



**YOU'RE TWO CENTS WORTH**  
**NEWSLETTER OF THE TYLER, TEXAS**  
**COIN CLUB**  
**APRIL, 2011**

The Tyler, Texas Coin Club Meets on the Second Tuesday of each month with meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. Location is the west campus of Tyler Junior College – 1530 SSW Loop 323. Club members and friends gather starting at 6:30 for fellowship and refreshments. Meeting agenda will always include business and the most spirited auction in Texas. Special presentations and programs are often offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all.



**A Few Words from the Editor**

Greetings Friends!!! I trusts and pray you all have enjoyed the beauty of these last few wonderful weeks here in East Texas. The weather has been a delightful gift from God, even providing a touch of rain. Your editor has found inspiration in the seasonal foliage and in all the beautiful signs of nature's coming back to full bloom.

In this issue you'll find information concerning a fellow club member. Also look for details of the upcoming Tyler Coin Club Show and National Coin Week. We will once again welcome words of encouragement from club president Dwight. There is a visit from Dr. Coyne as well as a brief article your editor penned for another Texas coin club publication, one from his "previous" life.

I look forward to visiting with you all in the near future. Regards and God Bless . . . Richard L., newsletter editor.

**“Sowle Food”**  
**Thoughts from President Dwight**



April 2011 Sowle Food:

The Tyler Coin Club continues to make a name for its self. Very few weeks go by that I don't receive a call or an e-mail from someone wanting to know more about our club and our upcoming show. It's great to be a Tyler Coin Club member.

I'm excited about this year's National Coin Week (NCW) theme “Blue, Gray and Greenbacks.” Thank you for wanting to once again participate in the Club Trivia Challenge. I really think we have a chance to place again this year. And, I am excited over the Scavenger Hunt portion of NCW. Please join me in thanking Richard and Stephen for agreeing to take this on for our club's representation in this annual event. I just know we are going to place in this, too.

Barry has notified us that in our May meeting – which will be six weeks before “The Second *Real* Coin Show in Tyler, Texas...in Twenty-two Years” – we will sign up volunteers for various jobs to help make our second show as good, if not better, than the first one. So come prepared to get involved.

Being a part of the Tyler Coin Club continues to bless me day after day. The friendships I have made, the experiences I have enjoyed will go with me the rest of my life. Thank you for your friendship and your support. Until next time, remember; “Peace and justice are two sides of the same coin.” Dwight David Eisenhower.

That's it for this ‘portion’ of Sowle Food. Happy collecting...and God bless.

**Getting to Know You . . . Personal Numismatic Story**  
This month fellow collector Stephen G. tells his story . . .

As a lad of about 7, I remember receiving, from two uncles, silver dollars and collecting “wheaties.” However, for the most part my collecting interest didn't really take off until I got married.

At that time, my interest in coins became concentrated. As we were cleaning out my things I ran across an old box and inside was my small collection of coins. Teresa, my wife, was so enthusiastic for me to get started again, especially since my father-in-law had been interested in coins during her childhood.

I went to the coin shop in Tyler, same one that Tom now owns, and bought a new “red book” and a 1929 Lincoln cent. But most importantly, I learned that the Rose City Coin Club was meeting in the

TP&L building on N. Broadway; that was truly a blessing. I met so many fine people and learned even more. Later, I discovered my love for Barber coinage. With the help of Horace Cook, a local vest pocket dealer and bourse chairman for the Tyler Coin Show, I started attending coin shows as a dealer. Now for almost 28 years I am still a vest pocket dealer and love the hobby and the many wonderful people that make it up.

Sometimes it really doesn't take much to get a youngster started; just two coins in my case.



### **Minutes from April 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Minutes from April 12, 2011 meeting

Meeting called to order by President Dwight Sowle with Pledge to the Flag. There were 22 members and 1 guest in attendance for a total of 23 present.

