

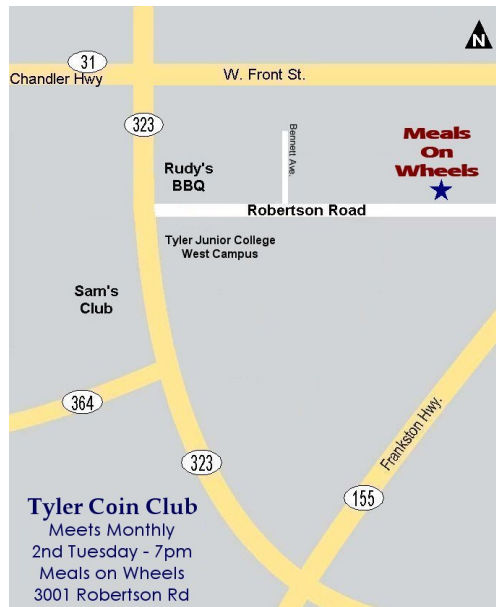
Tyler Coin Club

info@tylercoinclub.org



(Newsletter of the Tyler, Texas Coin Club for July, 2013)

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 occasionally offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all. TCC's next meeting is Tuesday, August 13th, 2013.



A Few Words from the Editor

In preparation for this edition of *Your Two Cents Worth* your editor has been assessing the last couple of months in the life of the Tyler Coin Club. Two areas in specific have brought joy into my numismatic world. First of course are memories of the coin show which has just past. There were wonderful conversations to be had, and some collector items to acquire as well. Then there was our last club meeting when we were able to hear about the success of the show and also to make a major step when Dwight announced we will have fifteen minute programs at each of our meetings. Your editor applauds the decision and looks forward to broadening his collector knowledge. It was, for example, a great experience to see the quality Walking Liberty Half Set passed around at the last meeting. Just getting an idea of the quality to be found in that area aids us all in our search for the best. See you all on August 13th.

“Sowle Food” - Thoughts from President Dwight



July 2013 “Sowle Food”

TCC Coin Show #5 is history! And what a show it was!! My, my, my, my, my, what a fantastic job Barry did pulling this one off. By far it was the best one and the largest one yet. My hat is off to all of you who helped setting up, taking down, cleaning up, concession, registration, door prizes, signage, coins for kids, badges, pictures, paging, advertising, passing out flyers, decorations, donuts. Glory, glory, glory!!! Stand up and take a bow TCC. Hold your head high because you have every right to be proud!

It's time for another group picture! It's been three years since our last one. Be thinking of whether or not you want us to order and have club shirts or not. I can promise you this; it will be a LOT cheaper than the \$26 we paid last time. If you want shirts, be thinking of style and color. If you don't want shirts, that's okay. We can take a picture without shirts...I mean, without CLUB shirts...not without shirts on...get it? LOL

That's it for this 'portion' of “Sowle” Food. Short and sweet this time because I'm still trying to get over the Show. Until next time, remember: “Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.” Dr. Seuss . . . God bless!

