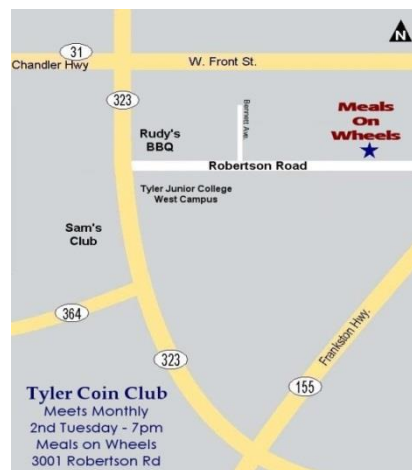


## Your Two Cents Worth for August / September 2017



**(Visit the Tyler, Texas Coin Club in person and on the internet at: [tylercoinclub.org](http://tylercoinclub.org))**

The Tyler, Texas Coin Club (TCC) meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in 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 numismatic auction in Texas. Special presentations and programs are also offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all. TCC's next meeting is Tuesday, September 12, 2017.



### A Few Words from the Editor

School has returned!! My teacher wife is back in sixth grade, again. Our three school aged grandchildren have progressed to second grade with the grandson, and into kindergarten with two of the granddaughters. Soon it'll be time for "grandparent's day." This year at grandparent's day I have been invited by my grandson to bring "money" for everybody in the class. This means I will put together a bag of coins of some sort to pass out to the kids. It is gratifying to this ole' granddaddy to know that there is at least one of mine, in the generations which follows mine, who has at least a bit of interest in numismatics. Not long ago I started him on the Whitman cent book. I am enjoying being of assistance. All this to say; I am excited about the prospect of having a future generation collector. Of course it goes without saying that our efforts with children and youth are a worthy while venture. Thanks for being attentive to younger ones at our club and show.



## **Spotlight on TCC Member of the Month: Dwight Sowle**

### **Personal History:**

- A native “Buckeye”, born in Ohio (at least 12<sup>th</sup> generation from the Mayflower Landing)
- Grew up in Texas from the age of 7
- Married for 50 years
- 2 sons
- No grandchildren
- Own a parrot named Snickers who is 23 years old
- *Editor Added:* **Served with distinction as president of the Tyler Coin Club for nine years**

### **Collecting History:**

- First coin & Blue Whitman album given to me by an uncle at age 10 – a Jefferson Nickel
- Began in 1955 with Jefferson Nickels and \$2 Bills
- Followed with Roosevelt Dimes

### **Challenges:**

- Completing Dansco albums of all modern day coin sets,

### **Favorites**

- Eisenhower Dollars
- American Silver Eagles
- Proof coins
- \$2 bills

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Tyler Coin Club for July 11, 2017**

Respectfully Submitted by: Carl S., TCC Secretary

Meeting called to order by TCC President Dwight S. with pledge to the flag

**Attendance:** Members: 34 New Members: 0 Guests: 5 **Total: 39**

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

- The club was led in prayer by Tommy L.
- Please keep families of John, Howard, Ed, Carl, and Boy Scout Troop 620 in your thoughts and prayers.
- Introduction/recognition of guests, visitors, and new members.
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in month of August.
- Richard distributed a Member Spotlight form and encouraged members to complete and return for inclusion in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.
- David H. led an interesting discussion on *collecting coins from people*. The idea is that each member would bring a coin which they consider a favorite to collect. The club

would archive each coin and display the member's collection at the annual coin show. The set would effectively become part of the Tyler Coin Club history.

- At the July meeting nominations for this position of president were opened. The floor received one nomination for Lane B.
  - Alicia made a motion to close nominations for the position of president.
    - The motion was seconded by Dudley.
    - All members were in favor.
  - John H. made a motion to elect Lane B. as president of Tyler Coin Club.
    - The motion was seconded by Michael.
    - All members were in favor.
- Meals on Wheels (MOW) donations for August - \$49.
- Next meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

- 22 auction items sold - \$1,600.00

### **Door prize winners**

- Aleasha, Curtis, Kay, Paul, and Todd
- Dudley, Ernest, and Mike each won an ANA One-Year Gold membership!

### **Refreshments**

- A big Thank You to John and Sandra for providing refreshments!