President Dwight offered the following items for our consideration

- Introduction of guests / recognition of visitors – one visitor present John W. – welcome!!
- Recognition of members with birthdays (Olen, B, John D. and Art R.) and anniversaries (Tracy R. – married 54 years – congratulations) in the month of April
- John and Sandra were thanked for the evening's refreshments which included homemade cookies
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- Gift of appreciation to TJC Security Guard, Billy, for his assistance with club meetings
- Jeff at Jewelry and Coin Exchange donated more than a dozen items to the club. Several of these items were auctioned during meeting. A thank you card was passed around for members to sign.
- David and Sherry donated a large collection of Red Books and other items to the club.
- Dwight emailed members the club photo taken in January. Image is also available in the February newsletter.
- National Coin Week. Club members agreed to participate once again in the ANA Club Trivia Contest. Contest questions were randomly drawn by members, with the list provided to Dwight. Concerning the ANA Scavenger Hunt; Richard and Stephen agreed to work with Dwight with one of them entering the contest.
- Dwight updated members on the status of 501 ( c ) 3 application
- December 2011 club dinner meeting location will be on the college campus. Rudy's BBQ is the top candidate for caterer. The event will take place at our regular meeting time. The date will be Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
- Adopt – A – Highway Program: Darrell provided details as an option for club to give back to the community. Motion was made by Ray with second by Howard to pursue looking into the program.
- Barry provided a brief Treasurer's report.

Coin Show Update offered by Barry

- 23 dealers are paid in full. There are 15 dealers on a waiting list. Dealers at previous shows get first dibs on tables.
- Barry shared general information about advertising and the importance of a good media presence within the community. (media, websites, etc.) Question from a club member: "Are

we spending the same amount on advertising as the last show?" Answer: "Most like will spend equal amount or more."

Club Auction followed with the usual "spirited" and creative work of Tom B. as auctioneer.

- 32 auction lots sold (including 4 donated items) for \$1,517.75
- 4 donated auction items brought \$60 into the club's treasury
- 20 auction lots were passed

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carl Shotts, Secretary.

## Numismatic Education – From Dr. Coyne

### Questions for Dr. Coyne

- 1) What is the meaning of the term "Condition Rarity" for a Morgan Dollar?
- 2) What is the technological improvement in minting that first came to U.S. coins in 1965 and resulted in manufacturing economies and greater coin-producing capacity in the U.S. mints beginning in that year?
- 3) I see a token or medal advertised in "Feuchtwanger's Composition". Exactly what is this alloy?



- 4) Who was Montroville Dickeson and what did he publish?
- 5) Dr. Coyne, in your opinion and experience do you think PCGS and NGC employ the same grading standards as each other on American Gold Eagles?
- 6) A collector seeking to buy a representative example of the scarcest non-proof Peace Dollar in upper circulated grades will be seeking what issue?

### Dr. Coyne Responds:

1) The term "Condition Rarity" has come to mean a coin which is not rare or even scarce in average condition, but in higher grade. For example, Morgan Dollars of 1892-S are barely above bullion value in circulated grades such as VF. But in Uncirculated condition, the 1892-S is a formidable rarity going for thousands of dollars. Similarly, something like a 1963 Lincoln Cent is of little note until it is in a slab at MS-69. Dr. Coyne notes that collecting "condition rarities" often amounts to "buying the plastic" rather than buying the coin.

2) In 1965 the US mint began issuing coins for circulation made from clad strip. With the elimination of silver in that year's dimes and quarters, the mint began a transition to acquiring coinage strip in large rolls from outside suppliers. Eventually the melting, pouring, and rolling facilities at all the US mints would be shut down. In 1965, the mints continued to punch the blanks and upset their edges in-house from the supplied strip, but those actions, too, would be transitioned to suppliers of ready-to-strike planchets by the 1990's.

