

## YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH: FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2016



**(Visit the Tyler, Texas Coin Club in person and on the internet at: [tylercoinclub.org](http://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, March 8, 2016.



### A Few Words from the Editor

By the time you all are reading this edition of *Your Two Cents Worth* we'll be within striking distance of a major numismatic event in our near back yard. For the second time in a handful of years the American Numismatic Association has chosen to present one of their seasonal "money shows" in Dallas. I understand from the articles in *The Numismatist* and related publications that this event will feature approximately 500 tables of dealers from all over the country and perhaps, if I recall correctly, a small international presence. Along with the bourse some items from the American Numismatic Association's museum collection will be present. There will also be educational opportunities for persons of all ages. It will be interesting to see who, from the extended collector community, will be on the floor.

I'll be hanging out off and on at the Texas Numismatic Association table. I'd be delighted there, or wherever, to share a "hello" and perhaps exchange some words of numismatic pleasantries.

The show opens to the public on Thursday, March 3 and runs until afternoon on Saturday, March 5. If you have a chance to wander over to Dallas, only a two hour or less trip for most of us, your editor is thinking the time will be a good investment. See "Upcoming Events" section.

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



Every month our newsletter editor fills a section of the publication entitled “Getting to Know You.” He solicits a club member to write his/her story on how and when he/she began collecting numismatic items. In this month’s issue, new member Davis writes his story. I thoroughly enjoy reading this section. Every member has a fascinating story to tell on how and when they got started...what happened in their life that began the collecting process for them. Each story is unique. If you haven’t had an opportunity to share your story, please see Richard. He would love for you to share your story with us in this section of the newsletter...and we would enjoy reading it.

Last month new member Davis joined our club and with that the club has welcomed its 110<sup>th</sup> member. You may remember last year we passed a milestone when we signed up our 100<sup>th</sup> member. We are already 10 members into our next 100 members. That is exciting! Our family is growing!!

Our 8<sup>th</sup> show is shaping up to be another blockbuster. Barry is working hard as usual. Thank you Barry for your good work and the skills you bring to the numismatic table which will once again provide for a very successful show. Mark the dates: Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

That’s it for this ‘portion’ of “Sowle Food.” Until next time, remember: *“A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.”*

---Lana Turner

God bless!! . . . Dwight

### **Getting to Know You**

#### **This Month Tyler Coin Club Member Davis N. Tells His Numismatic Story**

I come from a pioneer Longview family (1870) but as fate would have it was born in Fairbanks, Alaska, thanks to the United States Air Force and my late father's service therein. I was born about six months before Alaska became a state!

As for coins, when I was about 10 my younger brother and I came across a three ring binder in my grandfather's file cabinet. It was filled with coins he had just saved from circulation. But what coins they were: mostly gold and silver dollars. I think he took a delight in my interest and I was hooked from then on.

About the same time, a next-door neighbor developed the same interest. Back when there was a Central Business District, being youngsters, we would "hit" on the merchants to let us peruse their cash drawers looking for silver, Mercury Dimes, Buffalo Nickels and what not. Can you imagine merchants letting young teens go through their cash registers today?

Needless to say we got smart fast and moved on to higher quality goods going to shows, the coin shop at the old Sanger-Harris in downtown Dallas, as well as Trade Days, you name it. We learned to grade, too. I still have my old Brown and Dunn book (my favorite) and still refer to it. Originally, my interest was BU Twentieth Century type coins, though I learned to love Barbers (especially) and older type coins.

I first met Horst S. back in those days. I bought many a Gem BU Mercury Dime from him for \$1.25. I think I remember paying him \$55 for an AU Twenty Cent piece. I also remember having my heart set on a VF Seated Dollar when I was 13/14 years. Of course, allowance and after-school job came nowhere near that HUGE price tag of \$45. Santa saved the day that year! Then college and work and my interest ebbed and flowed along with finances but I never lost my passion.

Today, I'm a lot less competitive and am enjoying the hobby more. My tastes have changed, too. I've become interested in World Coins and there is so much to learn. In addition, I'm a member of e-bay and that's another education. I buy, bid and sell regularly and while I have no interest in gaining consignors particularly, I am willing to share my experiences with those interested but not familiar with the ins and outs of on-line trading.

