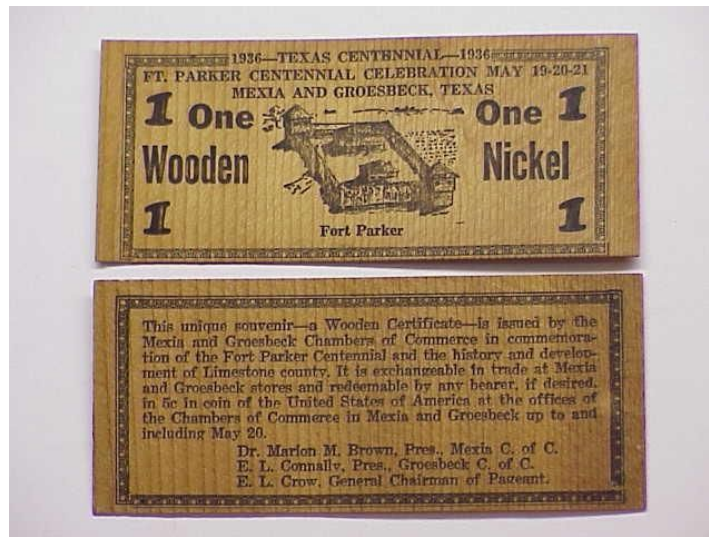
Here are a few other numismatic-based items pulled out of my “cabinet.”



(An elongated cent on a host coin of undetermined date and mint mark. The “steer and star” were present throughout the Texas Centennial Exposition. It is interesting to note that the first “elongating cents” were created at the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.)



(You may recall this one from the masthead of the November Newsletter. It is a stock obverse featuring the equestrian Sam Houston design. The reverse was used by a variety of in-state businesses as souvenirs of the Texas Centennial. Your editor’s collection holds a dozen different reverses, a couple of which are bi-metal versions.)



(An example of an early “Wooden Nickel” created in preparation for the Texas Centennial and honoring the Ft. Parker Centennial Celebration in Mexia and Groesbeck in 1934)



(Multi-purpose obverse featuring another familiar logo of the Texas Centennial. On the reverse are advertisements of a variety of merchants. This one is found most regularly carrying the design of “Red Goose” Shoes. Medals such as these were given out to visitors at the Centennial Exposition.)



(Some of the more difficult medals to locate from the Centennial period are those designating local entities such as the one from “Houston.” Those your editor has seen feature the common star on the obverse with city-specific reverses. For example the one above is a load of “cotton.” A like piece from San Antonio shows — you guessed it! “The Alamo,” which I trust we will always remember!)

*Your Two Cents Worth* is a publication 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 online at: [tylercoinclub.org](http://tylercoinclub.org)

The Tyler Coin Club is sponsor of the **Five State Coin and Currency Super Show**  
Show dates for 2015: June 12-13