3) "Feuchtwanger's Composition" was invented by Dr. Lewis Feuchtwanger about 1830. He proposed it as a substitute for silver alloy coinage. Some variations appear in print, but the usual formula involves copper, nickel, and zinc. Some add a bit of tin. There is NO silver in it. Dr. Feuchtwanger pointed out that his alloy looked a lot like silver (especially when new), and that it was ductile and soft enough to

strike well, yet hard enough to endure the rigors of circulation. But his (considerable) token coinages, lasting into the 1860's, are its only use in U.S. numismatics. It was never adopted by the U.S. mint.

4) Dr. Dickeson is best known today as an early coin dealer and as the author of "The American Numismatic Manual" of 1859, said to be the first book-length treatment published on U.S. numismatics. The volume was one of the first to attempt listing all the dates and types of US coins. The book also gave an overview of ancient and early European coins. There are twenty pages of tinted lithographic plates with images of coins, each overprinted in a metallic color appropriate to the coin's composition. There were additional editions in the years following 1859, but these are under the simpler title "American Numismatic Manual". As scholarship was ongoing, these later editions fixed some of the errors present in the first edition. But as a collectible, the first edition is the one to have.

5) According to a long-running discussion thread on the "chat" area of eBay coin forum, by mid-2009, PCGS and NGC certification of American Gold Eagles submitted to them was as follows:

	NGC		PCGS	
	MS-70	PF-70	MS-70	PF-70
1986 dated	5%	10.5%	.01%	1%
1987 dated	5%	36 %	0 %	3%
1989 dated	1%	49 %	.01%	5%
1990 dated	3%	33 %	.02%	2%

Summarizing, it appears that NGC is more than 100 times more likely than PCGS to award an MS-70 and that NGC is more than 10 times more likely to award a PF-70. It is also clear that for these coins in proof, even the "70" level cannot be called a rare coin. Given that the two services are obviously seeing coins from the same source and there is no reason to believe that there is any statistically-significant difference in the quality of the coins seen at the two services, the only conclusion is that different grading standards must be employed. PCGS is "tougher" on the AGE's than is NGC. The market prices would seem to support this observation as well; an NGC MS-70 piece does not bring as high a price as a PCGS MS-70 piece. This is an instance where these two grading services' grades are NOT interchangeable. Dr. Coyne cannot help but interject here that he is unable to see the difference on the coins, and thus does not collect either one.

6) The collector seeking the scarcest and most expensive Peace Dollar in extra fine will be looking for 1928 Philadelphia. It has a reported mintage of 360,000 and goes for around \$500 in upper circulated grades. The 1921 (a slightly different design in higher relief) is also difficult. The 1964-D was struck to the extent of 316,000 pieces, but all or almost all were melted and none of these is openly available today. The Peace Dollars form an interesting series, but the series seems to have fewer fans today than the Morgan Dollars.



## Upcoming Collector Events

- **Red River Valley Coin Show** – Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – Red River Valley Fairgrounds – 570 E. Carter St. – Paris, Texas
- **Texas Philatelic Association Annual Stamp Show** – (TEXPEX 2011) – Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> – Doubletree Hotel – 4099 Valley View Lane @ I – 635 in Dallas.
- **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Waco Coin Show** – Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Bellmead Civic Center located at 555 N. Loop 340
- **National Coin Week** – (ANA) – “Blue, Gray and Greenbacks” – Our club is involved in a big way. President Dwight passed out questions for the challenge and information about the scavenger hunt at the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. We won last year’s challenge.
- **Texas Numismatic Association Convention** – and annual show – will be held May 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Amon Carter Center in the Will Rogers Complex located at 3401 W. Lancaster in Fort Worth.
- **Tyler Coin Club Coin Show** – Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> – The “Second *Real* Coin Show in Tyler, Texas in 22 years!” To be held in the Ramada Inn Conference and Convention Center located at 3310 Troup Hwy, just off Loop 323 and Hwy. 110. (This is, of course, our wonderful show!!)