Finally, as a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Longview, I've given the church's Cub Scout troop programs on collecting. That's great fun. You never know what those rascals will ask!

Overall, I've been at it since around age ten and I'll always be indebted to the elders (both good and not so) who've contributed to my education. One thing I've learned is self-confidence. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. You'd be surprised how many GOOD mistakes I've made! And good friends.



(Collector and new Tyler Coin Club member Davis recalls purchasing Brilliant Uncirculated Mercury Dimes from our own Horst S. He credits folks such as Horst for assisting him in his early years of collection and imparting to him an interest in the hobby.)

### **“Buy the Book First”** **Resources for the Hobby**

A couple of months ago your editor shared a list of his ten favorite numismatic reference resources. At the same time members of the club were challenged to provide their favorites. One reply was received immediately, from Hal C. a longtime Texas Numismatic Association leader and general enthusiast of numismatics and a friend of the Tyler Coin Club. The second response came at our February coin club meeting when member Ron B. provided his list of important books in his reference library. Your editor will be delighted to receive your list either at the club meeting or by emailing: [pastorlaster@etex.net](mailto:pastorlaster@etex.net). Thanks!!

**Ron B. submitted these as his favorites:**

1. **Guide Book of United States Coins . . .** R. S. Yeoman / Kenneth Bressett . . . now in 69<sup>th</sup> edition
2. **Grading Coins by Photographs . . .** Q. David Bowers

3. **Official American Numismatic Association Grading Standards for United States Coins, 1977 edition . . . Abe Kosoff**
4. **Counterfeit, Mis-Struck and Unofficial United States Coins . . . Don Taxay**
5. **Charlton Standard Catalog of Canadian Coins . . . W. K. Cross . . . now in 62<sup>nd</sup> edition**
6. **A Complete Guide to Lincoln Cents . . . David W. Lange**
7. **United States Currency . . . Kenneth Bressett**

**Hal C. submitted these as his favorites:**

1. **Patriotic Civil War Tokens . . . George and Melvin Fuld**
2. **United States Trade Tokens . . . Russell Rulau**
3. **Guide Book of United States Coins (Red Book) . . . R.S. Yeoman / Kenneth Bressett**
4. **Complete Encyclopedia of United States Coins . . . Walter Breen**
5. **A Guide Book of Mexican Coins, 1822 to date . . . Theodore V. Buttery and Clyde Hubbard**
6. **Standard Catalogue of the Coins of England and the United Kingdom . . . Peter Seaby**
7. **Hard Times Tokens . . . Russell Rulau**
8. **Texas Obsolete Notes and Scrip . . . Robert (Bob) Medlar**
9. **Paper Money of the United States . . . Robert Friedberg**
10. **Standard Catalogue of World Coins (1700's, 1800's, 1900's, 2000's) . . . George Cuhaj, Thomas Michael, Chester Krause, Clifford Mishler (The epic Krause Publishing series on anything and everything related to world coins)**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Tyler Coin Club, February 9, 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: 1    Guests: 0    **Total: 35**

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

- The club was lead in prayer by Allen B.
- Please keep Bruce and the families of Don, Nancy, and Richard in your thoughts and prayers.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of February.
- The club received several One-Year Gold Memberships from the American Numismatic Association; three of which were given as door prizes.
- Barry, Club Treasurer and Bourse Chairman, addressed members with an update on the Tyler Coin Show scheduled for June 10-11, 2016.
- Membership dues reminder - memberships renew each January and dues are now payable. Club membership is \$20/year.
- Carl, Club Secretary, is ready to launch the new club website – stay tuned;  
<http://tylercoinclub.org>
- Dwight presented ANA Certificates of Appreciation to Allen, John, Larry, Richard, and Ron for their educational presentations to the Tyler Coin Club. An ANA Certificate of Appreciation was also awarded posthumously to Ronnie S.
- Tommy brought tickets for the gold coin raffle; winners to be draw at the upcoming TNA show.

- Meals on Wheels (MOW) donations for January - \$38.
- Next meeting is March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Representative David Simpson will be the special guest speaker at the March meeting.

