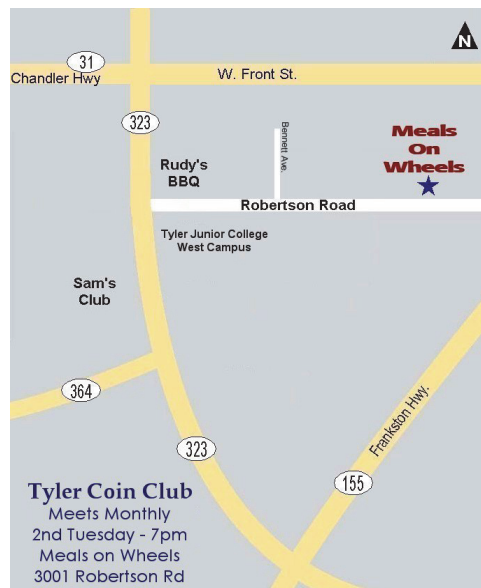


Your Two Cents Worth for July, 2014



**(Visit the Tyler, Texas Coin Club on the internet at:
tylercoinclub.org)**

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 12th, 2014.



A Few Words from the Editor

In this space last month your editor shared a few thoughts in praise of our most recent coin show. Included in my remarks were memories of the variety of shows I'd attended through the years with the affirmation that when I said a show was **outstanding** it was indeed **outstanding**, which was the case in regard to our June 13th and 14th show which had just passed. One of the shows I mentioned as experiencing was held in Lake Jackson back some years ago.

Well . . . this past club meeting new member Larry V., who is our "Getting to Know You" contributor for this month, found me and noted that he was the one who sponsored, created, supported, and put on that very same Lake Jackson show. Small world isn't it? And proof that the members of the numismatic community are a tight knit bunch and that you just don't know when an old numismatic friend will become a new numismatic friend.



Hold on to your seats TCC!! We are on a growth surge!!

TCC may not have membership numbers as strong as other clubs in the United States, but we are experiencing the strongest-year in growth EVER, and, it is on track to reach 100 members by the end of the summer, and this year is only half over.

Since 1960 when the TCC first organized (I'm told the TCC didn't meet for a period of twelve years or so), here are the membership facts and figures:

- 94 have join
- 1 deceased
- 1 moved
- 5 withdrew

What this means is, if every one of our members were to be present for a meeting on the same night, there would be 87 in attendance. We are six away from hitting the century mark of 100 members who have passed through the doors. Here is why I think we will hit 100 before the summer ends:

- At the May meeting this year we tied our attendance record of 44
- At the May meeting this year we broke our visitor attendance record with 12 present
- At the June meeting we had 43 in attendance
- At the July meeting this year we broke our attendance record with 48 present
- There have been 21 new members to join since January, and this is with only five meetings this year instead of six due to bad weather in February

Now, to put this ALL in perspective, six years ago the TCC was averaging 12 in attendance with 20 members on the roll. In these six years 74 members came our way to join averaging 36 in attendance. Holy records and growth Bat Man!!!! WOW!!!!

This is so exciting to me and I am at awe at what we, with God's help, have witnessed. We are so blessed AMEN? Give yourselves a hand, a pat on the back, and give God the glory!!!

I look forward to seeing you on August 12th!!

That's it for this 'portion' of "Sowle Food." Until next time, remember, *"Even as a coin attains its full value when it is spent, so life attains its supreme value when one knows how to forfeit it with grace when the time comes."*---Felix Marti-Ibanez

God bless!

Dwight

Getting to Know You: New Club Member Larry V. Tells His Story

I began collecting coins at age 10. This came about due to a search of my family's small library in which I found a 1965 edition of Yeoman's Red Book. When I saw the coins of Colonial America and those of days gone by, I was amazed that such old relics not only existed but were possibly available for me to acquire.

My interests were originally satisfied by getting coins from my grandparents and parents including many brought back from the world wars. The first coin I remember purchasing was a large cent from the 1850's at a local general hobby shop in Lake Jackson. My first attempt at collecting was the 1941 to date Lincoln Cents. By the time I was in Junior High School I had a couple of neighbor kids who were encouraged to collect by their fathers and were willing to trade/sell me "pennies" they had which I could not find in circulation. I gave my first talk on coin collecting when I was in the 7th grade. I won an 1881-S Morgan Dollar playing horseshoes at a baseball club cook-out when I was 14 years old. Coin collecting during high school years is kind of fuzzy – like most everything else during that time period.

