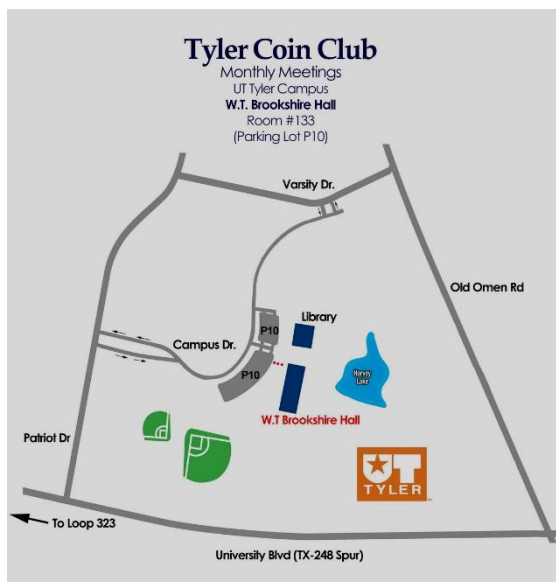


YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH FOR APRIL / MAY 2019



(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

The coin pictured on the mast head is not one which is generally associated with we fine folks here in Texas. It is what is known traditionally as a Spade Guinea, a denomination of gold coin which existed in Great Britain for several centuries before making its exit in the early years of the Nineteenth Century. Our Dr. Coyne column this time answers a question related to the Guinea. I call your attention to that place.

The coin above is my way of remembering those I know in the numismatic community who have contributed to my education. I am thankful for people, such as Dr. Coyne, who is in fact a real person by another name, and to everyone who from my earliest years have added insight and flavor to my collector world. I know that all of you have such people for whom you are thankful.

And even better, perhaps you are one who has shared information, bits of history, friendship and best of all the joy of the hobby.



NUMISMATIC NOTES **THOUGHTS FROM OUR PRESIDENT LANE B.**

The summer is almost upon us and that means our annual coin show is just around the corner. The 11th Annual Tyler Coin Show promises to be another wonderful show with many of the dealers from last year returning. In fact, most of the tables for this year were sold to last year's dealers at the time of the show! Also, please consider creating an educational exhibit to display at the show. Last year the exhibits were well attended and greatly appreciated by those attending the show who were not scouring the bourse for their next treasure.

At this year's show, after you find your must-have pieces for your collection, consider branching out into a new area. A great area of collecting that remains inexpensive (okay, relatively speaking!) is tokens and medals. There are so many varieties that are rich with local, national, and international history. Many rare tokens sell for a small fraction of what the equivalent US coin would bring. And some of these rarities are just sitting around in those 'junk boxes' at the end of your favorite dealer's table.

And, of course, if you learn something new with your purchases at the show, please share your knowledge and enthusiasm with your fellow club members. We love to hear stories about your coins! Have a great May and see you at the next Club meeting.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2019 MEETING **OF THE TYLER, TEXAS COIN CLUB** **OFFERED BY CARL S., TCC SECRETARY**

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 John D.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of April.
- Royce presented a brief Treasurer's report. He also noted that additional volunteers are needed for refreshments and to lead prayer at our monthly meetings.
- David gave an update on preparations for the 2019 coin show (June 21-22). Dealer tables are sold out.
- Lane announced availability of raffle tickets for the Texas Numismatic Association's show scheduled for May 31 to June 2 at the Arlington, Texas, Convention Center.
- Lane encouraged additional member participation with educational presentations and coin clinics (aka show & tell) at monthly meetings. The *Photographing Coins* workshop originally scheduled for Saturday, May 11th will be rescheduled for later this summer.

- Lane discussed new membership levels including a family membership and lifetime membership. Members discussed. Officers will discuss further and make a final recommendation. The new membership levels would be effective starting January 2020.
- Next regular meeting is May 14, 2019 at W.T. Brookshire Hall (room #133) on the UT Tyler campus.

Presentations:

- Lane gave a quick presentation on an 1893-S Morgan Dollar sealed in a GSA Soft Pack.

Club Auction (Richard G.)