#### **Presentation (Ron B.)**

- Ron B. gave a presentation on his participation in the Iowa State Quarter Launch Ceremony in 2004. Ron was one of a handful of people selected to participate by striking his own Iowa state quarter. Ron was able to participate in all the interesting activities that occurred such as striking his own quarter, taking an up close tour of areas of the mint which are generally restricted to the public, visiting with a variety of dignitaries attending from Iowa government and the U.S. Mint, and being included in follow-up publicity.

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

- 28 auction items sold - \$1,201.35

#### **Door prize winners**

- Davis, Ed, Horst, Royce, and Tracy
- Todd, Sherry, and Kenny each won an ANA One-Year Gold membership!

#### **Refreshments**

- David & Sherry



(During the business session of the February 10 meeting President Dwight handed out American Numismatic Association certificates of appreciation for programs given at the Tyler Coin Club.  
From left: Ron B., Larry V., John D., Allen B. Photos courtesy of Carl S.)

## **NUMISMATIC EDUCATION**

### **A Visit With Dr. Coyne**

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

- 1) Why are the 1934-S Peace Dollars so hard to find in uncirculated condition?
- 2) What happened to the 12,000 1895 Morgan Dollars shown on mint production records for Philadelphia?
- 3) On which early U.S. silver coins did the mint use a Castaing machine to apply edge treatments?
- 4) Why would someone seek a Third Party slab for a coin in Poor-01 condition?
- 5) In 1922 which United States mint facilities struck bronze or copper coins?



- 6) Is WD-40 a useful chemical for the coin collector?
- 7) Is this piece a U.S. commemorative coin?



### **Dr. Coyne Responds**

- 1.) The 1934-S Peace Dollars were struck to the extent of just over 1 million pieces, a mintage not out of line with other dates' productions from the 1927-1935 era. By this time the annual massive mintages of 1922-1925 had ended, as the objectives of the Pittman Act of 1918 had been achieved. Almost all of the 1934-S issue seems to have entered circulation soon after production, and worn specimens are available at just over melt value. But the price curve rises very steeply above MS-60, and this issue is one of the most difficult Peace Dollars to find for a choice uncirculated set. No dealer hoards seem to have survived into the 1960's.
- 2.) Though U.S. Mint reports indicate that 12,000 Morgan Dollars were struck at Philadelphia, no one now living has seen an authentic business strike coin. None has been certified by a grading service. All the 1895-P coins in collector hands seem to be survivors of the 880 mintage of proofs. The coins in the records are now thought to have been melted in 1918-1920 under the terms of the Pittman Act, or the notation in the records is in error and the coins bore the date 1894. Any authentic circulation-strike survivor today would be a major find!
- 3.) The Castaing machine was employed in the early U.S. mint to raise the rim and broaden the edges of planchets before they entered the coinage press to receive the blow impressing their obverse and reverse faces. The planchets for all denominations needed (and still need in the modern mint) this edge squeezing to allow better striking of lettering near the rims, and also to provide a raised rim which will protect the devices from excessive wear in circulation. The question of exactly which silver planchets received Castaing treatment remains unsettled today. Surely those for Half dollars and silver dollars were so treated. The Castaing dies were engraved with "Half Dollar" or "One Dollar – 100 Cents" on all issues 1794 to 1836. The other silver denominations (half dime through quarter dollar) have reeded edges, which many think were applied with a Castaing machine, but for which other evidence points to a reeded close collar, which would eliminate the need for a pre-striking pass through the Castaing machine. Chief evidence for this theory is that collectors today can find NO evidence on coins of a blundered edge which passed only partially through the Castaing machine, (on half dimes through quarters).
- 4.) Thinking collectors strive for coins in the best condition. This is the primary reason why higher grade coins sell for higher prices. There may be two reasons, however, why a collector might want to submit a Poor-01 coin for certification: He is unsure of the authenticity of his piece and wants assurance or He is collecting a Lowball Registry Set (TM) in which the "highest ranked" set is the one with the lowest average grade.

5.) Some may regard this as somewhat of a “trick” question. Dr. Coyne says “two U.S. Mint locations”. While collectors know of the 1922 No D cent, these were all struck from clogged or defective dies at the Denver mint. Philadelphia struck none. Meanwhile, the U.S. branch mint at Manila in the Philippines was making bronze one centavo coins. This mint was a full-fledged branch of the U.S. Mint from its opening in 1920 until sovereignty was granted the Philippines in 1945.