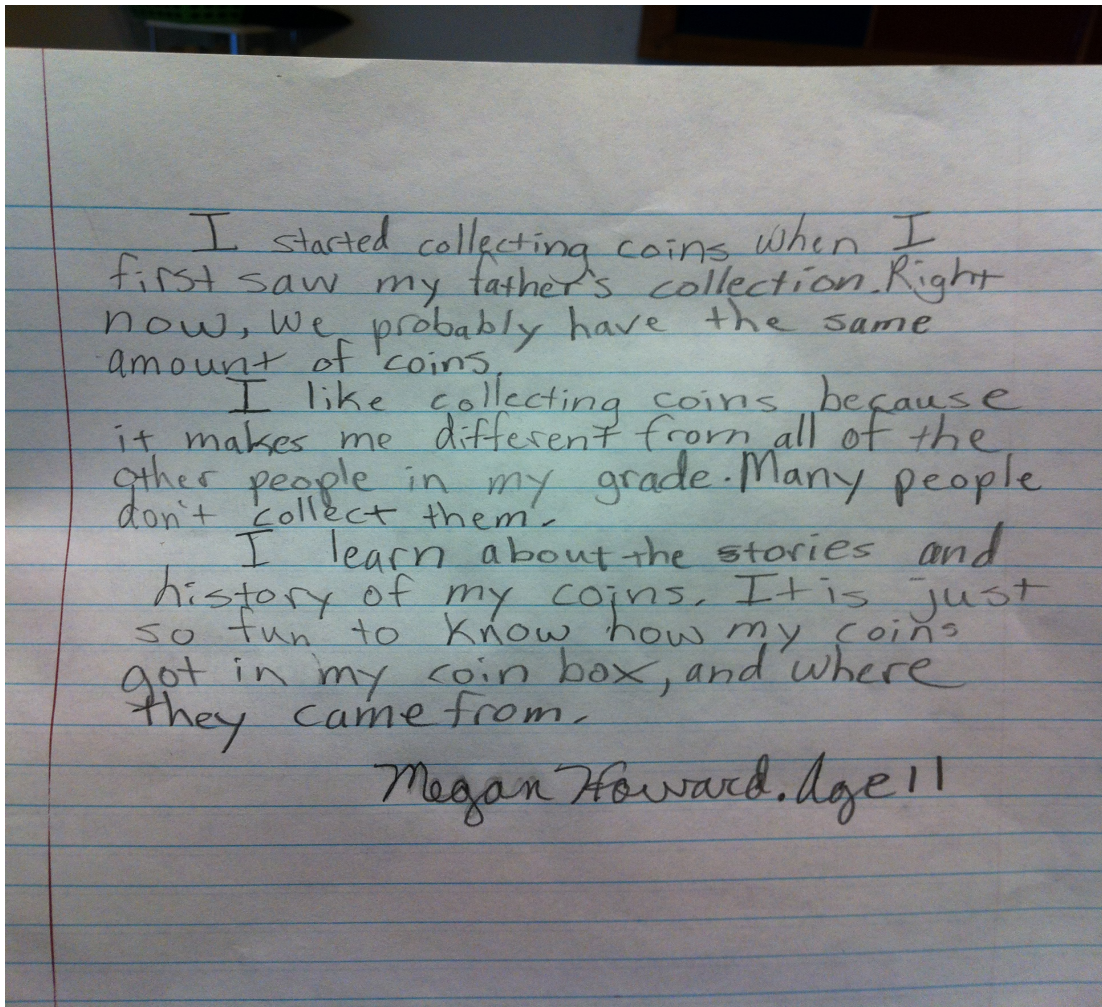
Photo memory of Coin Show # 5



(Great times and fellowship were to be found at the June Coin Show)

Getting To Know You:

This month collector Coins for A's collector Megan tells her story



(The last few months your editor has been contacting those who have received "Coin for A's through the Texas Numismatic Association. One of these is Megan. The TNA provides coins to encourage "kids" both in their grades and to heighten their interest in coin collecting. Our "Getting to Know You" this month comes just as it was written. It is good to know that TNA member clubs, such as ours, are involved in this and other child friendly programs.)

Tyler Coin Club - TNA District 12 Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, July 9th, 2013

Date: July 9, 2013

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

Attendance: Members: 31 Guests: 5 Total: 36

Discussion of Agenda Items (Dwight)

- The club was lead in prayer by Mitch.
- Please keep the families and friends of Joe, Lee and John in your thoughts and prayers.

- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of July.
- Dwight reminded members that Betty W. will act as the club's Program Director. Duties for this position will range from securing member and non-member speakers for club meetings to gathering prayer list requests and volunteers for refreshments.
- Members were encouraged to join the ANA and TNA. The club receives \$5 off its ANA membership for every active individual ANA member.
- Richard is seeking additional participation for the "Getting to Know You" section of the newsletter.
- Next meeting, August 13, 2013.

Special Update (Barry)

- Barry provided an update on former club vice president Darrell. Darrell graduates United States Navy Officer School on August 2nd. When the Navy found out Darrell's interest and participation in numismatics, they asked him to assist with their First Salute program. Naval tradition dictates each newly commissioned Officer receives the traditional First Salute from an enlisted service member (past or present) who has made a significant impact on their life. During the First Salute, the new Officer presents the enlisted member with a silver dollar: the first salute being paid for, each new Officer must earn all subsequent salutes. It is usual that the Silver Dollar be one with some significance; minted in the year of Commissioning, an anniversary of the Officer's Birth Year, etc.