- 39 items sold - \$1,342.00

Door prize winners

- A.J., Bob, Kay, Paul, Zina

Refreshments

- A big Thank You to Ray S. for providing refreshments!

NUMISMATIC EDUCATION **INSIGHT FROM DR. COYNE**

Questions for Dr. Coyne:

- 1.) What was the first circulating coin struck by the U.S. Mint for a foreign government?
- 2.) What was the first U.S. coin (regular mint issue) to have zinc in the composition?
- 3.) What is this piece? Is it a real U.S. coin? Hint: it is copper and about the size of a U.S. silver dollar.



- 4.) What years of Lincoln Cents were struck at only one mint?
- 5.) What is the difference between a British Guinea and a British Sovereign?
- 6.) When did the 1793 Liberty Cap half cents become legal tender?



Dr. Coyne Responds:

1.) Beginning in 1875 and ending in 1984, the U.S. mints turned out more than 11 billion coins for more than 40 countries. The highest production came in the final year, when 46 million pieces were made for Panama. After 1984, growing domestic demand for circulation coinage and new commemorative and bullion coin programs used all capacity of our mints, and the foreign contracts were greatly reduced.

Venezuela was the first customer. In 1875-76, Philadelphia made over 10 million 1 and 2.5 centavo coins of copper/nickel/zinc not otherwise used in U.S. coinage. This was also an example of the use of ready-to-strike planchets from a private supplier (Scovill at Waterbury, CT). It was earlier, in 1855, that the U.S. Mint had done work on foreign coins; they did a series of patterns for Peru, as noted in the ANS publication *The Coinage of El Peru* (1985). It was earlier still, in the cradle days of the new mint in 1793, that the mint undertook contract medal production for Rickett's Circus. But these were admission or advertising pieces and not intended as general currency.

2.) The first regular issue U.S. coins to have zinc in the specification were the "bronze" pieces of 1864. First, there were two cent pieces, and beginning at mid-year Indian cents of a 95% copper plus 5% tin and zinc composition. This composition lasted until the end of the two cent piece in 1873 and lasted (with short exceptions in 1943-45) on cents until mid-1982.

3.) Illustrated is an example of a pattern U.S. dollar, at least some of which were legitimately coined in 1865 to demonstrate the "with motto" reverse. The "with motto" variety became the norm beginning in 1866. In the 1860's and 1870's, copper patterns often predated the regular issues by a year or two. There are also suspicions of mint officials reissuing patterns up to several years after the date on the coin, as they wanted to satisfy the demands of the numismatic trade and either line their own pockets or provide "trading stock" for the mint collection. The standard reference for patterns is *U.S. Pattern Coins*, J.H. Judd, Whitman. This coin is listed as J-435 therein.

4.) The ONLY year in the Lincoln Cent series 1909 – 2019 which has the entire coinage from one mint is 1922. Confusing the issue is the lack of mintmarks in 1965 – 1967 when all operating mints were busy combating an alleged "coin shortage", and the mintmarks were removed from all denominations in keeping with a misguided attempt to blame the "shortage" on coin collectors. Also obscuring the correct answer is the existence of 1922 cents with no "D" mintmark, even though the entire issue was struck in the Mile High City (none in Philadelphia). It seems on at least one working die, the "D" was omitted. Other working dies produced coins with a "weak D" as the mintmark on the dies became filled with grease or tiny metal chips. This yielded coins with indistinct or almost-missing mintmark.

5.) The difference between the British Guinea and Sovereign is one shilling. A sovereign is one-pound Sterling (or 20 shillings); the Guinea is 21 shillings. There was a time about two hundred years ago when BOTH coins were in circulation. Pricing of some high-end goods in London's finest shops continued to be in Guineas until the 20th century -- even though the coin of that denomination was no longer in circulation. A sovereign contains a bit less than a quarter ounce of gold, at .2354 troy ounces. A Guinea's gold content is .27, just shilling value more, per the standards of the day.