6.) WD-40, a trademarked name for a light oil solvent, is useful for removing dirt, grease, and oily residue from the surface of collectible coins. It works more slowly than stronger solvents such as acetone or MEK. Surprisingly, a coin-related new use for WD-40 has come to light in the last decade: it can be applied to the outside of a scratched slab to make the scratches temporarily almost disappear during photography. A quick wipe of the slab surface then removes most of the residual WD-40

7.) The illustrated piece is a U.S. commemorative coin. It is the 1923 Monroe Doctrine Centennial, one of the pieces in a 48 piece type set of classic commemorative half dollars (plus one quarter and one silver dollar). This Monroe issue was struck only at San Francisco (274,000 pieces), but that was too many to be sold by the promoters, the California film industry. Many unsold pieces reached circulation, and are available today at modest prices.

### **Upcoming Collector Opportunities**

**Fort Worth Coin Show** – February 26 – 28 . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 69091 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas

**Texarkana Coin Show** – February 26 – 27 . . . Texarkana Convention Center – 4610 Cowhorn Rd., Texarkana, Texas

**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)

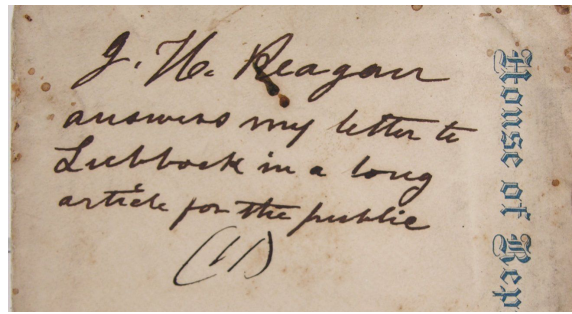
**Ark-La-Tex Coin, Stamp and Card Show** – July 30 – 31 . . . Bossier Civil Center, 620 Benton, Bossier City, Louisiana

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

### **Our Next Time Together**

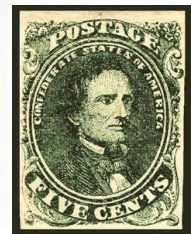
The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. See you at 7:00 p.m. Come enjoy a positive numismatic experience, along with great fellowship and the most spirited numismatic auction in Texas. Members and friends of the club are encouraged to gather at 5:00 p.m. on the evenings of the meeting to enjoy a dinner together at Rudy’s BBQ. Well . . . depending on how long recovery from Rudy’s recent fire will take.

## A Visit to Your Editor's "Collector" Cabinet



(Above is a photo of an inscription penned by a significant historical character of the Nineteenth Century. It is at the left side of an old piece of "postal history" your editor has recently acquired and added to his collector "cabinet.")

This month your editor is branching off into a bit of a foreign land. Instead of just sticking with the world of numismatics I am stepping out into a discipline which I'm thinking is a relative to numismatics, at least part of the collector realm, the world of the philatelic which, for novices to the phrase, means "stamp collecting." One thing I regularly say about numismatics is "there is more to numismatics than just collecting coins." One of my prime operating procedures is taking a look at what is in the hand and then discerning what historical insight is to be gleaned. I feel comfortable sharing this bit of a transfer of emphasis because the character of whom I am about to speak is one whose image is quite familiar to the collector of numismatic and philatelic material from the era of the American Civil War. Here is a hint:



(Same famous Confederate States of America face found on both numismatic and philatelic material)

For several years now your editor has been a collector of postal history related to Texas and also the Confederacy. "Postal history" basically means finding an object out of the postal system in the form of its undisturbed original usage, such as the example at the end of this article which shows two late 19<sup>th</sup> Century U.S. stamps still affixed to their original envelope of use. (See image at the end of this article.)

Now that you have found the envelope here are a few things to consider on that visual. First off it is from the United States "House of Representatives." The postmark, even though it is difficult to read, shows the piece to have been "posted" on the 29 of October, 1887 from Palestine, Texas. The reader can also check out to whom this is addressed: "Honorable Jefferson Davis, Beauvoir, Mississippi."