Treasurer/Bourse Chairman Update (Barry)

- Barry provided an update on the June coin show; dealer feedback was positive.

Club Auction (Tom)

- 22 auction lots sold - \$405.50
- 3 donated auction item(s) sold \$19.00

Door prize winners

- Barry A., Ray B., Mitch, Ethan

Refreshments

- Lee & Betty

Numismatic Education **A Visit From Dr. Coyne**

Questions for Dr. Coyne

- 1.) Did the Castaing machine go away when the close collar came in?



- 2.) What is the most recent year that the U.S. five cent piece was made from the traditional 90% silver alloy?
- 3.) The 1873 Coinage Act led to the temporary addition of a design feature on the obverse of half dimes, quarters, and half dollars. What was it?
- 4.) What relationship is there between the Hallenbeck and Hollinbeck coin firms?
- 5.) Canada's illustrious numismatic heritage begins long before the establishment of their own mint in 1908. Do Canadian coins follow the British practice of being struck in "medal turn" die alignment?



- 6.) Why did David Rittenhouse have so short a term in office from 1792 – 1795?
- 7.) What does this medal have to do with U.S. numismatics? Hint: 1893



Dr. Coyne Responds

- 1.) The Castaing machine was a part of the U.S. Mint from its earliest days. The purpose of the machine was to impart edge lettering to coins that were thick enough to accommodate it. The earliest half cents, cents, half dollars, and silver dollars had the edge lettering applied by this machine in a separate operation before the planchets were struck in an open collar screw press. When the close collar technology came to the mint in the late 1820's the collar could be plain (giving plain-edge coin) or could be engraved with vertical "reeding" for denominations with reeded edges. The Castaing machine was no

longer needed, though a separate operation on the planchets (upsetting) was (and still is) needed before striking. Lettered edges cannot be applied in a one-piece close collar, as the lettering would be scraped off the coin during ejection. It takes a segmented collar, which is geared to move away from the coin just after striking to apply a lettered edge.

- 2.) The traditional silver five cent piece (half dime) ended with the revisions of the Coinage Act of 1873 (the “crime” of ’73). In that act, we saw the end of the half dime denomination, as well as that of the bronze two cent piece, and the temporary end of the standard silver dollar. Silver half dimes were coined from 1792 through 1873.
- 3.) The Coinage Act of 1873 also provided for a slight increase in the amount of silver in each dime, quarter, and half dollar. Arrows were again (like in 1853 – 1855) placed alongside the date to denote the change.



(Editor’s Note: I added this image – the coin isn’t so great but the reader can certainly see the arrows well on this 1873 c.c. Half Dollar)

- 4.) R. O. Hollinbeck founded Hollinbeck Coins in Des Moines, Iowa in 1928. By 1933 Hollinbeck Coins has hired a 13 year old Art Kagin and opened branches in Omaha and Des Moines. Paul Kagin joined shortly thereafter. The firm later operated under the Hollinbeck-Kagin Coin Company name, and finally as Kagin’s, all of Des Moines. The firm is now operated by Art’s son Don Kagin (a life member of the Greater Houston Coin Club) from Tiburon, California. The Hollinbeck firm, a fixture on Nevada Avenue in Colorado Springs since 1983, was started by Ken Hollinbeck formerly of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and is now in the hands of his son Tom (current ANA President). Ken is still helpful in the store on a part-time basis.
- 5.) Canada’s coins DO honor the British tradition of being struck in medal turn (opposite orientation to U.S. coins). If you turn a Canadian coin over right to left (like pages in a book), the reverse appears right side up.
- 6.) David Rittenhouse, first Director of the Mint, served only from 1792 to 1795 because his health failed. His illustrious career as the nation’s foremost scientist was ended at the time President Washington tapped him for the Mint post. Nevertheless, he oversaw the acquisition of the original mint properties, the preparation of them as a home for our first coinage, and the striking of the first coins. (all copper).
- 7.) This is an award medal issued for the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892 – 1893. The obverse is by Augustus St. Gaudens and shows Christopher Columbus striding ashore dressed in tradition attire. The pedestrian reverse of the medal is by Charles

Barber. They were struck at the Philadelphia mint. They come in two sizes; approximately three inches and about 1.25 inches. All are bronze.