6.) The 1793 Liberty Cap Half Cents, like the whole series of half cents, did not become legal tender until the passage of the Coinage Act of July 23, 1965, Public Law 89-81. In practice, however, the half cents and large cents circulated at par and without many refusals in the eastern United States beginning at the time of their first issue in 1793 and continuing until they were replaced with small cents in 1857. All copper coinage was not popular in the western U.S. until the early 20th century.

THE CELEBRATED ELEPHANT DENARIUS
of JULIUS CAESAR
BY LANE B.

Images on coins have meaning to the coin's designers and are crafted to deliver a message to those who use the coins in commerce. American coins are rife with images that represent values, beliefs, and even warnings. Lady Liberty, found on a great many 'classic' United States coins, represents a society free from oppression imposed by authoritarian rulers and supports the philosophy that citizens are free to live their lives as they see fit.

The Eagle is symbolic of strength and can be viewed differently depending on what the Eagle holds in its right, or dominant, talon. If the Eagle is holding an olive branch in its right talon, the message is one of peace. If the Eagle is holding arrows in its right talon, it's a warning that the country is ready to fight.

Symbolism on coins is not new. In fact, symbolism has been on coinage ever since the first coins were struck in Lydia (around 2600 years ago). A symbol commonly found on these first coins was a lion, symbolic of the king who issued the coin. A few hundred years later, the Romans would use symbols on their coins to send messages of celebration and conquest, marriage and death, political posturing and fake news.

Gaius Julius Caesar is one of the best-known Roman citizens, whether it's for his military campaigns, creation of the Julian calendar, or his brutal assignation on the Ides of March in 44 BC. For those numismatists who collect ancient coins, Julius Caesar is known for creating one of the most important coins ever struck by the ancient Romans. It is also one of the most audacious coins ever struck.

During the period of the Roman Republic, images on coins were of personification of gods and goddesses, mythical scenes, and ancient legends. What was not found on coinage was images of living Romans. To have one's own image (or name) on a coin was considered the purview of the gods and the antithesis of Roman values of the time. In other words, to place one's name or one's image on a coin was the height of hubris and an overt act of self-deification. It would be the ancient Roman equivalent of a sitting United States President issuing coins with his/her own image.

Julius Caesar was a great military leader and an adept politician. In 50 BC, the Roman Senate led by Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus, feared the growing power of Julius Caesar and ordered him to lay down his army and return to Rome. However, Caesar was convinced if he returned to Rome without his army he would be arrested. So, in early January 49 BC, Caesar defiantly crossed the Rubicon river into Italy with his 13th Twin Legion (*Legio XIII Gemina*), one of his important legions in the Gallic Wars. It was at this crossing that Caesar was attributed to saying, "*the die is cast*," indicating that events have passed the point of no return. And he was correct as his crossing precipitated the Great Roman Civil War, also known as Caesar's Civil War. Over time Julius Caesar would eventually defeat his rivals and be appointed dictator. Along the way, he struck coins that sent a clear message to the Roman citizens, the Roman Senate, and his rivals. Julius Caesar was the new leader of the Roman people. The first of these coins struck with his name is believed to be the Elephant Denari



(The Elephant Denarius struck by Julius Caesar in 49 BC. The coin is approximately 19 mm in diameter and weighs 3.9 grams. The coin is estimated to be the third-largest issue of all Roman republican coinage with a mintage of approximately 22.5 million (based on about 750 dies obverse dies each striking 30,000 coins). Attribution: Crawford 443/1)

The iconography of the coin is quite interesting. The obverse of the coin depicts implements of the *pontifex maximus*, or the highest priest of the Roman state religion. The tools are the *culullus* (vessel for holding milk or wine), *aspergillum*, (stick with long horsehair for sprinkling holy water), apex (skull cap worn by priests), and axe. Each of these had a specific function in priestly rituals and inclusion on the coin signified the issuer's important role as a religious leader. By the inclusion of these implements of the pontificate on the coin, Julius Caesar represented himself as the most important priest in the Roman world. The prominence of these religious symbols on the coin, namely as primary images and not subordinate to another image such as a god or a muse, is consistent with Julius Caesar wishing to represent himself as having a close relationship with the gods. This statement is quite bold considering up until this time in the history of Roman coinage, rarely did such religious symbols appear on coinage.

