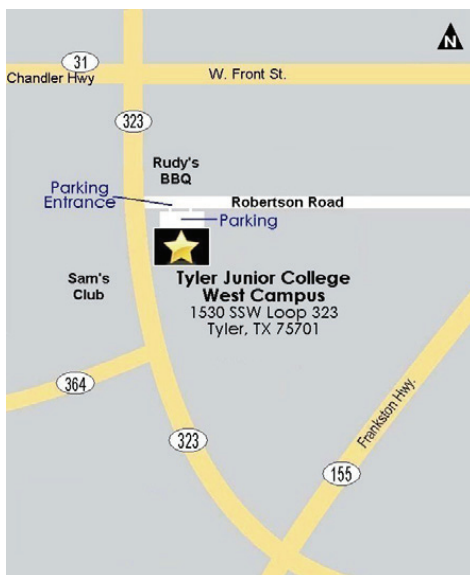




**YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH**  
**NEWSLETTER OF THE TYLER, TEXAS**  
**COIN CLUB**  
**JUNE, 2012**

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 occasionally offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all. The club's next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.



**A Few Words from the Editor**

Late May saw the annual meeting of Texas Numismatic Convention. This is always a great time when members and friends of the organization gather for the purpose of celebration, visitation, education, exhibition, buying and sell, etc. Your editor's remembrance of the TNA "show" goes back several decades, including attending a few which were presented in his native Houston area. This year's show provided a new privilege. Your editor, as a representative of the Tyler Coin Club, was able to say a few good words about who we are and what we do. The opportunity came when TNA presented your editor and President Dwight with the first place award for "club newsletter of the year." The time of presentation was particularly sweet because several TCC members were present at the awards ceremony. This is an honor in which we can all share.

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



The June meeting found our agenda items covering two pages for the first time EVER! Things are HAPPENING with the Tyler Coin Club!! I enjoyed our June meeting as I do all our meetings. I thought Tony Hale with TNT coins did a great job giving us ideas on how to collect coins. And, he gave us an encouraging report about the ANA Money Show to be held in Dallas this coming September. I am going to volunteer to help in some way so I can be a part of this great event.

This is short – but then again I have been short all my life (LOL) – to give room for some extra tidbits from our illustrious editor. SO, HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!! And until next time remember: “You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism.” ~Erma Bombeck

That’s it for this ‘portion’ of Sowle food. I’ll see you July 10<sup>th</sup>!!!!

**Getting to know you . . . Personal Numismatic Story**  
This month club member and collector Joe H. tells their story

I grew up in a small town in Northern Indiana where they say there is “a basketball goal grown on every tree.” In my family I had nine sisters and two brothers. Times were hard. My Dad worked and my Mom washed clothes all day.

I started working at the age of seven carrying wood in the winter time for the elderly people and mowing yards in the summer. At the age of ten a friend of mine started his penny collection, and I helped him do it. At the age of twelve I had my own paper route. I delivered the local paper, the *Warsaw Times Union*. My friend delivered the Fort Wayne newspaper.

It was on a Saturday morning when we collected our paper money. My friend and I always met at the hardware store to buy a large bottle of Coke for five cents and a candy bar for the same price. I told my friend I got a 1905 V Nickel from an old gentleman in my change. My

friend said he got an 1888 Indian head penny. Well that started my collection of coins. I traded my friend my V Nickel for his Indian cent because it was older.

Fifty years later I finally bought a 1909 S VDB Lincoln Cent. The coin carries an EF 40 grade from NGC. This finished out my "penny" collection. Through the years I have put several coin sets together and now that I am a Disabled Vietnam Veteran I still have the enjoyment of collecting coins. I mostly buy and sell. My son and grandson do not have much interest in coins.

Here is a question to think over: What will become of your coins when you are gone? Will they end up with a fly-by-night weekend crook at Holiday Inn, at a Pawn Shop, or where? Think about it.

It has been a fun fifty years of collecting coins and yes there are many great friends I've met along the way. I still have the 1888 Indian Head Cent. My interest now is collecting better grade coins such as Silver Eagles. I also enjoy being a member of two great coin clubs.