Upcoming Collector Events

Ark-La-Tex Coin, Card and Stamp Show – July 27th – 28th . . . Bossier City Civic Center – 620 Benton Rd., Bossier City, Louisiana

Cowtown Coin Show – September 7th – 8th . . . Lockheed Martin Recreation Center . . . 3400 S. Bryant Irvin Rd., Fort Worth, Texas

Next Time Together

The Greater Tyler Coin Club will meet again on **Tuesday, August 13th**. See you at **7:00 p.m.** Bring a friend. Come enjoy a positive numismatic experience, good fellowship, and the most spirited coin auction in Texas. Mark your calendar now. You are also encouraged to plan on gathering at around 5:00 for dinner at Rudy's BBQ just prior to the meeting. See you then. Bring a friend!!

Numismatic History: From Your Editor's "Coin Cabinet"

Your editor has something a bit different to present to you all this time around. I'll say first off that this was the result of a sort of "feeding frenzy" at a Civil War enthusiasts based auction. My thought, at the time was just one more bid and then that is it. Fortunately the fellow against whom I was bidding had the same thought but just a few seconds previously. So when the hammer came down the item pictured below came back home to Gilmer, Texas.

What you are looking at is a plain old envelope, what we today call "letter sized." As the reader can tell this bears a prepaid embossed stamp of the United States. With only that embossed stamp this piece of "postal history" is not at all significant or valuable in either historic or financial terms, certainly not something worth fighting over at an auction.



(Gilmer Texas Confederate "Cover" with postal rate of ten cents in oval – dated June 23, 1863 .Postmaster at the time was a fellow named Harris who was appointed to the office in May of 1863.)

What makes this item unique and worthy of attention are the other markings. Over the embossed three cent stamp on the right is a circular hand stamp indicating a rate of ten cents, the basic fee for carrying a piece of mail more than a few miles out of town or just about anywhere else in the Confederate States of America.. On the left is a half dollar sized postmark which reads: Gilmer, Texas and contains the handwritten date June 23, 1863. This means that just a couple of weeks ago, on Sunday, June 23rd, 2013 my “cover” celebrated its 150th or sesquicentennial anniversary. From what I can glean from those who care the circle marking is the scarcer of the two known markings from Gilmer. Neither one is what can be called “common.”

What I like in particular about this piece is the fact that it is one of only a few real, tangible remainders of a time long past. In my hand there is a century and a half of testimony to the human cost of the American Civil War. It is a reminder that while soldiers from both sides were engaging in creative warfare there were those at home who were making sacrifices and at the same time doing their honest level best to maintain life in the most comfortable way possible. As we all know money was tight, supplies of all sorts were in short supply, family members were gone many never to return home to run the family farm or business. In our times we tend to glamorize the whole process and see it through the “rose colored glasses” of history. But the truth is as with any war there were steep prices to pay. My Confederate cover from Gilmer gives testimony to what was.

And to make it even more interesting are the hand inscribed notes on the front of the cover which tell the story of its original contents. The letter came from a William Johnson. Mr. Johnson must have had some land for sale here in Upshur County. The property was available until August 1st at \$4 dollars per acre in “Confederate paper.” Another amazing insight is the fact that by mid 1863 the Confederate dollar was highly inflated which made \$4 Confederate per acre a steal. But on the other hand that was all the money which could be found and many who carried on during these years, those who stayed at home, recognized the currency even in its inflated condition, at least emotionally, as good as gold.

On June 23rd, 2013, just after church on that Sunday, I carried the cover over quietly to what I have come to understand as the place where the Gilmer, Texas post office stood in 1863. I took a couple of pictures as a birthday tribute to mark the 150th anniversary my little envelope left town and to recognize how a century and a half later, it had returned home. In a greater way the celebration of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War recognizes those who an equal time ago chose to leave home, many of whom did not return.

All for now. See you on Tuesday, August 13th, if not before



(Here is a picture of your Editor’s piece of postal history taken on Sunday, June 23, 2013 on the Gilmer Confederate marker which is coincidentally on the same property as the 1863 post office. Back home after 150 years.)