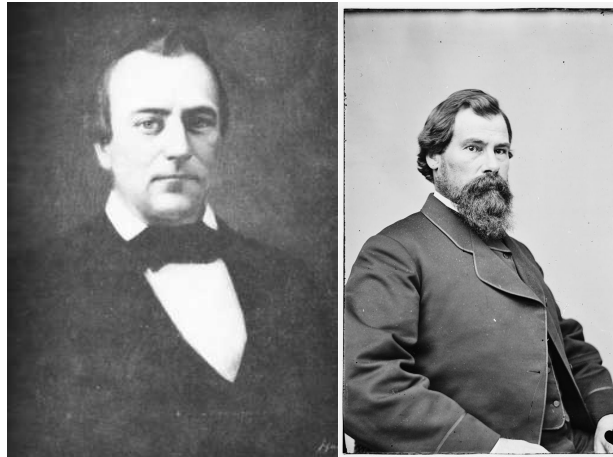
The feature on this item to which I draw your attention is the handwritten note running vertically at the left side of the envelope. Keep in mind that back in those days one of the ways to document correspondence was for the recipient to jot a few notes on the envelope which would remain long after a letter has been responded to, in this case one hundred and twenty eight



years later. As you can see the note reads: "J. H. Reagan answered my letter to Lubbock in a long article for the public."

So putting all the details here together your editor has discerned the following: The envelope came originally from the House of Representatives but does not carry the "free frank" of a member of the House, but instead has two stamps in the place where the user's signature would be if this was an official House of Representatives communication. The Palestine, Texas postmark brings me to consider one individual, a fellow Texan by the name of John H. Reagan; you may recall I had an article about him in this publication several years ago. By October of 1887 Reagan was a member of the United States Senate, prior to that point, even into early 1887, Reagan held a seat in the House of Representatives. I'm thinking that this envelope came home to Palestine with him at some point and was available for use but not for "official" use since Reagan was no longer a House of Representatives member by that time. (Got it so far?)

From the handwritten inscription on the envelope we can tell that it originally held a letter, or perhaps an article, sent from John H. Reagan to Jefferson Davis, president of the short lived Confederate States of America. Reagan and Davis had a long time relationships, starting in the years prior to the Civil War, during the Confederate years when Reagan was Confederate Postmaster General, and at the end of the war with Reagan being one of a group of Confederate officials, including Francis Lubbock, and Jefferson Davis, who were arrested by federal troops and incarcerated for several months.



(Above are photos of two famous Texans who are mentioned in the Davis notation. On the left is Francis R. Lubbock who served as a Confederate era governor of Texas and then became aide-de-camp to CSA President Jefferson Davis. On the right is John H. Reagan who, among other accomplishments was the Post Master General of the Confederate States of America. Later he was given the privilege of organizing what we know today as the Texas Railroad Commission.)

The inscription on the left side of the envelope is in the handwriting of Jefferson Davis, who received the envelope, opened it, read the content, and made a note on the envelope to remind him of the business inside.

After a bit of honest research I found the purpose of the original letter from Reagan to Davis. Reagan and several other high profile folk in Texas, including Francis Lubbock, were involved in the Temperance Movement. For reasons I do not completely understand Jefferson Davis wrote a letter to Francis Lubbock stating his opposition to temperance. Davis' thoughts were published. Lubbock shared his disappointment in Davis with Reagan and Reagan, a long time friend of Davis', (still make sense? ) wrote a letter of response to Davis which was published in the Texas Christian Advocate, the magazine of the Methodist Church in Texas back in the day.

Prior to doing research I did know about the tie between Davis and Reagan, but did not know the circumstances or the depth of their long-time relationship. Nor was I aware of the involvement of Davis in what would seem to be affairs within Texas.

I will be honest enough to say beyond simple curiosity there isn't much of significance except to note that in the process of historical discernment the below featured envelope, now in your editor's collection, is an example of what collectibles, and other historical items, have the potential to give to the observer, collector or not; that is a look at the past, which helps us interpret what was significant in times many years previous to our own, which gives us a way to understand and in a circle here to appreciate what we have in our hands.

Yes, this one is a bit of a challenge, yet I hope the point stands. There is more to the philatelic and to the numismatic than just "collecting." We hold history in the hand which can lead us to some interesting insight and understanding. Plus, for conversations sake, there is a modest premium for anything with first-hand association with Jefferson Davis, especially an item which carries his handwriting.

'Nuf for now.