### **Minutes of Tyler Coin Club Meeting held on Tuesday, June 12th, 2012**

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

#### **Attendance**

Members present: 29

Guests present: 1

Total Present: 30

(New members) 0

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

- The club was lead in prayer by Mitch
- Please keep Richard and Ray's families in your thoughts and prayers
- Introduction / recognition of guests, visitors, and new members
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of June
- Dwight presented Richard with the Texas Numismatic Association's (TNA) Best Club Newsletter award for his outstanding 2011 club newsletter series
- Richard also received the TNA's Non-Board Member 2011 Volunteer Award for the generous contributions of his time and resources in support TNA programs and activities
- Dwight requested volunteer assistance with the following items:
  - Assist finding a new meeting location since we have outgrown the current facilities
  - Gather information on production of Wooden Nickels for the club; challenge accepted by Mitch
  - Research early history of Tyler Coin Club originally formed in 1960
  - Assist finding a December dinner/meeting location
- Carl is researching development of a new (or revised) Club Logo
- Newsletters (Articles/Stories needed for Getting to Know you section), Magazines, Handouts available
- Barry gave a quick reminder on membership dues
- The 501 (c) (3) application has been submitted on behalf of the club

- Tony Hales, TNT Coins and Texas Representative - ANA Dallas Show was special guest speaker and gave an outstanding educational discussion on *How To Buy Coins*

#### **Coin Show Update (Barry)**

- Friday, August 24th and Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>
- Show preparations are going very well, getting lots of phone calls; even someone from California; a total of 7 states will likely be represented

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

- 23 auction lots sold - \$1,010.50

#### **Door prize winners**

- Bert, David, Howard, Mike, Seth

#### **Refreshments**

- Stephen

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl Shotts  
Club Secretary



(President Dwight and Your Editor with club recognition award from Texas Numismatic Association – Photo courtesy of Carl Shotts)

### **Numismatic Education – From Dr. Coyne**

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

1)When was the first appearance of the motto “In God We Trust” on regular-issue U.S. paper money? It is longer ago than you think!

2)Could the coin, pictured at the top of the next page, be a real 1975 Eisenhower Dollar?



3)When did the U.S. Mint first make coins for a foreign country?

4)When was Henry Chapman an active dealer?

5)When were annual 5-coin proof sets first issued by the U.S.?

6)Why don't the purest (99.99%) gold coins, such as Canada's, sell for more than the 91.7% gold U.S. coins?

### **Dr. Coyne Responds:**

1)Although Congress voted in 1956 to add the motto to all future production and it began to appear on all new notes with the Series 1957 Silver Certificate \$1 bills, the first appearance was way back in 1886. The Series 1886 \$5 Silver Certificates (in production until 1893), had an illustration of five Morgan Dollars as the main device. The one in the center showed the obverse dated 1886, and the other four were showing their reverses, and right there above the eagle on each coin is "In God We Trust".



(So called "Godless" Silver Certificate 1935 D)

2)This "1975" Eisenhower Dollar is a concoction. It represents the latest project of Mr. Daniel Carr of Loveland, Colorado (The Moonlight Mint). He prepared a limited number of these pieces in 2011 by over-striking genuine 1776-1976 copper-nickel clad Eisenhower Dollars using dies of his own making and a retired Denver Mint press. The result is an authentic-looking piece of a date never made by the government. The size, weight, and composition are all perfect, since real Ike dollars were used as the planchets. These are close cousins of the 1964-D Peace Dollars done by Mr. Carr. For that issue, genuine silver Peace Dollars were used as planchets.

3)The U.S. Mints at Philadelphia, Denver, New Orleans, and San Francisco have executed multiple orders for foreign powers since 1874. But in some obscure papers according to William Bischoff (Coinage of the Americas Conference 1988), the U.S. Mint, including engraver James B. Longacre, did some patterns for Peru in 1855. These patterns were apparently rejected, and no circulation counterparts were ever coined. This was shortly before the U.S. Mint began issuing annual sets of proofs for collectors.



Photo Credit: Wikipedia

4)Henry Chapman and his brother S.H. Chapman were pioneer coin dealers in New York and Philadelphia in 1880 and later. They had good connections at the U.S. Mint and prided themselves on always having a good stock. They are also credited with the best auction catalogs of the day, typically providing much more complete lot descriptions (and numismatic scholarship) than their peers. Henry had a long career, and was still advertising in *The Numismatist* in 1940.