I worked part-time for a local dealer while in college in Beaumont. The dealer's name was Pat Mounier. He dealt most in foreign coins. I'm not sure what became of Mr. Mounier.

During my working life at Dow Chemical in Freeport, Texas, I faded in and out of the coin collecting hobby. I did find some friends who had interests similar to mine, but there was no local club or coin shop. I did help a friend, Paul Edwards, with a start-up inventory for a coin shop in the mid-1980's. He and I sponsored a coin show in Lake Jackson. The show was pretty good for a time. The dealers were all very happy with the outcome – as Paul and I went out of our way to make them and the public as happy with the show as we could.

I started a coin club in Lake Jackson in the 1990's. It lasted about three years. During this time I was also a member of the

Pasadena Coin Club, and the Houston Coin Club. Both groups sponsored good coin shows – the Houston shows were huge.

I have retired and moved to Arkansas with my wife of 34 years. My wife collects "animal" coins – so most of her collection is foreign. I have collected type coins, U.S. and foreign, off-and-on since the 1970's. I now work on trying to figure out how to make the hobby interesting to others. I experiment with packaging coins in different ways to make them more appealing. I also accumulate cheap coins, foreign and U.S., which might interest kids and then pass them out as opportunities allow.

I collect coins because they are historical and artistic. I enjoy the treasure aspect they have of being made of precious metals – or not. I collect circulated coins because I dream of where they have been and the times they were used. I collect high grade uncirculated coins that display their beauty in design. I collect toned and un-toned coins to have examples of how they react to nature. Honestly I collect because I just like coins.

Today I have decided I am going to assemble a set of Buffalo Nickels in fine grade. Currently I have 27 out of the 66 required in order to form a complete set.

I am a life member of the American Numismatic Association. I am toying with the idea of joining the Hot Springs, Arkansas, Coin Club for the simple fact that they encourage a show-and-tell period during their club meetings. I have been asked to bring my items to the meeting this month and have put some things together I think the club members will enjoy. I also am grateful that my cousin Dudley has taken an interest in coin collecting. He lives in the Tyler area and is a good friend and a wonderful host who is willing to put me up for the night when I travel to Tyler for club meetings.

I thank you, members of the Tyler Coin Club, for having a Christian base within your club and leadership.

Minutes of the July 8th, 2014 Tyler Coin Club

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

Attendance: Members 36 New Members 5 Guests 7 Total 48 - **New Club Record!!**

Discussion of Agenda Items (Dwight)

- The club was lead in prayer by Larry V.
- Please keep the families and friends of Tommy and Stephen in your thoughts and prayers.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of July.
- The new club logo is not yet on the website; officers have been incorporating the new design into club documents. In addition, testing will begin incorporating new designs on shirts.
- Members that have not yet picked up your new club shirt, they are ready. Also, a few extra were ordered and are available.
- Dwight reminded members about the donation box for Meals on Wheels for use of their facility.
- 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 12th

Treasurer/Bourse Chairman Update (Barry)

- Barry provided a review on the June 13th & 14th coin show and also revealed dates for the 2015 show!

Club Auction (Tom)

- 37 auction items sold - \$961.00
- 4 donated auction items sold - \$22.50

Door prize winners

- Alex, David H., Mary, Ronnie S., Victoria

Refreshments

- Don H.

(Minutes respectfully submitted by Carl S., Tyler Coin Club Secretary)

Numismatic Education – A Visit with Dr. Coyne

Questions for Dr. Coyne

1. What is the “M” mintmark for? Is this a United States Coin?



(Note small letter “M” just to the left of the date)

2. Is this a genuine cutting error? Or is it home-made?



3. Did the gold fields of Oregon ever cause a U.S. Branch Mint to be opened?
4. Which regular issue Peace Dollar is scarcest in top condition?
5. Did U.S. half cents and large cents ever have the motto "In God We Trust"?
6. The Royal Canadian Mint at Ottawa is now engaged in making excellent high-tech collector coins and bullion coins while the Winnipeg mint strikes the circulation issues. When did the Ottawa Mint begin making regular issue business strikes as the only government mint in Canada?
7. Some German coins carry an "A" mintmark. Where is the "A" mint located?