## **Creating a Winning Numismatic Exhibit - Class notes by Larry V.**

I took a week long course called *Creating a Numismatic Exhibit* at the ANA Summer Seminar the week of June 17 through June 22 of this year (2017). I took lots of notes. Here I am passing along the highlights in this abbreviated write-up.

The course, attended by five students, was taught by Larry Sekulich. He collects ancient and medieval coins and has created winning exhibits at numerous shows. He is also an artist.

**Why do people exhibit? To share knowledge**, to show off their collection, for the thrill of competition, to find their heightened enjoyment in collection via research, because they want recognition, they believe it can be fun, or they simply want an excuse to go to a coin show (thinking "vacation").

**There are some negatives.** Exhibiting can be expensive (travel, hotels, etc.) Security is an issue.

**Exhibiting** is taking an abstract idea and developing a concrete (real) 3-D display. You begin the process by thinking of a story and then narrowing it down to a limited scope (think simple). Examples of taking the general story to a specific one are as follows (general to specific): Art on a coin/original sculptor, history aspects/events, etc., famous people/Napoleon in Italy, symbolism on coins/culture, religion/Artimus, American folk tales/Johnny Appleseed, economics/inflation or discovery of gold, minting process/proof or error coins, coin grading/corrosion or cleaned coins, topics on money/ships or birds, culture/Polish or English type, personal story/coins given you by grandpa or found, and famous denominations/English Shilling or Spanish Piece of Eight.

**Plan** to create a fun exhibit and transfer your excitement to your audience.

**Brainstorm** ideas for your exhibit, include "crazy ideas" when ideas are kicked around.

**What** do you do after thinking of a topic?

1. Check your numismatic material to see if you have what you think is needed to present a high quality display. Make sure what your need is available.
2. Pick a title. Limit the topic. The title should be brief with maybe a subtitle (a sentence is too long). Look for a “hook” word to include in your title that will draw people’s attention. If the title is a question, be sure the display answers that question.
3. Check the rules and timelines given for submitting your exhibit. Fit a category from the rules. Get answers to your questions in advance (case dimensions, etc.).
4. Decide who your audience will be. “Obverse” may not be a term a novice will understand without an explanation. Are you looking to appeal to other collectors, local interests, children, etc.?
5. Start gathering material for your display and doing the research to create the text. It is better to over research and then edit down. Record the research sources you use adequately enough to allow others to follow the same path you did (and get the same answers). If possible interview people. Create a bibliography. Catalog all the information into folders (text, graphics, bibliographical information, images, etc.). Use reliable sources. Recent (latest) information should be checked.

**Use** an essay style of writing/exhibiting. This means creating brief, but thorough, writing style on a single topic containing

1. Have an introduction (tell us what your going to tell us)
2. Development (tell us what you are doing)
3. A conclusion (tell us what you told us)
4. Cite your sources

**Make an outline.** This forces you to put things in the right order, category, etc..

**Make graphic charts** versus putting numerical/statistical information in text. People hate reading numbers.

**Stay on topic.** Keep going back to your title. Keep the text short/manageable for the reader. You’re going to find space in your exhibit is limited. Use a minimum of size 14 font. Have someone else proof read your work. Set your text aside for a couple of days and then come back and reread it.

**Use M.L.A.** (Modern Language Association) **methodology** for documenting your bibliography and sources. See EZBIB.com. A well done bibliography gives credibility to your exhibit and allows research by the reader.

**After writing your exhibit, then start building it.**

1. Start Assembling Your Exhibit. You will need an isolated, clean, and spacious work space where you can be undisturbed. Work at table height; not off the floor. Don’t eat or drink while working on your exhibit. Keep clean-up material close at hand if you don’t follow this rule.
2. Make your original layouts by sketching them out on a piece of paper, providing a concept of where everything will be laid out in the exhibit case. Divide the case into 2 or 3 section (left to right) and make your story (from introduction to bibliography) from the upper left side of the case to the lower right side.
3. Make a full size mock-up of the display case and start placing items in the case. Chart sizes will be determined by trial and error. Keep supplementary materials (non-numismatic items) limited so it doesn’t overwhelm the display. Remember it is a numismatic display. You can typically use multiple exhibit cases (check rules) but remember that the more you have the more trouble the set-up and take-down of your exhibit will be.