The reverse, for which the coin is nicknamed, is dominated by the image of an elephant with a snake being trampled underfoot. The elephant was an interesting choice for Caesar's coin as there was no clear connection between Julius Caesar and the image of an elephant. While the Latin name Caesar does resemble the Punic word for elephant, the reference would likely be too obscure for the Roman populace to make a strong connection to Julius Caesar. Thus, Caesar being aware of the power of imagery, would choose an image that could have an immediate impact, albeit in a way that was damaging to his foes.

Caesar's motive for choosing an elephant may not have been self-glorification, but rather public humiliation of his enemies. The most well-known of these enemies was Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus, otherwise known as Pompey the Great. And the elephant would have significant meaning to Pompey and his followers. Pompey had styled himself as a new Alexander the Great, the King of Macedon, who died nearly 300 year earlier. Alexander the Great had a strong connection with elephants and as such, the elephant would have been a well-known symbol in the Roman world. As a self-styled new Alexander the Great, Pompey paraded into Rome following his first triumph in 81 BC. To add to the spectacle, Pompey was brought to the gates of Rome on a chariot driven by four elephants he captured in Africa. Unfortunately for Pompey, the elephants would not fit through the gates no matter how he tried to maneuver them. Ultimately, he was forced to enter Rome on a chariot driven by horses. Word of his failure quickly spread, and the embarrassing incident was soon well-known among Romans citizens. The elephant on Caesar's coin would have been readily seen as directly mocking Pompey's allusion to Alexander the Great and adopting the powerful image of the elephant as his own. For supporters of Julius Caesar, this would be a marvelous twist.

The image of the snake is less clear. A common interpretation is that the snake represents evil or the enemies of Rome. And of course, Julius Caesar would infer that enemies of Rome and enemies of Caesar are the same. Thus, the elephant trampling a snake symbolizes good conquering evil or Caesar defeating his enemies. The image of the snake and elephant together may also allude to the traditional story of the perpetual discord (*perptua discordia*) between the elephant and the snake.

As the story goes, a snake and an elephant are embroiled in an epic battle which has them locked in a mortal embrace where both are doomed to die. The victorious snake fatally wounds the elephant and is then crushed by the dying elephant. The image on the coin's reverse depicts the moment before the battle and thus the outcome is yet to be determined. The centrality and size indicate the elephant represents Julius Caesar and the snake, the enemies of Rome.

As interesting as the elephant and serpent are, it's nothing compared with what is written in the exergue (the lower part of the coin, divided by the horizontal line). Julius Caesar went against all convention of coinage issues of the Roman Republic by placing his name on the coins he struck. With the act, Caesar is elevating himself to a living deity. And such a self-proclamation would not have gone unnoticed by the Roman Senate.

As an aside, there is disagreement as to which side of the coin is the obverse and which is the reverse. Some numismatists and historians refer to the elephant image as being the obverse since it is a dominant image of the coin and, combined with Caesar's name, also represents the subject and issuer. However, traditional understanding of ancient Roman coinage holds that the elephant is on the reverse. The key to this interpretation is Caesar's name in the exergue, that horizontal line on which the elephant is walking. A name below an exergue is indicative of the reverse of the coin.

Regardless of which side is declared the obverse or reverse, the entire coin is filled with powerful images that send a meaningful message to the citizens of ancient Rome. Coinage would become a powerful tool for Roman political propaganda. Caesar's elephant denarius was struck near the end of the Roman Republic and the beginning of Rome's Imperial Period. Soon Roman coinage would have images of emperors, something unthinkable only a generation earlier.

UPCOMING COLLECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

Mid Cities Stamp Expo – May 17 – 18 ... Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Yes it is “stamps” but still some interesting material may surface)

Texas Numismatic Association Show – May 31 – June 2 ... Arlington Convention Center – 1200

Tyler Coin Show – June 21 – 22 ... Harvey Hall Convention Center – 2000 W. Front, Tyler, Texas

Texas Coin Show – July 19 – 20 ... Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also September 27 – 29, November 15 – 17)

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

Cowtown Coin Show – September 7 - 8 ... White Settlement Event Center – 8905 Clifford St., White Settlement, Texas (Also October 25 – 26, December 6 – 7)

Paris Coin Show – November 9 ... Lamar Avenue Church of Christ – 3535 Lamar Ave., Paris, Texas

Houston Money Show – January 17 – 18 ... Lone Star Convention Center – 9055 Airport Rd., Conroe, Texas

OUR NEXT TIME TOGETHER

The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, May 14, 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.