Dr. Coyne Responds

1. The United States took over the administration of the Philippine Islands in settlement of the Spanish American War of 1898. Initially, coins were provided from the San Francisco and Philadelphia mints bearing designs for the Philippines. A Branch Mint of the United States was established in 1920 in Manila. It used the "M" mintmark. The Philippines received independence from the United States on July 4, 1946.
2. This is not a genuine cutting error. It is a home-made job created by using scissors on an uncut sheet of \$2 bills available for purchase to the general public through the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The clue is the serial numbers. Since the resumption of the BEP's selling of uncut sheets, serial numbers beginning with 99 were reserved for sheets to be sold uncut to differentiate and isolate them from circulating notes. Also, because the uncut sheets are not square but rather rectangular, the sheet would not normally fit into the guillotine cutter. Thus the cutting pattern found on these notes could not be caused by machines at the BEP.

The item in the picture above on this page represents pieces of three notes from the 1995 \$2 Federal Reserve Note series, as evidenced by the signature of Treasurer of the United States Mary Ellen Withrow. These \$2 notes were issued on the Atlanta District (see the "F" and "6") in sheets. The Atlanta District also prepared a larger issue of ready cut, stacked, and banded notes. They are also known as "Millennium Notes,"

having been released closes to 2000. All were printed at the new BEP facility in Fort Worth; none were manufactured at the plant in Washington D.C. It is also interesting to note that the other eleven Federal Reserve Branch Banks issued their notes only in sheets, none being made available to the general public as precut, banded, etc. notes.

3. The United States Branch Mint authorized for the Dalles, Oregon in 1862 by Congress never struck coins. The building was partially completed (wall up, no roof), when the effort was abandoned. The site was sold, completed as a warehouse, and eventually used for other purposes. Today, there is a wine bar located there (appropriately called “The Mint”) It seems the supply of potential bullion was drying up, and what little gold was produced in Oregon eventually found its way to San Francisco and perhaps Carson City.
4. It is the 1934-S Peace Dollar collectors will find the most difficult to obtain in top condition. It is not a particularly rare coin in circulated grades, but the price curve rises steeply starting at AU and truly uncirculated pieces are expensive.
5. No, half cents and large cents (1793 – 1857) never had the motto “In God We Trust.” First use of the motto on a circulating U.S. coin was on the two cent piece of 1864.



(First appearance of “In God We Trust” was on the 1864 Two Cent Piece. Because of the way the relief is displayed one of the early wear points on the Two Cent Piece is the word “We” in the ribbon.)

6. The Ottawa Mint opened and became the main mint of Canada in 1908. Circulating and proof coinage was produced there until a new and larger mint was opened in Winnipeg in 1976 to strike the circulating coinage. The Ottawa facility continues to produce collector specific and bullion related coinage.
7. The “A” mintmark on German coins is for the mint in Berlin. It was used before the Euro became the currency of Germany, and has been carried over to current Euro coins. France has used “A” for the Paris Mint, but a cornucopia privy mark is more commonly seen.

Upcoming Collector Events

Ark-La-Tex Coin, Card, and Stamp Show – July 26th – 27th . . . Bossier City Civic Center – 620 Benton Rd., Bossier City, Louisiana

Cowtown Coin Show – September 6th – 7th . . . Bryant Irvin Recreation Center – 3300 South Bryant Irvin Rd., Fort Worth, Texas (Also December 13th – 14th)

Texas Coin Show – September 19th – 21st . . . Grapevine Convention Center . . . 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also November 14th – 16th)

Colin County Coin Club Show – October 8th . . . Quality Inn – 1300 North Central Expressway, McKinney, Texas

Fort Worth Coin Club Fall Show – November 1st – 2nd . . . Bryant Irvin Recreation Center – 3300 South Bryant Irvin Rd., Fort Worth, Texas

Houston Money Show – December 4th – 6th . . . George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall A – 1001 Avenida de las Americas, Houston, Texas (Sponsored by Greater Houston Coin Club)

Tyler Coin Club's Five State Coin and Currency Super Show – June 12th – 13th . . . Lone Star Event Center – 4036 FM, Tyler, Texas (Mark calendar now for a great show then!!)

Next Time Together

The Greater Tyler Coin Club will meet again on **Tuesday, August 12th**. See you at 7:00 p.m. Come enjoy a positive numismatic experience, good fellowship, and the most spirited coin auction in Texas. Mark your calendar now. Members and friends are encouraged to plan on gathering at around 5:00 p.m. for dinner at Rudy's BBQ on the club meeting nights.

Numismatic History from Your Editor's "Coin Cabinet"

At a recent coin show your editor located a small group of Spanish Colonial One Real coins. All of these, a total of a couple of dozen pieces, are of the portrait type bearing dates from as early as 1776 to as late as 1807. Also noted are mintmarks from at least three of the prominent facilities in Spanish America; Mexico City, Lima, and Potosi. By no means are these coins "drop dead gorgeous" however all have legible dates, mintmarks, and recognizable images of the guy in charge; namely the image of Spanish monarchs Charles III and Charles IV.