5)Annual proof sets made for sale to collectors began with the issues of 1858. Such sets were available for the “minor coins”, the “subsidiary coins” (silver), and the gold coins (either singly or in sets). All were priced modestly above face value. They were delivered by mail to collectors requesting that service, or they could be called for personally at the Mint. Issue quantities for the silver sets hovered in the low hundreds for decades, with the “minor sets” somewhat bigger sellers. The proof gold was coined in small numbers, and even so, their high face value meant that many were subsequently spent in everyday trade and have come down to today’s collectors in impaired condition.

6)The U.S. and Canadian 1 ounce gold bullion coins sell for the same price because both contain exactly one troy ounce of pure gold. The U.S. coin weighs more on a scale, but the approximately 8% copper alloy is just along for the ride and has no role in valuing the bullion coin. The U.S. coin alloy closely approximates the fineness of the early U.S. gold coins of 1795-1834. They, in turn were modeled after the 11/12 fineness of British gold coins of the time. The alloy makes the coins harder and more durable than the very soft, pure gold Canadian ones. In the market, the only full-ounce bullion coin that sells at a discount (and it is small) is the South African Kruggerand. Dealer margins on one ounce gold pieces are modest if you shop around.

## Upcoming Collector Events

**Cowtown Summer Coin Show** – July 7 – 8 . . . Lockheed Martin Recreation Center – 3400 Bryant Irvin, Fort Worth

**Texas Coin Show** - July 20 - 22 . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine

**Ark-La-Tex Coin, Card and Stamp Show** - July 28 – 29 . . . Bossier City Civic Center – 602 Benton Rd., Bossier City

**Tyler Coin Club Show** – Five (perhaps even seven) State Coin and Currency Show - August 24 – 25 . . . Lone Star Event Center – 4036 FM 2767, Tyler

## Next Time Together

The Greater Tyler Coin Club will meet again on **Tuesday, July 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. Also plan on gathering at 5:30 for a great BBQ dinner at Rudy's Restaurant which is just across the street from our club's meeting location. Come for some great fellowship, a numismatic presentation, a bit of business, and the most spirited auction to be found most anywhere. See you then.

## Until Then . . . a Piece of History for your Consideration and Edification



Your editor has come to another challenge in his collecting world. The following comments, observations, opinions, rants, whatever, are reflections upon an issue recently faced. Even though this is new to your editor it is a challenge which has been part of the life of most serious numismatists for a number of years.

The item pictured at the beginning of this brief presentation of thought is a piece of Texas Civil War County Scrip. Not very long ago notes such as this were considered quite scarce. Bob Medlar's *Texas Obsolete Notes and Scrip*, for example, gives like Matagorda County currency a scarcity rating of 7, which means at the time, back in the late 1960's, these were considered to be



PDS. “PDS” is on your editor’s scale of rarity meaning “Pretty Dang Scarce.” Well, at least it was back in the day.

I don’t know the entire story but I am aware from the quantity of those that are seen in the marketplace today that a hoard must have been uncovered somewhere. The notes your editor has seen are in excellent shape and seem to be “remainders;” those which were prepared, or in the process of preparation, but were never issued.

The basic “issue” your editor is now facing is the fact that this is only the second “slabbed,” “entombed,” or “encapsulated” piece of paper money he has ever acquired. Not only that, but your editor hasn’t even given much thought at all to professional grading.

At first brush your editor gave some serious thought to setting this item free from captivity. The protective case is a bit larger than the average one, which makes storage a bit of a challenge. On a larger scale your editor had to think through the whole issue of “encapsulating” and the professional grading of paper money in specific.

So, with an open mind, and a few extra minutes to enjoy some creative thinking, your editor has come to a point of discussion. At the least you’ll find a few random thoughts offered in order to make some sense of the whole slabbed / not slabbed paper money challenge of the mind.



(One of the remaining signs of the Civil War era on Matagorda Island is this light house. It is currently under restoration. During the 1860’s Matagorda was a thriving and necessary port for the Confederate war effort.)

There are several reasons why the work of the grading service is a good and perhaps even a necessary thing even for the paper money collector.