4. Consider the artistic aspects of your exhibit. Don't distract people's eyes from your coins. White and/or any intense color is not a good choice for background. Avoid some color combinations (red and green, orange and blue, yellow and velvet). Also avoid pure colors such as red, yellow, and blue.
5. Felt is good for backgrounds as it is easy on the eye. Use natural felt if you can find it as it lays down easier (smooth). Use archival quality material for your display (see scrapbooking supplies).
6. Plan to mount the coins at a different (elevated) level than the background board and text. The mounting should be stable and should not distract from the coin (assume people will bump your case). Slabbed coins are easy to display but put another layer of obstruction between the eye and the coin. Air-tight holders can work nicely without the top installed.
7. Know that inexpensive material looks cheap in an exhibit display.

### **Preparation for the Show**

1. Set your exhibit up at home before packing it for taking to the show. Make sure the arrangement and balance of the display is easy on the eye. Then photographically record your set-up to help you make sure you reproduce it correctly at the show (as the excitement and stress once you get there may throw you off your game).
2. Pack up the exhibit for the show, making a checklist as you do so. Pack it up in waterproof containers as you may get rain at the show (use plastic containers or garbage bags).

### **The Show**

1. Be conscious of security at all times. Avoid interruptions when setting up (chat later). Set up one exhibit at a time. Do not walk away from your exhibit while a case is open (have an assistant/watchdog help keep an eye on your stuff). Take your time and don't rush. Clean the display case inside and out.
2. When placing your exhibit in the case, make sure the top edge of the box lines up with the top line of your display text.
3. Take down your exhibit in reverse order of your set-up. Exit with a companion or get picked up at the door.

### **Judges Feedback**

1. Ask for your score sheet from the judges. Remember judges are human. Plan improvements for next time.

**Additional Resource:** See John Eshbach's article on exhibit building, "*Preparing a Winning Exhibit*," at:

<https://www.money.org/numismatic-events/convention-exhibits/john-r-eshbachs-preparing-a-winning-exhibit>

## **NUMISMATIC EDUCATION** **A VISIT WITH DR. COYNE**

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

- 1.) In the age of the internet, do I need numismatic literature?
- 2.) As coinage metals, what are "bath metal" and "belt metal"?
- 3.) Which type of U.S. half dollar shows the smallest eagle on the reverse?
- 4.) When was the first U.S. commemorative gold coin issued?
- 5.) How many coins are needed for a type set of twenty cent pieces?
- 6.) Are coins ever struck on cast planchets instead of planchets cut from rolled strips?



7.) Is this piece a United States coin?

**Dr. Coyne Responds:**

1.) Even in our on-line age, a physical coin library is a necessity for an aspiring or accomplished numismatist. A casual coin collector may make do with only internet access. While on-line information is expanding at a rapid rate, rich details are still found only in books, periodicals, and auction catalogs in many areas of numismatics. The admonition “buy the book before the coin” still very much applies.

2.) “Bell metal” is a bronze alloy containing around 22% tin and balance copper. This alloy “rings” well if cast into a bell, but is a bit brittle for ideal coinage. “Bath metal” is a brass alloy of around 19% zinc with the balance copper. It was used for certain Irish tokens, some of which circulated in Colonial America. It is known as “Pinchbeck”.

3.) The April, 1792 Act of Congress which specified the denominations and weight of our coins provided that the half dollar show an eagle on the reverse. Many renditions have been used. The smallest eagle, appearing almost as an afterthought, comes on the Franklin Half Dollar of 1948–1963.

4.) The first United States gold commemorative is generally held to be the 1848 CAL. counter stamped quarter eagles. The first regular gold commemorative is the 1903-dated Louisiana Purchase Exposition gold dollars showing Jefferson and McKinley. Gold dollars commemorating the Lewis and Clark exposition were issued in (and dated) 1904 and 1905.

5.) Just one coin is needed for a type set of Twenty Cent Pieces. These were coined for circulation in 1875 and 1876 and in the proof-only issues of 1877 and 1878. They are all the same design composition, and edge treatment.



6.) The U.S. Mint has never used cast planchets for a circulation issue. But other mints, including some provisional mints in Mexico at times of political unrest, have used cast planchets (struck with regular dies) as an expedient in times of duress. Whole-coin casts are much more common, including centuries of Chinese issues.