(Couple of worn but interesting Mexico City Mint One Real pieces both from the reign of Charles III of Spain)

Three of the coins caused your editor some moments of happy memory. These items carried on their reverse a familiar mintmark. Coins from the mint at Potosi, Bolivia present a distinctive mark; a combination of letters P, T, and S in a monogram form.



(Reverse of 1790 Eight Real from Potosi, Bolivia Mint. Notice mintmark at approximately "8:00" at the left between "Rex" and "8R" on the field just to the right of the arrow)

The memories I mentioned just above had to do with a fortunate coincidence

of just a few years ago. As you may know your editor in real life is a United Methodist

pastor who, for a short period of years, was volunteer responsible for our mission effort. At that same time a friend was assigned to do mission work in Bolivia. To make a long story short I, your editor, had the privilege to tag along to help get the process going. One of our stops was to take a look at projects in Potosi. Your editor didn't fully grasp Potosi's connection with the numismatic world until, another fortunate coincidence occurred. Our flight out of the area was delayed by a day which forced a hotel stay. At the hotel I picked up a brochure advertising local attractions including *Casa de la Moneda de Bolivia*, aka the Bolivian Mint.

So fate gave me the chance to take a tour. What a joy!! The facility, which dates from the mid 1700's, is still in "mint" condition. (couldn't resist that one – sorry!!) Coining tools are in place representing those in use from very simple almost primitive hammer process to modern electric presses from the years just before the mint ceased coinage in the 1950's. (Bolivian coins are now produced in France.) It was truly a joy to not only study but also to see numismatic history.

The current Potosi facility replaced one dating from the late 1500's. The town

of Potosi, along with its mint, came to be because of *Cerro Rico*, a truly "rich" mountain whose legacy began with a fortunate find of silver. Because of its isolation the mint was basically self sufficient. The ore was mined locally, refined in place, formed into strips which became coin planchets on site, and then in whatever form for the time (hammered, screw press, steam, electronic) was transformed into coins. All of this taking place within the structure itself. Your editor honestly can't do justice to the authenticity and originality of the place. Only way to describe it: "Amazing!!"

Your editor was taken by several great educational facts. Owing to the elevation (nearly 14,000 feet) and the terrain (rocky) trees and such are in very short supply, therefore basic material for creating a fire suitable for smelting ore is also lacking. Your editor found it fascinating, and at the same time a good example of human ingenuity, to learn that the raw product burned to melt the silver was (how do we say this gently?) llama poop. Because of the rarified air, and the lack of quality fire, many of the coins from the mint are imperfect



(Left: Cerro Rico Potosi's "Rich Mountain. Still producing after over 500 years of mining
Right: Super structure of "steam press" used for minting coins. Still in place at mint in Potosi)



(*Casa de la Moneda de Bolivia*'s memorable courtyard includes an odd image.)

Anyone who has made the trek to the mint facility in Potosi will recognize the pictures just above. This happy, very ethnically Bolivian looking face simply can't be missed even by the most inattentive visitor. Your editor "guestimates" the image to be approximately four feet high and equally as wide. The tour guides share that there is no real understanding in our times of what it is, nor how it came to be. Most express the idea that it came to be in about 1825 when the Bolivians secured their independence from Spain. Up until that time there was more than likely in place, in that prominent spot in the courtyard, a stone engraving of the official Spanish coat of arms. The face was created, some say, in order to cover up the presence of Spanish dominance by repurposing and literally covering over the tablet containing the arms of Spain, the country a quarter of the world away, which had dominated life in the Americas for three hundred years. The face is particularly Bolivian in its features and may be considered a visual representative of the change from colonial to independent government in Bolivia.

A variety of websites offer information about *Casa de la Moneda de Bolivia*, aka the Bolivian Mint. Your editor appreciated the fortunate change in schedule resulting in the privilege of experiencing the structure. It was indeed a joy to embrace the history and to literally come face to face with a significant testimony to the numismatic art. I certainly gained an appreciation for those who, in centuries past, provided the coins and medals we still can hold in our hands.



(Reverse of the successor to the Potosi minted Eight Real of Colonial Spain, an Eight Solis from the "new" Bolivia. Note the regional image on the piece, including that of the llama who "contributed" to the production of the *Casa de la Moneda de Bolivia*'s earlier coin outlay)