First, in the current marketplace currency is gaining in interest and therefore in value. When your editor started collecting such items several decades ago paper money was the back room, step child, of the numismatic world. Nowadays things are different. Folks actually pursue paper and for that reason not only interest but also pricing has increased. In today’s market, as actually it has been with coins for some years, a higher “grade” means a higher “price.” Grading helps the customer, purchaser, and keeps the seller honest, a win / win for both in the open market place.

Secondly, such services help weed out counterfeit and questionable material. The Chinese, for example, haven’t cared much about providing, counterfeiting, bootlegging, etc., copies of early United States or Confederate currency. However there are some fine



reproductions, souvenir items, and collector copies of notes printed from original printing plates, available on the market today. Your editor acquired a small handful of obsolete notes from Maine. Your editor generally doesn't have much use for "Yankee" scrip however these were particularly nice and priced right. When your editor went to do research, unfortunately after acquiring the pieces, he found that the originals were printed in green and notes he acquired as the "real" thing from a professional numismatic dealer were printed in red. Your editor can attest to the fact the red was quite deep and wonderful, albeit on a note of more recent printing from the original plate.

The third thing to consider in a positive is the need for quality, proper storage. Many of the cases available on the open market for paper money are not of archival quality. Over time those which are plastic can break down causing damage to the contents. Your editor trusts that the encapsulation devices are quality. A bit of an investment may well save a piece of paper for the future.

Of course to be fair there are some downsides. Just as it is with coins, the cost of a professional grading service may out-cost the value of the piece. In other words the difference in price from grade to grade, in more common notes, may not merit what a grading service will charge for its educated opinion. Take for example an 1864 Confederate Ten Dollar note. These are quite common and even the crispest uncirculated note will cost less than forty dollars.

Secondly, in the world of paper collecting the quality or texture of paper can differentiate one note from another. There are several Confederate Bonds, for example, which come in a variety of "types" of paper, from very thick, to textured, to nearly tissue paper thin. Something in order to make a decision on a piece of paper the collector needs to do the touch test, with clean hands, naturally. Your editor also has the peculiar habit of taking a sniff of a piece of paper he is considering adding to his collection. The smell test can often determine problems caused by moisture. Then again, on the other side of the issue, keeping a note securely closed will keep grubby hands away.



(Back of certified, graded, encapsulated, Matagorda County remainder scrip. Note the use of "recycled" paper.)

Your editor's biggest objection to the grading system actually is more of personal opinion. There are so few people out there in the collector world with real expertise in paper money collecting. The note pictured is a sharp example. In your editor's opinion it has great eye appeal. But, it is judged by the official grading service as an Extra Fine 45. Dealers I know sell the same item in the same condition but grade a like piece more highly. Your editor has done the study, looking at several dozen and, when the price is right, purchasing three or four more, all of which look like the "slabbed" piece above. This fact, and the need for standardization in grading, may well be another need to slab, instead of an objection.

Will your editor buy another "slabbed" piece? Well, perhaps, if the price is right. Will your editor submit some pieces of paper money to a grading service? At the moment he's not so convinced it is worth the investment. He'll get back with you on that one.

Incidentally, your editor's other piece of graded currency is a piece of Texas

County Scrip from Washington County, another fairly common item. The ones doing the evaluation didn't give the piece an official grade and called it "damaged." The "damage" actually came in two ways, both of which are debatable; first there is a large white spot in the middle of the paper and the second a small "tear" along the border. In your editor's opinion the white spot, which was referred to as "damage," is actually a flaw in the paper one more than likely original to the note. The "tear" detailed in the evaluation is also original to the piece. Because paper money of that era generally was printed in small sheets, and because most were cut by hand, often the bottom note will still contain a large section of the margin. These sheets were printed on whatever paper could be found. The so called "tear" which kept the note from being graded, is actually an indentation on the bottom of the sheet of paper used for printing the note, one which would disappear if the owner chose to cut away the ample margin at the bottom of the piece of paper.

We were honored to have a special guest speaker Tony Hales present to share the vision of the 2012 ANA Convention to be held in Dallas. Tony is a professional numismatist from the Dallas area. Good to have you Tony!!



***YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH*** is a publication of the 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)