7.) The illustrated piece is not a U.S. coin. It is a commemorative medal issued for the Norse Tercentenary in 1925. They are sometimes collected along with the classic commemorative half dollars of 1892-1954. They were struck by the U.S. Mint on presses usually used for regular half dollars.



### **Upcoming Collector Opportunities**

**Houston Philatelic Society Show** – September 15 – 17 . . . Humble Convention Center – 8233 Will Clayton parkway, Humble, Texas (A stamp show but interesting stuff to be found)

**Red River Valley Coin Show** – November 4 . . . Lamar Avenue Church of Christ – 3535 Lamar Avenue, Paris, Texas

**Texas Coin Show** – November 17 – 19 . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas

**Tri County Lakes Coin Show** – January 12 – 14 . . . Hot Springs Convention Center – 134 Convention Blvd., Hot Springs, Arkansas

**Houston Money Show** – January 19 – 20 . . . Lone Star Convention Center (Yes there is such a place – but not in Tyler) – 9055 Airport Road at FM 3083, Conroe, Texas

**American Numismatic Association's National Money Show** – March 8 – 10 . . . Irving Convention Center – 500 Las Colinas Blvd W., Irving, Texas

**Texarkana Coin Show** – March 30 – 31 . . . Texarkana Convention Center – 4610 Cowhorn Creek Dr., Texarkana, Texas

### **Our Next Time Together**

The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, September 12, 2017. See you at 7:00 p.m. Come enjoy a positive numismatic experience, along with great fellowship and the most spirited numismatic auction in Texas. Members and friends of the club are encouraged to gather at 5:00 p.m. on the evenings of the meeting to enjoy a dinner together at Rudy's BBQ.

## A VISIT TO YOUR EDITOR'S COIN CABINET



(Blanche Bruce a significant figure in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and a point of numismatic revelation.)

Going on eight years now your editor has been traveling up and down state highway 271, the main artery between things north, such as Mount Pleasant, Paris, and Oklahoma, and things south, such as Tyler. This means that more times than I can count, including many times several a day, I pass by the Gilmer Independent School District's Bruce Junior High School campus. Honestly I didn't give the name much of a thought until a conversation I had at a meeting a few weeks ago.

The gathering, mentioned above, is a committee of several of us in Upshur County who meet monthly in order to plan a Martin Luther King Day parade and community celebration on, (are you ready for this?), MLK Day next January. At our most recent meeting I entered into a discussion with a member of the committee who is a woman my age or a touch older. We were talking education in Gilmer when she mentioned that back in her day, the time prior to classroom integration in the late 1960's, the public school she attended was Bruce High School. Our current Junior High, even though not the original building, sits at the same location and continues to carry the "Bruce" name.

Such new information allowed me to present a few questions which lead to a bit of insight. She shared that schools designated for the "colored" or "negro" children were generally given names of famous persons of color in the day of the school's founding. She stressed that there were many Booker T. Washington schools, George Washington Carver schools, and a short list of others. Their school was named then, and its successor institution now, for Blanche Bruce who was an important figures in late Nineteenth Century American history and also, interestingly enough, in numismatic history. Let me explain.

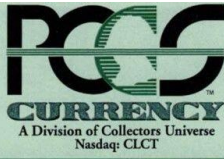
Blanche Bruce was born into slavery in Virginia in 1841. He had the luxury of receiving an education, something which was not common for persons of color in the day. Following the Civil War he chose to pursue the avenue of politics which was opened for the first time to persons such as him. Bruce, a Republican, was the first person of African American descent to serve a full six year term in the United States Senate and, even until today, is one of only eight people of color ever to be elected to the United States Senate, the most recent being some character named Obama. Following Bruce's years in the Senate he was appointed, by President James Garfield, to the office of Register of the Treasury. This caused his signature to appear on the United States currency, being another proud first.

Your editor recognized the name from several pieces of large size paper money but did not know the complete back story until just recently.

Bruce passed away in 1898 leaving a legacy of service to his local community and ultimately as a high profile individual in United States government.

Just following, on the next page, is an image of a one dollar bill from the famous Education Series of 1896 which has Blanche Bruce's signature, as Register of the U.S. Treasury, at the bottom left. See the interesting arrow.





Fr. 225 1896 \$1  
Silver Certificate

Serial #49144654  
Plate #B74/100

Very Fine  
25PPQ