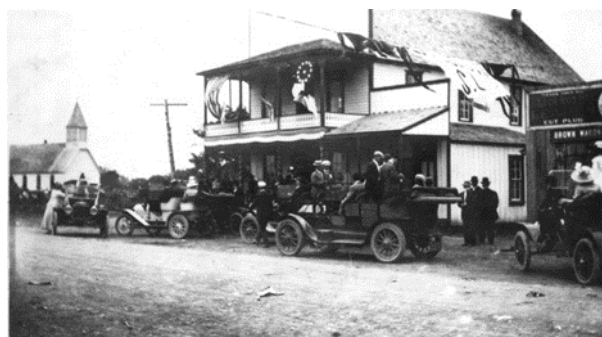
A VISIT TO YOUR EDITOR'S "COIN CABINET" EVERY NOW AND THEN A BLIND SQUIRREL FINDS AN ACORN



Back in the day when your editor finally got around to receiving an undergraduate degree it was through a relatively small private university in Georgetown, Texas. Southwestern University (SU) had around one thousand students at the time I attended there longer ago than I'd like to admit. As with so much else in the Austin area, with Georgetown being just thirty miles north on I – 35, there is now a larger student base. During the years after my departure from the area Georgetown has become a part of the extended Austin population expansion. When my wife and I resided over that way Georgetown claimed a population of approximately 8,000 souls. Nothing in town was open past 8 p.m. When we passed through the area a couple of summers ago, I took note of the fact that our sleepy smaller community now boasts just over 50,000. Such growth has come to much of Williamson County of which Georgetown is the seat.

Back in the day when we made our trek back home to Houston from Georgetown, we'd explore the most interesting routes. The more expedient drive was through Austin where we'd hit Highway 290 and follow it all the way home. 290 was convenient but it wasn't the most scenic and after the first few times, it offered little diversity of experience. One of several optional, occasional routes took us through the community of Taylor which was located a reasonable distance south and east of Georgetown.

Approximately ten miles out of Georgetown on the Farm to Market route toward Taylor was a wide spot in the road with a sign identifying the location as the town by the of Jonah, as "in" the whale. Honestly, I don't recall much about Jonah except for the sign itself. All these years later I can't tell you if there is anything there to be seen. I note that the Handbook of Texas shares the population of Jonah at 60 back during the 2000 census. Recently your editor did some research and ascertained that 60 is still an accurate account. I also came across one photograph from Jonah which features two structures in early Twentieth Century Jonah; the Percy business with the Methodist church just to left.



(Early Twentieth Century photo of "downtown" Jonah, Texas with the Perry business center. Courtesy of the Texas History Portal of the University of North Texas.)

So on to my before mentioned “squirrel / acorn” thought. A while ago your editor invested in a small box of Texas “Good For” tokens. At the time of the purchase I did not realize that one piece contained in the grouping, the one featured just above, was unlisted and, according to reference material, unknown. I shared it with Greater Houston Coin Club’s Michael Greenspan who in turn had it added to the official record of Texas tokens. The interesting thing is that up until that point not only were there no known tokens from the Percy business, there were no tokens listed from Jonah at all. Meaning that my token was, at the time, a “one of.” Can’t say that there is or was much interest, but it gives me a warm feeling to know that I had made a discovery. This being further proof of one of your editor’s collector working procedures; there are collector “acorns,” still waiting for the right “squirrel” to come along at the right time thus expanding the numismatic base.

At the beginning of the article are pictures of the obverse and reverse of the token which is my topic of the day. Notice it is “good for” five cents on drink or a cigar at Mr. Percy’s place. Certainly, leading to a good time had by all.