## Next Time Together

The Greater Tyler Coin Club will gather again on **Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**. See you at **7:00 p.m.** Bring a friend. Come enjoy a positive experience, good fellowship, and the most spirited coin auction in Texas. Mark your calendar now. If you haven't already emailed your response to the ANA Coin Week challenge be sure and bring them to the club meeting so we can complete the process.

## Until then . . . a Piece of History for your Consideration

### And Edification

Friends, the following is a brief commentary submitted by the editor to the Double Shift publication of the Greater Houston Coin Club. Your editor has placed a column in the Houston Club's newsletter for a number of years. As I've stated before my friend and mentor, in the realm of newsletter work, John Barber, is the editor of the Double Shift and also close friend of Dr. Coyne. These thoughts are shared for your "consideration and edification" concerning an interesting part of our United States numismatic history. Opinions stated are those of the editor from personal observation and research.

Last week the Upshur County Literacy Program presented their 18<sup>th</sup> annual "Spelling Bee for Literacy." The literacy program, which is hosted by the local United Methodist Church I currently serve, offered the "Spelling Bee" as an evening of entertainment, enlightenment, and fund raising. The "spelling" part of the event was the chief entertainment with adults of all ages and stages presented with the opportunity to "prove" their spelling acumen. The results were often humorous. On the evening of

the “Bee,” following the main event, one of the local East Texas celebrities (Mark Scirto) led us in an auction. One of the items donated this year was a Twenty Dollar National Currency note from neighboring Longview, Texas. Because the coordinator of the effort is a friend and fellow church participant, and because he knew of my interest in things related to paper money, he called me for information about the donated piece of currency.



(Original Post Card First National Bank of Longview, Texas)

For your records the note which was sold at auction, is from the Third Charter of National Currency, a twenty dollar, blue seal, plain back, issued from the First National Bank of Longview. Unfortunately the piece had a few issues including a tear repaired by the unfortunate use of tape, a procedure which generally cuts the value of a piece of currency in a serious way. Fortunately the note did sell for a reasonable figure, with the proceeds going to help the literacy effort in our county.

National Bank Notes are a result of an act of Congress passed back in 1863. The reason for its creation was at least twofold. First, the act created a system of National Banks which could be controlled by the federal government and thus be more secured. Secondly, the act provided for a way in which these privately owned “National Banks” could purchase bonds. In this way, during the trying times of the Civil War and immediately following, money was made available from private individuals to support the government.



(First Charter National Bank Note)

One of the challenges to this National Bank system was tradition. Up until that time paper money had been issued by a variety of local banks, private institutions, even local and state governmental entities. These “obsolete notes,” as they are now called, served as a circulating medium, but were basically untrustworthy. The National Bank Act outlawed such local paper. What to do in order to replace the tradition with more secure currency is what we know as “National Bank Notes.” Any bank chartered by the government could issue official United States legal tender for amounts up to 90% of the bonds the banks could purchase. In this way satisfaction came in a variety of ways; There was currency in the hands of the consumer, risky private scrip was outlawed and removed from circulation, and because of the bonds taken out by the chartered banks the government had funding during a challenging time in history.

National Bank Notes continued on until the middle of the 1930’s. As I understand it part of the cause of the demise of National Bank Notes came from the collapse of banking institutions during that time. Also much of the regulation of banking had already shifted to the Federal Reserve System which resulted in a uniform currency, the type of which we still use today.

There were four series of National Bank Notes, the first three with their own unique design. The fourth series was the only one of small sized notes. These look familiar, with the name of the National Bank placed just to the left of the portrait of the historical figure featured. Most any coin or currency dealer will have a few pieces. A Google search will pull up some wonderful images.

See you all when time allows . . . Richard



(National Bank Note of Second Charter)



(National Bank Note of Third Charter Twenty)



(National Bank Note of Fourth and Final Charter)

*YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH* is a publication of the Greater Tyler, Texas Coin Club. Please submit all items of interest, including articles, to the editor either at any club meeting or through email at [pastorlaster@etex.net](mailto:pastorlaster@etex.net).